



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

APRIL 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
2 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 5:00pm Lenten Program @ Scpioville Presbyterian Church	3 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	4 7:00pm Peace and Social Action @ Andy Simpkin's 7:00pm Youth Commitee Meeting @ Lockhart's	5	6	7 7:30pm Justice for All Singalong Concert	8
9 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback 11:00am Coffee Hour	10	11 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	12	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ sammond's	14 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	15 9:00am Genoa Food Pantry 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry 7:00pm Merrified Concert - Trachtenberg & Griffith
16 Easter Sunday 10:00am Meeting for Worship	17	18 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	19 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	20	21 7:30pm Movie Night - Minimalism @ Buxenbaum's	22
23 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed) 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	24	25 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	26 Deadline for PRISM submissions	27 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ Berggren- Thomas's	28 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	29 6:00pm Family Night Supper - Antarctica and other travels
30						

Birthdays: 1st Samuel Simkin; 4th Sally Otis, Cyrus Jack Schillenback, Mary Jo Granger; 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 MARCH 19, 2017

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about noon; the minutes from the Feb. 19, 2017 meeting were read.

Attending were David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Barry Kahn, Suzanne O'Hara, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Hannah Richter, Jane Simkin, and Paul Simkin

We briefly discussed repairs obviously needed to the sound system intended to help those hard of hearing. It had been looked at but not resolved earlier. Suzanne will look into it.

Suzanne suggested a brief article in PRISM on Meeting etiquette, such as standing up to offer a message to be heard better, and when to enter a Worship Meeting after it has begun. We asked Suzanne to write a draft with Hannah and forward it to Ministry & Counsel Committee for consideration.

Jane and Dill reported on the training session this month preparing for the possibility that farmworkers would be stopped by immigration authorities. About forty people attended, including about 30 farm workers.

Next month's Monthly Meeting for business will be our Annual Meeting April 23. Our regular meeting would be the week before, which would be Easter.

We discussed hiring help to clean the Meeting House when volunteers are not available. We have difficulty finding volunteers. We asked Jane to give Monthly Meeting a list of tasks and will ask Andy Simkin, who hires cleaning services for his building in Auburn, to report to Monthly Meeting on the cost of such services.

We read the Queries for the annual New York Yearly Meeting State of the Meeting report.

We considered what to include in our annual New York Yearly Meeting State of the Society report. Over the year, we have put our faith into action.

We closed in silent worship at 1:25 p.m.

— Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk.

MOVIE NIGHT

The Peace and Social Action Committee is presenting the movie Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things ([https://minimalismfilm.com/.](https://minimalismfilm.com/))

“Less has never meant more than it does to the architects, designers, musicians, businessmen and regular folk profiled here -- all of whom are self-proclaimed minimalists focused on getting the most out of life by living with the least...”

The movie will be show on April 21st at 7:30pm in the Buxenbaum's. All are welcome.



APRIL BUSINESS MEETING

Please note that this month's meeting for business has been moved to the 4th Sunday, April 23rd, to avoid the Easter Holiday. This will be our Annual meeting. All are encouraged to attend while we review the previous and look forward to the coming year. During the annual meeting each committee provides their annual report, the nominating committee proposes committee members for the new year and the state of society report is reviewed and approved.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Family Night will be on April 29 at 6:00. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy hearing from Suzanne O'Hara about her experiences in Antarctica and other travels during her work for Columbia University.

MEETINGHOUSE PARKING

Mud Season is upon us and friends who are able are reminded to park at the school and walk to the meetinghouse. This saves the limited parking space available for those who are less able to walk. Remember that the back (south) area close to the Memory garden is "lawn" and has never been graveled. When the ground is muddy or soft people should only park in the raised area closer to the Meeting House. This area has a gravel base so you are less likely to cause ruts or get stuck! THANKS



MERRIFIELD CONCERT

Come hear a great folk concert in the home of A.T. Miller and Craig Kukuk with friends and family in the convivial setting of a house concert. Saturday, April 15th they will be hosting Martha Trachtenberg and Tom Griffith, a fantastic duo of accomplished and award-winning singer/songwriters who both touch the heart strings and have songs of entertaining humor and social commentary. You can listen to some of their music at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPi7WBQ_w2Q&list=PLbI5i7pgYwgBv0QAyrAHPD_v48VcbDoCn which is a very elaborate address that you can also reach by going to youtube and searching their names. The performance starts at 7pm and the venue is located at 2345 Center Road, Scipio Center, 13147 (the corner of Center and Black). We hold a long intermission for folks to socialize and mingle with the artists, and you are welcome to come early or stay late as your time or inclinations command. They have CDs at the cdbaby web site as well under their individual names and they are very excited to have such accomplished performers coming to their place with such moving and distinctive folk voices, touching blues and bluegrass, but mostly just good song writing. Parking is available along Black Street and \$15 is collected at the door to support the artists.

JUSTICE FOR ALL SINGALONG CONCERT

Poplar Ridge Meeting has agreed to cosponsor the Justice For All Singalong Concert with the Ithaca Meeting. Mark your calendars for this Upcoming concert

The Justice for All Singalong Concert will be in Ithaca on Friday, April 7, 7:30 at the UU Church. This singalong concert will focus on racial justice issues. We will join together in songs that emphasize the struggles for equal rights and dignity and safety for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and national origin. The concert will feature:

- Lea Gilmore - is a blues, gospel, and jazz-singing civic activist who has lent her voice, literally and figuratively, to advocacy for the underserved of the world for many years. Essence Magazine named her one of the "25 Women Shaping the World" in 2005. She has worked tirelessly to advance racial justice and bridge divides in her native Baltimore, particularly since the death of Freddie Gray in 2015 (www.leagilmore.com).
- Annie Patterson & Peter Blood - creators of the songbooks Rise Up Singing Professor Louie - award-winning blues pianist and vocalist (www.professorlouie.com).

This concert is a benefit for the new Friends Center for Racial Justice in Ithaca. Tickets are available at Green Star and at the door. At the door tickets will be sold as a suggested donation of \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ("Be generous! Be affordable!") There will be a Silent Auction and refreshments available

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

"Shall the living Word be in the heart, and not the rule of the heart? Shall he speak in the heart, and the man or woman in whom he speaks run to the words of scripture formerly spoken, to know whether these be his words or no? Nay, nay, his sheep know his voice better than so."

-- Isaac Penington, 1658

Contact Joanne Rogers (SCL42carry.com) for help with transportation.

FGC GATHERING

This year's FGC Gathering is July 2-8 at Niagara University near Niagara Falls, New York.

This year's theme: **Ripples Start Where Spirit Moves**

People attend the FGC Gathering for lots of reasons. Evening plenary programs, interest groups, workshops, the bookstore, shared meals with other Quakers, worship opportunities and more.

Evening plenary programs:

Kenneth Deer - The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People: A Spiritual Journey

Vonn New - MAKE RIPPLES: Water is life! Come move, be still, sing, participate, listen, watch, drum, worship; create soundscapes, visual art and dance to bring our 2017 theme to life. Friends of all ages will deepen community, our connection to earth, and open to the movement of Spirit by being and creating together.

AFSC 100th Anniversary Celebration - Dalit Baum, Sandra Tamari, Sa'yet Atshan - You Just Have to be Human: Following the Leadings of Spirit Toward Liberation

Pamela Boyce Simms - Ecojustice, Equality & Earthcare

For more details see:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/evening-programs>

Workshops

Most adults choose a morning workshop to attend all week. For details on workshops see:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/workshops>

Feeling called to volunteer with the High School Program?

Hello, Friends! Kendra and Ben, the 2017 coordinating team for the High School Program at the Gathering, invite you to consider applying to join our counseling staff this year! We are looking to build the most talented, diverse staff possible, and to do that we need your help. Counselors must have been out of high school for at least a year, but no previous experience at the Gathering or with

youth is necessary. Counselors will spend the week fully immersed in the High School program, helping to build the amazing community by living with the participants, leading support groups, playing games, being part of affinity groups, and learning from some of the most vital, dynamic members of our faith. The official application will be posted soon on the Gathering website, but in the meantime, please email Ben

(ben.hustis@gmail.com) or Kendra (graham.kendra@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have. Looking forward to seeing you at the 2017 Gathering in Niagara, and we hope you consider joining us!

Feeling called to volunteer with children?

Junior Gathering invites you to join us for a week of worship, playing, learning, and nurturing children in Quaker spirit and practice. Junior Gathering staff have created rich, child-centered, spirit-led programming for children and youth from newborns to rising ninth grade. This is an opportunity for young people to experience Quakerism and Quakers from across the continent while building community together. Junior Gathering is also looking for Friends who are led to working with children and young teens. Financial assistance is available for volunteer staff. Application will be available online by March 1 at www.fgcquaker.org

Early registration April 3 - April 16, 2017

We hope to see you at The Gathering!

Katrina McQuail, Canadian Yearly Meeting and Steve Mohlke, New York Yearly Meeting Co-Clerks Friends General Conference Gathering 2017



NYYM QUAKERS REJECT THE POLITICS OF DIVISION

The following message is a NYYM press release from November 17, 2017. The Peace and Social Action Committee recommend that people consider sharing their opinions and concerns by writing to their newspapers or to their government representatives.

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

-- Pastor Martin Niemoller

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide.

The day after the election, a supporter of President Trump said in an interview, “For years we have been told we were nothing, that we did not matter. And now, we are America.” Sadly, this sentiment articulates the tragic reality that in a nation so divided, only one side or the other gets to be America, and those who felt marginalized and disregarded now feel empowered and compelled to marginalize and disregard. Regrettably, the current administration has not relinquished the rhetoric of division which propelled Mr. Trump into the White House. It has, instead, forcefully acted on it, scapegoating whole segments of our society, exercising a politics of division, fear, and exclusion. In this climate it is hard to live out Jesus’ commandment that we love one another, and yet that is what we must do.

In the short time since assuming power, this administration has created and passed executive orders to deport all undocumented immigrants, acting on election promises but ignoring the fact that many of those who are without documents are deeply woven into the fabric of our society, doing hard manual labor in our dairy parlors, our slaughterhouses, our farm fields, doing domestic work and child care in our homes—work too demanding, and at pay too low, for most US citizens to want to do it. Many of the people at risk of being deported have children who are

US citizens. Others came to this country fleeing poverty and/or grave risk of bodily harm. Sending them back will put many of them back in harm’s way. Undocumented immigrants are a part of us, and excising them from the body politic will do incalculable harm to our society as a whole.

Our President has signed a 90-day ban on residents from seven Muslim-majority nations, in order to subject them to “extreme vetting,” clearly stating that Christians from those nations will be expedited in this process. Many of those detained had already been vetted for two to five years. Some are legal US citizens, holding dual citizenship or having been born in this country. Many critics have commented that this order is not about safety, but about exclusion. The message seems clear: even if they are US citizens, Muslims are a danger, Christians are not. The night after this executive order was enacted, someone set fire to a mosque in Texas, perhaps responding to that implicit message.

News of a law being prepared which will allow discrimination against LGBT people on the grounds of preserving the religious freedom of those doing the discriminating has been circulating for some weeks. Many fear for the erosion of the civil rights of these members of our community. And if it is legal to discriminate against one group of Americans, it is no large step to then discriminate against others.

The President’s refusal to acknowledge the validity of multiple studies documenting the overwhelming absence of voter fraud and his insistence on a substantial investigation into states that rejected his candidacy has been taken by many as laying the groundwork to justify enacting national voter ID laws. These laws would disproportionately affect people of color and the poor, excluding them from the body politic.

Quakers Support a Politics of Understanding

We grieve for our divided nation. We pray for the wisdom to speak love into that divide. We echo the words spoken by early Quaker Margaret Fell to the King of England in 1660: “We are a people, that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity. It is our desire that other’s feet may walk in the same.”

For over 350 years, it has been our practice to seek

common ground, to hear the truth in the words of the person with whom we disagree, to seek the way forward which both encompasses and undergirds the apparent contradictions of opposing views. We have sought to understand, and to lovingly reason with those with whom we disagree. We have sought to live out our commitment to peace not just in our refusal to bear arms, but also in our refusal to engage in the spiritual violence of meeting others with hatred and fear. We recognize that many issues in public life are complex and that simple truths are tempting, but usually incomplete. We seek the patience necessary to live into the fuller picture which is satisfactory to all, rather than to jump at solutions which offer immediate relief, but which precipitate problem after problem after problem, which must then be resolved.

We Reject the politics of division, pitting one group of Americans against another, enacted in laws and regulations which make these actions legal, but still immoral and unjust. The heart, soul, and essence of the Judeo-Christian tradition is the spiritual mandate to welcome the stranger. This core theme of the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, and generations of witness by Friends is so fundamental to how our tradition has experienced God's directive to us, that we cannot ignore it and remain faithful. Jesus reminded us that we cannot love God without also loving our neighbor, and that that neighbor might at first appear alien to us, unfamiliar, not "of our tribe." That is the person we are commanded to love. (Lk 10:25-37)

We Envision an American society which welcomes all willing to live peaceably in this great experiment of democracy, in a society that does not pit brother against brother, sister against sister, for political gain. We envision an American society where all receive due process under the law, where all have equal access to justice, where all have equal opportunity to prosper, where all have equal rights regardless of their wealth, their race, their religion, their sexual orientation, or their gender. That vision lives out, makes real, the truth that we know, that there is a spark of the Divine in each and every person, and that we are therefore all beloved children of God, all equal in God's sight.

We Repent the ways we have excluded others from our own fellowship, the ways in which we ourselves have seen and treated people as "other," as "not of our tribe." We have isolated ourselves into enclaves of like-minded people, and consciously and unconsciously excluded those who might be a part of us, whose differences would challenge us, but also enrich us. We are the poorer for it, and this must change. Confident in our own views, in large part we have not sought out those with whom we disagree to be in fruitful conversation. We have sought to first be understood, rather than to understand. We have hardened our hearts, and thereby joined in the politics of division.

We Commit to doing all in our power to stand against the politics of division, wherever we encounter it, whether that be in our civil society, or in our own fellowship, or in our own hearts. We commit to facing where we have held people as "other," including the members of this administration, and commit to seeing them as our brothers and sisters. And we commit to resisting the efforts of those who engage in the practice of division, dressed in whatever legal garb, religion or political party, to dehumanize, disempower, or diminish our fellow Americans and the citizens of this earth we call home. We commit to the demanding spiritual discipline of working to hold open this space of acceptance and deep listening to those different from us, knowing that there is that of God in all, and to grounding our resistance in genuine love for those whose views and actions we are called to oppose.

In Faith,
Lucinda Antrim, Presiding Clerk
Christopher Sammond, General Secretary
New York Yearly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



**I THANK YOU GOD FOR MOST
THIS AMAZING DAY**

*i thank You God for most this amazing day: for the
leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth*

*day of life and love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any-lifted from the no
of all nothing-human merely being
doubt unimaginally You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
-- e e cummings (Easter Poem)*

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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