

The Provident FRIEND

Sept 2014

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

CELEBRATE WORLD QUAKER DAY, OCTOBER 5 – from Betsy Cazden

Providence Meeting will join Friends around the world in a celebration of "World Quaker Day" on Sunday, October 5. This is a new project of Friends World Committee for Consultation (www.fwccworld.org) (where I serve as Clerk of the global Central Executive Committee). Here is FWCC's invitation:

As the sun rises in each area of the world, we want to join in worship, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. We are united in love and can accompany each other on this special day that draws us together. Let us be aware of each other as the sun rises, and let our hymns of praise resound across the world. The theme is **Let Your Life Speak; Living the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice**, connecting us to the work we did at the World Conference of Friends in 2012 in Kenya, taking the work forward in the context of our spiritual communities.

Our hope is that meetings will upload photos and videos of their celebrations, so we can really feel this as a global event. We also hope meetings and individuals will "pass the hat" or make some additional donations to support FWCC's work.

How will Providence participate? (cont p 3)

September 20 and 21 Events from Martha Yager (AFSC-SENE)

Peace Walk - Saturday Sept 20, noon: The last day of the Little Rhody Peace March, which started in Westerly and goes to Providence, will start at noon at the yoga studio at 14 Bartlett Avenue in Cranston, and continue to Providence, where we will join the Peace Meditation Walk from Memorial Park (South Main St.) to the Wall of Hope (near Water Place Park). Partial walkers are welcome. Let me know if you have interest in participating. myager@afsc.org

People's Climate March - Sunday Sept 21, New York City: World leaders are gathering in New York City for a crucial climate change meeting on September 21st. It is important that they hear from the people that (cont p6)

Film "Renewal" Wed. Sept. 17, 7pm, Providence Meetinghouse

Communications Committee will be sponsoring Meeting Movie Night at 7:00 PM Wednesday September 17. The film to be shown is "Renewal", a 90 minute documentary which addresses what the producers describe as "a spiritual call to confront the enormous challenges of environmental degradation" by looking at examples from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions. Admission is free and there will be coffee and cookies.

(Published September 18)

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

Sept 17 Wed: 7pm Movie Night at Providence Meeting House (p1)

Sept 20 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

Sept 20 Sat: 12pm Peace Walk, Cranston & Providence (p1)

Sept 21 Sun: People's Climate March, New York City (p1)

Sept 28 Sun: 3-6pm Sacred Harp Sing at Providence Meeting House

Oct 3-5 Fri-Sun: Young Friends Retreat, Leverett MA (p5)

Oct 5 Sun: 10am World Quaker Day (p1)

Oct 12 Sun: 12:00 Meeting For Business, Saylesville Meeting House.

Oct 17-19 Fri-Sun: Young Adult Friends Retreat, Wellesley MA (p5)

Oct 18 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

Oct 19 Sun: Last day to supply bulbs for Fall Planting (p 7)

Oct 26 Sun: (p7) Fall planting, Providence Meeting House

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

Dec 13 Sat: Holiday gathering, Providence Meeting House

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 14 Ninth Month, 2014

1. We gathered at 12:00 noon at the Saylesville meetinghouse, with eleven present. In the opening silence, we considered the following Advice, from NEYM Faith and Practice (Interim revision, 2012):

Ground your spiritual life in your own experience of the Divine. Speak and act from that experience.

2. Announcements:

Communications Committee will be sponsoring Meeting Movie Night at 7:00 pm on Ninth mo. 17. The film to be shown is "Renewal", a 90 minute documentary which presents "a spiritual call to confront the enormous challenges of environmental degradation" by looking at examples from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions. Admission is free and there will be coffee and cookies.

On Tenth mo. 5th, the meeting will join Friends around the world in celebrating "World Quaker Day," with a program for the First Day School and an international-flavor potluck. More information will be sent out on the e-mail list and the newsletter.

3. Memorial meeting: Joanne Griffin reported that she is working with the family and close associates of our deceased member Bill Ruggiero to set a date, likely in October, for a memorial service at the Saylesville Meetinghouse.

4. Finance Committee: Mike Hirtle reported that the committee had approved moving the funds that have been in Pax World Fund to Friends Fiduciary Corporation. The FFC has a strong social responsibility policy, including a new "Green Fund" that avoids investing in fossil fuels.

Finance Committee also reminds the meeting that we are holding about \$158,000 that was donated some years ago for an addition to the Providence Meetinghouse, and has not been used.

The committee plans to invite Property Committee to meet with it, to discuss issues of common concern.

The Board of Managers of NEYM Pooled Funds, on which our members Matt Hackman and Libby Edgerly serve, is looking for guidance from meetings and constituents on its social screening, including two issues that have been raised by Friends, fossil fuels and companies seen to be contributing to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Finance Committee will be looking for timely ways to engage our meeting in that conversation.

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented an interim report on the first quarter of FY 2015. He noted that contributions are running significantly ahead of usual for this time of year. He also clarified the distinction between donor-restricted funds and those which the meeting has designated for a particular purpose but could decide to change. We believe it would be useful to compile more complete information on the purposes of all of the meeting's designated and restricted funds.

6. Saylesville: The meetinghouse will host a program on Ninth mo. 16, in conjunction with Historic New England and Arnold House, of photographs by Richard Benjamin. The meetinghouse will be open to the public on Ninth mo. 27, as part of the annual "Great Road Day."

7. Library Committee: Rebecca Smith reported that the committee has continued to reposition the books to make them more accessible. Friends are encouraged to let the committee know of books that should be considered for purchase. An interim version of the revised NEYM Faith and Practice has been printed, and we have a copy in the library; the revision committee welcomes Friends' comments and feedback.

8. Conanicut Worship Group: Gayen Thompson reported that the meeting has had up to twenty attenders during the summer, at the 1780s Conanicut meetinghouse. Visitors are always welcome.

The Treasurer raised a question about the Conanicut funds that are managed by Friends Fiduciary Corporation. This is an endowed fund, the income of which is used for maintenance on the meetinghouse (through the Jamestown Historical Society). He noted that FFC now has several options for investment, including a new "Green Fund." The Treasurer plans to consult with Conanicut Friends about moving the Conanicut Trust Fund into this Green Fund.

9. We adjourned at 1:15 pm after a period of silence, intending to meet next on the 12th of 10th month at the Saylesville meetinghouse, God willing.

WORLD QUAKER DAY (cont from p 1)

- I will be spending the morning with our First Day School, showing them some pictures of Quakers in other parts of the world. We will make a banner to send a message to Quakers around the world, and upload a photograph of it to FWCC.
- I encourage people to bring international foods to our regularly-scheduled first-Sunday potluck. Foods from countries that have Quakers would be especially appropriate; you can check the map at <http://fwccamericas.org/Map.shtml>.
- I'll have a table during the potluck for people who want to hear or talk about Quakers in other parts of the world.
- Before meeting, watch a video of Friends from all four regions talking about their faith, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZuBED7sovK&feature=youtu.be>;
or listen to spoken word artist Jon Watt's musical setting of the Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIsSSYbk1uI>;
or watch a video about the 2012 World Conference in Kenya, at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/FollowTheConference>.
or read the Kabarak Call text at <http://www.saltandlight2012.org/kabarak-call-peace-and-ecojustice>.
- During meeting for worship, take a few minutes to uphold the work and worship of Friends around the world, as they have already been praying for us since sunrise in the Pacific region. You may want to reflect on these queries:
 1. How is the life of our meeting enriched by the awareness of Friends in other countries?
 2. How can we bring the essence of the [Kabarak Call](#) into our worshipping community?
 3. How does the [Kabarak Call](#) affect your sense of our Quaker voice for change in the world and its spiritual imperative?
 4. As someone encounters you, what could they learn about Quakerism by the choices you make and the things you do?
- Consider making a donation (tax-deductible) to support FWCC's work, in addition to the \$100 that is in the Providence Meeting budget. You can give cash or checks to me on October 5, or mail checks directly to FWCC, 1506 Race St. Philadelphia, PA 19102 (put "WQD" in memo field), or donate online through the secure link at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/donate/index.shtml>.

Questions? Just ask – I love talking about FWCC and my experience with Quakers in Cuba, Kenya, and elsewhere.

Betsy Cazden

NEYM Quaker Passports for Monthly Meeting Intervisitation

The Ministry and Counsel Committee of New England Yearly Meeting has introduced "Quaker Passports" as a way to make travel among meetings more visible, and encourage intervisitation. Approximately 300 Quaker Passports were distributed at our Annual Sessions in Vermont. There is even a process for a visitor to request that someone stamp or sign your Meeting's page in the passport to verify her/his visit.

Traveling to other meetings helps us know how other Quakers practice their faith. Building community with them helps us all deepen our spirituality and be a stronger Quaker family. Many Friends have never visited a meeting other than their own; this program is designed to encourage travel by those who might not otherwise do so, to get more of a sense of the depth and breadth of Friends outside of their meeting. We are making special effort to encourage youth and Young Adult Friends participation. For more information please contact a member of the Quaker Passport subcommittee.

Yours in the Light,

Diane Dicranian, jpdd@tds.net, Beth Gorton, gorton_beth@yahoo.com
Jerry Sazama, gerald.sazama@uconn.edu

Around the Meeting

Free Guppies – (from Pam Dahlberg) We have a pond full of guppies who need a home before the Fall weather settles in. Is anyone (or a biology classroom)

interested in some or more than some? Pam

Camp Street Community Ministries - Continuing donations of canned and boxed foods, personal grooming items, and

children's books are needed. The box for Camp Street is in the rostrum in the meetinghouse foyer.

Seeks Employment - Philippe Roussel is

looking for work, hopefully relating to environmental issues and his skills getting an MBA. Reach him at: 612 423 4069

“Peace and Justice First Day” series starts Sept 21 after rise of meeting

Peace and Social Concerns Committee would like to announce the beginning of its “Peace and Justice First Day” series. We will begin September 21 after the rise of Meeting and a brief time for refreshments. Betsy Cazden will speak about Friends Meetings and their past relation to social movements and protest. Following that, Martha Yager and a student from Brown will speak about last year's protest at Brown and Martha's support for it. For more information, please contact Mark Conley.

New Doors, Keys and Mailboxes at Providence Meetinghouse

All four exterior meetinghouse doors have been repaired or replaced, and new keys are required for them. All interior doors have also been updated to a new but DIFFERENT key than the outside door key, so two keys are needed instead of the previous one. If you have a need for either of these, please contact Dan Lederer.

Also, the front door needs to be locked with a key, so please be sure someone with a key locks it, and if you are the last person leaving, please check it to be sure it has been properly done. Thanks to Nina for managing the new keys and new mailboxes.

Letter from Mariana Garrettson and Jordan Taylor (~Sept 11, 2014)

Jordan and Greta and I have moved to Chicago for the next stage in the adventure which is our lives! Jordan has a job with a very dynamic artist named Theaster Gates. Greta is happy in her new school and Mariana is still working on figuring out the chronic fatigue syndrome-like illness that has plagued her all year and is what kept us from being able to attend MFW this past year almost at all.

Please give our warmest greetings and farewells to folks in the Meeting. We were sorry to not be able to come one last time to say goodbye, but we ended up being out of the state all summer and then had a few short days to pack up and move.

In the Light, Mariana and Jordan

Members Recuperating

Ruth Gates is doing well recovering from surgery, and would welcome calls, cards and short visits. If Friends call Lynn Health Care, the facility has a mobile phone that they can carry into her room:

Ruth Gates Lynn Health Care Center 30 Alexander Ave East Providence, RI 02914 (401) 438-7210

Dieter Gomes is at home in Lincoln RI, and getting stronger. He can be contacted at:

H: 401-728-4184 C:401-243-3175 hghansdieter@gmail.com

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]

September 11- 20: Peace Walk through Rhode Island- [June p5]

Sept. 21: People's Climate March in New York City- [June p5/6]

Dec 13 Sat: Holiday gathering, Providence Meeting House

Young Friends, Young Adult Friends and Retreats

Nia Thomas is the Young Friends (high school) and Young Adult Friends Coordinator for NEYM, and is available to the teens, young adults and their families in your meeting for pastoral care or Quaker networking. Please feel free to contact her at nia@neym.org or at [\(617\) 945-0373](tel:6179450373).

She also updates the YF and YAF part of the NEYM database, a challenge with young people frequently changing their addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone number. Please inform her of new information for any Friends 14-35 years old who would like to be connected with NEYM and informed of Young Friends and YAF program events and opportunities.

2014-2015 Young Friends (grades 9-12) Retreats

- Oct. 3-5 **Living the Light** Mt. Toby Meeting, Leverett, MA
- Nov. 14-16 **Make Food, Art, Music (Not War!)** Portland Meeting, ME
- Dec. 27-30 **Different Forms of Quakerism** Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA
- Feb. 13-15 **The Rejuvenation Retreat** Wellesley Meeting, MA
- Mar. 20-22 **Relationships, Sexuality & Gender** Hartford Meeting, CT
- May 8-10 **Transitions: Change and Purpose** Westport Meeting, MA

The next two Young Adult Friends (YAF) retreats are:

- October 17-19, 2014 at Wellesley Meeting in Wellesley, MA
- January 1-4, 2015 at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA

To learn more or to register, please visit neym.org/young-friends or contact Nia (see above).



On a beautiful day this past July, some friends remained after meeting to spin yarn, and some stayed to watch and learn and talk. An exquisite moment.



Quaker Pamphlet relating to LGBT Issues At In-Depth Exhibit

In 1963 a working group of British Quakers published a pamphlet, *Towards a Quaker View of Sex*, that was one of the first religious texts to propose a more open and accepting view of homosexuality. A group of historians and gay/lesbian activists has put together an online exhibit about the pamphlet and its influence, using primary source documents, interviews, and photographs. (AFSC is one of the co-sponsors of the exhibit, and the historians consulted include many respected Quaker scholars and archives).

You can view the exhibit at <http://exhibits.lgbtran.org/exhibits/show/towards-a-quaker-view-of-sex>.

Betsy Cazden

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

A Quaker Dilemma

Looking back on the events that led up to World War II, in particular the rise of the Nazi party in Germany, some historians have argued that better decision-making might have averted the conflict that ensued. Perhaps if the terms of the Treaty of Versailles had not imposed reparations on Germany, and if somehow the world-wide Depression of the 1930's had been avoided, Hitler and his party might not have gained power. But they did, and they brought with them the goal of enslaving the rest of Europe as well as annihilating its Jews (along with others that they singled out). The conventional wisdom is that the threat they posed had to be stopped, and it was stopped, although doing so required horrific violence. Whether all the methods used against Germany were necessary, such as the firebombing of Dresden, is debated to this day.

The same could be said about Japan. Their policy was expansionism, and their methods were brutal, the massacre in Nanking that occurred in 1937 being only one example. But there is considerable documentation that FDR's policy was to provoke them into attacking us by helping to supply China in its war with Japan and by participating in an embargo against Japan. Could the attack on Pearl Harbor have been prevented? Perhaps. Was it necessary for us to use atomic weapons against Japan? Maybe not. In hindsight these questions can be debated endlessly, but there is no debate about the fact that, by the time the war was over in 1945, more than 60 million persons had died world-wide.

A somewhat analogous set of circumstances exists today in the Middle East. The situation seems dire and again the questions come up: Shouldn't we have been more skeptical about the claim that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction? Could we have done more to encourage a more inclusive government in Iraq? Could we somehow have diverted the many disaffected Muslim youth that are drawn to jihad? Perhaps, but at this point the Islamic State (also referred to as ISIS or ISIL) has taken over extensive territory in Iraq and Syria, imposing on others its extremist interpretation of Islam and committing all kinds of atrocities, the beheading of two American journalists being only the latest example. We are horrified by their actions, and yet among many in this country there is reluctance to intervene. In response to this hesitation, the President has declared "no boots on the ground", but this promise has already been broken. Are we on a slippery slope that will lead to all-out war? Is war justified when we are faced with such depravity? And if so, will the people previously deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq be the only ones fighting, or will the rest of us be asked to share the sacrifice?

And there are questions for us as Quakers: There is ongoing discussion of war crimes, but isn't war itself a crime? Is there ever a situation when war is justified? Under the present circumstances, is voicing our opposition to war going to be at all helpful? I'm having trouble answering these questions for myself, so I seek your guidance. Please, Friends, let's hear from you.

September 20 and 21 Events from Martha Yager (AFSC-SENE) (cont from p1)

we demand that they take courageous action to save our planet. Let them know that we demand commitment to principles of environmental justice and equality — that we are there representing the communities that are being hit the hardest by climate change. Some detailed information is at this Sierra Club site:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/peoples-climate-march/transportation>

AND NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP: We are approaching the end of our fiscal year and still have several thousand dollars to raise. Please go to afsc.org/office/providence-ri and click on the donate button. Your financial support is what makes this work possible. We get very few grants and rely on the generosity of our donors to keep this work going. You can make a one time donation or sign up for monthly donations. Thank you so much!!

In peace and solidarity, Martha Yager AFSC-SENE program coordinator.

First Day School Fall Planting Oct 26 – Bulbs Needed by Oct 19

Each year the First Day School plants bulbs in the fall that will emerge as daffodils, tulips and hyacinths in the spring. Please bring a small package of bulbs to contribute to our Meeting House landscaping and our mutual sense of preparation for the quiescence of winter, which will cycle into a season of renewal. Boxes will be marked to accept your donation. Thank you.

First Day School

Group Email Now Working for YAF – Available For Other Groups and Committees

Steve Schwartz (from Communications Committee) has worked with Megan Smith and Sylvie Re to create an easy to use group email using Google Groups. For members who have been added to the group, any email sent to the address "yaf-providence@googlegroups.com" will go to all the members of the group. If someone is not a member, that address will not do anything. If you would like to be added to the YAF email list, ask Sylvie or Megan or Steve, and they will put you on.

For any other group or committee, a similar thing can be done. The big advantage is that as soon as an update is made to the Google Group, anyone using it will be sending to all the current members (no worrying about replying to an old email with missing members, etc.). It takes about five minutes to do this, using the "Create Group" button near the top of the page at <https://groups.google.com/forum>. Anyone is welcome to request help from Steve doing this.

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 (To Be Named) 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: Mike Hirtle 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.

New Newsletter Deadlines

A new process has been instituted for this newsletter:

DEADLINE = First 1st Day (Sunday) of the month.

PUBLICATION = as soon as possible after Meeting For Business.

The editor continues to ask for help with this newsletter. A gracious offer to do some preparatory work has been very helpful and greatly appreciated. A co-worker to meet and work with is still sought. This could be different people in different months. Please send any response or questions to Steve@absteve.com, or 401-273-7076, or see Steve Schwartz.

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