



# PRISM

*The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge*

Poplar  
Ridge  
Information  
Sharing  
Monthly

## APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 7:30pm Meditation Group  Birthday: Samuel Simkin	<b>2</b> 7:30pm Peace & Social Action Committee - Buffam's  Birthday: Elena Katherine Gomez	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Birthday: Sally Otis	<b>5</b> Birthday: Evan Foulke	<b>6</b> <b>Spring Sessions</b>  10am King Ferry Food Pantry
<b>7</b> <b>Spring Sessions</b>  10am Meeting for Worship - Bill Tyler	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel - Nelson's	<b>10</b> 7pm Southern Cayuga Community Read 2013  Birthday: Evelyn Kahn	<b>11</b> 7pm Mid-week Worship - Sammond's	<b>12</b> 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group  Birthday Ryan Latham, Justin Walter	<b>13</b> Birthday: David Moora
<b>14</b> 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley  11am Coffee Hour  Birthdays: Gretchen Rice, Laura Buffam	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture - Claire's	<b>17</b> 7:30pm Outreach Committee Meeting – Richter's	<b>18</b> 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	<b>19</b> 3pm Hazard Library: downloading e- books	<b>20</b> 9am Genoa Food Pantry  7pm Merrifield Concert - Miche Fambro
<b>21</b> 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11:30am Annual Meeting for Business  Birthday: Jim Shea	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b> Birthday: Howard Nelson	<b>24</b> 7pm Hazard Library Annual Meeting  Deadline for PRISM submissions	<b>25</b> 7pm Mid-week Worship - Berggren- Thomas'	<b>26</b> <b>Spring Gathering</b>  6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship  Birthday: Eddie Richter	<b>27</b> <b>Spring Gathering</b>  6pm Camp Gregory Dinner/Ice Cream Social
<b>28</b> <b>Spring Gathering</b>  10am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Birthday: Micheal Foulke				

For more information about calendar events, check the PRISM or contact [pr.prism@gmail.com](mailto:pr.prism@gmail.com)

## **THE GATHERED MEETING**

In last month's Prism there was a section under the heading The Gathered Meeting. There will be similar columns in future issues, offered by Ministry & Counsel Committee, with the aim of presenting thoughts and bits of Quaker tradition that might be of interest and enrichment. For now, we would just like to say that the goal is a good (deepening, healing) worship experience, and a welcoming meeting.

## **POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 17, 2013**

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 11:45 a.m. and approved of the minutes from the February meeting.

Attending: Ruth Bradley, Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Jeff Layton, Howard Nelson, Suzanne O'Hara, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Andrew Simkin, Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, Bill Tyler, and Charlie Weld

We were informed that Ministry and Counsel completed the state of the meeting report and sent it to New York Yearly Meeting.

A letter was received from the clerk of Ithaca Monthly Meeting finalizing Tony Gaenslin's transfer of membership to Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting. The social committee will plan a welcoming coffee hour in the future.

Ministry and Counsel considered last month's concern with Friends arriving late for Meeting for Worship and recommended that we lay it aside, holding it in the Light. The committee found it difficult to know how to address this issue in a constructive way. The committee would not like to make a regular feature addressing covered/gathered meetings in Prism at this time. There is a concern that there are other things we want to encourage that might get lost, such as being gentle and kind with one another encouraging everyone whenever they can get here. There was concern that we don't

avoid the issue. The Monthly Meeting was comfortable laying it aside until May or June, giving the concern time to season in the Light. Ministry and Counsel will also place a note in Prism explaining the delay and inviting Friends to participate in what is to be done.

The Monthly Meeting approved of a letter asking for funds from New York Yearly Meeting's Advancement Committee in support of pastoral ministry funds to support Rebecca Schillenbeck's theological education at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. The letter mentions the Monthly Meeting would include \$1,000, which is approved in our budget below.

The 2013 budget was approved.

Last year included an approximate \$4,400 surplus.

Highlights of approvals:

- \$2,000 additional covenant donation to New York Yearly Meeting.
- \$1,000 for scholarship support for meeting members pursuing study in the ministry.
- A split of separate lines for the religious education (Youth Committee) budget and Outreach, placing \$200 in each.
- A \$2,500 increase in compensation for the pastor.

The Monthly Meeting approved asking the Finance Committee for a detailed accounting of our operating finances as well as legacy funds to be presented to Monthly Meeting and published in Prism. The meeting asked Paul Simkin to help with that accounting and presentation.

Closed after a period of silence at about 2:40 p.m. Prepared by David Connelly, recording secretary.



## ANNUAL MEETING

The Poplar Ridge Friends Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. All committees are reminded that they should prepare their annual reports for presentation on that day.



## FCNL QUERY RESPONSES

The Peace and Social Action Committee thought people might be interested in the results of the recent Soup and Sharing where we examined 12 Queries from the Friends Committee on National Legislation. The following are summaries for each of the 4 Policy areas. These have been returned to FCNL. The recorder of each group attempted to summarize in a way that would be helpful to FCNL in developing their new Policy Guidelines, and to give a sense of group consensus.

We realize that the information is far from a complete – many good ideas were generated that are not presented below. If you would like to have a copy of the full notes from any of the forums, please contact Laura Buffam - [laurabuffam@gmail.com](mailto:laurabuffam@gmail.com).

### *Part I: We Seek a World Free of War and the Threat of War*

**Weapons:** Technology can be good and bad. When used as a weapon or means to kill it is not acceptable. Drones create a situation where perpetrators do not see or feel the damage being done. Unmanned apparatus puts us at a very dangerous level. Questions were raised about who makes the decisions and sets guidelines which determine who is to be targeted, and what is acceptable “collateral damage”? Are drones legal in the eyes of international or national laws?

**Intangible Weapons:** Cyber warfare can affect many innocent people. It can have a domino effect on all of society and destabilize the world.

### **Military-Supported humanitarian aid:**

Humanitarian aid by the military can be supported where peaceful, but if military uses weapons on people it only creates more violence.

### *Part II: We Seek a Society with Equity and Justice for All*

Recorder's observations: Campaign regulation and immigration laws are highly arcane technical subjects. Our discussion group did not come to clarity on specific policies that FCNL should promote. The overall tenor of the discussion did, however, support the conclusion that our government should be actively engaged in both these areas. A laissez faire approach may work well in other aspects of life, where a reasonable case can be made for reducing the involvement of the federal government. But the conduct of elections and deciding on immigration matters must be handled by our government.

Participants in the discussion clearly sought more governmental effort in these areas. Action is needed, and FCNL should strive to convince our Congress to focus on improving our electoral processes and immigration system.

### *Part III: We Seek a Community Where Every Person's Potential May Be Fulfilled*

**Community** is the important part of this query. Decisions on how to spend money and how businesses are supported should be made based on how to best benefit the people in that community. Providing a living wage, a healthy environment and the chance for a quality education are necessary for the wellbeing and health of both the individual and the community.

### *Part IV: We Seek an Earth Restored Environment and the Economy:*

People in the group expressed that government's role should include discontinuing subsidies for oil companies, and providing subsidies for renewables; FCNL should lobby for a carbon tax which should also include methane; it was suggested that small communities with local services & production could increase efficiency and provide jobs. There was concern about rapid increase in coal-fired plants in China and India – could FCNL have a voice in having the US exert diplomatic pressure on these countries?

**Economic Transitions:** a GI Bill for coal miners was suggested

## **NYYM SPRING GATHERING – APRIL 26-28**

Spring Gathering is coming soon! This is a great way to meet other Friends from other Meetings in our region. You may access a registration form at <http://www.quakerwny.com/?q=node/168>. The keynote speaker will be Phil Gully a Quaker writer. The weekend is titled " Living our Faith".

### **Late registrations are accepted!!**

Poplar Ridge is responsible for assisting the cook with meal preparations. Please let Hannah Richter know if you are willing and able to help with meal preparations. There are 6 meals and the cook would like 6 volunteers for one hour prior to each meal.

## **YSOP 2013**

On March 15-17, ten teens and four adults participated in the Youth Service Opportunity Project (YSOP) work- camp in NYC. Here is one teen's reflection on her experience...

*"YSOP 2013 was definitely a fun ad fulfilling experience. This was my second year attending the work camp, and I liked it even more than the first time. Things were a little less awkward and it was easier to jump right into helping the homeless. My favorite part was the first night, when we got to cook dinner and interact with the guests individually. You really get to know them and, for me at least, it's surprising how similar their lives are to my own. YSOP is both an educational and enjoyable trip, and I would recommend trying it to any teen or adult."*

-Taylor Macbain

## **NYYM & BLOGGING**

New York Yearly Meeting is introducing a new opportunity for dialogue within the Yearly Meeting: The theme articles from SPARK have been posted as blog entries so that readers can comment on the articles. In the past, the online version of *Spark* has been one long web page in which a table of contents at the top has links to the articles and other features farther down on the page. For this issue's theme articles, those links now go to **blog entries** for those articles instead of to text farther down on the page. This means that there is a Comment section on the article's page that allows you to post a comment. There is an introduction to this new feature and

some instructions on how to post your comment on Spark's web page. Please let them know how you like this new feature in NYYM communications.



## **CHILDREN'S DAY**

Save the date for the annual Children's Day Celebration on June 30<sup>th</sup> this year, followed by a picnic lunch. Details will be provided at a later date.

## **CAMP GREGORY DINNER/ICE CREAM SOCIAL FUND RAISER**

On April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM there will be an evening of Camp Gregory merriment and good food at the Sunset Restaurant in Auburn. Due to its success and popularity, this event will continue and have a similar program as last year. Hopefully there will be more kids; who have been "Happy Campers", to join in. The activities will include performances by the Bottom Feeders, Camp Gregory trivia, shared memories from participants, and a silent auction.

For those who can't make the dinner, please come at 7:30 for the silent auction; an ice cream social; and memories and music around the indoor campfire. If you plan to come for the events from 7:30 on, please call (see below) or email to register so they will know how many to expect.

Tickets for the dinner can be purchased at The Aurora Market, Oakwood Service Center, and the home of Robin Myers. You can contact Robin Myers at [myers991@gmail.com](mailto:myers991@gmail.com) or (315-)497-1143.



## **FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER**

There will be no family night supper for April due to Spring Gathering.

## **LAKEFRONT CLEANUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual multigenerational lakefront cleanup will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. We'll meet across from the softball fields in Aurora. You can bring a bag lunch if you'd like. Plan to get a bit dirty – dress appropriately. Wear waterproof boots if you have them. This is the third year we've participated in the *Embrace-the-Lake cleanup program*. For more information you can visit <http://www.cayugalake.org/>

## **MERRIFIELD CONCERT**

Miche Fambro blues and roots music singer/songwriter will be performing at Merrifield (2345 Center Road, Scipio Center) on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Learn more about this musician at <http://www.michefambro.com/>. \$10 collected at the door

## **HAZARD LIBRARY NEWS**

### *Southern Cayuga Community Read 2013*

This year's selected book is Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl. Join the Aurora Free Library and the Hazard Library for a book discussion on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Emily Howland Elementary School Library. This

book was chosen to coincide with the planting of the Anne Frank Sapling at SCCS.

Complimentary copies of the book are available at the libraries. Refreshments will be served.

### *Downloading e-books*

Hazard Library is sponsoring a workshop on downloading e-books on Friday, April 19 at 3 pm at the Man in the Moon Bakery in King Ferry. Library volunteers Lisa Semenza and Rachel Karn will conduct this session. Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at Hazard Library or at the Man in the Moon Bakery. Attendees are asked to bring their library card, laptop or other device if they have one.

### *Hazard Library Annual Meeting*

The Hazard Library Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, April 24 at 7 pm at the Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting House. This is an opportunity to meet the new library director, Lisa Semenza. Following a short business meeting there will be a reception. Please come and help us welcome Lisa in her new role at Hazard Library.

Questions? Please contact Hazard Library (315-364-7975 or [librarian@hazardlibrary.org](mailto:librarian@hazardlibrary.org))



### **POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING**

Clerk – Larry Buffam

Pastor - Ruth Bradley

Recording Clerk – David Connelly

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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