

# The Provident FRIEND

Oct 2015

## Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

### Extending World Quaker Day with Ways to Connect (Betsy Cazden)

Thanks to all of you who helped our meeting join the World Quaker Day celebration. Here are a few suggestions for continuing and building on our relationships with Friends in other places, cultures, and contexts:

- Visit the [World Quaker Facebook page](#) for photos and news from around the world.
- View the latest video on QuakerSpeak.com about the difference between "programmed" and "unprogrammed" Meetings at <http://quakerspeak.com/difference-between-programmed-unprogrammed-quaker-worship/>
- Sign up for bilingual e-newsletters from the Friends World Committee Section of the Americas (in English and Spanish) at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/>
- Consider making a donation to support FWCC's ongoing work. The Section of the Americas homepage has a "donate" button to donate online, or you can mail a check to FWCC, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Donations to the Section (tax-deductible) are shared with the World Office to support FWCC's work around the world.

As I engage in the work of preparing for the upcoming World Plenary in Peru in January 2016, it is wonderful to have Providence Friends share in and appreciate what the world family of Friends means to all of us.

### Saylesville Renaissance – from Roseanne Cedroni

The Saylesville Meetinghouse has been in existence for over 300 years. It is no secret that in the past few years our membership has dwindled significantly and we have experienced some frustration and discouragement.

However, we have not given up. We are renewing our efforts to get our house in order and our hope is that Friends will find the Saylesville Meetinghouse a peaceful and nurturing place for worship. For reasons of logistics, chances are high that we will always be a small meeting. There's nothing wrong with that! Often there are those who feel more at home in a quiet environment. Indeed, there are times when a completely silent meeting can refresh the soul and be profoundly healing.

Needless to say, we will continue to be a presence in and around Lincoln. Our monthly book swap is a great success and our efforts with the historical groups (especially the Arnold House) are very gratifying. We constantly meet people who are enchanted with our building and in awe of its history. The Lincoln community has been so supportive. We are truly blessed with great neighbors.

We extend our invitation to worship to everyone - we especially want those who have never experienced a Quaker meeting to feel welcomed and not pressured. We look forward to a community renewed!

### Many Schedules and Upcoming Events Reported

Around this time of year, we often get notices from various groups for events planned from Fall through Spring. In this issue are listed events with descriptions from YF and YAF's (p5), Pendle Hill (p3), music events (p3), Conanicut meetings (p4), and Woolman Hill (p8).

*(Published Oct 24 )*

Calendar (also see p 4 Events)

**Oct 24 Sat:** Various music concerts (see p 3)

**Oct 25 Sun:** Singing after rise of meeting, Saylesville. (p 3, item 5)

**Oct 25 Sun:** Various music concerts (p 3)

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

**Oct 25 Sun:** 7 pm Benefit concert at Sandywoods Center for the Arts, Tiverton RI (p 3)

**Oct 31 Sat:** 10am Archaeology event with Pierre Morenon, S. Kingstown (see p 4)

**Nov 1 Sun:** Aurea music

**Nov 1 Sun:** 10:30am first Conanicut Meeting at winter location (p 5)

**Nov 5, 6 Thu-Fri:** Education events at Moses Brown (p 7)

**Nov 8 Sun:** 12:00 Meeting For Business, Providence Meeting House (p 3)

**Nov 20-22 Fri-Sun:** Woolman Hill Climate Change retreat (p 7)

**Nov 21 Sat:** 10am-12pm Saylesville Bookswap

## Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> Tenth Month, 2015

1. We gathered at the Saylesville meetinghouse at 12:00 pm, with 10 people present. In the opening worship the clerk read a query from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice:

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

### 2. Announcements:

Quarterly Meeting will take place at the Providence meetinghouse on the 18th of this month, after meeting for worship and a potluck lunch. We expect representatives from Westerly, Worcester, and Smithfield Meetings. The program will be a discussion of the meaning of this year's theme at Yearly Meeting Sessions, "Living Into Covenant Community." All are welcome to join us.

The next Meeting Movie Night will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 21. The film to be shown "Chely Wright: Wish Me Away", a documentary about a country music star who comes out as a lesbian.

3. Membership matters: For Ministry and Counsel, David Bourns reported that membership requests have been received from Anne-Christine (Tina) Duhaime and Stanley (Stan) Pelli, who normally attend the Conanicut worship group, and from Rachel Moulton for herself and junior membership for her young daughters Amelia Meiser and Violet Meiser. According to our usual process, Ministry and Counsel has held clearness committees with them and is clear to recommend them for membership. We approve and welcome them into membership.

4. Saylesville Working Group: David Bourns presented an interim report from Ministry and Counsel concerning the Saylesville Working Group (see Minute 4, 5th mo. 2015):

The Saylesville working group met on September 23 in follow up of our April 2015 meeting. We discussed progress toward the goals we had agreed upon in April, and reflected more broadly on the capacity of Saylesville to continue as a preparative meeting.

Those present were: Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio (convener), Rosanne Cedroni, Dieter Gomes, Bruce Downing, Ariana Steele, Joanne Griffin, and Betsy Zimmerman.

There was a general sense among Friends in Saylesville and Providence that Saylesville Preparative Meeting is in a difficult situation, but that progress has been made in several areas including:

1. having the meeting house opened 10 minutes before the start of Meeting for Worship;
2. holding meeting for worship with a concern for business and creating minutes from these meetings;
3. sending minutes to Ministry and Counsel and to the clerk of PMM;
4. cleaning the meeting house;
5. reducing the number of books in the meeting house;
6. continued effort to nurture and support a strong core of religious practice grounded in the traditions of Friends unprogrammed worship;
7. continued efforts to address and ease interpersonal tension between Friends in Saylesville.

Continuation of Saylesville as a preparative meeting is desired, however at present, the bulk of caring for the meeting and executing meeting responsibilities is being carried by a few hardworking and committed Friends. All agreed that if successors for these Friends do not emerge over the course of the next 6-12 months, it is unlikely that Saylesville will be able to continue as a preparative meeting.

David noted that the Working Group expects to meet again in early 2016 to consider progress toward these goals.

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

5. Saylesville: Joanne Griffin reported that Saylesville Preparative Meeting had held its business meeting earlier that day. They are working to attract new people to worship, including ways to make the meeting more visible through social media. They are planning singing after meeting for worship on the 25th of this month and on most First-Days in 11th month. They have begun discussing use of the Ruggiero bequest (see minute 5, 9th mo. 2015).

6. Closing: No further business appearing, we adjourned at about 1:00 pm, intending to meet next on the 8th of 11th month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, Clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording Clerk

### Musical Events Involving People From Meeting

**October 24 (Sat.) 7-11 pm, The Parlour (Main St., Providence)** – fundraiser includes Bill Monroe playing with the Providence Wholebellies, The Gnomes and Professor Roots.

**October 24 (Sat.) 8 pm, Brown University Chorus Concert, Sayles Hall (Main Green)** – Mostly liturgical music, with a theme of sea and stars. There are several settings of “Ave Maris Stella” (“Hail Sea Star”), including an ancient chant form, some by Josquin des Pres, and Victoria’s Missa.

**October 25 (Sun.) 2-3:30 pm, Theatre 82 & Café 82 Rolfe Square, Cranston, RI** - Bill Monroe solo concert (with some friends) at: Theatre 82 & Café82 Rolfe SquareCranston, RI

**October 25 (Sun.) 7 pm, Benefit Concert, Sandywoods Center for the Arts, Tiverton RI** - The creators of the beloved songbook *Rise Up Singing* are celebrating the long-awaited release of a second collection, *Rise Again!* Performers include Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, Bill Harley, Charlie King, Magpie and Sally Rogers. To purchase tickets and songbooks, visit <https://www.riseupandsing.org/events/rise-again-providence>

**November 1 (Sun.) 3:00 pm, Providence Meetinghouse - Aurea Ensemble concert** - “Grace Notes” program, includes the hymn ‘Amazing Grace’, Beethoven string quartets, and poetry readings from T. S. Eliot, Rilke, Rumi, and others, accompanied by improvised harmonica.

### Pendle Hill Fall Programs

The Pendle Hill community offers a variety of retreats and programs in a rural setting that are made to “deepen your spiritual life, grow in your Quaker faith and practice, develop skills for engaging effectively in the wider world, or experience refreshment and renewal.” Quaker worship is offered daily, along with local organic food and simple and comfortable accommodations. The fall 2015 offerings are:

**Oct. 30-Nov. 1 Inquirers’ Weekend:** Explore basics of Quaker faith and practice and discover how they connect with your own spiritual experience.

**Nov.1-5 Beyond Diversity 101:** Learn to transform and heal those personal relationships, community living, and organizations that are affected by problems with power-over dynamics and systematic discrimination. Participants are offered ways to move beyond assigning blame and increasing guilt so they can take responsibility, shift mindsets, and build useful skills.

**Nov. 20-22 Clerking:** Join master teacher Arthur Larrabee and clerks of Quaker meetings and committees - new and experienced - to consider the role of presiding clerk.

**Nov. 27-29 Waiting on the Spirit:** The Advent season invites us to slow down and join for a retreat with worship, devotional reading, music, deep listening, and shared fellowship.

For more information or to register for any of these:

Website: [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) Email: [registrar@pendlehill.org](mailto:registrar@pendlehill.org) Phone: 610-566-4507 ext 137 or 800-742-3150

## Around the Meeting

**Traffic Cones Explained -**  
Moses Brown will be placing traffic cones at the entrance to the Providence Meetinghouse driveway to discourage parents from using it to drop off and pick up students.

This is NOT intended to prevent Friends or those participating in Music for Children from parking there, so please move the cones as needed to get in and out.

**New Members Welcomed -** At the

October 4 potluck, Providence Friends Meeting joyfully welcomed seven new members: Jill Frew, Beth Muhuri, William Muhuri, Ben Lamm, Mark Garrison, Galen Hamann, and Jackson Hamann.

**Saylesville Welcomes All -**  
This is a reminder that Providence Friends are invited to join those worshipping at Saylesville Meetinghouse on any First Day. Meeting for Worship at Saylesville starts at 10:30 AM.

### A Meeting Network – 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

The second edition of *A Meeting Network* has been released! This project was intended to build community among the members and attenders of the Meeting, and from recent comments on the list serve, it appears that it is achieving its purpose. If you haven't received a copy (emailed on Oct. 15) and would like to have one, please speak to Steve Schwartz or Dan Lederer.

### Christmas/Advent Gathering – Help Plan and Participate *from David Bourns*

Dear Friends - For some time John Lord has coordinated our Christmas/Advent gathering. He and Thia are in Austria now (unrelated to the October Fest), but will be back in time to play Christmas Ragtime in Bethlehem for us. In the meantime, Abigail Mansfield Marcaccio and David Bourns have agreed to oversee the planning for this gathering on December 12th. I am writing to ask that you send any suggestions about the program to David Bourns at [Davidbourns@mac.com](mailto:Davidbourns@mac.com). Your suggestions can also include, "I will be happy to read my favorite advent story, and also to sing, dance, and play in the highly acclaimed Silence is Golden Ensemble."

Thanks for your input.

### Pierre Morenon Participating in Talk Oct 31

Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 am -1 pm at the Quaker Cemetery, Old Tower Hill Road, South Kingstown – Pierre Morenon will be present at The PHS Rhode Island Archaeology Month Series event entitled "Hidden History: Ground-Penetrating Radar for Archaeology". This is related to the talk Pierre gave on Oct. 20, "The South Kingstown Quakers Meeting House Fire of 1790: The Application of Archaeological Forensics".

401-783-1328 [washingtoncountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:washingtoncountyhistory@gmail.com) <http://www.pettaquamscutt.org/events.htm>

### News from Moses Brown – Nov. 5 and 6 events *(from Mike Hirtle)*

On November 5, MB will be hosting a Morning Session on Friends' Decision Making with Arthur Larrabee, former General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and a highly respected Friend active in Quaker Education. The session is for parents of MB students, but the school invites Providence Friends to attend as well. The event takes place on Thursday, November 5 from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM in the Sinclair Room on the ground floor of the Middle House.

On November 6, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, there will be an all-day conference on New England Friends Education, held at the Meeting House. This program is for teachers or others who work in education. See Galen Hamann or visit [www.mosesbrown.org/nefriends](http://www.mosesbrown.org/nefriends) for additional information.

### 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]

Quaker 101 – Oct 4 thru Nov – Quaker 101 –see complete list [Sept p6]

## NEYM Events for Young Friends and Young Adult Friends and Database Request

Nia Thomas is the Young Friends and Young Adult Friends Coordinator for NEYM, and is available for pastoral care or Quaker networking to the teens, young adults, and their families in our meeting.

Part of her job is to keep the NEYM database as up to date as possible. This is a challenge with young people who frequently change their addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers. As you are informed of new contact information for Friends between 14-35 years old (or if not certain that she has current information), please send it to her: it allows her to keep them informed of Young Friends and YAF program events and opportunities.

Nia is also in charge of retreats for the two groups - Young Friends (grades 9-12) and Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35ish). The first one this year was at our meetinghouse the weekend of Oct. 16-18. Here is a list of retreat dates for the coming school year:

### Young Friends Retreats

Nov. 20-22 Confronting Inequality: Racism & Privilege, Portland Meeting, ME

Dec. 27-30 Religious Exploration Friendly Crossways, Harvard, MA

Feb. 12-14 Sexuality, Gender & Relationships, Wellesley Meeting, MA

Mar. 18-20 Art, Creativity & the Joys of Childhood, Hartford Meeting, CT

May 13-15 Community Service, Westport Meeting, MA

### Young Adult Friends Retreats

January 7-10 at Woolman Hill (Deerfield, MA)

April 15-17 at Wellesley Meeting (MA)

Nia is often looking for “frugal, hard-working, fun-loving retreat cooks” for these events.

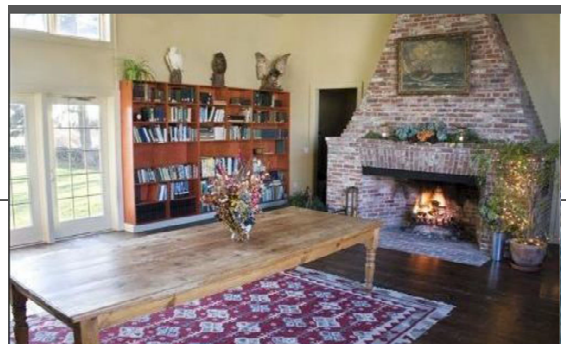
To get more information on these programs, to let her know of updates for the database, or for help with pastoral care, Quaker networking or anything else relevant, please contact:

Nia Thomas

Young Friends and Young Adult Friends Coordinator for NEYM

[nia@neym.org](mailto:nia@neym.org)

(978) 886-7179



## Conanicut Friends Begin Winter Schedule Nov. 1 – and thanks for new members

*Submitted by, Marcie Lindsay for CFM*

Beginning on Nov. 1, Conanicut Friends will hold Meeting for Worship at Mabel's Studio at the Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Rd., Middletown, at 10:30 AM. The unheated 1787 Meetinghouse in Jamestown is too cold for 21<sup>st</sup> century sensibilities, and Conanicut Friends are now beginning their bi-weekly winter schedule - we are always pleased to have Friends join us. October 18 marked the last Meeting for Worship at the Old Meetinghouse.

On October 25, Conanicut Friends are encouraged to visit other Meetings in our area. Winter Meeting dates are:

Nov. 1, 15, 29    Dec 6, 20    January 3, 17, 31    February 14, 28    March 13, 27    April 10, 24

We also want to extend thanks to Paul Graesek, Wendy Virgamdamo and David Bourne for welcoming new members of Conanicut Friends Meeting (Indulged) to Providence Friends Meeting through their kind and thoughtful Clearness.





## CLERK'S CORNER by Dan Lederer

**On the Wrong Side of History**

"God cannot alter the past, though historians can." Samuel Butler

"History is written by the victors." Winston Churchill

On July 10, 2015, state troopers removed the confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds in Columbia, SC. This followed passage of a bill in the South Carolina legislature, which then received Gov. Nikki Haley's signature, calling for the flag's removal. Legislators were not unanimous in their approval of this measure, some maintaining that the flag honored Confederate soldiers' valor in battle and was an important icon of Southern heritage. Those in favor of the bill argued that the flag was a symbol of slavery and, later, opposition to the civil rights movement, and that it represented a cause that history judged to be wrong. But what if the Confederacy had prevailed? How then would the flag have been perceived? It seems that the outcome of the Civil War had a major influence on the manner in which history views the flag today.

Consider for a moment the German soldiers who fought under the Nazi flag in World War II. Germany lost the war, its leaders were punished, and that flag no longer flies. Although many of the soldiers fought bravely, history as we know it has judged their cause to be wrong. But what if the Axis powers had won the war? Whose leaders would then have been punished, whose flag would be flying, and who would have been judged to be "on the wrong side of history"?

My point is that, as Quakers, we need to look to a different standard of right and wrong, since history's judgment seems so strongly influenced by military might. Fortunately our faith provides us with such a standard, asking us to seek guidance from within via the Inner Light. It's to this Guide that we need to return again and again in order to find our way to righteous action amidst the many voices competing for our attention and our loyalty. And we need to support each other as we strive to follow the advice of George Fox: *"Be patterns, be examples, in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one."*

**NEYM Note of Reflection on Pope Francis in America**

In his address to the U.S. Congress and to our nation, Pope Francis invited us to pray for him, and to pray together.

On behalf of the Quaker faith communities in the six New England states, we offer our prayers for the healing of the world. We join our voice with all who strive to meet our sacred obligations to the planet we share.

Francis reminds us that all creatures are connected, that each must be cherished with love and respect. We are dependent on one another. It is through our relationships with each living being that we make real our love for God and for Creation. Francis challenges us to accept the urgency of the crisis created by human-caused climate disruption, recognizing it as a central challenge of our time. This work cannot be left to the future. Responding to the climate crisis requires of us a serious and clear-eyed recognition of the severity of our impact on the planet and the devastating effects already being experienced, especially by the most vulnerable. Our actions today determine the world our children will inherit. We welcome Francis' message and his conviction that acting together we can still make a difference.

It is the testimony of Quakers that we are divinely required to respond with courageous and responsible efforts to avert the most serious effects of environmental deterioration caused by human activity. At our best, we seek the deep healing of the world. As a faith community, Francis' words confront us with the question, "Are we prepared to bear the burden of this truth?"

We know there is a place for us in this work. We are called to act in hope, with persistence, courage and charity.

We witness Francis' visit with gratitude for his faithful engagement with the people of the United States, both as a nation and personally. We pray that all people will hear and heed the important challenge this servant of God has brought to our country. We call on faith communities and people of faith to take up this burden as together we find the way forward.

Fritz Weiss, Presiding Clerk  
New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Noah Baker Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary  
27 September 2015

**Center on Conscience & War – Anniversary Comment** *(excerpted)*

October 5, 2015

Dear Friend of Conscience,

This week, we mark the official 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Center on Conscience & War – three quarters of a century working in support of those who follow the counsel of their conscience and resist war. I can't celebrate because my heart is heavy with the news of the US airstrikes on the Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

I'm deeply sad for the losses of life and the further suffering of those already sick or wounded. I'm disheartened as it sinks in that this airstrike – like all the other indiscriminate killings that are inherently part of war – will further squander any remnants of goodwill toward the US presence that may still exist in the hearts of Afghans. I thought, also, of the members of the US military – not only those who carried out the airstrikes, but also those whose jobs, like all of the jobs in the armed forces, provide the support that makes strikes like these possible.

With that thought, I felt a tiny spark of hope because I know that this moment will stir the same feelings that I had in the hearts of many of those members of the US military. Their conscience will tell them that this was not a mistake – this was war, and they will want no further part of it. They will learn through this inexcusable event that war is never the answer.

When they do, the Center on Conscience & War will be here for them, just like we have been for the last 75 years.

Maria Santelli

for the CCW Board, Staff, and community

**Providence Monthly Meeting - Contacts**

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Website: [webclerk@providencelfriends.org](http://webclerk@providencelfriends.org)

Moses Brown School Liaison: Willis Monroe [liaison@providencelfriends.org](mailto:liaison@providencelfriends.org)

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

To schedule the Meetinghouse: Bruce Shaw [scheduling@providencelfriends.org](mailto:scheduling@providencelfriends.org)

AFSC SENE: Martha Yager (508) 399-6699 or [myager@afsc.org](mailto:myager@afsc.org) or

[www.afsc.org/sene](http://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)  
Nov. 1, 15, 29      Dec 6, 20      Jan 3, 17, 31

**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](mailto:yaf@providencefriends.org))

**Wednesday** - 8:25am - Moses Brown Lower School

**Wednesday** - 9:40am - Moses Brown Middle School

**Wednesday** - 10-11:30am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 of 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

## Climate Spring 2 - An Invitation to New Life November 20-22<sup>nd</sup> - Woolman Hill

A group of Friends from New England Yearly Meeting will actively follow leadings related to addressing climate change by holding these concerns and leadings in worship and seeking together what prophetic action we may be led to as Friends in New England.

Envisioned as a spacious weekend with time to seek a deep and shared experience of our Source, we look to open ourselves to new leadings for both ourselves and our community. From our faithfulness we can lead a spiritually grounded, powerful resistance to the forces of climate change. The gathering is to cultivate this movement, and to leave connected, refreshed and alive.

For more details, please register by visiting:

<https://goo.gl/9QhcyJ>

or contact Fran Lightsom at:

[fran.lightsom@gmail.com](mailto:fran.lightsom@gmail.com)

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