

# The Provident FRIEND

Mar 2012

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## 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](http://neym.org/mid-year) for online registration information. 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](http://www.awakeningthedreamer.org).



### March 14 'Soup Kitchen' Event To Be Rescheduled

Great pleasure was made by the very positive response, from both adults and young friends, to provide volunteer help for the soup kitchen at the State House event. Brought to our attention by Martha Yager, the AFSC had offered to host the March 14 version of this event, which seeks to highlight cuts by the Rhode Island Legislature to programs that assist with homelessness and hunger in our state. Due to a scheduling error, a different member of the coalition of groups that holds these events was already scheduled for that date. We will be notified once the AFSC has been rescheduled. The events take place on Wednesdays, and most of the work for us is preparing food (sandwiches, etc.) the Tuesday afternoon/evening night before. Please hold onto your enthusiasm for participating in this worthy cause.

### Calendar

**Mar 25:** 10:30am (p5)  
Conanicut Meeting For  
Worship, Norman Bird  
Sanctuary

**Mar 25:** 11:30am (p4)  
Peace and Social  
Concerns, Providence  
Meeting House library

**Mar 25:** 3-6pm (p4)  
Sacred Harp Sing at  
Providence Meeting  
House

**Mar 28:** 11am (p4) Mid-  
week Worship sharing,  
Saylesville Meeting  
House.

**Mar 30-Apr 1:** (p4)  
Young Friends Retreat,  
Westport, MA

**Mar 31:** 8:30am-8pm  
(p7) NEYM Mid-Year  
Gathering, Wellesley,  
MA

**Apr 8:** 11:30 am (p4)  
Singing followed by  
12:15 Meeting For  
Business, Providence  
Meeting House

**Apr 11:** 11am (p4) Mid-  
week Worship sharing,  
Saylesville Meeting  
House.

**Apr 21:** 10am-12pm  
Saylesville Bookswap

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

**Apr 28:** 6:30-8:30 pm  
(p4) Friendly Eights,  
various houses.

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 11 Third Month 2012

1. The meeting opened at 12:18 PM with sixteen present. The Clerk read the following Queries on Outreach from Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting, 1985:

Do you welcome inquirers and visitors to your meeting? Do you encourage their continued attendance and participation? Are you patterns, examples; do your lives preach among all sorts of people, and to them? Do you walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one?

2. Announcements:

The NEYM Mid-Year Gathering will be on Saturday, March 31, 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM, organized by Sessions Committee and the Young Adult Friends Climate Change Working Group, at St Andrews Episcopal Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Check [neym.org/midyear](http://neym.org/midyear) for online registration. There will be a \$25 charge per adult. No charge for children. Overnight hospitality with area Friends will be available upon request.

Jeremiah Dickinson, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of The Meeting School, a co-educational Quaker school in Rindge, NH, wrote to tell us that the school will not transition to a semester school. Rather, the Board has decided that selling the property is the most prudent course of action at this time.

3. Friends approved the transfer of membership of Michael Hirtle from Storrs Friends Meeting.

4. At our last Meeting for Business we heard the draft of our State of the Society report, which focused on our Providence worship site. A few changes have been made; these were read aloud. Friends approved the revised version.

5. Saylesville's Meeting for Business has prepared and approved a State of the Society report, which was reviewed. Friends approved sending both State of the Society reports to Quarterly Meeting and approved having Joanne Griffin, Clerk at Saylesville, read the Saylesville report at Quarterly Meeting.

6. For Ministry and Counsel, Debbie Block reported that the committee is continuing to work on a proposal that Meeting be listed by the Institute of Welcoming Resources as a religious organization that is welcoming to the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender (GLBT) community.

7. For Finance Committee, the Presiding Clerk relayed that Finance Committee will be proposing a \$7085 increase in expenditures, which will require a similar increase in contributions.

8. There was no treasurer's report this month.

9. For Saylesville, Joanne Griffin, Clerk at Saylesville, reported that in the summer, on the third Saturday of June, July, and August, there will be a treasure hunt co-sponsored by Saylesville Preparative Meeting and Arnold House. This will coincide with the ongoing book swap. Also, the Wednesday worship group at Saylesville has been meeting and has been well-attended.

The meeting closed with a period of grateful silence at 12:50 PM.

Mark Conley, Presiding Clerk     Dan Lederer, Recording Clerk Pro Tem

## The Meeting School (NH) in Transition

Dear Friend,

I am writing to you as part of an effort to spread the word about The Meeting School situation. It is my hope that someone in your meeting may be in a position to respond.

In February 2011, The Meeting School determined it could not continue as a four-year high school and entered a sabbatical year, planning to reopen with a new educational model. After a year's intensive effort, we are not able to realize this plan. We are now seeking proposals for purchase of the property in Rindge, NH. Our hope and expectation is that one or more individuals with the necessary financial and other resources will arise to continue the mission in a manner that reflects and extends the life and spirit that have been embodied in The Meeting School. We will share work we have done and help in any other way we can.

We ask that you consider the attached Request for Proposals and share it with anyone you feel may have an interest.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or respond to questions from interested persons. I may be contacted at [DACHA@comcast.net](mailto:DACHA@comcast.net).

Thank you for your continued support.

In the Light,

Jeremiah Dickinson, Clerk, Board of Trustees, The Meeting School

*From "Request for Proposals.PDF", a file attached to the above letter :*

The Meeting School was founded in 1957 to "...make available a place where real work, natural play and rigorous intellectual striving after truth are joined together in developing the life of the Spirit," where "the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace and service are emphasized." For over 50 years the School lived into this mission as a four-year high school, providing quality education and an opportunity to live and work on an historic New England farm, transforming lives through the small community experience based on the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends.

In early 2011, responding to changes in the educational world, the Board of Trustees announced a sabbatical for the School and embarked on a process of discernment to listen for way forward. Consulting with the extended School community and with other Quaker schools, the Board of Trustees sought a new model for education at The Meeting School. In a year of active effort, we were not able to secure the necessary funds or partners to bring this to fruition. The Board is now seeking additional proposals.

Our first priority is to sell the property for any purpose or purposes that reflect and extend the life and spirit that have been embodied in The Meeting School. In addition, priority will be given to proposals for the whole property, and to those that commit to sustainable stewardship of the land.

We will share work we have done and help in any other way we can. Our desire is that this place, which for over 50 years has been the home of a transformative Quaker community, continue serving as a beacon of Light to the world.

[Editor's note: The balance of the attached file, "Request for Proposals.PDF", describes the property in detail. If interested, it can be requested from the editor at [providentfriend@providencefriends.org](mailto:providentfriend@providencefriends.org) ]

## Around the Meeting

**Quakers in the Arts, March 19, 6-8 PM** – Jules is hosting an open creativity night. Bring anything you are working on, and space will be provided, in her studio at 250 Esten St., Pawtucket. Call Jules at 617-633-8249.

**Sacred Harp Singing, Mar 25, Apr 22** – Every

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Providence Meetinghouse) from 3:00 to 6:00 PM, join us and make a joyful noise. See Bob Elliott for details.

**Mid-week Saylesville Worship Sharing, Mar 28 and Apr 11**

The first mid-week, small worship sharing at the Saylesville Meeting

House in Lincoln was successful, and the intended plan is to meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The next two are on March 28 and April 11, both at 10:00 AM. The group meets for approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. All are welcome. Contact Kathy Boger at (401) 475-9563 for more

information.

**Sing Before Meeting For Business (Apr 8)** - 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.

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

- Mar. 30-Apr. 1 Young Friends Retreats: **Sexuality & Relationships** Westport, MA

- May 4-6 **Rest & Relaxation** Hartford, CT

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

## Updated Directory

Communications Committee emailed an updated Meeting Directory containing only information which participants have given permission to publish. There will be some printed copies in the library at the Providence Meetinghouse. If you cannot get an email copy or one from the meetinghouse, or if you have any additions or corrections (the next edition is planned for six months from now), contact Dan Lederer, or [directory@providencefriends.org](mailto:directory@providencefriends.org)

## Friendly Eights Adds Family-Style Event - Saturday April 28

Program Committee is so pleased with the reports from the first two gatherings, and are happy to see the renewed interest in this community activity. They were well attended and enjoyed, so in addition to the regular event, Sarah Baily will be hosting a Friendly Eights for Families on this same day (though it will be earlier than the usual 6:30 start time). If you are interested in participating in the family gathering please contact Sarah directly at: <[bailysp@hotmail.com](mailto:bailysp@hotmail.com)>. Debbie Block can be contacted about attending, hosting, or moderating a gathering.

## Peace and Social Concerns Meeting March 25 – from Zona Douthit

On March 25, Peace and Social Concerns will meet at 11:30 in the library for two purposes:

First - to discuss the legislative priorities our meeting discerns should be the focus of FCNL during the next Congress. See <http://fcnl.org/about/govern/priorities/112/> for the priorities set for the current congressional session. All are welcome.

Second - the Peace and Social Concerns committee needs to decide how to allocate funds in the current budget.

## 2012 FGC Gathering of Friends – July 1 to 7 University of Rhode Island Campus

What is the FGC Gathering?

About 1400 Quakers from all parts of the United States and several other countries (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition) spend a week together on a college campus at different sites around the US and occasionally Canada. Attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s.

In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together.

Find more information at <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering> and 215 561-1700 x 3005



### Conanicut Friends Return to Worship in Jamestown in May

From Marcie Lindsay

Conanicut Friends Meeting(Indulged) are looking forward to their return to the old 1787 Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane in Jamestown on Sunday, May 6 at 10:30 AM. Services will continue through October.

We welcome traveling Friends, and look forward to returning summer visitors.

Our last Meeting for the winter on March 25th at 10:30 am marks our seventh year worshipping in the warm and welcoming space of the Studio at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, overlooking Rhode Island Sound. The staff and directors of the Sanctuary have been most supportive of our winter 'retreat' into their space.

The old Meetinghouse is under the watchful eye of the Jamestown Historical Society, which is celebrating its 100th year. Careful evaluations with the RI Preservation Society show a need for some regular maintenance to keep the building functional. As of this time, it will not impact our weekly services.

As always, if there are any questions, please call 423-9122 or 848-4115.

## Moses Brown's TEDx Conference – Thursday April 19 From Carol Smith

### Afternoon session 1-3 - Evening session 6:30-9:00

TED is a nonprofit devoted to *Ideas Worth Spreading* which started out in 1984 in conference form. Its original participants came from the worlds of Technology, Entertainment and Design, and talks given at its 2 yearly conferences are available (as videos) to all people on the TED's internet site.

TEDx conferences are a spin off; they are held all over the world – featuring creative thinkers who present speeches of 18 minutes or less that encapsulate *Ideas Worth Spreading*. Moses Brown's TEDx conference is the brainchild of a member of our Meeting, Austin Jaspers, who researched the possibility of holding a TEDx conference during his senior project last year.

Moses Brown adopted his proposal, Matt Glendinning organized a TEDx Steering Committee and the project got underway. The title of MB's TEDx conference is “Lives That Speak” - referencing George Fox's invitation to live boldly and with a sense of purpose. Several of the speakers are Quakers.

There is no charge for the conference but registration on the Moses Brown website is needed - go to : <https://www.ted.com/tedx/events/3843>

Questions can be directed to Carol Smith at 383-1488 or [smithdoak@gmail.com](mailto:smithdoak@gmail.com)

Debbie Block writes “A number of you asked about the Ted Talks so I figured I'd send out a few links to the main website and to a talk or two that we've enjoyed.....have fun exploring and, hope you will come to the event at Moses Brown!”

<http://www.ted.com/>

<http://www.ted.com/themes>

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/jill\\_bolte\\_taylor\\_s\\_powerful\\_stroke\\_of\\_insight.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/jill_bolte_taylor_s_powerful_stroke_of_insight.html)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/eli\\_pariser\\_beware\\_online\\_filter\\_bubbles.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/eli_pariser_beware_online_filter_bubbles.html)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/elizabeth\\_gilbert\\_on\\_genius.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/elizabeth_gilbert_on_genius.html)

**TED<sup>x</sup> Moses Brown School**  
x = independently organized TED event

**LIVES THAT SPEAK**  
Thursday  
April 19, 2012

**AFTERNOON: 1 - 3 P.M.**  
Louise Lamphere  
Melissa Maxwell '81  
Don Sweitzer  
Jeff Cruzan  
Sam Tsemberis  
Uday Kumar '90

**EVENING: 6:30 - 9 P.M.**  
Paul Sorensen  
Joan Countryman  
Bill Harley  
Carlos Andrés Gómez '00  
Debbie Humphries  
Donald McNemar  
Jenny Peek  
Maria DeCarvalho  
Meenakshi Narain

"Lives That Speak" is an allusion to founder of Quakerism George Fox's invitation to live boldly and with a sense of purpose.

Please visit [tedxmosesbrown.com](http://tedxmosesbrown.com) for speaker information & registration. Space is limited.

## Clerk's Corner – from Mark Conley

"When it was ended, it was hard for Friends to part, for the glorious power of the Lord which was over all his blessed Truth and Life flowing amongst them had so knit and united them together that they spent two days of taking leave of one another and Friends went away being mightily filled with the presence and power of the Lord."

- George Fox, of his visit to New England, 1672

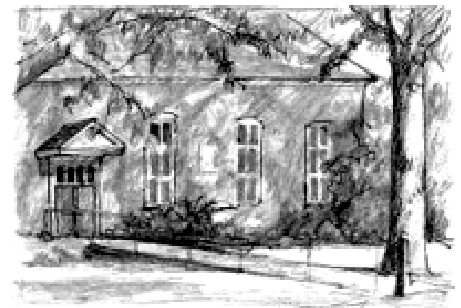
This month's column is simply a brief reminder of the blessedness of visiting our Friends in other Meetings. It has been a joy over the last few months to hear the States of Society of our Monthly Meeting. Yet even as we have shared our excitement at the burgeoning life in our meetings at Providence and Saylesville, so it is important to remember to visit, encourage and learn from other Friends. I especially invite you to consider attending a Meeting for Worship at one of the other spiritual homes for Quakers in our Quarterly Meeting: Smithfield, Westerly and Worcester. It is also an enriching experience to lift up our hearts together at Quarterly Meeting itself. I know Friends from other Meetings are very glad for our presence, and I now know from having attended Quarter and each of its constituent Meetings just how much we have to be grateful for in our worshipful gathering, which is truly a Society of *Friends*.

And as always, thank you for everything 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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 Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden [recordingclerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:recordingclerk@providencefriends.org)  
 Treasurer: Peter Swaszek [treasurer@providencefriends.org](mailto:treasurer@providencefriends.org)  
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 Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe [liaison@providencefriends.org](mailto:liaison@providencefriends.org)  
 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)  
 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@providencefriends.org](mailto:adult_ed@providencefriends.org)



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

Newsletter of  
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends

(401) 331-4218 or <http://providencesfriends.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@providencesfriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencesfriends.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](http://www.FGCgathering.org)

**FGC**  
NURTURING FAITH AND  
QUAKER PRACTICE

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