

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

May "Breakfast", Sunday, May 4

On the first Sunday in May we will have a "Providence Monthly Meeting May Breakfast and Celebration that Spring is Here". Instead of a regular potluck we will make pancakes and waffles. We are asking everyone to bring breakfast-type foods such as fruit, granola, stuffed French toast, crepes, blintzes, jonny cakes, muffins, juices, etc. Think decadence when planning your contribution. Also you may want to do a shout-out to Cinque de Mayo and bring Mexican breakfast items.

Nurturing Peace Workers - Activist Appreciation Potluck May 18

Peace and Social Concerns is initiating a potluck, at the Rise of Meeting for Worship, to show appreciation for people whose work and/or life has furthered peace and well being in the world. Each member of the community is encouraged to invite one individual to this potluck at which we will express appreciation and support of their work, without any commitment from them to make presentations or lead discussions, which are things normally expected of (and by) such people. The thought is that as these people nurture the society and our community, we want to show our appreciation by "Nurturing the nurturers."

Please attend and, if you can, bring something to this special potluck. Each table will have at least one special guest sitting with the host that invited them, allowing all to be recognized by the meeting at large, and we hope there will also be an opportunity for these people to meet each other. They have also been invited to come to meeting for worship, if they like. Direct any questions to Mark Conley, Barbara Zimmer or Steve Schwartz

Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting April 27th Providence Meeting House

Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will be at Providence on 27th of 4th month. It is a time when the other monthly meetings of our Quarter will join us for worship together. There will be a potluck lunch, followed by business and a brief afternoon program on the historic and contemporary meaning of Quarterly meetings within the Society of Friends. Meeting will provide soup for Quarterly Meeting and a regular coffee hour for those who are not going to stay for Quarterly Meeting. Generally we bring our own lunch and share dessert on Quarterly Meeting Sunday. If you are able it would be nice to provide lunch items or cheese and crackers to augment the soup.

(Published April 21)

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

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

Apr 27 Sun: (p1) Quarterly
Meeting and potluck lunch,
Providence Meeting House

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

Apr 28 Mon: 7pm (p3) Film
"Bully" presentation,
Saylesville Meeting House

May 4 Sun: (p1) May
Breakfast potluck, Providence
Meeting House

May 9 Fri: 3:30pm (p4) Spring
Tea with Moses Brown, Moses
Brown School.

May 11 Sun: 12:00 (p2)
Meeting For Business,
Providence Meeting House

May 17 Sat: 9am-4pm (p5)
Friends and the Internet,
Moses Brown School

May 17 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

May 18 Sun: After rise of
meeting (p1) Peace Workers
Appreciation potluck,
Providence Meeting House

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

June 29: (p2) Friends General
Conference Gathering,
California, PA

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 13th Fourth Month, 2014

1. We gathered at 12:00 pm with twenty-one present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following advice from New England Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* (preliminary approval 2012):

Trust that the Inner Light can lead us beyond our individual perceptions and desires into action grounded in God's truth.

2. Announcements:

New England Yearly Meeting is sponsoring "Friends and the Internet Day" from 9 to 4 on the 17th of 5th month, at Moses Brown School. All are invited.

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

3. Nominations: For the Nominating Committee, Ruth Bourns distributed a proposed list of officers and committees for the year beginning 1st of 6th month 2014. This list was previously distributed electronically for information. Most committee appointments are for three-year terms. The list was approved with one addition and will be appended to these minutes. Committees were reminded that the meeting held in 6th month should be the new committee, and each should select its new clerk. The outgoing clerks have agreed to convene these meetings.

4. Membership: For Ministry and Counsel, David Bourns forwarded a recommendation, following a clearness process, that Barbara Zimmer be accepted as a member of the meeting. He noted that she previously belonged to Storrs (CT) Meeting, but for technical reasons this is a new application rather than a transfer. We approve this recommendation. Bruce and Dede Carlsten agreed to arrange a welcome for her.

David Bourns also presented a transfer letter from Acton (MA) Meeting for Carla Dowben. Acton Meeting approved this transfer in 2010, but we did not receive the transfer until now, although her husband Robert Dowben's transfer was accepted earlier. We accept this transfer.

5. State of the Society Report: David Bourns presented a draft State of the Society Report. The questions were used for discussion during a fellowship meal earlier in the year, and the results compiled with care. Reports from Conanicut Worship Group and Saylesville Meeting were incorporated into the report. After minor editing, we approve this report, asking the recording clerk to edit one sentence for clarity.

6. Use of David Smith Bequest: We have received a proposal for use of the David Smith bequest, which now has a balance of about \$3,600. John Lord proposes purchasing a second (more portable) keyboard for the downstairs fellowship room, plus a suitable stand, for a total of \$500. We approve this purchase.

7. No additional reports were received.

8. We closed with worship at 1:15 pm, intending to meet next on the 11th of 5th month at 12:00 pm at the Providence meetinghouse, God willing.

Daniel Lederer, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Notes from A Newcomer to Meeting

The names of each committee and its clerk listed under Providence Monthly Meeting Contacts helped this newcomer become aware of the gifts and ministries of various members and their contributions to the Meeting; and the reading list provided by the library committee, "Some Books for Newcomers to Providence Meeting for Friends", introduced me to *Faith and Practice of the New England Society of Friends*. While *Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice* had been a long time companion, I found some striking quotations and advices new to me.

Rufus M. Jones, in an excerpt from "The spiritual message of the Religious Society of Friends", (p. 62-65) describes three foundational aspects: faith, as the "essential truth by which we live"; our form of worship, "by which we breathe our higher life"; and service, "by which we express ourselves to the world." Regarding faith, the founders wanted to revive apostolic Christianity, and wished "to revive *the way of life*" revealed in the New Testament, to re-interpret and re-live it in the present world. What George Fox had called "that of God in every man" had come to him as personal experience of "an invading spiritual power" which he linked with "the Fountain of Life which had broken into the course of history with Christ" whom he believed to be "eternally alive and is God continually revealing Himself through the ages to men."

With this in mind, it is easy to agree with *Faith and Practice* (p.127) that study of the Bible and devotional works, especially the testimonies of earlier Friends, along with knowledge of the history of the Society of Friends helps develop spiritual understanding, and, perhaps, the creation, to quote Rufus Jones again, of "fresh, inspiring, illuminating, uplifting messages, which open the gates of life to struggling and discouraged souls in Meeting for Worship."

Reading, and thus a library, can play a key role in the life of the Meeting. The Meeting Library has both new and old books, including a considerable number on the history of the Society of Friends. To check out a book, just write your name, telephone number, and the date on the checkout card, and place it in the check-out card basket. Return borrowed books in the return basket. Members of the library committee will shelve the books and process new books. They also sort through and organize the collections. There remain children's books, among many others, still to be catalogued. If you are interested in helping with the library, contact Rebecca Smith, Clerk of the Library Committee.

One of Rebecca's favorite Quaker books is *Listening to the Light* by Jim Pym, on the Quaker experience as "practical mysticism for ordinary people." Her other favorite is John Woolman's *Journal*. She is passionate about books and history, has served as a Girl Scout Leader for 13 years, volunteers at the Rehoboth Antiquary Society and the Rehoboth Historical Commission - yes, she demonstrates cooking over an open fire while wearing a colonial costume - also for the Small Animal Shelter, photographing small animals that need to be adopted. Just for fun, she participates in the Society for Creative Anachronism as her alter ego, Aceline Barrett, whom she identifies as a 14th century Englishwoman, the lady of a minor manor in medieval times. She's married to Bernie Oakley, MD, whose hobbies include kayaking and hiking in Maine and the far West. Her daughter, Elizabeth Oakley, is a senior in high school, her son, David, is in graduate school earning a PhD in geoscience, and her oldest son, James, works with computers. The family has seven cats and 18 chickens.

Committee work proves a good way to come to know fellow members of Providence Meeting. Even a bookworm can serve.

Adele Bourne briefcndle@aol.com

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

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.

Around the Meeting

Officers and committees assigned – Item three of this month’s minutes refers to the new list of officers and committee assignments for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins June 1. For convenient reference, the complete

list was emailed on April 13 (4:09pm).

Crack Reporters Sought – The Provident FRIEND is your paper, and combines news and events with any article that might promote a Quakerly thought or

reflection – perhaps think of that as a spiritually guided Quaker editorial or op ed piece. Articles about the doings of our members and attenders are welcome as a way for us to know our community better, so please consider

writing something for us to learn from, and send it to Steve Schwartz (the email on page 7 is now working again, or you can send it to steve@absteve.com, or turn in a print or written item). Thanks.

Spring Tea: a Gathering of “Friends”
Friday, May 9, 2014 11th annual afternoon tea

*Come meet and renew acquaintances with friends/Friends
in our mutual communities of Moses Brown School & Providence Monthly Meeting.*

Please join us in celebrating spring, viewing the MB student art show, and wishing well to our MB seniors: Greg Fullam, Josh Jaspers, Alex Patrick, Nick Pohl, Chris Smith-Vidaurre.

3:30-4:30 Art show in Sinclair Room, gathering in Ross 112 (adjacent to Sinclair) for food and conversation

4:30 Short presentation to Quaker seniors

Questions? Contact Galen Hamann, ghamann@mosesbrown.org or Willis Munroe willismonroe@gmail.com.

Conanicut Meeting (Jamestown) Back In It’s Regular Home

As of April 27, Conanicut Friends Meeting (Indulged) will meet weekly in the 1787 Old Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane in Jamestown. 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

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 27: NEYM Quarterly Meeting, Providence [p1]

May 17: Friends and the Internet Day – 9 to 4 at Moses Brown School [p6]

May 18: Peace Worker Pot Luck (p2)

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]

August 2-7: New England Yearly Meeting Sessions, Castleton State College in Castleton, VT (no article yet)

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

From Martha Yager

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. At 8pm, there will be brief talks with Margaret DeVos of Southside Community Land Trust, Amelia Rose from the Environmental Justice League and Ashley Trull of Sol Chariotts Pedicab Cooperative. These groups along with Urban Greens and Farm Fresh RI are will have tables and further information. 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! This is a fundraiser for AFSC-SENE, but don't let money get in the way of participating. Suggested donation \$20.

You can advance register here: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrate-spring-and-local-food-with-afsc-sene-tickets-11146993959> For details and registration information:

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

Friends & the Internet Day Saturday, May 17th 9 to 4

Moses Brown School 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence, RI

Join us for a day

of practical exploration on ways the Internet can help Friends both within and beyond their meetings.

Bring your laptop!

This will be a 'jump in, try it out' day.

Explore:

- Ways online resources can make meeting life better.
- How the internet can help us communicate our Quaker message.
- Social media as outreach— we'll set up a Facebook ad together
- Using the tools you already have more effectively!

Our Guides:

Jeff Hipp, NEYM Communications Director
Brent Bill, FGC New Meetings Project Coordinator
Kathleen Wooten, NEYM Sessions Coordinator
Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, FWCC
Mark Barker, Concord Meeting

Coffee at 9 am, program starts at 9:30 am

Lunch is provided, donations welcomed.

RSVP for planning purposes &/or questions to Beth Collea, recoord@neym.org

Sponsored by: NEYM Ministry & Counsel Resources Working Group

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

The Cost of War

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967), the British poet, author, war hero, and anti-war activist, wrote this poem to celebrate the end of the First World War. It's called Everyone Sang.

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As imprisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on—on—and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun;
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away...O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.

To me the poem conveys the joy that the conclusion of "the war to end all wars" brought to those who had suffered through it, a war with an estimated 16 million persons killed. Of course Sassoon had no way to know at the time that an even greater catastrophe was on the horizon, as more than 60 million would die in WWII. Yet wars continue.

Since 2011, the Costs of War Project (www.costsofwar.org), directed by Catherine Lutz at Brown and Neta Crawford at Boston University, has been documenting the economic, human, social, and political consequences of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the latter now spilling over into Pakistan. What's been the cost of these wars? Let's look at a few numbers: The civilian death toll in these three countries may be as high as 200,000. There are 1.3 million internally displaced Iraqis and 1.4 million refugees from Iraq. After 3 decades of war more than 6 million Afghans have been displaced, and more recently close to 1 million Pakistanis. From 2001 to 2013, more than 6600 US troops and more than 3000 contractors died, plus 675,000 disability claims were approved. Veterans have had to deal with increased rates of alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, and suicide. By the end of 2013 Federal outlays were \$3.1 trillion, with future spending and obligations (such as care for veterans) estimated to raise this eventually to close to \$4 trillion.

But it's hard to comprehend such mind-boggling numbers. Sometimes the story of a single family can bring home the horror of war. As reported by Bob Kerr in the Providence Journal last October, Staff Sgt. Travis Mills, from Michigan, joined the Army shortly after high school and was first deployed to Afghanistan in 2007. He returned home, got married, and was deployed again in 2009. During his next return home he and his wife had a baby girl. His third deployment was in 2012, during which he had the misfortune of setting his equipment bag down on an improvised explosive device that then detonated. The result was that he became one of only five survivors from Iraq or Afghanistan with quadruple amputations. With the help of friends and family he struggles to recover from these grievous injuries, his journey now documented in a film entitled "Travis: A Soldier's Story". (See www.travismills.org). Multiply his ordeal by a factor of thousands and you get a measure of the suffering these wars have caused.

So what can we Quakers do? For one thing, we can identify and advocate for options other than war to deal with terrorism, including political solutions and ways to improve the lives of those living under conditions where despair breeds terrorists. And, on a personal level, we can commit ourselves to trying to be peaceful in all our interactions, remembering that our faith includes the ideas that people yearn for peace, that our being peaceful can make a difference in this world, and that the Inner Light can guide us on that path.

Cooks sought for Quaker Retreats in Westport MA May 9-11 and May 16-18

Nia Thomas IYF and YAF Coordinator, NEYM) is seeking cooks for two upcoming Quaker retreats, and you might be the person she is looking for! Here are some basic details:

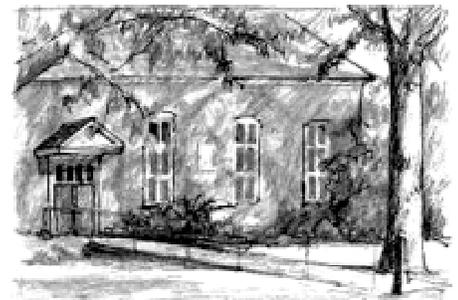
- **Retreat #1:** May 9-11--Westport, MA--for a group of about 30-40 teens plus about 10 adults. The cook does the shopping and makes *simple* breakfast, lunch, dinner, plus snacks on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday and leftovers lunch on Sunday. Stipend is \$250 plus travel.
- **Retreat #2:** May 16-18--Westport, MA--for a group of about 30 adults. The cook does the shopping and makes *simple* breakfast, lunch, dinner, plus snacks on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday and leftovers lunch on Sunday. Stipend is \$250 plus travel.
- Either of these retreats can be cooked for by 1 cook or by a duo splitting the stipend and the work.
- Cooks can either stay overnight at the Meetinghouse in a sleeping bag with the group (we will try to find you a quiet semi-private area) or stay with a friend in the area if you'd like.
- If you don't have a car, we might be able to work something out where you use mine during the weekend (you need a license, though!)
- The people you'll be feeding and working with are wonderful, fun, and grateful people who will do the dishes and help you with some food prep and kitchen cleaning.

Nia can be reached at: yf.yafcoord@neym.org 617-945-0373 Twitter: @youngNEYM

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: Mark Conley peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org
 Social & Hospitality: Dede Carlsten and Kim Wiegand
socialandhospitality@providencefriends.org
 Religious Education: Sarah Baily and Betsy Zimmerman
religioused@providencefriends.org
 Communications: Dan Lederer communications@providencefriends.org
 Program Committee: Nina Berry program@providencefriends.org
 Marriage Clearness: Erin Hazlett marriage@providencefriends.org
 Library: Rebecca Smith library@providencefriends.org
 Archive: archivist@providencefriends.org
 Property: Bob Elliott 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 adulsted@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 (Old Meetinghouse)

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.

Welcome back Dede

Dede Carlsten has not only made great progress, but is already back at meeting and being her ever helpful and involved self.

Thanks for that!

The Provident FRIEND

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