

The Provident FRIEND

February 2013

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

AFSC Event Friday, March 8 – Providence Meetinghouse

A celebration and fundraising event to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the American Friends Service Committee of Southeast New England

Join AFSC-SENE for a celebration of International Women's Day at the Meeting House on Friday March 8. An important fundraiser, the fun begins with a buffet meal at 6pm – lots of tasty treats await, along with time to visit with old friends and meet some new ones. At 7:30pm the program of local women performing artists begins. The line up includes Cathy Clasper-Torch (music), Nada Smith (short story), Rachel Miller (cello), Judy Perry (Gospel song), Ariel Wilburn (poem), Franny Choi (spoken word), the Raging Grannies, Karina Lutz (poem) and Voices of Hope. It is a celebration of women using their art to build community and to call for justice and peace. It is a wonderful line up – please join us. RSVP to sene@afsc.org You can download the flyer by going to the event page of our website, <http://afsc.org/event/celebrating-women-artists-working-peace-and-justice> Help spread the word.

Interfaith Power & Light Workshop Thursday, March 7, 5-9pm, Roger Williams Park Casino

Join the Interfaith Power & Light workshop at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Find the ways our meeting has acted to reduce our carbon footprint and climate change emissions, and to live lightly on the earth. Learn how we can do more. A recent newsletter from FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) focuses on initiatives we can take as a meeting and as individuals, and this is an opportunity to learn together. Car pooling from Meeting House and perhaps other areas. . Go to www.ri-ipl.org and click events for details and registration, or contact Eugenia Marks.

Hospitality Request for NEYM Board Meeting March 15-16

Holly Baldwin, Clerk of the NEYM Permanent Board, has requested hospitality for their mid-March meeting, to be held in Smithfield. Sometimes members need overnight accommodation, which Smithfield isn't able to provide. We are invited to host a weary traveler or two for the evening - usually the Friday before the meeting. We are also invited to attend the meeting. This is an opportunity to visit with a Friend from a different part of New England, and to hear more about the work of the Yearly Meeting.

Please respond directly to her at baldwin.holly@gmail.com if you are able to host someone overnight or need more information.

Calendar (also see p4)

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

Mar 5 Tues: (p4) Library Committee meeting, Providence Meeting House

Mar 7 Thur: 5-9pm (p1) Interfaith Power & Light workshop, Roger Williams Park Casino.

Mar 8 Fri: 6pm (p1,2) AFSC-SENE annual dinner and program.

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

Mar 15-16 Fri-Sat: (p1,2) NEYM Permanent Board meeting, Smithfield.

Mar 15-17 Fri-Sun: (p3) Quakers And Sexuality workshop, Woolman Retreat.

Mar 16 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

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

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

April 13 Sat: 2pm (p4) Grace Lamb Memorial, Providence Meeting House

Providence Monthly Meeting for Business Minutes – 24 Second Month, 2013

We gathered at 12:15 p.m. at the Providence meetinghouse, with 17 in attendance. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following queries from NEYM Faith and Practice (given preliminary approval 2012):

What calls us into a Religious Society? Do we grow together in faithfulness?

Do you listen for the Spirit even when the words are foreign to you? Is your own understanding of God enriched by other people's experiences of the Divine?

Do you use your time, energy, resources, gifts, and material possessions in the service of God's love?

1. Announcements:

On March 8 AFSC/SENE is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a program at the Providence Meetinghouse honoring "The Year of the Woman". Ten women artists will perform.

The 2013 NEYM Midyear Gathering, "Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God's Purposes," will be Saturday, March 23, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. at Portland Friends Meeting in Portland, Maine.

There will be a memorial service for Grace Lamb at the Providence Meetinghouse on Saturday, April 13, starting at 2:00 PM.

2. For Marriage Clearness Committee, Erin Hazlett read a letter addressed to Meeting for Business regarding the Julia Shaw/James Diaz wedding. "We are writing to inform you that we have met with Julia Shaw and James Diaz, who have requested to be married under the care of Providence Monthly Meeting this August. Members of our committee, including Pierre Morenon, Sarah Morenon, Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Erin Hazlett, and David Hazlett, met with Julia and Jay. Their love, respect, and willingness to meet challenges with open hearts and minds were all very clear to those of us who gathered with them in worshipful conversation. It was also apparent from our discussion that Julia and Jay are both clear on the process and support provided for them by seeking marriage under the care of the meeting. After meeting with Jay and Julia, our committee is in unity about their request. With love and support, we recommend that they be approved in their request for marriage." Meeting joyfully approved that the wedding proceed under our care.

3. Dede Carlsten presented a proposal regarding the October Garage Sale, scheduled for Friday 10/4 and Saturday 10/5, specifically that a portion of the proceeds, the exact amount to be determined, be donated to the Institute for the Study and Practice of Non-Violence. The plan is to try to encourage other churches and Moses Brown School to participate in the event. Meeting approved.

4. Joanne Griffin presented the Saylesville State of the Society report (see addendum to these minutes). Meeting received this report gratefully.

5. Bill Monroe reported for Finance Committee that the committee is beginning to prepare its budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts June 1.

6. Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented the treasurer's report through January 31, representing the first 2/3 of the fiscal year. Contributions are slightly behind last year at this time. We were asked to consider more ways to expend the David Smith Fund. We also have over \$134,000 in the Providence Meetinghouse Addition/Renovation fund that is unspent.

7. Nina Berry reported for Program Committee that they will accept the responsibility for maintaining the documents related to meetinghouse use. She read a revised description of Program Committee's mission, basically that it will be supporting any initiatives for meeting activities.

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

8. Joanne Griffin reported for Saylesville that there was a memorial service held at the meetinghouse for a person who was not a member. Joanne and Bruce Downing will work together to adapt our guidelines where necessary for use at the Saylesville meetinghouse, the plan being to incorporate passages specific to Saylesville into the appropriate documents.

No further business appearing, we closed with worship at 1:15 PM, intending to meet again, God willing, the 10th of 3rd month.

Daniel Lederer, presiding clerk

New England Yearly Meeting Mid-Year Gathering - "SOLD OUT!?"

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

Travels with Churchill *from Lucy Churchill, Teen Coordinator, January 30, 2013*

For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Lucy Churchill and I've been coordinating the teen program for most of the past year. I'm at meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday, please say hello! I would love to get to know all of you. I'm just returning from an awesome weekend trip up to the White Mountains with six of our youth and fellow chaperone Mike McGuigan. Our three-hour car ride was one of the many activities that drew us closer together. We stayed at the Highland Lodge, which is a beautiful AMC lodge in Crawford Notch. They fed us well and outfitted us with great winter gear for our two snowy hikes. We played games, competitively assembled a 1000 piece puzzle, and shared snacks, silence and laughter through out our trip. There is no doubt we will return to meeting a tighter knit group with a combined knowledge of hundreds of knock-knock jokes and a strong sense of community. Thank you to Providence meeting and our parents for making this trip possible!



Around the Meeting

Library Committee

Meeting March 5:

Rebecca Smith reports the Library Committee will meet at the Providence Meetinghouse on Tuesday March 5, from 3:30-5:30.

New Email: Sally Freestone has asked that we delete her yahoo address and add this one: potterysal@gmail.com

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

Saylesville Craft Show – May 18

The next Craft Show at the Saylesville meetinghouse will be Saturday, May 18th from 9 to 4 PM. 10' x 10' spaces will be \$25 and set up is from 7 to 9 AM. We will be limiting to 15 crafters.

Saylesville Meeting will have its own table of crafts for sale, so any donations of the members to this table will be gratefully accepted. We will also sell drinks and lunch and dessert. Donations for this are also gratefully accepted.

All proceeds to benefit Providence Monthly Meeting and help meet our fundraising goal of \$1000 for the year.

Any inquiries may be directed to Joanne Griffin (jgriffin1@verizon.net)

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.

Program Committee

The Committee's role is to support individuals or groups within the Meeting who wish to initiate an activity for Meeting. We will help organize, advertise, advise, and help make it happen. The Program Committee's other role is to support the Meeting Scheduler in determining whether activities requiring the use of the Meetinghouse are appropriate for Meeting. The Committee maintains the documents for meetinghouse use.

If you or your committee has an idea for a community event like the Bayard Rustin film or Game Night, please talk to us. Contact Nina Berry.

Concert To Include Arvo Pärt "Te Deum" Sat, March 16, 8pm Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul

The Brown University Chorus is joining the RI Civic Chorale and Orchestra in a concert that also includes Schubert's Mass No. 3. I have sung this 'Te Deum' before, and it is one of the handful of pieces that I urgently recommend to all. Like the Rachmaninoff 'Vespers' I recommended a year or two ago, it is like nothing you have ever heard, is completely and undeniably modern, and yet is instantly accessible and beautiful (not bleep-bloop music). I have not heard the other group sing, and they are adding a dance component that I have not seen. I suppose if it is distracting, you can close your eyes.

The RI Civic Chorale charges for concerts, and info can be found at <http://www.ricco.org/> or 521-5670. Also feel free to contact me with any questions (steve@absteve.com or 401-273-7076). [Steve Schwartz, ed.]

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

[month in brackets indicates recent issue that has an article about this event]

Conanicut Meeting For Worship (Norman Bird Sanctuary, 10:00 am): 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, 2pm – Grace Lamb Memorial, Providence Meetinghouse [Jan]

May 18, 9-4 – Saylesville Craft Show [p4]

June 30 to July 6 - 2013 Friends General Conference Gathering, Greeley, CO [Jan]

Summer - Friend's Camp summer employment opportunities [Jan]

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT 2012

SAYLESVILLE PREPARATIVE MEETING

This has been a good year. This has been a hard year.
Both statements ring true.

We have seen in our own lives, the East Wall personalized.....life's circumstances opening us to expose the ravages of time or experience, right down to our posts and beams. Because we have spent time together we could trust our sharing of this in all humility knowing there was a listening heart present, (Divine, human and at times canine). Through our individual pain we found commonality in its lessons, and that drew us tighter in our worship. We have found value in letting go, forgiving, reconciling and gradually rebuilding ourselves upon a repaired foundation.

We have found the expression of our joy manifests itself not only amongst ourselves but spilling over into our activities. It becomes our outreach. Partners for Sacred Spaces taught us to concentrate on each person's gifts (talents) to be shared for the upbuilding of the individual and the community.

Our association with the Great Road Historic District and especially our partnering with Arnold House have continued to give us opportunities to expand our visibility in the neighborhood and provide education and information on Quaker history, values and practice. One monthly summer activity was a family treasure hunt, starting at Arnold House. Once here, all were led by riddles and clues to locations around and in the meetinghouse. We enjoyed putting this together and being available for the questions that were bound to be raised. Attenders of the FGC Gathering visited the meetinghouse, Arnold House and Hearthside. The Historic District Open House in October bore the theme "The Bicentennial of the War of 1812". We were asked to provide the "Quaker perspective". As we knew nothing of that era, the research that was fostered gave us considerable insight into the lives and struggles of Quakers in that time period on both sides of the Canadian / American border. We who have done the research would like the opportunity to share with the meeting what we have learned in this endeavor.

The two craft fairs we sponsored this year allowed us the opportunity to promote local artisans, introduce Central Falls middle school art students (we loved their energy) to crafters and our community and raise money for PMM.

Adding music to the second craft fair felt so good and natural that we have started an afternoon of music with a specific theme once a month, open to all.

Our monthly community book swap has provided donations of children's books to victims of Hurricane Sandy, a new teacher's kindergarten class and a truckload of books for Habitat for Humanity. We have also partnered with Neighborhood Recycling. Our open house on book swap day has also included knitting lessons, paper crafting and coupon swapping.

Through the book swap, we developed a special relationship with one particular couple. The wife's health went into a tailspin. Her sudden death reminds us how unpredictable life can be and how important the emotional connections we make with each other are when times get tough. We are honored by the request for a memorial service at this meetinghouse.

The building also continues its journey to wholeness, thanks to the ministrations of friends Bob Elliott, Dylan Block Harley and others. We are so grateful for participation of our larger community in this effort.

Our worship times have been extended at times to mid-week, and we continue to worship outdoors in pleasant weather. We have been graced with members of the Smithfield meeting finding a new home with us.

This has been a hard year. This has been a good year.
We say both with thankful hearts.

March 15-17 Quakers and Sexuality Workshop at Woolman Hill Retreat

"Through worship-sharing, journaling and readings, we'll dive into topics such as joy and celebration, how we can live faithfully through stages of personal development, the role our meetings can play in nurturing and sustaining relationships, and ways we can help each other experience healing and forgiveness from shame and self-doubt."

Led by Peter Blood and Jessica Hipp, limited to 15, at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA. More information at:
413-774-3431 <http://woolmanhill.org/>

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

American Heroes

A couple of recent news stories caught my attention. One was about Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's announcement of a new military honor, the Distinguished Warfare Medal. The purpose of the award is to recognize a person's substantial contribution to combat operations, but, in contrast to many other medals, this one honors cyber warriors, drone pilots, and others whose service takes place at locations far from the battlefield. The recipients undertake no risk of bodily harm (unless, I would guess, one considers the possibility of "saddle sores" or lower extremity blood clots from too much sitting).

The second remarkable news story was about Chris Kyle, a retired Navy SEAL who, while serving as a sniper in Iraq, was credited with 160 kills, possibly the most in American military history. On February 2 Kyle and a friend brought another veteran to a Texas shooting range in an effort to help him deal with his PTSD. Not surprisingly, this turned out to be less than therapeutic. For unclear reasons, the veteran turned his firearm on Kyle and his friend and killed them both. Subsequently Chris Kyle was hailed in the press as an American hero, and his funeral procession, which took place ten days after the shooting, was said to have stretched for 200 miles, suggesting that a lot of people agreed with his hero designation.

I hope I'm not the only one who found these accounts disturbing. Each war has its own distinct characteristics, but our recent ones have some particularly troubling new features. First, there seems to be an insidious campaign to paint anyone who serves in the military as some kind of hero. Certainly combat can provide opportunities for heroism. But thinking back to WWII, our soldiers had a nasty job to do and, after doing it, those fortunate enough to return home physically unscathed did so without much fanfare. Certainly our returning soldiers didn't deserve the vilification they received during the Vietnam conflict, but depicting all our current service people as heroes is, I believe, a subtle way of discouraging opposition to our country's policy of perpetual war. A second concern is that presenting our military personnel in this way obscures the fact that we seem to be building a "warrior class" made up of individuals who, while serving multiple tours of duty, develop skills and attitudes that may be ill-suited for civilian life. In the absence of conscription, we have fewer "citizen-soldiers", and there is a growing disconnect between those who wage war and the rest of us.

What's to be done? One approach would be to be sure to teach our children about different kinds of American heroes such as Harriet Tubman, Jonas Salk, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, Rachel Carson, and Martin Luther King, Jr., to name just a few of our nation's many civilians whose work has provided great benefit to humanity. In addition, we can try to recognize the heroism of those ordinary people who experience terrible adversity but continue to be productive, caring, and compassionate citizens. In this regard some of the survivors of the Station fire come to mind. And as Quakers we must continue our efforts to find and implement non-violent solutions to the many conflicts that plague our planet. Otherwise eventually there might not be anyone around to ponder who is a hero and who is not.

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. bcarlsten@fullchannel.net

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

Jimmy was biking home from celebrating Cambodian New Year at the Buddhist Temple on Hanover St. 17 at the time, he doesn't drive and has no driver's license. Two police cars started to shadow him. As he pulled into his driveway, the police stopped him. Angry he didn't have a license, not believing his statement he was going "Home, right there. See, I have the key. Can I show you it really is the key to my house?", they said "No.", made him empty his pockets and patted him down. They asked over and over about drugs and if he was a gang member. They said he lied because he had gang tattoos. The tattoos were his parent's names in Khmer; not being in English, they were assumed gang related! As he got panicky, an adult neighbor came out, and responded, "Yes, he is my landlord's son. He lives right there. This is his property you are standing on." After a few more questions, the police left. Jimmy wanted to go back to the temple, but was too afraid to leave the house.

After Jimmy finished telling this story to Senator Reed there was a pause.

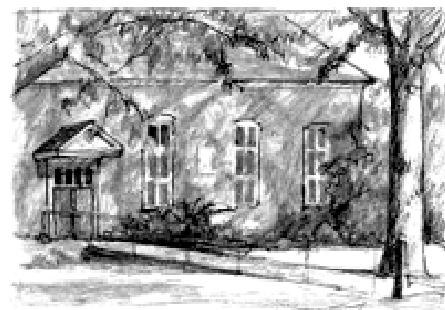
I hear stories like this all the time. As the larger community, we let these kids down by ignoring the ways police function in their neighborhoods. Surely we would object to our children being treated that way. These kids need us to speak up for them. They are doing a fabulous job of organizing in their community to challenge the practices of the police, but they need help from other parts of the city and the state to call city councilors and state legislators in support of efforts (a city ordinance and a state bill) to curb racial profiling.

AFSC is organizing a meeting with Councilman Yerden (all East Side residents encouraged to attend) about a city ordinance addressing racial profiling and a community meeting on the state legislation in the Mount Hope neighborhood. We hope that you will join us. To keep posted about these efforts as well as the other legislation that SENE is following, send me a note (sene@afsc.org) to sign up for our weekly State House Watch or check it out in the documents section toward the bottom of our website (www.afsc.org/sene). Thanks. Your voice matters!

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
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Religious Education: Kathi Lyons religioused@providencefriends.org
Communications: Dan Lederer communications@providencefriends.org
Program Committee: Nina Berry program@providencefriends.org
Marriage Clearness: Erin Hazlett marriage@providencefriends.org
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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: 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.

More Recommended (Serious) Reading



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99 Morris Avenue
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