

# The Provident FRIEND

Nov 2010

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## Christmas Gathering December 18, 2010

Christmas Gathering 2010

This year's annual holiday event will be Saturday, December 18 at 5 pm in the Providence Meetinghouse. There will be a potluck dinner immediately following at 6 pm. We will experience this year's version of the Nativity Story, as interpreted by our First Day School, as well as join in the singing of Christmas carols.

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Gathering – through sharing a story or a favorite poem, playing an instrument, singing solo or duet, or any variation of these – please let John Lord know.

Also our orchestra, newly christened as the Sounds of Silence, will be regrouping for its once-a-year appearance. If you play *anything at all* and would like to join us, let John Lord know and he will make sure there is music for you.

Please mark your calendars for what is sure to be a wonderful evening.



## Thanksgiving Dinner Quest

A work in process, interest has been expressed by some in having Thanksgiving dinner at the Providence Meetinghouse, and the Morenons will provide a turkey for the meal.

You are welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family. Since we need to get an idea of numbers, if you are interested please contact Ron Dass, or Dave McNab at 401-783-5345. You can also reply to the listserv:

[providence\\_quakers@yahoo.com](mailto:providence_quakers@yahoo.com)

**Dec 4 Art for Peace Auction - see P7**

### Calendar:

**Every Tues Night:** (p4)  
Knitting @ 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian

**Nov 21 Sun:** After Meeting  
(p4) Peace and Social  
Concerns meeting.

**Nov 23 Tues:** 10:30am (p4)  
Moses Brown All School  
Meeting For Worship

**Nov 25 Thurs:**  
Thanksgiving (p1)

**Dec 4 Sat:** 5-8pm (p7)  
AFSC-SENE Crafts Fair at  
Providence Meeting House

**Dec 5 Sun:** 4pm (p4)  
Lessons and Carols  
ceremony, Sayles Hall  
(Brown U.).

**Dec 18 Sat:** 5pm (p1)  
Christmas Gathering &  
Potluck (6pm), Providence  
Meeting House

**Jan 2 Sun:** (p7) East Bay  
Bike Path walk with  
Eugenia Marks

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes- Eleventh Month 14th

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

1. Providence Friends Meeting gathered for business at 12:15 p.m. at the Providence meeting house, with sixteen present. In the opening worship, the clerk read an Advice on Fostering Community from Baltimore Yearly Meeting's 2009 Proposed Advices and Queries:

Meetings can consciously cultivate fellowship and community. The Meeting is enriched when all members and attenders participate actively. The working of the Spirit in our lives is expressed through ministry, pastoral caring for each other, and the example provided by lives lived in the Light. As we worship, work, and laugh together, we forge bonds of trust, understanding, and communication.

2. Announcements:

This year's Holiday Gathering will be held on the 18th of Twelfth Month at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck supper. Religious Education committee will coordinate carpool arrangements for those who prefer not to travel alone after dark.

Saylesville will be hosting the usual Christmas Eve candlelight worship beginning at 4:30 p.m., followed by refreshments.

3. Bob Elliott reported that Rob "Otter" Brown, a science teacher at Wheeler School, has requested permission to place a Geocaching box under a rock on the meetinghouse property, with information about the meeting, as part of a class project on the neighborhood. Friends approved, noting that it may lead to an increase in requests for information about the meeting.

4. Anne DiMase, Meeting Recorder, reported that after further contact with the family, she recommends discontinuance of the memberships of James Bliss, Anna G. Bliss, and Ned H. Bliss, all of whom have been carried as junior members although they are over age twenty-five. Friends approved, with regret.

5. The clerk reported that New England Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel would like to meet in Providence on 8 First Month 2011, from 9 to 3. We would need to provide morning refreshments, a modest lunch, and possibly some overnight hospitality for Friends from a distance. Friends approved. Bill Monroe agreed to coordinate the food and hospitality.

6. Continuing its efforts to make meeting documents both secure and accessible, the Communications Committee, by Dan Lederer, requests approval of about \$170 for purchase of a file cabinet. Friends approved the purchase in principle, and asked the Treasurer and the Finance Committee to discern where it should appear in our financial accounts.

7. Smith bequest: The Peace and Concerns Committee has asked the Finance Committee for permission to use the Smith bequest for purchase of a video projector and audio system for the movies they plan to show. The treasurer reported that the Finance Committee has also received requests for new coffee urns, new kitchen dishes and cutlery, and new benches for the rear patio. The Property Committee indicated that it has been exploring purchase of office equipment including a lockable credenza, a printer-fax-scanner, and other furnishings and equipment; and purchase of additional furniture for the library including a sleeper-sofa and two side chairs. Some of these requests have dollar amounts attached and others do not; the information received so far indicates that they already exceed the available funds. The meeting directed that these proposals be submitted to the Finance Committee, with firm dollar figures, before the committee's next meeting (5th of 12th month, 8:45 a.m.), and that the complete list be circulated in advance of the next meeting for business.

8. For Ministry and Counsel, Dan Lederer thanked all those who assisted with yesterday's Quaker Quest workshop, and noted that Ministry and Counsel will take up the larger issues raised by the workshop and bring a further report to meeting for business when they are ready. A number of Friends found the workshop inspiring. A total of forty-two Friends participated in all or a substantial part of the day. We thank Ministry and Counsel for its work in facilitating this event in the life of the meeting.

9. Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented a report on activity for the first five months of the fiscal year. Income has been somewhat lower than the same period last year, while expenses have been about as anticipated.

(continued next page)

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

10. Betsy Zimmerman reported several items for the Program Committee. First, the Program Committee put a note in the newsletter asking about interest in Friendly 8s, given the dwindling attendance at dinners; only one response was received, so the committee intends to suspend Friendly 8s for now and see if new interest arises. Second, the committee noted that because the Christmas program will be later in the month than in some years, there will not be an additional caroling program.

Third, Bruce Shaw, who coordinates use of the meetinghouse, brought to the Program Committee a request for use of the meetinghouse by a music program called "Mary Ann Hall's Music for Children," run by Lindsay Meehan, who also runs the after-school program at Moses Brown School. They would use the meetinghouse from 9 to 2 two days a week for music education for pre-schoolers, and also need storage space for instruments and other equipment. The request is coming before us for consideration because it falls somewhat outside previous uses of the building and our existing policy guidelines. Because it is a program that parents pay for, the committee recommends that there be a charge of \$75 to \$100 a day for this use, which would include the cost of heat. The committee sees this as an opportunity for outreach and one which honors our connection with Moses Brown School.

A question was raised about insurance coverage (especially for a program involving young children) and other matters that could be covered by a contract. It was reported that the teacher intends to secure separate insurance coverage for the program.

It was noted that if we move toward more of this type of ongoing rental, which would be a substantial change to our past practice, we need to think carefully about how best to manage the myriad of issues. Unlike other facilities, we do not have a Building Manager to oversee problems.

Friends did not have questions about the suitability of the program content, and see this as an opportunity to try out a new pattern for fuller use of the meetinghouse. We approve the Program Committee proceeding with an agreement with Lindsay Meehan and the Mary Ann Hall program for use of the space two days per week through the end of June 2011, with attention to the issues of space usage, insurance, and costs, and to report back on the final arrangements. The longer term feasibility of this program or others like it will be evaluated at a later date.

11. For Saylesville Preparative Meeting, Joanne Griffin reported that the clapboards on the east wall have been completed, and the property committee intends to finish two additional repairs to secure the building envelope for the winter. The meeting is grateful for work donated by several meeting members and others in completing this work. The meeting intends to hold worship in the kitchen area during the winter months, with a small electric heater, instead of heating the entire building to a suitable comfort level.

12. We closed with a period of silent grateful worship, intending to meet next on the 12th of 12th month at the usual time.

Mark Conley, presiding clerk  
Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

### Restricted Donations by Dan Lederer

I'm writing on behalf of Ministry and Counsel. This is the season of the year when many of us are thinking about making charitable donations. As always, Providence Monthly Meeting welcomes donations, since they represent a major source of income for our various activities. Under usual circumstances, donations to PMM go into the general fund and are distributed proportionally among our expenses.

However, on October 14, Meeting for Business approved a minute allowing contributors, if they so wish, to specify that they would prefer that no part of their donation go to Friends United Meeting. The concerns that led to this decision have been well publicized and discussed at length in our Meeting, so there's no need to review them here, but please note that this restriction applies only to FUM and not to any of the other non-profit organizations to which we contribute.

If you choose to restrict your donation in this way, we are asking that you communicate this to our treasurer, Peter Swaszek, by means of a note accompanying your check or even with just a notation on your check saying "Not to FUM". This same restriction can be applied retroactively to donations you made earlier during this fiscal year (June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011), again just as long as you notify Peter in writing that this is your preference. Peter will take that portion of your donation which would have gone to FUM, 0.57%, and place it in a fund designated for charitable use in the future. The total amount budgeted for FUM will be reduced by that same amount.

Because Peter needs to complete his payments according to our approved budget before the end of our fiscal year, we are asking members and attenders who wish to exercise this option to make their donations before April 15, 2011. Conversely, any Friends who feel moved to make a direct contribution to FUM are encouraged to do so. Their address is Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374. Contributions to our Meeting, restricted or not, can be made to Providence Friends Meeting and sent to Peter Swaszek at 57 Brayton Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818.

## Around the Meeting

### Moses Brown All School Meeting For Worship

The first all school meeting for worship of the year will be on Tuesday, November 23 at 10:30am in the field house. It will be a semi-programmed meeting led by the Upper School Student Peace Action Movement (SPAM). All are welcome to join us for worship, feel free to sit anywhere in the gym, the assigned seating is only for student. Any questions please contact Galen: [gmcnemar@mosesbrown.org](mailto:gmcnemar@mosesbrown.org)

### Peace and Social Concerns to discuss movie, Naval officer's charge

Peace and Social Concerns will meet this coming Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> to plan our movie nights which will start again in January. Also perhaps we should discuss a response to the denial of CO status to Michael Izbicki and the Navy's claim that The Society of Friends is a cult, Please look at the note that Ariana Steele sent us. Dede Carlsten

### From Communications Committee

Communications Committee has set up a lockable file cabinet in the upstairs room at the Providence Meetinghouse to store "one of a kind" Meeting Archive documents (contracts, grants, etc.). They will be scanned for electronic storage, then locked in this file cabinet. The Presiding Clerk, or whoever has need, can then access them easily, in one place. If you have any

such documents, please get them to committee clerk Debbie Block or anyone else on the committee (Dan Lederer, Steve Schwartz, Dave McNab, or John Lord) so they can be scanned and stored. In addition to existing documents, new information should be added as it is generated. Thus, the committee is asking all committee clerks to forward a copy of all minutes and other generated documents to:

[archivist@providencefriends.org](mailto:archivist@providencefriends.org)

## Lessons and Carols at Brown University Dec. 5, Sayles Hall (Main Green, Brown U.)

Open to all, the Brown University Chorus and others join in the annual Lessons And Carols

ceremony. This mixes seasonally appropriate readings by staff and students interspersed with

carols (sung by all) and musical interludes performed by the chorus and others. It includes a

section where everyone in the room is holding a lit candle, a somewhat awesomely beautiful thing to see.

## Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "1961 Freedom Rides" from Libby Edgerly

January 5-8, 2011

Dr. Bernard LaFayette (Emory University) founded the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at URI as part of his promise to Dr.

King to institutionalize nonviolence, and is leading a trip/course that reviews the 1961 Freedom Rides by traveling to some of the actual sites, including

Anniston, AL where the Greyhound Bus was burned, the Birmingham Bus Station, and a Forum in Jackson, MS with Freedom Riders. Information about

the tour is available from Dr. Charles Collyer (401-258-9834) or [WWW.DDKTOUR.COM](http://WWW.DDKTOUR.COM)

(also [calphin1@bellsouth.net](mailto:calphin1@bellsouth.net)).



Bernard LaFayette, Jr., Freedom Rides, 1961

### Knitting For A Better World

We have been contacted by Katherine Ahlquist of this group. They meet at the First Unitarian Church on Tuesday eves, have knitted for victims of the Katrina and Haiti disasters, are currently knitting for local community needs, and seek help doing so. If interested, please contact Katherine at: 401-454-7936, or:

[Katherine.Ahlquist@gmail.com](mailto:Katherine.Ahlquist@gmail.com)

## Ramallah School Appeal

Those of us who had the fortune to meet with Joyce Ajlouny on October 31 heard some inspiring talk about this school, which is centered in the place of one

of the world's longest running and talked about conflicts. Among other things, she described a time when she and her family essentially snuck out of the

country undercover at a moment when they felt the conflict was too dangerous for their children to endure.

Several attenders at that

event agreed it was worthy to put her appeal notice in our newsletter, which is on the following page.

Steve Schwartz



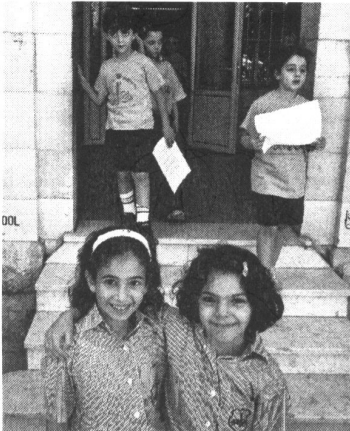


## Ramallah Friends School

Founded 1869

Dear Friends...

### **SPECIAL APPEAL: SPONSOR A RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL STUDENT!**



Education at Ramallah Friends' School (RFS) seeks to promote a constant search for God in all human situations and to cultivate ethical, moral and spiritual values. Friends, will you join us in working to fulfill our objective that no pupil will be denied access to this education for the sole reason that he or she cannot afford it?

Our school, which is over a century old, is co-educational. It has two campuses spread over 10 acres and in the twin towns of Ramallah and El-Bireh and lies 10 miles north of Jerusalem. Subjects are taught in English and Arabic. Our school has over 1194 pupils, Christians and Muslims. 95% will go on to university and are often admitted to top universities around the globe. We are the only school in Palestine to offer the International Baccalaureate, an inclusive special needs program and an ethics curriculum that teaches tolerance and non-violence.

Already, 197 (17%) pupils would not be here without bursary help from Friends.

#### ***Please help us continue this important work***

The School needs to raise \$218849 before the end of this school year to be able to meet its obligations to its families. To date (October 2010) we managed to raise around \$23,000. While the balance seems large, we know that with the help of f/Friends we will succeed to raise it.

Join the tens of supporters by contributing to the financial aid scheme or by sponsoring a student at the Ramallah Friends School. While tuition fees range between \$1800-\$2500 annually - **any amount will help!** Thank you for telling your Meeting about us!

In Friendship and in Peace,

Joyce Ajlouny

RFS Director



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*Please consider sending your donation using one of these options:*

- Personal checks, payable to 'Ramallah Friends School' mailed to Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, Indiana, 47374; OR
- Through our online donation page <http://www.palfriends.org/donate.php> OR
- Checks, also payable to 'Ramallah Friends School', mailed directly to the school: c/o School Director, using: P.O. Box 18606, Jerusalem, Israel, 91184

For more information please contact me at [jajlouny@palfriends.org](mailto:jajlouny@palfriends.org)

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These are the words of one of our pupils at RFS, from our 10<sup>th</sup> grade e-zine: [www.lifebehindthewall.com](http://www.lifebehindthewall.com)

*"It is very hard for my family to live here: We had so many difficulties financially. My mother used to work, my father also. And, so many times we ended short of money. Even my dad had to quit his job and couldn't find any here, so he had to go and work outside. He had the chance to work in Iraq. So, my mum quit work to be with us and we have sleepless nights fearing that he could get hurt or kidnapped, God bless him. But, he had to work in order for us to stay at school and maintain the same lifestyle that we had before. I really appreciate all that he is doing. This life is very hard for us, especially for my mum."*

## From NEYM's Subcommittee for Intervisitation and Travel in the Ministry

Friends:

Simple sharing of worship by Friends in each others' meetings nurtures our knowledge and understanding of each other, and helps build a culture of informed and ready charity and interest which encourages unity and faithfulness. The yearly meeting's Subcommittee for Intervisitation and Travel in the Ministry has developed a plan to help Friends visit meetings to share worship, and to

ensure that all meetings are visited several times a year.

We are compiling a list of active Friends in each meeting who are willing to participate in this project. We are writing to the clerk of each meeting, and to clerks of local meetings on ministry and counsel, to suggest as many names of active Friends in their meetings as possible, with contact information. We will then be in touch with these Friends, inviting them to

participate. Each Friend will be asked to make 3 visits during the ensuing year, to attend worship in meetings not their own. We will suggest meetings for them to visit, and help provide directions and contact information so that they can plan accordingly. Please send the list of names and contact information to Brian Drayton, at [brian\\_drayton@terc.edu](mailto:brian_drayton@terc.edu).

If you have questions about this program, please feel free to

contact members of the committee (names and emails below).

With most meetings participating, the result of this effort will be several hundred visits of friendship each year, and more Friends will become accustomed to visiting their Friends near and far within the Yearly Meeting. We believe that such simple visits, offering the gifts of presence and acquaintance, will be very nourishing to the life of our meetings.

### Marathon to Athens to Providence ....

Nin Berry writes:

Providence Friends Rebecca Leuchak, Bill Monroe, Dieter Pohl and Erin Hazlett participated

in the 2500 anniversary of the original marathon in Athens on 10/31/10 along with Matt Glendinning, Head of Moses Brown School. All did quite well. Here are some photos [below]:

Brian Drayton [brian\\_drayton@terc.edu](mailto:brian_drayton@terc.edu)  
Jeremiah Dickinson [DACHA@comcast.net](mailto:DACHA@comcast.net)  
Beth Gorton [gorton\\_beth@yahoo.com](mailto:gorton_beth@yahoo.com)  
Clifford Harrison [c.cliffordharrison@comcast.net](mailto:c.cliffordharrison@comcast.net)  
Debbie Humphries [dhumphries@igc.org](mailto:dhumphries@igc.org)  
Rebecca Leuchak [rleuchak@rwu.edu](mailto:rleuchak@rwu.edu)  
Noah Baker Merrill [noah.merrill@gmail.com](mailto:noah.merrill@gmail.com)



## Dec 4 Art for Peace Auction by Martha Yager of AFSC-SENE

Buy beautiful pieces of art to support the art of peace-building at the AFSC-SENE Art for Peace Silent Auction on Saturday December 4 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM at the Providence Meeting House. Come and sign in, get your bid number (which you use to make

your bids with) then enjoy delectable munchies, mulled cider, live music and great company while periodically checking in on your bids. There will be a wide range of prices - something for everyone. Artists include Mark Freedman, Debbie

Block, Betsy Zimmerman, Tayo Heuser, Deborah Goldhaft, signed CDs by Bill Harley and John McCutcheon and more. The art includes jewelry, paintings and prints, glass items, woven items and small gifts, with a wide range of prices.

After the auction, head over to the Stone Soup Coffee House for the John McCutcheon concert. Proceeds support AFSC-SENE.

Many thanks.

Martha Yager

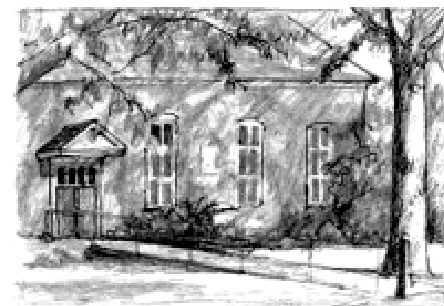
## Next Walk January 2 from Eugenia Marks

January 2 – We will walk the East Bay Bike path for thoughts about continuing vigor in adversity. Due to other scheduled events there will be no walk in December.

### Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

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

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

**Quaker Quest Re-Quest**

About 40 people came and spent the day on November 13 to learn from and about the process known as 'Quaker Quest'. We would like to gather thoughts, comments, etc., from people who attended, to see what various responses were and to let those who could not attend get a sense of it. Please send any thoughts, comments, photos, etc., to the newsletter email to help us with this.

Thanks,

Steve

[providentfriend@providencefriends.org](mailto:providentfriend@providencefriends.org)

**The Provident FRIEND**

Newsletter of  
Providence Monthly Meeting of the  
Religious Society of Friends  
99 Morris Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906