

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Rhode Island Can Lead The Nation In Carbon Pricing

An Act Promoting Economic Development and Clean Energy – from Steve Schwartz, ed.

Solomon Goldstein-Rose is an undergraduate at Brown U., has interned for Senator Whitehouse in Washington DC, and has demonstrated [in conversation with this writer] a good depth of knowledge about environmental energy issues. Noticing that RI's small size makes environmental effects obvious in similar ways to almost the entire population here, he has started an initiative to pass a carbon pricing bill in the RI state legislature that (in his own words):

- Puts a price on fossil fuels based on carbon pollution.
- Protects RI from global warming.
- Provides a simple and direct implementation.
- Reinvests the revenue directly in residents and employers.
- Makes RI a leader and spurs momentum for other states to follow. (Cont p 3)

Mary Barrett Memorial

Our beloved member Mary Barrett died January 28, with her family at the bedside. A memorial service was held at the Providence Meetinghouse on Saturday February 14, starting at 11 AM. The large gathering was expected, but the extra chairs in the meeting room as well as in the library were just sufficient. It was followed by a reception at the Agawam Country Club in Rumford.

During the service, John Barrett Jr. recounted a story that Mary liked to tell. Afterward, he remembered it had been written in a previous newsletter. It is reprinted here:

One day a little boy went downstairs in the morning and told his mother he planned to go in search of God that day. His mother helped him (cont p 3)

Communications Committee's New Project

Communications Committee is starting a new project entitled *A Meeting Network* in order to promote connectedness in our Meeting community. See this month's Clerk's Corner (page 6) for details.

Movie Night – Wed. March 18

Communications Committee will be presenting the next Meeting Movie Night at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening, March 18. The film to be shown is "The Central Park Five" a documentary about five black teenagers who were convicted of a crime they didn't commit. It is a powerful reminder of how our justice system can go horribly wrong. [A note about of January's movie night is on page 5]

(Published March 14)

Calendar (also see p 4 Events)

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

Mar. 9: (p1) 6-8:30pm RIPL Potluck and Annual Meeting, East Greenwich RI.

Mar. 11-15: (p 4) Friends World Conference.

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

Mar 18 Wed: (p1) 7pm Movie Night, Providence Meeting House.

Mar20-22 Fri-Sun: (p4) Young Friends Retreat, Hartford CT.

Mar 21 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

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

Mar 27-29 Fri-Sun: (p3) Youth Institute sessions, Old Chatham, NY

Mar 27-29 Fri-Sun: (p6) Pendle Hill Program.

April 12 Sun: 12:00 Meeting For Business, Providence Meeting House.

Apr 17-19 Fri-Sun: (p4) YAF retreat, Hartford CT.

Apr 17-19 Fri-Sun: (p5) Woolman Hill events.

Apr 18 Sat: 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

April 26 Sun 3-6pm Sacred Harp Sing at Providence

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 8th of Third Month, 2015 (2nd month meeting was cancelled)

1. We gathered at 12:10 pm, at the Providence meetinghouse, with 25 present. In the opening worship, the clerk read the following Advice from NEYM *Faith and Practice* (Interim edn. 2012):

Offer up your time, talents, energy, and resources for God's guidance in their use. You may find yourself called to work for which you feel you have no gift. With prayer and discernment you will understand how to respond to the call.

2. Announcements:

There is now a food pantry box in the meetinghouse foyer where Friends are asked to donate non-perishable food items as they are able, and Friends may take food as needed, the hope being that no one in our Meeting community goes hungry.

Mike Hirtle is donating a copy of the Quaker history "tree" poster to Meeting.

3. Membership: David Bourns brought a recommendation from Ministry and Counsel, following the usual clearness process, that Victoria Beatriz Ekk be accepted as a member of the meeting. We approve. We ask that a suitable welcome be arranged, likely at our next potluck meal.

4. Concern about Islamic School of RI: David Bourns also reported on Ministry and Counsel's consideration of a concern from one of the Friendly 8 groups about a recent incident of anti-Muslim graffiti at the Islamic School of RI. Ministry and Counsel is working on a letter to the school, which they hope to bring to next month's meeting. They are also exploring whether it may be useful to write a letter to the editor. The Friendly 8 group also expressed a concern for the spiritual condition of the individuals who painted the graffiti.

5. State of the Society Report: Ministry and Counsel presented a draft State of Society Report, compiled from the questionnaires considered at the potluck in 2nd month. Ministry and Counsel noted that it has been unable to get any report from Saylesville Preparative Meeting. Some concerns were raised about both the style and content of the report. The report serves two functions, one for our internal self-evaluation and consideration of future activities, and the other, as a report to yearly meeting on the year just ended. We were not easy approving the report in its current form, and ask Ministry and Counsel to reconsider it. In particular we are looking for a more holistic and integrated presentation. Friends with specific concerns, especially on matters of factual accuracy, were encouraged to send those promptly to Ministry and Counsel. The suggestions for future activity that arose in the questionnaires should be brought to us in a separate document.

6. Preliminary Budget for 2015-2016: The Finance Committee presented a draft budget for FY 2015-16, noting that it is still in process. Mike Hirtle, clerk of the Finance Committee, spoke to the committee's sense that it would be prudent to increase the amount being reserved for maintenance of the Providence meetinghouse and the Quaker Education Fund. Other increases are modest, primarily for items that are fixed by the vendors such as insurance. A concern was raised about the financial needs and spiritual condition of the worship group at Saylesville; we ask Ministry and Counsel, in the first instance, to take this concern under its care.

7. Statistical Report: Elsie Morse presented the annual Recorder's statistical report on membership and attendance as of the end of 2014. We gained six members during the year, three by transfer and three by application, and lost one by death and one by discontinuance. We thank the Recorders for their careful work.

8. The Treasurer presented his interim report for the third quarter of this fiscal year. Both contributions and income from use of the Providence meetinghouse have increased over the previous year. Expenses are running about as anticipated. We receive this report with gratitude for the Treasurer's work and for all those who support the meeting's work.

9. Ministry and Counsel: David Bourns reported that Megan Smith has requested a letter of reference to support her application to serve with Peace Brigades International; Ministry and Counsel has prepared one. Ministry and Counsel has also had conversations with members of the NEYM Finance Committee to ask them to provide more guidance and clarification to monthly meetings (including ours) about the meetings' fair shares of the NEYM budget.

10. Saylesville: No report was received.

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

11. We closed at 2:00 pm following a period of grateful silence, intending to meet next on the 12th of 4th month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio, Assistant Clerk, Presiding for the day

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

Note to archivists and historians: There was no meeting for business in 2d month 2015 due to a lack of agenda items and an abundance of snow.

A Friendly Offer - from Barbara Zimmer

Sometimes we can't get out as much as we would like and find we miss social contact with other people. Phone calls, email, or "snail mail" might be our only link to the outside world but these can't deliver the warmth and joy of seeing friends and family in person. To put it simply, there's no substitute for real "face time" and I would like to volunteer some of that for meeting members, attenders, and anyone else who would like a half hour or so visit from my little dog, Ruby, an adorable dachshund-beagle mix and me, her "human companion." For the past year Ruby and I have been training to attain certification as a pet-assisted therapy team and I would like to expand our focus from nursing home residents to anyone else who might benefit from a "Hi" from me and warm cuddle from Ruby. If you or someone you know are interested in a visit, please contact me at brbr.zimmer@gmail.com and we'll work out a time and place.

Mary Barrett Memorial (continued from page 1)

prepare some food for the day; some popcorn and root beer. He started off and found a park with a pond and a bench. He sat there for a while and soon took some popcorn to feed the ducks on the water. When he returned to the bench he found an old woman seated there. He offered her some of his root beer and popcorn, which she accepted. The day unfolded that way; feeding popcorn to the ducks and sharing his food with the woman. When it was time to go home he departed and when he reached home his mother asked him if he had found God. He said no, but he had had a wonderful day. On the other side of town, at the same time, a son was asking his older mother if she had had a nice day, and what had she done. She said that she had had a wonderful day and that she had seen God. And, she said; " Do you know, God is a lot younger than we thought!"

**Youth Institute: Meeting the Needs of Quaker Youth March 27-29, 2015
Old Chatham, NY**

With a goal of healthy multigenerational meetings, and held at Powell House Quaker Conference and Retreat Center, these Plenary and Workshop Sessions involve hands on training in various aspects of youth work. The Friday night session focuses on what calls us to the Quaker practice and what we hope to provide our children there. Saturday sessions will include sharing of different meetings' experiences, difficulties and resulting frameworks based on those experiences. Sunday will look at next steps and include an experimental worship leading into traditional worship.

This is the first in a series of Youth Institutes offered under the auspices of New York Yearly Meeting's Youth Committee. The institutes are open to anyone interested in making their meeting a multigenerational faith community.

Cost includes shared accommodations, 6 meals and program.

Early registration (by March 15th): \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12

After March 15th : \$240/\$120/\$60

Register on line at www.powellhouse.org info@powellhouse.org 518-794-8811

(Childcare will be provided with 3 weeks notice.)

Around the Meeting

Saylesville collecting books for Africa – Roseanne Cedroni reports that the Saylesville bookswap is

helping Carmen Richardson set up a library for children in Africa. Childrens books are therefore especially

welcome at any time. Contact Carman at 617-304-4702 or carmen.richardson@langhamhotels.com,

and the organization is <http://www.africanlibraryproject.org>

New Meetinghouse Keys

The Providence Meetinghouse now has two different keys, one for the exterior doors and one for interior locks (for example, to the room above the library). If you're at the meetinghouse and find that you need the interior key, there's an extra copy, clearly labeled, in the top drawer of the desk in the library. If you use it, please put it back immediately so you don't accidentally leave with it.

The exterior key is required for locking the front door upon exit, if it has been unlocked from the outside (as we do for almost every meeting or event). A copy of this exterior key will soon be marked and placed in the same drawer. If you are the last one out and the door has not been locked and you need this key:

- lock the door mechanism while holding the door in an open position,
- test that it is locked (moving the outside handle should no longer move any rods or bars on the inside), and
- put the key back immediately before leaving.

Young Adult Spring Retreat April 17-19 - Hartford Meeting in West Hartford, Connecticut

The theme for this gathering for young adults (18-35) who are Quaker or Quaker-curious is "Daily Stories of Our Faith and Practice." Sharing experiences and exploring how our beliefs impact daily decisions large and small, we examine how our personal discernment connects daily experience with the bigger picture of who we are. Attending part of it is ok (mention it). There is a registration form at: <http://neym.org/young-adult-friends/register> and call or email Nia Thomas with questions: 617 945-0373 Twitter: @youngNEYM nia@neym.org

Planning For May Breakfast Begins

The Program Committee wants to encourage participation in the annual May Breakfast. Just think warm sunny May with flowers and summer planting and Friends Community May Breakfast!! We know there are options for the activity and the Program Committee wants to hear from folks who are interested in participating.

Who wants to lead the activity?

What's for Breakfast?

Is the plan for a breakfast served to a gathering of the Friends' Community?

Is the plan to serve breakfast to the Friends' Community and our Neighbors?

Is the plan to serve breakfast to a part of the Providence community that is in need of food?

Do you have another Idea?

Please think about these questions and respond to the Program Committee - so we can help get you started and support your efforts to continue a fun, family tradition!

Many Thanks, The Program Committee

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]

Mar. 11-15 FWCC (Friends World Committee for Consultation) – Americas section bi-annual meeting - near Mexico City [Jan p6,8]

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]

Movie Night - January, 2015 - Thinking About Peacemakers – From Barbara Zimmer

Ten Friends and friends gathered at the meeting house to view “Encounter Point,” a documentary about several Israeli and Palestinian individuals who had lost a loved one in the ongoing violence between their two countries, and their work to prevent others from suffering the same terrible loss. By shadowing these Palestinian and Israeli peace activists working in their home countries and across the border to the other country, this documentary painted a picture of their years long struggle to understand and acknowledge each other’s humanity and use this understanding to build a dialogue which they hope will eventually lead to peace. Several themes stood out as the story developed, the unspeakable grief suffered by all families who lost members to the violence, political leaders’ inability or refusal to seek an end to conflict and the growing number of young adults who are refusing to participate in military actions they feel are unethical or immoral. In some cases Israeli young adults have even rejected military service and served time in prison for their refusal.

Even though the film stressed how important it is to work for peace, the enormity of this problem became evident and overwhelming, that was until a person in our group added a note of hope and reminded us that many in the United States felt work for civil rights in the 1950s and 1960s was hopeless but because some people ignored that negativity we have actually made some progress even though there is still much yet to be done. Perhaps the same will be true for Israel and Palestine and they will come to a lasting peace. One can only hope.

RI Carbon Pricing (cont from p1)

Solomon is looking to reach as many people as he can to make this happen. He is stressing that this is designed to increase revenue in the state, while moving in the direction of environmental sanity, so it should appeal to business owners and workers alike. He also sees a real opportunity to push our entire nation in this direction.

He will know how you can help best. Who you might know that would listen to you or agree to talk with Solomon or join the coalition, and what you need to know to be informed enough to talk to those people, are all things we can do to see if we can make a serious change toward environmental health.

For more info or to join the coalition, contact the coordinator, Solomon, at Solomon_Goldstein-Rose@brown.edu

Woolman Hill Events

Margaret Cooley at Woolman Hill sent us notice of workshop events in March and April to seek clearness, explore photography, and to knit, along with opportunities for personal retreats in our cabins to just get away from our daily hustle and bustle.

March 26-29 - A Circle of Trust© Two-Part Retreat Series - Session 1: *The Seeds of the True Self* - explores transition, vocation, life passion, purpose, meaning, aging, direction, and underlying life patterns.

April 17-19, 2015 – *Living With The Eyes*: Digital Photography as Contemplative Practice

April 17-19, 2015 – *Knitting For Others* - Warm someone's heart - knit for them, and learn how knitting is one way of centering.

Contact Margaret Cooley: 413-774-3431 www.woolmanhill.org marqaret@woolmanhill.org

Follow Up On Prouty Garden

Last month, we wrote about Elaine Meyer’s efforts to save a garden at the Harvard Medical School’s Boston Children’s Hospital, where she works. Her Boston Globe Op-Ed was followed with a Jan. 31 article by Globe columnist Thomas Farragher. If you would like to follow this story, the link is:

http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/01/30/special-place-endangered/OAyclGh7XTh9iXHPF4LwN/story.html?s_campaign=8315#comments

Contact Elaine if you would like to help in any way.

CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

A Meeting Network

We're fortunate at Meeting to have a group of members and attenders who are engaged in a multitude of interesting pursuits. While coffee hour and such activities as Friendly Eights provide a chance for us to get to know each other better, it can take a long time to find out where other Friends' interests lie. In order to try to accelerate this process, Communications Committee is starting a project which it's calling A Meeting Network. The idea is this: Friends are asked to answer, in writing, two questions: (1) What kinds of work do you, or did you, do? (2) What are you most passionate about, and why?

The plan is to compile your responses and make them available to our community of Friends. In regard to question # 1, I've found that at times I can see someone at Meeting for months or even years and have no idea what line of work that person is in. This is important because a group of Friends such as ours can serve as a useful resource if we know something about each person's area of expertise. Question # 2 is probably more fun to answer, since we're all passionate about something. What is it that you still like to do even when you're too tired to do anything else? It could have something to do with your work, or it could be a sport, a hobby, or involvement in a worthy cause. Maybe you'll find out that someone else at Meeting shares this same passion, or maybe your interest will inspire someone else to pursue it too. There are all kinds of possibilities for greater connectedness once we learn more about what each of us finds most intriguing.

So please don't be bashful. Since I'm bringing this up, I'll start. In regard to my work, I'm a retired physician. My specialties were general internal medicine and pulmonology, and I was on the clinical faculty at Brown, based at Miriam and Butler Hospitals, teaching medical students and internal medicine residents. I retired in 2008 after working as a doctor for 40 years. Retirement has allowed me to pursue various interests including my passion, which is music. I play the bass and, although I do most of my performing in a community orchestra that features both classical and pops, I especially like jazz. I've found that my greatest enjoyment in music is composing original jazz pieces and then recording them in the studio with fellow musicians in order to produce CD's for family and friends. What's fun about it is the creative process of composing, plus performing involves more creativity because in jazz there's always an element of improvisation within the framework of each piece.

So as you see, it's easy. Please help out Communications Committee with this project by sending your responses, which can be as brief or as lengthy as you like, to communications@providencefriends.org. Then watch the networking begin!

Experience a Pendle Hill Program This Spring Or Summer

March 27-29, 2015 - Streams of Living Water: Renewing the Contemplative Tradition - Refresh yourself with Centering Prayer and Quaker silence. Open your heart and mind by singing singular chants.

May 29 -31, 2015 - An Oasis on the Journey - Learn basic clothes-on massage and laying-on-of-hands energy work, and a simple charting exercise with massage therapist and Quaker healer John Calvi.

July 5 - 9, 2015 - Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography – Learn to write about meaningful times in your life using evocative exercises and group sharing with novelist, screenwriter and workshop leader Dan Wakefield. Re-experience events from your past and gain fresh perspective and appreciation for the richness of your life and others.

July 26-30, 2015 - Spiritual Discernment – Spiritual Director Nancy Bieber will teach the skills of spiritual discernment. Whether perplexed by a burning issue or just wanting to follow the Spirit more faithfully day by day, this will help you see yourself, your situation, your choices and your calling more clearly.

August 7-9 and August 9-13, 2015 - Arts and Spirituality Workshops - Feel yourself awaken to the spirit through creative paper arts, poetry, and meditation in a weekend workshop, short course-or both – with artist-spiritual director Melanie Weidner.

More on all Pendle Hill programs: www.pendlehill.org 610-566-4507 x 137 or 800-742-3150 (US)

Notes From Members Far Flung

In response to an inquiry from our membership recorder Anne DiMase, the following notes were returned.

Member Rick Pieters (who is a physician) writes:

I am glad to hear from you. I am well and have been very busy with practice at University of Massachusetts Medical School teaching and this year being the president of the Massachusetts Medical School. I remain emotionally and spiritually committed to the Society of Friends and Providence Meeting even though I have been unable to attend lately.

Priscilla Ohler is a member of our Meeting. She writes to us from New London, New Hampshire, in response to an inquiry from our Membership Recorder Anne DiMase:

Thank you for asking! I am very well for an old lady (90). I live in the same old house that we raised our family in...and they all come back often to enjoy it and each other. Although there is a meeting in Hanover, I rarely travel that distance. The Episcopal church here in town doesn't seem to mind walking around me while they worship in their way and I in mine. My late husband was active in that church...they served each other well. Since this is a college town there is lots to do - lectures, music, courses, etc. I do little on no volunteer work anymore, but for years I was very active, especially in work with troubled children. I am glad always to hear from you. I have my grandparents' (Emily and Willis White) wedding certificate (mine, too); would you like to have theirs for the White room? Ours may have been one of the last weddings in the North Main Street Meeting House. My sister was Barbara White Haddad. Her son Alexander lives in Canada and is active in the Meeting on Vancouver Island near Duncan. Jane and Christopher live in Massachusetts and Leila in Florida. I believe they have dropped all connections with Friends, and all else, too. Warm greeting to you all.
(signed) Priscilla Sisson White Ohler

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

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



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

Food Collection Box For All

There's a box inside the lectern in the foyer of the Providence Meetinghouse that's now labeled "Food Pantry". The idea is this: Most of us have more than enough food, but there may be some people in our Meeting community who don't have enough. The purpose of the box is to provide a place for us to bring extra non-perishable food. At the same time, anyone is free to take whatever he or she wants. So it's kind of analogous to the Saylesville book swap except instead of books it's food. If there's an overflow of food items, some of it may on occasion find its way to the Camp Street Ministries food bank, but the primary goal is for the food to be available to Friends.

Let's try to be sure that no one in our Meeting community is going hungry.

The Provident FRIEND

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