

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

RI Interfaith Power and Light - Potluck and Annual Meeting

Feb 2, 6–8:30pm Westminster Unitarian Church, East Greenwich RI

Interfaith Power & Light is a national organization that focuses on Climate Change and what congregations can do to minimize our production of carbon and other pollutants that exacerbate climate change. It has just been announced that 2014 was the warmest year on record. We enjoy the less harsh winter at the expense of sea level rise, more intense storms, loss of economically important species. What can we do?

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light urges Providence Friends Meeting to attend its annual meeting on Monday, February 2, 6 p.m. Find what other congregations are doing to reduce their gasoline and other energy uses that increase climate change. Please contact Eugenia Marks (401-272-8424 or emarks66@gmail.com) to join her at IPL's pot-luck dinner and annual meeting in the Westminster Unitarian Church, East Greenwich. The event is free, and there is more information and a request to RSVP at

<http://www.ri-ipl.org/>

“Village Movement” Presentation Potluck - 6pm - Feb 2 or Feb 3

Please contact Betsy Zimmerman asap with interest and preference

The “Village” model is a way for residents to stay in their neighborhoods as they age, allowing them to lead safe, healthy productive lives in their own homes. First created 15 years ago by a group of seniors in Boston deciding against moving to a “retirement home,” over 120 grass roots organizations based on their Village model have sprung up around the country, as well as a national organization dedicated to supporting these Villages. A large pool of member-volunteers and a small paid staff provide access to services and programs that make it possible for seniors to stay in their

(cont p 2)

Next Friendly Eights on Saturday Feb. 28 *from Ariana Steele*

Please join us on Saturday, February 28th for Friendly Eights -- a time to gather with a small group of F/friends for dinner and conversation. It's a lovely way of deepening our sense of community and getting to know each other outside our time of worship. Dinner begins at 6:00 and the gathering ends by 9:00.

Hosts and facilitators are needed, so please let me know (see below) if you can do that. Hosts will call or email the group to arrange details of (cont p 2)

State of the Society Report – Feb 1 Potluck Discussions

The time has come again for Ministry and Counsel to prepare another State of the Society report, this time for calendar year 2014. As we've done the last couple of years, the plan is to have table discussions during potluck, which will happen this coming Sunday, February 1. We will be considering the following queries: (cont p 3)

(Published January 28)

Calendar (also see p 4 Events)

Feb 2 Mon: (p1) 6-8:30pm
RIIPL Potluck and Annual
Meeting, East Greenwich RI.

Feb 2 or 3 Mon or Tues: 6pm
(p1) Village Movement
potluck, Providence Meeting
House

Feb 8 Sun: 12:00 Meeting For
Business, Providence Meeting
House.

Feb 13-15: (p4) Young Friends
Rejuvenation Retreat,
Wellesley, MA.

Feb 21 Sat: 10am-12pm
Saylesville Bookswap

Feb 20-22 Fri-Sun: (p 4)
Inward Activism Retreat,
Woolman Hill

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

Feb 28 Sat: 6-9pm (p1)
Friendly 8's, various locations
TBA.

Mar. 11-15: (p 6) Friends
World Conference.

Mar. 14-17: (p 4) FCNL Spring
Lobby Weekend, Washington
DC.

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 11 First Month, 2015

1. We gathered at 12:00 noon at the Providence meetinghouse, with twelve present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following Advice from the 2012 Interim edition of NEYM's *Faith and Practice*:

Be open to the variety of forms in which Friends worship. Broaden your understanding and appreciation of worship as practiced in the worldwide Quaker family.

2. Announcement: The next Meeting Movie Night will be at 7:00 pm on the 14th of this month, at the Providence meetinghouse. The film to be shown is *Encounter Point*, a documentary about people from both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who are advocating for non-violence.

3. Correspondence: NEYM will be holding a Consultation on Young Adult Ministries at Moses Brown School on January 24 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. This event will seek reflections from Friends of all ages about the needs of young adults, with a goal to develop NEYM's suggested priorities in serving young adults. All are welcome; those interested are asked to register by January 16. A fuller description and link to registration can be found at <http://www.neym.org/events/6196>.

4. Items for consideration: The clerk noted that he had not received any proposed items from committee clerks needing our attention, or any committees wishing to report.

5. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that the candlelight service on Christmas Eve was very well attended and much appreciated.

6. Other concerns: The clerk then invited expressions of concerns to be forwarded to the appropriate committees. A question was raised about the process for considering whether the meeting will construct an addition to the Providence meeting house, which has been raised on the e-list. The clerk noted that a small committee has been working on this, under Ministry & Counsel, and will present more information and options for fuller consideration by the meeting as a whole. No decision will be made without approval of the meeting for business.

7. No other business appearing, we adjourned at 12:25 pm, intending to meet next on the 8th of 2nd month at the Providence meeting house, God willing.

Daniel Lederer, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

"Village Movement" Presentation (continued from page 1)

homes and communities – safely and comfortably – for as long as possible.

Providence Village is a group whose goal is to form this structure locally. Betsy Zimmerman is organizing a potluck discussion with representatives. Cancelled by the snowstorm, it is to be rescheduled for 6pm Monday Feb. 2, or Tuesday Feb. 3, which ever is best for most people. Please contact Betsy for information, and let her know as soon as possible with your preference of date if you will attend, so she can let the visitors know.

erbzim@gmail.com

<http://providencevillageri.org>

Next Friendly Eights on Saturday Feb. 28 (continued from page 1)

the potluck and give directions to your home. You may choose to prepare a main dish or simply provide beverages and allow others to bring the meal....the choice is yours....one of the joys of hosting! Facilitators will get the discussion going and make sure the group finishes on time!

Once I have a list of participants, I will send another email with the groups and contact information. This is a wonderful thing to look forward to.

Ariana Steele fancyoats@gmail.com 401-461-2168

Name Tags Considered

This is a note begging help for those of us who are memory challenged or have been away from Meeting for a while. I fit both descriptions since I really missed most First Days from last March to the middle of October and I learn names by visually attaching written names (name tags) to faces (members and attenders of Meeting who are wearing name tags). And... there seem to be a lot of new people attending since last March, particularly children and what I call young adults (anyone under fifty). So please help me and any other person who needs to see name tags to remember people's names. Bruce Carlsten (I'm volunteering him) and hopefully Bob Elliott will be downstairs after Meeting to help you make a unique tag out of a slice of a tree branch. Also, please remember not to use the drill directly into the table. This creates strange little holes in our wonderful tables that Elsie Morse spent hours researching for us before we purchased them.

Thank you,
Dede Carlsten

State of the Society Report (cont from p 1)

1. How would you describe the quality of our worship? In what ways were your spiritual needs being met or not met in our worship?
2. How has our meeting for worship reached out to the wider community? What have we been doing to invite new attenders and encourage continued participation?
3. How have we attended to the needs of our own community?
4. How have we deepened our connection to the testimonies that guide our faith? Peace and Social Witness? Environmental stewardship? Simplicity? Equality? Integrity? Stewardship of resources?
5. In what ways has our meeting recognized, developed, and nurtured the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?
6. How did Meeting for Business play a part in your Meeting life in 2014?

These discussions have been highly productive in the past. Please plan on joining us on Sunday.

Saylesville Bookswap Update from Rosanne Cedroni

The December book swap went very well; however, I must confess to a few personal disappointments. The previous year we were able to give away many Christmas items, something like a kind of holiday decoration swap! I felt a natural desire to make a tradition out of that, but we were unable to organize it this year. Oh well....here is something for people to think about as you are putting away lights and ornaments - perhaps next year you can exchange the ones you are tired of with other people in the same boat.

The good news about the book swap is that we continue to attract new people. It is affirming to know there are so many book lovers out there. Our inventory is constantly changing and we see people taking out boxes of books to pass along, so the books are traveling far and wide. Of course, our loyal patrons are just wonderful, often bringing cookies and other treats - it is so encouraging to see that people really want to share.

Our New Year's resolutions are perhaps the same ones we've had right along. It would be great to get some participation from the Lincoln High School again, a connection that has been lost. We hope to get a Facebook page up and running, but that has been a little bit more cumbersome than anticipated. We lost the sign that we hang up a week before the swap. And we are always on the lookout to increase the books in our children's section.

Please spread the word to book lovers everywhere! We are open every month, the THIRD Saturday from 10am to noon unless the weather is severe. Happy New Year to everyone!

Around the Meeting

<p>Steve Thomas transfer – Steve Thomas’ membership transfer from Louisville was officially completed in November. Please add to</p>	<p>your directory: Steve and Molly Thomas, 179 Medway Street Providence, RI 02906 cell 516-383-4437 sbthomas02@gmail.com</p>	<p>mollythomas25@gmail.com</p> <p>Pendle Hill pamphlets - All the Pendle Hill pamphlets have at last been organized and are</p>	<p>ready for borrowing from the library. Look for them in shoe boxes under their rack in the library.</p>
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Note of Thanks From Hannah Monroe

Thanks so much for your generous donation to my Quaker Voluntary Service year. I really appreciate the support I am getting from the meeting. I also really appreciate the support you all gave me when I had my bike accident in September. It was so nice to get the card and chocolates and to know you were all thinking of me. I'm looking forward to seeing you all over the holidays and sharing my experience with you.

Best, Hannah Monroe

Member Elaine Meyer Has Prouty Garden Op-Ed In Boston Globe

Member Elaine Meyer (Ph.D., R.N.) is Director, Institute for Professionalism and Ethical Practice and Associate Professor of Psychology at the Harvard Medical School’s Boston Children’s Hospital. Responding to an email from her some weeks ago, some members asked for more information regarding her cause to save the Prouty Garden, the last large natural space at the hospital complex. She responded with this note:

Please share this link on the Meeting website. The Meeting community has been so wonderful and supportive. Letters to the hospital leadership on the Boston Children's website and sharing this electronically would be great, if people would like to do more to help save the garden.

Most gratefully yours, Elaine

The link is: <http://bostonglobe.com/opinion/2015/01/12/boston-children-should-keep-prouty-garden/Ghdy5Ysb1t1A4PJsKA5KJM/story.html>

And a few excerpts from the article are:

When the young mother brought her 3-year-old son for cancer treatment at Boston Children’s Hospital, she expected cutting-edge medicine, and hoped for caring nurses and doctors. But one of his greatest benefits came from an unexpected source: the boy’s daily visits to the hospital’s expansive garden to feed bread to the birds. “For those few moments he was just a child playing,” the mother recalled. “He was free.”

There is plenty of research demonstrating the therapeutic value of gardens. One study reported that patients whose windows overlooked leafy trees healed more rapidly, required less pain medication, and had fewer post-surgical complications. Another found that 90 percent of hospital garden visitors reported positive changes in mood, attitude, and coping.

Future Events – Events that recur and/or happen beyond the next month

[2015 unless noted, month in brackets indicates a recent issue that has an article about this event]

- Feb. 13-15 Young Friends retreat - The Rejuvenation Retreat, Wellesley Meeting, MA [Sept p5]
- Feb 20-22 Inward Activism and Outward Prayer, Woolman Hill calendar
- Mar. 14-17 FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend – Climate Change – Washington DC [Dec p1]
- 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]



“Two sanctuaries: Spiritual neighbors on the East Side”

These pictures and excerpted paragraphs are from an article with the above title, published in the October 24, 2014 Jewish Voice and Herald, a newspaper serving the RI Jewish community. Written by George Goodwin, a member of Temple Beth-El and editor at the “Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes”, the full article can be seen at: <http://www.jvhri.org/the-news/community/1598-two-sanctuaries-spiritual-neighbors-on-the-east-side>

Chabad House on Hope Street and the Society of Friends Meetinghouse on Olney Street are only a few blocks apart but, within the glow of Roger Williams’ heritage, are spiritual neighbors. Both buildings, which serve tiny congregations, are small and unobtrusive. Neither is adorned with such symbols as spires, domes, bell towers or colored windows.

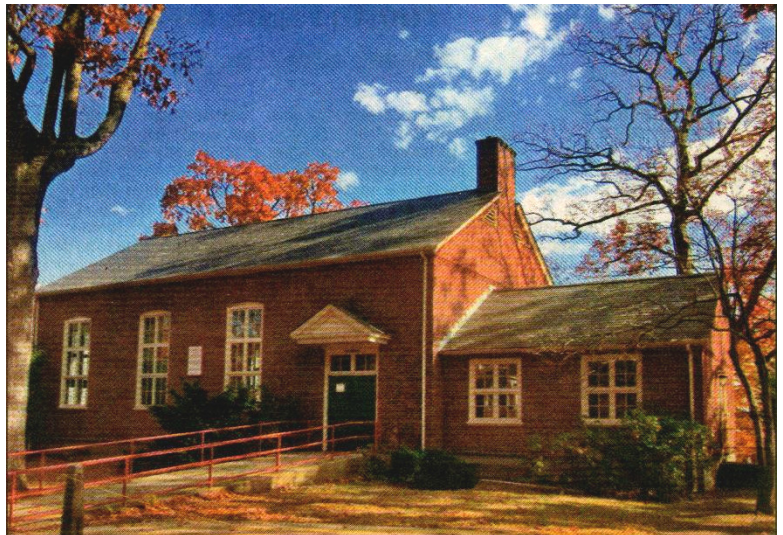
The Friends Meetinghouse, designed by Albert Harkness and built in a generic Georgian revival style, is part of the New England Yearly Meeting. Its parent sanctuary is Newport’s Friends Meetinghouse, which was begun in 1699 and remains Rhode Island’s oldest extant house of worship. (The Newport Historical Society has maintained this enormous wooden structure as a museum since the 1970s.) Of course Jews and Friends, fellow outcasts from

more desirable places, were neighbors and business rivals in colonial Newport. Forbidden use of Newport’s Common Burial Ground, laid out in 1665, they consecrated their own cemeteries.

Providence’s Chabad House and Friends Meetinghouse descend from the same religious and architectural principle, essentially the Third Commandment, which forbids the making of graven images. Some historians would explain that both religions exemplify an iconoclastic tradition, which, in its severity, deprives worshippers of visual instruction and pleasure. Other observers would readily argue, however, that such an absence of representational imagery, while denying idolatry, actually empowers reflection and prayer.

In terms of congregational dynamics, the Chabad and Friends sanctuaries are probably not farther apart. While Judaism encourages scattered moments of silence, Friends gather in silence and arise to speak only when they are so moved. Although Jewish worship does not require rabbinic or cantorial leadership, Friends function without clergy....

There are of course many other obvious religious and architectural differences between the Chabad and Friends sanctuaries. For instance, Chabad faces east toward Jerusalem, though congregants turn westward when they welcome the Sabbath bride. Typically, when Orthodox readers and worshippers face the aron kodesh (ark), they display their backs to one another. Of course within Orthodox tradition, men and women are seated separately. By contrast, all Friends are integrated within their pews. Without the need to read or sing aloud from a holy text or prayer books, Friends face one another.



Chabad House and the Friends Meetinghouse are united by their reverence for light. At Chabad, light, which is revealed through rows of windows along its eastern and southern walls, signals Shabbat’s beginning and end as well as the passage of other holy days. Indeed, light, one of the Lord’s first creations, symbolizes holiness and enlightenment. The sanctuary of the Friends Meetinghouse is surrounded on three walls by high, curtainless windows. Friends are also guided and warmed by an unflickering inner light.

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer**What Does Meeting Offer?**

If a visitor to Meeting were to ask me why someone would choose to be a Friend, I would answer that Friends Meeting offers us three things: a unique manner of conducting worship and business, the fellowship of a faith community, and an opportunity to serve others.

Our manner of worship, especially the unprogrammed variety that we practice at Providence Monthly Meeting, differs from many other worship services in that it honors silence as a path to connection with God, and it places the responsibility for ministry not with a chosen individual but with all those who are participating in worship. There is no leader, no oratory, and no music, and a newcomer to Meeting for Worship may find the absence of these familiar features surprising and even off-putting. But, based on the belief that there is that of God in each of us, Quakers have found that the silence allows us to hear that still small voice within that can guide us to what is true.

Our manner of conducting business is also unique in that it takes place in the context of worship. Again, we listen for that guiding voice and for illumination provided by the Inner Light. We don't vote and we don't seek compromise or even consensus; rather, we strive to find God's will for our community of Friends, this being realized when we set aside personal interests, listen carefully to what others are saying, and wait for unity on any given issue. When a new idea is brought to the relevant committee, discernment takes place that eventually results in the committee's decision whether to approve it. At times when a proposal affects Meeting as a whole, the committee will bring it to Meeting for Business for further discernment and, again, a decision regarding approval. If you've ever proposed a new idea to Meeting in the past, you may have experienced the disappointment of having it not approved. But lack of unity about a particular proposal is best taken as a sign that, in the judgment of the group, it's not yet in a form that most likely will benefit our community, and therefore it needs further work. The rationale behind this rather arduous process is that, once it's approved, a proposal has the backing of the entire Meeting, and this improves its chances of success.

Regarding a faith community, Southeastern Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice states, "The Quaker Meeting is meant to be a Blessed Community – a living testimony to a social order that embodies God's peace, justice, love, compassion, and joy; an example and invitation to a better way of life." With Friends, our caring for each other arises out of the concept that there is that of God in each of us. Thinking about and meditating on this core concept may lead one to the conclusion that a divine spark exists in the rest of the animal world, in plants, and even in objects we consider inanimate. When this occurs, the boundaries of our community expand.

Regarding serving others, William Penn said, "The best recreation is to do good." Friends Meeting offers an opportunity to be of service to others, either within Meeting itself via work on its various committees or outside of Meeting when addressing the many societal ills that beckon our attention. There are times when each of us is in need of some kind of help, and the hope would be that Meeting will respond. But Meeting is not there to serve us; we are there to serve it. The many things you, our members and attenders, do for Meeting bless our community and provide its vitality. Thank you for all that.

Friends World Committee - Bi-Annual Meeting Mar 11-15 (cont from p 8)

Attached to my Jan 16 email is the full two-page document, which has Bible readings and queries for each day from March 1 to March 11. Please join me in this opportunity to reflect with Friends throughout the Americas, from Alaska to the Andes.

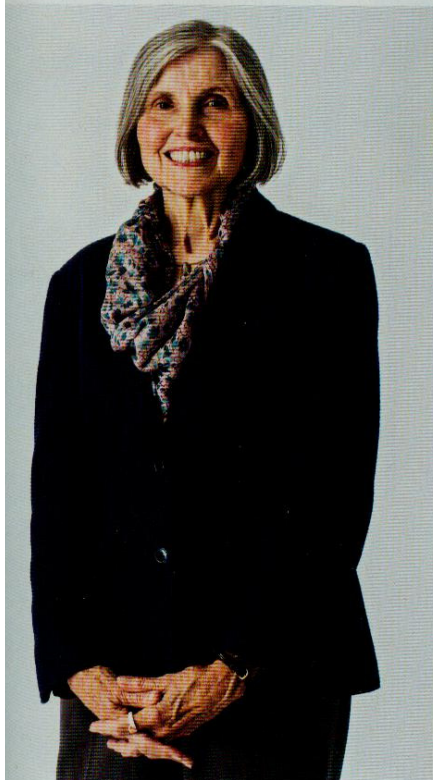
And a reminder that if you feel moved to contribute toward the travel expenses of Friends from the southern hemisphere, donations would be most welcome. A donation form and online donation links can be found at <http://www.fwccamericas.org>, and the postal address is:

FWCC Section of the Americas 1506 Race Street Philadelphia, PA 19102 USA FAX: 1-215-241-7285

Betsy Cazden

THE ENVIRONMENT

Eugenia Marks One Of *RI Monthly's* Article "Women In Power"



EUGENIA MARKS

The feature article of *Rhode Island Monthly* magazine's December 2014 issue features now

governor Gina Raimondo and the title "30 Women In Power" on the cover. Listed in the table of contents as "Powerful Women", PFM member Eugenia Marks is on page 67, selected as one of two people in the "Environmental" category. At the award ceremony, Eugenia was given a large framed and fun mock-up of the cover with her picture on it instead of the governor.

The text below repeats the article segment as written by Jen McCaffery.

Whether it's advocating in hearings at the General Assembly, helping shape water policy or speaking at a zoning meeting to question the construction of a single house, as senior director for policy at Audubon Society RI, Eugenia Marks has long been a courageous voice for the preservation of Rhode Islands' natural habitat on both Audubon and public lands. Why does she do it? "I grew up in Central Florida when it was still wild, and unfortunately saw it destroyed," Marks says. "And because I have the education to understand the value to human life of clean water, clean air and all the benefits that the major environmental laws of the 1970's afforded us."

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: Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio

assistclerk@providencefriends.org

Recording Clerk: Betsy Cazden recordingclerk@providencefriends.org

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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

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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

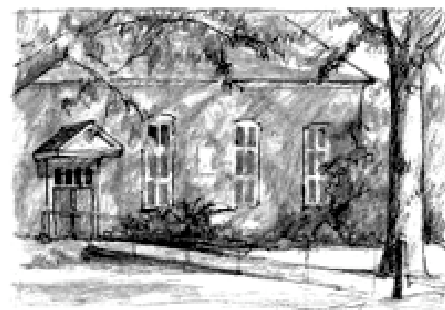
Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe liaison@providencefriends.org

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



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 (Middletown) 10:30 am (NBS/Mabel's Studio)
Jan 25 Feb 8, 22 March 8, 22 April 5, 19

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.
Call (508) 399-6699

Friends World Committee Bi-Annual Meeting Mar 11-15

from Betsy Cazden

The Section of the Americas of FWCC will be holding its biannual meeting March 11-15 near Mexico City, and I expect to be attending. In preparation for the meeting, the Section is inviting all Friends to join in spiritual reflections on the theme. The invitation reads:

"The theme for the Section Meeting is inspired by Colossians 2:2: "Friends Woven Together in God's Love." There is a growing sense God is weaving together Friends of different cultures, language groups and worship traditions. This tapestry of love will connect Friends in transformative ways, expand traveling ministries, strengthen local meetings and churches with new resources, and empower Friends with a renewed call to service and prophetic witness."

(Cont p 6)

The Provident FRIEND

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