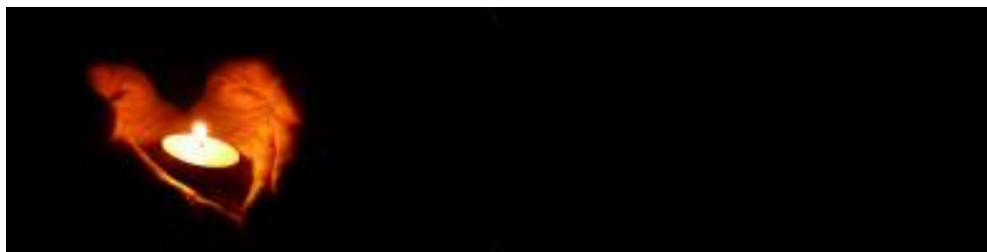


The Provident FRIEND

Oct 2010

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Quaker Quest Workshop November 13, 2010



Providence Meeting will be holding a Quaker Quest workshop for members and attenders at the Providence Meetinghouse from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday November 13. The workshop will be led by two facilitators provided by Friends General Conference and will include breakfast (light) and lunch. The success of the workshop will depend on our having a high level of participation, so please save the date, November 13, on your calendars.

Quaker Quest was founded on the conviction that Friends have a spiritual path for today that is simple, radical, and contemporary, and that the stillness that is at the core of Quaker worship is as needed today as ever, along with the spiritual and social values we have derived from it. The first step is a workshop for Meeting members and attenders, and other meetings have found that this can be a transformative form of inreach for a meeting.

Through this process, the meeting community is invited to consider what it is like to be a newcomer and to develop ways to integrate newcomers into the life of the meeting. The community is also asked to consider what forms of spiritual hospitality are already in place and what they might want to change or add. At some point after the workshop we may decide to go ahead with public sessions, the aim being to encourage Friends to clarify and speak of their faith experience and help others find out about the Quaker way of life, based on the observation that people enquiring about us want to experience Quaker worship, hear why being a Quaker matters to us, talk to each other and us about it, and get an idea what sort of people we are.

If you have any questions about our upcoming workshop, contact Dan Lederer or Betsy Zimmerman, and to find out more about Quaker Quest, go to

www.quakerquestfgc.org.



Calendar:

Oct 22 : Sat, 7-9pm (p4)
Film: "At the River I Stand"

Oct 24 : 1st Day School
planting (p5)

Oct 31 : Sun 11:30a-12:30p
(p1)
Joyce Aljouny, dir.
Ramallah Friends School

Nov 6-7: Sat 8pm, Sun 3pm
(p4) Rachmaninoff Vespers
- check dates, include

Nov 7: After meeting – 4pm
Autumn walk with Eugenia
(p5)

Nov 13 : 9am-4pm (p1)
Quaker Quest Workshop

Nov 25: Thanksgiving (p4)

Dec 5: (p4) Crafts Fair at
Providence Meeting

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes- Tenth Month 14th

Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends Tenth month 14th, 2010 - Minutes of monthly meeting for business.

1. Friends gathered at the Saylesville Meetinghouse at 7:10 pm following a potluck supper, with fourteen Friends present.

2. In the opening worship, the clerk read an Advice on Outreach from the proposed Faith & Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (2009):

Outreach ...includes being open to others who may be tentatively 'reaching in' to explore the Quaker faith. The sense of welcome is expressed in countless small details: the coffee is warm, the biscuits are good, the potluck is plentiful, and people say 'hi'. Most importantly, when someone walks in and asks, 'What do Quakers believe?' it is the meeting's task to be sure that they are likely to get a well-informed answer from anyone they might approach.

3. Announcements:

Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will be 17 of Tenth Month at Voluntown (CT) Peace Farm, hosted by Westerly Monthly Meeting. Joyce Aljouny, Director of the Friends School in Ramallah, Palestine, will be speaking at Providence Meetinghouse after a special potluck following meeting for worship on the 31st of this month. All are invited.

Providence Monthly Meeting's day-long retreat for Quaker Quest will be 13 Eleventh Month beginning at 9 am. Friends interested in assisting in this special event should contact Dan Lederer for opportunities to volunteer.

The transfer of membership for William ("Tad") Manning Jose Jr. to the Alexandria (VA) Monthly Meeting of Friends has been completed with that meeting's acknowledgment.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will host a showing of the film "At the River I Stand," on Martin Luther King's final campaign in Memphis, at the meetinghouse, on October 22 at 7 pm.

4. Pastoral Care: Ministry & Counsel recommends adding Phebe Howland as a member of the Pastoral Care Committee. Friends approved.

5. Finance Committee: For the Finance Committee, Bruce Carlsten presented a revised guideline for contracts entered into by the meeting or its committees. The finance committee has addressed concerns raised in the business meeting's past consideration of this issue in 6th month 2010. After an opportunity for questions and comments, Friends approved these guidelines as a working document.

----- Guidelines for Contracts -----

1. Routine or periodic contracts (i.e. servicing the boiler, exterminator, etc.) within the committee's budget may be signed by the clerk of the initiating committee, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Amounts above \$10,000 require the signature of the Presiding Clerk.
2. All contracts not covered by the initiating committee's existing budget (and therefore requiring additional funding) must be approved by the Providence Monthly Meeting for Business.
3. All contracts over \$1,000 shall have a written contract, and shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee. The initiating committee, as part of its due diligence, is responsible for seeing that service providers have appropriate insurance for liability and workers' compensation.
4. Non-routine/non-periodic contracts for more than \$1,000 shall be presented by the initiating committee at a business meeting for the information of the membership. At the discretion of the clerk of Providence MM and/or on recommendation of the Finance Committee, the business meeting may be asked to give formal approval. Change orders or addenda shall go through the same procedure.
5. Except for routine expenditures described above, all contracts committing Meeting funds shall be signed by the presiding clerk of the meeting or his/her designee.
6. In a bona fide emergency, the responsible committee may take emergency action to protect life and property, and shall consult with the presiding clerk and the clerk of the Finance Committee as soon as feasible.

6. Ministry and Counsel minute on FUM:

On behalf of Ministry and Counsel, Dan Lederer presented a proposed policy minute concerning funding for Friends United Meeting, as requested by New England Yearly Meeting, arising out of a concern about FUM's personnel policy as it affects applicants or employees who are in sexual relationships other than a ceremonial heterosexual marriage. Ministry and Counsel has been working on this question for a year, including wide consultation within the monthly meeting.

Friends noted that this minute is consistent with the actions taken by New England Yearly Meeting for the past two years, which allow monthly meetings to engage in "negative earmarking" to reduce or eliminate having that meeting's contribution to yearly meeting go to Friends United Meeting. The purpose of this minute is to allow contributions to

(continued next page)

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes (cont. from p2)

Providence Monthly Meeting (and through it, to New England Yearly Meeting) by Friends who object for reasons of conscience to having their money go even indirectly to FUM. Whether this is an effective or necessary witness is up to each individual. It does not respond fully to the concerns of those Friends who feel an urgency about pushing Friends United Meeting to alter its personnel policy. It was suggested that the meeting discern at a later time whether FUM should remain in the monthly meeting budget, although this would not eliminate contributions through New England Yearly Meeting. Ministry and Counsel also has not looked at the personnel policies of other organizations to which we contribute.

In approving the monthly meeting budget, we respect and trust the process of formulating the budget, even if each of us may not wholeheartedly support every line item in it. Dan pointed out that the total in the Providence Monthly Meeting budget for the current year that goes to Friends United Meeting is \$455, of which \$100 is a direct donation and \$355 is the portion of our donation to NEYM that goes from NEYM to FUM. This is 0.57% of the monthly meeting budget.

Under this proposal, if a person informs the Treasurer that he or she wishes to utilize the procedure in this minute, the Treasurer will subtract the designated percentage from the amount that would otherwise be sent to FUM, and will transfer that amount to a restricted fund for disposition by the meeting. A number of Friends asked that FUM be notified of the reason for any reduction in amount, such as by sending them a copy of our minute to accompany our check. It was noted that Friends who wish to support the ministries of FUM, such as peace-making work in Kenya, may do so directly to FUM.

After an extended consideration, we approved this policy, with one Friend standing aside. We ask Ministry and Counsel to continue to discern on the larger question of our relationship with Friends United Meeting, as the minute indicates. We would also like to see programs educating members of our meeting about all the national and international Quaker organizations that we participate in through New England Yearly Meeting.

Minute on Friends United Meeting

Providence Monthly Meeting honors committed relationships regardless of gender. We affirm this Truth as we reach out in our connections to the wider Quaker community. We hold steady to our commitment while acknowledging that all Friends do not share the same Truth in this matter.

Friends United Meeting is deeply engaged in discernment regarding the divergence of leadings around marriage and committed relationships in response to concerns among their affiliated yearly and monthly meetings regarding their personnel policy, which requires that all applicants agree to confine sexual relations to marriage between a man and a woman. We support many of the valuable works of FUM, but, because of this policy, some of our members feel called to withhold their financial support to FUM at this time.

At this point, Providence Monthly Meeting has decided to give members and attenders the option of withholding the portion of their contributions that would normally go to FUM and will instead redirect it to a dedicated fund for future charitable use. In the meantime, we will continue seeking greater unity within our meeting in response to FUM's policy.

7. Smith bequest: The Finance Committee wishes to remind Friends that about \$8,100 of the Smith bequest remains available for special activities or purchases that will enhance the life of the meeting, and the Finance Committee would be happy to see the fund expended. (See minutes of 11th month 2007.) It has been suggested that some of this money be used to purchase bulk copies of the FGC Worship in Song hymnal. We authorize the purchase of up to 50 large print hymnals, to be shared among our local meetings for worship, and ask an ad hoc committee consisting of the clerk, recording clerk, and John Lord, to make the final decision. We ask other committees to consider other possible uses for the remaining money and bring them to Finance Committee by the end of this calendar year.

8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented an interim report on the first one-third of the fiscal year, covering the period from 6th mo. 1, 2010 to 9th mo. 30, 2010. He noted that individual contributions are about \$1,000 ahead of the same period in the prior year. Expenses have been close to what was anticipated. We accept this report with gratitude.

9. Property committee: Bob Elliott reported that a crew will be working on the siding on the east wall of Saylesville meetinghouse over the next few weeks.

10. Saylesville Preparative Meeting: Joanne Griffin observed that donations for the book swap have increased, including more books for children and teenagers, along with the number of people participating each time. Habitat for Humanity has been taking 100 to 120 books each month for fundraising and distribution overseas. The meeting looks at this activity as a public value tool to support future fundraising and grant applications. There will be an article in the meeting newsletter highlighting the book swap.

11. We closed at about 9:20 pm after a period of grateful worship, intending to meet again on the 14th of 11th month at 12:15 pm at the Providence Meetinghouse.

Mark Conley, Presiding Clerk
Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

Around the Meeting

Friendly Eights

At a recent program committee meeting we discussed the many activities going on in the life of the meeting and realized that in the past year there has been a significant decrease in participation in Friendly Eights. While we are happy to continue organizing the gatherings we are also wondering if it might make sense to take a break for a year and see what unfolds. Please send your thoughts about this to Debbie Block

debbie@billharley.com .
Thanks!

Program Committee

THANKSGIVING:
The program committee is exploring holding a Thanksgiving celebration at the meeting house. If you're interested in attending and/or helping, please contact Sarah Bailly.

There will be an extra food collection for Camp Street for Thanksgiving. They are interested in turkeys (fresh or frozen) and

nonperishable items such as canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing, etc. There will be an extra box in the meetinghouse foyer for this collection. The deadline is Sunday Nov. 14th.

Thanks for your help. If you have questions, contact Sarah Bailly

?!December 5th – Crafts Fair at Providence Meeting?!

Calling all artisans and organizers! Do you have hand-made items to sell?

Do you have a wish to organize something simple and fun? If you are interested in participating in a crafts fair for the holiday season on Sunday afternoon, December 5th please contact Betsy Zimmerman or Debbie Block from the program committee. Thank you!!

Providence Monthly Meeting Film series – Oct. 22, 7pm

Documentaries reflecting our Peace and Social concerns will be shown on Fridays, downstairs in the Meeting House at 7:00. The showing of the film will be followed by discussion and refreshments.

This month, on Friday, October 22, at 7:00, the film will be Here I Stand, a narrative about mobilization, determination and tragedy

during the civil rights movement. It covers two very eventful months in 1968 that culminate with the success of the unionization of sanitation

workers and the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

How long does it take you to finish the shopping list in your head when you're settling into worship?
Find out what others do.
Come to Quaker Quest on November 13

Rachmaninoff All Night Vigil (Vespers) concert Steve Schwartz

Nov. 6 & 7 - The Brown University Chorus will perform Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil* (Vespers), based on Russian Orthodox Church chants and sung in Old Church Slavonic (one of our singers is a Russian teacher). Unlike the heavy post-romantic pieces

Rachmaninoff is best known for, I have found this to be one of very few 20th Century religious pieces that is clearly 20th Century sounding (though completely tonal), while feeling completely respectful of spirit, and filled with the sense of holiness that

inspired the original chants. Many of its most powerful sections are moments of delicate and extremely quiet sounds, about as close to 'In the light' as you can get with just sounds.

Saturday Nov. 6, 8pm at the

Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul (downtown Providence, 30 Fenner St. Providence RI, near the west end of Westminster St.), and again on Sunday Nov. 7, 3pm in the Chapel at St. George's School, Newport RI.

HELPING IN THE MOSES BROWN GARDENS

On four different Sundays this summer children and adults went to work in the gardens that Moses Brown faculty and students planted in the spring. The gardens are raised beds, and near the Hope Street entrance to the school.

Families were specially invited to Meeting on these Sundays and each time the group left

after the first 15 minutes of worship. It proved to be a great way to keep young people connected to the Meeting during the summer.

The gardens always needed watering and weeding. Several times we were able to plant more vegetables. There were always things to harvest too; basil, squash, and tomatoes

were often ready to pick even if they had already been harvested a few days before. We learned a lot about vegetables like lettuce and chard that grew quickly and were ready earlier in the summer and those that needed the whole summer to ripen. The hot summer meant that everything was thirsty for water all the time.

Every Friday MB took the harvest to Camp Street so the things we picked went into the fridge at the meetinghouse. They were picked up the following Friday to go with the crop for that week.

Fall Planting from Nina Berry

First Day School will hold its Fall Planting on Oct. 24th. Ron Dass and Zeldy Lyman are leading this endeavor. FDS

requests contributions of bulbs or other plantings. Parents, please send your children in warm work clothes

and send along any gardening tools that they can use. Gloves and boots, depending on the weather, are always a

good idea. It's a dirty job, sometimes, but it is worth it in the spring!

Autumn Walk November 7 from Eugenia Marks

Walk with friends, enjoy the beauty of the autumn woods, contemplate messages from the morning

meeting while we stroll along the pine woods, pond, and fields of Fisherville Brook Wildlife

Refuge in Exeter. Expect to return to meeting house at 4. This is the first day of the clock's return to

Standard Time. We might think about the role of measured time in our lives.

When does your worship actually begin - as you drive to meeting, when you turn off your cell phone, when you enter the meetinghouse.....other??

Find out what others do.

Come to Quaker Quest on November 13

Grant Guidelines from Bruce Carlsten

The Providence Monthly Meeting Finance Committee was asked to a set of guidelines to be used when writing grant applications and contracts on behalf of Providence Monthly Meeting. The overriding objective was simplicity & transparency but at the same time to address

some of the potential legal issues which may arise from writing such documents.

The following Grants Guidelines was approved at the Providence Meeting for Business on 6/13/10:

GRANTS

1) All grant applications for meeting activities and projects shall come through a standing committee and be presented to Business Meeting for its consideration.

2) Approved grant applications must be signed by the Providence Monthly

Meeting's clerk or designee.

[Ed. Note – This is in essence repeated from the June 2010 letter, where it was buried in the Meeting For Business Minutes.]

Young Adult Friends Group from Stephen Higa

The Young Adult Friends Group continues to hold its meetings Wednesday evenings at 7pm, in the common room of Finlandia

Cooperative, 116 Waterman St. (corner of Waterman and Brook). Meetings last several hours and are a wonderfully free-form combination of

fellowship, bible reading, worship sharing, tea, and baked goods. To be added to the email list (and receive weekly meeting

reminders/updates) send an email to Stephen Higa at yaf@providencefriends.org.

6 Joyce Aljouny, Director of the Ramallah Friends School, in Providence

Joyce Aljouny, Director of the Ramallah Friends School, will be speaking at the Providence Meetinghouse after Meeting for Worship on First Day, October 31. Ramallah Friends School was founded in 1869 and is currently operated by Friends United Meeting. Joyce will speak about the important impact that the school has had on the community during its 140 year history as a leading school in the Middle East, and describe her personal challenges along with those she shares with the school's students and teachers as a result of living and working under a military occupation. Please join us for this unique opportunity to meet Joyce.



Joyce is a member of the Ramallah Monthly Meeting and is one of the very few Palestinian Quakers left in the country. Joyce is a graduate of RFS and also a mother of three boys (see photo above), two of which attend the school and a third who is an alumnus. Her job involves oversight of both the lower and upper school campuses. This includes ensuring the rigorous academic program develops to meet the modern day challenges, fundraising, infrastructure development, community building and financial administration.

Joyce will speak about the important impact that the RFS has had on the community throughout its 140 year history as a leading school in the Middle East. She will also describe her personal challenges, as well as those of the RFS community of students and teachers, that result from living and working under a military occupation. Donations to the School and to Joyce's work and ministry are welcomed.

Are there times when you find it hard not to "wiggle" as much as some of the children during worship?

Find out what others do.

Come to Quaker Quest on November 13

Clerk's Corner by Mark Conley

...when someone walks in and asks, 'What do Quakers believe?' it is the meeting's task to be sure that they are likely to get a well-informed answer from anyone they might approach.

- Baltimore Yearly Meeting proposed Advices and Queries, 2009

Next month, our Monthly Meeting community will take part in a day of celebration, a day of reaching in so that we can perhaps do better at reaching out – to one another and to the wider community. That special day is the 13th, the day when we as a meeting embark on a Quaker Quest.

When we come together on that day, we will be learning more about each other and our beliefs, our interests and concerns. We will be welcoming Friends from other meetings into our midst who will assist us in getting better acquainted and in growing deeper into our communal spirituality. And as with all decisions made in Meeting, we will have come to this day through our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, where Friends labor to discern the Will of the Divine in our daily lives and cares. There, we decided a few months ago that we would each do our best to support this step in Quaker Quest. A committee has been doing the important work to make sure the Meeting is ready for the retreat. Now it is up to us as a community to attend. The goal is to have as many people at Meeting on the 13th as there are on a day of Meeting for Worship.

I love this month's advice from Baltimore, quoted above. Quaker Quest is an important opportunity to learn from one another "What do Quakers believe?" Please plan to come and join in this form of outreach.

Or, as another Friend once put it: "What canst thou say?"

And, as always, thank you for all you do in the Life of our Meeting.

Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

Providence Meeting (401) 331-4218 <http://providencefriends.org>
99 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Presiding Clerk: Mark Conley clerk@providencefriends.org
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Betsy Zimmerman assistclerk@providencefriends.org
Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden recordingclerk@providencefriends.org
Treasurer: Peter Swaszek treasurer@providencefriends.org
Ministry & Counsel: Dan Lederer ministryandcounsel@providencefriends.org
Pastoral Care Committee: Thia Lord pastoralcare@providencefriends.org
Finance: Bruce Carlsten finance@providencefriends.org
Peace & Social Concerns: Dede Carlsten peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org
Social & Hospitality: Sarah Bailly socialandhospitality@providencefriends.org
Religious Education: Kathi Lyons religioused@providencefriends.org
Communications: Debbie Block communications@providencefriends.org
Program Committee: Sarah Bailly program@providencefriends.org
Marriage Clearness: Erin Hazlett marriage@providencefriends.org
Library: Sarah Morenon library@providencefriends.org
Archive: archivist@providencefriends.org
Property: Bob Elliott and Lee Jaspers property@providencefriends.org
Funeral & Burial: Matt Hackman funeralandburial@providencefriends.org
Newsletter: Steve Schwartz providentfriend@providencefriends.org
Listserv Moderator: Dan Lederer list@providencefriends.org
Website: Dave McNab webclerk@providencefriends.org
Moses Brown School Liaison: Thia Lord liaison@providencefriends.org
Young Adult Friends: Stephen Higa yaf@providencefriends.org
To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw scheduling@providencefriends.org
AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or myager@afsc.org or www.afsc.org/sene
Adult Education: Dave McNab adult_ed@providencefriends.org



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends
(401) 331-4218 or <http://providencefriends.org>

Meeting for Worship each Sunday

Providence: 10:00 am Saylesville: 10:30 am
Jamestown: 10:30 am

First Day School, Providence - Sunday. Children join Meeting for Worship from 10:00-10:15 am and then proceed to First Day School from 10:15-11:00 am.

Other Meetings for Worship (All welcome):

Monday - 12:30pm - Moses Brown Upper School
Wednesday - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School
Wednesday - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School
Wednesday - 7pm - Young Adult Friends at
116 Waterman St. (yaf@providencefriends.org)
Thursday - Noon-12:45 pm Brown University in
J. Walter Wilson room 411

Potluck, Providence - each First Sunday

Meeting for Business

Providence: Second Sunday each month at 12:15pm
Saylesville: Last Sunday of each month

AFSC SENE Support Committee - Second Tuesday, 6:30-9:00 pm Volunteers needed and welcome.
Call (508) 399-6699

**How do you worship in the gurgling of
your neighbors stomach...or your own...
during meeting?**

Find out what others do.

**Come to Quaker Quest on November 13
(see p1)**

The Provident FRIEND

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