

PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

*Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly*

DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Schillenback	2 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	3 7:30pm Peace & Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	4 7pm San Pedro Sister Community meeting @ Buxenbaum's	5	6 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	7 10am King Ferry Food Pantry
8 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11am Coffee Hour 6pm Horizon Community Chorus Concert @ the Methodist Church, Moravia, NY	9	10 Ministry & Counsel -@ Bradley/Weld' s	11	12 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	13	14
15 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting 3pm Shepherd's Play @ Auburn Public Theater	16	17 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Claire's	18	19 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	20 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	21 9am Genoa Food Pantry 7pm Shepherd's Play @ Poplar Ridge Friends Meetinghouse
22 White Gifts drop-off 10am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 5pm Christmas Program	23 9am White Gifts Packing	24	25 Deadline for PRISM submissions Christmas	26 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren- Thomas's	27	28
29 10am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	30	31 New Year's Eve				

Birthdays: 1st - Vivian Cunningham; 10th -Cazimer George Shillenback; 11th - Joe Dosch; 12th - Walter Moora; 13th - Walter Foulke; 14th - Beverly Rejman; 16th - Bethea Brice; 20th - Ruth Bradley; 22nd - Benjamin Otis; 23rd - Irene Main; 25th - Skyler Dickinson Maassen; 26th - Nils Nobben; 29th - Mary Lou Charles & Cathy Mullarney; 31st - Lucie Heinekamp

Anniversary: 29th - Bruce and Priscilla Berggren-Thomas

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FOR DECEMBER 2013

No December Meeting for Business

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 22nd. All are welcome to participate in packing the boxes starting around 9am on December 23rd at the meetinghouse. Listen for announcements about further details. Contact Ann Burch 315-364-7726 for more information or white gift suggestions.



THE SHEPHERD'S PLAY

The Shepherds' Play will once again be performed by the Poplar Ridge Players on December the 21st at **7:00 pm** at the Friends Meeting House. It will also be performed at the Auburn Public Theater on the 15th of December at 3:00 pm. Donations of canned goods for the Cavalry Food Pantry will be welcomed at the Auburn Public Theater performance.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Clearness Committees - What They Are and What They Do

What is a clearness committee?

A clearness committee is a group of Friends appointed to help a member of the meeting find clarity around a leading or a major life decision.

We believe each person is in direct communication with the Divine. Thus in a sense, they hold the answers to their questions within themselves. It is the purpose of a Clearness committee to help the individual access and hear these answers by asking questions that focus attention on different aspects of the issue.

Clearness processes can be requested for any question. M&C or Oversight will endeavor to select appropriate people. The clearness process may involve several meetings with time in between for work or reflection. The steps of the Clearness process are the same, regardless of where it is used.

Who can have a clearness committee?

Anyone can request a clearness committee from the meeting that he or she attends.

What does the committee do?

A clearness committee's job is to help the individual discover whether there is clarity to move forward with a matter, wait, or take other action.

The committee will:

- Worship together
- Listen deeply to the questions & concerns brought by the individual
- Question the individual in a careful, gentle and open-ended manner
- Reflect back what has been heard

<http://www.fgcquaker.org>

<http://www.chathamquakers.org>

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Poplar Ridge Friends Christmas Program will be on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 5:00 pm. Following the Christmas story program, there will be a supper of sandwiches, cookies and beverages before the arrival of Santa with gifts for the children.

All are encouraged to bring finger food (sandwiches, cookies, etc.) to be shared for a light supper following the children's performance and Santa's arrival. The Social Committee will provide hot chocolate.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? CONSIDER SUPPORTING SAN PEDRO AT THE SAME TIME.

Here are some Christmas ideas, an explanation of how they help:

Gift Cards: How this works is you donate to San Pedro "in the name of" someone. Instead of giving them a Christmas gift, they will receive a donation card explaining that you have donated in their name. This might be a good choice for the person on your Christmas list who already "has everything".

Purses and Hammocks: We have just received a new selection of purses, priced from \$8 to \$20 depending on the style. The women of San Pedro benefit directly from these sales because the money received is the same as what we charge (no mark-up). This extra income makes a big difference to families whose income may be in the hundreds of dollars/year.

Equal Exchange Fair Trade products: Around Christmas time we try to stock up on our regular items from Equal Exchange plus some extras. We will have extra cocoa, flavored French Vanilla coffee, and lots of different types

of chocolate bars. We also have packages of dried mangos, apricots, raisins and almonds. These are quality products and make nice gifts. We receive these items at a wholesale price, and mark them up. Typically \$1-\$2 of the purchase price is used for projects in San Pedro.

All the items are located in the back of the meetinghouse. If you have questions or have a special request – please see Larry Buffam.

MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD

In November, Walter Naegle, NYYM Administrative Associate, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for Bayard Rustin. Bayard Rustin was a member of 15th Street Meeting. View the event video online at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2013/11/20/president-obama-honors-2013-medal-freedom-recipients>.

YOUNG QUAKERS

Have you ever played a game of ultimate Frisbee so intense the score never shifted from 7-7? Have you managed to fit over a dozen people on one "three-person" couch? Have you untangled a human knot? Received a massage from two people, and given two of your own? Shared news from your heart to a group of friends who really care? Tasted kitty litter cake? Performed a skit or song at a cabaret night, just for fun? Learned all the words to Don McLean's American Pie? Joined kids from the age of 5 to 65 at a mass beach day?

Oh, you thought Quakerism had to be boring? Not on our watch!

From age zero to 150 (hey, it could happen!), F/friends find amazing and fun things to do with their faith at every age. If you're a young Quaker looking to meet other young Quakers, explore what it even means to be a Quaker today, and maybe even make a difference in someone else's world, you can have a blast doing it. Powell House youth conferences, Friends General Conference, Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (summer 2014: Peru and Bolivia!), and the Pencil Project are just a few of the ways we can explore our faith, the world, and ourselves.

- New York Yearly Meeting Website
(http://www.nyyym.org/?q=young_quakers)

POWELL HOUSE YOUTH PROGRAM

A Quaker conference center of NYYM located in Chatham, NY, the Powell House Youth Program integrates Quaker values with day-to-day life, good company, and pure fun. Conferences are held throughout the year for youth in grades 4th thru 12th. Upcoming conference themes include Family Trees (4th-5th), Want to be Happy? BE! (9th-12th), Enough is Enough (6th-8th), and WinterSong (7th-12th).

Visit <http://www.powellhouse.org/index.php/youth-programs> for more information.



QUAKERS, EASTER & CHRISTMAS

For a couple centuries, avoidance of common Christian observances such as Easter and Christmas was as distinctive a tenet among the Quakers (a.k.a. Friends) as their famed pacifism. There are exceptions but that's largely in the past, especially with Christmas. The Friends General Conference explains that "traditionally Quakers did not celebrate any religious holidays because all days are 'holy days,'" but today "most Quakers celebrate a low-key Christmas, and sometimes Easter, as part of our larger culture." Quakers will typically downplay festivities and reject the

commercial push toward materialism in gift giving, in line with the faith's principle of simple living. Local Friends meetings differ regarding whether and what holiday worship services to hold, just as Quaker branches are divided in theology between liberals and evangelicals. There's lively discussion on the Internet about Quaker families' seasonal practices at home.

George Fox (1624 – 1691), an Englishman oft imprisoned for his faith, is commonly regarded as Quakerism's founder. He was influenced by the Puritan movement, which opposed Christmas celebrations and outlawed them when it ruled Massachusetts colony during Fox's lifetime. Fox indicated his feelings in an early journal entry, noting that while others indulged in Christmastime feasting and frolicking "I looked out poor widows from house to house and gave them some money." (Nowadays, the Friends' George Fox University in Oregon happily programs Christmas concerts and Easter egg hunts.)

The 1806 *Rules of Discipline* for the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends declared the predominant policy that believers cannot join in "public fasts, feasts, and what they term holy days" that were "devised in man's will" (i.e. not by God's will) because "outward observations" have been supplanted by "the spiritual dispensation of the Gospel." Each day of the year was to be holy unto God, not just special "days and times." That same emphasis on inner spiritual life over outward ceremony underlies the Quakers' elimination of baptism and the Lord's Supper, which remains a distinctive practice for all segments of the faith.

Jehovah's Witnesses strictly forbid Christmas and Easter observances for a reason that some Quakers have also cited, that these holidays lack a biblical basis and stem from paganism. Similarly, in bygone days the Quakers followed a "plain" or "scriptural" calendar that rejected common English names for days of the week and the months because they originally referred to worship of the sun and moon (Sunday, Monday) or pagan deities (January for Janus, Thursday as Thor's day). Instead, Quakers would speak of First Day, First Month, etc.

From online blog posted by [Richard Ostling](#)

FWCC PHILIPPINES APPEAL

Support for the long term

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) has launched an appeal for funds in the wake of the earthquake and typhoon that have struck the Philippines in recent days. The epicenter of the earthquake was on the island of Bohol where there is a small group of unprogrammed Quakers. The typhoon has made their recovery even more difficult. Many members of the Friends Evangelical Yearly Meeting, which is affiliated with Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region, live in the direct path of Typhoon Haiyan and we have all seen the devastation they suffered.

There are already many resources being deployed to help in the immediate relief work. The intention of this appeal is to raise funds that Friends on the ground can use for the humanitarian relief and rebuilding work that will be needed in the long term. As Boni Quirog, a member of the Quaker group in Bohol, writes:

Our provincial and national governments did work together quickly and vigorously (and still continue to do so) to respond to the situation and have provided enough relief goods for all who needed them. Many private groups have also done their share of helping, along with hundreds of other civil society organizations, government agencies, business entities, generous families and individuals. But the road to a sustainable recovery is yet to begin.

It is clear that it will take a long time for the Philippines to recover. The scale of the rebuilding work is almost unimaginable, and people will need food and shelter for a long time, as well as help rebuilding.

In some areas the work will be very challenging. Crisanto Dela Cruz, Senior Pastor at the Philippines Friends Church, writes:

“Please pray for the safety of our brethren in these areas, especially in Danao II high up the mountain where most members of Higher Ground Friends Church reside. Most of the houses of our members there are made of light materials mostly nipa or bamboo huts. There are no motorized vehicles that reach the area and it is accessible only by foot.”

Friends need our prayers but also our practical support as they face a difficult period. As Marj Angelot, a member of the Bohol group, writes:

“We are trying to be strong as new faults are being discovered, sink holes have been seen, caves have been found, shorelines have been stretched. We can’t help but feel frightened at times but are still thankful for each day. I know it will take time to recover and to heal but we will get there, I’m hopeful. Your thoughts and prayers mean a lot to us, especially in times like these.”

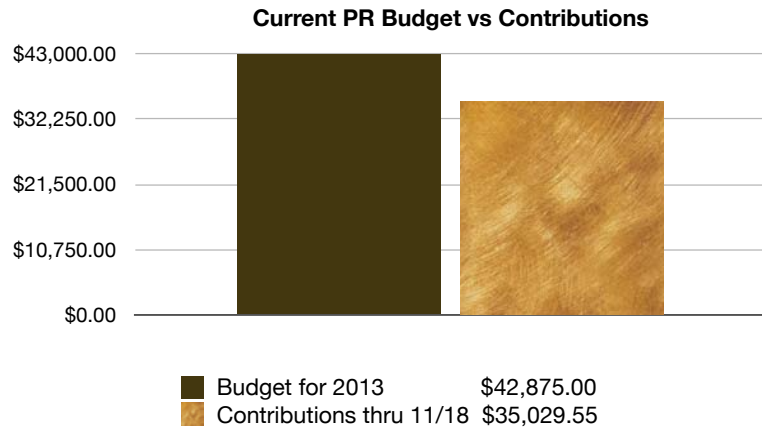
The World Office of FWCC is collecting funds which will be distributed directly to Quakers in the Philippines. Money donated to this appeal will be used by Friends on the ground to help those in their community and others face the enormous challenges ahead.

Please give as generously as you can. You can donate online at www.fwccworld.org/pappeal.html or by post to FWCC, 173 Euston Road, NW1 2AX, marked for the Philippines (UK donors can include a Gift Aid declaration). Donors in the USA who wish their donations to be tax-deductible can visit www.fwccamericas.org/donate or send donations, marked for the Philippines, to FWCC, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

We are very grateful for your contribution.
Gretchen Castle - FWCC General Secretary
Ronis Chapman - FWCC Asia-West Pacific Secretary



Budget for 2013	\$42,875.00	
Contributions YTD	\$35,029.55	81.70%



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Larry Buffam	Pastor - Ruth Bradley
Assistant Clerk – Anne Dalton	Recording Clerk – David Connelly
Treasurer – Jeff Layton	Ministry & Counsel Clerk - Howard Nelson
Musicians - Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney	

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. The meetinghouse is located at 1868 Poplar Ridge Road, Poplar Ridge, NY 13139.

See <http://www.quaker.org/poplar/> for more information, updated calendar information or copies of previous newsletters. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/poplarridgefriendsny>.

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.

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

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