

The Provident FRIEND

Mar 2011

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

An Event-Filled Saturday March 19

Katherine Perry Memorial Service March 19

Please join the Perry family on March 19 at 11am for the memorial service for Katherine Perry, who passed away on February 22, to be held at Providence Friends Meeting.

Katherine was a member of the Providence Friends Meeting, served on several Meeting committees, and served the broader community in many ways. She was on the founding board of the Mt. Hope Day Care Center, and a member (and president) of the board of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children. She also worked for the RI Philharmonic Children's Concert during the 1950s and 1960s. She had been a member of the Board of Overseers of Moses Brown School, served as a trustee of Lincoln School, and served on several committees and one term on the board of Laurelmead, where she and her late husband Dr. Thomas Perry were residents. (These notes were compiled from the more complete obituary as published in The Providence Journal on February 26, 2011).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Providence Friends Meeting (99 Morris Ave., Providence RI 02906) or the Providence Shelter for Colored Children (Box 603276, Providence RI 02906).

ANTI-WAR MARCH AND RALLY IN PROVIDENCE ON MARCH 19, 2011

At 1PM on Saturday March 19, on the 8th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq on March 20, 2003, an opening rally will be held at Armory Park (Dexter Street and Division Street) for what may be the largest Providence anti-war protest of the year. Featuring Iraqi, Afghan, Egyptian, and Palestinian speakers, poetry from the Providence Youth Poetry Slam Team and the Brown University WORD crew, music by several local anti-war songwriters, an all-star line up of Providence radical marching band members and puppet/performance art street theater from the Big Nazo Lab, the rally will be followed by a March For Peace, Community Dinner and Potluck, workshops and a legal clinic (childcare is available during some of these events). For more information, see page 5.

Calendar:

Mar 19: 11am-12pm (p1)
Memorial Service for
Katherine Perry, Providence
Meeting House.

Mar 19: 1pm (p1)
Anti-War March and Rally,
Providence, RI

Mar 20: After coffee hour :
Walk with Eugenia Marks,
Providence Meeting House.
(This may be tentative, as it
had been a raindate).

Apr22-23: (p4)
NEYM's "Call to Worship-
Day of Discernment" –
Boston – details at:
www.neympeace.org/witness-discernment-in-april

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes- Third Month 13th

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business - 13 Third Month 2011

1. The meeting opened at 12:15 p.m. at the Providence meeting house, with fourteen present. In the opening worship the clerk read queries on mutual care from the 2006 *Faith and Practice* of Intermountain Yearly Meeting:

Do we trust sufficiently the goodwill of our meeting members and attenders to make our needs and concerns known? Do we love one another as becomes the followers of the Light, even to the point of sharing one another's burdens? Do we care for one another so deeply that each other's needs are recognized and addressed? As members of a spiritual community, do we actively work to maintain love and unity?

2. Announcement. The memorial for our Friend Katherine Perry will be 19 Third Month at 11 am at the Providence meeting house.

3. Preliminary FY 2012 Budget. For the Finance Committee, Bruce Carlsten presented a preliminary version of the 2011-2012 budget, together with explanatory materials from Ministry & Counsel and Peace & Social Concerns. The budget as distributed has a bottom line deficit of \$7,500. Bruce noted that in the current fiscal year contributions from meeting members have dropped significantly, and the committee does not have reason to project larger contributions in 2011-12. In addition, we expect investment income to decrease due to drops in the value of our reserves. In response to previous expressions and a request from Ministry & Counsel, the committee has included a significant increase in our contribution to the New England Yearly Meeting's budget.

Although the proposed budget for meeting committees and activities is already less than the current year, the Finance Committee has asked committees to carefully scrutinize their budget requests for possible further reductions. Particular attention was called to items that have been consistently under-spent in the current and prior years, but are nevertheless budgeted again at higher amounts. Items that are highly discretionary and unpredictable may be considered in the special discretionary fund, rather than each committee including sufficient cushion in its own budget line.

Several questions arose about the accounting for funds that come in either for use of the meeting house, or in memory of a deceased Friend. Bruce noted that the proposed budget now has a line item for "Use of the Meeting House," which currently has income from the music school and should also be used for donations from other groups using our refurbished space. On the issue of unrestricted bequests and memorial contributions, we ask the Finance Committee to bring back recommended guidelines. It was noted that setting up special funds puts a burden on our volunteer treasurer, and that restricted or designated funds may also cause difficulties in adhering to the requirements. We seek simplicity, faithfulness to our donors, and budget practices that are neither profligate nor overly frugal.

The Finance Committee seeks guidance from the meeting on whether the committee should balance next year's budget by trying to reduce expenses or should work harder on increasing income. A question was raised whether balancing the budget is a requirement, given the meeting's substantial reserves. The Finance Committee does feel that a balanced budget is prudent. It may be helpful to advise Friends what the average per-household contribution would need to be to meet our goals.

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

Finance Committee requested that Ministry & Counsel and Peace & Social Concerns provide further information to the meeting concerning the outside organizations that the meeting contributes to, which those committees have done. Reducing or eliminating these contributions is one option the committee has considered, although it would not eliminate the projected deficit. It was noted that Peace & Social Concerns intends to use the proceeds of the upcoming yard sale to support some of these organizations; a question was raised as to whether those proceeds would be used first for the donations already budgeted, or would be above and beyond what has been budgeted. This specific matter does not significantly affect the budget, and was deferred.

A question was raised about continuing the meeting's contribution to Friends United Meeting, in light of this meeting's previous minutes concerning FUM. Ministry & Counsel intends to bring a recommendation on that item along with other organizations.

Friends felt it would be useful for the meeting as a whole have more information on the outside organizations to which we contribute, and how they relate to the life of the meeting.

We ask that when the budget returns for further consideration, the Finance Committee bring several different options, as has been done at some times in the past. This would enable the meeting to weigh the implications of cuts versus increased contributions.

4. Ministry and Counsel. For Ministry and Counsel, Dan Lederer reported that the ad hoc committee to explore Quaker Quest has begun its work. Members of the ad hoc committee are Pierre Morenon (convenor), Eugenia Marks, Betsy Zimmerman, Zona Douthit, and Debbie Block.

5. We closed in grateful worship, intending to meet again, God willing, on the 10th of 4th month.

Mark Conley, presiding clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) at Providence Meeting House

From Debbie Block

Liz Peckham and Skip Paul have operated Wishing Stone Farm, in Little Compton, RI, since 1984. It has become one of Rhode Island's largest organic farms. The central marketing theme of Wishing Stone Farm is their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. What differentiates their CSA from others is their "Debit Program", which allows customers to get as much as they want, when they want it, and as often as they wish. Participants can miss two or three pickups and not lose any of their investment in the farm. Your membership allows you to pick up at any of five markets during the week in Providence, Barrington and at the home farm.

Wishing Stone Farm's CSA members are able to select from a large variety fresh organic produce, their own kitchen selections such as pickles, salsa, pesto, scones etc. and other local products including cheeses, breads, meat and seafoods.

By becoming a CSA member, you will be securing a food source close to home and providing for the long term care and security of agricultural land and open space in Rhode Island.

Information at <http://www.wishingstonefarm.com/csa.php> (401) 635-4274

Around the Meeting

Costa Rica Friends School:

Pam Dahlberg reports being in Monteverde, walking along a dusty narrow road in search of The Friends School and Meetinghouse, meeting the Head of School John Blount, and his wife Adrienne. It turns out that she is a member of the Providence Meeting, and though she has been away for some time, writes "I have not joined another meeting; Providence Meeting still feels like my home."

John will be attending a meeting of Heads of Friend's Schools here in

Providence in early April and will be staying with the Dahlbergs. He would like to talk about the school in Monteverde to our Meeting and others in the area while he is here. There are several lovely letters that went out on the listserve, and some informative documents. There is not room to put them in this newsletter, but it has been forwarded to the Communications Committee, who will hopefully post it to the website or listserve. If anyone without web access needs a paper copy, please let me know (Steve, 401-273-7076), and I will try to send it.

AHH, COFFEE!

I have friend who likes to quote her mom's favorite saying: "Coffee! – you can sleep when your dead!"

To that end, we now have some fabulous new coffee making devices, and well written instructions created by the Hospitality Committee (esp. Zona – thanks, Zona). The instructions are actually clear, tell you everything you need to know, and are posted in the kitchen. This should remove the anxiety one had about doing this, so now everyone should be

totally happy to volunteer and sign up for facilitating Coffee Hour.

NEYM Events

Apr22-23: NEYM's "Call to Worship - Day of Discernment" is scheduled to take place in Boston April 22-23. Involving a variety of events, details can be found at:

www.neymppeace.org/witness-discernment-in-april

Also, there will be a choral performance at this year's session, and participants are sought. Learn more at peter@quakersong.org

Treasurer's Notes From Bruce Carlsten

At last Sunday's Meeting for Business [March 13] a Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 was presented for discussion. The Finance Committee thanks all in attendance for their valuable input.

As presented, the budget showed a projected deficit of \$7,500.

Presently, we have only about 68 "contributing units", i.e., families and individuals who contribute financially to the Meeting. To balance the 2011-2012 budget as it presently stands would require an average members' contribution of \$757 per contribution unit. We recognize that not everyone can contribute this amount, so those of us who are able need to consider giving more.

In an attempt to reduce this burden, all of the funded committees have been asked to scrutinize their budget requests in search of possible further reductions.

Copies of this Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 are available from Bruce Carlsten, clerk of the Finance Committee. Also available are brief descriptions of organizations to which we make monetary contributions.

Thanks –

Bruce

MAJOR ANTI-WAR MARCH AND RALLY IN PROVIDENCE, MARCH 19, 2011: “END THE WARS NOW! -- US OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST!!”

from Bruce Carlsten

On March 19th, a diverse group of Rhode Islanders, young and old, will be taking to the streets to demand an end to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The date marks the 8th anniversary of the illegal invasion of Iraq, and community action groups across the state have planned a day of poetry, music, workshops, and protest to demand an end to all U.S. military occupations and air strikes in the Middle East and around the world.

An opening rally will be held at Armory Park (Dexter Street and Division Street) featuring Iraqi, Afghan, Egyptian, and Palestinian speakers, as well as poetry from the Providence Youth Poetry Slam Team and the Brown University WORD performance crew. There will also be music by local anti-war songwriters Joyce Katzberg, Jan Luby, Alan Hague, and Roz Raskin, as well as an all-star line up of Providence radical marching band members and puppet/performance art street theater from the Big Nazo Lab.

After the rally, a march will leave from the park, stopping at several sites in downtown Providence to peacefully protest military recruitment practices, weapons manufacturing, and civil rights violations against community organizers. There will also be a special vigil to remember the civilian and soldier deaths resulting from the occupations, as well as to honor Bradley Manning, the U.S. military whistleblower who has been in solitary confinement for over eight months without a trial.

This is expected to be the largest Providence anti-war protest of the year. Recent polls have clearly shown that the majority of U.S. citizens are against the war in Afghanistan and are in favor of drastically reducing military spending. On March 19, Rhode Islanders are gathering in the spirit of democratic people's movements from Egypt to Wisconsin to demand an end to occupation, and to call for taxpayer dollars to be spent on schools, roads, and jobs, not for endless war and predator drones. All are welcome!

WHEN AND WHERE:

Saturday, March 19th

1PM: Rally at Armory Park: Music, Poetry, Speakers

*(Located at the corner of Division St. & Dexter St.)

2PM: March For Peace (to downtown)

4PM: Community Dinner (Potluck Welcome!) at DARE Community Action Center *(Located at 340 Lockwood St.)

5PM: Workshops: “From Activism To Organizing” & “Students For Justice In Palestine”

6:30PM: “Know Your Rights” Legal Clinic with members of the National Lawyers Guild and the D.A.R.E. Behind The Walls committee *Childcare available during workshops & clinic!

Endorsing organizations include: Rhode Island Mobilization Committee to Stop War and Occupation, Anti-War Action (Brown University), East Bay Citizens for Peace, Students for Justice in Palestine (Brown University Chapter), International Socialist Organization, , RI Progressive Democrats of America, Green Party of RI.

For further information please visit:

RIMC on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/RIMCfacebook>

RIMC Website: <http://www.ristopwar.com/>

Clerk's Corner by Mark Conley

I hope you will have a chance to see the queries on mutual care for one another that were read at this month's Meeting for Business. In reading this month's newsletter from Worcester Monthly Meeting, an article by Katie Green about Pastoral Care drew my attention to the portion of Britain Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice that speaks to the heart of this very matter [section 12.01]. I quote from it at length here because it is so much better than anything I could write on the subject:

"All of us in the meeting have needs. Sometimes the need will be for patient understanding, sometimes for practical help, sometimes for challenge and encouragement; but we cannot be aware of each other's needs unless we know each other. Although we may be busy we must take time to hear about the absent daughter, the examination result, the worries over a lease renewal, the revelation of an uplifting holiday, the joy of a new love. Every conversation with another Friend, every business meeting, every discussion group, and every meeting for worship can increase our loving and caring and our knowledge of each other.

"Loving care is not something that those sound in mind and body 'do' for others but a process that binds us together. God has made us loving and the imparting of love to another satisfies something deep within us. It would be a mistake to assume that those with outwardly well-organised lives do not need assistance. Many apparently secure carers live close to despair within themselves. We all have our needs.

"Careful listening is fundamental to helping each other; it goes beyond finding out about needs and becomes part of meeting them. Some would say that it is the single most useful thing that we can do. Those churches that have formal confession understand its value, but confession does not have to be formal to bring benefits. Speaking the unspeakable, admitting the shameful, to someone who can be trusted and who will accept you in love as you are, is enormously helpful.

"Plain speaking is a longstanding Quaker testimony. It is not only that we hold a witness to the value of truth but also that straightforwardness saves us from many mistakes and much time wasted. On first acquaintance some Quakers can seem rather brusque; without the conventions of flattery and half-truths, we particularly need to make clear the steadfast love we have for one another.

"Caring can take many forms. Some help will be beyond the resources of the local meeting, but it should not be beyond our resources to see when it is needed and to see that it is provided. Often it is what we are rather than anything we do which is of help to others. We should be wary of giving advice: a sympathetic ear, whilst a person finds their own way forward, will usually do more lasting good. Some people may not want to be helped, seeing our concern as an intrusion. Great sensitivity is called for.

"The adults in a meeting have a shared responsibility for making a reality of our claim that the presence of children and young people is valued and that everybody's needs and feelings matter. People vary in how comfortable they feel with silent worship; some children, like some adults, take naturally to its disciplines and joys; others have to work at it. Some meetings offer other forms of worship from time to time. In any case it is important that the needs of all age groups are considered when we plan our activities."

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

Winter Social Gatherings As Antidote To Winter's Darkness: Game Night and Elegant Potluck

A ton of standing lamps, a lot of good cooks bringing in elegant dishes to share, and a will to help the Meeting transformed the Meeting House basement into something it has not been before. The next day, the organizers announced: "Thanks to everyone who participated in our 'elegant' potluck last night. It was truly elegant and fun, and we raised \$600 for the Meeting budget." Only Erin [Smithers] and Lian were able to tear themselves away from eating for a moment and come up with a photo.



March 5 "Elegant Potluck" Fundraiser



And as is clearly evident in this other photo, people at February 12's Game Night were having WAY TOO MUCH FUN.

Shame on you.

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
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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

Newsletter Assistance Sought

From Steve Schwartz, editor

Probably because of the time when I was caught by another newsletter charging them for travel expenses for my 'research' into Penguins during a trip to Reno, Nevada, the Communications Committee has determined that this newsletter's staff should have 'backup'. This backup is not to be as in 2 large guys following me around, but rather as in duplication of skillsets to lighten the load and/or cover in case of scheduling conflicts, etc.

Kidding aside, this is a good opportunity for anyone who may be interested in helping and/or learning about editing (text and photo), layout, etc. please contact anyone on the Communications Committee (Debbie Block, Dan Lederer, Dave McNab, John Lord, or me).

Thanks.

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