



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

DECEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Birthday: Vivian Cunningham King Ferry Food Pantry
2 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11:30am Soup & Sharing	3 7:30pm Meditation Group	4 7:30pm Peace & Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	5	6	7 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	8 7pm Concert at Merrifield - Bridgewater (A.T. and Craig) with seasonal music) 7pm Chirstmas Cantata
9 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11am Coffee Hour	10 Birthday Cazimer George Shillencback	11 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Nelson's Birthday : Joe Dosch	12 Birthday: Walter Moora	13 7pm Mid- week Worship @ Sammond's Birthday: Walter Foulke	14 Birthday: Beverly Rejman	15 9am Genoa Food Pantry 7pm Movie Night - "To Be and to Have" @ Buxenbaum
16 White Box Gift Items Due 10am Meeting for Worship - Unprogrammed Monthly Meeting for Business 3pm Shepherd's Play @ Auburn Public Theater Birthday: Bethea Brice	17 White Box Gift Packing Sponsored Family Gift Packing	18 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Claire's	19	20 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group Birthday: Ruth Bradley	21 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship	22 7pm Shepherd's Play, at Poplar Ridge Meetinghouse Birthday: Benjamin Otis
23 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 5pm Christmas Program Birthday: Irene Main	24	25 Birthday: Skyler Dickinson Maassen	26 Deadline for PRISM submissions Birthday: Nils Nobben	27 7pm Mid- week Worship @ Sammond's	28	29 Anniversary: Bruce and Priscilla Berggren- Thomas Birthdays: Mary Lou Charles, Cathy Mullarney
30 10am Meeting for Worship - Multi- generational	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 - OCT 21, 2012

The Clerk Larry Buffam opened the Monthly Meeting in silence about 11:40 a.m. October 21, 2012. Attending were: Jim Frisch, Ruth Bradley, Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Claire Howard, Barry Kahn, Cathy Mullarney, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, Linda Simkin, and Bill Tyler.

A concern for the meetinghouse roof arose: Andreas has been monitoring it and considers it the building's No. 1 priority because of its deterioration. A professional should be asked to make a roofing evaluation and estimate. Our meeting has a fund to be used for special occasions. The Lockport-Brinkerhoff Fund of NYYM also makes grants, up to \$3,000, for such needs.

It was approved: Claire Howard will seek two estimates; Sunset Roofing was suggested as a place to start. She will coordinate and send the estimate proposal to the NYYM Advancement Committee.

The meeting has been given four tall, hand-made wooden plant stands. They are in the furnace room and should be stored elsewhere. They could be used for events in the meetinghouse such as weddings for which people bring plants. Hannah Richter offered to store it the Richters' barn. The issue will be referred to the building committee.

A concern was raised about the furnace left on when the meetinghouse is unoccupied. More people should be aware how the thermostats and timers work. The upstairs furnace is left on and set at 62. The downstairs furnace is at 55 when unoccupied. Claire Howard will make a sign about the upstairs furnace and Jane Simkin will post the calendar of meeting news besides the downstairs thermostat.

A letter was read thanking the Meeting for a donation and for helping at the Faith Days at the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) booth at the New York State Fair last August. Next year's booth dates are Aug. 24 and 25, 2013.

March 15-17, 2013, are the dates for the Wider Parish YSOP trip; word is being sent to high

school groups. A \$500 deposit is sought now for the Wider Parish for which our MM would need \$250. Ruth Bradley representing the Youth Committee sought approval for that amount to make the deposit. Approved.

Ministry & Council report: Kurt Smithers, Cayuga Correctional Institution inmate who has been approved for parole, requests MM membership. A Clearness Committee including Anne Dalton, Bill Tyler, Dill Otis and Claire Howard have met with him and feel clear about approving his request; also Trudy Buxenbaum and Ruth Bradley met once with him and feel positively about it. His request for membership is approved.

A handbill was reviewed for consideration to hand out at the Halloween Carnival next Saturday. This phrasing was approved: WELCOME to the Halloween Carnival of the Poplar Ridge Friends meeting (Quakers). This annual event raises funds for UNICEF, the United Nations agency whose mission is to reduce violence, prejudice and other obstacles that keep children from growing up the best they can be. You and your family are invited to join all our events, including worship, socials, educational programs and community service. Children are always welcome, including to our multigenerational service on the last Sunday of those occasional five-Sunday months. Kids may worship with adults on other Sundays or may enjoy optional Sunday school or childcare. (Including Web and Facebook sites.)

Cathy Mullarney will have a second key to the MM's post office box, PO Box 146, Aurora, NY, 13026.

The meeting ended after a period of silence at 1:25 p.m.



POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES – NOV 18, 2012

The Clerk Larry Buffam opened the Monthly Meeting in silence 11:50 a.m. Nov. 18, 2012.

Attending were: Ruth Bradley, Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Jeff Layton, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Paul Simkin, Linda Simkin, and Charlie Weld.

A correction from last month's minutes: The upstairs furnace thermostat should always be set at 62. On Sundays the timer automatically turns it on. The downstairs furnace is set at 55 when the building is unoccupied.

One roofer estimated two types of roof repairs, both about \$14,000. The Building Committee will get another estimate and be examining details of the job and options to pay for it.

Christopher suggests the finance committee institute a capitalization fund like many other meetings have, anticipating roof, furnace and other costly and inevitable failures.

New York Yearly Meeting is requesting an increase in Covenant Donations from monthly meetings. Christopher Sammond briefly outlined the need; health insurance was among major issues it faces this year. Anticipated Covenant Donations for 2013 made recently were \$60,000 short. The budget committee is requesting that Monthly Meetings increase their annual 2013 donation five percent. The Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's annual Covenant Donation has been at \$4,000 for many years; five percent of that figure is \$200. The Monthly Meeting's relationship is stronger with New York Yearly Meeting now than it was about twenty years ago when the meeting set its annual commitment. The New York Yearly Meeting's original formula for Monthly Meetings' obligations was based on adult membership; it was calculated for Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting at considerably more than \$4,000. That assessment model was replaced several years ago with the present discernment-based system. When planning the 2013 budget, our finance committee is asked to review the Meeting's past decision-making and other monthly meeting's current contributions,

and consider increasing our commitment. We request also from Dee Nance a rough treasurer's report for the year to date.

Ruth reported about New York Yearly Meeting Sessions last weekend:

-- Yearbooks are being distributed to anyone who wants one.

-- A minute was approved recommending prohibition of hydrofracking. Ruth suggested the minute be offered for discussion to the Southern Cayuga Wider Parish. The minute is available on the Yearly Meeting's website at this link:

http://nyym.org/?q=Minutes_2012FallSessions.

The clerk at Sessions produced a one-page summary that includes a link

(<http://www.dontfrackny.org/pledge/>) for Friends who wish to add their names to a list of those making "a public commitment to join with others to engage in non-violent acts of protest, as their conscience leads them."

A clearness committee for Elizabeth (Bes) and Andrew Simkin's request for meeting membership reported it is clear to recommend their membership. Approved. A welcoming coffee hour is being planned.

The meeting ended after a period of silence at 1:22 p.m.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 23 at 5:00 pm. The program will be, followed by sandwiches & cookies, and a visit by Santa with gifts for the children.

PEACE & SOCIAL ACTION MOVIE NIGHT

December 15, 7:00 PM at Trudy Buxenbaum's
"To Be and to Have" A 2002

[French documentary film](#) directed by [Nicolas Philibert](#) Following the movement of the seasons from autumn to summer, Nicolas Philibert's quiet documentary chronicles a year in the classroom of Georges Lopez, a humane, infinitely patient teacher who runs a one-room schoolhouse in rural France. At the end of a long and devoted career, Mr. Lopez manages the day-to-day travails of his profession with solemnity and persistence, breaking up fights, helping initiate the youngest students into the rigors of the French academic system and preparing the older ones to go on to the next stage, a large, impersonal regional middle school. While the film does inquire discreetly into the sometimes dysfunctional home lives of some of the children, it is less a social document than a portrait of an artist: Mr. Lopez's mixture of discipline and inspiration surely merits that description. As such it is tremendously affecting without ever seeming platitudinous or sentimental. — A.O. Scott New York Times

The film won several awards, including the 2003 [Sacramento French Film Festival](#) Audience Prize.



WHITE GIFTS

Each year Friends bring in small home made goodies and other small treats to be packed into boxes for people connected with the meeting, usually folks who are not able to get out to attend meeting. Now is the time to add this project to your Christmas shopping and baking list. Date for bringing gifts to meeting (with or without a white wrapping) is December 16.

Tentative date for packing the boxes is December 17 at the meeting house. Listen for announcements about further details. You can ask Ann Burch for white gift suggestions.

FAMILY TO BE SPONSORED FOR CHRISTMAS

Stay tuned for announcements about the family that will be sponsored. Karen Brennan and Jane Simkin will have shopping lists. The goal will be to gather all food and gifts for the sponsored family at the meetinghouse the week before Christmas, probably by December 17.

Last year those in charge of this project were new to the task, trying to fill Helen Hebben's shoes. We have learned from our experience last year and we plan to make changes that we hope will more equitably distribute the expense and time commitment for those who do the shopping.

SHEPHERD'S PLAY

Come watch a wonderful retelling of the Christmas story from the view of the shepherds. It is a wonderful tradition for our community and will have two performances this year.

Dec. 16 3:00 Auburn Public Theater

Dec. 22 7:00pm Poplar Ridge Meeting House

SOUP & SHARING

Join us for warm soup and a discussion after the rise of meeting once a month. The upcoming topics are:

December 2: Quakerism & Truth,

January 13: Speaking out of the Silence

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

There will be a Christmas Cantata sung by the King Ferry Presbyterian Church on Dec 8 at 7pm. Refreshments will follow the singing. All are invited to attend.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING FALL SESSIONS

New York Yearly Meeting held its Fall Sessions at Powell House on the weekend of November 9–11, 2012. We had originally planned to hold Sessions in Somerset, New Jersey, at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, and at Rahway & Plainfield Meeting House, but Hurricane Sandy interrupted communication with the church so much that we had to find a new venue. The Yearly Meeting is very grateful that Powell House was able to offer us their facilities. Here are some of the highlights from those sessions:

Click to read the complete [minutes of our sessions](#).

We approved a [provisional budget for 2013](#). In order to balance the budget, we had to lay aside some important programs in hope that additional funding will be forthcoming. These programs are listed on the last page of the budget document in three tiers indicating the order in which budget lines will be restored.

Our newly created Development Committee received approval to launch an appeal that will run through early spring 2013.

The Priorities Working Group has now visited 24 monthly meetings. They gave [a report on their progress](#) and previewed two recommendations they anticipate making at our 2013 Spring Sessions.

We approved a minute against fracking and four specific recommendations for the Yearly Meeting to express its stance on this matter. See minutes [2012-11-21](#) and [2012-11-23](#) in the minutes of our session. One recommendation is addressed to individual Friends:

We ask Friends to prayerfully consider adding their names to the list of people, started in part by Friends, who have made a public commitment to join with others to engage in non-violent acts of protest, as their conscience leads them. The link to this list is as follows: <http://www.dontfrackny.org/pledge/>.

We heard a report on a [proposed sister relationship](#) with Chwele Yearly Meeting in Kenya. Friends felt it is “too early to define what

[the] relationship will be” adding that “We are listening to how we are being called into this relationship.” See minute [2012-11-28](#) in the minutes of our sessions.

We heard that the next [Meeting for Discernment](#) will take place on March 2, 2013 at Brooklyn Meeting.



MINUTE ON HYDROFRACKING

New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minute on Hydrofracking
New York Yearly Meeting has considered the potential consequences of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (also known as HVHF, horizontal hydrofracking, or fracking) in New York State. We oppose hydrofracking in New York State and beyond. We urge our political representatives to prohibit the practice of HVHF in New York State. As Quakers, we experience the Divine through loving and truthful relationships with all people and all creation. After extensive efforts to inform ourselves about fracking we have concluded that it is inconsistent with our faith and practices which include a commitment to integrity, community, equality and care of God’s creation. We observe that the natural gas industry and government agencies have placed financial gain over the health of our communities and the environment. We see no legitimate reason to exempt hydrofracking from existing laws protecting water, air, land, and health, as is currently the case. In other states (*minute on hydrofracking continued...*)

where horizontal hydrofracking has been performed, it has resulted in the loss of vast amounts of fresh water, the release of toxins into

the environment, damage to communities, and cost to the taxpayers.

We support legislation and incentives which promote research, development, and use of renewable and sustainable energy; support local farms and farmers; protect the air and water; enforce accountability for industries that risk environmental harm; and create economic policies that promote work for New York State residents that they can do in good conscience. We urge all citizens to thoughtfully consider the longterm effects of hydrofracking on the water, land, local economy, infrastructure, services, and the community as a whole. We are encouraged by the many communities coming together to seek a way forward based on truth and respect. We are called to stand against fracking, and invite others to join us in opposition to this practice.

In addition to the minute, the task group proposed four action steps for consideration.

We, the task group of Witness Coordinating Committee charged with creating this minute suggest the following actions:

We ask that the NYYM clerk and general secretary disseminate this minute widely through press releases, letters to our elected officials, to other yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations.

We charge our representatives to the New York and New Jersey Council of Churches to bring this concern to those bodies, and to advocate for those bodies getting under the weight of this concern.

We urge Friends to examine our own lives to discern the seeds which might inadvertently support the practice of fracking, and, to the degree possible, do what we can to limit or eliminate those seeds.

*We ask Friends to prayerfully consider adding their names to the list of people, started in part by Friends, who have made a public commitment to join with others to engage in non-violent acts of protest, as their conscience leads them. The link to this list is as follows:
<http://www.dontfrackny.org/pledge/>*



NYYM & HURRICANE SANDY

Dear Friends,

As many of us return to our busy lives, it is easy to lose track of the fact that others in the Yearly Meeting are still struggling to put their lives back on track after Hurricane Sandy. Our hearts and prayers are still with those in our community whose lives have been upended in one way or another.

We continue to receive offers of help for those who suffered damage from Hurricane Sandy, both from around the Yearly Meeting and from Friends across the country. Friends have sent us money, offered material aid like food, water, blankets, coats, and mittens, and have inquired whether they could come and do cleanup work with us, now or next spring. It has been touching to receive so many expressions of care and concern. We realize we are not alone, but part of a loving network of Friends.

We have set up a fund exclusively for relief efforts in which to deposit these gifts, and will distribute them where they seem to be needed most. Friends who feel led to contribute should send checks to the Yearly Meeting office marked "disaster relief."

We know that many of you lacked email for some time, and some Friends in your meetings may lack it still. We don't know if we have even most of the information necessary to disburse the funds coming in to us, or to know how to respond to offers from willing workers to help clean up storm damage. If you need help, financial or with

cleanup, or if you know of someone who might, please contact the Yearly Meeting office by return email, or at 212-673-5750, so that we can follow up as needed.

We are happy to coordinate Friends who want to come work with Friends who need help. One upstate meeting has offered to do so. If your meeting might also be interested in helping out, please contact the Yearly Meeting office. We can imagine Friends helping with downed trees, clearing brush and debris, and/or helping clean out flood damaged possessions. One monthly meeting has already put out a call for such help. If you feel led to help, or if Friends in your meeting need help, please let us know.

We may be able to coordinate car-pools or ride-shares for those areas where mass transit is still not functional.

If there are other ways that we can help, please let us know.

Jeff Hitchcock, clerk
Christopher Sammond, general secretary



NYYM UPCOMING EVENTS

- [AVP Workshop — Bronx, NY](#)
Friday, December 7, 2012 - 6:00pm - Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 5:00am
964 Morris Avenue (at 164th St.)
Bronx, NY

- [Friends in Business Organizing Meeting](#)
Sunday, December 9, 2012 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Brooklyn Meeting, 110 Schermerhorn St.,
Brooklyn, NY 11202

- [Farmington-Scipio Region's Winter Gathering](#)
Saturday, January 19, 2013 - 9:00am - 4:00pm
Rochester Monthly Meeting, 84 Scio St.
Rochester, NY 14604

SERVING AS A TRAVELING MINISTRIES VISITOR

Service Opportunity - May 23rd 2012

FGC offers a service that connects Friends who have spiritual gifts to share with meetings seeking support.

FGC visitors are:

- **Seasoned Friends** - those who have demonstrated spiritual maturity and faithfulness, who carry gifts of ministry, and who are recommended and held accountable by their meetings for the ministry they can provide.
- **Companions in the ministry** - those who have demonstrated spiritual maturity and faithfulness and who are willing and able to provide both spiritual and practical support to the visitor with whom they are traveling.

Learn more about serving as a traveling ministries visitor by contacting FGC or visiting the web site

<http://www.fgcquaker.org/serve/opportunities/serve-traveling-ministries-visitor>.

A BOOK FOR SEEKERS

'Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way' - In seven letters to a fictional correspondent, Steve Chase describes his spiritual journey among Friends. The writer, a member of the Quaker Quest travel team, introduces the Quaker way to a newcomer in language that is personal and gentle, while offering powerful inspiration through stories. Written as an invitation to inquirers, "Letters to a Fellow Seeker" will stimulate discussion among longtime Friends about how we experience and remain true to our Quaker faith



A big THANK YOU to all who contributed to this year's Halloween Carnival. Your donations of time, food, and supplies all helped to make the event a success. \$247 was raised for UNICEF.

POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Larry Buffam

Recording Clerk – David Connolly

Treasurer – Dee Nance

Pastor - Ruth Bradley

Musicians - Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

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

Our Facebook address is www.facebook.com/poplaridgefriendsny.

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.

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