

The Provident FRIEND March 10, 2025

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

MEETING CALENDAR

Monday, Mar 10, 6:30 PM, Elements of Quakerism Course (Zoom)

Friday, Mar 14 (to Sunday Mar 16), NEYM Teen Retreat (Providence Meetinghouse)

Saturday, Mar 15, 9:00 AM (to 4:00 PM), NEYM Discernment Discovery Day (Moses Brown School)

Saturday, Mar 15, 10:00 AM to noon, Saylesville Book Swap (Saylesville Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Mar 16, 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)

Monday, Mar 17, 6:30 PM, Elements of Quakerism Course (Zoom)

Saturday, Mar 22, 10:00 AM, Memorial Service for Adele Bourne, Providence Meetinghouse

Sunday, Mar 23, 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, Mar 23, Noon, Adult Religious Education Discussion (Multipurpose Room and Zoom)

Monday, Mar 24, 6:30 PM, Elements of Quakerism Course (Zoom)

Wednesday, Mar 26, 5:30 PM, Discussion on Homelessness in Providence
(Providence Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Mar 30, 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, Apr 6, 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, Apr 13, 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, Apr 13, 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
9th of Third Month, 2025
Minutes**

Friends gathered at the Providence meetinghouse at noon with 26 present and two on Zoom.

It is noted that no Meeting for Business was held during Second month.

The meeting began with a period of silent worship.

Presiding clerk Ariana Steele read the following announcements:

- A Memorial Service for Adele Bourne will take place at Providence Meetinghouse on March 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP to mmcmanamy3@gmail.com if you plan to attend, so that the family can plan.
- Leila Shayegan and Jason Bartell will marry under the care of the meeting on May 17th at 2:00 PM. Save the Date! Friends who wish to attend will be requested to RSVP as the date gets closer.

The following items of business were brought forward:

1. Rebecca Leuchak reported on the recent lawsuit involving New England Yearly Meeting, of which she is currently the presiding clerk. This lawsuit was brought by a coalition of religious groups including several yearly meetings of Friends as well as Sikh and Baptist organizations. NEYM's participation is in accordance with a decision taken some years ago to allow the Presiding Clerk and Secretary together to discern a response in times when urgent decisions are required. The suit was filed to block federal officials from entering houses of worship for purposes of immigration enforcement, and the grounds of the suit were that such actions violate the First Amendment by restricting the free exercise of religion. The court gave a preliminary injunction in favor of the plaintiffs. NEYM continues to explore ways of supporting individual meetings as needed. It was suggested that our Meeting may wish to spend time discerning any actions or policies we may wish to adopt. We ask Peace and Social Action Committee to organize such an opportunity.
2. The Library Committee made report that they continue oversight of the collections in the Providence meetinghouse. Friends are urged to make use of these items, which are available for borrowing. Surplus books are from time to time made available to the Meeting during coffee hour. The Meeting requested that that Library Committee investigate what archival material may be at the Saylesville meetinghouse and deal appropriately with any that is found.
3. Nominating Committee reported that they are at work compiling a committee roster for the coming fiscal year. A "committee fair" was held to help introduce members and attenders to the various committees which do the work of our Meeting. Anyone interested in joining a committee should contact Dan Lederer.
4. Nominating Committee proposed that Matthew DeHaven be added to the Property Committee for the current year. Friends approved.
5. Ministry and Counsel Committee proposed that Beth Bogus be added to the Pastoral Care Committee for the current year. Friends approved.

6. Ministry and Counsel Committee proposed that Martha Yager assume the role of Presiding Clerk at the beginning of Sixth Month, being the start of the next fiscal year with Ariana Steele taking the role of assistant presiding clerk for a year. Friends approved, expressing their gratitude to Ariana for her conscientious service and to Jules Burrowes for her service as assistant, both of them having taken on these positions on very short notice.

7. On behalf of Finance Committee, Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented the Third Quarter financial report, along with a draft budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. He noted that our accounts are “in the black” at this point. However, increasing costs for things not under our control (e. g. heat, insurance) mean that there is likely to be a moderate deficit at the end of the fiscal year. Next year’s budget will likely require cutbacks in some activities and/or increases in donations in order to remain in balance. The Treasurer and Finance Committee would appreciate comments on the draft budget. Friends received the report with thanks to the Treasurer for his work.

No further business appearing, we closed with a period of silent worship at 1:45 PM, intending to meet next on the 13th of Fourth month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Ariana Steele, Clerk
Rebecca Smith, Recording Clerk

Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

At our March 9 Meeting for Business, Finance Committee and Meeting Treasurer Peter Swaszek presented a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins June 1. To see the draft budget, click [here](#). Friends are invited to review it and send any comments to Finance Committee clerk Zona Douthit (zona.c.douthit@gmail.com).

Our WhatsApp Community

from Communications Committee

Join Providence Friends Meeting's new WhatsApp Community to stay connected with our spiritual fellowship! Receive meeting announcements, coordinate potlucks, discuss Quaker readings, and support one another in our faith journey. This space aims to nurture our sense of community between First Day gatherings. Please note that this adds to, rather than replaces, the forms of communication already in use, these being announcements after Meeting for Worship, the Meeting Email List, and the Meeting newsletter.

To join, make sure you have either a smartphone (and have downloaded WhatsApp) or a computer ([WhatsApp](#) can be accessed via your web browser), and then click [here](#). If you'd like a specific step-by-step guide, you can find that [here](#). All Friends and attenders welcome.

Reach out to Mycah Hogan (captainhoagiebear@gmail.com) if you need further assistance.



Discernment Discovery Day

Join Friends of all ages to explore the Quaker practice of discernment

Moses Brown School
Providence, RI
March 15, 2025

 NEW ENGLAND
QUAKERS
www.neym.org

The poster features a central illustration of two stylized trees with yellow trunks and green foliage. A white dove is perched on the left tree. The background is a light beige color with a dark blue header and footer. Text is arranged in white and yellow boxes.

Teen Retreat March 14-16 and Discernment Discovery Day March 15

Through worship reflecting the diversity of Quaker practice in New England, inspiring speakers and experiential workshops, NEYM gatherings nourish our spirits and strengthen our ability to live our faith. Concurrent youth programs explore these same themes in ways accessible to children. Programming for all generations allows us to be together as a multigenerational community.

Discernment Discovery Day, being held at Moses Brown School on Saturday March 15, is a day-long gathering of Friends from throughout New England. The event is a chance for Friends of all ages to explore what is at the heart of the Quaker practice of discernment through dialogue, workshops, worship sharing, and connection-making. This is a family event with a youth program as well as interesting workshops and worship and social opportunities to meet other Quakers. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

The schedule generally follows this flow:

- 9:00 a.m. Arrival with snacks, coffee, and tea.
- 10:00 a.m. Morning program
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch and free time
- 1:15 p.m. Workshops
- 3:15 p.m. Closing program and worship
- 4:00 p.m. Saying our good-byes

There will also be a weekend retreat for teens (ages 13–18) in tandem with Discernment Discovery Day. The Teen Retreat will go from Friday March 14 to Sunday March 16, and we will be participating in Discernment Discovery Day on the 15th. You can learn more about the Teen Retreat and register [here](#).

Friends are asked to volunteer to help with the Teen Retreat. Help is needed for hospitality and meal serving on both Friday and Saturday evening. Food will be prepared and ready, so all you will need to do is reheat it and put it out for the assembled group. If you can help out, contact Rebecca Leuchak (rleuchak@gmail.com or 401-219-1386).

Memorial Service for Adele Bourne March 22

On January 11 we lost beloved Meeting member Adele Bourne. A memorial service for Adele will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 22, at the Providence meetinghouse. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to mmcmanamy3@gmail.com if you plan to attend so that the family can plan accordingly.

Discussion on Homelessness in Providence March 26

Friends are invited to a discussion of homelessness in Providence sponsored by Peace and Social Action Committee, to take place for 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Providence meetinghouse. Please bring you wisdom and ideas to this discussion, the thought being that solutions begin with education. Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to Bob Watt (wattesq@aol.com) or Pierre Morenon (emorenon@ric.edu).

For further details, see the flyer by clicking [here](#).

Meeting for Sharing

from Evan McManamy

"Meeting for Sharing" will be a Saturday night Quaker Meeting-Open Mic hybrid event focused on sharing creative projects. It'll feature the Meeting for Sharing, followed by a potluck dinner. Would you like to be on an ad-hoc working group to make Meeting for Sharing happen? (Working group time commitment: a one

hour virtual meeting followed by coordination via email.) For more information, contact Evan (evan.L.mcmanamy@gmail.com).

Quaker Education Support

Grants from the Quaker Education Support Fund are available to Meeting members. The fund provides scholarship aid for tuition to Quaker schools and support for families' participation in seven other Quaker programs, such as Quaker camps or Quaker service trips. We encourage families to apply to the clerk of the Finance Committee, currently Zona Douthit (zona.c.douthit@gmail.com), for grants of up to \$3,000. The Finance Committee will review all requests, which will be treated as confidential.

The Stephen Aldrich Fund

The impact of contemporary economic change and the needs of individuals and families are all around us. We sense the need, but often ask, "What can I do?"

Much as we ask this question today, Stephen Aldrich asked and responded in the 1800's by bequeathing a large portion of his estate to the Southeast Quarterly Meeting (formerly known as RI-Smithfield Quarterly Meeting) to provide emergency funding for Friends in need. This bequest continues today as the Stephen Aldrich Fund and is available to all members of the Meeting community seeking one-time emergency financial assistance.

Individuals needing assistance or those who would like further information regarding the Fund should contact Dan Lederer, Meeting's representative to the fund. All

contact is held strictly in confidence.

Quaker Recipes



Our guest chef today is Elsie Morse.

Butterfly Bread

These directions work with whatever bread recipe you like, though you can use my raisin bread family favorite (see *The Provident Friend* January 14, 2025). When you are ready to shape a butterfly, you might start by pinching off $\frac{1}{2}$ or more of the dough to put into a standard loaf pan. Then head into the directions for a celebratory butterfly shape.

Roll out a long rectangle of any bread dough you choose, making sure you reserve a small amount for the abdomen of the butterfly. Make sure the abdomen is pointed on one end and rolled into a snake like end on the other side.

Spread the rectangle with melted butter followed by a good sprinkling of sugar, sesame seeds and or slivered almonds. To make your butterfly more appropriate for dinner substitute the sugar with salt and sauteed garlic and use a more standard French bread recipe.

Whichever plan you follow, next roll it up like a jelly roll the long way.

On a cookie sheet bend the two ends under the roll about 2" short of meeting.

Cut all the way through the roll starting from either bent end with scissors leaving 2" to 4" uncut in the middle.

Spread out and twist to flatten each end to form the wings. Now you're ready to lay the abdomen piece on top.

Snip the pointed snake-shaped end of the abdomen piece in half to form the antennae.

Lay the abdomen piece across the middle uncut section, extending well into the pan and spread out the two parts of the antennae.

(Just about any size works, but a two-loaf recipe will be about right on a cookie sheet to serve a crowd. For a smaller family gathering ½ a recipe or less might be better. The same basic shaping directions work for any size.)

If it looks a little emaciated at first, that's all to the good. The butterfly will round out as it rises, and if it's too plump-looking at the start it won't have as good a shape in the end.

Before rising a nice way to give your bread a nice shine is to "paint" it with a beaten egg that has been thinned with a tablespoon of water.

The baking temperature and timing ratio on a large butterfly should veer in the direction of lower and longer to make sure the middle gets cooked before the outside looks too dark. 300° or 350° is usually nice if you have time. The best calculation of being done comes from the blast of aroma that comes just when the bread is done.

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

**Donations can be sent to our
treasurer as detailed below.**

Providence Friends Meeting
c/o Peter Swaszek
P.O.Box 1787
Kingston, RI 02881