

PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
4 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	5 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	6 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Lockhart's 7:30pm Peace and Social Action @ Buxenbaum's	7	8 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ Sammond's	9 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	10
11 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	12	13 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	14	15	16	17 9:00am Genoa Food Pantry 7:00pm Shepherds' Play @ Meetinghouse
18 10:00am Meeting for Worship 5:00pm Children's Christmas Program @ Meetinghouse	19	20 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	21 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	22 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ Berggren- Thomas's	23 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	26	27 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	28 Deadline for PRISM submissions	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Birthdays: 1st Vivian Cunningham; 2nd Charles Reynolds; 4th Arlo Temelko-Post; 10th Cazimer George Schillenback; 11th Joe Dosch; 12th Walter Moora; 13th Walter Foulke; 14th Beverly Rejman; 16th Bethea Brice; 20th Ruth Ann Bradley; 22nd Benjamin Otis , Kay Burkett and Tina Post; 25th Skyler Dickinson Maassen; 26th Nils Nobben; 29th Mary Lou Charles, Cathy Mullarney; 31st Addison Young Otis

Anniversaries: 29th Bruce and Priscilla Berggren-Thomas; 31st Benjamin and Kristin Otis

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2016

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 11:40 a.m.; the minutes from the October 16 meeting were read.

Attending: Ruth Ann Bradley, David Connelly, Kathleen Connelly, Barry Kahn, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Hannah Richter, Joanne Rogers, Christopher Sammond, Andrew Simkin, Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, and Charles Weld.

Hannah reporting for the Outreach Committee and said Melinda Wenner Bradley, the Yearly Meeting Children and Youth Field Secretary, will join us on the 28th of January to talk during our Family Night Summer and present on the next morning, our intergenerational Sunday. Ithaca Monthly Meeting has been invited to join us. We're awaiting how she will title her presentation.

Andrew Simkin reported that for us to host a New York Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Discernment the date is now March 11, and a snow date a week later. This is an opportunity for Friends to gather in extended worship. As many as seventy people from around the Yearly Meeting may attend, and we have been invited and encouraged as a meeting to participate and provide for food and housing. We are now seeking a coordinator and host committee to help arrange for food and housing. So far, on the committee are Christopher, Hannah, Joanne, and Andrew.

We discussed how the basement and heating project is progressing. Dill, representing the Building Committee, offered that the Children's room still needs completion of trim, shelving, and windowsills. The Building Committee continues to explore how best to heat the Meetinghouse and its various rooms as they are utilized.

A proposed 2017 budget will be offered at our Monthly Meeting for Business, which we are moving up a week, to December 11.

Barry Kahn suggested that Monthly Meeting prepare a letter asking Upstate Citizens for Equality that a "No Sovereign Nation" sign be removed from public property at the Triangle on Ridge Road and State Route 34B in Scipio. As a

first step, Andrew Simkin will work with Barry to determine who has authority over the property. The Monthly Meeting did not otherwise find clarity on the topic.

We closed with a moment of silence at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk.



POPLAR RIDGE TO HOST NYYM MEETING FOR DISCERNMENT

We have agreed to host a special worship session on Saturday, March 11, 2017 (or March 18 in case of snow). This is an annual gathering attended by Friends from meetings throughout New York as well as Connecticut and part of New Jersey. 70-100 people are expected to attend. There will be two worship sessions of 2.5 hours each; one in the morning, and the other in the afternoon (most attenders will each elect to participate in just one of the two sessions). Poplar Ridge Meeting members and attenders are invited to join in. We will have some work to do as hosts, arranging meals, overnight hospitality, and transportation. A host committee is being formed. Please contact clerk Andy Simkin (simkinat@msn.com) if you are willing to serve on the committee or otherwise offer assistance.

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

IN MEMORY OF BOB HENRIE

Robert Clarence Henrie was born April 30, 1926 in Berwick PA. He died November 6, 2016 from a sudden heart attack at home. Survived by wife Elsbette Grove, former wife Loretta V. Henrie, eight children Louise (David), William, Janet (Larry), Douglas (Ellen), Faye (Ben), Thomas (Karen), John (Kathleen) and Robert Peter, thirteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Contributions for expenses to Elsbette Grove are welcomed.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Lights, action, Christmas! Please join us on Sunday, December 18 at 5pm for our annual Christmas Pageant, simple supper, and visit from Santa. The celebration begins as people of all ages, particularly children, perform the story of Jesus's birth in story and song. If you have little ones, please encourage your children to take part! We will begin discussing roles with the kids a couple of weeks before the big day, downstairs during worship time.

After the pageant on Sunday the 18th, we will adjourn downstairs for a simple supper. Families, please bring easy to clean up finger foods to share. Cookies are always welcome. Hot chocolate will be provided.

The excitement returns upstairs with Santa's anticipated arrival. With help from his elves, Santa will visit with the children and give each child a small gift to celebrate a season of good will and sharing with others. The evening should be complete by 7:30. Please contact Julie at gem6183@gmail.com with questions regarding the holiday program.

THE SHEPHERDS' PLAY

The annual Shepherds' Play performance will be on Saturday the 17th at 7:00 p.m in our Meetinghouse. We hope you will all be able to attend this special musical rendition of the Christmas Story. For many in this community it is the true beginning of Christmas!



STANDING ROCK ASSISTANCE

The New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC) is asking Friends and/or their Monthly Meetings to give *material assistance*, as led, to those facing the cold North Dakota winter at Standing Rock. Warm coats, sweaters and other winter wear are needed.

A detailed list of needed items can be found at <http://sacredstonecamp.org/supply-list/> or <https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/196PVIWRDX1M4>

The address to send supplies or donations is Sacred Stone Camp, Box 1011, Fort Yates, ND 58538

You can follow the activities of those at Standing Rock on Twitter: #NoDAPL or Sacred Stone Camp on Facebook.

-- Mary Eagleson, the NYYM WCC clerk

Contact Barry Kahn (SCL42carry.com) for help with transportation.



SOME THOUGHTS ON SAN PEDRO

History of San Pedro

Some one from this area has traveled to El Salvador and visited the community of San Pedro at least once every year since 2004 in pursuance of a strengthened relationship of understanding and solidarity with our sister community there. Over those years, we have learned something about the history of the community and have also observed some changes in the daily situation of the people.

Perhaps the primary fact to understand about the history of the community of San Pedro is the disruption caused by the civil war of 1979-1992. During this period, the province of Morazan, where San Pedro is situated, was the scene of heavy fighting. It is a province of rugged mountainous terrain and provided somewhat safe turf for the rebel guerrilla armies. The national army regularly swept through Morazan attempting to root out and destroy the rebel forces. The people of Morazan were caught in between these forces. Most of the community at some point walked for 7-10 days through the mountains to the Honduran border, crossed the river Sumpul and made it to refugee camps. People stayed in these camps for years. The houses and improvements existing in San Pedro at this time were destroyed by the government forces intent on making the area hard for the guerrillas to exist .

At this time, many of the people of San Pedro also lost one or more close family members. The government soldiers killed many young men suspected of being sympathetic to or involved with the guerrillas. Perhaps as a result of this brutality, or by natural inclination, several of the people of San Pedro eventually participated in the war on the side of the guerrillas. We have not heard of anyone in the community who was with the national forces.

As a result of the civil war, the people of the community of San Pedro returned to their village towards the end of the war time to destroyed houses and overgrown fields. Many of the returning people had been severely traumatized by their experiences. At the request of elders in San Pedro, a few years ago, some members of our group conducted oral interviews of numerous persons in San Pedro and documented these traumatic experiences in some detail. Transcripts of the interviews are kept in San Pedro, as well as here.

Members of the community now mostly affiliate with the FMLN political party, the party that grew out of the rebel forces. It was granted legitimacy and has participated in governing the country since the peace accords. Religiously, most of the community members are Catholics. They seem to lean towards the liberation theology strand of Catholicism. The community has organized itself as a Christian Based Community (CEBs) and has looked for support and continues to look for support from the Salvadoran NGO, FUNDAHMER, based in San Salvador. FUNDAHMER is a Catholic liberation theology based organization which grew out of experiences of the war. They have focuses on community development, pastoral development, the equality of women, and the sustainability of life in a harsh physical environment. It was through FUNDAHMER that our relationship with the people of San Pedro was initiated and has been facilitated to this day.

Development in San Pedro

It is a little difficult to speak definitively about 'San Pedro' as though it is a village or town of about 60 households and approximately 300 people, it is scattered over several square miles and rarely is one house visible from another. It is a village more in the way that Ledyard, Scipio and Venice are towns.

When the people of San Pedro returned to their land following many years away at the end of the war, they found their land overgrown and their houses destroyed. They began to clear and work the land and to rebuild using whatever was at hand. When we arrived in 2004, we found some structures were constructed from either local bamboo or adobe, though many were put together with bamboo and recycled plastic, cardboard and/or metal roofing. All had dirt floors, open fires inside for cooking and heating, and pit toilets. The water source was through above ground plastic tubing coming from a neighboring land owners' spring.

Over the years, many improvements have been made. The state sponsored elementary school, held in an airy bamboo structure in 2004, was replaced by a group of modern concrete block buildings with concrete floors

covered with tile a few years later. Many of the houses now have brick and masonry outhouses to improve sanitation, masonry stoves with ceramic flues to improve indoor air quality, and masonry water storage tanks for hygiene. The materials for these three projects were funded by an international health organization with residents in San Pedro providing the labor. A couple of years ago, a new chapel built of brick with a tile floor was constructed. Some new houses have been built in San Pedro in the last 13 years, mostly with funds sent back from family members living and working abroad. There still are a significant number of houses that are quite inadequate and deficient. There is a project currently to raise funds for the materials of simple but sturdy, decent houses. Residents provide the labor for these houses.

Some houses now have lighting and a couple of outlets powered by small solar panels. Many people now have cell phones which were not present in our early visits. One resident has a motorcycle as of last summer, previously no one in San Pedro had any sort of vehicle.

Education has improved in San Pedro. In 2004, the elementary school went only through 4th grade, not all children attended and few went further in school. Currently, the school goes through 6th and is anticipated to add 7th through 9th in the next few years. Over 10 students from San Pedro have graduated from high school in the last several years and 6 of them are now studying in university.

Health and nutrition seem to have improved as reflected in the increased height and weight of the teens as opposed to their parents generation, it is quite noticeable.

The people of San Pedro remain subsistence farmers, growing mostly corn and beans, though with additional fruits and vegetables growing. The land is steep and all work is done by hand. Day labor remains a source of some income, as does hammock making by the women for the local market. In good years, the farmers may have surplus corn and beans for sale locally for additional income. We hear more over the years about family/community members who have made the expensive and dangerous journey to the US to find employment.

An exciting change in the community we have noticed in the past few years is the growing sense of confidence and self reliance in the people in San Pedro. Over the years, it seems that individuals have become less hesitant and meek, more confident in expressing themselves. Most of the projects which we have supported in San Pedro have risen out of suggestions by community members: this includes sales of hammocks and purses made in San Pedro, a micro credit program for farmers, the oral history project, the scholarship program and improved housing. The people of San Pedro through their leadership committee have come to manage these programs, making the necessary decisions and recommendations themselves. FUNDAHMER has supported and facilitated this development and continues to monitor the decisions and the results. It seems like a very significant change in the communities' development to us.



GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING WINTER MEETINGS FOR DISCERNMENT:

The host meeting or region is responsible for naming a local host committee. The steering committee names one of its members to serve as liaison with the local host committee. A representative from the host committee updates the steering committee as plans are developing via the liaison. The host committee is asked to write up a report of their experience, to be sent to the steering committee and the YM office. This should include the final total of participants, total number of children, number accommodated Friday and or Saturday nights, as well as any other information that might be helpful to those hosting future meetings for discernment

Functions & Activities of the Local Host Committee include:

Ensuring availability of a suitable room and seating for Friday evening gathering of elders, and Saturday Meeting for Discernment

Recruiting hosts for overnight guests, and locating nearby commercial overnight accommodations should these be requested.

Getting a copy of the Insurance Certificate from the YM office if necessary. (Generally only needed if meeting in a place other than a meetinghouse.)

Ensures sound system is available and someone knowledgeable is available to manage it, if one is needed.

Assigning people to be responsible for setup and clean up and for opening and closing the facilities

Recruiting and coordinating registration table volunteers

Provide a contact phone number for the day of the Meeting for Discernment. A cell phone number as well as a landline may be helpful.

Providing tables, coat racks, etc. including chairs for registration personnel

Directing cars to parking lots, if necessary

Providing greeters as people arrive at registration area

Make provisions for childcare – two adults with the children at all times.

Ensure adequate restrooms, including handicapped accessible

Collecting registration fees and contributions

Sending a record of your costs and other logistical information to the Steering Committee.

Site requirements information:

The site must be accessible to anyone wishing to attend

Site should have a room that will accommodate up to 100 people (likely <75).

To the extent it is possible, a seating arrangement “in the round” is preferable.

Facilities on site for lunch (up to 100 people), with vegetarian/vegan options

Information needed by the steering committee in due time for Jan SPARK (before or shortly after Thanksgiving):

Location details of chosen site, including driving directions

Telephone contact that will be available during Meeting for Discernment

Accessibility descriptions (if any complications)

Registration form information (registrations to be sent to yearly meeting office)

Name of person who is to be contact for hospitality deadline for hospitality requests

List of nearby hotels / motels (could be sent by registrar to those who request it)

Description of planned childcare arrangements (deadline for requests)

Host Committee Treasurer

The local planning committee appoints a Treasurer to collect all incoming money and pay all expenses for food, childcare, etc. The Local Planning Committee uses the money from the registration fees (paid on site) to pay for the food offered on-site, childcare, paper supplies, and any costs they incur for copying, telephone calls, etc.

The full costs for the Meeting for Discernment should be documented; including costs absorbed by individuals or the host Meeting, and in-kind donations. This will make future planning more accurate. Refunds are not given to individuals who leave early. At their discretion, the host committee may waive the registration fee for individuals.

If the money collected is not sufficient to pay all local expenses, the Local Committee may apply to the Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee to make up the difference. (The host committee should alert the steering committee in advance if they foresee the need for funding above that provided by registration fees.) If

there is money collected which is not needed to pay local expenses, it may be retained by the host Monthly or Regional Meeting in gratitude for their service, or donated to the Yearly Meeting. Any questions about the financial accounting for the Meeting for Discernment may be addressed to the Yearly Meeting Treasurer.

Sample DRAFT Schedule for Meetings for Discernment

FRIDAY

6:00-8:00pm Gathering of Steering Committee and Elders
(beginning with meal at inexpensive eatery with vegetarian options or a simple meal at meetinghouse)

SATURDAY

8:30am Begin registration (coffee & bagels are appreciated)
9:00-12:00 Meeting for Worship leading into Meeting for Discernment
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-3:45 Meeting for Discernment
4:00-5:00 What Have We Heard Today
5:00-5:30 Dispersal (tea/snacks for the road?)
5:30-7:00 Time for reflection/debriefing for steering committee, elders & others who are interested (order in pizza, those staying contribute?)

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

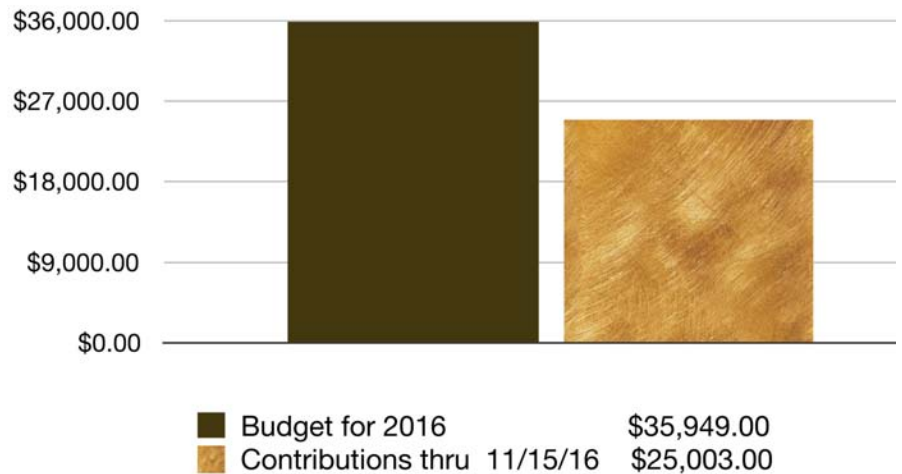
Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



2016 PR Budget vs Contributions

Budget for 2016	\$35,949.00	
Contributions for 2016	\$25,003.00	69.55%
Budget Deficit for 2016	\$10,946.00	



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

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