



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
3 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 11:00am Coffee Hour	4 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	5 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Lockhart's	6	7 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	8 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	9
10 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback Annual Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting	11	12 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	14	15	16 9:00am Genoa Food Pantry
17 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Deb First 11:30am Soup & Sharing - Deb First	18	19 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	20 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	21	22 YSOP 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	23 YSOP 11:00am – Jay Ardai Memorial 6:00pm Family Night Supper – Nightengales @ Richter's 7:00pm Merrifield - Jesse Terry
24 YSOP 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	25	26 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	27 Deadline for PRISM submissions Outreach Meeting	28	29	30

Birthdays: 1st Samuel Simkin; 4th Sally Otis, Cyrus Jack Schillenback, Mary Jo Grange; 9th Janet Otis; 13th David Moora, Ryan Latham; 23rd Howard Nelson; 26th Eddie Richter; 29th A. T. Miller; 30th Micheal Foulke

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2016.

The meeting commenced at 12:00 noon. Attending were Ruth Bradley, Charlie Weld, Larry Buffam, Anne Dalton, Sally Otis, Linda Simkin, Paul Simkin, Dill Otis, Jane Simkin, Andy Simkin, and Barry Kahn.

Anne Dalton read the minutes from the February 21 meeting, and noted that the memorial minute approved then was ready for submission to Friends Journal, but needs Bill's birthplace. Ruth and Andy undertook to look for that information.

Sally Otis gave a report from the Ministry and Counsel committee. Annual meeting is scheduled for April 10. Deb First will give a message on April 17, followed by a Soup and Sharing presentation with Ted First, on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. There will be a memorial worship service for Jay Ar dai on April 23, 11:00AM, at the Meetinghouse, with a reception to follow at Dugan's restaurant.

Anne mentioned that Suzanne O'Hara had requested that a policy be developed regarding selection of material for the PRISM monthly newsletter. This will be referred to the Outreach committee, with Mary Lou Charles and Laura Buffam to be invited to participate. Once a draft policy is prepared, it will come back to Monthly meeting for approval.

There was discussion of the annual State of the Meeting Report. A draft was read by Sally Otis. It was approved with some edits, with thanks to the drafters.

A report on the State of the Meeting from the Cayuga County Correctional Facility worship group was read aloud by Dill Otis, and received with appreciation.

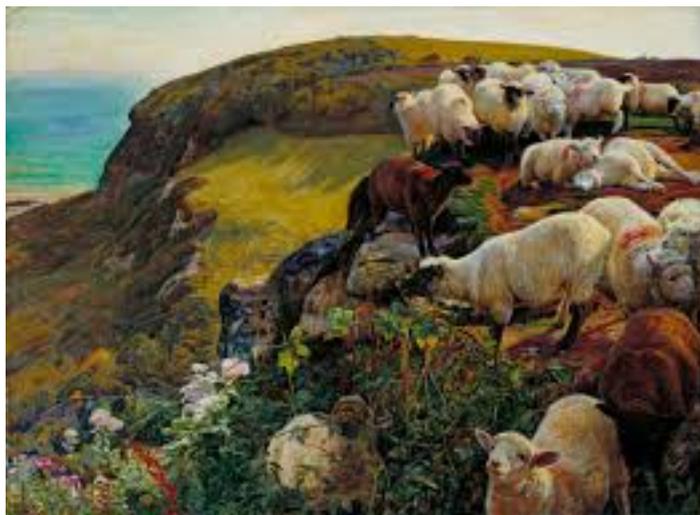
Andy Simkin reported, on behalf of the Peace and Social Action Committee, that several inputs had been drafted for the FCNL Legislative Priorities Statement, but had not been melded into a single text. It was decided that the text should be finalized by the Peace and Social Action Committee, and described in the committee's annual report to be given at the upcoming annual meeting in April. The text will then be sent by the Committee to FCNL.

For the Building Committee, Larry Buffam reported that the Building Committee is making plans to insulate the basement, starting with the children's area. The work is planned to commence on March 28, using volunteers for all labor. The Meeting approved expenditure of approximately \$1,000 for materials for the children's area. Total cost for insulating the basement is estimated at \$5-6,000; higher if windows are replaced. Future plans for a new heating system for the Meetinghouse will be developed after the insulation is done.

NIGHTENGALES SING

Nightengales will be gathering at Hannah's home on the weekend of 22 April to 24 April starting Friday evening. Singing will be enjoyed by all who care to sing or just listen: Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening. The Saturday Potluck will be held at Hannah's house at 6:00 instead of a Family Night supper gathering at the Meeting House as previously planned. You are welcome to join us if you would like and stay for an evening of singing. The Nightengales will sing at the Meeting House Sunday morning prior to Meeting for worship. You are welcome to come early and join us. Feel free to join for the entire weekend or just for a part of the weekend.





NYYM SPRING GATHERING

Spring Gathering will be held on May 13, 14, and 15, 2016. This Quaker gathering of the Farmington-Scipio region will be held at Watson Homestead in Painted Post. Registration forms will soon be available. The topic is ***White Privilege: What it means to us as faithful members of the Society of Friends.***

Mark your calendar to attend either the whole weekend or a day. Everyone is welcome. Come for the speakers, good food, time to get to know other Quakers, sing, dance, workshops and Bible study. Very affordable as you pay what you can or not at all.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the children's program as Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting is in charge this year. The Youth Committee is working on finding a "person in charge" for each age group but other helpers will be needed through out the weekend. Speak to Julie or Scott Lockhart, or Kathleen Connelly for more information.

MEMORIAL FOR JAY ARDAI

Jose "Jay" L. Ar dai, an attender of our meeting, passed away on April 13th after a yearlong fight with cancer. There will be a memorial worship service for Jay at the meetinghouse on April 23 at 11:00AM. A reception at Dugan's Country Grill (228 State Route 34B, Aurora, New York.) All are welcome to participate. Contact Suzanne (sohara@ldeo.columbia.edu, 315-497-1542) for additional information.

SOUP AND SHARING

Deb First will lead a discussion on "*Israel-Palestine and the Call to Faithful Action.*" Deb 'article " **"Israel-Palestine and the Call to Faithful Action: Worship and reconciliation in Ramallah"** appeared in the October 2015 Friends Journal. Deb and her husband Ted are Quakers who have made many trips to the Holy Land. They have shared their journeys with us in the past. We are pleased to invite them again to bring us up to date with their findings.

Deb's article can be read online at <http://www.friendsjournal.org/israel-palestine>. A few copies will be available at the Soup and Sharing. Deb will also read her article before the Soup and Sharing.



MERRIFIELD CONCERT

On Saturday, April 23rd Craig Kukuk and A.T. Miller will be hosting a concert with Jesse Terry at their home at 2345 Center Road, Scipio 13147 as part of the ongoing Merrifield Concert Series. The show begins at 7pm and features an artist with a wellspring of emotional depth to his beautifully crafted original songs and polished performing skills. His poetic ballads and uptempo pieces display sweet wistfulness and heartache in tails of travel and homecoming, sorrow and redemption. Have a listen at www.jesseterrymusic.com and then come to join us with family and friends, neighbors and new acquaintances, for an intimate evening of music and community sharing. We provide a long break with coffee and tea as part of a moving artistic evening. To support the performer, we collect \$15 at the door. Feel free to contact A.T. (atmiller80@gmail.com) with any questions.

State of the Meeting March 2016
Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting

Query for State of the meeting report. What is the spiritual condition of your meeting?
Reflection on the essence of what makes us Friends

Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting has undergone change as a community with grace and compassion for one another. After more than a decade, our pastor retired at the end of 2014, and through a communal process, we have found a way forward over the last year. While we continue to discern as a community in what way the Spirit calls us to be a gathered body, we have Friends serving in a regular capacity to bring messages for the programmed part of our weekly worship, and another Friend has been called to serve in a pastoral care capacity. The Meeting is of one mind in these arrangements, which became clear in corporal discernment. We will continue to reassess how to be a community together in worship, practice and faith, and trust that we can do this with love and the guidance of Spirit. The positive manner in which our Meeting responded to the retirement of our pastor shows how we have grown spiritually. We have gone through the transition and have been strengthened by the process.

We find this collective sharing of pastoral responsibility an enriching experience of deep Spiritual gifts and broader ministry. We enjoy and benefit from the multitude of gifts from each other. The Light shines brightly through our regular unprogrammed worship, filled with meaningful sharing in silence and in vocal ministry. Two Spiritual Nurture groups, one for women and one for men, meet monthly and are well-attended and explore meaningful readings, queries, and topics of concern and support. We host midweek worship twice a month in members' homes. We hold monthly Quaker worship in Spanish for Spanish speaking farm workers and those from our meeting who speak some Spanish.

The Meeting is anchored by its generations of weighty and committed Friends, and its long tradition and rooted-ness in its place, and enriched by the many individuals from a wide geographic area who find a Spiritual home at Poplar Ridge. The tradition is broadly Christian, which is to say, faith in Christ and Friendship with Jesus nurtures and sustains many of us without making us resistant to continuing revelation and the deep Truth of those in our meeting to whom the Divine is revealed through other Groundings, as all of our cherished members and attenders remain seekers. We are a quiet and simple people with a deep faith. Friends are "there for one another." Worship is deep, gathered, centered, and often joyous. We love to sing, and are supported by several talented musicians. Our semi-programmed worship is central to who we are. Our silent waiting worship is deepened by the semi-programmed framework, and the program shapes itself around silence. This is how we understand ourselves to be inheritors of the Quaker tradition. We are represented at Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, Powell House retreats, and at Quaker gatherings and in Quaker organizations such as FCNL.

We lost two much-beloved men from our meeting since our last state of the meeting report. Friends mourned with them in their advancing illnesses, held their wives and families in the Light as best we could, and hold them now in whatever ways we can. Another stalwart Friend and member through our prison ministry also passed away and was the subject of a well-attended and profound memorial. Many Friends provide concrete practical support, and many

pray as we nurture each other and those around us in life's journey. Many of us have joined in work parties to assist one another in our community when the need arose

The meeting, like many faith communities, is aging, yet there are a small number of children currently being raised in the meeting. Our youth committee is energized and committed, offering care and fellowship for children every First Day. Some days there are only a couple of children present. Other days there are more, and our family Sundays attract as many as ten under the age of ten. Though the future is a concern and uncertain, we tend to leave that to God and let our lives speak as best we can in the present, including to the small number of children who grace us with their presence. At the closure of our Meetings for worship each week, we want to prolong the time we are together. Many of us stay for a long time and talk with each other. We love each other and want to stay and visit.

Our spiritual lives are reflected in many different ways. Our other ministries are thriving, such as Prison Worship groups, and numerous opportunities for fellowship with one another through Soup and Sharing, family night suppers, friendly potluck suppers in each others' homes, and community activities and charities.

Some of us are involved in supporting and visiting a sister community in San Pedro, El Salvador. For many years we have been involved in activities to support a summer camp for local children, Camp Gregory. We lend support to those with needs in our rural area, and participate in a wider Parish Lenten worship series. Many of our members and attenders are active in local town boards and a variety of civic activities. Through these secular activities, our Light reaches a wider circle in sometimes indirect, but important ways. We are active supporters and builders of our local community through planning and hosting annual Halloween and Christmas children's parties that are well attended, and an annual production of the medieval Shepherds' Play.

Our spiritual essence and our sense of community are made evident in many ways. Attenders often comment on the spirit present in our Meeting. They notice our acceptance of a vast diversity of faiths. A Central American member of our wider community met many of our members at social gatherings and wished she could join us for worship on First day, but her work schedule would not permit her. She was the impetus for the formation of our midweek Quaker worship group in Spanish.

As one recent new member observed "When I stepped through the door, I felt welcomed. I got that "take off your shoes feeling", as if I were at home. I knew I could be myself that this was a safe place."

Although our path together is not without some struggles, Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting continues to be a place where Friends seek solace and share joy and spiritual community, and our meetings for worship are Spirit-filled. We are grateful for one another, for the faith that undergirds our fellowship and the Friendship that underlies our worship.

State of the Meeting February 2016
Cayuga Correctional Facility Worship Group

Cary Batten stated "I first joined the Quakers in 2010 and right from the start I felt it was the place for me because everyone in the group made me feel welcome. It is to the point now where I feel everyone is family to me.

I love the atmosphere and the way everyone encourages each other to do their best. When troubled times come along we help support each other through them.

The Cayuga Worship Group has helped me considerably with my giving back to the community through the projects which I do.

Being in the Quakers, my spiritual needs are met, and I look forward to continuing when I get out."

Nick Catalfamo and Cary Batten left the Cayuga Correctional Worship Group in 2012 for a program transfer. The facility where they were sent did not have a Quaker Meeting. They both attempted to begin a Quaker worship group at their new facility but were not successful. In 2015 both Nick and Cary returned to Cayuga Correctional Facility and were pleased and grateful to return to the Quaker Worship Group. As Nick stated "I was so excited to attend our worship meeting here, see the wonderful friends I missed and had left behind three years ago. I was saddened to learn that our meeting had lost a very dear friend, Bill Sims. A very good man who will surely be missed. Our meeting is a very close knit and caring worship group. We are always willing to help each other."

"I have been back at Cayuga for about five months and I always look forward to our meetings. As we prepared this year's State of the Meeting report, we read through the statement from the past years at Cayuga. It was good to reflect on past topics and memories which we have shared in this worship group. This is an excellent worship group which I missed very much and I am glad to be part of again." Our most recent member, Charles Jamison, states "Peace overcame me when I entered the room with my fellow Quaker worshippers." He continues, "I am a 37 year old Native American. I have had a very rough experience as I never imagined that I would have done something to land me here at Cayuga Correctional. I am coming to learn that good or bad, anything is possible and it is up to me what I learn from my experience and how I shall go forward. For a very long time I felt so low, filled with shame and remorse. I felt that I was no good and was angry that I woke up every day with a chance to start improving my life. I did not feel I deserved another chance even to wake up, to have the possibility of going home or of seeing my family again. All of that began to change when I arrived at Cayuga Correctional Facility in August 2015, I met a very good man, Cary Batten who kindly introduced me to the Quaker worship group. Through the loving hearts and open arms of the Quakers and AVP workshops I have embraced a chance to heal and to see the good within myself. I am learning to see the good in everyone else and everything in the universe as well. I am so grateful."

According to Gerry Weir "This has been a very emotional up and down year for our meeting. We lost a very dear friend, Bill Sims, whom I have known for over 27 years, I know that he started the Quaker Meeting in Auburn. Bill was also fundamental in starting our Quaker worship group here at Cayuga. Bill Sims was a very loving and humble person. He will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Bill.

Other members have been paroled (Kevin Johnson and Sylvester West). But we also gained some members back that had been transferred to Clinton to do a program and came back after three years (Nick and Cary).

We got two new members transferred from Auburn (Bernard Hatch and T. Chavez-Flores) Charlie Jamison has also joined our group as a new member. We have a really good Friends group with our outside members. We lose some and we gain some.

We are still working on and talking about the book The Wisdom to know the difference by Eileen Flanagan. We alternate between reading this book and discussion about a topic or reading which someone brings in.

The one problem we have is that our worship group only meets every second and fourth Fridays of the month. We wish we had more time, but we don't. God bless everyone.



UPCOMING DATES

April 16, 2016
Burt House, Ithaca, NY

DOES YOUR MEETING WANT
TO HOST A MINI-RETREAT?



CONTACT

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Young Adult Field Secretary
New York Yearly Meeting

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NYYM.YAFS@GMAIL.COM
YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS NYYM



Young Adult Friends
MINI-RETREAT

Q 2016 Young Adult Friends MINI-RETREAT

A time to get to know new Friends, see old Friends, and practice spiritual work together.

"The YAF Mini Retreat was an all-around great, uplifting, and empowering experience. The ability to fit a retreat into one Saturday was perfect for my busy schedule."

Convenient NJ & NY Locations

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Meals & Snacks Included

*Suggested Donation \$15-\$20
2016 Dates Inside*

Searching for sanity in an insane world: Can our Quaker Tools help?



At this one day retreat for Young Adult Friends (age 18-35 ish) we will be looking at the tools that Quakerism gives us to help us find a balance in the modern world. We will spend time worshipping, in fellowship, eating, and making time for ourselves.. Enjoy a day off from your normal routines. Make a weekend away of it! Suggested donation is \$15-20 to cover expenses and food. But pay what you want/can. There will be child care with at least a week notice. If you need hospitality, please let Gabi know. nyym.yafs@gmail.com.

The pace of the world is staggering. It can feel impossible to keep up. Social Media, school, work, families, chores, food shopping, the list is fast and furious. And then there's Quakerism and the advices like being "in the world but not of the world." Are the ways of Early Friends outdated? Do they apply? Even faith practices can feel like just one more thing to do. Who has time?

We will look at our history and practices, our Quaker Tools. What are they? How can they help us? How can we support each other and hold ourselves accountable even through the madness that the world imposes on our lives?

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT A MINI RETREAT (Varies from retreat to retreat)

- 8:45-10 Registration, Breakfast and Fellowship
- 10-11 Worship
- 11-12:30 large and small group activities- Worship sharing, discussions, games, discernment exercises
- 12:30-1:30 lunch and fellowship -- food provided
- 1:30-2 worship sharing
- 2-3:30- large and small group activities- Worship sharing, discussions, games, discernment exercises
- 3:30-3:45 break and fellowship
- 3:45-5:30 large and small group activities
- 5:30 Goodbyes



Young Adult Friends



Young Adult Friends



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

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