

The Provident FRIEND

January 2013

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Sunday, February 3rd – Two Potlucks

February 3rd lunch potluck - State of Society for 2012

At our February 3rd potluck there will be 5 tables devoted to considering queries about our State of Society for 2012. To give you some time to think in advance, here are the queries. We look forward to your input, and would welcome any ideas and thoughts in writing via email – please send them to: Debbie@billharley.com.

How would you describe the Quality of our worship? In what ways were your spiritual needs being met or not in our worship?

How has our meeting for worship reached out to the wider community? What have we been doing to invite new attenders and encourage continued participation?

How are we attending to the needs of our own community?

How have we deepened our connection to the testimonies that guide our faith? Peace and Social Witness? Environmental stewardship? Simplicity? Equality? Integrity? Stewardship of resources?

In what ways does our meeting recognize develop and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

How did meeting for business play a part in your Meeting life in 2012?

February 3rd dinner potluck - Committee of Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School

The Committee of Nurturing Friends Education at Moses Brown School invites us to join them for the third annual Friends' potluck dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Sunday February 3. After dinner, Matt Glendinning will present themes and initiatives emerging from MB's two-year process of imagining the future of education. There will be time for sharing and feedback. The event promises great food for thought, the stomach and the soul. We hope you'll join us! It is optional to RSVP to Jacqueline Stillwell, Director of Friends Education (interim) at jstillwell@mosesbrown.org with how many people plan to come and what type of dish (main dish /vegetable /dessert) you will be bringing. Lastly, Betsy Zimmerman has provided us with this link to a video that serves as an introduction, at: <http://bcove.me/5xgnbq6r>

February 16, RI Black Heritage Society – “Personal Histories of the Civil Rights Movement”

Listen to a group of Rhode Islanders tell first-hand accounts of their involvement with the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, at 10am on Feb. 16 at the historic Brick Schoolhouse at 24 Meeting St., Providence (between Benefit and N. Main). (cont p 3)

Ron Dass Recuperating

Ron Dass is home now after his knee surgery and would welcome calls, cards and wishes from F/friends. Many in our community have expressed how contact from others helped tremendously with their recuperation process, and so any gesture is likely to be welcomed, appreciated, and helpful. Ron can be reached at: 652 Bailey Hill Rd. Dayville, CT 06241 nothoantarct@yahoo.com 860-774-1647

Calendar (also see p4)

Feb 1 Fri: 5:30pm (p7) AFSC immigration reform event, Central Falls.

Feb 3 Sun: (p1,2) Potluck lunch, after rise of meeting, Providence Meeting House

Feb 3 Sun: 5-7pm (p1,2) Potluck and presentation by Moses Brown Head Matt Glendinning, Providence Meeting House

Feb 1 Fri: 4pm (p7) Racial profiling press conference, RI State House.

Feb 10 Sun: 12:15 (p2) Meeting For Business, Providence Meeting House

Feb 16 Sat: 10am (p1) RI Black Heritage Society event, Brick Schoolhouse.

Feb 16 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

Feb 17 Sun: (p4) Hospitality Committee meeting, rise of meeting, Providence Meeting House

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

Mar 3 Sun: (p2) Potluck lunch, after rise of meeting, Providence Meeting House

Mar 7 Thur: 5-9pm (p3) Interfaith Power & Light workshop, Roger Williams Park Casino.

Mar 8 Fri: 6pm (p7) AFSC-SENE annual dinner and program.

Mar 23 Sat: 8:30am-6:30pm (p3) NEYM Midyear Gathering, Portland Friends Meeting

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 13 First Month, 2013

1. We gathered at 12:15 p.m. at the Providence meetinghouse, with thirteen present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following queries from *NEYM Faith and Practice* (given preliminary approval 2012):

Do you look for opportunities to deepen your understanding of the history and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends?

Do you inform yourself about the diversity of Friends' theology and practice?

The space within Quakerism is graciously large. Where are its boundaries?

2. Announcements:

Music of the Civil Rights Movement will be featured at a community sing to start at noon on First Day, 20th of this month, at the Saylesville meetinghouse.

A discussion of the State of the Society will take place during potluck lunch on First Day, 3rd of 2nd month, at the Providence meetinghouse.

The Nurturing Friends Education Committee of Moses Brown School invites members of the Providence Meeting community to a presentation by Matt Glendinning, Head of School, at 5:00 PM on First Day, 3rd of 2nd month, with a discussion on the vision for the school and a potluck meal to follow. (Note change of date from previous announcement.)

3. For the Finance Committee, Bill Monroe reminded us that New England Yearly Meeting is looking for input on how to utilize the proceeds (approximately \$1.1 million) from the sale of the New England Friends Home. The yearly meeting asks that proposals come from group discernment, not from individuals. Permanent Board is willing to send representatives to participate in a session with us. The Finance Committee suggests that we schedule such a meeting. We ask the Finance Committee to publicize the yearly meeting's request through the newsletter and to bring a specific proposal.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Bill Monroe orally presented an interim financial report as of the end of calendar 2012. As is normal, a significant number of donations were received in the last month of the year. Nursery care has run slightly higher than budgeted, as has electricity for Saylesville meetinghouse.

4. For Saylesville, Hans Dieter Gomes reported that Saylesville Friends held a potluck supper to consider the State of Society report for the meeting.

A person from the community who has participated actively in the book swap for many years died recently, and the meetinghouse will be used for a privately organized memorial service for her on the 26th of this month.

Bob Elliott added that the interior work in the meeting room should be completed in time for the memorial service.

5. No further business appearing, we closed with worship at 12:45 p.m., intending to meet again, God willing, the 10th of 2nd month.

Daniel Lederer, presiding clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

New England Yearly Meeting Mid-Year Gathering March 23 – Portland, Maine *(from NEYM)*

Taste the “living waters” flowing between and among Quakerism’s branches at the 2013 NEYM Midyear Gathering:

“Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God’s Purposes”

Saturday, March 23, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Portland Friends Meeting in Portland, Maine.

Full details at: neym.org/mid-year 508-754-6760

John Fitzgerald and Simon Lamb of Ireland Yearly Meeting will lead and inspire a conversation on bringing a vital spiritual Quaker ministry into the world.

- What does it mean to be “living water”?
- How do we know our source?
- How do we let the “living waters” flow?
- What transformation does the “living water” work - in us, and in the world?

Space is limited, so we encourage you to register early!

March 7 Interfaith Power & Light Workshop

Mark your calendars for Thursday evening March 7 (5-9pm) for Interfaith Power & Light workshop at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Go to www.ri-ipl.org and click events for details. Think of ways our meeting acts to reduce climate change emissions and to live lightly on the earth. Recent newsletter from FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) focuses on climate change initiatives we can as a meeting and as individuals take. Let’s learn together. Car pooling from Meeting House and perhaps other areas. Contact Eugenia Marks.

Friends Meeting (Quaker) Simplicity - No standing & sitting without cue, no recitations from memory, no distracting decor, no fancy clothes, no noise, no preaching, nothing to read unless you brought it. Want to give money? There's a box in the foyer.

No confusion. Bare windows, morning light, comfy clothes, quiet, quiet, someone may share a thought, maybe not. Quiet, quiet, stuff pops up, stuff goes away. Safe at last.

Children enter, everyone shakes hands, "Hi, if you're here for the first time or have been away for a while, please stand and tell us your name and what brought you here...if you'd like."

Nothing happened, or did it? What's this thing they call the "light"?

Good coffee and herb teas downstairs; someone brought cookies...or apples. Have some. Walk around and chat, or don't. Sit at a table, someone will notice you and smile, talk with you. Interested, not judgmental.

Please come again...maybe I will.

[Reflections on Meeting For Worship from the viewpoint of a new or long absent participant, provided by Barbara Zimmer]

Around the Meeting

New phone for Jen:

Dede Carlsten reports: "Jen asked me to let you all know that if you are trying to reach her she has a new phone number. It's 401-378-4021."

Summer Employment at Friends Camp:

The Friends Camp in Waterville Maine is offering opportunities to work this coming season. To learn more or apply for work as a counselor, cook or support staff,

please contact 207.873.3499 or director@friendscamp.org

Feb. 17 Hospitality Committee:

Hospitality Committee will meet on Sunday, February 17, at the rise

of Meeting for Worship Please sign up for February hospitality. We're trying to make the work easier by asking several people to bring something each First Day.

Grace Lamb Memorial Meeting

There will be a memorial service for Grace Lamb at the Providence Meetinghouse on Saturday, April 13, starting at 2:00 PM. Grace was beloved by all who knew her at Meeting. A service in her memory is long overdue but a variety of circumstances caused the delay. This memorial meeting will be an opportunity to remember and celebrate her life and her contributions to Meeting. Please put this event on your calendars.

Housing Request For Rhode Islanders United for Marriage from Galen Hamann

Do you have a spare bedroom, basement, or couch? Rhode Islanders United for Marriage, the organization working to ensure marriage equality for all Rhode Island families, is looking for people who can open their homes to volunteers coming to RI to help the campaign. Volunteers will be here anywhere from one weekend to a few months. This is a critical need for the campaign- volunteers are ready to help and simply need a place to stay. If you can open your home or are interested in more information please let Amy know at 401-683-8183 or email Amy@MarriageEqualityRI.org.

Friends General Conference June 30 to July 6

The 2013 Friends General Conference Gathering will take place from June 30 to July 6 at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO. You can request an advance program from their website, www.FGCgathering.org, or by calling 215-561-1700 ext 2.

Please note that financial assistance to attend is available from FGC, and Meeting may be able to help as well. Contact Dan Lederer for further information if this is of interest to you.

On The Horizon: Future Events – Events that recur and/or happen beyond the next month,

Conanicut Meeting For Worship (Norman Bird Sanctuary, 10:00 am): Feb 10, 24 March 10, 24 April 7, 21
 March 7 - Interfaith Power & Light workshop
 March 8 - AFSC-SENE annual dinner and program
 March 23 – NEYM Mid-Year Gathering, Portland, Maine
 April 13 – Grace Lamb Memorial
 June 30 to July 6 - 2013 Friends General Conference Gathering, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO

STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS REALIZED FROM THE SALE OF THE NEW ENGLAND FRIENDS HOME *from New England Yearly Meeting*

Dear Friends,

Upon the sale of the New England Friends Home, New England Yearly Meeting has received approximately \$1,100,000 in unrestricted funds. It is our collective task to discern how we are led to use these funds. The Legacy Discernment Committee, an ad hoc subcommittee of Permanent Board, has been charged with overseeing the process that will enable us to do this discernment faithfully.

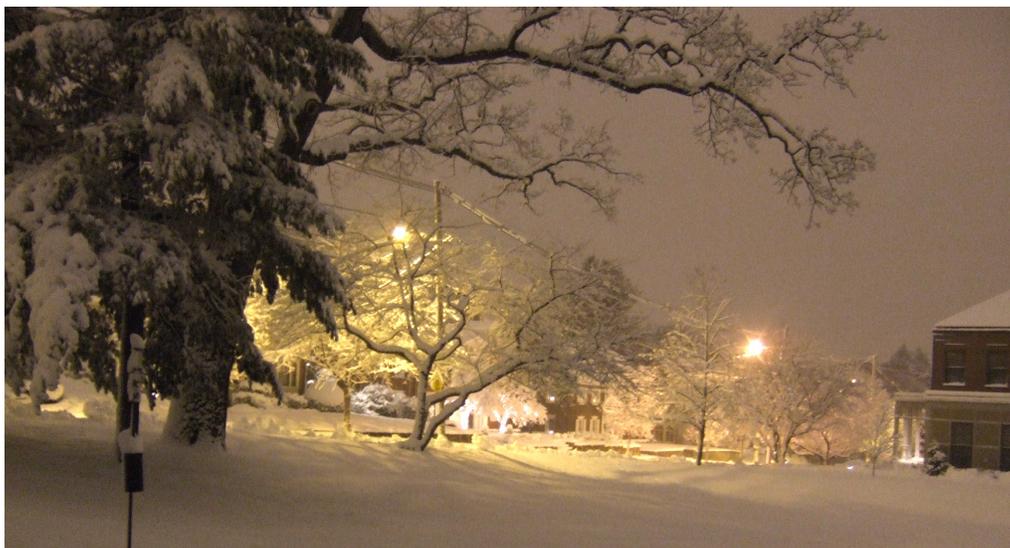
We are embarking on a discernment process that will help us to carry out this conversation with open minds and hearts, listening to each other and the Spirit. This involves deep, prayerful thinking about this gift and our vision for the Yearly Meeting. What are we called to do with the treasure with which we are entrusted?

We are writing to you—monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends, Yearly Meeting committees, and Yearly Meeting staff—for your advice and counsel. We believe that Permanent Board's recommendation to Yearly Meeting Sessions must arise from corporate discernment that engages Friends throughout New England.

We ask that your group meet to consider this question, focusing on the query: This money is a gift from the past to the future. How could this money help New England Friends answer God's call?

We prefer that proposals come to us from groups rather than individuals to allow for proper seasoning. Perhaps your group will be so excited by this process that you might wish to send us more than one proposal.

Bill Monroe notes: In another message, NEYM recommends that Permanent Board send members to visit monthly meetings to participate in discussions about this issue. Our Finance Committee will invite Permanent Board to send some members to Providence Meeting on a date convenient to them, between now and April 1, to join us in a worship sharing session with interested people from our meeting. We will keep you informed when we have set a date for this session. Meanwhile, we ask that you give this issue some thought, and consider taking part in this discussion. If you would like more information, please contact the clerk of the Finance Committee, Bill Monroe (william_monroe@brown.edu).



CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

The Roles We Play

One of the challenges of life in the 21st century is trying to juggle the many roles that we're asked to play, whether they're roles having to do with work (perhaps, due to current economic woes, requiring extra-long hours), roles within our families, or the "extracurricular" roles we choose, both those that are purely recreational and those that benefit others. While countless sources of amusement vie for our attention, worthy causes beckon us as well, one of these of course being Friends Meeting.

So why should you give Meeting high priority amidst all the competing demands for your time and energy? Well, Meeting needs you. I'm sure you're aware that Meeting has no paid staff, with all the work being done by our committees. Although money donated to Meeting helps us maintain our infrastructure and fund our various events, we also need Friends' active participation on committees in order to keep Meeting functioning. There are many opportunities for committee work, reflecting the wide range of our activities. Committees that are open to all members and attenders are Social and Hospitality, Religious Education, Adult Religious Education, Program, Property, Library, Funeral and Burial Grounds, and Communications. Peace and Social Concerns has recently been quiescent, but we hope to remedy that situation soon. In addition, there are committees whose members are required to be members of Meeting, these being Ministry and Counsel, Pastoral Care, Finance, Marriage Clearness, Quaker Education Support, and Nominating.

To maintain Meeting's vitality it's necessary for each of us to seek, find, and commit to those roles that best suit our individual talents and skills as we participate in the life of our Meeting. How fortunate we are that Friends have such diverse abilities and interests! Somehow it seems that we always manage to staff our committees, but please realize that this results from the diligent efforts of Nominating Committee as it reaches out to members and attenders. This year Ruth Bourns has kindly agreed to clerk Nominating Committee, and at some time during the next month or so you can expect to hear from a member of her committee.

I can't improve on Mark Conley's eloquent words when he wrote on this same topic back in January 2008: "However you decide to share your special Light with the community this year, it is always good to reflect on the important witness of service that committee membership provides. We come together to celebrate in the Spirit during worship, but it is in our time together in committees and in the Meeting for Business that we begin to practice our special way of interacting with others in peace and awareness of the Divine Presence. It is Quakerism's unity of mystical worship with active witness, 'walking cheerfully over the earth, answering That of God in everyone,' that provides a framework for our unique witness in the world. Will you be able to answer that call to joyful witness this year?"

RI Black Heritage Society – "Personal Histories of the Civil Rights Movement" (cont from p1)

The speakers will provide a comprehensive perspective on the Rhode Island connection to the Civil Rights Movement. The collective spirit and effort of marginalized American citizens compelled the United States to broaden its identity. Although this nation resisted the necessary changes it would have to make, those who participated and advocated for Civil Rights held firmly to their convictions. Michael Van Leesten, Malcolm Farmer III Esq. and Rev. Dr. H. Daehler Hayes, among others, will share their insights on these formidable times. This event is free and open to the public.

AFSC update

Save the date: Friday, March 8th: AFSC-SENE annual dinner and program. We will enjoy a feast of finger food (the planning committee loves appetizers, so is planning a fun feast of delicious and filling varieties) beginning at 6pm followed at 7:30pm by an equally fun and powerful feast for the ears and mind with a variety of local women performing artists in celebration of International Women's Day. There will be spoken word (Frannie Choi, Laura Brown Lavoie and Nada Smith), singing (Voices of Hope, Raging Grannies and Judy Perry), instrumental music (Rachel Miller) – and more. Join us for a delicious feeding of the soul and community! Tickets \$15 for dinner (\$10 low income), \$20-\$50 for the concert. We are also making an ad book. Please consider placing an ad (prices range from \$60-\$200 see the afsc.org/sene website for details.) Please RSVP so we can plan food. Thanks.

The legislative season is off to a roaring start. AFSC-SENE is addressing a number of issues (tax equity, getting work after a felony conviction, racial profiling, marriage equality, payday lending and affordable housing). **Friday, February 1st, 5:30pm**, there is a Todos Somos Arizona meeting to discuss comprehensive **immigration reform** at Fuerza Labor, 127 Clay St, Central Falls. **Monday, February 4th**, is the 100th birthday of Rosa Parks, and there is a **4pm Press Conference** on the bill to address **racial profiling** at the RI State House in the State Room. Please join us if you possibly can. We have started an e-newsletter with relevant information (links to talking points, hearing dates, etc) called State House Watch. (<http://afsc.org/document/ri-state-house-watch-2013>) Send an email to sene@afsc.org if you would like to receive it. You can also find it on our website in the documents section. There are a LOT of really important issues on the table. I would encourage you to pick one and track it, call your legislators, write a letter to the editor – use your voice. THANKS!

Martha Yager, Program Coordinator AFSC-SENE 508-399-6699

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
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Email list moderator: Dan Lederer list@providencefriends.org
Website: 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 adulted@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
Conanicut (Jamestown) winter: 10 am alt. Sundays (see p4)

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.

Recommended (Serious) Reading

(Not for a light hearted moment, this was recommended in relation to the December 14 school shootings. Submitted by Zona the Monday after that event, it is still a topic that needs learning and study. -ed).

This link is an incredible insight into the problem of mental illness in this country, one of the topics of conversation at the After Thoughts group yesterday December 16].

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/blackberry/p.html?id=2311009>

There are many initiatives relating to both the mental health care and gun control issues that have arisen recently. Contacting representatives at the federal and state levels is one way to affect the process. The AFSC is one place to seek more specific information (contact info on page 7 in a separate article).

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