

PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3 9am King Ferry Food Pantry
4 10am Meeting for Worship - A.T.	5 7:30pm Meditation Group @Nelson's 7:30pm San Pedro Meeting @ Buxenbaum's	6 7:30pm Peace & Social Action @ Buxenbaum's	7	8 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	9 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship	10
11 10am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Schillenbach 11am Coffee Hour	12	13 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	14	15 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish @ Meetinghouse	16	17 9am Genoa Food Pantry 7pm Merrifield Concert - "The End of America"
18 10am Meeting for Worship - Anne Dalton 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	21	22 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'	23 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	24
25 10am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	26	27 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	28 Deadline for PRISM submissions 7:30pm Outreach meeting	29	30	31 5:30pm Celebration for Ruth @ poplar ridge firehouse,

Birthdays: 4th Jackie Dickinson; 7th David Connelly; 8th Mark Temelko; 9th Evan McGonagle; 10th Sarah Nelson Weiss; 12th Suzanne O'Hara; 13th Trudy Buxenbaum; 14th Kate Parker; 16th Garrett Hanson, Aidan Tierney; 25th Kristin Trapane Otis; 28th Gregory Otis

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR DEC. 14, 2014

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 12:01 p.m. and read the minutes from the November meeting.

Attending: Bruce Berggren-Thomas, Ruth Ann Bradley, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Jeff Layton, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Andrew Simkin, Bess Simkin, Jane Simkin, and Paul Simkin.

We read and approved the minutes from last month's meeting.

We approved Christopher Sammond forwarding the meeting's letter to FUM to New York Yearly Meeting.

Sally reported for Ministry & Council:

- Anne Dalton will speak at Meeting for the third week in January, and for the third week in February, Darwin's birthday, Howard will give the message.
- Ministry and Council tentatively decided to remove Ruth's name as pastor on the website and PRISM, leave in Anne Dalton's name as clerk and add Craig Kukuk for Pastoral Care, if he approves, possibly with his phone number.
- No soup and sharing is planned for January so far.
- The sound system has been checked and is working well. (It was not properly plugged in this morning.) In the future Anne Dalton will turn it on and test it to assure it's working.

Preparation of state of the Meeting report on its spiritual condition: The Monthly Meeting is asked to consider several topics. Ministry & Council will select one or two to be discussed at the January Monthly Meeting. Anne, Jane and maybe other volunteers will prepare a draft of it, to be reviewed in the February business meeting.

The Monthly Meeting approved the Finance Committee's proposed 2015 operating budget of about \$37,000, down from about \$43,000 from this year. The budget is attached.

Social Committee seeks suggestions or volunteers to help plan a Contra Dance and Potluck on Jan. 31 to celebrate Ruth's years of service. A planning

committee meeting is Jan. 7; interested people should contact Hannah.

The Monthly Meeting has received the Yearly Meeting's lengthy statement of conscience concerning decisions by grand juries not to indict police officers who have killed unarmed African Americans. A copy of the statement is at http://www.nyym.org/?q=InfoShare_2014-12-statement and we encourage it be read and responded to personally. Several Friends present expressed how they grateful they are the Yearly Meeting made such a statement on their behalf.

The Monthly Meeting ended with silence at 1:45 p.m.

David Connelly
Recording Clerk



QUAKER WORSHIP IN SPANISH

On December 18 we had our first Quaker Worship in Spanish in the Poplar Ridge Meetinghouse. Seven adults and 3 children from Spanish speaking households and 7 adults from our meeting who speak some Spanish participated. The silence seemed deep and several spoken messages expressed appreciation for being together. At the end Cathy Mullarney led us in a few songs.

Following worship we had refreshments and getting acquainted conversations.

All attendees were invited to Christmas Activities at the meetinghouse and regular Sunday morning worship in English. The next Quaker Worship in Spanish is scheduled for Thursday, January 15.

Please let Jane or Paul Simkin know if you could provide transportation for our Spanish-speaking guests.

MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, January 16th 7:30pm the Peace and Social Action Committee will be sponsoring the movie The Wool Cap.

"... an edgy yet poignant drama that tells the story of Gigot, a mute building superintendent who is tortured by his past but finds new life when he befriends Lou, a bright young girl who is abandoned by her mother. Their troubled lives collide when each of them is tested to overcome their demons. However, by seeking out his estranged father (Beatty) and with the help of Ira (Rickles), an elderly tenant in Gigot's building and Gloria (O'Hara), Gigot's supportive girlfriend, Gigot and Lou are able to put their lives back together. ..."

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Wool-Cap-William-Macy/dp/B0007R4TIU>

The movie will be shown at the Otis' house. You are welcome to attend.

FRIENDLY SUPPERS

The Social Committee is seeking **Host Families** for **Friendly Suppers** in **February** on or around the weekend of the 28th. Host Families are given a number of Meeting Community names of people that are randomly selected by the Social Committee. The host will then arrange the date and the potluck supper details. Please contact Hannah Richter at 364-3531 if you would like to host a group for this annual winter community event.

MERRIFIELD EVENTS

A.T and Craig will host a concert on January 17th with the folk group "The End of America" which likes to think of their name as a geographical location, not a political statement. They sing tight harmonies reminiscent of Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young updated for our era, with warm messages of hope and compelling commitment. This will be a winter evening of community and heart and we hope you will be there! Take a listen at www.theendofamericamusic.com and bring friends at 7pm. There is a charge of \$15 at the door.

On Sunday afternoon the 18th at 1pm there will be a drum circle for all ages and abilities!

Merrifield is at 2345 Center Rd, Scipio, NY. Contact A.T. Miller atmiller@cornell.edu for more information.

COME ONE COME ALL!

Please join us for an evening of celebration for the many years that Ruth has given to our Community as Pastor. Bring your families and friends! We will have a potluck supper followed by a Contra Dance with live musicians and our own Andreas Richter as caller!

The event will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2015 starting at 5:30 PM at the Poplar Ridge Fire House. Contact Hannah ahrichter@baldcom.net or 315/364-3531 for more information.



STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT JANUARY 18, 2015 MEETING FOR BUSINESS

It is time to begin preparing our state of the meeting reports for 2014. This is our annual practice of reflecting on how Spirit has been leading us and how we have followed that leading. It is the time to share where we have prospered and where we have struggled. It is our opportunity to look at our strengths and challenges and how Truth prospered among us even in difficult times. At our January 18, 2015 Meeting for Business we shall discuss ideas for our annual report. We ask each of you to reflect on these ideas in preparation for that Meeting.

(Some wording paraphrased from a letter from Irma Guthrie, Clerk, Ministry Coordinating Committee, NYYM)

A suggested list of topics for consideration follows:

- quality of worship and spiritual ministry
- efforts to foster spiritual growth
- stands taken on Friends' principles
- personal and family relations
- relations with community and other religious groups
- participation in general activities of Friends
- significant activities or concerns of the local meeting (from Faith and Practice, p.125)

QUAKER MUSEUM REQUEST

We are producing an exhibition about a famous election that occurred on the village green here at St. Paul's, on October 29, 1733. One of the more dramatic and historically significant developments in the election was the refusal by about 40 Quakers to take a required Biblical oath attesting to the property qualification. Their position, based on religious conviction, actually led to their disenfranchisement at the election. A report on the election appeared in the inaugural issue of *The New York Weekly Journal*. Two months later, that article was the basis of a petition by the Friends to the colony for redress, seeking formal permission to affirm, rather than swear on public occasions, a privilege granted in England. The legislature passed such a law in 1734, a milestone in the advancement of freedom of religion in the colonies.

In the exhibit, we are presenting a full sized male mannequin, dressed in the plain Quaker style of the 1700s. Toward that end, we were wondering about obtaining the necessary clothes -- simple coat, broadfalls, hat and shirt. We would need the items by mid to late January, and would hope to have them on loan/display here for a year.

Contact David Osborn, site manager, St. Paul's Church N.H.S., Mt. Vernon, NY at [914-667-4116](tel:914-667-4116) or dho59stpaul@yahoo.com for information.



CRAIG KUKUK--- MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Let me start at the beginning. I was born August 9th 1956 in Detroit Michigan. It was a blue collar town. Whites on one side of Eight Mile Road, Blacks on the other. A town of racial divide. A town of auto-working beer-drinking men, with the neighborhood bar on the corner. There were the German Lutherans, and the Italian Catholics. My

father had been a Sargent in the Marine Corps, and raised his family accordingly. He worked for Detroit Edison, was a union man and an alcoholic, like his father before him. If you are old enough to remember the TV show "All in the Family", then you get the picture of my neighborhood. To remember Archie Bunker, was to know my father. My mother was the strongest person I have ever known. There was a time I thought she was like Edith Bunker, but I was quite mistaken. She was afraid of my dad and it has taken me years to admit she was an abused woman. When dad got angry, which was often, our fear showed itself in survival mode. For me it was staying out of the way as much as possible. What was most difficult perhaps was that my dad also had good qualities, which made me a bit confused as to how I should feel about him. Years later mom shared with me that she was afraid to leave him and desperately wanted to keep our family intact. It was the fifties and mom was a stay at home mother, which helped keep her in the marriage as well. She was strong in how she loved us children and brought so much security and joy into a chaotic home. I have always adored her, and always will. Taking care of her in old age was such a privilege for me. Growing up in an alcoholic environment quickly taught me to not upset dad, to numb feelings, and to not trust, the biggest part for me, though, was I had no voice. No opinions other than my father's were allowed. I became timid and stayed away from anything I saw as a threat or conflict. So sports were out, too much competition, and I would feel bad if I won, because it meant someone else lost. My mask took its form in music. I was in shows ever since I was five years old. As long as I was performing, nobody had to know the real me. So the stage became my world. When I was in elementary school, I performed in high school performances. I went to state singing competitions and got straight firsts. This became my identity.

Being a gay child, I knew early on I was different from other children. I was sensitive to the degree that I found it easier to withdraw into my own make believe, rather than risk being ridiculed by others. I had my friends, and learned how to have my protective wall around me. It was during my childhood that I first discovered my own faith life. At age seven I set up my first altar to Jesus and it was there I could be myself wholly and find my way of escaping the world. Attending the Lutheran church, I learned that God had an order and design

which was based on a conservative Lutheran, white, heterosexual premise and therefore set the stage for the belief that God and gay do not mix. I remember loving Jesus with my whole heart. Church didn't thrill me, but Jesus was like my make believe friend who knew the real me.



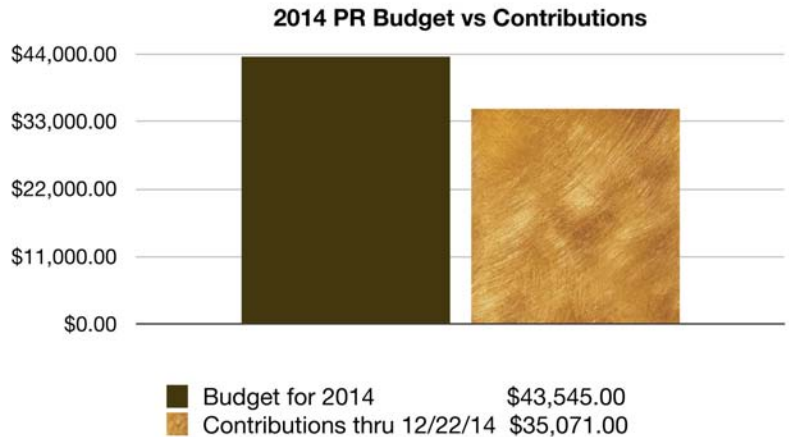
My first sexual experience was in a public restroom in a shopping mall. I was approached by some guy probably forty years older than me. I was eleven years old, and was so frightened by the experience I couldn't even ride my bike home. I ran home with my bike with a great deal of guilt and shame. This is when I began my secret life. By the time I was nineteen, I was addicted to sex as a way of numbing all feelings. Music was my outer shell, and drinking enabled me to relax enough to be popular and social. That all came to a head when I wound up in the hospital in 1976. My life was catching up with me. While in the hospital I had a born again experience with Jesus and fell headlong into the Jesus movement of the 1970s. All the guilt and shame was washed away, and I was convinced that God was calling me to be a minister. In 1977, I moved to Ann Arbor, MI and attended Concordia Lutheran Bible collage. It only took one semester to see that being a Lutheran minister was not my calling. Too much arguing about petty doctrines and beliefs. I stayed on for five years however and did graduate. During this time I was completely celibate and increasingly I became more and more of a Jesus freak, convinced that born again meant I was never really gay, but that the devil had infiltrated my life, and that Jesus could change me. I moved in with the Jesus People USA, in Chicago. They were a commune for the people who got saved

but didn't quite fit into the Christian mold. It was a haven for the drug culture, the Punk culture, sex trafficking culture, gangs, poor, homeless and of course gays. I was out on the streets preaching repentance and passing out tracts. It was the best of times and the worst of times for me. I loved the communal living, the music and radical worship. Many had believed I was involved in a cult, but I was unable to see this at the time. I left there and headed to Waco Texas to another communal living ministry. What followed for me was a series of "Ex-gay" ministries that ranged from exorcisms to reparative therapy. From Twelve Step homosexuals anonymous groups, to groups where we dated women as a way of proving to ourselves and others that we were not Gay. So after 16 years of believing Jesus could change me, I finally came to grips with the reality that I was not going to change, and I walked away from Jesus, the church, and singing for The Lord. I went to graduate school to become a licensed mental health therapist, having worked in the field all of my adult life. My road to wholeness was a long journey, and I wanted to give back what had been given to me. Most of my work has been in individual and group practice. Over the years, I have tried many different spiritual paths, and have considered myself to be a seeker of the truth. For obvious reasons I have stayed away from any spiritual path that tells me what I have to believe. This is where my involvement with the Quakers came to be. This was around 1993, when I was asked to sing at the gay wedding of some friends of mine at a Quaker meeting. This was the first time where I felt truly welcome in a place of worship. The silence gave me just what I needed. I no longer believe that I have to have all the right answers, because that is sheer futility. What I do believe is that we all have that of God in each of us. We each are on our own individual journeys and the truth comes in many packages. My coming to Poplar Ridge meeting was not some stroke of luck, but divine intervention. The first time I attended a meeting I knew I was to be here. We stopped our looking elsewhere because we knew we came home. So much resentment in me has washed away and has been replaced by a deep love. I feel like I belong, all of me and not just some fractured parts. Never in my life would I have believed that I would become a minister of pastoral care. God does work in mysterious ways as long as we are open.

2015 PR Operating Budget

Category	yearly amount 2013	Actual paid in 2013	yearly amount for 2014	Actual Paid in 2014	Budget for 2015	Comments
Pastor's Housing	\$9,500.00	\$9,501.36	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.04	\$0.00	
Pastor's salary	\$9,000.00	\$8,998.64	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	
Pastor's Retirement	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	
Pastor's reimbursable	\$3,500.00	\$3,111.70	\$3,500.00	\$2,465.59	\$3,000.00	
Pastoral Care					\$12,000.00	
Speaker Honorarium					\$2,400.00	New Item (est. 16 @ \$150)
Building Maintenance	\$850.00	\$348.97	\$450.00	\$53.44	\$300.00	decrease of \$150
Fuel Oil	\$3,600.00	\$3,634.71	\$4000.00	\$5261.02	\$4500.00	Increase of \$500
Electric	\$460.00	\$508.72	\$600.00	\$449.37	\$600.00	
Insurance	\$750.00	\$709.00	\$750.00	\$961.00	\$961.00	
Snow Plowing	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Conferences	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$250.00		\$250.00	
Library	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19.43		Not utilized; if needed take from Misc
Ministry & Counsel	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Not utilized; if needed take from Misc
Misc.	\$700.00	\$241.90	\$400.00	\$410.90	\$425.00	increase of \$25
Motto Calendars	\$125.00	\$134.00	\$145.00		\$145.00	
Music	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Not utilized; if needed take from Misc
Outreach	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$75.44	\$125.00	
Peace & Social Action	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Not utilized; if needed take from Misc
Postage	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Not utilized; if needed take from Misc
Prism	\$350.00	\$282.55	\$300.00	\$313.29	\$300.00	
Religious Edu.	\$150.00	\$167.85	\$125.00	\$66.81	\$100.00	decrease of \$25
Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00			If needed take from Talcott
Social/Housekeeping	\$70.00	\$88.52	\$100.00		\$100.00	
Am. Friends Service	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
AVP	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Bolivian Quaker Edu.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Camp Gregory	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Camp Gregory camper's	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			Not utilized; if needed take from Youth Fund
CCAIM	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Center on Conscience	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Christian Peacemakers	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	

Budget for 2014	\$43,545.00	
Contributions YTD	\$35,071.00	80.54%
Budget Deficit for 2014	\$8,474.00	



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Anne Dalton
Assistant Clerk – Larry Buffam
Treasurer – Jeff Layton
Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk
Recording Clerk – David Connelly
Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Sally Otis

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. Nursery is available 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 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 246-7151. 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
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of the Religious Society of Friends
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