

## MEETING CALENDAR

Saturday, Jan 20, 10:00 AM to noon, Saylesville Book Swap (Saylesville Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Jan 21, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid\*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Wednesday, Jan 24, 7:00 PM, Faith and Practice Revision Discussion (Zoom)

Sunday, Jan 28, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Feb 4, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid\*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Feb 11, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Feb 11, Meeting for Business at Providence, Noon (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid\*)

\*Hybrid = the in-person and online meetings are combined.

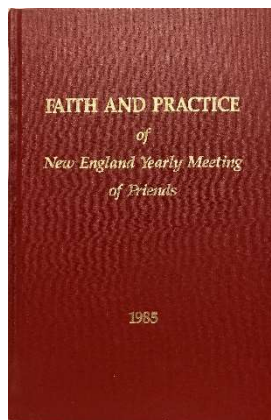
### **Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business**

Due to a lack of business items, Meeting for Business was postponed until February 11.



### **Saylesville Book Swap January 20**

The Book Swap continues at the Saylesville Meetinghouse (374 Great Road, Lincoln, RI) on the third Saturday of every month between 10:00 AM and noon. The folks out at Saylesville will be happy to see you.



### **Faith and Practice Revision Discussion January 24**

NEYM's Faith and Practice Revision Committee is asking monthly meetings to review and comment on its draft of the introduction to the revised Faith and Practice. In order to prepare a response to NEYM, we will be holding an hour-long threshing session via Zoom starting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday January 24. The link for the session will be sent out on the Meeting Email List. To see the draft, click [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ariana Steele ([clerk@providencefriends.org](mailto:clerk@providencefriends.org)) or Dan Lederer ([dlederer1@verizon.net](mailto:dlederer1@verizon.net)).

## **Elements of Quakerism Course March and April**

### *What is an Elements of Quakerism class?*

This is a seven-week course on Zoom that looks at the basic elements of Quakerism. The course is text-based. Each week there is about an hour of reading to do before the class; then in the class we discuss the materials. This is not just facts about Quakerism; it is about the spiritual underpinnings of Quakerism, and how those relate to your own spiritual life. Most materials are available to you online. The others can be borrowed from the Meeting library.

### *Who can attend?*

Anyone is welcome to attend. All classes will be on Zoom, so you do not need to live nearby or worry about inclement weather to attend. The material is geared for those fairly new to Quakerism, but longtime members and attenders may benefit from hearing about others' experiences, as well as thinking about ideas new to them or taken for granted after many years. The number of participants is limited to 10 per class so that people can get to know and trust each other and share about their own experiences and understandings. This is a great way to get to know others in the meeting. The class is free.

### *When will the classes meet?*

The class will meet on Wednesdays in March and April, from 6:30 until 8:00 PM. The dates are March 6, 13, 20, and 27, then April 3, 10, and 17.

### *What are the topics of the classes?*

Here is a tentative sequence of topics:

Week 1 *Quakerism*. What is the essence of Quakerism?

Week 2 *Quaker History*. How did Quakerism begin, and how has it changed and

developed over time?

Week 3 *Silence*. What is happening in the silence of worship?

Week 4 *Vocal Ministry*. What is spoken during worship? How do I know if I have a message to speak?

Week 5 *Quaker Decision-making*. What happens in Quaker Meeting for Business?

Week 6 *The Testimonies*. How is Quaker faith lived out in the world?

Week 7 *Community*. What is the basis of community in the Quaker meeting?

*How can I sign up or get more information?*

Contact Laura Landen, [Laura.Landen@hotmail.com](mailto:Laura.Landen@hotmail.com), 401-227-1649.



### **Call for Art**

*from Dan Lederer*

Back in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Quakerism started out with an ascetic focus. George Fox proclaimed the prohibition on artistic pursuits in no uncertain terms when he wrote, “All ye poets, jesters, rhymers, makers of verses and ballads, who bend your wits to please novelties, light minds, who delight in jests and toys, more than in the simple naked truth

which you should be united to, you are for the undoing of many poor souls, it is your work to tickle up the ears of people with your jests and toys; this proceeds from a wrong heart where dwells the lust, and feeds the wrong heart and mind and wits, which brings them to the grave and dust, and there buries the minds and clogs the nature, which is a shame to all that be in the modesty and pure sincerity and truth and clearness of mind. .”

Entering the 19<sup>th</sup> century, things were little different, as witnessed by this quote from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting: “As our time passeth swiftly away, and our delight ought to be in the law of the Lord; it is advised that a watchful care be exercised over our youth, to prevent their going to stage-plays, horse-races, music, dancing, or any such vain sports and pastimes. . . .”

But into the 20<sup>th</sup> century the attitude began to change. Rufus Jones, a long time professor of psychology and philosophy at Haverford College who had attended Friends Boarding School in Providence (before the name was changed to Moses Brown) wrote the following: “We look back with mild pity on the generations of Haverford students who were deprived of the joy of music and art. The strong anti-aesthetic bias in the minds of the Quaker founders and the early managers was, I think, an unmitigated disaster.”

Times have changed at Haverford College as well as at Moses Brown School (witness the Woodman Center), and our own Meeting community is fortunate to have so many members and attenders who are skilled in such arts as writing, painting, pottery, theater, or music. It would be great if Friends would be willing to share their work via our Meeting newsletter. It doesn't have to be professional quality, as evidenced by the humble offering above, my pen-and-ink sketch of our beloved Providence meetinghouse.

So please consider sending a sample of your work to the newsletter, perhaps with a short description of how it came about. If what you submit has a Quaker theme, so much the better, but that's not necessary. Hoping to hear from you!

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**Address for Contributions:**

**Providence Monthly Meeting  
c/o Peter Swaszek  
Box 1787  
Kingston, RI 02881**

**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.**

**The Provident FRIEND**  
Newsletter of  
Providence Monthly Meeting of  
the Religious Society of Friends  
99 Morris Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906