

The Provident FRIEND

News from the Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

May 18, 2017

News from First Day School: June 4 Picnic, Summer Opportunities

Please join us for the First day school picnic June 4 at the meeting house. This will be held instead of our usual potluck after the rise of meeting. We are asking people to bring a side dish or dessert. Meat and veggie options to grill will be provided. Come join the fun!

First day school is looking for teachers for the summer as our regular teachers are not available. The summer is a fun time with the students as we play games and go for walks, no lesson planning needed. We will have a sign-up board downstairs in June and will look for help for June July and August. We will have two college age helpers each week as well. If interested please contact a member of religious education committee including Betsy Zimmerman, Eugenia Marks, or Sarah Bailly.

AFSC-SENE Celebrates Its Partners and Community

June 10

from Martha Yager

In AFSC's 100th year, the South East New England Program is being laid down. While many of us grieve that, we also want to celebrate the 15 years of work for peace with justice and the amazing community that we have been part of. We will have a meal together then share an evening of music, poetry, and memories and maybe even a bit of dancing at the end. The event is a fundraiser for AMOR, a Providence area hot line and community supports for people dealing with problems with police or ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The group is also planning to facilitate work that helps the healing of community trauma. Please [RSVP here](#) so that we can plan food. Tickets prices are \$30 each, \$50 per family. If you are able to do more that would be fabulous! We were thinking multiples of 30 would be ideal. NOTE: The link is to a PrYSM account, as they are the fiscal agent for AMOR. Please join us!

FCNL Bumper Stickers Now Available

FCNL brought lots of "Love Thy Neighbor" bumper stickers and other great materials when their staff visited in early May. Pick one up from the pamphlet table in the library in the Providence Meetinghouse!

CALENDAR

Friday, May 19

3:15-5 pm, Moses Brown Annual Tea for Providence Friends
112 Ross House

Saturday, May 20

10 am-12:15, Saylesville Meetinghouse Bookswap

2-4 pm, Open Mosques RI

Masjid Al-Islam, 40 Sayles Hill Rd., North Smithfield
Masjid Al-Kareem, 39 Haskins St., Providence
Masjid Al-Hoda, 60 Fortin Rd., Kingston
Masjid Al-Rahman, 18 Dunnell Lane, Pawtucket

6-9 pm, Taste of Faith Multifaith Potluck Dinner

Islamic School of Rhode Island
840 Providence St., West Warwick, RI
(Bring a dish to share - no alcohol or pork, please)

Monday, May 22

6 pm, FCNL Advocacy Workshop
Westerly Friends Meeting
57 Elm St., Westerly RI
(follows dinner at 5:30)

Sunday, May 28

12 pm, Martha Yager speaks to Peace and Social Concerns Committee on Sanctuary and the Sanctuary Everywhere Movement
Providence Meetinghouse
(all are welcome)

3-6 pm, Shape Note Singing
Providence Meetinghouse

Sunday, June 4,

11 am, First Day School End-of-Year Picnic and Potluck
Providence Meetinghouse

Saturday, June 10

6 pm, AFSC-SENE Benefit Celebration
Beneficent Church, Round Top Center
300 Weybosset St., Providence

Third Wednesdays (monthly)

6 pm, Saylesville Meetinghouse Worship and singing

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, Minutes, 14th of 5th Month, 2017

1. We gathered at the Saylesville meetinghouse at 12:10 pm with 15 present. The clerk read the following queries from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith & Practice*:

What is our Meeting's role in the life and support of Friends' education? If supporting or maintaining a Friends school, have we developed an appropriate relationship of Meeting and school? What is our role in the spiritual life of the school and its maintenance of Friends' principles?

What does our Meeting do to support education in the wider community?

What help do we provide for the children and adults in our Meeting to pursue the education they seek, whether academic, technical, or vocational? Do we make provision for children in our Meeting to attend a Friends school?

2. **Announcements:**

Saylesville worship group invites all Friends to join in "Wonderful Wednesday" this coming Wednesday, the 17th of 5th month, with worship at 5:30, followed by a potluck meal and fellowship.

Ministry and Counsel invites those with thoughts about a memorial minute for Mary Barrett to speak with members of Ministry and Counsel.

3. **Correspondence.** We have received a note of thanks from Woolman Hill acknowledging our contribution.

4. **Religious Education.** Betsy Zimmerman reported for the Religious Education Committee. We are blessed by our children's exuberant presence. However, the committee is challenged by the large number of children at present, usually nine to seventeen in total. The largest group is ages four to seven, requiring three adults. There is also a large nursery group, so the younger group promises to be large for some time to come. It has been difficult to find enough adults to work with them, even with some paid helpers, and the committee is eager to hear from Friends willing to serve. The summer will be more informal, hoping that other adults will volunteer.

5. **Membership.** Recorder Elise Morse presented the annual Statistical Report that will be forwarded to New England Yearly Meeting. The report was approved, with permission to make minor adjustments as needed before sending it on.

6. **Saylesville preparative meeting.** Bruce Downing reported that the preparative meeting has held its final business meeting, including passing to the Property Committee the full responsibility for care of the Saylesville meetinghouse. They look forward to continuing as a precious worshipping community, and to welcoming members who normally worship at Providence, as well as others who are drawn to this site by its history and family connections. They thank the monthly meeting for its ongoing care of worship here.

7. We note that as of June 1, we will have **new officers**. We thank David Bourns for his years of service as clerk

of Ministry and Counsel, and thank Dan Lederer for his service as presiding clerk and assistant presiding clerk.

8. Rebecca Leuchak reported on yesterday's meeting of the **NEYM Permanent Board**. Friends Camp is seeing a large increase in applications, and the new director has been traveling among meetings to get to know families. Permanent Board began the day with a workshop on White Privilege, led by Lisa Graustein; white privilege is like the water that fish swim in but do not recognize. The yearly meeting continues to be concerned about financial support from meetings and individuals.

9. We adjourned at 1:00 pm, intending to meet next on the 11th of 6th month at the Providence meetinghouse, with the meetinghouse expansion as a significant agenda item. The clerk noted that no decision has been made on whether to continue to hold business meetings at the Saylesville meetinghouse.

Daniel Lederer, Assistant presiding clerk

Elizabeth Cazden, Recording clerk

FCNL Advocacy Workshop in Westerly, May 22

Eddie Morren

I'm excited about a workshop I am hosting with a few others, and I hope you will be interested in joining us at Westerly Friends Meeting on May 22 at 6pm (dinner at 5:30). I'm working with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on a project to learn advocacy skills that can have an impact on Congress for the long haul. FCNL Advocacy Teams are starting up around the country, and I'm working on creating one in Westerly.

I'm as worried as you are about the decisions our government will make in the coming years. But the team at FCNL has an amazing track record of fostering Congressional champions for peace and justice: they take strategic steps every day to move Congress in the right direction.

FCNL staff are going around the country launching FCNL Advocacy Teams that will work with Congress and the media to foster champions for peace and justice. I think this could be a way forward. You can learn more about the program by visiting FCNL's page at fcnl.org/advocacyteams.

I hope you can make it! The workshop will be on **May 22 at Westerly Friends Meeting, 57 Elm St., Westerly, RI 02891**. You can RSVP at the following link: http://act.fcnl.org/event/advocacy-teams_attend/119

(Editor's note: The Advocacy Teams program is one of the ambitious new initiatives FCNL is undertaking to help bring grassroots Quaker lobbying to local communities around the country. If you missed the chance to hear Diane Randall speak on May 7 about how FCNL's Capital Campaign is working to shape the future of Quaker lobbying and advocacy, consider tuning in for a free webinar on Wednesday evening, May 31, from 8 to 9 pm. [Click here to register and learn how to join the call.](#))

A Meeting Network

From the Communications Committee

About two years ago, Communications Committee started a project called "A Meeting Network". The idea was this: Friends were 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 was to compile your responses and make them available to our community of Friends, which we did. Since then a lot of new people have joined Meeting either as members or attenders, and it would be great to hear from them as well.

In regard to question # 1, you've probably found that at times you 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.

If you're willing to add an entry, or if you want to modify what you've written previously, send your responses, which can be as brief or as lengthy as you like, to: communications@providencefriends.org.

May 12 Fellowship at Masjid Al Kareem

On the following page are some photos from this month's coffee fellowship at Masjid Al Kareem, courtesy of Faisal Elansari, who also sent along this note: "Thank you so much for your love and support. Please extend our gratitude to everyone that was involved in organizing this event and the kind individuals that shared their home baked cookies with us. That means a lot to us and we look forward seeing you all again on [Saturday, May 20th on the Open Mosque event](#)." (Faisal is pictured in next to Nancy Houston and her mother.) The photos were taken after much of the crowd had dispersed. This month we gave out some geraniums as Mother's Day gifts, along with our usual coffee and cookies, and we added tea to our menu. We served about 60 cups of coffee - the cream ran out, but the good conversation didn't. Stay tuned for our next fellowship date after the end of the Ramadan fast in June!



Odds and Ends: Opportunities of Interest to Friends and friends

Introducing Sanctuary Herbs of Providence

Sanctuary Herbs was born after the dismal 2016 election, when two gardener friends decided to solidify their commitment to support refugee and immigrant farmers who have settled in Rhode Island. They also wanted to share their appreciation for locally grown, chemical-free produce. **Sanctuary Herbs'** locally sourced product line features herbal tisanes (teas) and culinary herbs inspired by recipes from the home countries of the farmers with whom they collaborate. This Saturday, May 20th marks Sanctuary Herbs' official launch at the Hope St. Block Party, 12 - 6pm on Rocheambeau. Visit their booth to say hi, sample products, and meet some of their partner farmers!

Job Opportunities of Note

Steve Schwartz has a small business related to an invention, and will be needing help very soon with a variety of things--some bookkeeping, some light assembly manufacturing, some video editing, some social media work, etc. Some of it is short-term, and might be great for any students home for the summer. Some of it would be good to have longer term helpers. Hours are flexible, and some of it can be done from home. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please email Steve at steve@yourheaven.net or steve@absteve.com; or call 401-273-7076 (landline) 401-439-7281 (cell)

The **Religious Education Committee** is looking to hire 2 assistants for First Day School to replace our current helpers, Jake Kuhn and Anna Guo, who are graduating college and moving out of state. Applicants from the meeting community are welcome to apply, including college students home for the summer. Please share with friends, family or acquaintances who might be interested. The official ad is as follows:

Sunday School Assistants Wanted

Providence Friends Meeting (Quaker) is looking for 1-2 Sunday School assistants to help each Sunday from 10-11am. The assistants would help the primary teacher with student projects and other aspects of classroom management. The students' ages range from 4-13 years old. Our class size ranges from 5 to 20 students at a time. The ideal candidate would have experience working with this age group. Pay is \$25 for the hour and we are located on the East Side of Providence at the corner of Morris and Olney Streets. We are looking for help for the whole year but are open to candidates who are available only for the summer or only for the school year. If interested, please contact Sarah Baily at bailysp@hotmail.com for more information.

The **Women's Resource Center in Newport** announces a position as **Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Project Coordinator**. The mission of the Women's Resource Center (WRC) is to lead domestic violence prevention through the empowerment of individuals and the community by providing advocacy, education and support services. Its prevention programs are at the forefront of domestic violence prevention nationally. The Women's Resource Center is the backbone agency for the Newport Health Equity Zone (HEZ), a city-wide coalition mobilizing residents and resources of the Broadway and North End neighborhoods to make Newport a place where everyone can thrive. HEZ envisions a city where structural, financial, and environmental barriers to health and well-being are eliminated; public policy fosters the good health of all residents; and residents feel empowered to control health of their families and community. **The Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Project Coordinator** facilitates the assessment, planning, and implementation of the Newport HEZ Initiative, a place-based approach to addressing health disparities. For more information on this position, please visit <http://www.ricadv.org/en/about-us-ricadv/employment> (click on Women's Resource Center).

Providence Monthly Meeting Contact List

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
 Ministry & Counsel: **David Bourns** ministryandcounsel@providencefriends.org
 Pastoral Care Committee: **Adele Bourne** 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
 Archive: **archivist@providencefriends.org**
 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**
 Adult Religious Education: **Zona Douthit** adulted@providencefriends.org



Elizabeth Bonner Zimmerman

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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

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, 6:00-8:00 pm Call (508) 399-6699

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Providence, RI 02906