

The Provident FRIEND

May 2012

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

FGC Gathering in RI - Deadline For Applying May 31!

Volunteer to help on Sunday, July 1!

(from Betsy Zimmerman)

As a welcoming gesture, FGC Gathering clerks Nancy and David Haines are asking lots of us to spend that first Sunday in July at URI waving, shaking hands, and helping all the arrivals who will be registering. Help will be needed during the day and in the evening for arrivals settling into this first worship. Dinner will be provided for all volunteers, and special T-shirts to identify you. This will be a great way to get a taste of how special this event will be. If you want to help out please send your contact info to haines2012@gmail.com or contact Mark Conley.

Several things are open to the general public, with no need to register, including these evening programs:

Erik Cleven, Monday July 2 Bill Harley and Friends, Tuesday July 3

Noa Baum, Thursday July 5 The Fire & the Hammer, Friday July 6

Please plan on being part of this important event in the life of RI Friends.

[See pg 6 for Mark Conley's excellent detailed description]

May Breakfast

The May Breakfast was a great success. Over 60 people attended, and we even made a few dollars. But most importantly, it was a wonderful outreach occasion. Most of those attending were our East Side neighbors.

Special thanks to all who helped out: John Lord (the Egg Master), Justin Shaklee, Judy Shaw, Lucy Ann Lepreau, Genie Marks, Elsie Morse, Kim Wiegand, Kimmy Cabbage, Zona Douthit, Betsy Zimmerman, Sarah Bailey and family, Mike Hirtle, and Bruce and Dede Carlsten. And a special thanks to all who ate the leftovers the next day.

Camp Street Community Ministries Thanks and Note

from Executive Director Jacqueline R. Watson

I am writing to you today to thank you for the support you have given Camp Street Community Ministries over the years, and to ask you to help us once again with our work here at 194 Camp Street. Your gift can help us be available to our new and existing visitors to the food bank. (59,000 Rhode Islanders are unable to meet basic food needs.) At the same time, we want to continue to be *[continued page 6]*

Nursery Help sought For Summer

The nursery is looking for help to supplement it's staff this summer. It is looking for parents/adults and possibly a few responsible teenagers who would be willing to cover one or two Sundays in the nursery. A per session stipend of \$20 for adults and \$15 for teenagers is available.

Please send contact information and availability dates to Bruce Carlsten (401-254-0833) as soon as possible so that a summer schedule can be published.

Calendar

[see also "Calendar Notes", p4]

May 24: 3:30-5:30pm (p4) Moses Brown Spring Tea, Providence Meeting House

May 27: 3-6pm (p4) Sacred Harp Sing at Providence Meeting House

May 31: (p 1,2, 6,8) Deadline for applying for FGC events.

June 3: After potluck (p4) Walk with Eugenia Marks, leave from Providence Meeting House

June 8-10: Young Adult Friends retreat, Jaffrey, NH (p4)

June 10: (p2) Meeting for Business, Saylesville Meeting House

June 13 & 27: 11am (p4) Mid-week Worship sharing, Saylesville Meeting House.

June 19: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookwap

June 24: 3-6pm (p4) Sacred Harp Sing at Providence Meeting House

July 1-7: (p 1,2, 6, 8) FGC Gathering, URI events.

Aug 4-9: (p) NEYM Annual Sessions

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 10 Fifth Month 2012

1. We gathered at the Providence meetinghouse at 7:20 p.m. following a potluck meal, with eight Friends present. In the opening worship, the clerk read advices on home and family from *Faith and Practice* of New England Yearly Meeting (1985):

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect.

Let us trust in the Light and witness to it in our daily living. We and our families are children of God with a rich accessible record of God's dealings with humanity. In dress, in furnishings, in manners, in diet, and in entertainment, let us choose the simple, the wholesome, and the beautiful. Let us be cooperative and creative in family recreation so that it encourages mutual activity and sharing.

Let us dwell with thankfulness on the blessings and happiness that life has brought us. Friends are advised to try throughout life to discern the appropriate moment to relinquish responsibilities to others. Let us face with courage the approach of old age, both for ourselves and for those dear to us, realizing that even as our outward activity lessens, our seasoned thought and prayer may liberate love and power in others.

2. Announcements

The Friends General Conference Gathering will be in Kingston RI from July 1 - 7. FGC is especially hoping that Rhode Island Friends will consider attending for all or part of the week. FGC is also looking for volunteers to help welcome Friends from around the country who are coming to Rhode Island. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

Next month, our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business will begin meeting at Saylesville meetinghouse.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. Return of Travel Minute with Greetings: Elizabeth Cazden, who received a travel minute from this meeting, endorsed by quarterly meeting and the NEYM Permanent Board, for her recent trip to visit among Friends in Cuba, returned the minute and read the endorsement by Odalys Hernandez, presiding clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting. She also read from a letter of thanks and greetings from Baner Monthly Meeting, one of the eight meetings where she presented a "Salt and Light" workshop.

4. The Clerk read a memorial minute for our friend Katherine Perry (1918-2011), prepared by Ministry and Counsel. We approve this minute and ask that it be forwarded to Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting. [ed.:see p5]

5. Disposition of restricted donations: For Ministry and Counsel, Bruce Shaw brought a recommendation regarding the disposition of funds that contributors to our meeting have requested be withheld from reaching Friends United Meeting, as a matter of conscience. During the current fiscal year, eight contributors have requested this withholding. Ministry and Counsel has calculated the percentage of the monthly meeting budget that goes to New England Yearly Meeting, multiplied by the percentage of the Yearly Meeting budget that goes to Friends United Meeting, and applied that number to the restricted contributions. Using that formula, the total to be withheld amounts to \$51.88. Ministry and Counsel recommends that as for the previous year, this amount be sent as an additional donation to the Africa Great Lakes Initiative.

(cont. p3)

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

We approve the recommendation that the funds so restricted by donors during the fiscal year ending May 31, 2012, totaling \$51.88, be withheld from our donation to New England Yearly Meeting, and donated instead to the Africa Great Lakes Initiative. We also ask our Treasurer to ensure that New England Yearly Meeting receives an accurate accounting of our action, noting that it does not exactly match what the yearly meeting assumed meetings would do.

6. Budget: For the Finance Committee, Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented a proposed budget for fiscal year 2012-13. The committee has not made any changes since the budget was first presented in Fourth month. We approve this budget, recognizing again that it assumes an increased level of giving from meeting members and attenders.

7. For Ministry and Counsel, Bruce Shaw presented a rewritten proposed minute regarding the meeting's response to the hiring policy of Friends United Meeting (4th month 2012, minute 6). The clerk clarified that New England Yearly Meeting requested that local meetings consider this issue, in part to provide guidance to NEYM on its relationship to FUM. As a result of suggestions, some changes in wording were made by those gathered.

We approve the proposed statement, as edited. We ask that this minute be forwarded to quarterly meeting and to New England Yearly Meeting.

Statement on Friends United Meeting employment policy

It saddens us and causes deep hurt in our community that FUM has a stated hiring policy that explicitly fails to recognize loving relationships that have been blessed, acknowledged and embraced by our community of deep faith, and that therefore rejects the potential contributions, and indeed the basic human rights, of many, both in our community and in the larger worldwide community of Friends, with a policy that openly discriminates against individuals and families based only on their sexual orientation, and not on the quality of contribution that they may be able to bring to our collective spiritual work. We urge our fellow Friends in FUM to prayerfully reconsider this policy, and to give the same loving care and consideration in employment to all couples and individuals, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

7. Treasurer's Report: Peter Swaszek presented an interim report ending 4th mo. 30, 2012. He anticipates that the meeting will end the fiscal year with a surplus. The treasurer noted that with the recent sale of the New England Yearly Meeting Friends Home in Hingham, Massachusetts, the mortgage of about \$25,000 that our meeting held on the property has been paid in full.

8. We note with gratitude the installation of a new stairlift, and look forward to receiving clear instructions on its use.

9. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that the meeting will be hosting a craft sale on the 19th of this month, as part of the regular book swap, as a small fundraiser. The meeting will also have students from Moses Brown School out to do yard work as a community service project.

10. We concluded with a period of silence, intending to meet next at Saylesville meetinghouse on the 10th of Sixth month at 12:15 p.m., God willing.

Mark Conley, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Around the Meeting

Spring Tea May 24 - The Annual Moses Brown Spring Tea is on Thursday, May 24th, 3:30-5:30pm at the Meetinghouse. This is an opportunity to celebrate the season and to express our thanks to the faculty and staff of Moses Brown School. Please **join us!**

Sacred Harp Singing, May 27 & June 24 – Every 4th 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, June 13 & 27 -The mid-week, small worship sharings at the Saylesville Meeting House in Lincoln continue on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 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.

Walk with Eugenia Marks, June 3 - For communion, companionship, and serendipity, join the walk to Touisset Marsh Refuge, Warren, after pot-luck on June 3. Questions? Contact Eugenia Marks.

Passing of Dr. DiMase – Anne DiMase let us know that her former husband, Dr. Joseph DiMase, died in Providence on April 28,

after a long battle with leukemia. We hold Anne and Joseph’s families in the light.

Mountain Bike Accident – Kathy Boger reported that her fiancé, Ken Wadland, was at a rehab facility to recover from a concussion incurred while mountain biking in late April. We are hopeful that his recovery is going well, and that he will be home soon, if he is not there already.

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

- June 8-10 - Young Adults Friends Retreats - "What Does Spiritual Community Look Like?" Jaffrey, NH
For the above: To register or to find out more contact Nia Thomas - Nia@neym.org (617) 945-0373
- Aug 4-9 NEYM Annual Sessions

Camp Street Community Ministries Thanks and Note

[continued from page 1]

available to assist members of the community who are ready to look for work or who are entering the workforce. Your contribution has allowed us to keep the resource room open, allowing resume building, computer training, and job searches; also the clothing room, where clients can assemble work-appropriate outfits. 2012 marks our 27th year of operation. Our goal has always been to advance the self-sufficiency of our clients by providing good food as well as training and counseling during a job search. We spend about \$3500 a month to keep our doors open, and your gift will make a difference for us in challenging times. If you have any questions about this, or if you would be willing to donate your time, see Eugenia Marks.

STAIRLIFT – INSTALLED AND TRUSTWORTHY

Safety tested by Elsie and Dede and Nick. Cupholder and wi-fi coming soon.



Nick



Elsie



(your photo in this space)



Dede

MEMORIAL MINUTE for KATHERINE PERRY

Our Friend Katherine McFadden Bushnell Perry was born August 17, 1918 in Sydney Australia where her father worked as a civil engineer on the new transcontinental railway. She was a young child when the family returned to Rochester, New York where she grew up. Summers were always spent in Weekapaug, Rhode Island where the family delighted in swimming, sailing and hosting all the extended family that could fit into their aunts' summer house, affectionately named Spray Rock Cottage and the Ant Hill. Family was always her first joy and priority, whether it was in supporting her husband and daughters or the far extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins, and forebears. She was always the one to help where needed and keep the family connected as well as keep track of family history. Though Katherine was not brought up as a Quaker, one can easily imagine how those early experiences summering with, and later caring for, the whole extended family led to her natural ease in the Quaker Community.

She was introduced to Quakerism while attending Westtown School in Pennsylvania. In 1941, shortly after graduating from Mt. Holyoke, she married an old summer friend, Tom Perry. Two weeks after he was sent overseas for medical duty in Burma during World War II, their first child, Carol, was born. Upon his return from the war, the family returned to Providence where they raised their three daughters; Carol, Margaret, and Phebe. Katherine joined Providence Meeting because of Tom's strong commitment to Quakerism and the importance she felt of families going to church together.

Tom's was the voice in the family that stood out at Meeting. He spoke often and was a leading support in countless areas of concern and interest such as overseeing the construction of the present building, and prison ministry. He focused Meeting discussions and helped resolve every important issue for fifty years. Mackie's contributions to the Meeting were equally significant "behind the scenes." Her generous, thorough, and capable work as Membership Recorder continues to guide the way we do it now. Countless other examples could be enumerated in any area of the Meeting's life where she took part, be it in planning for a well equipped kitchen or designing cushions for benches in the Meetinghouse. Recognizing its particular significance in the life of the meeting, she loved her work with the Hospitality Committee. In the wider Quaker community she served on the boards of both Moses Brown and Lincoln Schools and acted as New England Yearly Meeting's registrar for many years.

She contributed to the larger Providence Community where she was on the founding board of the Mount Hope Day Care Center. She was also on the board of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children and worked for the Rhode Island Philharmonic Children's Concerts during the 1950s and 1960s. After moving to the Laurelmead retirement community, she served on that Board and again on their hospitality committee. Though such contributions generally go without saying, it is abundantly clear how Mackie's natural supporting presence made her busy doctor-husband's significant community contributions possible.

Mackie's connections within the meeting community deepened and widened after her husband's death. As her own health deteriorated, contacts with friends from the Meeting helped keep her spirits up. Her death on Feb. 22, 2011 left us with challenging models of conscientious attention to detail, caring for others and support for the whole meeting community. As we seek to follow in her footsteps, we take inspiration from her sweet, quiet, loving, welcoming style, infecting us all, and from her way of reminding us of unexpected tidbits with an impish and joyful sense of humor."

Thanks to Moses Brown Readers

ReAnna Laney (librarian at the Moses Brown School) came to Meeting For Worship recently, and thanked us for participating in the annual reading program. This year, the readers were listed as Jen Giglio, Sylvi Re, Hayley Monroe, Elsie Morse, Steve Schwartz, Bill Monroe, Thia Lord (who used to co-ordinate the event), Pamela Dahlberg and Eugenia Marks.

What Happens At The Friends General Conference – from Mark Conley

As you may know, hundreds of Quakers will be coming to the University of Rhode Island the first week of July for the Friends General Conference Annual Gathering. FGC is extending a special invitation to you and to all Rhode Island Friends to consider participating in as many ways as possible. FGC does not often come to our corner of the country, so this is a wonderful opportunity to see what this joyful gathering is all about! Here is the web address to find out more: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>

FGC Gathering is not like NEYM in that the Gathering is purely a place to join other Friends for worship, learning and recreation. There is no Business at any time during the day. The mornings are spent in workshops ranging from spirituality to history to social justice to physical activity. Afternoons involve field trips, small group interest sessions and just getting to know others. Evening programs include lectures, concerts, and small-group interest sessions for learning what Quakers across the country are doing on a variety of topics.

Families are encouraged to participate: there are age-appropriate groups from infancy through high school (and young adults). There is also financial assistance available. Please note that the deadline for applying is May 31.

FGC is also looking for volunteers to help people feel welcomed to our state when they arrive on Sunday, July 1. This could include anything from helping give directions on the URI campus to helping Friends gather themselves to settle into worship that first evening. I can help get you in touch with the people working on coordinating this.

Last, there are "work-study" positions available that pay half of the week's registration. These positions include: Babysitting (finding local babysitters to provide care for the youngest attenders during the morning sessions), Bus Captain (greeting Friends at the airport / train station and making sure they get on buses that FGC will provide to take them to URI) and Field Trip Coordinator (organizing carpools to field trips and keeping in touch via cell phone in case anyone gets lost). If you would be interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact me (mconley@uri.edu)

I hope if you are not already registered that you will consider joining us for part or all of the week. Last year's Gathering in Iowa was my first, and I can truly say that it was a very special and rewarding experience. Please come!

Yearly Membership Report Summary – correction from April Newsletter

[A printer format error caused the following to be missing from the end of last month's page six article, which included the material repeated here in small print – Ed.]

The following is a summary of the yearly report of the membership of the Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends. It is for the year which ended on December 31, 2011. This report is given at Business Meeting, and sent to the Quarterly Meeting and the New England Yearly Meeting. [par] The previous year, 2010, we had a reported total of 218 members. Additions for the year ending 2011 included 2 due to an error the previous year, 3 additions by application for membership in Providence, and one addition by Certification of Transfer in Conanicut. [par] Losses included 3 by death, 5 by discontinuance/resignation, and 3 by Certificate of Transfer to other Friends Meetings. This amounted to a net loss of 5 members. [par] The composition of the membership includes 106 males 107 females. We have 161 resident members and 52 non-resident members. 10 of our members are ages birth through 14; 9 are ages 15-18; 23 are 19-25; and 66 are age 65 or older.

Our average attendance in Providence is 69 people, 34 of whom are active attenders (non-members). In Conanicut, average attendance is 7 people, 4 of whom are attenders. In Saylesville it is 6 people, 2 of whom are attenders.

We had an average of 7 children in first day class. We did not have any adult religious education classes in 2011. There was an average of 3 people who attended weekday worship at Brown University.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne W. DiMase, with grateful assistance from Elsie Morse

A PUBLIC BANK FOR RHODE ISLAND from Bruce Carlsten

The State of Rhode Island presently gives all its banking business to a major commercial bank such as the Bank of America. The profit that this bank gains from RI money such as your income tax deposits, bond issues, etc. then is used for the bank's business ventures elsewhere in the U.S. and internationally.

North Dakota (and i believe some other states) have a better idea. They have established a public bank which handles all their banking business. The independently run bank, being a member of their community acts as such. the money stays in the state and it provides loans (small business, personal, mortgage, etc.) to its citizens/neighbors. Private citizens can also deposit their money in this bank knowing that the profits will be used to benefit them.

North Dakota has had a public bank for many years and it has proven very successful and a model for other states. Tom Sgouros, who has testified on several occasions at the RI State House, has often touted this as an action that would be good for Rhode Island.

I would like to know if, sometime in the near future, individuals would be willing to listen to a short 30 minute power point presentation on public banking followed by a question and answer session.

Please contact Bruce Carlsten if this interests you.

Community of Learning Program

This program is being developed as part of AFSC'S Healing Justice, to examine crime and the "criminal justice system". Martha Yager (Program Coordinator, AFSC-SENE) noted that some of us were interested in, but could not attend, the introductory meeting on May 14. She can be contracted for information, and some basic information can be found at a link at the bottom of this web page:

<https://afsc.org/program/community-learning-healing-justice-practices>

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: Dan Lederer 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
Religious Education: Kathi Lyons religioused@providencefriends.org
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

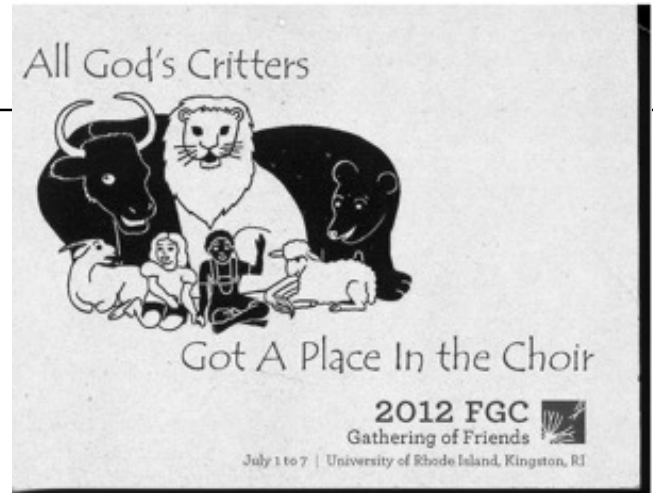
FGC Gathering Begins July 1, Registration deadline May 31!

See pages 1 and 6

Find more information at

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering> and

215 561-1700 x 3005



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