

The Provident FRIEND

Nov 14, 2022

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

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 13th of Eleventh Month, 2022 Minutes

Friends gathered by Zoom technology at 12:15 with 16 present.

Presiding clerk Victoria Ekk began the period of silent worship by reading the following queries taken from New England Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* (2011) Chapter 11:

Do I trust that the Inner Light can lead me beyond my individual perceptions and desires into action grounded in God's truth?

Am I grateful for the gifts I have been given?

The clerk read announcements concerning the life of the meeting.

The following items of business were brought forward:

Larry and Judy Mandel have requested membership in our Meeting. They have been attending our Conanicut worship group for several years. Larry and Judy met with a clearness committee, which recommended that they be accepted into membership. Friends approved.

A memorial minute for our member Penny Jackim was read (see below). Friends approved the minute and will forward it to our next Quarterly meeting. A memorial meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

No further business appearing, we closed with a period of silent worship at 12:40 p.m., intending to meet next on the 11th of Twelfth month.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Ekk, Clerk

Rebecca Smith, Recording Clerk

CALENDAR

Sunday, Nov 20, 10:00 AM,
Meeting for Worship (Indoors and Zoom)

Sunday, Nov 27, 10:00 AM,
Meeting for Worship (Indoors and Zoom)

Sunday, Dec 4, 10:00 AM, Meeting
for Worship (Indoors and Zoom)

Saturday, Dec 10, 5:00 PM,
Christmas Gathering (Indoors)

Sunday, Dec 11, 10:00 AM,
Meeting for Worship (Indoors and Zoom)

Sunday, Dec 11, 12:15 PM,
Meeting for Business (Zoom)

Sunday, Dec 18, 10:00 AM,
Meeting for Worship (Indoors and Zoom)

Saturday, Dec 24, 4:30 PM,
Candlelight Service at Saylesville
(Indoors and Zoom)

Sunday, Dec 25, 10:00 AM,
Christmas, Meeting for Worship
(Indoors and Zoom)

Memorial Minute for Penelope Jackim June 5, 1930 - March 5, 2022

Friend Penelope ‘Penny’ Wolcott Jackim, 91, passed away peacefully at home in Wakefield, Rhode Island, on March 5, 2022. Penny was born in Bronxville, New York, to Wallace Wolcott and Elizabeth Tyler Wolcott, of Scarsdale. She resided in several states in the northeastern US: Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Massachusetts, and she finally alighted in Rhode Island in 1964. A single parent for many years, Penny is survived by her two children, Clifford Jackim and Robin Jackim Spachman and her husband Roger Spachman of Rhode Island, and her older brother Roger Wolcott of Maryland.

Penny attended Swarthmore College for a short period of time and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute in 1956. She later studied calligraphy at the University of Massachusetts, in Dartmouth. Her talent and skills in art were varied and included drawing and painting in watercolor and other mediums as well as graphic design. .

Penny, like Picasso, went through different art periods. Early on, she focused on modern art pieces that reflected her own energy and creativity. Later, she produced many watercolor paintings in a more traditional style and expanded her art with calligraphy and printmaking. She was recognized by her peers and became an active member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, the Wickford Art Association, and Massachusetts Scribes. She found time to teach painting and calligraphy, and frequently exhibited her artwork in juried shows in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. While her artwork and teaching kept Penny busy, in the 1980’s Penny started the company Ahimsa Graphics. She used the Sanskrit word Ahimsa, meaning “to do no harm”, to produce and sell designs that promoted non-violence in all aspects of life. Her art was printed on T-shirts, note cards, and tote bags available in stores nationwide and at many events and crafts fairs.

Participants in the 2022 New England Yearly Meeting told about how they cherished her art as seen on T-shirts, cards, and posters at the annual conference. Some of the comments were as follows: “Penny was always generous with her art! She would quickly agree to design a card or a wedding certificate for friends and neighbors.” NEYM Friends recall enjoying her teaching during summer workshops at Bowdoin College. “She was making incredibly fluid artwork and I always loved to see her at work. Her life and art were a blessing to all of us!” “I’ve missed Penny’s presence at Sessions and the ability to purchase her artwork, cards, and T-shirts, which were a highlight of my NEYM time.”

Penny was not limited to speaking her mind through art. She was also active in many social justice causes. She supported organizations that care for the environment and spoke out to promote equality and equity in women's issues, civil rights, antiracism, and respect for Native Americans. She attended many conferences and events in an effort to be part of the progress towards peace and nonviolence. She was a proud member of the "Raging Grannies", an international group that uses creative and humorous demonstrations including music to provide political education. She involved her friends and colleagues at the Sandywood artist colony in Tiverton in many of her social causes into her late 80's, when she moved into her daughter Robin's home.

As a Quaker, Penny was a deeply spiritual being who was open to Eastern thought as well as activism. A member of Providence Monthly Meeting, Penny was a leader in the Peace and Social Action Committee. She also edited the meeting newsletter and was seen helping out at a variety of tasks at many meeting events. As an organized and energetic person, she knew what had to be done and moved to get it accomplished. She was not a big person, but her voice was heard and her ideas were powerful.

Longtime members of the Friends Meeting in Providence were eager to share their thoughts about Penny:

"She was a loyal friend. (She and I were friends for 45-50 years.) She was supportive, not only to me, but to [my family]. She was modest and quiet spoken, with a gentle sense of humor. I already miss her."

"Penny was beloved - quirky, creative, and devoted to issues of injustice and protection of the earth and all beings. Her ministry was always profound - often reminding us of this one earth that we share and are responsible for and of those living without the benefit of education or privilege, and challenging us to be our best selves."

"I remember her being part of holiday craft fairs at the meetinghouse. I still have a few of her cards. Thanks for this chance to reflect on an inspiring woman. To me, Penny was someone who lived her life as close to her moral compass as she could. She was an entrepreneur of her art, which always carried a message of peace. She reminded us to look beyond our Eurocentric culture at a time when that was unthought of. She worked hard at living Friends Testimonies by speaking out against war and working for peace in the ways she moved through each day. Her messages in meeting often shared her readings and interactions with Peace activists."

Penny's artwork was a testament to her creative spirit and her deepest values. Those of us who were blessed to know her recall her ability to use humor to bring us back into unity and leave the clouds behind. It is this quirky humor and her ability to put all her efforts into contributing to a better, non-violent world that we celebrate at this time of her passing. While we miss her presence and her voice, Penny's Light is within our hearts and minds.

Light Year Display Installation November 20

The worship group at the Saylesville meetinghouse invites everyone to join them on Sunday November 20 for Meeting for Worship at 10:30 AM, cider and donuts at 11:30 AM, and then installation of the Light Year Display at noon.

If you'd like to donate to the display, the suggested amount is \$10.00. You can make out a check to Providence Friends Meeting with Light Year Display on the memo line and send it to Light Year Display, c/o Denise Turco, 199 River Road, Lincoln, RI 02865. Please attach a note indicating your name (or "Anonymous" if you would prefer that), which year you would like to commemorate, and contact information if you like.

Aquetuck Group News

Regarding the Indigenous Relationships Ad Hoc Group: There is a plan to visit the Narragansett Indian Church on Sunday November 20. The departure time is about 10:00 AM. It is in Charlestown on the unceded Narragansett Indian land.

Also, some of us are planning to attend the Day of Mourning on Thanksgiving, November 24, in Plymouth, MA from noon until 2:00 PM. For more information you can go to http://www.uaine.org/2022_ndom/2022%20NDOM%20flyer.pdf.

Please let Evan McManamy (evan.l.mcmanamy@gmail.com) know if you'd like to go to either of these as we might want to arrange carpooling together.

Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner November 24

Anyone interested in joining a Thanksgiving potluck on the afternoon of Thursday November 24 should contact either Judy Shaw (jgibbsshaw@aol.com) or Eugenia Marks (emarks66@gmail.com) no later than Sunday November 20.

New Book in Providence Meetinghouse Library

The new book is by Yeva Skalietska and is entitled *You Don't Know What War Is*.

Yeva turned 12 in mid-February of this year in Kharkiv, Ukraine. By the end of the month, she and her grandmother were finding shelter in the basement of their apartment building as their city was bombed. Her diary of the first months of the war recounts their journey further west in Ukraine and then to Hungary and finally Ireland. Yeva is both a typical pre-teen, fascinated by new sights, and a terrified refugee subject to panic attacks. She now knows what war is.

“Every day, my heart gets torn to pieces as I watch what’s happening in my home country, in my hometown. Those who survive the war will never be the same as before. ...Now they know, and will forever know, what it’s like to wake up to the sounds of shelling and missiles. ... Today your home wasn’t hit by a missile, but tomorrow things might be different.”

The High Cost of Free Parking

from Val Reishuk

Friends have long been involved in “right pricing” of goods and services. Quakers receive historical credit for the transition from bartering to price tags in Pennsylvania. As inventors of the predecessor to the board game Monopoly, it might be time for Friends to contemplate the high price of Free Parking.

I encountered expensive parking when I moved to downtown Cleveland, Ohio, in 2012. Divorced, empty-nested, still employed, I had a few dollars to spend on the plentiful weekend entertainment in my walkable neighborhood: live theater, professional sports, museums, parks. I learned to take the bus to the Friends Meetinghouse on First Day for worship. If I moved my car from its prepaid space in the garage, I'd risk losing my space for the rest of the weekend! I adapted. I became a foot/bus traveler Friday night through Sunday night, and a “reverse commuter” to my suburban teaching job on weekdays.

Parking scarcity and the high cost of parking accelerated my journey to becoming 100 percent car-free...and to living a life of simplicity. By 2016, when I moved to Providence, I chose to live and work downtown, and to not own a car.

Many Friends resolve to park farther from the office, to walk to the dry cleaners, to push a cart to the grocery store. But when it's time to go, we drive a car. Except when we travel to Boston. Boston has right-priced the parking (it's expensive) and provided a lot of public transit. Most of us comfortably take the train to Boston.

Here in Rhode Island, our good intentions to ditch the car are foiled by the built environment around us. Free parking discourages simplicity. Free parking encourages consumption of fossil fuels (in opposition to our testimony of stewardship of the Earth). Free parking gobbles up land that could house the homeless, increasing the inequities in our society. Conversely, when parking costs more, we fund transit, we walk, and we drive less.

What have we built? Why is parking so cheap? How do we make our towns more Quakerly?

Clerk's Corner: Gratitude for Gifts Given to Us

from Vicky Ekk

One of this month's queries for Meeting for Worship for the Purpose of Business is: "Am I grateful for the gifts I have been given?" Of course, gratitude is often a theme in November, mostly focused on the people we love and the good things we are able to enjoy in our life. But this query is focused on gratefulness for our individual strengths, the qualities given to each of us that we, and others, consider as positive and welcome.

Faith and Practice reminds us to be neither "too proud nor value them too little" (NEYM 2011 Ch. 11). It is far easier for me to find fault in myself than it is to remember that my good qualities and skills are *gifts* that need to be recognized as that of God in me. In affirming my strengths and good qualities I am saying thank you to the Light within me. And saying thank you is so very important!

So, to take time to reflect on the qualities given to each of us that make our life and that of those around us just a bit easier is important. We are grateful to call on these gifts when we have to deal with unexpected happenings, when things are just not going according to plan. I've been a great planner all my life, even as a child. That skill has definitely come in handy but it has also taught me

to recognize the truth in Robert Burns' poem that "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry."

Planners have to learn to be flexible, to take reversals and detours with patience and good humor. I believe that is one way we grow our gifts, in recognizing when to use them and when to set them aside a while to let life lead us down a different path. That detour may just be safer, or I may discover a place I did not know. Mistakes sometimes blossom into inventions. When a plan is thwarted, I can trust that 'way will open' for another good path.

So, this month, I'm taking time to be grateful for my gifts and for yours. What are your gifts and are you grateful for them?

Presiding Clerk: **Vicky Ekk** clerk@providencefriends.org
Newsletter: **Jen McFadden and Dan Lederer** providentfriend@providencefriends.org
Website: **Sam Schifman** webclerk@providencefriends.org
Questions and Information: **Steve Schwartz** info@providencefriends.org

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends
(401) 331-4218 or
<http://providencefriends.org>

**Current activities are listed
on the Calendar on page 1.**

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