

The Provident FRIEND

October 2013

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Yard Sale Success

Some details of the September yard sale are in item three of the minutes (p2). Other results are presented pictorially in the newsletter, as in:



Meeting Movie Night - 7 pm Wednesday Oct. 23

Communications Committee will sponsor another Meeting Movie Night at 7:00 PM Wednesday evening October 23. The film to be shown is *The Singing Revolution*, a moving account of Estonia's non-violent struggle for freedom from the Soviet Union, with the country's love of choral music playing a prominent role that shows a direct application of creative non-violent methods to a real-world situation. The film runs for 97 minutes, contains riveting archival footage, and overall is well worth seeing. Admission is free and there will be coffee and cookies.

Thanksgiving Day Potluck – from *Betsy Cazden*

Some years there has been a potluck meal at the meetinghouse on Thanksgiving where we can gather and celebrate with our meeting family. It's been especially nice for those of us who won't be with our own family members on the holiday. I am willing to help pull one together this year (midday, probably), if there is enough interest. If you'd be interested in participating, please send me a message (and approximately how many people) so I can gauge whether it's worth doing.



Calendar (also see p4)

Oct 23 Sun: 7pm (p1)
Movie Night at
Providence Meeting House

Oct 24-27 Thurs- Sun: (p7)
Woolman Hill event.

Oct 26 Sat: 10am-2pm (p4)
Prescription Drug disposal.

Oct 27 Sun: 12:15pm (p4)
Walk with Eugenia Marks,
Providence Meeting House

Oct 27 Sun: 3-6pm
Sacred Harp Sing at
Providence Meeting House

Nov 1-3 Fri- Sun: (p7)
Woolman Hill event.

Nov 10 Sun: 12:00 (p2)
Meeting For Business,
Providence Meeting House

Nov 16 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

Nov 24 Sun: 3-6pm
Sacred Harp Sing at
Providence Meeting House

Nov 28 Thur: ??pm (p1)
- [tentative] -Thanksgiving Day
Potluck, Providence Meeting
House

Dec 14 Sat: time TBA (p1)
Sacred Harp Sing at
Providence Meeting House

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 13th Tenth Month, 2013

1. We gathered at about 12:10 pm at the Saylesville meetinghouse with sixteen present. In the opening silence, the clerk read a query from the *NEYM Faith and Practice (as approved 2012)*:

Are we open to ministry expressed in a variety of religious terms?

2. Announcements:

Communications Committee is sponsoring another Meeting Movie Night at 7 PM on the 23rd of tenth month. The film to be shown is *The Singing Revolution*, which is about the non-violent struggle in Estonia for freedom from the Soviet Union, with the country's love of choral music playing a prominent role.

If there is enough interest, there will be a Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Providence meetinghouse. Contact Betsy Cazden if you would like to participate.

3. Yard sale proceeds: Dede Carlson presented a proposal regarding disposition of proceeds from the yard sale held on the 28th of ninth Month, totaling about \$2,900. The yard sale committee proposes that the proceeds be divided, half to the meeting's budget and half to the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence. In addition, the committee hopes that up to \$200 can be allocated to cover shipping costs to send leftover clothing to a special needs school and orphanage in Rwanda where one of our attenders has worked.

We approve the 50-50 allocation, with the shipping to Rwanda to come out of the meeting's half of the proceeds.

4. Finance: For the committee, Bill Monroe reported that it has been discussing the meeting's investments, and is considering holding an open meeting to discuss more broadly the question of ethical investing. The committee is also looking into methods to enable Friends to donate electronically to the meeting on a regular monthly or quarterly basis. No Treasurer's report was received.

5. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that the craft fair planned for ninth month did not go forward due to her recent hospitalization.

Other members reported that the meeting and Arnold House jointly hosted a talk by Linwood Fisher of Brown University's History Department on his book on the Indian Great Awakening. The meeting also collaborated with Arnold House for the Smithsonian-sponsored "Museum Day," which brought a number of teens and families to the meetinghouse. Another joint program is planned for October 29 on the Hurricane of 1938. A Lincoln High School student has been assisting the meeting with yardwork, as part of a community service project.

The clerk opened a broader conversation about how the meeting can be supportive of the Saylesville worship site. Saylesville Friends report feeling warmly supported in the renovations to the east wall. A grant has been received from the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund to fund further work on the meetinghouse. However, the group is so small that it has been hard to move forward with the renovations, and more assistance would be helpful. The meeting Property Committee has a report in hand outlining priorities for this work, as well as recommended ongoing maintenance schedules. A concern was expressed that regular reports from the Property and other meeting committees would be helpful.

Saylesville Friends would appreciate having more visits from people who normally worship at Providence. The announcements at Providence have included encouraging people to experience worship at all three of our sites. It was suggested that having the two meetings for worship at different times would encourage people to visit back and forth more. It may be possible to coordinate rides for those wishing to visit, and perhaps to have the First Day School hold activities here. Despite obvious differences in size, we note that both sometimes have extensive vocal ministry and sometimes are almost completely quiet. We enrich each other.

(cont. p3)

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

We look forward to continuing this conversation.

6. No further business appearing, we adjourned, intending to meet next on the 10th of eleventh month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

Request for Support For Documentary Film

from Matthew Eddy, assistant professor of sociology at Minot State University in North Dakota.

I am requesting your help in completing a documentary film about Quakers, peace and nonviolent soul force. The film uses Costa Rica's demilitarization to generate conversations about reducing military spending in the U.S. and redirecting government funds towards investments in human needs. Among the many completed interviews are featured Costa Rican Quakers, former President of Costa Rica and Nobel peace-prize winner Oscar Arias, who offers pointed critiques of U.S. militarism, and praises Costa Rica's experiment in nonviolence from Arun Gandhi, Gandhi's grandson, who lived with and was mentored by Gandhi as a teenager. The film covers Costa Rica's decision to abolish their army in 1948 and to invest in universal health care and education, as well as the impressive and hopeful consequences of these decisions over the past 65 years. Our film also features interviews with three of the original Quakers who left Alabama, objecting to the permanent war economy of the U.S., and who settled in Costa Rica in 1951, where they still live. In this film, they tell their story and make a powerful peace witness.

Michael Dreiling (Sociology professor, University of Oregon) and I are the co-producers and co-directors, and we have donated all of our labor, but funds are urgently needed to complete the project. Quakers are among our strongest supporters: the Fifteenth Street Friends Meeting in New York City and the Eugene Friends Meeting in Eugene, Oregon have already donated significant funds to our Kickstarter Campaign, which grew out of a Clearness Committee meeting with the Friends Meeting in Eugene. Film trailers can be seen and contributions can be made via our Kickstarter campaign: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/2006098510/a-bold-peace-a-film-about-a-country-with-no-milita>, via the "Sponsoring the Film" link from our website: <http://aboldpeace.com>, or with a check to "Soul Force Media LLC" (mailed to Soul Force Media LLC, P.O. Box 50866, Eugene, Oregon 97405). The campaign ends November 17.

Thanks, and peace - Dr. Mathew Eddy



Around the Meeting

Rides Needed: Jen Giglio has moved to northwest RI and will be needing rides to and from Meeting for Worship. She realizes it may be a long way for some to drive but is hopeful that she will be able to get to Meeting at least once or twice per month. She can be reached on her cell phone, 401-378-4021. She reports that Jordan is now in the

fourth grade and is doing well at school.

Program Committee: If you are scheduling any meetings at the meetinghouse, please be sure that Bruce Shaw knows the details so that he can put it on the calendar and notify you of any conflicts. Please do this even if you have a regular meeting that has been ongoing for

years. If your meeting or group is not on the calendar and someone else schedules the meetinghouse at that time with Bruce, they will get it. Help us keep things clear so we don't have surprises.

Joanne Griffin is convalescing from knee surgery but is doing well and is at home. Cards can be sent to her

home, 135 Grandview Avenue, Lincoln, RI 02865.

Yard Sale: Preliminary results from the Yard Sale held September 28 show that we took in \$2883.75, including \$130.65 from the First Day School bake sale. Thank you everyone!

October 26 – Return Day For Unused Prescription Drugs, 10am – 2 pm

Flushing unused medication down the drain can contaminate our surface water and groundwater resources. However, stockpiling medications at home creates a significant danger for abuse by others, especially children, who may accidentally or deliberately ingest them.

The US Drug Enforcement Agency, in cooperation with local police departments, conducts semi-annual National Drug Take Back Events. The next event will be October 26, 2013 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Most police departments in the state are participating and will accept prescription drugs for environmentally safe disposal at no cost. You can locate a drop off site near you and get more information at:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

or call the RI Dept of Environmental Management(DEM) at 222-6800.

Walk With Eugenia Marks

At approximately 12:15 on Sunday afternoon October 27, Eugenia welcomes walkers for a short walk on the Seekonk River from York Pond to the Grotto. We can drive to the starting point, and if the weather favors us, stroll for the equivalent of 3 city blocks along the river and back. Then if time and desire permit, we can climb to Blackstone Park. This is a time for reflecting on ourselves in the forces of life in the companionship of friends. See Eugenia Marks if you have questions.

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

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

December 14 – Providence Meeting Holiday Gathering. [no article yet]

Also see p7 for events at Woolman Hill, including:

- Oct 24-27, 2013: Journey Toward an Undivided Life - Part 2: Embracing the Power of Paradox, with Valerie Brown
- November 1-3, 2013: Experiments in Holy Conversation - Part One: Worship, with Betsy Blake & Margaret Cooley
- December 27-30, 2013: Winter Silence - Facilitator tba

First Day School News

Elsie Morse sent this photo (thanks, Elsie!) of First Day School students planting bulbs. While discussing the subject of how planting bulbs might be a contribution to our community, Sophie's first thought was that she hoped they would be adding a little colorful delight to springtime at the Meeting House, as well as offering more good oxygen for everyone to breathe.



And the September 28 Yard Sale took in over \$130.00 from the First Day School bake sale!



CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

Messages at Meeting for Worship

We Quakers know that, in our unprogrammed Meeting for Worship, vocal ministry takes the form of spoken messages, but this raises a nagging question: How do we know what to say, and when to say it? In trying to answer this, it's perhaps easier first to point out that Meeting for Worship ought not be seen as an opportunity to inform Friends about upcoming events or to promote social action agendas (although such announcements are welcome afterwards), nor is it the place for discussions, debates, arguments, or lectures. That being said, what can we then expect our messages to be?

Fortunately, others have dealt with this question much better than I can, and I'd like to offer you some of their thoughts. First, London Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice addresses our hesitation as follows: "Let none of us assume that vocal ministry is never to be our part. If the call comes, there should be no quenching of the spirit; the sense of our own unworthiness must not exempt us from this service, nor the fear of being unable to find the right words. The tender and humble-minded utterance, given faithfully, can carry its message to the hearts of hearers. Above all in vocal prayer even broken and imperfect words springing from a deep place in the heart may wonderfully draw those present into communion with God and with one another."

N. Jean Toomer, in *An Interpretation of Friends' Worship*, describes her process of deciding whether to speak: "An insight or understanding flashes into my mind. A prayer or a pleading or a brief exhortation comes upon me. I hold it in mind and look at it, and at myself. I examine it.... Is this a genuine moving that deserves expression in a meeting for worship, or had I best curb and forget it? May it have some real meaning for others, and is it suited to the condition of this meeting? Can I phrase it clearly and simply? If it passes these tests I regard it as something to be said but I am not yet sure it should be said here and now. To find out how urgent it is, I press down and try to forget it. If time passes and it does not take hold of me with increased strength, I conclude that it is not to be spoken of at this time. If on the other hand, it will not be downed, if it rebounds and insists and will not leave me alone, I give it expression."

Douglas Steere, in *A Quaker Meeting for Worship*, emphasizes brevity: "When I feel drawn to share something in the quiet meeting for worship, I simply rise and say it as briefly as I know how, seeking ever to keep 'close to the root' and to avoid all vain and distracting ornamentation."

Lancaster (PA) Monthly Meeting's website gently reminds us to speak but once: "In regard to any impulse to speak a second time during worship, Friends have traditionally counseled restraint. Partly this is a matter of equity (since most present will not speak at all, none should speak more than once), and partly a recognition that to offer genuine vocal ministry is a weighty matter, requiring a degree of spiritual discernment and obedience beyond what most of us can muster twice in a single hour."

And finally, from our own NEYM Faith and Practice comes this encouragement: "The dynamic, spoken word has always had an important place in bearing witness to the faith of Quakers. When nurtured in prayer, our vocal ministry has the power to change life. Vocal messages can be as effective in a few halting but spiritually filled words as in the most learned and articulate message given in a meeting for worship. Friends should be encouraged to share in the gift of vocal ministry."

Thanks from Nia Thomas

Dear Providence Friends:

Thank you for welcoming the Young Friends Ministry and Counsel so warmly into your meeting house this September. Your flexibility and hospitality really helped our retreat run smoothly. The Young Friends Community is alive and abundant with joy - a blessing made possible thanks to the love, generosity, and support of Friends like you. Let's worship together again sometime soon.

Woolman Hill 2013-2014 Season

Billed as “Cracked Open - Going deeper into the why, what and how of our Quaker practice”, these weekend workshops and online courses focus on Quaker discernment. Jointly offered by NEYM Ministry & Counsel, Quaker Studies Program and Woolman Hill, further information is available at www.neym.org or <http://woolmanhill.org/> (also 413-774-3431).

Oct 24-27, 2013: Journey Toward an Undivided Life - Part 2: Embracing the Power of Paradox, with Valerie Brown

November 1-3, 2013: Experiments in Holy Conversation - Part One: Worship, with Betsy Blake & Margaret Cooley

December 27-30, 2013: Winter Silence - Facilitator TBA

January 15, 2014: (start of 4 week online course) Can A Meeting Do That? Freedom and Authority During 360 Years of Quakerism - On-line course led by Betsy Cazden

January 17-19, 2014: Corporate Discernment In Meeting For Business - Weekend workshop led by Nancy & David Haines

February 28-March 2, 2014: Mindful Mortality, with Rob Spencer

March 13-16, 2014: Writing Out of the Presence, with Ellen Michaud

March 28-30, 2014: Noticing God’s Nudges In Our Lives: The Sacred Art of Individual Spiritual Discernment, weekend workshop led by Nancy Bieber

April 4-6, 2013: Couple Enrichment, with Mary Kay Glazer & Mark Moss, Carol & Peter Letson

June 19-22, 2014: Summer Solstice Retreat, facilitators TBA

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

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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

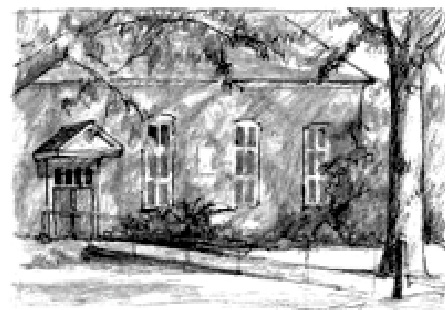
Young Adult Friends: (To Be Named) yaf@providencefriends.org

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) 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.

Items From Our Sale



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99 Morris Avenue
Providence, RI 02906