



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00pm Youth Committee @ Lockhart's 7:30pm Peace & Social Action Committee @ Andy Simkin's	2	3	4	5 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
6 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 11:30am Soup and Sharing - "6th Extinction" Book Discussion	7 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	8 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	9	10 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	11 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	12 6:00pm San Pedro Benefit Dinner
13 Daylight Saving starts 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback 11:00am Coffee Hour	14	15 Deadline for San Pedro Visit Decision 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	16 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	17	18	19 9:00am Genoa Food Pantry 7:00pm Merrifield Concert - James Scott
20 10:00am Meeting for Worship – unprogrammed 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	21	22 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	23 Deadline for PRISM submissions Outreach Meeting @ Dalton's	24 7:00pm Mid-week Worship	25 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	26
27 Easter Sunday 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback	28	29	30	31		

Birthdays: 2nd Elizabeth (Leigh) McGonagle, Eleanor Joy Simkin Mumma; 8th Jill Charles Gomez, Trey Anthony Otis, Luther Hallett; 9th Maryl Mendillo; 10th Emily Parker; 12th Ed Maassen, Mia Boynton, Carter Robert Otis; 16th Linda Simkin; 18th Henry Brice; 19th Bill Tyler, Richard Loosemore; 21st Susan Weisend; 23rd Phyllis Bunker, Linda McGonagle; 26th Meghan Charles; 28th Heidi Richter; 29th Mary Fairhurst; 30th Kylee McCleary

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

**POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY
MEETING FOR BUSINESS
MINUTES FOR FEB. 21, 2016**

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 12:00 p.m.; the minutes from the January meeting were read. Andrew Simkins clerked the meeting.

Attending were David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Jim Frisch, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Hannah Richter, Andrew Simkin, Jane Simkin, Linda Simkin, and Paul Simkin.

Sally Otis reported for Ministry and Council:

- The committee recommends that Ruth Bradley and Charlie Weld and Andy and Bess Simkin serve on the oversight committee for the marriage of Heidi Richter and Dru Schlichtmann. Monthly Meeting approved.
- Anne and Sally met with Craig Kukuk to complete his annual performance evaluation.

Dill Otis reported for the Building Committee. He offered the following report:

- Jay has also built and installed an hour meter on the furnaces to determine how much oil each of the furnaces burn.
- The committee hesitates to recommend more decades of burning fossil fuels. The committee does not believe it is dangerous to continue running for a while; there does not seem to be an immediate fire risk. Since the report, Todd Rafferty also inspected our furnaces and did not see an immediate risk. So far, the carbon monoxide monitor has registered no presence of the gas.

The Monthly Meeting approved the committee's plan to insulate the whole basement this summer. The committee will return to Monthly Meeting for final approval once details are worked out.

The Monthly Meeting approved forwarding to Farmington-Scipio Quarterly Meeting the following Memorial Minute for William Sims, who died June 26, 2015. Bill was born Sept. 6, 1933.

"... Bill led a rich and fruitful life in spite of his long confinement in maximum security prisons. His acceptance, and welcome into membership by Poplar Ridge Meeting was a special source of joy:

for Bill, for Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting, and for Friends everywhere.

"On the day he died he had served 43 years of a life sentence in maximum security prisons in New York State.

"It is unusual to provide a memorial minute for a prisoner, and it is unusual for a prisoner to be a full member of a Friends Meeting. He was a special man.

"Life in a maximum security prison is very restricted. You do not get to do what you would like to do, to go where you would like to go, or to see people you would like to see. This is true, every hour of every single day and in Bill's case for 43 years.

"Bill attended Friends Meeting for Worship for the first time in 1975 inside Auburn Prison. This meeting was the first-ever Friends Meeting for worship held in any New York State Prison. He became a faithful attender and supporter of the Friends worship group in Auburn Prison, and served as clerk for many years. In 1978, the group became the Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting through acceptance by the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

"In the years that followed Bill developed close friendships with many outside Friends in the region.

"He liked to send artistic handmade greeting cards to his friends. However, he was always careful not to write on the card, so the friend could use it as new. You would find his friendly message on a separate insert with the card.

"Bill attended the second-ever Alternatives to Violence Workshop in a New York State prison at Auburn in 1978. In subsequent years he facilitated workshops, and provided the communication and trust-building essential to the program's success. Prison administrators and guards, prisoners, and Quaker/AVP volunteers, all trusted Bill.

"Bill was a pioneer. There are active AVP programs in 18 New York State prisons today. There are Quaker worship groups in 11 New York State prisons today

"In prison he completed college, obtaining a Syracuse University degree. He completed a

Master's degree from the University of Buffalo. He developed remarkable artistic skill.

□

"He met, courted and married Dorothy Gowin, a member of Syracuse Friends Meeting.

"He was in prison, maximum security prison. He had no power, no resources, limited contacts and telephone calls. He did have the resources of a thoroughly good man, and it was enough. □□

"He had the power suggested by the Quaker quote,

"Let us see what Love can do."

Anne will look into the possibility of forwarding the Memorial Minute to other publications.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee met to discuss the State of the Meeting report, which to be forwarded to New York Yearly Meeting by mid-March. We have asked A.T. Miller and Rebecca Schillenback to offer their perspective. The two have incorporated their thoughts onto a single document, which we reviewed.

The Yearly Meeting's query is this: *"What is the spiritual condition of your Meeting? We are looking for in-depth reflection on the essence of what makes us Friends with the understanding that our spiritual lives are reflected in many different ways."* We made minor changes and will consider including other suggestions before approving it at our next Monthly Meeting.

Jane Simkin reported that we now have housekeeping covered for April, May, June and the first few weeks of March. Remaining to be done is the last week of March, and July till the end of the year.

We were reminded that our Annual Meeting is April 10 this year. Committee clerks should have their reports done by that date.

The Nightngales Weekend of Song and Fellowship will be here April 22, 23 and 24; they will be part of our Family Night supper and program, at which all our welcome. A representative of the Friendly Folk Dancers told us they could be here Thursday or Friday, the 28th and 29th. We decided to decline this year because we are overcommitted that month.

We closed with silence at 1:51 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk.

EASTER CLEANING



We need a volunteer for cleaning the meetinghouse the week before Easter. March 27 is Easter and we want to have a clean meetinghouse. Contact Jane Simkin 315-364-8422 for information or to volunteer.

FAMILY NIGHTS

There will not be a Family Night in March due to the Easter Holiday weekend, but please mark your calendars now for the April Family Night on the 23rd when we will be joined by the Nightengales for an evening of singing.

The Nightengales (Friendly Singers) will be at the Richter home for the weekend, April 22-24. All who love to sing or who like to listen to singing are welcome to come for all or part of the weekend. A potluck supper will be held at the Meeting House on Saturday, April 23rd at 6:00PM with group singing to follow.

More info to come in the April PRISM.

ANNUAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Our annual meeting will be on April 10th after the rise of meeting. Please note that this is a change to the second Sunday of the month rather than the normal third. Committee clerks should bring their annual reports to share with the meeting.

Pastoral needs or questions:
Call Craig Kukuk at 734-717-7719.

SAN PEDRO BENEFIT DINNER ~ 2016

Come celebrate our ongoing relationship with this wonderful sister community, and help us support them through a persistent drought, as well as supporting the increasing numbers of youth who express an interest in attending High School and University.

The San Pedro Sister Community hopes that you, your family, and friends can join us for our fifth annual San Pedro benefit dinner.

Saturday, March 12 - 6 PM
Wells College Sommer Center - Aurora, NY

Please call or email to reserve your seat by Saturday, March 5! Contact Cathy Mullarney -- 315-730-9039 or bcmull@hughes.net

Recommended Donation: \$25 per person
Wells students and children 6-12 -- \$10; children 5 & under free
Pay at the door



IF I HAD A HAMMER

If I had a kid in 4th or 5th grade ... I would send them to "If I Had a Hammer Powell House Youth Program" on March 11-13, 2016

Kids. Hammers, Protest and social justice songs, Snacks. Games, New Friends

Join us to "hammer in the morning, hammer in the evening." Register on-line at www.powellhouse.org 518-794-8811 ext 13. Hammers and lyrics included. Simply add kid for instant fun and deep connections. Financial aid available on request. \$30 first time youth discount

FRIENDS WORKING WITH REFUGEES

At Coordinating Committee Weekend this January, the yearly meeting's Witness Coordinating Committee heard several accounts of the work that local and regional meetings are doing to help refugees. Some Friends on the committee thought that Friends working in this area might appreciate knowing what others are doing, and that a phone conference call would be a good way for us to see how we can support each other.

Conference call. Sunfire, a member of the Committee, has set Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. as the date and time for a conference call for those working to help refugees to talk about what they are doing and how the yearly meeting might help them in their work. The number to dial to participate in the call is (712) 775-7031. When prompted for your access code, you should enter 164440. If you are interested in participating, please let Sunfire know by emailing him (sunfirequaker@earthlink.net) and he will send you a reminder on the day before the call. If you are working in this area but cannot make the call, please let Sunfire know so that he can keep you in the loop on what is developing.

MERRIFIELD CONCERT

A.T. and Craig are excited about their March 19th concert at 7pm at 2345 Center Road, Scipio Center 13147—aka Merrifield, home of Craig Kukuk and A.T. Miller.

James Scott is an Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitarist/Flatpicker/Singer-Songwriter/Composer/Song Interpreter and all around nice guy. He started playing the guitar at the age of 14 years old. But, his obsession with it didn't take hold until the age of 16 when he began immersing himself in the infinite possibilities of the Instrument. At that time he began to study Jazz, Fingerstyle, Rock, Blues, Folk, Celtic, Traditional, Bluegrass and began composing original music as well.

His Influences span the Globe. You're sure to hear something that appeals to your special tastes. Check him out at <http://www.jamesscottguitar.com> and then bring friends, colleagues, family, and acquaintances to the show! We collect \$15 at the door to support the artist.

NYYM CLERK'S LETTER – COORDINATING COMMITTEE WEEKEND NEWS

Dear Friends,

New York Yearly Meeting's coordinating committees met in January at Powell House. I visualize the four coordinating committees as sturdy legs of a table, supporting work that ranges from prison ministry to financial transparency to great programs for children and teens at Yearly Meeting sessions.

The coordinating committees hear reports from the committees under their care—yes, leave it to Quakers to have committees to coordinate committees. If you'd like more information, visit [the yearly meeting's web page for its committees](#). But in the grassroots way that small and large meetings across the yearly meeting manage to be both particular to themselves and related to one another, the coordinating committee structure works. I sat in on a report on Moral Mondays in Albany and heard moving testimony on these vigils. Sara Niccoli, mentioned in a post on Moral Mondays, is a member of Perry City Monthly Meeting: blogs.nysut.org/blog/2014/03/20/moral-mondays-call-for-a-fair-new-york/. Regina Haag also participates. As we worked, we soaked up every bit of Ann Davidson's warm hospitality, knowing she is retiring soon as Powell House Director, and we were delighted to welcome Regina and her husband Dennis as soon-to-be Directors.

We heard a request for funds to help support the Quaker party planned by the Young Adult Concerns Committee as outreach to young adult friends throughout the Yearly Meeting and beyond. Check it out! nyym.org/?q=YoungAdultFriendsParty2016

The committee that is blessed with the opportunity to read the 2015 State of the Meeting reports now arriving from monthly meetings reported on their work. It may seem at times that the State of the Meeting reports disappear into the ether, but they are read by real people with hearts and minds moved by what they read and working hard to write from them a report that will go out as our State of Society. You may find your meeting's concerns shared and mirrored in last year's State of Society report: nyym.org/?q=State-of-Society_2014.

Much work was done—I have mentioned only a small fraction. But there was also time for sitting around the fire and sharing Instagram photos of the trip six NYYM members made to Peru for Friends World Committee for Consultation (fwcc.world/). And we had time for reflection in small groups about what it was like to be busy in this way, away from our monthly meetings. For some of the Friends gathered it is a sacrifice, for some a gift of growth and deepening in service, for some it is hard to tell the difference. Some wish for a way to be more grounded in their monthly meetings, some wish their monthly meetings knew more about their work on Yearly Meeting committees. Some Friends from small meetings feel strengthened by the presence of the forty or so people gathered in worship, others by the sense of connection to Friends engaged in active witness. There is a sense that there is more work to be done than hands to do it, but there is also a sense that God is using us well.

A member of my meeting used to joke that he didn't belong to any organized religion. Because it is flexible and open to continuing revelation our structure may not look like a typical organization chart, but coordinating committee weekend is evidence that our independent, thoughtful souls are housed in a structure that fosters deep listening for the movement of Spirit. Watch Spark and www.nyym.org for information on how to register for spring sessions, April 1 – 3, where business arising from the coordinating committees will come before the gathered body of New York Yearly Meeting.

In peace,
Lucinda Antrim
Clerk, NYYM



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Anne Dalton

Assistant Clerk – Andy Simkin

Treasurer – Jeff Layton

Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk ([734-717-7719](tel:734-717-7719))

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 or 1st day messages. 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
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