

PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	3	4 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
5 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	6 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	7 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Lockhart's 7:30pm Peace and Social Action @ Buxenbaum's	8	9	10 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	11
12 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback 7:00pm HSSM - Posters as Art	13	14 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	15 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	16	17	18 9:00am Genoa Food Pantry
19 Father's Day 10:00am Meeting for Worship 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	20	21 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	22 Deadline for PRISM submissions Outreach Meeting	23	24 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	25
26 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	27	28 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	29	30 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'		

Birthdays: 1st Barbara Bowen, Mark Vorreuter, 3rd Annie Brennan McCleary; 5th Ann Burch, Anne Dalton, Jack Charles, Nancy Evangelista; 8th Ishi Buffam; 16th Rebecca Schillenback, Robin Grube; 17th Bruce Berggren-Thomas, George Hebben; 21st Tess Nelson, Delia Hallett; 22nd Bill Mullarney, William John Charles; 23rd Lucas Labatut Pronto; 27th Claire Benton

Anniversaries: 8th Ron and Trudy Buxenbaum; 16th Micheal and Walter Foulke; 28th Paul and Jane Simkin; 29th Brenda Rose Simkin and Bill Mumma

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR MAY 22, 2016

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 12:40 p.m.; the minutes from the April 2016 meeting were read.

Attending were Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Barry Kahn, Cathy Mullarney, Suzanne O'Hara, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Andrew Simkin, Jane Simkin, and Paul Simkin.

Based on information from Spring Gathering, Monthly Meeting approved of the change of a line of a memorial minute about Bill Simms. It now reads: "On the day he died, he had served 43 years of a 25-years-to-life sentence."

Larry Buffam asked that the two youths planning to be part of the annual trip to Salvador be funded by the Houck Youth Fund. Monthly Meeting approved using the fund to cover the cost of the tickets up to \$1,800 total.

Monthly Meeting approved the following Minute:

"Harriet Tubman is remembered for her accomplishments in leading enslaved African Americans to freedom via the Underground Railroad and promoting the abolition of slavery. Her cause held deep significance for many Quakers in Harriet Tubman's time. In Central New York, many Quakers advocated for abolition and helped in the Underground Railroad. Equality of all persons remains a vital testimony for Quakers today. As the Quaker Monthly Meeting geographically nearest Harriet Tubman's historical home in Auburn, N.Y., the Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting is pleased to celebrate the establishment of a new National Historical Park honoring Harriet Tubman's life and work. We also celebrate the recent announcement that Harriet Tubman's image will appear on U.S. currency. We continue to draw inspiration from Harriet Tubman's example and hope these acknowledgements of her actions will help bring healing in our nation's continued struggle with racism and the poisonous legacy of institutional slavery."

We will disseminate this Minute by mail to the clerks of meetings in our region, by email to the regional Quaker list-serve, and to the editor of the Auburn Citizen.

Larry Buffam of the Building Committee updated the Monthly Meeting on progress for improving insulation in the Meetinghouse's basement. The Committee is still gathering information on the project, which includes improving the heating systems. The committee continues investigating wall waterproofing and insulation, framing, dry-walling, spackling and painting the walls, electrical, and installing new windows. Current estimates, excluding heating, are \$7,000 to \$11,000: \$1,900 for foam insulation, \$1,000 for framing and drywall, \$1,000 for kitchen insulation, and \$3,000 to \$7,000 for windows.

Monthly Meeting approved using up \$10,000 of a combination of our resources, to be determined by the Finance Committee, for the drywall, insulation, and windows basement project as it continues planning for additional Meetinghouse structural improvements.

Dill Otis reporting for the Ministry and Counsel Committee that it has approved him as Clerk of the Committee.

The New York Yearly Meeting is requesting Monthly Meetings to respond to the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's minute about FUM's personnel policy. To help our Monthly Meeting submit a response, Suzanne O'Hara will circulate links to the Brooklyn minute and relevant documents about FUM's policy. (*Editor's Note: These documents are included in this PRISM.*)

Barry Kahn requested that Monthly Meeting reconsider PRISM's publication policy. Anne Dalton reported that the entire PRISM policy is on the Outreach Committee's agenda for its meeting this week.

The meeting concluded in silence at 2:21 p.m. Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk.



SUMMER VACATION

Summer is here. Coffee hour and Family Night potluck suppers take a vacation until September!

FARMINGTON SCIPIO QUAKERS INFORMATION

You are welcome to join the Farminton Scipio Quakers mailing list on riseup.net. This list provides emails with information about our region. It is easy to subscribe. Just follow the link: <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/farmingtonscipioquakers>, then click on **Subscribe** in the left column.



POSTERS AS ART

June 12, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Posters as Art:

Drawing on original documents and examples from the Howland Stone Store Museum, HSSM, collection and the Wells College Howland Papers, this talk will explore the creative communities associated with women's suffrage and the image-ideas they generated. Particular emphasis will be placed on the way images were shared, distributed and modified to create internationally-recognized symbols, themes, and tropes. This will include a discussion of collective artistic actions from the Suffrage movement and the leading artists who promoted them. We will culminate with an introduction to some current feminist activist artworks as a demonstration of on-going concerns.

Katie Waugh, Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Wells College also serves as Director of the String Room Gallery.

FARMERS MARKETS

Taste the best of the Finger Lakes, from the freshest fruits and vegetables to locally made cheeses and breads at Cayuga County's Farmers Markets. Fresh-from-the-farm herbs, plants, honey, eggs, jams, jellies and even local arts and crafts are all grown or made by the person you are buying from. From north to south and in between you'll find a wealth of farm fresh goodies at the Finger Lakes Farmers Markets in Cayuga County!

Auburn - Farmers Co-op Market

97 State Street
Auburn, NY 13021
315-704-8609

auburnfarmerscoopmarketinc.com

In Curley's Restaurant parking lot, 97 State Street, Auburn. Market features vendors selling fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers, baked goods, hand-made jewelry and more. We accept SNAP EBT and some of our farmers accept WIC and Senior Farmers Market coupons. June through October, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 8AM - 2PM.

Aurora Farmers Market

Wells College Softball Field (corner of Route 90 and Poplar Ridge Road)
Aurora, NY 13026
Saturdays from 9am - 1pm. Running from July 4th to October 29th

Moravia Farmers Market

Kinney's Parking Lot, 130 Main St.
Moravia, NY 13118
315-496-3545

<http://tourcayuga.com/attractions/all-categories/moravia-farmers-market>

A medium sized farmers market with organic and non organic vendors that sell produce, meats, wine and baked goods. Flowers available from the local school kids and lots of fun and community involvement. Always a good place to buy the freshest foods available and visit with old neighbors and meet new ones. Every Thursday June through October from 10AM - 5PM.

Niles Farmers Market

5923 New Hope Road
Moravia, NY 13118
315-214-1248

<http://tourcayuga.com/attractions/all-categories/niles-farmers-market>

Niles Farmer's Market Niles Town Hall, Route 41A, New Hope 10AM - 1PM. Saturdays only from late May through mid October.

Owasco Farmers Market

Town Shelter, 7198 Owasco Road
Owasco, NY 13021
Wednesdays 3-7PM.

Port Byron MRC Farmers Market

Schasel Park, Route 31
Port Byron, NY 13140

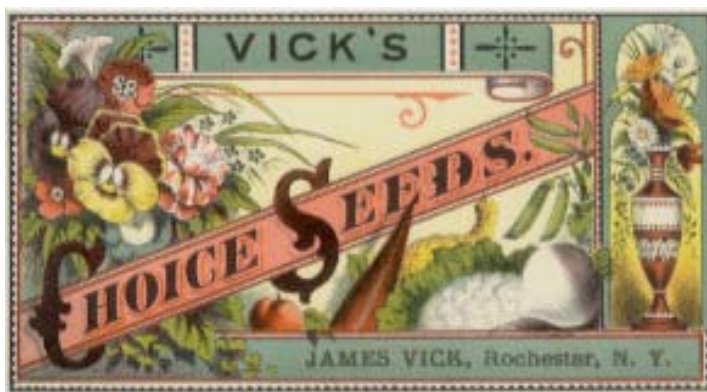
<http://tourcayuga.com/attractions/all-categories/port-byron-mrc-farmers-market>

Local farmers, chicken BBQ every week! Special children's events! Featured fruit and veggie nights! Entertainment, antique tractors & vintage cars! Playground and covered pavilion for dining. June to September, Wednesdays, 3-6PM.

Weedsport Farmers Market

2690 E. Brutus St
Weedsport, NY 13166
315-834-2022

Located at the Village Municipal Lot. Open 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, May 25 through Oct. 26.



AIDS FOR MEETING DISCERNMENT REGARDING FUM PERSONNEL POLICY

Our Meeting has received a letter from the New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Nurture Coordinating Committee asking for input on the issue of the FUM personnel policy and the overall sense of our Meeting on sexual ethics. This letter, along with supporting documents both from NYYM and Poplar Ridge, are included in this PRISM. Readers can follow the links to read longer reports. Printed copies of the content of URLs can be obtained by emailing pr.prism@gmail.com or by contacting our clerk Andy Simkin.

Dear Friend

... In November, 2015, Nurture Coordinating Committee (NCC) sent a letter to monthly meetings asking them to consider a minute from Brooklyn Meeting regarding New York Yearly Meeting's relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM) (see attached). ... Several meetings also have approached our representatives to the FUM board for more information. Those representatives alerted NCC to the fact that some potentially useful background information had not been provided with the November letter. I have attached two documents and provided links below to other documents that should provide a fuller context for your meeting's deliberations. You can find all of these documents, as well as other resources on the matter of FUM's personnel policy, on the yearly meeting's website <http://www.nyy.org/?q=FUMPersonnelPolicy>.

We bring your attention specifically to the following:

- The text of the minute of conscience from Brooklyn Meeting, as part of a report from Nurture Coordinating Committee to New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions, 2015 (attached).
- FUM's personnel policy (attached).
- Text of a statement from New York Yearly Meeting's FUM Task Group affirming our welcome of all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation, presented in the context of the relevant minute from

Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions 2009, which was subsequently distributed to local meetings, though not formally adopted by the Yearly Meeting (see the item at the end of this letter).

- A report by Carol Holmes, former representative to the FUM General Board from NYYM, offering a timeline of crisis points for FUM, its personnel policy, and its theological diversity covering the period 1988 to 1998 [<http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/TimelineofCrisisPoints-FUM.pdf>]
- A report from our FUM representatives to the April, 2007 Spring Sessions of NYYM touching on FUM's personnel policy and NYYM's affiliation with FUM [<http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/FUMRepsReport-April2007.pdf>].
- A brief update from Christopher Sammond, who is one of our representatives to the FUM board, about changes he has witnessed since that 2007 report [http://www.nyym.org/sites/default/files/Report-ChangesInFUM_03-30-16.pdf].

[You can find these documents and other background information on this matter <http://www.nyym.org/?q=FUMPersonnelPolicy>. You can find more information about FUM and its projects <http://www.nyym.org/?q=FUM>.]

The minute that Brooklyn Meeting sent to New York Yearly Meeting asked NYYM to send a letter to FUM objecting to the discriminatory nature of their personnel policy, and asked the Yearly Meeting to only give funds to FUM for designated projects until such time as FUM changes its policy.

When Nurture Coordinating Committee reviewed the responses from monthly meetings at our meeting during Coordinating Weekend in January 2016, we felt that it would be important to reflect on the deeper issues raised by FUM's personnel policy: What does it mean for us to be a member of larger Quaker organizations? Should NYYM stay engaged with a Quaker organization that continues to hold policies that discriminate against individuals? If so, what should the nature of that relationship be? As a yearly meeting, is it incumbent upon us to discern our own sexual ethic, rather than only to critique another Quaker organization's attempt to do so?

If your meeting has already considered the matter of the Brooklyn Meeting's request of the yearly meeting and sent its response to Deb Wood, thank you. We encourage other meetings to spend some time considering the queries we ask directly above, as well. Nurture Coordinating Committee would like to be able to bring this matter to Summer Sessions in July, 2016.

Peace,

Deb Wood, clerk

Nurture Coordinating Committee



NURTURE COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO NYYM SESSION JULY 24, 2015

At it's meeting during Fall Sessions 2014, Nurture Coordinating Committee received the following minute from Brooklyn Meeting:

Brooklyn Monthly Meeting urges that New York Yearly Meeting ("NYYM") follow the example of Canadian Yearly Meeting and draft a letter to Friends United Meeting ("FUM") expressing displeasure at its current discrimination against LGBT Quakers in paid and unpaid positions of service or leadership. The letter to further state that until such time as such policies are laid aside and equally embraced for all Quakers, it will only designate its payments to FUM for specific projects, such projects which in the opinion of New York Yearly Meeting are worthy enough to exceed the damage to Equality and human dignity done by FUM's discriminatory personnel policies.

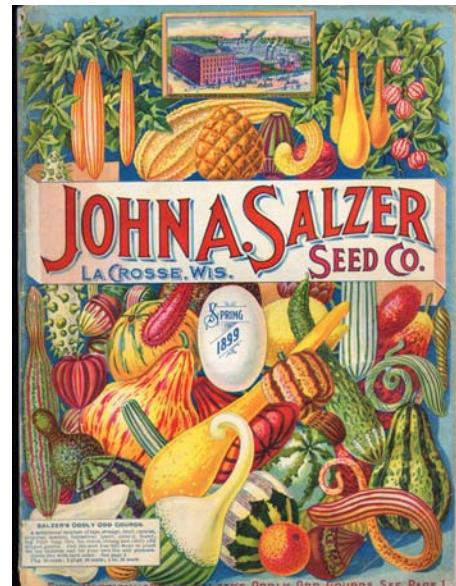
At such time that New York Yearly Meeting undertakes such designation of its payments to FUM, Brooklyn Monthly Meeting will cease its present withholding of a portion of its Covenant Donation to NYYM in protest of FUM's discriminatory personnel policies.

Nurture Coordinating Committee sent a letter to Brooklyn Meeting thanking them for raising the concern. NCC asked that the minute be seasoned by New York Quarterly Meeting before bringing it to the Yearly Meeting body. This happened on Saturday, July 18.

The letter also said that some of our representatives to the FUM General Board would be in touch with the meeting. Christopher Sammond has spoken with the clerk of Brooklyn Meeting, and more dialogue may take place. At the NCC meeting on Tuesday, July 21, Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, attended and also indicated a willingness to meet with Brooklyn Meeting.

Today, Nurture Coordinating Committee approved asking the Yearly Meeting office to send to all monthly meetings a memo that includes the Brooklyn minute, the New York Quarterly Meeting endorsement, the wording of the FUM personnel policy in question, the historical connection between NYYM and FUM, and some of the NCC minutes of our discernment on Tuesday. The content of the cover memo would be vetted and approved by NCC electronically before distribution. We hope to be able to accomplish this before Fall Sessions. Other ways of moving forward were considered, and will be considered further at Fall Sessions.

I ask that Friends who feel led to engage with this issue be in touch with me to explore possibilities.
Deborah Wood, clerk, Nurture Coordinating Committee



STAFFING POLICY - FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

FUM presently has a hiring policy that requires all potential employees to sign a statement that affirms their commitment to confine sex to marriage between one man and one woman (i.e., heterosexual and nonpolygamous). FUM is seeking a way forward regarding this policy, given the wide diversity among its constituent yearly meetings—one of which now represents Friends who live in a country that recognizes gay marriage (Canadian Yearly Meeting) and others of which struggle with pockets of polygamous marriages among their members (the African yearly meetings).

The original link to FUM's employment application form posted on the FUM website that includes the following statement:

"Friends United Meeting affirms the civil rights of all people. Staff and volunteer appointments and promotions are made without regard to sex, race, national origin, age, physical disability (when not directly related to job responsibilities or when reasonable accommodation can be made), or sexual orientation. It is expected that intimate sexual behavior should be confined to marriage, understood to be between one man and one woman. "

Note that, when the webmaster revised NYYM web pages in the section of our website concerned with FUM's personnel policy (March 10, 2016), FUM's website was under construction and this form was no longer available. (http://www.nyyym.org/?q=genderstatement_fum)

MINUTE ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION - POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING

The following minute was forwarded to NYYM from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting for consideration:

"Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together."

Poplar Ridge approved the following minute, forwarded it to Fall Gathering where it was on the agenda but deferred, and would still like to have it considered by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

While we cannot speak for the experience of Friends General Conference Central Committee, we agree that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation and gender identity, and we affirm that we are all equal before God. Our Quaker testimony guides us to an all-embracing practice of human equality.

Approved Sept. 11, 2005 (http://www.nyyym.org/?q=genderstatement_poplarridgemm)

MESSAGE SENT TO FUM FROM POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING ON NOV. 11, 2014

Dear Friends,

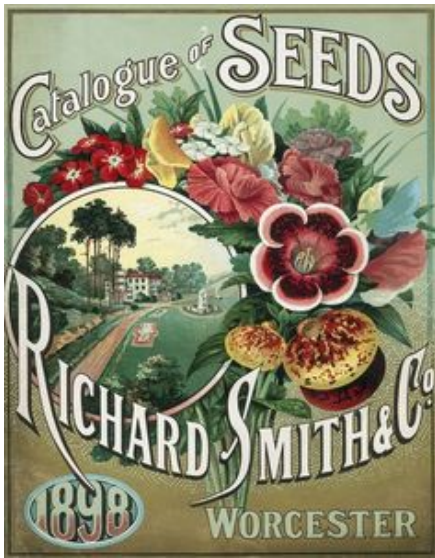
We received your requests for funds to support the future of Friends United Meeting as well as for this year's Chain of Prayer.

Our Meeting is welcoming and affirming to all people. Our Quaker testimony guides us to an all embracing practice of human equality, and in 2005 our community stated its opposition to "all policies that would...deny the equality of any person or group of persons." We have considered this again in October 2014 at Monthly Meeting and are still in unity.

Although we are grateful and supportive of much of the work you do, our Meeting cannot offer financial support as long as your hiring policies are exclusive of people who are of varied sexual orientation.

In Friendship,

Anne Dalton, Clerk, Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Andy Simkin

Assistant Clerk – Anne Dalton

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 – Dill 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