

The Provident FRIEND

June 2012

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

*** MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS – articles on pages as noted ***

(covering through mid-September – this is the last newsletter until then)

FGC Gathering: JULY 1-7 - At URI's Kingston campus (see p 6).

- Workshop & Schedule links <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>
- In case help is still needed and you want to help out please send a note and contact info to haines2012@gmail.com.

- July 5 at 1:45 short worship at Providence Meeting, then a tour of Moses Brown

NEYM Annual Sessions: AUGUST 4-9 - At Bryant University (see p 6).

SUMMER LISTING ON PAGE 7 - A list has been made for summer reference, on page 7 (easy to cut off and place somewhere handy).

AFSC-SENE "Windows and Mirrors" murals exhibition:

the costs of war in Afghanistan.

from Martha Yager

AFSC-SENE, in collaboration with the University of RI Providence Campus, is hosting the AFSC exhibit of murals on the costs of war in Afghanistan called Windows and Mirrors, beginning July 9th and running through August 25th. During July there will be programs every Thursday night. The exhibit will also include works by RI artist Mimi Samis and photographs from Afghanistan Captain Nicolas Mercurio. July 12th will be a reception for donors (you are welcome to become a new donor that night!) from 5-6pm followed by a public presentation on the exhibit and AFSC's work on Afghanistan beginning at 6:30pm. The following Thursday, July 19th, is the Providence Gallery Crawl, and there will be a variety of additional events that people can participate in. July 26th we hope to hold a public screening of a new film on Afghanistan. We hope that you will join us for these events! You can find more about the exhibit by going to www.windowsandmirrors.org and get updates on the events at www.afsc.org/office/providenceri.

John Kellam's Book Online

John R. Kellam's book "An American Prisoner of Conscience in World War Two" is a transcription of an interview about his experiences as a World War II conscientious objector and adherent of the Quaker Peace Testimony. For years, a single print copy of it has been in and out of the Providence Meeting's library as various members and attenders borrowed it to read. This copy has been scanned and can be downloaded from the home page on our website at:

<http://providencelfriends.org/>

It is also on the left menu ABOUT link, where it will reside permanently.

Efforts are being made to find an additional online location at a broader site (Wikisource or something like it), so that it may be 'tagged' with categories ('Quaker', 'Conscientious Objector', 'WWII', 'Tyler Kent', etc.). This will allow it to show in searches by people looking for related material, and allow its use by a larger audience. If anyone is familiar with this process or has suggestions, please contact Steve Schwartz (PFM editor).

Calendar

[see also "Calendar Notes", p4, and special "Summer Listing" p7]

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

July 5: 1:45 (p1,3)
Special Meeting for worship Providence Meeting House

July 15: noon (p2) RI Smithfield Qtrly Meeting, Worcester meetinghouse

July 21: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

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

July 22: After meeting (p4) Walk with Eugenia Marks

Aug 4-9: (p) NEYM Annual Sessions, Bryant University

Aug 18: 10am-12pm
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Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 10 Sixth Month 2012

1. The meeting opened at 12:05 pm at the Saylesville meetinghouse. Eleven Friends attended. In the opening worship, assistant clerk Dan Lederer, serving as presiding clerk for the day, read an advice from New England Yearly Meeting's 1985 Faith and Practice:

In meetings for business, and in all duties connected with them, seek again the leadings of the Light; let our utterances be brief and without repetition. Let us keep from obstinacy and from harshness of tone or manner and admit the possibility of being in error. In all the affairs of the meeting community, let us proceed in a peaceable spirit, with forbearance and warm affection for each other.

2. Announcements:

The 2012 Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends will take place from Sunday July 1 to Saturday July 7 at URI (South Kingstown). Even if you are not registered, various events are free and open to the public: Sunday's Opening Worship, evening programs on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, the Gathering Store, exhibits, and the visual arts gallery. Opportunities still exist for those interested in volunteering; contact Mark Conley for more information.

New England Yearly Meeting sessions will take place at Bryant University in Smithfield, August 4-9. Registration is now open online at www.neym.org. Families with children and those who would like financial assistance through the Equalization Fund need to register by June 30. Extra copies of the New England Friend with full information and registration form are available at the Providence meetinghouse.

Rhode Island Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will be held at Worcester meetinghouse on the 15th of 7th month, 2012, at noon. All are welcome.

3. For Ministry and Counsel, Bruce Downing presented a memorial minute for our Friend Ruth Virgadamo. The minute was approved, to be forwarded to Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting. (A copy is attached to the record copy of these minutes.)

4. Building Use Committee Proposal: Bruce Carlsten reported on the committee's progress on the matters requested by a previous meeting for business. The committee has drafted many of the needed documents, but because they are interrelated, does not want to present a partial report. We accept this interim report and extend the time for the committee's final report until the meeting for business in 12th month 2012.

5. Quaker Quest: Betsy Zimmerman reported that the committee set this project aside for this year because of the work required to prepare for the upcoming Friends General Conference Gathering. The Adult Education committee hopes to proceed with it in the fall. We note that there may be opportunities at the FGC Gathering to consult further with people experienced with Quaker Quest. We ask the Adult Education committee to bring a specific proposal for our consideration as early in the fall as feasible.

6. Treasurer's Report: Peter Swaszek presented a report (unaudited) for the year ending 31st of 5th month 2012. We finished the year with a surplus of just under \$4,000, which has been transferred to the general fund reserves. Contributions from members and attenders were up about ten percent over the previous year. The most significant items paid during the past month were new shelving in the library, and a copper beech tree planted in memory of Katherine Perry. The New England Friends Home mortgage has been paid off when the Home was sold. We accept this report.

7. For Saylesville Preparative Meeting, Joanne Griffin reported that the meeting was asked if several craftspeople could set up sales booths in the yard during the monthly book swap, and agreed to try it. Each paid \$20. The meeting also sold hot dogs and other items. The proceeds of about \$285 are going into the General Fund. The meeting plans to repeat this experiment on the 22d of 9th month, has additional crafters lined up, and would welcome additional sellers. The town has confirmed that religious groups are allowed to conduct this type of activity twice per year

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

without any special permit.

The meeting has also consulted with the Lincoln Fire Department to determine the appropriate capacity for this building, and is awaiting confirmation of the figure. This will be helpful in formulating building use guidelines.

8. No further business appearing, we closed at 12:45 with a period of grateful silence, intending to meet again (God willing) on the 9th of 9th month, 2012, at the Saylesville meetinghouse, or at the earlier call of the clerk.

Dan Lederer. assistant clerk presiding for this day

Elizabeth Cazden. recording clerk

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR RUTH VIRGADAMO

Ruth (Ploettner) Virgadamo, a beloved member of Providence Meeting, passed away peacefully July 6, 2011. Born on May 13, 1942, she first came to Friends in 1981 with her family in tow. She is the mother of Sarah Bryan and Paul Virgadamo, Jr. and grandmother of Russell and Phillip Bryan and Sophia and Liam Virgadamo. A person with a strong social conscience, even before she came to Friends, she became very active, demonstrating those beliefs within the Meeting and the community in areas that included universal equality, reading to youth, and becoming an advocate for senior citizens.

A nurse by profession, she was educated at Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, something that she was very proud of throughout her life. Her career included working at the Boston Children's Medical Center in the Cardiac and Neuro-Intensive Care Unit, being head nurse at Boston's Lahey Clinic's Neurosurgical Unit, and as a private duty nurse at the Jane Brown Unit at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. Once Sarah and Paul were born she worked many summers as camp nurse at various summer camps.

From as early as she could remember she felt destined to be a nurse, telling of being a very young child walking with her grandmother and making her stop so that Ruth could look at each baby in each carriage they passed. Throughout her life if any person or animal she knew was sick, everything else was put aside and her energies were focused on making them comfortable and well again.

In her personal life passions for gardening, camping and small boat were second only to her devotion to Sarah and Paul. Ruth's intense love for all children could be seen by her caring of the infants and young children in the meetinghouse nursery for many years. A gifted singer, she enjoyed singing throughout her life, be it for her children, others or her own enjoyment. She loved music from the musicals of the 1930's, music that was perfect for the special delicate trill in her trained voice.

Giving was the hallmark of Ruth's life; she said it rejuvenated her spirit and she will be greatly missed by her children, family, friends and Providence Monthly Meeting.



Around the Meeting

Sacred Harp Singing, July 22, Aug 26, Sept 23— 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 becomes permanent — **July 11 & 25, Aug 8 & 22, Sept 12 & 26** - The mid-week, small worship sharings at the Saylesville Meeting House in Lincoln will

continue on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 10:00 AM, and has been placed on the continuous events list on page 8. 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, July 22, Aug 19 - Last month's walk was superceded by an event at the Meeting. Walks are now planned for

these dates, and destinations are yet to be determined, but will be announced via our email list. Questions? Contact Eugenia Marks.

Camp Street Thanks and Needs — Camp Street Ministries sent a note of appreciation for boxes of food taken there this week. Please remember that summer brings additional food needs when children are at home for lunch. Place donations in boxes on the bench in the foyer.

Betsy Cazden sets up Facebook page- This is for her writing and related work, and she will post links to articles on local and Quaker history, book reviews, notices of upcoming workshops and lectures, and miscellaneous musings. If you're on Facebook, "Like" the page and you'll get updates. She promises "no pictures of cute kittens or puppies, no Farmville or other time-wasters." www.facebook.com/betsy.cazden

Calendar Notes (Contact and other information about events ongoing and/or described in previous issues) [see page 7 for special 'Summer Calendar']

SPECIAL SHORT WORSHIP MEETING THURSDAY JULY 5, 1:45PM AT PROVIDENCE MEETING HOUSE

(from Betsy Zimmerman)

Please join us if you can at 1:45 Thursday, July 5, for the visiting FGC Gathering group who will be coming to see the meetinghouse and have a tour of MB. We'll gather at Prov. Meeting first for a short period of worship, some refreshments, and then a tour of the school.

Thanks, Betsy

NEYM Friends Camp

(from their home page: <http://www.friendscamp.org/index.html>)

Friends Camp is a caring and accepting community that offers youth campers a range of creative activities, and plenty of zany fun. The Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, simplicity, and community are the day-to-day values that we try to live by at Friends Camp. Friends Camp is a co-ed, overnight summer camp for youth from ages 7 to 17. We have sixty-five acres of fields and woods, with a waterfront area on the beautiful shores of China Lake. The camp is located fifteen miles east of Augusta, Maine in the town of South China.

Campers choose from elective programs that include sports, sailing, art, drama, music, ceramics, photography, and a wide variety of creative and unique activities. Friends Camp welcomes youth from all backgrounds to our diverse community.

Along with the above homepage, information can be gotten at 207.445.2361 and director@friendscamp.org

NEW STAFF FOR MEETING NURSERY will start on July 1, as reported by Ministry and Counsel. Bekah Heath, a recent graduate of Lincoln School, will be with us this summer until she leaves for college at Boston University. Dan Lederer met with her and was highly impressed, heard nothing but praise from her references, and is confident she will be a great asset for our young ones. Meeting teenagers will continue as helpers in the nursery, as we like two people there at all times. When you get the opportunity, please join us in welcoming her to Meeting.

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

Quaker book enthusiasts will be happy to note that, thanks to Bob Elliott's spectacular carpentry, new space has opened in the library. Come in and have a look around. If you'd like to borrow a book on a "Not Ready for Circulation" shelf (to the right of the sofa), let someone on Library Committee know (Elsie Morse, Gayen Thompson, Sarah Morenon, Christopher Steele, and Rebecca Smith).

AFSC-SENE REPORT AND THANKS FROM MARTHA YEAGER

Greetings Everyone

By now I hope you have heard the good news about the passage of the Homeless Bill of Rights by the RI legislature, making RI the first state in the country to pass such protections. I want to thank you for your part in this, for phone calls made and for help with the State House Soup Kitchen, which brought people who don't have enough to eat (many of whom are homeless) together with legislators on a weekly basis. It was an ambitious project to produce bag lunches for 100 people each week, transport them to the state house and serve them. It was groups like Providence Meeting who stepped forward to host a week that made it possible. Thank you.

Several other important pieces of the housing coalition legislation that don't require any money from the state lost out to the corporations who resisted - Just Cause Eviction (which would have protected renters whose landlords get foreclosed, opposed by the banks) and payday lending (limiting interest payday lenders can charge, opposed of course by payday lenders). We will have to try again next year.

Also losing were Ban the Box (prohibiting the initial application for a job from asking if the applicant has ever been convicted of anything) and the bill to limit racial profiling. Again, more work next year.

Thanks again for your help in creating one bright spot! Martha

Martha Yeager, Program Coordinator, South East New England Program, American Friends Service Committee



Thanks to Erin Smithers for pictures here and on page 3!



A PUBLIC BANK FOR RHODE ISLAND from Bruce Carlsten (repeated by request)

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.

The Friends General Conference – Summaries of items from last month's issue

To find out more: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering>

Hundreds of Quakers will be at the University of Rhode Island July 1-7 for the Friends General Conference Annual Gathering. Please 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!

This 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).

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.

[NEYM Annual Sessions](#) - August 4 – 9, at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI

Forms, the Advance Documents (available on July 27), and the NEYM Annual Sessions website is now posted at <http://sessions.neym.org/> (and a phone number at the NEYM office is 508-754-6760)

Each year, Quakers from across New England come to Yearly Meeting Sessions to be part of our community of Quakers sharing in worship, learning, and discernment. In our 352nd year, we will gather once more at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and all are invited to participate in the continuing exploration of how Friends are called to address global change. Our theme over this year has been "Living with Integrity in a Time of Change." The short, imperative form of this call is "Choose Integrity!" As we try to "go right forward," we will seek God's guidance to be good stewards of the whole Creation.

To help us consider our theme, we will have two community plenaries, as we did last year. Sunday's presentation will be by [Steve Curwood](#), a member of Dover Monthly Meeting and the creator and executive producer of NPR's long-running [Living on Earth](#) program. On Monday, an intergenerational panel from NEYM will share their lives of integrity and action. We will move directly from these plenaries into [Anchor Groups](#), which have been so successful during the last two years. These small groups will again meet every day, to provide a "home base" for shared reflection, discussion and worship.

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Rebecca Leuchak of our meeting, is very involved, and asks:

Who from Providence/Saylesville/Jamestown is planning to attend? If you are, could you kindly e-mail me at rleuchak@rwu.edu.

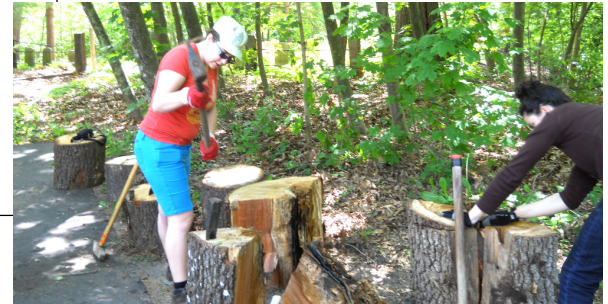
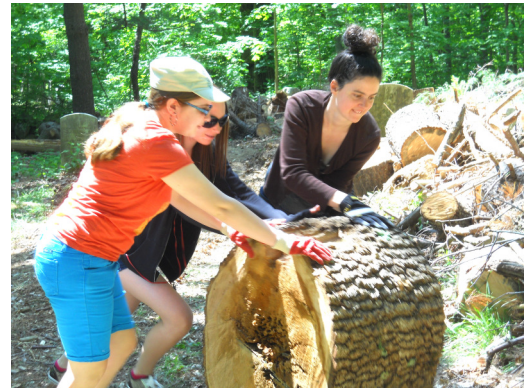
As one of the planners for Sessions, I am hoping that some of us, who are attending from RI, would be willing to facilitate the Anchor Groups that meet in the afternoons. I would like to tell those who may be interested more about that opportunity.

Thanks for getting back to me. Much appreciated!

Rebecca

SUMMER CALENDAR - events known at press time that happen before the next newsletter (Sept)

- July 1-7:** (p 1, 6, 8) FGC Gathering, URI events.
- July 5:** 1:45 (p1,3) Special Meeting for worship Providence meetinghouse
- July 15:** noon (p2) RI Smithfield Qtrly Meeting, Worcester meetinghouse
- July 21:** 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap
- July 22:** 3-6pm (p4) Sacred Harp Sing at Providence Meeting House
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A small Young Friends group traveled to Cumberland recently to help clean up an old Friends cemetery where a large oak tree had fallen. Thanks to Rebecca Smith for the notice and these photographs.

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

Wednesday - 10-11:30am 2nd & 4th Wed's - Saylesville

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.

FGC Gathering July 1-7

See page 6

at URI Kingston campus

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

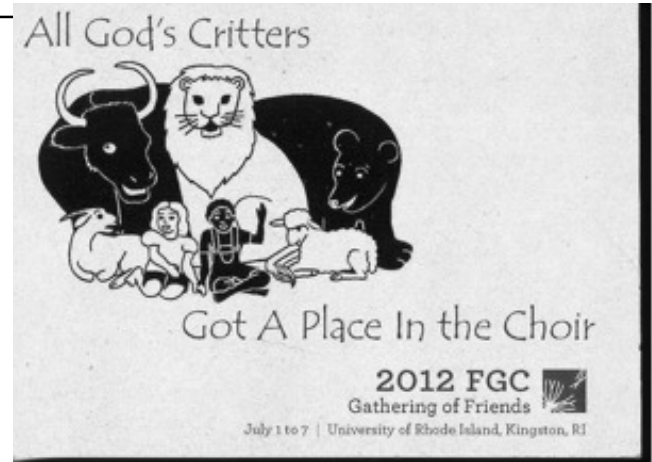
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NEYM Annual Sessions Aug 4-9

See page 6

<http://sessions.neym.org/> and

508-754-6760



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