

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Friendly Eights – New Start, Saturday November 15

Friendly Eights is a lovely event wherein folks gather into small groups of approximately 8 people in a Friend's home for a potluck dinner and then friendly discussion. Often the conversation begins with a query or advice and takes off from there. These are a wonderful way to get to know people in the Meeting, and at least 24 people have expressed interest so far.

Saturday, November 15th, 2014 from 6-9 pm will be the first gathering scheduled. For the next one, we have set Saturday, February 28th, 2015. This is an ongoing program, and as long as there is interest, will gather about every Quarter or so - if you can't make it this time, hopefully you'll be able to attend the next one!

If you have signed up but have a conflict with the November 15 date, please let Ariana Steele know. Also please let her know if you are interested in attending or hosting, at 401-461-2168 or fancyoats@gmail.com

Activities from Program Committee From Nina Berry

The committee is looking into community building activities and events for the Meeting. Friends who have taken charge of events in the past have a need to step down so we are seeking people who would like to step up. We are also seeking new ideas for fundraising and community building events.

If you might be interested in running the Yard Sale or an alternative event next fall, the May Breakfast, a crafts fair, a plant sale, an art sale, or an event you have dreamed up, please talk to us. We can offer lots of advice, and you will have support. Please contact Nina Berry at program@providencefriends.org. Our next meeting is November 2nd, and we would love to be discussing your ideas and how we can make them happen.

FRIENDLY EIGHTS: We are pleased to announce that Ariana Steele is restarting Friendly Eights dinners. Please see the article above.

Nov 16 – Peace & Social Justice Event

The next in the monthly Peace and Social Justice First Day series will be Nov 16th. We will begin at 11:30 upstairs at the Providence Meetinghouse after worship and a time for fellowship downstairs. We encourage Friends from Saylesville and Conanicut to join us as well. Following a plan designed by the committee, this next event switches from the previous talk's Local focus to a more Global focus, concentrating on the long-running Israel-Palestine conflict. We will hear from a representative from J Street RI, the state chapter of the national organization (<http://jstreet.org/>), along with a speaker from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL, at <http://fcnl.org>).

(Published October 29.)

Calendar (also see p4 Events)

Nov. 1 Sat: (p3) 9am-4pm
Clerking workshop,
Cambridge, MA.

Nov. 2 Sun: (p4) 10:30 am
First 'winter location'
Conanicut meeting for
worship, Jamestown

Nov. 4 Tues: Election Day.

Nov. 6, 8, 12: AFSC-SENE
recommended events (p 6)

Nov. 9 Sun: 12:00 Meeting
For Business, Providence
Meeting House.

Nov 15 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

Nov 15 Sat: (p1) 6-9pm
Friendly Eights, various
locations.

Nov 16 Sat: 11:30 am (p1)
Peace and Social Justice event,

Nov 20-21: (p5) Quaker Public
Policy Institute, Washington
D.C.

Nov 23 Sun: 3-6pm Sacred
Harp Sing at Providence
Meeting House

Dec 3 Wed: (p5) 7-9pm
Abolitionist talk, Rehoboth.

Dec 13 Sat: Holiday gathering,
Providence Meeting House

**Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Minutes – 12 Tenth Month, 2014**

1. We gathered at Saylesville meetinghouse at 12:00 noon, with fourteen present. In the opening worship, the clerk read an Advice from *NEYM Faith and Practice* (Interim printing, 2014):

Speak with your own voice, using terms true to your experience. Offer the message you are given in simplicity and sincerity, dispensing with preamble, apology, or justification.

2. Announcements:

A memorial service for our member William Ruggiero will take place at 2:00 pm on the 18th of this month at the Saylesville meetinghouse. Although the service is being held at Saylesville, this is a meeting-wide activity, so all Providence Monthly Meeting members and attenders are invited.

Rhode Island-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting will be held on the 19th of this month at the Smithfield meetinghouse, beginning with Meeting for Worship at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

3. Correspondence: A RI Interfaith Power & Light conference entitled “Interfaith Action on Climate Change,” with a speech by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, will take place on the 15th of this month, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street, Providence (across from the Providence Place parking garage). There is a \$15 registration fee.

4. On behalf of Ministry and Counsel, Kathi Lyons brought the following recommendations:

Jules Burrowes has requested membership in the meeting. She was born into membership in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but her membership records have apparently been lost or lapsed so this is not formally a transfer. We approve this recommendation, and ask Kathi Lyons to coordinate a welcome for Jules, probably at our next regularly scheduled potluck.

Ministry and Counsel has been considering the question of an Assistant Presiding Clerk, who according to our practice may succeed to the position of Presiding Clerk. They bring forward the name of Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, who has agreed to serve. We approve this appointment, effective immediately.

Ministry and Counsel has noted that the Funeral and Burial Grounds Committee is currently short-handed, and that it would be useful to have another member of Ministry and Counsel on it. Kathi Lyons has agreed to serve in this role. We approve this appointment.

5. For Finance Committee, Mike Hirtle noted that our meeting handbook calls for an annual “audit” of the meeting’s books. This has not been done in quite a few years. The Finance Committee believes it would be good practice to resume doing annual reviews, though not a full audit in the legal sense. We concur with that policy. Matt Hackman has already been appointed to serve; it was felt that a second auditor/reviewer should be added who is not currently a member of the Finance Committee. Bruce Carlsten is willing to serve and has the needed skills. We approve this appointment.

6. For Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Mark Conley brought a concern about our relationship with RI Interfaith Power & Light. In 2008 we took steps to join RI-IPL (see minute 4th mo. 2008 # 10), but have not recently been active or paid dues. Peace and Social Concerns recommends that the meeting renew its active participation in RI-IPL, by paying the annual dues, and re-engaging with RI-IPL’s mission and work. For this year, Peace and Social Concerns requests that the dues of \$50 be paid from the discretionary fund, with the expectation that in future budgets it would be a recognized line. We approve this expenditure and concur with Peace and Social Concerns’ proposal to re-engage the meeting with this work.

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

7. Finance Committee Report: Mike Hirtle noted that the budget cycle for next year begins shortly; he will be contacting committees. The committee anticipates sending an appeal letter soon to our mailing list.

Following up on the request from the NEYM Pooled Funds for advice on its social investment policy, the Finance Committee reached unity on the following minute:

There appeared to be consensus that the Board of Managers should move to divest from fossil fuel related investments, but that such divestment should take place in an orderly manner such that adverse economic impacts to the Pooled Funds are minimized. In addition, the Board of Managers should seek alternative energy investments that do not involve fossil fuels or contribute to global warming.

The Finance Committee feels that this minute should properly come from the meeting as a whole. It will be held over to give Friends an opportunity to review and season it.

Mike also presented, for information, a "Global Investor Statement on Climate Change" signed by several hundred fund managers and organizations. The Finance Committee would like the meeting to consider asking NEYM to join as a signatory to this policy statement. It will be brought back for consideration after Friends have had an opportunity to read it in full (text at <http://investorsonclimatechange.org/>).

8. Ministry and Counsel report: The committee reports that it has expended \$1,500, from the Deborah Jenks Fund and the committee's discretionary line, to support our member Hannah Monroe's work this year with Quaker Voluntary Service in Atlanta, Georgia.

9. Saylesville Friends ask that we hold Joanne Griffin in the Light as she is experiencing some health challenges.

10. No further business appearing, we adjourned at 1:10 pm, intending to meet next on the 9th of 11th month at Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

Clerking Basics for Clerks, Committee Clerks, and the Rest of Us
Saturday, November 1, 2014, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Quakers have developed unique ways of worship, decision-making, discernment, and community-building. The meeting for business is a time and place for all members to share in caring for the total life of the meeting. All of the participants are leaders - meeting for business is most effective when everyone takes responsibility for leadership. This workshop will be an opportunity for Friends to explore together how all members can help the meeting faithfully consider the business before them in a centered and worshipful manner, whether in monthly meeting for business or in doing the work of the committees.

Nancy and David Haines will lead this workshop. Please RSVP Tom Sander (tom_sander@harvard.edu). Coffee/tea will be served and a simple light lunch.

Nursery Practice Reviewed

To clarify the nursery dismissal policy, the nursery staff will bring out the children to the meeting along with first day school just prior to announcements. We ask that they be ready on time (11am) so that announcements are not delayed while allowing time for everyone to get settled. Parents are requested to keep their children relatively calm during announcements so that everyone can hear.

Around the Meeting

Ruggiero Memorial - A Meeting-wide memorial service for Bill Ruggiero took place at 2:00 PM on Saturday October 18 at the Saylesville

Meetinghouse.

Camp Street Needs - Please share with those in need. Bring food - even one can - and

toiletries for Camp Street Community Ministries here to the box in the meetinghouse foyer.

New Directory – Dan emailed an updated Meeting Directory on Oct. 13. Please replace your previous version with this update.

Thanks From NEYM Young Friends – *from Nia Thomas*

Thank you for welcoming the Young Friends Ministry and Counsel so warmly into your meetinghouse early this month. Our retreat was blessed with true togetherness and openness to the Spirit. I remain grateful for your friendly hospitality. Let's worship together again.

Winter Schedule at Conanicut (Jamestown) Meeting

The Conanicut Meeting For Worship starts its winter schedule on Nov.2, and will meet every other Sunday through the spring, at Mabel's Studio at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, at 10:30 am. For further information, contact Marcia Lindsay at 423-9122 or 667-3712 or marcie.knox@gmail.com

Update from Mariana Garrettson and Jordan Taylor (*~Sept 29, 2014*)

Dear Friends:

This will be a brief update, followed by a specific request.

We have landed in Chicago and are happily in the process of settling in. Greta is doing well at a regional school for gifted students, including riding the bus! Jordan is very excited to be an artist in residence at Theater Gates Studios.

We are requesting a small but specific act of assistance. For people facing difficult times, Quakers have a tradition of "Holding in the Light" those individuals and their concerns. In whatever manner suits you, we are requesting that you hold Mariana in the Light, or, in other words, that you keep her in your thoughts.

She has had extreme fatigue, and sometimes also nausea and dizziness, and has needed to be on medical leave from work since Sept 2013. She will be meeting all new care providers here in Chicago, and does not yet have a specific diagnosis despite extensive testing.

We do not at this time need any other kind of assistance, but would like to move forward with the knowledge that our various communities have her health concerns in mind. Please feel free to share this information, or this email, with Mariana and Jordan's friends, Quaker Meetings they have attended, etc.

Yours In Gratitude,

Jordan, Mariana and Greta [Note: Jordan can be reached at jordantaylorclay@gmail.com, Mariana at marianag@email.unc.edu]

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]

Nov. 14-16 Young Friends retreat - Make Food, Art, Music (Not War!) Portland Meeting, ME [Sept p5]

Dec 13 Sat: Holiday gathering, Providence Meeting House

Dec. 27-30 Young Friends retreat - Different Forms of Quakerism Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA [Sept p5]

January 1-4, 2015 YAF (Young Adult Friends) retreat at Woolman Hill in Deerfield, MA [Sept p5]

Feb. 13-15 Young Friends retreat - The Rejuvenation Retreat Wellesley Meeting, MA [Sept p5]

Mar. 20-22 Young Friends retreat - Relationships, Sexuality & Gender Hartford Meeting, CT [Sept p5]

May 8-10 Young Friends retreat - Transitions: Change and Purpose Westport Meeting, MA [Sept p5]

Young Adult Friends Quaker Public Policy Institute November 20-21, Washington D.C.

From Nia Thomas

The Friends Committee on National Legislation is hosting the Quaker Public Policy Institute November 20-21, and they are especially encouraging young adults to attend. This year, attendees will be lobbying congress on the importance of diplomacy in the Middle East as an alternative to war, right before the end of the diplomatic negotiations with Iran.

For information, please contact Shannon Palmer at Shannon@fcnl.org. The website includes information about possible financial assistance: http://fcnl.org/events/annual_meeting/am14/



TALK: *Patience Brayton: Rehoboth's First Abolitionist,*

Carpenter Museum (Rehoboth) December 3, 7-9pm *from Rebecca Smith*

Friends may be interested in this talk about Friend Patience (Greene) Brayton. Mary Ann McDonald and Diane Goodwin of the Somerset Historical Society will give a talk about Patience Brayton, who lived in Rehoboth in the 1700s and was an Early American Quaker abolitionist. A short account written by her monthly meeting is online at <https://archive.org/details/shortaccountofli00brayiala>

The event is free, and no reservations are required. The Museum is located at 4 Locust Ave., and for more information (entry door, parking, etc.), the Museum telephone number is 508-252-3031 – also see <http://www.carpentermuseum.org/>.

Sally and Thomas Freestone End of Year Retirement

Best wishes to Tyler Lewis' mom, Sally Freestone. She has been running the Freestone Pottery in Foster RI for almost 30 years, will be retiring with her husband Thomas in December and plans on filling orders through the end of the year. The pottery is located at 48 Mount Hygeia Road, with freestonepottery.com as a website, and Sally can be reached at freestonepots@verizon.net or 401-533-3724.

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

The Value of Kindness

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Helen Keller

My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness. Dalai Lama

NYC graphic artist R. J. Palacio's first novel will provide an entirely new perspective for many readers. It's a children's book entitled "Wonder", which you may have heard of since it's received a lot of press and has spent many weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list. This is somewhat surprising since it's aimed at middle schoolers, with the story narrated by several fifth graders, kids in the 10 to 11 year old range. Despite this focus on youngsters, once you start reading it you realize that the author's message, while certainly appropriate for children of that age, also has much to say to adults of any age.

The title was inspired by the Natalie Merchant song "Wonder", which begins with:

Doctors have come from distant cities

Just to see me

Stand over my bed

Disbelieving what they're seeing

They say I must be one of the wonders

Of god's own creation

And as far as they can see they can offer

No explanation.

The story is about a boy named August, born with a congenital facial disfiguration that's severe enough to shock anyone who sees him for the first time. His parents, in an effort to protect him from teasing and bullying, have home schooled him up until the point when the narrative begins, as he and they contemplate enrolling him in a private school. He decides to have a go at it, and the book then chronicles the ups and downs of his time in the fifth grade, during which he, his classmates, and his teachers learn about the nature of courage, the meaning of friendship, and the value of kindness. The book delivers a message that should appeal to Quakers, specifically that, no matter how different others may seem and even how frightening they may appear, we all come from the same Source and are, in the spiritual sense, brothers and sisters.

"Wonder" is a work of fiction, so the events it describes didn't actually happen, but the underlying truths in it are real. For me, reading this book was an uplifting experience, and I would predict it will be the same for you. Some of it may make you cry, but it will leave you with a smile. If you decide to read it, and I hope you do, please let me and other Friends know your reaction. I think it could be the basis for a lively and useful conversation.

Upcoming Events from Martha Yager (AFSC-SENE) 508-399-6699 sene@afsc.org

Thurs. Nov.6, 7pm - Sharon Rallis (U.Mass Amherst) speaking on her work in the West Bank and Gaza at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes St Providence.

Thurs. November 6, 7pm Iraq and Syria: Holy Wars Again? Program with George Kassis, who worked in the region for many years with various UN programs. Rochambeau Public Library, 708 Hope St. Providence.

November 8th, 9am-5pm MIT (Cambridge, MA) one day conference: Foreign Policy for All. A panel (Phyllis Bennis, Noam Chomsky, Bill Fletcher, Steven Kinzer and Judith LaBlanc) will respond to a prepared paper, followed by a day of workshops. \$10-\$35 fee includes coffee and lunch. More information and the paper can be found at <http://masspeaceaction.org/>

Wed. November 12, 5:30pm Way of Nonviolence: An Evening with Peace Educators MJ and Jerry Park. The couple director Little Friends for Peace, a Washington DC-based nonprofit providing a variety of peace education programs. \$25 to support the work of the Center for Nonviolent Solutions. 320 Jefferson Hall, Clark University 950 Main St, Worcester 774- 641-1566 <http://www.nonviolentsolution.org/>

First Day School Banner From World Quaker Day

On October 5, World Quaker Day, attendees of First Day School celebrated by making this fun banner!



Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts

Providence Meeting (401) 331-4218 <http://providencelfriends.org>
99 Morris Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

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Property: Bob Elliott property@providencelfriends.org

Funeral & Burial: Matt Hackman funeralandburial@providencelfriends.org

Newsletter: Steve Schwartz providentfriend@providencelfriends.org

Email list moderator: Dan Lederer list@providencelfriends.org

Website: webclerk@providencelfriends.org

Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe liaison@providencelfriends.org

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

To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw scheduling@providencelfriends.org

AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or myager@afsc.org or
www.afsc.org/sene



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 (Mabels Studio)
Nov 2, 16,30 Dec 14, 28

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.

VOTE AND HELP VOTERS

Thursday November 4 is Election Day. Whatever your convictions, I urge you to vote. Even if you think your vote does not matter, because you are sure your candidate will win or lose, show the world you went. I have often gone when I hated both candidates, signed in, and left the ballot blank, because I wanted to be counted as having actively shown my dissatisfaction. Imagine what the headlines would be if 10 million citizens went, signed in, and left the ballots blank or perhaps filled in a write-in line with "None of the above."

But we can hopefully be more effective. If you have time, help an organization get people to the polls with calls and/or rides. Many organizations do this – one longstanding one is League of Women Voters (401-434-6440, <http://www.lwv.org/>). If you have particular leanings, you can easily find an agreeable group that is seeking help, even (especially!) at this late hour, because so many races around the country are so close.

Steve Schwartz

The Provident FRIEND

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
99 Morris Avenue
Providence, RI 02906