

The Provident FRIEND

October 2012

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Calendar

Oct 28 Sun: 9am (p4)
Hospitality Committee
Meeting, Providence
Meeting House

Oct 28 Sun: 3-6pm (p4)
Sacred Harp Sing at
Providence Meeting House

Oct 31 Wed: (p4) Betsy
Cazden online course
starts.

Nov 2 Fri: 8pm (p4) Choral
concert, Sayles Hall.

Nov 11 Sun: After Meeting
(p1) Discussion group,
Providence Meeting House

Nov 11 Sun: 12:15 (p2)
Meeting For Business,
Providence Meeting House

Nov 11 Sun: 5pm
Candlelight Vigil (p1)
Steeple Street Bridge

Nov 17: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

Nov 18 Sun: 5pm (p3) Pot-
luck, film, and discussion
about immigration,
Providence Meeting House

Nov 20 Tues: 10:30-
11:10am (p4) Moses
Brown All School Meeting,
Field House.

Nov 25 Sun: after coffee -
3pm (p4) Walk with
Eugenia Marks, Providence
Meeting House

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

November 11 - Armistice Day

From Bruce Carlsten

On November 11, we would like to recognize the victims of all wars. Armistice day initially celebrated the cessation of war between the Allies and the Germans, ending World War One on the Western Front. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day in the US, although it is called Remembrance Day in England and still called Armistice Day in France and Belgium. With the name change from Armistice to Veterans Day, it became a federal holiday to honor military veterans, losing the focus on peace and on remembering the victims of war both military and civilian.

The Armistice was signed at eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Many places today maintain silence for two minutes at that time. The first minute is to reflect upon the victims (20 million in WW1) and the second minute to contemplate the people the victims left behind (parents, children, spouses, siblings).

Later in the day, at 5:00pm, there will be a candlelight vigil to end all wars, in the spirit of the original armistice, at the little park where the two rivers join. One accesses the park from the Steeple Street Bridge.

Coat Exchange – November 11

As you clean closets, please look for gently worn out-grown or no-longer-used coats and jackets for to bring to Meeting First Day School for collection, requested any time before or on November 11. There are collection boxes in the foyer and downstairs.

This chance to recycle coats from your family occurs at the annual Coat Exchange, which takes place in Providence on Friday, November 23. Eugenia Marks will transport donated coats to organizers. Thanks for your concern for the needs of others.

Adult Education - After Meeting Discussion Group

Beginning November 11, Adult Education Committee invites you to meet at the rise of meeting to discuss the messages received during the meeting for worship. This will be an informal discussion group; Friends may join as they are moved. A facilitator will help keep the discussion on topic. The group will meet at one of the tables downstairs so that Friends may grab a coffee and some food; parents can keep an eye on children. The discussion will last no more than 30 minutes. Come deepen your understanding of message or share your thoughts.

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 10 Tenth Month, 2012

1. We met at Saylesville meetinghouse at about 7:00 pm following a potluck supper, with eight Friends present. In the opening worship the clerk read Queries from the *Faith and Practice* (2012) of Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

In what ways do I show respect for that of God in every person?
Do I reach out to those in distress? If I find this difficult, what holds me back?
Am I comfortable making my own needs known to my Meeting?
How do we share in the diverse joys and transitions in each other's lives?

2. Announcement: Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will take place at the Providence Meetinghouse on the 21st of this month, after a potluck lunch. All are invited.

3. Membership: For Ministry and Counsel, Bruce Shaw reported that a committee had met with Jen Giglio concerning her request for membership in the meeting, and Ministry and Counsel is clear to recommend that she be accepted. We warmly accept Jen as a member of the meeting, and welcome her three children as participants in our community although she has not requested junior membership for them. Bruce and Judy Shaw have agreed to arrange a welcoming event.

4. Ministry and Counsel: It was reported that David Bourns is the new clerk of Ministry and Counsel.

5. Finance Committee: Bruce Downing noted that the committee has not met since the last meeting for business, and no Treasurer's report is available. They expect to meet on the 14th of this month.

6. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that a second craft fair was held on the 22d of 9th month. Music was provided by musicians from area meetings. Among the exhibitors was a class from the Central Falls middle school, which sold crafts to purchase school supplies. The meeting also sold hot dogs and drinks. The fair netted \$280 which has been sent to the treasurer towards the meeting budget. Another fair is planned for 5th month 2013.

On the 29th of 9th month, the meeting participated in the Great Road Historic District open house, commemorating the War of 1812; members of the meeting presented the Quaker perspective on the war.

The exterior of the east wall has been painted, and estimates are being obtained for replastering the interior ceiling.

7. We closed with grateful worship, intending to meet again on the 11th of 11th month at Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Immigration Event Sunday November 18, 5pm

On November 18th at 5:00pm, Martha Yager from the AFSC-SENE and possibly other experts on immigration issues will join us for a pot-luck dinner and the showing of a film and discussion of the Dream Act. There is renewed interest in reintroducing the Dream Act and this discussion will fill in the details. The Dream Act was a proposal put forth but ultimately defeated by Congress. The Act would have allowed undocumented children who have been living in this country for most of their lives (having been illegally brought across the border by their parents) a path toward U.S. citizenship. Only children who fulfilled certain criteria would be eligible.

Please join us at Providence Meeting for this thought provoking film and talk.

Requests From Webleck Regarding Our Website

Friends,

1. As we find any activities, news, thoughts which might be of interest to the Meeting, please send them along for potential inclusion on the website. Items should surely be harmonious with Friends ideals, but do not need to be purely Providence Meeting business. Granted, "For Sale: 57 Ford convertible, R&H, runs good." is not really appropriate. But concerts, rallies, lectures, demonstrations, thoughts on any of the previous, commentary on topics of interest, blogs on topics of interest..... all of these are some of the possibilities among many others.

2. Over the next year there will be some redesign of the website. Not everything imagined will be done, but if you have any ideas, please let me know. References to websites with features you like particularly are also appreciated.

3. Last but, not least, much as I am reasonably technically able, my aesthetic design abilities are truly limited. Anyone who would be willing spend a bit on time helping with redesign would be welcome. Familiarity with web design is more than welcome, but not necessary.

Dave McNab

Hans-Dieter Gomes At TNS Interfaith Supper

On October 11, Hans-Dieter Gomes was the speaker at TNS, which gives us a chance to mention this (mostly) weekly event that may be of interest to our community. TNS stands for Thursday Night [Interfaith] Supper. It is a weekly supper and talk run by Brown University Chaplain Janet Cooper-Nelson. Designed as an interfaith event, it starts at 5 or 5:30 with a chance to eat and chat with other attendees. At 6, a designated speaker starts, usually allowing questions at some point, until the event ends at 7. There have been some very interesting people speaking there, including historian Gordon Wood, Kevin Roose (wrote an undercover book at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University), andHans-Dieter Gomes!

More information can be gotten from the Chaplains' Office at (401) 863-2344 or <http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Chaplains/thursdaysupper.html>

Around the Meeting

Hospitality Committee

Oct 28 - The hospitality committee will have a meeting on October 28th at 9:00 A.M. before Meeting for Worship. We have many "Nut and Bolt" things to consider which need your input and help.

Sacred Harp Singing, Oct

28— Every 4th Sunday (Providence Meetinghouse), 3:00 to 6:00 PM, join us and make a joyful noise. See Bob Elliott for details.

Mid-week Saylesville

Worship Sharing continues—The mid-week, 10AM worship sharings at the Saylesville Meeting House continue on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Please contact Hans-Dieter Gomes at (401) 728-4184 for more information.

Walk with Eugenia

Marks, Nov 25: Walk on November 25 to meditate on peace.

Gather after coffee and conversation to carpool. Return to meeting house by 3. See Eugenia for questions.

First Day School Bulb

Planting— On Oct. 14, we planted daffodil bulbs, and thought about how the side and back spaces are used for frolicking, conversation, walking to the front door and to the Moses Brown Campus. We thought about how we see and respond to grass, rocks,

trees, shrubs, and slope, and what these parts of the landscape need from us.

New Directory— The current revision of the Meeting Directory was emailed on October 10. If you did not get it, or have any questions or corrections or amendments to make, please contact Dan Lederer.

Brown University Chorus Concert Friday, November 2nd, 8:00pm

The Brown University Chorus will be performing J. S. Bach's "Missa in F Major" and motet "Der Geist Hilft", along with works by other members of Bach's family and Lassus, at 8 pm on Friday, November 2nd, in Sayles Hall (on the Main Green of Brown University). They will be accompanied by a baroque orchestra using period instruments, a delicate treat. A small fee will be charged (\$5?). Contact Steve Schwartz for information.

Meetings at and with Moses Brown School

Moses Brown is holding Wednesday morning worship 7:30-7:50am at the meeting house. This is meant to include both the MB and PFM communities.

Also, on November 20, Moses Brown is holding an All School Meeting for Worship from 10:30-11:10am in their Field House.

PASTORAL CARE CONTINUES ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR KATHY BOGER WADLAND

Help for Kathy Boger Wadland is ongoing. Pastoral Care is looking for volunteers to provide food for the family and rides home for Justin. See Judy Shaw (or email her at jgibbsshaw@aol.com).

AFSC UPDATE

At the one year anniversary of the start of the Providence Occupation, we are awash in election frenzy. In the face of the impulse to tune it all out, we need ways to keep on doing the work of building a more just and peaceful world. AFSC stays focused on the issues. Whoever the candidate is, whoever is elected, the things we work toward are to end the wars, heal the wounded and repair the damage of war, support non-military solutions to conflict through the transforming power of love and active nonviolence, redirect military spending to meeting human needs, and address the injustices that lead to conflict.

While it can be hard to care or feel like we have a voice, especially at the federal level, we do need to vote: there are fundamental differences between the candidates, and it does matter. And we can recognize that we have more of a voice at state and local levels, so perhaps that is where we should focus the bulk of our energy.

The challenge is to revive the idea that citizenship is way more than voting once a year. It is about community organizing - people working together for change. We both build the world we want and confront the ways the system blocks those efforts. We build community and build power. And we use that power to hold the people we elect accountable to the will of the people who elect them - all year long. We all know that - but I think we need to collectively recommit to it.

And that is where the Occupy movement and all the amazing ongoing efforts to challenge injustice give me hope. People do care and are passionate about making change. The big wave of occupations has receded, but all kinds of amazing things are going on, some of them direct offshoots of that organizing and energy:

- People are forming worker cooperatives, time banks and other things that create a more sustainable economy that is in solidarity with people for whom "the system" has never worked. At the SAGE conference in Worcester this weekend people wrestled with the complex realities of putting those values into action - and the energy and the work was inspiring. The [Sage Alliance](http://www.worcestersagealliance.org/) will continue that work after the conference. <http://www.worcestersagealliance.org/>
- A retreat of people working to change the rules on who can get a drivers license in RI had new members and a great strategic planning session.
- [The Center for Nonviolent Solutions](http://nonviolentsolution.org/#) is teaching youth about healthy uses of power and nonviolent ways of solving conflicts, and celebrated the life work of Michael True, one of the CNVS founders at a luncheon on Oct. 20th. <http://nonviolentsolution.org/#>
- Witness for Peace is touring a woman from Colombia who works in the Indigenous Peoples Movement for Justice.
- People on the Cape are addressing the problem of homelessness.

We publish a calendar full of ways to get involved. Check it out at:

<http://afsc.org/document/october-calendar>

Claim your power and lend it to building a more just and peaceful community and world.

In peace,

Martha Yager, AFSC-SENE program coordinator

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer**Will War Ever End?**

Back in the 1960's, H. Rap Brown (currently serving a life sentence in prison) famously said, "Violence is as American as cherry pie". Today, the popularity of entertainment that glorifies violence (including many video games, TV shows, and movies, and such sports as football, hockey, and boxing) and the vigorous advocacy for gun ownership (which, to no one's surprise, our presidential candidates carefully avoid addressing) suggest that not much has changed. And then there are the continuous wars that have come to be accepted by many as necessary for our safety and survival. Although the fighting is carried out by only a select few, with minimal sacrifice by the rest of us, the inconvenient truth is that we're all supporting our country's war effort via the taxes we pay. But we Americans have no monopoly on violence; the multiple conflicts and atrocities that continue to be reported in other countries prove it to be a world-wide phenomenon. Considering this sad situation, and noting all the bloodshed, recent and remote, documented in the history books, it seems that there's plenty of evidence for the argument that humans are violent beings, that in fact this is part of our basic nature, and that the idea of a world without war is a foolish fantasy.

I must confess to finding myself at times coming to this same distressing conclusion, at least up until I had the privilege of hearing Paul Chappell speak in Bristol on September 21. As some of you know, Paul is a West Point graduate who served as an Army officer in Iraq, left the Army after seven years, and has since then worked for peace. He's a powerful speaker, well worth hearing if you get the opportunity, and I strongly recommend his book "Will War Ever End?" because in it he makes a convincing case, based on his insightful analysis of military history, for the idea that we humans have at our core not a tendency to violence but instead a drive to cooperate with each other and live peacefully together, as well as a capacity to give unconditional love. His thesis, while contrary to conventional wisdom, should resonate with Quakers because it's in keeping with our belief that there is that of God in every person, which of course is the basis for our longstanding commitment to working toward peace. Achieving world peace, even if possible, will be a long and arduous task, but we need to start somewhere. Reading and talking about this book might be a good first step.

Betsy Cazden Leads Online Workshop – from Betsy Cazden

Some of you may know that I did a workshop at last summer's FGC Gathering called "In This Place," looking at the history of Quakers, Native Americans, and African Americans in the area right around URI. I'm doing a version of the workshop as an online course through the Quaker Studies Program of Beacon Hill Friends House & Salem Quarterly Meeting, beginning Oct. 31 and running for four weeks.

To sign up, go to <http://www.bhfh.org/qsp/qsplnThisPlace.html>.

I'm expecting people from around the country to join in, and it would be great to have some local Friends as well.

Peace,

Betsy Cazden

Conanicut Friends Meeting In Its Winter Home – from Marcie Lindsay

Dear Friends,

The cooler weather reminds us of warmer spaces for our Quaker Worship, and we invite you all to join us at the Norman Bird Sanctuary's Studio space for our twice monthly services there, starting in November.

We will meet at the Old Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane on October 14 and 21st, but not hold worship services on the 28th. Perhaps some of us might travel north and join Providence Meeting for their 10 AM services on the last Sunday in October.

As has been our custom for the last several years, we will hold services at the Norman Bird Sanctuary's studio on the following dates:

Nov 4, 18 Dec. 2, 16, 30 (2013) January 13, 27 Feb 10, 24 March 10, 24 April 7, 21

Thank you for sharing in the life of this small, historic meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Middletown over the winter!

In the Light,

Marcie Lindsay for CFM
423-9122

Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

Providence Meeting (401) 331-4218 <http://providencefriends.org>
99 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

Presiding Clerk: Dan Lederer clerk@providencefriends.org
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Mark Conley assistclerk@providencefriends.org
Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden recordingclerk@providencefriends.org
Treasurer: Peter Swaszek treasurer@providencefriends.org
Ministry & Counsel: David Bourns ministryandcounsel@providencefriends.org
Pastoral Care Committee: Judy Shaw pastoralcare@providencefriends.org
Finance: Bill Monroe finance@providencefriends.org
Peace & Social Concerns: (To Be Named) peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org
Social & Hospitality: Dede Carlsten and Kim Wiegand
socialandhospitality@providencefriends.org
Religious Education: Kathi Lyons religioused@providencefriends.org
Communications: Dan Lederer communications@providencefriends.org
Program Committee: (To Be Named) program@providencefriends.org
Marriage Clearness: Erin Hazlett marriage@providencefriends.org
Library: Rebecca Smith 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: (To Be Named) 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 Religious Education: Zona Douthit 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.

Hospitality Committee Seeks Volunteers

Please monitor the sign up sheet (or contact Dede or Kim) and volunteer to help with coffee hour. This time of fellowship is an important part of our community, and its function depends on us to sign up for one of the required tasks.

Camp Street Thanks and Needs

Camp Street Ministries sent another thanks. We note the need continues. Please place donations in boxes on the bench in the foyer.

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