

# The Provident FRIEND

December 2013

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

## *Annual Holiday Gathering RESCHEDULED!! New date - 5pm Saturday December 21*

Originally scheduled for December 14 and cancelled because of the snow storm threat (below), please instead join us for the annual Providence Friends Meeting Holiday Gathering on Saturday December 21st at 5pm at the meetinghouse. The program remains the same - this year's First Day School version of the Nativity Story, it starts with an hour of singing, performances and some silent worship followed by a festive potluck. Please keep the tastes of the many children present in mind for considering a potluck contribution.

Feel free to bring an instrument and join the "Sounds of Silence" orchestra in supporting the gathering's singing.

Setup for the potluck starts at 3, and many hands would be welcome. Bruce and Dede Carlston will be bringing decorations and organizing setup. Come help in any case, but if you know you can beforehand, please let Dede or Bruce know so they have a sense of who to expect.

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*



### **Dec 24 – Saylesville's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

The very beautiful annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, a meeting for worship, will be held at the Saylesville Meetinghouse at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, December 24. We encourage that you bring candles and candle holders, and finger-foods to share afterward. All are welcome.

### **Jan 15, 7pm – Movie Night at the Meetinghouse**

The film will be announced soon, but these are always nice events to attend: coffee etc., cookies, conversation, and in January, cozy, too. Always thoughtful, always free.

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

**Dec 21 Sat:** 10am-12pm  
Saylesville Bookswap

**Dec 21 Sat:** 5pm (p1) Holiday  
Gathering, Providence  
Meeting House

**Dec 22 Sun:** 3-6pm Sacred  
Harp Sing at Providence  
Meeting House

**Dec 24 Tues:** 4:30 pm (p1)  
Traditional Candlelight  
Worship at Saylesville Meeting  
House.

**Dec 27-30:** (p4) Woolman Hill  
Winter Silence event.

**Jan 5 Sun:** 12:00 (p5)  
Conscientious Objector forum,  
Providence Meeting House

**Jan 12 Sun:** 12:00 (p2)  
Meeting For Business,  
Providence Meeting House

**Jan 15 Wed:** 7pm (p1) Movie  
Night at Providence Meeting  
House

**Jan 18 Sat:** 10am-12pm  
Saylesville Bookswap

**Jan 26 Sun:** 3-6pm Sacred  
Harp Sing at Providence  
Meeting House

**Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business  
Minutes – 8th Twelfth Month, 2013**

1. We gathered at about 12:05 pm at the Providence meetinghouse with 22 present. Before the opening worship, the clerk reminded the meeting that we conduct our business in a spirit of worship throughout the meeting, not merely in the opening silence. He asked all Friends to help us hold the worship by waiting to be recognized before speaking, and by refraining from reacting (verbally or nonverbally) to what is said. He then read the following Advices from *NEYM Faith and Practice* (draft given preliminary approval, 2012):

Attend to the Spirit at work in the ordinary activities and experiences of your daily life.

There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Be open to and alert for how the Spirit may be speaking to you in fresh ways, leading you in new directions.

2. Announcements:

- The meeting's Christmas Gathering will be at 5:00 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month at the Providence meetinghouse, followed by a potluck meal. Contact John Lord if you would like to perform.
- There will be a "Music at the Meetinghouse" on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at the Saylesville meetinghouse. All are warmly welcomed.
- Saylesville welcomes all to candlelight worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month at 4:30 pm.

3. Membership: On behalf of Ministry and Counsel, Joanne Griffin brought forward a recommendation, following the usual clearness process, that Liberty Goodwin be accepted into membership in the meeting. We approve. Saylesville Friends will plan a welcoming event.

4. Use of the meetinghouse: Nina Berry reported that the Program Committee has been examining our policies for use of our meetinghouses. The committee wants to ensure that the arrangements we make protect both the meeting and all those who use the buildings. A number of questions have arisen on which they would like legal review. The committee requests authorization to hire legal counsel to answer these questions and advise the meeting, up to \$1,500. This would be an addition to the committee's budget and to the budget as a whole. The Treasurer and other members of the Finance Committee are easy with this proposal. We approve this recommendation, with a cap of \$1,500. We leave it to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee to determine how this should be reported in the meeting's records.

5. Finance: Bill Monroe reported that the committee organized a lively discussion of socially responsible investing last week after meeting for worship, and the committee looks forward to continuing that conversation.

6. Treasurer: Peter Swazek presented an interim report on the meeting's finances through the first half of the fiscal year. He noted that an appeal letter went out in mid-November to all households. He noted that income for fundraising events and use of the meetinghouse is running way ahead of budget. Expenses are about as expected.

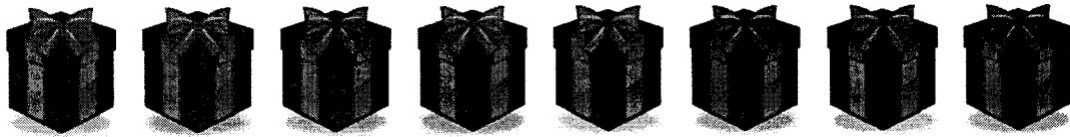
7. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that there is urgent attention being given to a problem with the heating system.

8. No further business appearing, we closed with worship, expecting to meet again on the 12th of 1st month, 2014, at the Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

*Christmas Gifts Needed!*



*Collecting items until December 24th*

*Toys, Books, Games, Socks, Gloves, Tights, etc.*

*For Boys & Girls All Ages*

*Winter Clothing and Coats are always needed*

*Donations can be brought to the address below, or the meetinghouse, or contact Eugenia Marks*

*This is all for Families served by Camp Street Community Ministries*

*Monetary donations may be sent to:*

*Camp Street Community Ministries*

*194 Camp Street, Providence RI 02906*

*For more information call 401-421-5474*

**Conanicut Meeting (Jamestown) In It's Winter Home**

The first Sunday in November, the 3rd, Conanicut Friends Meeting (Indulged) held its first winter worship at the Studio of the Norman Bird Sanctuary, now referred to as Mabel's Studio, at 583 Third Beach Rd in Middletown at 10:30 AM.

Conanicut Friends meet weekly in the warmer months in the 1787 Old Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane in Jamestown. In the winter, the group holds services on alternate weeks, and the remaining dates are:

Dec 29; Jan. 2014, 12, 24.

Further dates will be announced in the New Year. Meetings are unprogrammed, there is no First Day School, and visitors are welcomed. For any questions contact 423-9122 or 667-3712. Or contact Marcia Lindsay at pwomba1@cox.net

**Groups Commemorate Newtown Victims**

On Saturday, December 14th, seven people from the Providence Monthly Meeting attended "No More Silence" in honor of the victims of the Newtown tragedy and other victims of gun violence in this country. It was a lovely and powerful ceremony, with bell ringers from the Gordon School, who also led in singing of "This Little Light of Mine".

This event was sponsored by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, the First Unitarian Church of Providence's Standing on the Side of Love Committee, and the Rhode Island State Council of Churches.

Speakers included U.S. Representative David Cicilline (who is a founding member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns), Central Falls mayor James Diossa, Rev. Donald Anderson of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, and former RI chapter head of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Samantha Richard. For information and how you can further the cause, contact Anne DiMase, Dede Carleston, Kim Ziegelmayr (401-338-0722) or go to [www.ricagv.com](http://www.ricagv.com) or [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org)

## Around the Meeting

**Address changes:** Tyler Lewis has a new address at 130 Bay View Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905, and email is [tyger251@gmail.com](mailto:tyger251@gmail.com)

(no change to phone). Marjorie Smith is now at 60 Waite St., Providence RI 02908, and has new phone # 401-270-4981.

**Rides Still Needed:** John Gaffney will continue to benefit from rides to meeting. He lives very near the meetinghouse, so anyone driving may

be of help. See the November issue for details. He can be reached at 401-215-5302 and at [johnkgaffney@gmail.com](mailto:johnkgaffney@gmail.com)

### Thanks For Giving

Thanks to all who donated coats, scarves and mittens. Some went to Camp Street Community Ministries and some were donated to the Annual Coat Exchange on the State House lawn, the day after Thanksgiving.

Thanks also to all who contributed gifts in response to the First Day School's request to help fill stockings on the Holiday Giving Tree with gift cards for some of the needy families being helped by the East Bay CAP (Community Action Project).

### Kali Quinn recovering, welcomes visitors

In early December, Kali had ACL reconstructive knee surgery, and will be on crutches for a while. She is doing well, and would love to have visitors. Please call before coming or email to set a time. She lives about 10 blocks north of the Providence meetinghouse, at:

606 Hope #2 (just north of Forrest) Providence, RI 02906 716.440.7591 [www.kaliquinn.com](http://www.kaliquinn.com)

### Historic Tours Activity at Saylesville Expands *from Roseanne Cedroni*

Blackstone Valley Tourism asked Saylesville to be part of a tour in May 2014. Last year's day-tours included sites in eastern Connecticut and Massachusetts, and with this crossing of borders came a new name: *Southern New England Discovery Tours*, or *SoNew* for short.

The benefit is that residents of Massachusetts and Connecticut visit our venues, and some of our residents, who have enjoyed the RI tours, will want to see what the broader region has to offer. We will also receive some promotion on the national stage through the US Travel & Tourism Association.

The objective is as before: to educate area residents on the history, culture, activities and other attractions that are right in their own backyards and to encourage return visits with family and friends for a fuller, more comprehensive experience of their own neighborhoods. I think this will work well for us - more later!

### 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 27-30, 2013: Winter Silence - Facilitator tba - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

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 - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

January 17-19, 2014: Corporate Discernment In Meeting For Business - Weekend workshop led by Nancy & David Haines – Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

February 28-March 2, 2014: Mindful Mortality, with Rob Spencer - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

March 13-16, 2014: Writing Out of the Presence, with Ellen Michaud [Oct p 7 Woolman Hill]

March 28-30, 2014: Noticing God's Nudges In Our Lives: The Sacred Art of Individual Spiritual Discernment, weekend workshop led by Nancy Bieber - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

April 4-6, 2013: Couple Enrichment, Mary Kay Glazer & Mark Moss, Carol & Peter Letson - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

June 19-22, 2014: Summer Solstice Retreat, facilitators TBA - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]

**Peace and Social Concerns hosts informal Conscientious Objection Session and Pizza Party for Young Adult Friends - Jan 5 at noon (snow date Jan 12)**

*adapted from an invitation by Mark Conley*

Peace and Social Concerns is inviting you to a pizza party that includes discussion and information for you if you are or will be eligible for the draft, with an aim to help you think about where you stand regarding any potential military service. Young men must register for the draft or face serious penalties, and young women have to consider what might happen if they were faced with this choice as well. You hear a lot from the military point of view, but we wanted to give you some information from another viewpoint.

We have invited some people to come to the party to help talk about things you might want to consider as you think about continuing to build your conscientious objection files. Member Bruce Downing sits on the board that would be activated should the military ever begin the draft again that would call young people up to serve. He will be there to talk to you about what you might want to have in your file in case you wanted to be considered for conscientious objector status or for alternative service. Attender Ket Fox will also be there to speak about his experience with the draft during the days of the Vietnam War and how a Quaker was there to help him think through what he needed to do. Finally, we have asked Ruth Ben-Artzi to join us to provide a woman's perspective. She is from Israel, where women already face this issue. She currently teaches at Providence College; her brother is one of the most famous conscientious objectors in that country, and she speaks and teaches on this topic.

Will you join us? We will have materials there for you in case you want to keep building your file, but there will be no obligation to do anything, other than to think about what you hear. If we have a snowstorm, we would hold the event a week later, to Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in coming, please Mark Conley (or anyone on Peace and Social Concerns) know, so we are sure we have enough pizza for everyone. You can even let him know what toppings you like - we hope to see you there!

**A Celebration of the Paul Cuffee School**

*(Adapted and condensed from an article by David C. Burnham in the November 16, 2013 Providence Journal)*

In September 2001, a new charter school opened its doors in Providence with 130 students in K-3. Now commencing its 12th year, that school has 774 students in grades K-12. On June 5, 2014, it will have its first graduation — a joyous ceremony with diplomas, awards, proud parents and teachers, handshakes and hugs.

The phenomenal success of Paul Cuffee School is cause for celebration. In the first year, we rented classrooms at the French American School on John Street and Holy Name School on Camp Street. The only office was in a Sunday school room at Community Church of Providence, a mile or more from the classroom buildings.

A tone of trust pervaded the school and became the cornerstone upon which its supportive culture was built. We trusted ourselves and, in turn, were trusted. Parents trusted us even in August when we were not sure where we would have classes in September. The Department of Education trusted us, as did banks and the philanthropic community. As trustees and faculty, we were convinced we had the skills and energy to create a great school.

Paul Cuffee School is named for a remarkable man of color, half African-American, half Native American, who lived from 1759 to 1817. The son of a freed slave, he was an immensely successful merchant, ship builder and sea captain. By 1800 he may have been the wealthiest man of color in the United States.

He and his Native American wife, Alice, lived in Westport, Mass., where they raised their seven children. Paul offered to pay amply for the construction of a school for the town, but was rebuffed because some citizens did not wish their children to sit with youth of color. He went ahead and built a school, opened it to white children as well as his own, and the less prejudiced townspeople gladly accepted his offer. Arguably, Paul Cuffee opened the first integrated school in America. *(cont p 7)*

## CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

In place of an essay, I thought Friends might enjoy this short poem that I wrote several years ago about Christmas Eve:

I wonder whether, after all  
The countless repetitions of  
The story of a child born  
Some twenty centuries ago,  
It still is possible for us  
To sense the living spirit that  
Shone forth so brightly from the life  
He led, a spirit that existed  
When the universe was young,  
Abiding in the silent void  
As well as in the nascent stars.

And on this night so full of quiet  
Mystery and awe, can we  
Receive the message in that child's  
Birth: that this same spirit dwells  
Within us all, that love and goodness  
Can prevail, and that we must  
Hold sacred this, our time and place,  
Because the spirit enters here?  
And can we now accept this gift  
In gratitude and joy, and know  
That, on this night, within our hearts  
All things are possible?



## *A Celebration of the Paul Cuffee School* (continued from p 6)

The present Paul Cuffee School exists because of the dogged determination of Cyril Burke of Providence, who envisioned a highly academic school with a nautical theme that would extend the horizons of inner-city youth. Dr. Burke applied for the charter, filled out necessary forms, met with education leaders, established a board of trustees and named the school. "Actually, it was my mother's suggestion," he says with a smile.

Paul Cuffee, through his life story, will always be one of the school's most important teachers. Over and over, Cuffee boys and girls are reminded that if Paul could do what he did in his lifetime, facing the prejudices existing then, "surely you can overcome whatever difficulties you encounter today."

The school's success stems from the hard work of many people, but especially from the skills and personality of the first headmaster, David Bourns. He set the tone of trust, of accepting each individual, of convincing each young person of his or her great worth and unique gifts. A good listener, he hired teachers who believed as he did, and were good listeners themselves.

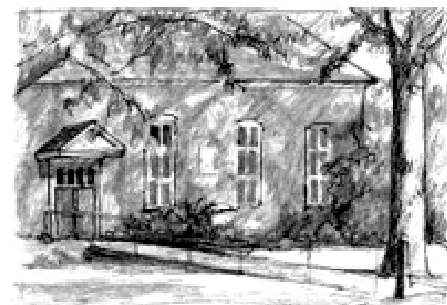
In my 12 years of involvement at Cuffee, I have never heard an adult yell at a student. Michael Obel-Omia, David's successor, maintained the same tone while doing much to bring the high quality of the academic program to public attention. This year, under the leadership of Wendy Randle, the school moves smoothly forward toward that June 5 graduation day. Excitement is in the air.

*David C. Burnham is board chair emeritus of the Paul Cuffee School and former headmaster of Moses Brown School.*

### Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

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 Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe [liaison@providencefriends.org](mailto:liaison@providencefriends.org)  
 Young Adult Friends: (To Be Named) [yaf@providencefriends.org](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org)  
 To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw [scheduling@providencefriends.org](mailto:scheduling@providencefriends.org)  
 AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or [myager@afsc.org](mailto:myager@afsc.org) or  
[www.afsc.org/sene](http://www.afsc.org/sene)  
 Adult Religious Education: Zona Douthit [adulthood@providencefriends.org](mailto:adulthood@providencefriends.org)



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

Newsletter of  
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Friends

(401) 331-4218 or <http://providencefriends.org>

### Meeting for Worship each Sunday

Providence: 10:00 am      Saylesville: 10:30 am  
Conanicut (Jamestown) winter: 10:30 am alt. Sundays

**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](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org))

**Wednesday** - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School

**Wednesday** - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School

**Wednesday** - 10-11:30am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12:00pm  
Saylesville: Second Sunday of each month at 9:30am

**AFSC SENE Support Committee** - Second Tuesday, 6:30-  
9:00 pm Volunteers needed and welcome.

## *Seasonal and Upcoming Events*

*Dec 21 Sat – Annual Holiday Gathering (p 1)*

*Dec 24 Tues – Candlelight Worship at  
Saylesville (p 1)*

*Dec 27-30 – Woolman Hill Winter Silence (p 4)*

*Jan 5 – Young Adult Friends Selective Service  
Awareness (p 5)*

*Jan 15 – Movie Night (p 1)*

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