

# The Provident FRIEND

May 2011

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## May Breakfast Results

The May Breakfast Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make Saturday's breakfast such a pleasant event. Gratitude goes both to the volunteers who helped service go so smoothly and to the muffin makers who rose to the occasion as well as to Friends and attenders who made the effort to join us for breakfast.



*While the editor was away feeding his mom in NJ, many folks were happily feeding themselves right here in RI.*



But – Is it ART???  
Find out how to find out –  
see Quaker Art (p 4)



**Gathering For Jeanne Whitaker - SAVE MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> !!!!**

**We are Having a going away party for Jeanne Whitaker!**

Jeanne will be leaving us at the end of July and heading off to Kendall at Longwood in Pennsylvania. We and the RI community want to send her off in style. Plans are for a festive potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at Providence Monthly Meeting with music provided by all our musical friends (capital and little F). Plan on joining us and being part of this event. Also please bring written memories of experiences with Jeanne that we can put into a scrapbook.

If you'd like to help in plans, set up, etc., please contact Dede Carlsten at 401-254-0833 or [dcarlsten@fullchannel.net](mailto:dcarlsten@fullchannel.net) or Carol Bragg at [Cbragg1@aol.com](mailto:Cbragg1@aol.com). We are setting up at 3:00 and would appreciate any garden flowers that you can contribute besides your wonderful gifts of food.

Calendar:

**May 19 Thurs:** 3:45-5:15pm (p4) 8<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Tea, Providence Meeting House.

**May 19 Thurs:** 6:30pm (p4) Fellowship of Quakers In The Arts, Providence Meeting House.

**May 21 Sat:** 5pm (p1) Potluck dinner party for Jeanne Whitaker, Providence Meeting House.

**May 22 Sun:** (p4): Hospitality Committee meeting during social hour, Providence Meeting House.

**May 22 Sun:** 3-6pm (p4) Sacred Harp Singing, Providence Meeting House.

**May 29 Sun:** (p4): Walk with Eugenia Marks after social hour, Providence Meeting House (return at 4)

**June 17-19:** (p6): Retreat, NE Young Adult Friends, Jaffrey, NH

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes- Fifth Month 12th

Providence Monthly Meeting 12 Fifth Month 2011

1. We gathered at 7:15 p.m. at the Providence meetinghouse following a potluck supper, with sixteen Friends present. In the opening worship the clerk read the following queries from the *Faith and Practice* (2003) of Northwest Yearly Meeting:

Is your life marked by simplicity? Are you free from the burden of unnecessary possessions? Do you avoid waste? Do you refuse to let the prevailing culture and media dictate your needs and values?

2. Announcements:

This summer the meeting will again be helping with the gardens at Moses Brown. Younger members and some adults will be going every week to pick weeds, water, and harvest.

Friends are encouraged to join Conanicut Worship Group at their summer location in Jamestown.

3. Membership application: On behalf of Ministry and Counsel, Debbie Block recommended that Tyler Lewis be accepted as a member, and her children Ben and Emme Grenier as junior members (with their father's consent). We ask Ministry and Counsel to arrange a suitable welcome for the Lewis-Grenier family.

4. Travel to Cuba: Bob Elliott reported on a meeting he and Elsie Morse had with our member Elizabeth Cazden concerning her proposed travel to Cuba under the auspices of New England Yearly Meeting's Puente de Amigos program. Friends approved this travel, and authorized the clerk to sign an appropriate letter to be forwarded to quarterly meeting, the Puente de Amigos committee, and the NEYM Permanent Board.

5. Request for assistance and meetinghouse use: Peter Blood of Mt. Toby meeting is organizing a performance at the 2011 NEYM sessions of "The Fire and the Hammer," a musical about the life of George Fox. He has requested this meeting's assistance for rehearsals, as well as use of the meeting's piano in Newport and at Bryant University. Some members of the chorus will also need some hospitality for one or two nights.

Friends are comfortable with the use of this meetinghouse for rehearsals, subject to the space needs of the Community Supported Agriculture program. We approve allowing singers to sleep in the meetinghouse, and feel able to provide home hospitality as may be needed. Friends had a number of questions about the proposal to move the piano, including how it would be moved and stored, whether there is insurance to cover it, and who would be in charge of its care. The clerk will follow up with Peter Blood.

6. Request for Assistance and Meetinghouse Use by FGC: The clerk reminded Friends that Friends General Conference will be holding its 2012 summer Gathering at the University of Rhode Island. As the nearest sizable meeting, Providence is asked to assist with hosting the Gathering. Mark Conley will be serving as clerk of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Gathering.

FGC has requested that the Gathering Planning Committee meet at this meetinghouse on the weekend of 7-9<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> month 2011. This meeting would be expected to provide food, overnight hospitality, and some transportation for Friends from outside New England. Friends are comfortable hosting this meeting. We approve the high school and Young Adult Friends sleeping at the meetinghouse, with appropriate adult supervision. We are willing to provide food, perhaps on the model that Wellesley Meeting used at the planning committee's first meeting, with paid cooks and attenders asked to donate to cover costs. . We hope that the Hospitality Committee and Program Committee may be able to form an ad hoc committee to take care of the details. Ideally, the responsibility for hosting should not fall on meeting members who will also be participating in the committee activities.

(cont. p3)

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

7. Nominations: Elsie Morse presented the Nominating Committee's proposed list of meeting officers and committees for the coming year. After three corrections, the appointments were approved.

8. Restricted donations: Ministry and Counsel brought a proposal concerning donations to Friends United Meeting. The proposal is that the meeting continue for one additional year the policy that has been in effect for this year, allowing people to contribute to Providence Meeting and request that the portion of their donation that would have gone to Friends United Meeting be withheld. We approve. We recognize that we may need to revisit this if New England Yearly Meeting changes its policy at its upcoming sessions.

Ministry and Counsel has recommended that for the current fiscal year, the money that has been withheld from Friends United Meeting be put into the meeting's General Fund. Friends were uneasy with having the meeting benefit from this arrangement. Instead, the meeting directed that the Treasurer remit the withheld funds (approximately \$30) to the African Great Lakes Initiative, a project to which the meeting already contributes, using money from the "special concerns" budget line to round the funds up to \$50.

9. Proposed Budget: For the Finance Committee, Bruce Carlsten presented a revised proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month 2011. Following the comments on the previous proposal at last meeting for business, the committee has made a number of revisions. The committee's goal was to achieve a balanced budget while keeping expected individual contributions under \$44,000, which would still be an increase over the current year actual. He noted that the Communications Committee has decided to discontinue advertising in the *Providence Journal*, which has been a major expense that appears to be of little utility.

Friends approved the budget as presented.

10. Proposal on meetinghouse grounds: For the Property Committee, Lee Jaspers presented a proposal relating to landscaping plans relating to construction of the new residence for the Moses Brown Head of School, as follows:

(1) We have a great affinity and admiration for the goals and purpose of Moses Brown School, especially the attractive new residence for the Head of School.

After careful review and evaluation of the proposed landscaping, we want to be fully involved in such a way that enhances and mutually benefits both properties with a unified look. To this end, we are more than willing to engage and to participate with the school in thinning out trees and replacing them with plantings that will reduce soil erosion, including a possible "green fence," with respect to pedestrian traffic transiting Meeting House property.

Providence Monthly Meeting, for its part, is willing to pay for the plantings on the Meeting House's property.

(2) We see the importance of extending the proposed curbing to run the full length of Morris Avenue and constructed using granite.

(3) We find Plan B's catch basin more desirable and encourage the School to use this solution.

(4) The pooling of water between the new residence and the Meeting House's property is of significant concern. We ask that the engineers address this problem and suggest possible solution(s). The goal is to eliminate any standing water.

(5) In order to fully to understand and cooperate with the School's vision and expected outcome of the landscaping, we (property committee) respectfully request to review the specifications that will be used for the above activity.

(cont. pg 5)

## Around the Meeting

**May 19**

### Quakers In The Arts

A call to all artists - writers, musicians, actors, visual artists, fiber artists, sculptors, etc.:

The first meeting of the Providence Chapter of the Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts will meet on Thursday May 19th at 6:30 PM in the downstairs room of the Providence Meeting House. If you have

questions please contact Jules Burrowes:

heron\_pond\_studio@yahoo.com

### May 22 Hospitality Meeting

The Hospitality Committee will gather for a short meeting on May 22 during Coffee Hour to make plans for summer. Anyone is welcome to join us.

### Sacred Harp Singing May 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

Shape Note Singing takes place on the 4th Sunday of each month, at the Providence Meetinghouse from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. Join us and make a joyful noise. See Bob Elliott for details.

### Walk with Eugenia Marks May 29

Spend a few hours in extended worship on a walk to Touisset Wildlife Refuge in Warren, RI. Carpooling from meeting

after social hour. Return at 4 p.m. Contact Eugenia Marks for details.

### Garage Sale

The Garage sale is coming --- Silent Auction on September 30th and Garage sale and bake sale on October 1!! Yard Sale organizers are particularly eager for items that would be appropriate for the silent auction. Phebe Howland's garage is open for donations.

## *Spring Tea: a Gathering of "Friends"\**



The drawing Providence Friends Meeting E.B. Zimmerman

### *8<sup>th</sup> annual afternoon tea*

*Please join us in celebrating spring, after the school day 3:45–5:15 pm,*

*downstairs in the Meetinghouse.*

*\*Come meet and renew acquaintances with friends/Friends*

*in our mutual communities of Moses Brown School and Providence Monthly Meeting.*

Questions? Contact Galen Hamann, [gmcnemar@mosesbrown.org](mailto:gmcnemar@mosesbrown.org) or Thia Lord, [dunluce93@msn.com](mailto:dunluce93@msn.com)

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes (cont. from p3)

Lee noted that a year ago, the school and the meeting determined that a property division had already been recorded some years ago that demarcates the meetinghouse property, although all the property remains owned by New England Yearly Meeting. The school has proceeded to mark trees for removal on our portion of the property, in order to construct appropriate drainage, and requests our immediate approval. The proposal also includes construction of a sidewalk and curbing along Morris Avenue.

Property Committee has looked carefully at the various plans, observed water flow during a recent rainstorm, and consulted with Moses Brown's staff. Property Committee recommends "Plan B," which has a catch-basin on the school's property rather than on ours. The committee has asked for alterations to provide for continuous granite curbing across the entire front of the meetinghouse, so that additional water does not enter our building. The school and the meeting would work together on plantings to present a unified appearance. This work will enable the meeting to address some long-standing issues with erosion and water.

Several Friends expressed disappointment that the meeting was brought into the negotiations only at the last minute, and only because a meeting member noticed markings on our trees. We had hoped that the communications between the meeting and the school had improved to the point where we would have been part of the conversation earlier.

Dieter Pohl, who serves on the school's Building and Grounds Committee, noted that that committee became aware of the landscape plans only about six weeks ago, and then became aware that the plans required consultation with the meeting. Since that time there have been fruitful negotiations between the two committees and the school staff, which we value. The school requires a rapid decision so that the landscaping and occupancy of the residence can be completed on schedule.

It was noted that if the drainage basin is on the meeting's property, it would require periodic maintenance. It would also restrict the meeting from expanding our building footprint.

We accept the Property Committee's proposal as presented, to proceed with "Plan B," and give the Property Committee authority to continue negotiating with the school on the details and report back.

11. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented a report as of the end of 4<sup>th</sup> month 2011. He now expects that we will end the year at about breaking even. He requested meeting approval for cost overruns for several items, each of which is a large percentage increase but a relatively small dollar amount. We approve the several lines that were overspent.

The Treasurer reminded us of our policy that the treasurer has authority to pay 5% beyond budget on individual lines, and can exceed budgets by 10% with permission of the clerk of the Finance Committee. We reaffirm this policy, amending it to allow the finance committee clerk to authorize overspending of 10% of a budget line or \$100, whichever is greater.

12. For Saylesville Preparative Meeting, Hans-Dieter Gomes reported that a group of Moses Brown students, supervised by meeting member Nancy Houston, did a service project this morning cleaning up and planting in the meeting cemetery.

13. We concluded at 9:45 with a period of silent worship, grateful for our time together. We intend to meet again on the 12<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month at the Saylesville meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Conley, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk



## Young Adult Friends Retreat – June 17-19 from New England Yearly Meeting

The theme of this year's New England Young Adult Friends Spring Retreat is "20th Century YAFs". We will learn about Quakers from the last century who did amazing, important, inspiring things as young adults. Participants will also be given the opportunity to participate in QuakerSpring, a Spirit-led, inter-branch gathering of Friends in Ridge, NH. In addition to this program, we will eat, sleep, play games and worship together (for Quaker-types age 18-35).

- Monadnock Quaker Meeting, Jaffrey, NH - Registrations preferred by June 3rd
- Suggested Fee: \$60, sliding scale. Please let interest, not finances, determine your attendance.

To Register: Contact Nia Koch, YAF Coordinator [Yf.yafcoord@neym.org](mailto:Yf.yafcoord@neym.org) or (617) 945-0373

### Quaker magazine wins national awards From: Gabriel Ehri

Each year in April, the Associated Church Press honors the "Best of the Christian Press" with awards for writing, design, editing, and technical achievement. We're very pleased to announce that the judges bestowed eight honors on FRIENDS JOURNAL for articles and issues that appeared in 2010. FRIENDS JOURNAL competes against magazines that serve far larger denominations and have significantly more resources than our humble Quaker magazine. Yet this plucky little Journal continues to capture imaginations and spark conversations that bespeak the depth of Quaker thought and life.

Categories in which FRIENDS JOURNAL was honored included Media Review, Critical Review, Poetry, Seasonal Article, Cover Design, and Illustration. Information about the awards, subscriptions, or donations can be found at <http://www.friendsjournal.org/> or by calling 800-471-6863.

### Readings at Moses Brown from Thia Lord

Friends were invited to read stories which illustrate Friends' testimonies to Moses Brown lower school students the week of April 26-29<sup>th</sup> in celebration of "Literacy Month." The school librarian had several stories to choose from which illustrated one or more of our testimonies. Books and classes read to were

Kindergarten – "The Big Orange Splot" by Daniel Manus Pinkwater. Willis Monroe read to the first group.

1st grade – "The Nothing King" by Elle van Lieshout. Dan Lederer read to Monday's group; Elsie Morse read to Wednesday's group.

2nd Grade – "Enemy Pie" by Derek Munson. Thia Lord read to both groups.

3rd Grade – "Playing War" by Kathy Beckworth. Bill Monroe read to the first group; Chris Steele read to the second.

4th Grade – "Henry and the Kite Dragon" by Bruce Edward Hall. Steve Schwartz read to Tuesday's group.

5th Grade – "Zen Shorts" by Jon J. Muth. Jules Burrowes read to the Lobsters

Thanks to all who participated!

## Clerk's Corner by Mark Conley

In this month's minutes, you read of our Meeting's decision to take on the commitment to host rehearsals for performances of "The Fire and the Hammer," a work that combines writings of George Fox with musical commentary, and which traces his spiritual journey from individual seeker to leader of our Society of Friends. John Sheldon, a choral leader from England who is an active member of the Leavers, a British Quaker performing arts group, will be leading the rehearsals.

The performances will take place at the Great Meetinghouse in Newport and during our New England Yearly Meeting sessions. Performers from across New England will be coming to our Providence meetinghouse to join in two days of rehearsals, bringing this work to life for Friends in our region.

It is exciting to see all our renovation work being put to use once again for another event in the life of Yearly Meeting. Then next Fall, when Friends General Conference comes to our space to plan for its 2012 Summer Gathering in Rhode Island (!), we will be hosting a contingent of Friends from an even broader area.

Rest assured you will be hearing more about these events soon. Hosting such events is never a small undertaking, and we will be asked to come together as a community to provide a spiritual welcome and physical hospitality for these gatherings. How wonderful it is to be given these opportunities to share what we have with our wider family!

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

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Young Adult Friends: Stephen Higa [yaf@providencefriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org)  
To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw [scheduling@providencefriends.org](mailto:scheduling@providencefriends.org)  
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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

**Tuesday** - 7pm - Young Adult Friends at  
116 Waterman St. ([yaf@providencefriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org))

**Wednesday** - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School

**Wednesday** - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School

**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

## Meeting For Worship Nursery Staff Needed

From Ministry and Counsel:

Ruth Virgadamo has been providing a valuable and highly appreciated service to Meeting by staffing the nursery during Meeting for Worship, and is willing to continue doing so. However, we need to develop a panel of adult Friends to serve as back-up for Ruth on days when she cannot be there. The hope is that we can find a group of people, rather than just one or two, to increase the likelihood that someone will be available when needed and so that the job doesn't become burdensome. If you are willing to help Meeting in this way, please contact Dan Lederer via email ([dlederer1@verizon.net](mailto:dlederer1@verizon.net)) or telephone (401-831-0243).

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