

The Provident FRIEND

Jan 2012

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

January 22 – State of Society Worship Sharing

The worship sharing for our annual State of Society report begins this Sunday, January 22nd at 11:30 at the Providence Meetinghouse. Our clerk, Marc Conley, has written a description of this process, to be found in his *Clerk's Corner* (see page 6).

Happy New Year!

Bill and Rebecca performed together at Bright Night.



Service of Christian Unity – Sunday January 29

On Sunday January 29 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM the RI State Council of Churches will be holding a Service of Christian Unity at the new St. Mary and St. Mena Coptic Orthodox Church near the intersection of Scituate Avenue and Seven Mile Road just east of the Scituate Reservoir. The church is a new home for the Coptic Orthodox congregation of Rhode Island and, while not yet completely finished, is a truly remarkable edifice and all are welcome. A portion of the collection will be used to help Egypt's Coptic victims of recent persecution. A map and other information is available on the Meeting website.

Calendar

Jan. 21: 10am-3pm
Bookswap and Open
House, Saylesville
Meeting House.

Jan. 22: 11:30 (p1) State
of Society worship
sharing, Providence
Meeting House

Jan. 22: 3-6pm (p4)
Sacred Harp Sing at
Providence Meeting
House.

Jan. 28: Evening - (p4)
Friendly Eights

Jan 29: 4pm – 5pm (p1)
Prayer Service, St. Mary
& St. Mena Coptic
Orthodox Church of
Rhode Island

Feb 10: 10-11am (p4)
Quakers In The Arts,
place TBA.

Feb 10-12: (p4) Young
Friends Retreat,
Wellesley MA

Feb 12: 11:30 (p4)
Singing followed by
12:15 Meeting For
Business, Providence
Meeting House

Feb 18: 10am-3pm
Saylesville Bookswap.

Feb 26: 11am-12pm
Worship sharing
concerning FUM,
Providence Meeting
House

Mar 31-Apr 1: (p4)
Young Friends Retreat,
Westport, MA

Mar 31: 8:30am-8pm
(p3) NEYM Mid-Year
Gathering, Wellesley,
MA

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 8 First Month 2012

The meeting convened at 12:20 pm at the Providence Meetinghouse with twelve Friends present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following queries from Faith and Practice of NEYM, 1985:

Are meetings for business held in a spirit of worship and prayerful search for the way of Truth? Are all members encouraged to use their talents in the service of the meeting? Do you undertake your proper share of the work and financial support of the meeting?

1. Announcements:

There have been two book donations, the first a copy of Australia Yearly Meeting's "Faith and Practice" given to us by two Friends from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), the second "A Quaker Cupboard" from Westerly Monthly Meeting.

There will be a NEYM Mid-Year Gathering this March, organized by Sessions Committee and the Young Adult Friends Climate Change Working Group. It will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Wellesley, MA on Saturday, March 31, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM. Check "neym.org/midyear" for online registration information on February 1. There will be a \$25 charge per adult and no charge for children. Overnight hospitality with area Friends will be available upon request.

A worship group will be meeting at Saylesville on Wednesdays, the starting date to be determined.

2. Friends approved Dave McNab's appointment as representative to the Faith and Order Committee of the RI State Council of Churches.

3. For Ministry and Counsel, Bob Elliott presented a proposal that Ministry and Counsel's Building Use Subcommittee be laid down and that Program Committee's responsibilities be expanded to include: determining whether a proposed activity is in keeping with our guidelines or has such merit that an exception to the guidelines can be made; deciding on an appropriate donation from the requesting group; when needed, assisting with the preparation of a contract; when there are further questions regarding any of the above details, or when the committee is not in unity regarding a request that has been referred to it, referring the request to Ministry and Counsel for further discernment; and proposing any necessary changes to Meeting's existing guidelines for meetinghouse use.

Friends expressed a variety of concerns about child protection, liability, insurance, heating and other maintenance issues, the fact that Program Committee's mission has been to organize programs within Meeting rather than the above duties, and the lack of representation by Property and Finance committees.

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

The sense of the Meeting was to establish an ad hoc Building Use Committee on a temporary basis, its charge being to draw up revised meetinghouse use guidelines that address the issues of child protection, liability, finance, maintenance, and whether a standard contract is necessary for outside organizations as well as how such a contract will be monitored. The committee was also asked to make a proposal regarding which committee will assume its responsibilities in the future. Friends approved appointing Bruce Downing to represent Finance Committee, Bruce Carlsten to represent Property Committee, and Betsy Zimmerman to represent Program Committee. All three Friends are members of Ministry and Counsel. Friends recommended that the committee consult with someone with experience in writing contracts, and Friends asked that an initial report be submitted to Meeting for Business no later than our June 2012 meeting. Finally, Friends approved laying the committee down after a final report is accepted.

4. For Property Committee, Bob Elliott reported that the committee is entertaining suggestions regarding a stairlift.

We closed at about 2:00 PM following a period of grateful silence, intending to meet again, God willing, on 12 second month 2012.

Mark Conley, Clerk

Dan Lederer, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

2012 NEYM Mid-Year Gathering

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 8:30AM-8PM

HELD AT ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WELLESLEY, MA

Organized by Sessions Committee & the Young Adult Friends Climate Change Working Group

The realities of climate change, deepening social and economic injustice and a spiritually bereft culture challenge New England Friends to find new relevance, listening to the Living Spirit in worship, action and witness. Join us for a Mid-Year Gathering on Saturday, March 31 to explore what we may be called to do.

An *Awakening the Dreamer* session, led by Steve Chase (Putney MM) and other New England Quakers, and structured small group discussions will help build an important bridge between our 2011 and 2012 Sessions. A children's program will be available on-site.

Check neym.org/mid-year for online registration information Feb. 1. There will be a \$25 charge per adult. No charge for children. Overnight Hospitality with area Friends will be available upon request.

For further information, contact Jeff Hipp at the NEYM Office:
(508-754-6760/<mailto:neym@neym.org>)

For more information on Awakening the Dreamer, visit:
www.awakeningthedreamer.org.



Around the Meeting

Sacred Harp Singing, Jan. 22, Feb 26– Every 4th Sunday (Providence Meetinghouse) from 3:00 to 6:00 PM, join us and make a joyful noise. See Bob Elliott for details.

Friendly Eights, Saturday Jan. 28 – This year's second round of this event is now being planned. Please contact Debbie Block for information or if interested.

Winter Walk Jan 29 and Feb 12 - Walking can be a meditation. Join Friends on January 29 and February 12 after gatherings at Meeting for a walk at a nearby location or in case of inclement weather, at the RISD museum (no fee). See Eugenia Marks if you have questions about this event.

Sing Before Meeting For Business (Feb 12) - There will be singing before every Meeting for

Business. We gather at the piano at approximately 11:30 for 30-40 minutes. All are welcome, including instrumentalists.

Quakers In The Arts, Feb. 10 - Providence Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts (FQA) will meet on Friday February 10 from 10-11 AM. Meeting place to be confirmed and announced. All artists are welcome. We will begin to discuss a show at FGC this summer. If there are

questions please contact Jules Burrowes at: heron_pond_studio@yahoo.com or by phone at 617-633-8249

Stairlift – Property Committee is looking into installing a stairlift in the meetinghouse and is investigating options for financing the project. If anyone in the Meeting has expertise or experience in this area and how advice to share, please contact Property Committee. (Nina Berry)

Calendar Notes (Contact and other information about events ongoing and/or described in previous issues)

- Feb. 10-12 Young Friends Retreats: **Diversity** Wellesley Meeting, MA
- Mar. 30-Apr. 1 Young Friends Retreats: **Sexuality & Relationships** Westport, MA

For the above: To register or to find out more contact Nia Thomas - Nia@neym.org (617) 945-0373



Willis Monroe and Hayley Lacis Wedding

Providence Friend Martin Willis Monroe and Hayley Beth Lacis, of Newton MA, were married under the care of Providence Friends Meeting on October 8th, 2011. Family and F/friends assembled on that golden fall afternoon in the simplicity of the historic meeting house in Newport for worship and celebration. Hayley and Willis are living in Providence and presently traveling in Australia to visit her family.



Clerk's Corner by Mark Conley

Coming home after Business Meeting this month, I realized that I had forgotten to announce the worship sharing for our annual State of Society report. The worship will be on the 22nd of this month at 11:30 at the Providence Meetinghouse.

The State of Society report is an opportunity to reflect on how we have been, what we have done and how we have worshipped in the past calendar year. This month's worship sharing is the first step in this process of reflection. When we meet, one Friend clerks and another records the messages that come to us in our worship. Sometimes committees also contribute written statements regarding their work. Saylesville sends a report as well.

A member of Ministry and Counsel then writes a preliminary draft State of Society Report and presents it to the entire committee at its meeting next month. The committee discerns what revisions and additions might need to be made, and usually the report goes back for a few changes and comes back to Ministry and Counsel the month following (March). If it meets with approval, the committee forwards the suggested report to Meeting for Business, where it once again winnowed (although one year Meeting saw fit to accept it after its first reading!). Usually it gets one more set of suggested revisions, with approval generally occurring in April.

At that point, it has served the Meeting well, because we have been reminded of our concerns, accomplishments and hopes from the past year even as we are well underway in the new one! But our report's work in the world isn't finished. We forward our report to our Quarterly Meeting, where it is read to all present along with the reports from Smithfield, Westerly and Worcester. If you have a chance to attend Quarter, this is an interesting one to attend if you like learning about our Friends nearby. All our reports are then forwarded to New England Yearly Meeting, where that body's Ministry and Counsel draws up a state of society report for the entire yearly meeting, drawing its information and discerning trends and currents of thought from among the reports it got from the individual meetings.

Whew! And all that starts with one worship-sharing session! I hope you'll join us this bright new year as we consider as a society what the old year has to teach us.

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

Opportunity At Woolman Hill Retreat Center

Woolman Hill, a Quaker retreat center in Deerfield, MA, seeks an individual or couple to serve as part-time maintenance manager (residence on-site required). Duties include upkeep of buildings and grounds, as well as hosting 15 weekends a year. Experience with Quaker practices, good people skills, versatility, and appreciation for simple living desirable. Compensation in housing and small salary. Review of applications to begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Submit letter of interest, resume and references to margaret@woolmanhill.org or 107 Keets Rd, Deerfield MA 01342. For more information, see www.woolmanhill.org or contact Margaret Cooley (413-774-3431, margaret@woolmanhill.org).



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: Debbie Block 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: Judy Shaw pastoralcare@providencefriends.org
Finance: Bill Monroe finance@providencefriends.org
Peace & Social Concerns: Dede Carlsten peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org
Social & Hospitality: Zona Douthit socialandhospitality@providencefriends.org
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Communications: Dan Lederer communications@providencefriends.org
Program Committee: Sarah Baily 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
Email list moderator: Dan Lederer list@providencefriends.org
Website: Dave McNab webclerk@providencefriends.org
Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe 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

Tuesday - 7pm - Young Adult Friends at
116 Waterman St. (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

Rhode Island
next summer:
Beaches
Quaker Roots
and...
the FGC
Gathering!
July 1 to 7
University of
Rhode Island
Kingston, RI
All God's Critters
Got A Place
In the Choir
Request your Advance Program
today at www.FGCgathering.org
FGC
NURTURING FAITH AND
QUAKER PRACTICE

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