

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Moscow Friends Express Concern For Ukraine

To all Friends:

Moscow Monthly Meeting of Friends asks you, dear Friends, to pray and work with us for peace in Ukraine. We propose the following principles to guide our prayers and our advocacy:

1. For government based on compassion instead of coercion, free from international interference.
2. For reconciliation among all the people of Ukraine regardless of ethnicity.
3. For all the different ethnic groups of Ukraine to be able to express their hopes and expectations freely.
4. For all controversies to be resolved without violence.

Moscow Friends will continue to follow the situation closely and prayerfully. Please join us.

Johan Maurer and Mikhail Roshchin - Moscow Monthly Meeting of Friends

Betsy Cazden sent the above, as received by Friends World Committee for Consultation from the monthly meeting in Moscow, which asks for our prayers. (We are not aware of any Quakers in the Ukraine itself.) The statement is on the FWCC World Office Facebook page and webpage as received - feel free to link to it.

Help Sought with First Day School....

The Religious Education Committee is renewing its commitment to having two adults present during first day school. We have teachers scheduled for the rest of the year but need a second adult to "help". If you can join us for first day school on one of the following Sundays, please notify Sarah Baily.

April 13th--Elsie Morse is teaching

April 27th--Eugenia Marks is teaching

And with Nursery....

With the loss next year of 2 out of 3 of our faithful teenagers, we are deciding how we will be covering the nursery going forward. In the short term, a number of adults have volunteered, and more are welcome (more below), but a main goal is to reach out to our teenagers who would be willing to (continued p 3)

Dede and Bruce Carlsten Say Thanks

Bruce and Dede express thanks for your messages of support. Dede came home from the hospital on Sunday March 9, being given ½ hour discharge notice. Her surgery lasted 5 1/2 hrs, and the surgeon feels that it should be successful in the long run. By Tuesday March 12, she was managing well with the help of an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, and a nurse, and that day had her first visitor. She told Bruce that his cooking, which he vaguely remembers from his bachelor days, may prove to be the single (continued p 3)

(Published April 4)

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

Apr 13 Sun: 12:00 (p2)
Meeting For Business,
Providence Meeting House

April 15 Tues: application
deadline for item on p7.

Apr 19 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

Apr 25 Fri: 7-9:30pm (p5)
AFSC-SENE Food event,
Providence Meeting House

Apr 27 Sun: (p2) Quarterly
Meeting and potluck lunch,
Providence Meeting House

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

Apr 28 Mon: 7pm Film "Bully"
presentation, Saylesville
Meeting House

May 17 Sat: 9am-4pm Friends
and the Internet, Moses
Brown School

May 17 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

May 25 Sun: 3-6pm Sacred
Harp Sing at Providence
Meeting House

**Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Minutes – 9th Third Month, 2014**

1. The meeting gathered at 12:05 pm with twenty-one present. In the opening silence the Clerk read the following Advice from NEYM Faith and Practice (Preliminary approval 2012):

Remember that each person is a unique individual with a particular background and life experience, and that messages offered in meeting will reflect this variety. Part of worshipping together is listening with an open spirit. A period of silence following each message allows everyone to hold that message and its speaker in love. Hearing truth as others understand it is a way of deepening your own faith.

2. Announcements:

The next Meeting Movie Night will be at 7 pm on the 12th of this month. The film to be shown is We Still Live Here, a documentary about the current day Wampanoag Tribes of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and the Native American woman who is reviving their culture via a language that was almost lost.

Friends General Conference will be having its 2014 Gathering from the 29th of 6th mo. to 5th of 7th mo. at California University of Pennsylvania, located in California, Pennsylvania (35 miles south of Pittsburgh). The theme will be "Let Love Be The First Motion". Financial aid is available.

Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will be at Providence on 27th of 4th month. There will be a potluck lunch followed by business and program, which will include a discussion of the relationship between monthly meetings and quarterly meeting.

AFSC has scheduled two films at the Providence Meetinghouse: On the 14th of this month, at 7 pm, Iyad Burnat will speak and show the film 5 Broken Cameras about nonviolent resistance to Israeli occupation of Palestinian land on the West Bank. On the 16th of this month, at 7 pm, the film Inequality for All will be shown, followed by a discussion.

3. Bruce Carlsten reported on research he has done on ceiling-mounting the LCD projector and speakers in the fellowship room, which he believes would simplify use of the projector. He proposes using the David Smith bequest for the cost of mounting, which is estimated at \$775 to \$975. Currently the equipment has been carried back and forth from someone's home, which requires a considerable time to set up and risks damage to the equipment.

An alternative was suggested of mounting the projector and speakers on a cart (which came in for the yard sale and was sequestered). The ceiling mount might restrict the orientation of the room, and prevent use of the equipment in the upstairs meeting room. It was noted that AFSC generally brings its own equipment for its programs. If the system is more convenient to use, more people may use it. Some wondered whether the perceived problem is large enough to be worth spending close to \$1,000. There may be other alternative uses for the money that would have a more significant effect on the meeting's life, such as fans for the meeting room; other funding sources may be available for that, however.

After considerable discussion, we encourage those with technical expertise on these matters, and those with an interest in the programs that use the equipment, to consult further and bring back a more seasoned proposal.

4. Elsie Morse presented the annual statistical report as of the end of 2013, prepared by herself and Anne DiMase as membership recorders. Our combined membership (including Saylesville, Providence, and Conanicut) as of the end of 2012 was 220; it decreased to 218 in 2013. There was one new member by application, and three losses due to death, resignation, and transfer to another meeting. We currently have 106 males and 112 females, and 170 resident and 48 non-resident members. There are 8 age 14 and younger, 11 age 15 through 18, 19 age 19 through 25, and 76 age 65 and over. Average attendance at the three worship sites at First-day Meeting for Worship is 81 and average attendance at weekday Meeting for Worship is 6. On average 6 children (18 and younger) attend First Day School.

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

Average attendance at Meeting for Business was 17. The average number of Active Attenders (non-members) was 36, a slight increase over last year.

The full report will be appended to the record copy of these minutes, circulated via the electronic list, and forwarded to quarterly meeting and yearly meeting. We thank our recorders for their diligent work.

5. Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented a report on our finances through the end of our third quarter. He feels the meeting is in good shape on both income to date and expenses.

6. Saylesville: In the absence of Joanne Griffin, Bruce Downing reported that the preparative meeting is continuing its regular schedule of activities, and is working on its State of Society report.

7. We closed with silent worship at 1:20 pm, intending to meet next, God willing, on the 13th of 4th month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Help Sought with Nursery *(cont. from p 1)*

help cover the nursery on a rotating basis. The job asks that you arrive 10 minutes before Silent Meeting on Sunday morning and be willing to engage with the young children during the ensuing hour. You will be working with an adult during this time. Typically, we have from 1 to 5 children on a given Sunday. You will be compensated for this duty at a rate of \$15/session. With your input as to Sundays where you will not be available, a future schedule will be developed and distributed to you. Should a conflict come up in the future after the schedule is developed, simply let me know, or, better yet, arrange with another teen on the schedule to cover for you and then let me know of this change.

So, if there are any teens out there who would be willing to help serve the meeting in this way, please let me know as soon as possible. And if there are any other adults who would be willing to take a turn covering the nursery, please let me know.

Thanks,

Bruce Carlsten

Dede Recovering *(cont. from p 1)*

most important driving force in getting her back on her feet. Bruce stated he was "very pleased that I may have a role in her recovery". She is now doing much better.

She is now doing outpatient PT, is walking short distances outside on her street. She has also enjoyed short visits and encouraging emails from a number of her friends. At this point, she is working toward controlling her pain while trying to slowly reduce her dependence on her medications.

She is very much appreciative of all the support that Meeting has given her; it has clearly had a positive role in her rehabilitation. She is glad to receive emails directly (dcarlsten@fullchannel.net), phone calls and visitors (but call first).

Around the Meeting

Spring Walk- April's showers should be rain and not snow, so put on your galoshes and enjoy the emergence of greenly spirits, including our own. After potluck on April 6, we'll take a look a Chase Farm, Lincoln, for signs of the coming exuberance. Leave from and return to Meeting House. See Eugenia Marks with questions.

Video System

Comments Sought -

Anyone who has any thoughts about the use of our video projection system please send them to Steve Schwartz at steve@absteve.com. He will compile them, then work with Bruce Carlsten to make a presentation to the meeting (see Minutes item 3).

Attender Seeking Rides -

A returning attender, Athan, is looking for an occasional ride from Warwick near the

airport. If you can help, call him at 401-280-7747.

Please Check Committee

List - Nominating Committee has posted, on the bulletin board downstairs, a draft of the list of nominees for our upcoming fiscal year, which starts on June 1. Please look it over to be sure you are listed correctly. If you see the need for any changes, notify Nominating Committee clerk Ruth

Bourns.

Annual Membership Report Completed -

Anne DiMase and Elsie Morse, our Membership Recorders, presented the annual statistical report at the March Meeting for Business. The report covers calendar year 2013, was emailed on March 9, and is summarized in the minutes (p2). If a paper copy is needed, please contact Elsie, Dan, or Steve.

Online Course April 1 - Meeting William Dewsbury

"perhaps the sweetest and wisest of early Friends" - with Brian Drayton. Online, 4 weeks, starting April 1
For more info, go to www.bhfh.org/gsp

Directory Additions:

Please add to your current Meeting Directory:

- Matthew Brumbaugh/Brett Brumbaugh H: 401-245-4957 C: 401-632-8761 28 Clarke Road, Barrington, RI 02806
matthewabumbaugh@gmail.com bbrumbaugh5@gmail.com Samuel Brumbaugh
- Donna Zaken 7 Memory Lane, Johnston, RI 02919 401-830-5645

These will be included in the next edition of the Meeting Directory in the spring. If you have updates that you would like people informed of, please let Dan Lederer know, and we will put them in the newsletter.

On The Horizon: Future Events — Events that recur and/or happen beyond the next month [2014 unless noted, month in brackets indicates a recent issue that has an article about this event]

- April 4-6: Couple Enrichment, Mary Kay Glazer & Mark Moss, Carol & Peter Letson - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]
- April 11-14: FWCC Consultation (High Point, NC) [Feb p5]
- April 19: United Society of Friends Women (USFW) Gathering (Smithfield Meeting, RI) [Feb p5]
- April 27: NEYM Quarterly Meeting, Providence [p2, item 2]
- May 17: Friends and the Internet Day – 9 to 4 at Moses Brown School [p6]
- June 19-22: Summer Solstice Retreat, facilitators TBA - Woolman Hill [Oct p 7]
- June 29 to July 5: Friends General Conference at California University of Pennsylvania, California PA (35 miles south of Pittsburgh). [Feb p 2]

Local Food And Our Lives – April 25 Session, 7-9:30pm Hosted by AFSC-SENE at the Providence Meeting House

From Martha Yager

Food - locally grown. Seasonal. What does it mean to talk about food security in these times of climate change and increased urbanization? How has the corporate food industry changed what we eat and what food costs? And who has access to what food? How can we change those patterns? Who gets to make those decisions? What does a sustainable food shed look like? (And what is a food shed?)

Food. We all need it. It can be a source of pleasure and satisfaction. It is a topic one can approach as a casual gardener, with environmental concerns, with justice concerns, or with just a delight in the pleasure of food.

There are a lot of reasons why AFSC-SENE (along with other AFSC offices) is looking more closely at how we can build sustainable food networks accessible to all people. Please join us the evening of April 25th at Providence Friends Meeting House to learn more about how food is produced in our area, who has access to that food, and how we can work together to build a just and sustainable network that will help all of us be food secure. Watch for more details, but save the date. We know it will include brief talks about amazing work taking place in the area. We will have locally baked desserts. Bring baby plants and seeds to swap during the dessert time. And celebrate Earth Day and Spring with us! For details and registration information:

508-399-6699 <http://afsc.org/event/celebrate-spring-and-local-food-afsc-sene>

Note From Library Committee

Dear Friends,

The Meeting Library contains many interesting and useful books, too many to take in all at once. Newcomers to Meeting sometimes ask what they should read first to learn about Quakers, and long-time attenders often want to learn more. The Meeting Library Committee has put together a short list of books that we hope will be helpful. Other friends may wish to make additional recommendations. One of the books on our list, of which the library has several copies, is "Friends for 350 Years", by Howard Brinton.

This book describes the birth of the Quaker movement, the role of Quakerism in the history of religious thought, the meaning of Quaker ministry, and the functioning of the Quaker meeting as both a worshipping group and a community.

Friends are invited to borrow this or other books. Please be sure to write your name, telephone number, and date of borrowing on the card in the book, and to leave the card in the basket provided.

Peace,

Rebecca Smith, clerk of the library committee

NEYM Events Updates

These recently received event announcements are additions to the list published in October:

April 11-14: FWCC Consultation (High Point, NC) - Participate in a series of consultations with Friends from across the branches of the Quaker tradition. The North Carolina workshop features workshops led by Debbie Humphries and Lisa Graustein of NEYM

Flyer: <http://tinyurl.com/odl7f8k>

Registration: <http://fwccamericas.org/events/2014-consultations.shtml>

April 19: United Society of Friends Women (USFW) Gathering (Smithfield Meeting, RI) - Theme: Take Courage: Do Everything in Love - Contact Marian Baker, quakerbonnet@gmail.com

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

Truth, Denial, and the Inner Light

Rex Ambler has written a recent (2013) Pendle Hill pamphlet entitled "The Light Within: Then and Now" that explores what we often refer to as the Inner Light, with some Quakers seeing it as that of Christ within and others considering it more generally as, in the author's words, "a universal force of love and discernment." He points out that for many present-day Quakers the Light Within can be a rather vague concept but that it was much clearer to early Friends.

George Fox said, "Your teacher is within you, look not forth", the idea being to trust oneself rather than outside authority. This approach of course led to much persecution of him and his followers, but they persevered. The goal was to see reality clearly, and the thought was that reason and conscience were not enough to overcome "deceit", this being what we would now call "denial". Rather than accept a version of truths set forth by others, Fox urged Friends to rely on an internal resource, the Inner Light, to reveal truths first about themselves and then about the world around them, his belief being that in this way they could free themselves from self-deceit and find that of God within. In the process, these early Friends discovered unity among themselves as well as with all others, since they saw everyone as having this same Light even if some were unaware of its presence.

Is this view of the Inner Light relevant today? As Quakers, we still try to conduct ourselves in accordance with leadings that arise from a source deep within. While knowing that finding the reality in any circumstance requires patience and avoidance of judging prematurely, there can be pitfalls along the way. Ambler writes, "It is one thing to sit quietly and ponder the concerns of our life in the hope that some bright idea might occur to us that shows us what to do. It is another thing to let go of our ideas, give up thinking and fantasizing, and wait patiently for the reality of the situation to be disclosed to us. It involves a greater commitment to truth, even when it goes counter to what we want to think about the situation.... To give an example: when there is a conflict in our family, or a tension in our meeting, we can respond in a number of different ways. We can quietly ignore it in the hope that it will eventually go away. We can think about it seriously and talk it through with others. Or we can sit quietly and open ourselves up to what is really happening here, not least to the part we ourselves may be playing in this unfolding situation." This last option is what we are hoping to do when we gather together in Meeting for Business, seeking the truth regarding specific issues that come before us for a decision.

The idea is not new that, once we let go of preconceived notions, we each have the capacity to see reality. Some 2500 years ago The Buddha said, "Be ye lamps unto yourselves. Be your own reliance. Hold to the truth within yourselves as to the only lamp." Seeing things as they really are is no easy task, but it's our challenge to keep trying.

"BULLY" - Free Film Presentation – 7pm Monday April 28 – Saylesville Meeting House

The Society of Friends invites all to join a free viewing of "Bully", a film that has inspired a worldwide movement devoted to addressing the problem of bullying in schools and the online version ('cyberbullying'), which follows our youth home. It looks at the victims, and the ways in which some of them respond by becoming perpetrators themselves.

Light refreshments and discussion will follow the screening. Please join us. If any questions, please call 401.475.4684 and leave a message for Cindy.

"Friends & the Internet Day" – Saturday May 17, 9am to 4pm – Moses Brown School

Sponsored by NEYM (more will be written in the April letter), this will be a day of practical and hands-on (bring your laptop) exploration of ways the Internet can help Friends both within and beyond their meetings. RSVP for planning purposes &/or questions to Beth Collea:

recoord@neym.org

Opportunity for Residency Position in Cambridge *(from Friends Meeting, Cambridge MA)*

April 15 Application Deadline

Friends Meeting at Cambridge (MA) invites you to encourage one or more gifted Friends whom you may know (or a couple to share the position) to apply for the position of Resident Friend, an important spiritual and administrative position at the heart of our Meeting.

In brief, this is a 3-6 year position, with the responsibility for caring about and supporting our large urban Meeting (400 members, 150+ at worship). With input from appropriate committees and individuals the Resident Friend will supervise 5 FTE staff members and will exercise significant oversight and coordination of communication, pastoral care, spiritual education, outreach, and other programmatic activities. We particularly wish to improve our ability to attract and integrate young people and families, and welcome a greater diversity of class and race. The application deadline is April 15, 2014, a job description and application is available at:

<http://fmcquaker.org/resident-friend-job/>

We would be happy to learn directly of any potential candidates you may know (we will try to call them); or you might simply pass the information or job description link (above) along to promising candidates. Also, please forward this communication to other seasoned Friends who you think may be able to help us find just the right fit for this special Quaker job opening.

Thank you for your help. Please call/email me personally if you have any questions.

Liz Moore (617-899-3421) for the Resident Friend Search Committee

Friends Meeting at Cambridge 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge MA 02138

Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

Providence Meeting (401) 331-4218 <http://providencefriends.org>
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Assistant Presiding Clerk: Mark Conley assistclerk@providencefriends.org
Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden recordingclerk@providencefriends.org
Treasurer: Peter Swaszek treasurer@providencefriends.org
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Finance: Bill Monroe finance@providencefriends.org
Peace & Social Concerns: Mark Conley peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org
Social & Hospitality: Dede Carlsten and Kim Wiegand
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Religious Education: Sarah Baily and Betsy Zimmerman
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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 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 3/9,23 4/6,20

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 12:00pm
Saylesville: Second Sunday of each month at 9:30am

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

AFSC Liaisons Sought

We earnestly seek new people to serve as Meeting's representatives on the Support Committee of our local AFSC chapter, AFSC/SENE. Sarah Morenon and Bruce Carlsten have served for over 10 years, and need to be relieved as our liaison to this worthwhile organization.

If you are interested, please let Dan Lederer know. You can contact Sarah or Bruce if you want to find out more about what this involves.

The Provident FRIEND

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