



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Birthday: Vivian Cunningham	2 7:30p Movie Night Afluenza @Buxenbaum's	3 10a King Ferry Food Pantry
4 10a Meeting for Worship - Julie Rudd	5 7:30p Meditation Group	6 7:30p Peace & Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	7	8 7p Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	9 Starts: NYYM Friends Retreat 6:15p The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	10 Birthday Cazimer George Shillenback
11 Ends: NYYM Friends Retreat 10a Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11a Soup and Sharing 4p Horizon Community Chorus Concert Birthday : Joe Dosch	12 Birthday: Walter Moora	13 7:30p Ministry & Counsel @ Nelson's Birthday: Walter Foulke	14 Birthday: Beverly Rejman	15 7:30p Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	16 Birthday: Betha Brice	17 9a Genoa Food Pantry 7p The Shepherds Play
18 White Gifts Due 10a Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11:30a Monthly Meeting for Buisness 5p Annual Christmas Program	19 9a Packing White Glfts	20 7:15p Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Claire's Birthday: Ruth Bradley	21 Deadline for PRISM submissions	22 7p Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's Birthday: Benjamin Otis	23 6:15p The Cayuga Prison Worship Group Birthday: Irene Main	24
25 10a Meeting for Worship Unprogrammed /Carols Birthday: Skyler Dickinson Maassen	26 7:30p Youth Committee Meeting Birthday: Nils Nobben	27	28	29 Anniversary: Bruce and Priscilla Berggren-Thomas Birthdays: Mary Lou Charles, Cathy Mullarney	30	31 Birthday: Lucie Heinekamp

For more information about calendar events, check the PRISM or contact pr.prism@gmail.com

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Our November Meeting for Business was opened after several minutes of silence by the clerk, Larry Buffam. Present were: David Connelly, Sally Otis, Jane Simkin, Ruth Bradley, Hannah Richter, Paul Simkin, Linda Simkin, Claire Howard, Christopher Sammond, Howard Nelson, Dill Otis, Dee Nance, and Jim Frisch.

Hannah Richter gave the hospitality committee report. We are hosting New York Yearly Meeting's Priorities Working Group at the Meetinghouse on December 9, 10, and 11, including lunch for the group on Saturday, and Soup and Sharing on Sunday at the rise of Meeting. The Soup & Sharing topic will be "How do Poplar Ridge Friends understand the priorities for our work as a Yearly Meeting?" The hospitality committee will work out housing and food details.

The clerk asked for approval of a \$75 honorarium to Linda Schwab for her pastoral leadership of our Meeting this morning. Approved. Jane Simkin suggested that in the future we introduce guest speakers with whom our meeting may not be familiar. Monthly meeting agreed that we may offer an honorarium to future speakers who are not part of our Meeting.

Dill Otis offered a history and description of our Cayuga Facility Worship Group. His report was accepted with gratitude, and will be entered in our record book.

Howard Nelson reported for Ministry and Counsel. He read a draft of a minute that Ministry and Counsel prepared on marriage equality. Jim Frisch also attended that M&C meeting. Approval was not requested because the committee felt it important for our community to have the opportunity to review the draft for a month via PRISM first. (Minute attached.) Discussion followed. The question arose as to how widely we would like to publicize this minute should our community accept it. This question of outreach will be revisited at a

future date. The proposed draft minute as amended by this business meeting will be considered next month.

Dee gave the treasurer's report. (Attached.) We are near the end of our budget year, and contributions to our meeting are welcome. A letter will be sent out soon summarizing our financial status and requesting donations to ensure the financial health of our Meeting.

Christopher Sammond's travel minutes were received and read. His travel included visits to African Yearly Meetings in 2010 and to Earlham School of Religion in 2011.

The gift of a portrait of Jesus was offered to our Meeting by Jack and MaryLou Charles. It was accepted with gratitude, and the Youth Committee will be consulted as to where it will be hung.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Howard
Acting Recording Secretary



THE SHEPHERD'S PLAY

The Shepherd's Play will be on December 17th at 7:00 pm in the Friends Meeting House. This musical rendition of the Christmas story has become an annual tradition in our community.

You won't want to miss it!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rounded to the nearest dollar, ordinary contributions for the month of July 2011 were \$1,096.00. In August we took in \$1,235.00.

Contributions for September and October were \$2,258.00 and \$2,734.00, respectively.

The current balance in our checking account is \$2,438.29.

Monthly contributions need to be, at minimum, \$2,000 per month to meet our financial obligations. Every gift, both large and small is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Dee Nance
Treasurer, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting



DECEMBER SOUP AND SHARING

Poplar Ridge will be hosting a meeting of the New York Yearly Meeting Working Group on Priorities and Leadings the weekend of December 9-11. From ten to fifteen Friends from throughout the yearly meeting will meet here Friday evening and all day Saturday. We will provide hospitality for them in our homes and also provide a lunch at the meetinghouse on Saturday. Those who are staying Saturday night will eat dinner with their host(s). Anyone wishing to volunteer to host should please contact Hannah Richter or Larry Buffam.

On Sunday, December 11th, there will be a soup and sharing at the meetinghouse with dialogue facilitated by some in the working group designed to elicit our priorities and leadings from the Poplar Ridge community. Hope you can attend.

LET US GIVE THANKS

By Max Coots

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people:
For children who are our second planting, and, though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks:

For generous friends...with hearts as big as hubbards and smiles as bright as their blossoms;
For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us we had them;
For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn — and the others — as plain as potatoes, and so good for you.

For funny friends, who are as silly as brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who — like parsnips — can be counted on to see you through the long winter;
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils, and hold us despite our blights, wilts, and witherings;

And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past, that have been harvested — but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;

For all these we give thanks.

Source: the late Rev. Max Coots, who was Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton, New York. His passion for gardening yielded this beloved and much used meditation.

A PROPOSED MINUTE

The following draft was prepared at the November 20, 2011, Meeting for Business. It is offered to the Meeting community for consideration, and will be considered for approval as a minute at our next Meeting for Business on December 18, 2011.

"In a minute approved in 2005, Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting affirmed that it is 'opposed to all policies that would...deny the equality and full humanity of any person or group of persons.' In light of the recent passage of the Marriage Equality Act in New York State, we now affirm our intention to treat equally all persons who request to be married under the care of the Meeting or in our meeting house."

HORIZON COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT

Come listen to the music on December 11th at 4pm at the Methodist Church in Moravia, NY.

WHITE GIFTS

The tradition of white gifts for Christmas goes back many decades in the Poplar Ridge Meeting. Some people might use the term holiday cheer boxes instead of white gifts. On the Sunday before Christmas Friends bring gifts to the meetinghouse and put them on the platform at the front of the meeting room (or at other times in a designated container in the kitchen) The gifts go primarily to people who have some connection to the meeting who are unable to get out much due to poor health, age, or disability. The recipients may live in an institution or for other reasons be unable to do much cooking. Homemade treats such as cookies and sweet bread, fresh fruit, small packages of fruit or pudding, individual packages of tissues, note paper, postage stamps are welcome gifts.

On Monday, December 19, those who can will gather at 9:00 a.m. to decorate and pack a box for each recipient or family. Clean shoe boxes of all sizes are useful. If you would like to suggest someone as a recipient, please contact Ann Burch.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Here Comes Santa!

Join us for our children's Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 5pm. There will be a light supper and visit from Santa Claus with presents for all of the children.

Bring a plate of sandwiches and/or cookies to share. Hot chocolate will be provided. Fun for all ages.



MEETING DIRECTORY

New copies of the November 2011 edition of the Meeting Directory will be available at the meetinghouse beginning on November 27. Please be sure to get a copy in which the cover photograph clearly shows the handicap access ramp and the new steps. If requested a copy could also be sent by mail.

If your birthday, or cell phone number, or e-mail address is missing and you want to share any of that information, or if you aren't in the directory or want to add someone or if you find something that needs correcting, please let me know. As soon as I have a page full of additions or corrections I will print it and distribute it. Jane Simkin at 315-364-8244 or simkinjp@baldcom.net or Box 53, Poplar Ridge, NY 13139.

FAMILY THAT WE ADOPT AT CHRISTMAS

For a number of years Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting and the Auburn Prison Meeting have offered Christmas assistance to a family with children in the Southern Cayuga School District. This usually includes at least one practical gift such as clothing for each family member and one or more toys or games for each child. We also help the family purchase the foods they traditionally have for Christmas dinner.

This year we have been asked to sponsor two related families that include two, possibly three adults and eight children (7 boys ranging in age from 2 to 12 years and one girl age one year. and 3 adults.) We already know that the Christmas meal will include tamales.

Until this year Helen Hebben was the contact with the family. This year Jane Simkin and Karen Brennan will be in touch with the families to find out what their needs are and what is on the children's wish lists.

We would like to have an individual or family from our meeting shop for each child and adult, and someone to help shop for food. Because our prison helpers provide some of the money but can't do the shopping, the shopper is not necessarily responsible for the cost of the items being gifted.

Anyone who would like to help with this project please contact Karen or Jane for more information and to get the wish list and clothing sizes for one of the children or adults. With so many family members we need many helpers! Gifts will be wrapped at the meetinghouse on December 19 at 9:00 a.m. and delivered later that day.

CALLING ALL HYMNALS!

If you have borrowed a hymnal, please return it to the pews. This is the time of year when we really need each one. Thank you!





Thanks to the building committee for the beautiful new steps on the meetinghouse.

POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk - Larry Buffam

Pastor - Ruth Bradley

Recording Clerk - Bill Tyler

Musicians - Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

Treasurer – Dee Nance

Ministry & Counsel Clerk - Howard Nelson

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10 am for worship. The fourth Sunday of the month is an unprogrammed meeting. The fifth Sunday is a youth centered service. There is Nursery during meeting.

To contribute items for PRISM contact us at pr.prism@gmail.com or

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting: Attn PRISM

PO Box 146, Aurora, New York 13026

To change or correct a mailing label please contact Mary Lou Charles at 364-7391 or Scott Heinekamp at 364-7676. You can request PRISM electronically and save the Meeting the expense of postage by emailing pr.prism@gmail.com.

Visit our web site at <http://www.quaker.org/poplar/> for more information

Poplar Ridge Information Sharing Monthly
Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Society of Friends
Poplar Ridge, NY 13139