

The Provident FRIEND

Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

November 2016

AFSC Bulletin: Resources for These Intense Times

The past few weeks and months have been brutal in many ways, especially for people who are not wealthy white men. We don't know exactly what is coming in the next few years, but we do know that in our communities there already are children afraid to go to school because they fear their parents won't be there when they come home. African American kids have been bullied at school, called names and told to go back to Africa. Muslim women have been heckled. Women are calling their doctors to access birth control in fear that they won't be able to soon. Young adults in their 20s worry about losing health insurance if Obama Care is destroyed. Many of us are touched with the uncertainty. It is a time for us to dig deep, to ground ourselves in Spirit, to center ourselves in Love. Quakers have much to offer the world right now, not the least of which is making a real attempt to listen with love and to look for that of God that is in each being. Rooted in Love, we can begin to find ways to act.

On Sunday I was asked, "What is AFSC doing about this?" AFSC-SENE is doing what we have been doing, though ramping it up a bit. We will keep working to build the Beloved Community, to bring people with these concerns together so that we can be strong together. We will keep looking at aspects of systemic racism in our area (mass incarceration, school to prison pipeline, solitary confinement, out-of-school suspension, policing practices, etc.). We will continue to build relationships with immigrants in hopes of helping keep them safe and making sure that their voices are heard. We will continue to offer nonviolence trainings and other supports to those working to protect our planet. We will continue to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to shift money from military spending to supporting our communities for true security. We will continue to work for a just peace for all in Israel/Palestine. It's likely we'll begin doing lots more things, too.

And we will need your help. We need to provide the political support for our elected officials at all levels of government to resist passing or implementing policies that harm our communities. Your phone calls and visits to offices will matter a great deal. We may need to create safe spaces for people threatened with deportation. What churches will step up to offer sanctuary in Providence? Whether or not the Meeting is one of those spaces, we will need people to support those spaces. And we will need to step into hard conversations, trying to listen to the fear and distress that is behind so much of the ugliness. AFSC will be helping start new Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) chapter in Providence and other communities. You might check out their website (www.showingupforracialjustice.org) and let me know how you can help. Watch for more information on this.

And last but not least, we need your financial help. These are uncertain times, and your support means a great deal. To donate to AFSC's programs and support our work, please visit www.afsc.org/sene and click on the donate button.

In Peace,

Martha Yager
AFSC-SENE program coordinator

Published Nov. 18, 2016

CALENDAR

Saturday, November 19

10 am-12:15, Saylesville
Meetinghouse Bookswap

Sunday, November 20

11:15 am, Providence
Meetinghouse
Potluck and Discussion
with Marcus Mitchell on
the East Side Initiative for
Community Development

Sunday, November 20

4 pm, Providence
Meetinghouse
Memorial Meeting to
celebrate the life and Light
of PMM member Jen
Giglio

Sunday, November 27

3 pm, Providence
Meetinghouse
Sacred Harp Singing

Thursday, Dec. 1

6 pm, Meeting of
Interfaith Friends (Potluck)

Sunday, December 4

11 am, Providence
Meetinghouse
Monthly Potluck

Saturday, December 17

5 pm, Providence
Meetinghouse
Christmas Gathering and
Potluck (Children rehearse
at **3 pm**)

Saturday, December 24

4:30 pm, Saylesville
Meetinghouse
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Meeting

**Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Minutes, 13th Eleventh Month, 2016**

1. We gathered at the Providence meetinghouse at 12:10 pm with nineteen present. Childcare is now provided during this session. Following the opening worship, the clerk read the following queries on stewardship, from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*:

Does our meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our meeting engage its members in the support of the meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

2. **Announcements:**

On November 20, Peace and Social Concerns Committee invites Friends to a potluck lunch followed by a presentation by Marcus Mitchell on "Building Towards Reconciliation," opportunities for building a cohesive community on the East Side of Providence.

At December's meeting for business, we will consider the proposed draft of the Membership section for the new NEYM *Faith and Practice*, to provide feedback to the NEYM revision committee. The draft is available online at <http://neym.org/fp-revision/documents-discussion>. Hard copies can be requested from members of Ministry and Counsel.

Saylesville Preparative Meeting will host its traditional candlelight worship at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve, followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.

There will be Sunday worship as usual, in both meetinghouses, on the 25th of 12th month.

3. **Correspondence:**

We have received a note of thanks from NEYM for use of the Providence meetinghouse by the Young Adult Friends' retreat, with a donation of \$100.

4. **Global Warming Actions:** The Peace and Social Concerns Committee introduced its proposals for this meeting's response to the NEYM call for meetings to take specific actions to promote sustainable living and combat global climate change. We were reminded that NEYM in turn was responding to a minute on "Living Sustainably and Sustaining Life on Earth" from the FWCC World Plenary meeting in Peru in January 2016. The committee responded positively to the NEYM call, and wants to encourage Friends to commit to take specific actions, perhaps by taking a card home with them with specific suggestions. We encourage P&SC to do this, and also to distribute information on how households can purchase "green" electricity (solar, wind, small hydro) in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

In the discussion that followed, we focused on corporate actions the meeting could take. We have been reminded of Kenneth Boulding's description of Quakerism as "*organized* perfection." Individual efforts are helpful, but not enough. We note that we have added gardening space this year that provides produce to the Camp Street food pantry. We could expand that further. The largest climate impact comes from large projects, but those are also the most disruptive. Shade trees and other aesthetic considerations make some possibilities less feasible. A major carbon cost of this meeting is the fuel expended in Friends getting here. We were reminded that the bus stops two blocks away, and runs south to the airport and north into Pawtucket. Friends may be able to share rides more than is already happening.

It was also suggested that we seek out films for movie night that help educate the meeting community on climate change issues.

What would it take to make our two meetinghouses carbon-neutral? We could investigate our carbon footprint and steps we could take to reduce it, such as purchase “green” electricity (through People’s Power & Light or National Grid), or put solar panels on the roof. It is easier to change behavior when you measure it. We ask the Property committee, with advice from an ad hoc group consisting of Steve Schwartz, Eugenia Marks, and Betsy Cazden, and others with suggestions, to calculate our current carbon usage, find a way to present it visually to the entire meeting community, and procure expert advice (through RI Interfaith Power & Light) on what we could do to reduce it further.

We thank the P&SC committee and NEYM for bringing us this opportunity to reaffirm and deepen our concern for global climate change and our commitment to take concrete actions towards sustainability.

5. **Property Committee:** For the committee, Bob Elliot reported that a new dishwasher will be installed tomorrow (replacing the broken one). He noted that the new air conditioners (heat pumps) do not seem to have added significantly to our electrical usage; the biggest spikes come when we have a weekend retreat using the kitchen.
6. **Finance Committee:** Dan Lederer noted that the annual appeal letter has gone out to all members and attenders whose addresses we have. He noted that this year’s budget is the highest ever; the meeting has about 62 contributing household units and an expected budget for individual contributions of \$52,359, which means an average household contribution of \$845. A similar notice will also be placed in the current newsletter.
7. **Saylesville:** Bruce Downing reported that the Preparative Meeting has been discussing how to improve its outreach in the local community, including the possibility of a midweek evening meeting for worship.
8. **Peace and Social Concerns:** Steve Schwartz noted that the committee has designated people to make sure that announcements of P&SC activities get into the newsletter and announced following worship. They are also collecting information on organizations and activities that members of the meeting community are already engaged in, to encourage others who may have similar interests.
9. **Minute of exercise:** We are under the weight of the fear and uncertainty engendered by the election last week, and have reflected on what new witness we may be called to in this new situation. A meeting “to resist hate,” organized by a local political leader, was scheduled for this meetinghouse late last week, but was moved to the Hope High School cafeteria due to the large turnout. It may be useful to the neighborhood to have a midweek worship time or open fellowship time at the Providence meetinghouse (at a different time from the Saylesville midweek meeting). On the other hand, it may be more useful to support other efforts to bring together people from different parts of the community. Martha Yager may also be able to suggest ways for us to connect with the most vulnerable of our neighbors. Jen McFadden has been in touch with the Muslim community (which appreciates our outreach to it) and with the RI Council of Churches, looking toward an interfaith meeting here in early December.
10. The meeting closed at 1:48 pm, intending to meet next the 11th of 12th month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Mike Hirtle, clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, recording clerk

Around the Meeting

The Providence Monthly Meeting community is deeply saddened at the sudden loss of one of its beloved members. **Jennifer Giglio** passed away at Rhode Island Hospital in the early hours of Wednesday, November 16. Her three sons, Jordan, Caleb, and Cory, are in the care of their grandmother. A memorial meeting for Jen will take place on Sunday, November 20, at 4 pm, followed by a potluck supper. Please come to share your memories, celebrate Jen's life and her

unforgettable spirit, and to hold her grieving family in the Light. The boys will be in need of the Meeting's help now more than ever as they navigate this very difficult transition. If you have the means to offer material support in the near term, please contact Zona Douthit at zdouthit@necoxmail.com. Plans for longer-term support opportunities are underway and will be shared in the newsletter once they are firm.

Congratulations to **Jayme, Galen, and Jackson McNemar Hamann** on the eagerly awaited arrival of identical twin baby girls, **Maya Ann** and **Madeleine Dennise**, on Thursday, November 17. Both girls are healthy, but Madeleine is a bit smaller than her sister and is spending a bit of time in the NICU getting stronger. Both moms are doing well, and Jackson is delighted with his new status as Big Brother.

An updated Meeting Handbook is now available on the Meeting Website, www.providencesfriends.org.

November 20: Marcus Mitchell Speaks on Building Community in the East Side

On Sunday, November 20 at 11:15, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring a potluck and discussion with PMM attendee Marcus Mitchell. For the past several months, Marcus has been pioneering a "Friendly 8s" program with East Side community members as a way to establish relationships and strengthen local ties. The initiative originated when the social justice committee at Temple Emanu-El saw a need for bringing together those who live, work, and worship in the Blackstone, Mt. Hope, and Summit areas of Providence. Marcus suggested a program modeled on PMM's own Friendly 8s as a mechanism for facilitating conversation and connection. In August, the program launched its first Friendly 8s dinner; since then, there have been over 20 suppers bringing together neighbors and strangers in one another's homes. The dinners are loosely structured: potential hosts and guests can contact Marcus to be paired up, or hosts can create their own guest lists. Some choose to hold potlucks; others do all the cooking or cater for the group. Dinners can take place any night of the week. At each supper, the number of community connections grows and the conversations expand. The impact on the neighborhood has been noticeable in the way people interact on the streets. Marcus is hopeful that members of our Meeting will be interested in participating and broadening the network still further. To get involved, email Marcus at mpm@isp.com, or text him at (401)441-1134.

An Appeal from the Finance Committee

By now many of you will have received an appeal letter reminding you of Meeting's financial needs. Out of our budget of \$99,331, 53% comes from contributions. During our last fiscal year, we received donations from 62 contributing units (families or individuals). If the same number of persons and families contribute this year, that means that their donations will need to average around \$845 for us to avoid a deficit at the end of the fiscal year. Clearly \$845 is more than some can afford, so the hope is that those of you who are able to do so will help make up the difference. As we have done in the past, we invite you to let the treasurer know if you feel that, as a matter of conscience related to Friends United Meeting's hiring policies, the Meeting should withhold that part of your contribution (less than 1%) that would have gone to FUM. This can be done simply by writing on your check "Not to FUM". Toward the end of the fiscal year we will decide at Meeting for Business how best to use the total amount withheld. Contributions can always be placed in the contribution box in the foyer of the Meetinghouse or mailed to the Meeting treasurer Peter Swazek, 57 Brayton Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818. Make your check out to Providence Friends Meeting. If you do banking by mail, you can set the Meeting up as a payee, using your own name as the account number.

Possibilities Page: Things to See, Do, Hear, Think About, Etc.

Brown University Chorus Holiday Concerts

Some of our musical Friends are taking part once again in holiday concerts Brown University. Join them for either or both of these events, which take place in Sayles Hall on Brown's Main Green. The entrance is on the corner of Waterman and Brown Streets. Please contact Steve Schwartz for more information.

Dec 4 (Sunday) 4pm: "Lessons and Carols"

Brown University's beautiful candle-lit event is open to the public. Musical interludes by the Brown University Chorus and others are interspersed with readings and carol singing by all.

Dec 9 (Friday) 8pm: Handel's "Messiah" (Christmas portion)

The Brown University Chorus will be joined by an orchestra with members of Community Music Works for this very accessible, tuneful and seasonally related event. They are raising funds for a tour, so there is a fee this year (\$15/\$5).

Some Ideas from the Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is considering an oral history project. The idea would be to interview and record some of our more seasoned Friends as they reminisce both about Meeting's past and about their experience as Quakers, and compile their accounts into an archive of sorts. Is anyone interested in taking this on? It might be a worthwhile project for a student. The committee can supply recording equipment and provide other support as needed. The committee has also received some inquiries on technology: accessing Meeting information online, using basic software, dealing with pesky devices. We are here to help any way we can, including individual tutoring as needed. Just direct your questions to Dan Lederer, and he will get you in contact with the right person. If a lot of people have the same kinds of questions, we can even set up a group "help desk" session.

Before the Flood: A Superb film on Global Warming

A recommendation from Elsie Morse

Leonardo DiCaprio has done an extraordinary National Geographic Documentary on global warming, *Before the Flood*. While I appreciate the fact that for most of us, his film is "speaking to the choir," I still feel it is tremendously informative, and it's a good film to share with others. It begins with Leonardo relating that the Hieronymus Bosch triptych *Eden, Earth, and Hell* hung over his bed as a young child. Needless to say, all those medieval characters representing Adam and Eve, the people of Earth and the sufferers of Hell had a powerful impression on him. The analogy of having left Eden but hoping we don't make a Hell out of Earth with our expanding carbon footprint is powerful. From there he takes us to a presentation he made in front of the United Nations in which he wondered aloud, with all humility, why someone who acts out make-believe solutions to make-believe problems would be the one to speak on this serious subject. He takes us on a tour of the world's most climate-challenged environments and invites us on interviews of countless world leaders, including the Pope. I was going to suggest we consider the film for a movie night, but given that it is a new film, it might be difficult to borrow or illegal to project to a group. For now, at least, it can be enjoyed in its entirety on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUoDddqYAXs>.

If you've seen a good movie, share it with Friends. Email Jen at jenniferlamm@gmail.com with your suggestions.

Interfaith Friends Meet for Potluck/Discussion

All are welcome to join in an interfaith meeting for discussion and fellowship downstairs in the Providence Meetinghouse on Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6 pm. If you're able, bring a dish to share; if you're not, that's fine, too. *Halal* Indian food from Kebab and Curry will also be provided, so you can look forward to samosas and other goodies. Join folks from the Rhode Island Council of Churches, the Islamic Center of Rhode Island, Moses Brown School, Brown University and elsewhere to talk about ways we can build relationships and actively resist discourses that stereotype, marginalize, disenfranchise, and alienate. If you know someone from any faith community who might be interested in attending, please pass along an invitation.

Annual Christmas Gathering and Candlelight Service

Please mark your calendars for this year's Christmas festivities. Our annual Christmas Gathering, featuring the FDS program and favorite songs and readings and followed by a festive potluck, will be held this year at 5 pm on Saturday, December 17. (Children will need to be here at 3 to practice their program beforehand. We will provide some snacks to tide them over until dinner time.) The Saylesville Meetinghouse will also host its traditional Christmas Eve meeting for worship beginning at 4:30. Friends report that the sight of the Saylesville Meetinghouse lit by candlelight is a particularly lovely sight. Come and see for yourself!

Updates from Jamestown

Submitted by Marcie Lindsay

Conanicut Friends Meeting of Jamestown has moved to its winter worship space at Mabel's Studio, Norman Bird Sanctuary, 583 Third Beach Rd., Middletown, 02842. We'll meet there at the usual time of 10:30, every Sunday except Christmas and New Year's Day. Worship in Middletown will continue through April, 2017. Friends are always welcomed to join our unprogrammed worship overlooking Rhode Island sound, or, in the warmer weather, atop Windmill Hill in Jamestown.

The Jamestown Historical Society, which holds the deed to the historic Meetinghouse on Weeden Lane, is exploring options to replace the roof and southern front shingles, repairs which are sorely needed. Our members and attenders scraped, sanded and repainted the trim again this fall, and the shutters were re-trimmed to better seal against the winter weather coming. Thanks are extended to John Drotos, William Smith III, Jan Shapin, Tony Stapleton, Phil Mayer, Tina Dulhaime, Scott Pelli, Jill Frew...and some kind person who dropped off donuts for our hard-working crew!

Announcing a New Database for Projects and Programs Associated with PMM

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has come up with a useful way to track the various projects and programs that members of the PMM community are involved in. The new database exists as a Google Doc, which anyone can add to by using a community link. Are you engaged in work towards peace or social justice? If so, we'd like to include that information. To have the link emailed to you, please email Seth Kolker at seth.kolker@gmail.com. If you are not inclined to attempt it yourself, a fearless volunteer (Seth) will input your information on your behalf. Email him with (1) your name; (2) the issue you're working on; (3) the organization(s) you're a part of; and (4) a brief description of what you do and which ways (if any) the Meeting could support that work. The hope is that collaborative efforts, meeting-wide actions, general awareness, or other useful ends might grow organically out of this initiative.

An Invitation to Thanksgiving at Sandywoods Farm, Tiverton, RI

Shared by Penny Jackim

On Thanksgiving Day, Sandywoods Center for the Arts will host its free Thanksgiving dinner for all who wish to come. Those who wish to attend can bring desserts, drinks, and side dishes to share. Turkey and trimmings, potatoes and gravy will be served (and lots of other things). Please come to share and give thanks at **TIME, PLACE**. If you are willing to volunteer with kitchen preparations on Wednesday and Thursday, or are able to donate food or otherwise support this event, please call 401-835-6639.

No Plans? No Problem

Anyone who finds themselves without other plans on Thanksgiving is welcome to join the McFadden-Lamms in Bristol. Please share the invitation with anyone you might encounter who is alone this Thanksgiving. Dietary accommodations can be made with sufficient notice. Call Jen at 970-456-5642, or just show up hungry around 3pm on Thursday at 401 Chestnut St., uphill from the high school.

Holiday Giving

Don't forget this year's Coat Exchange, held annually on the day after Thanksgiving. Celebrate "Buy Nothing Day" by giving! Bring coats to share with the needy throughout Providence. Also remember to keep an eye out for cards on the Giving Tree downstairs. Your donated gifts will help support families through the East Bay Community Action Program.

Providence Monthly Meeting

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

Presiding Clerk: **Mike Hirtle** clerk@providencefriends.org

Assistant Presiding Clerk: **Dan Lederer** assistclerk@providencefriends.org

Recording Clerk: **Betsy Cazden** recordingclerk@providencefriends.org

Treasurer: **Peter Swaszek** treasurer@providencefriends.org

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Pastoral Care Committee: **Phebe Howland** pastoralcare@providencefriends.org

Finance: **Dan Lederer** finance@providencefriends.org

Peace & Social Concerns: **Steve Schwartz** peaceandsocial@providencefriends.org

Social & Hospitality: **Dede Carlsten and Kim Wiegand**

socialandhospitality@providencefriends.org

Religious Education: **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

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Property: **Bob Elliott and Nina Berry** property@providencefriends.org

Funeral & Burial: **Matt Hackman** funeralandburial@providencefriends.org

Newsletter: **Jen McFadden** providentfriend@providencefriends.org

Email list moderator: **Dan Lederer** list@providencefriends.org

Website: webclerk@providencefriends.org

Moses Brown School Liaison: **Betsy Zimmerman** 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: 10:30 am (Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown)

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
(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

Sing-along, Saylesville – 11:30 am 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

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