

PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

*Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly*

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
3 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Jane Simkin	4 Labor Day 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	5 7:00pm Peace & Social Action Meeting @ Buxenbaum's	6	7	8 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	9
10 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 11:00am Coffee Hour	11	12 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	13	14 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ Sammond's	15 7:30am Movie Night - "Growth Busters" @ Meetinghouse	16 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry 2:00pm Charles' 60th Wedding Anniversary 7:00pm Merrifield Concert - Round Robin of Songs
17 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Query 13 of Faith and Practice 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	18	19 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	20 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish Deadline for PRISM submissions	21	22 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	23
24 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	25	26 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	27	28 7:00pm Mid- week Worship @ Berggren- Thomas's	29	30 4:00pm Family Night Supper - Fall Festival at Merrifield

Birthdays: 1st Jim Frisch; 3rd Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Tony Gaenslen; 7th Bryn Grube; 8th Bess Simkin; 9th Edward Hayes; 10th Wystan Gunderson; 11th Samuel Buffam; 15th Dorothy Lonsky; 18th Peter Charles; 19th Sarah Richardson Green; 21st Auden Ferrari; 27th Jim Burkett; 28th Paul Simkin, George Schillenback

Anniversaries: 14th Mary Lou and Jack Charles; 18th Jackie Dickinson and Ed Maassen

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR AUGUST 20, 2017

The Monthly Meeting and Annual Meeting opened with a period of worship about 11:50 a.m.; the minutes from the July 16 meeting were read.

Attending were Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Jim Frisch, Hannah Richter, Andy Simkin, Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, and Bill Tyler.

As requested by Larry, we agreed to let the Howland Stone Store Museum meeting borrow 10 to 15 chairs about once a month for their meetings.

- For the future, Larry will arrange for a labeling system for when chairs are borrowed.
- We agreed to let Hazard Library use the Meetinghouse for one of its events, a ukulele concert, at 9 to 12 p.m. on August 31st.

We agreed to offer a Peace and Social Action soup and sharing to listen to Pat Sewell of the Ithaca Monthly Meeting and the Citizens Climate Lobby on Oct. 1 after meeting. He wants to introduce a proposal to us about a carbon fee and dividend plan to address climate change.

Jim and Andy reported for Ministry & Counsel:

- Miles Rideout has decided not to seek membership.
- Robin Grube is applying for membership, so the committee reappointed Heidi, Craig and Suzanne to Robin's clearness committee, which Jim is convening.
- On the question of meetings for worship through spring, while Rebecca will be not be available to offer a monthly Sunday messages, we will try out the following order of worship in September: instrumental prelude, as now; a member or attender will read a New York Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice query of his or her choice; we will sing a hymn; joys and concerns; a second hymn; a second reading of the query; and an unprogrammed worship period to end worship. Some details are still to be worked out. We will be announcing the changes twice at Meeting coming up.

The Youth Committee Report for the year ending June 17 was read. It will be published in PRISM. We received the extensive report with gratitude for the quality of the report and the work it represents.

We ended after a period of silence at about 1:05 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk



QUERY SUNDAY

Sunday, September 17th will be a semi-programmed meeting with a concentration on the 13th query in NYYM Faith and Practice (2014).

Do we maintain Friends' testimony against war? Do we "live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Are we exerting our influence in favor of settlement of all differences by truly nonviolent methods? Do we strive to transmit to everyone an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

The meeting will begin with several hymns, a time for joys and concerns and the reading of the query by Linda Simkin. The music and query will be followed by a time of silence.

This format was one of those suggested for use during Rebecca's University year. People are encouraged to attend the Monthly Meeting for Business after the rise of meeting to contribute their thoughts about Query Sunday.

THOUGHTS ON OPENING THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

The constitutionally required 20-year referendum to propose a constitutional convention will be on the November 7 ballot. If it passes delegates would be elected in 2018 election, then they would meet in 2019 for an unspecified duration and final changes submitted to voters then. This process would be lengthy and extremely expensive. Delegates, 204 in total, would be paid \$80,000 dollars and they can hire staff also. The estimated cost is over \$300 million to the taxpayers.

Many groups feel that we may lose some of the present constitutional protections like “forever wild” protections, public pensions, public education, collective bargaining, and social welfare obligations. It's like the saying "if it isn't broke, don't fix it."

Our constitution can be changed through the process already set up by our NYS Legislature at no cost to taxpayers. State legislators routinely pass bills to make constitutional changes as part of their regular day-to-day responsibilities. Some recent examples of this are: statewide expansion of casino gambling, selling specific tracts of land within the constitutionally protected Adirondack Park, and a measure to allow the Senate and Assembly to go paperless, which saves more than \$325,000 annually in printing and paper costs.

Since a simpler and cheaper method exists for changing the constitution, why would we want an expensive and perhaps risky outcome convention?

Web sites for further information www.nonewyorkconvention.org or search for “New Yorkers against constitutional convention.”

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

FAMILY NIGHT – ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL AT MERRIFIELD

A.T. and Craig are hosting the 18th Annual Fall Festival at Merrifield on Saturday, September 30th! This event includes activities for the whole family starting around 4pm. It is a potluck dinner along with pumpkin carving, a parade, a bonfire, a

harvest waltz dance, and an inspiring ritual to celebrate the bounty of the earth and to put the earth to bed for the season. Come as you are and bring family and friends. We plan to enjoy each other's company as a community, as well as reflect on the year in creative ways. Stay as late as you like to enjoy the evening that also serves as a family night supper for the month for Poplar Ridge meeting. The house is on the corner of Black Street and Center Road in Scipio Center, 2345 Center Road, and there is parking on Black Street. For more information contact A.T.

(atmiller@cornell.edu).



MOVIE NIGHT

The Peace and Social Action Committee is presenting the movie “Growth Busters” at the Meetinghouse on September 15th, 7:30pm. All are welcome for the movie and following discussion.

“...Water shortages, hunger, peak oil, species extinction, and even increasing depression are all symptoms of a deeper problem – addiction to unending growth in a world that has limits. GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth goes way beyond prescribing Band-Aids to slow the bleeding. This film examines the cultural barriers that prevent us from reacting rationally to the evidence current levels of population and consumption are unsustainable.

It asks why the population conversations are so difficult to have. Why it's more important to our society to have economic growth than clean air. Why communities seek and subsidize growth even when it destroys quality of life and increases taxes.

Our growth-centric system is broken. It's not providing the happiness or the prosperity we seek. But that's good news; it means a shift to a sustainable model will be good for us. We'll be happier and more prosperous!...”

-- <https://www.growthbusters.org/growthbusters-the-movie/>

CHARLES' 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday September 16th, Jack and Mary Lou Charles will have an open house to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. They live at 1636 Poplar Ridge Road, Poplar Ridge, NY. All are welcome to stop by 2-5pm. No gifts please.

Contact Joanne Rogers (315-673-7345, 607-345-8468 cell, SCL42carryu@gmail.com, or SCL42carry.com) for help with transportation.

COFFEE HOURS RETURN

Coffee hours will begin on the second Sundays with September 10th as the first one of the season. Join your friends after the rise of meeting for coffee, tea, juice and snacks. The coffee hour is a well-loved tradition that allows us to catch up with those we know and to meet new friends.



MERRIFIELD CONCERT

This month, Craig and A.T. are hosting an evening Round Robin of Songs on Saturday, September 16th, hosting three local musical favorites including Cora Ellen Luke and Mel and Sol from Ithaca and our local house band of Bridgewater! They hope that you will come to enjoy the music and possibly sing along. The evening begins at 7pm and we'll take a long intermission with tea and coffee provided so that all can socialize and build community before coming back together for a final round of songs. Merrifield is located at 2345 Center Road, Scipio Center with plenty of parking on Black Street. Bring family and friends and anyone who enjoys music. \$15 is collected at the door to keep the bands going. Contact A.T. (atmiller@cornell.edu) for more information.

LACROSSE, THE CREATOR'S GAME

There will be a presentation on **Lacrosse, the Creator's Game**, Saturday October 7th, 4 PM at the Ithaca Friends Meeting House: Alfred Jacques of the Onondaga Nation will share his knowledge and wisdom on the history of and information about lacrosse and other ball games played in Native Nations. He will have the equipment from various ball games to show.

The talk will be followed by a traditional Corn Soup supper: The meal will consist of Haudenosaunee corn soup, corn bread, salad, and strawberry drink. Meat and vegan soup will be provided. Cornbread will be gluten-free with a vegan version available.

There will also be a family-friendly film showing of "Crooked Arrows": A struggling Native lacrosse team finds strength and power in reconnecting with culture and tradition. The film was made with Haudenosaunee input and advice and with the support of Haudenosaunee Nations.

Please RSVP with Hannah Richter (315-364-3531) so that they can plan the meal.

Please notify Nance Simkin (Donald.simkin@yahoo.com) to send a special note of remembrance from the meeting. Donations of cards are welcome.

YOUTH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 9/16 – 6/17

'16 – '17 Active Members

Julie Lockhart – Committee Clerk

Kathleen Connelly

Rebecca Damiani

Scott Lockhart

Sally Otis

Charlie Weld

Rebecca Schillenback, Advisory Member

Alyssa Binns-Gunderson, Advisory Member

Dill Otis and Laura Buffam, Substitutes for First Day School care

Children in First Day School this year:

Children who attended regularly/semi-

regularly this year are: Kylee McCleary ; Leif,

Wystan and Ella Gunderson; Cyrus and Cazimer Schillenback; Auden and Mazarine Ferrari. Members' grandchildren sometimes visited as well.

Total Children's Attendance at First Day School between September 2016 and June 2017:

Ninety-five (95), as recorded in our First Day School Journal.

Activities this year:

The committee generally met the first Tuesday of each month, excepting during the summer months, at the Lockharts' house.

Our primary objective is to support our youngest Friends in their life at Poplar Ridge. Maintaining a substantive curriculum is difficult because of the small numbers of children regularly attending and their wide range of ages. It is not unusual for no children to attend on any given week. This year we kept to the simple schedule of 1) Introductions; 2) Sharing News; 3) Reading a Story; 4) Having a Snack; 5) Taking part in an arranged activity or in free play. Committee members strive to model Quaker values for the children in First Day School.

Charlie Weld is our long-time primary First Day School Leader, with other helpers providing stories and activity ideas. We instituted a monthly helper schedule with each committee member committing to at least one day per month. Charlie often gives time three out of four weeks in the month. We don't officially hold First Day School during the summer, but Youth Committee members present on summer Sundays step forward as needed on those days when children are attending.

Some fifth Sundays have become an additional way to provide program to the children through a multi-generational meeting run by the Youth Committee. This year there were two. On January 29, 2017, Melinda Wenner Bradley, the NYYM Children and Youth Field

Secretary, provided the message and art response, and Youth Committee members supported her as needed. On April 30, 2017, Rebecca Damiani presented a Godly Play story about Easter, supported by the Youth Committee. Cathy Mullarney provided music for both programs.

Our annual Halloween Carnival was on Saturday, October 29 from 4:30-7:00. It was our most successful ever! About 58 area children attended, aged toddler through 11, and about 50 adults brought them. We had about 30 volunteers including 5 older children and teens. We raised \$445 for UNICEF, including a \$75 donation from the Meeting for Worship on October 30. A notable donation was high quality banners for the carnival, and the wooden signs to support them, from Rebecca Damiani and Joe Arpino. These banners should last for years to come. Tara Arpino was fortune teller again this year, with Hannah and Heidi Richter making delicious pizza for the crowd. Carnival goers reported hearing about the event from the banners, from school flyers, through the Auburn Citizen, on Facebook and "from a Google search." Several reported being grateful for an event for little children.

Our Christmas Pageant and Gifts from Santa evening fell on Sunday, December 18 at 5pm. Cathy Mullarney planned the pageant and provided music. We were pleased that teens stepped up to take on more roles in the pageant, including Mary and Joseph. After the pageant, the Youth Committee and Social Committee coordinated a simple supper followed by the visit by Santa, played by Rob Howard in a last-minute heroic substitution, and his chief elf Scott Lockhart. Easter Multigenerational Egg Hunt after Meeting on April 16, an annual treat for the children, went off as usual with eggs provided by Scott Lockhart and hiding provided by the seven children in attendance that day. With only two teens interested in YSOP this year from our Meeting, and neither able to

take part on available weekends, we did not participate in YSOP this year.

Children's Day took place on June 25. Julie Lockhart ran the program with support from other Youth Committee members, and shared a story titled *Cherry Tree*, about how trees represent our own growth and change in life. During the art response, children and adults wrote on leaves something they had learned this year, and added the leaves to a paper tree. Readings included mention of trees as shelter and as community from the Bible and other sources. Poplar Ridge Meeting presented a Bible to Leif Gunderson as he graduated from 4th grade. Rebecca Damiani and her granddaughter Athena presented the musical interlude with additional music from Jeffrey Layton, since Cathy Mullarney was in El Salvador at the time. Kathleen Connelly prepared the program. Dill Otis provided beautiful marigolds for the children to distribute among the Meeting participants. The Meeting Annual Picnic followed immediately at Hannah Richter's home and included swimming!

Major renovation of the Children's Room in the Meetinghouse basement began in the summer of 2016, and continued into the spring of 2017. Youth Committee members supported the effort by moving, cleaning, sorting, and re-arranging all the supplies for children, some decades old, in both the Children's Room and in storage areas. Along with other Poplar Ridge members, Y.C. members helped paint the room and some of the furniture. With a budget of \$200, the Youth Committee purchased an area rug for the space, colorful storage bins, and also some new bouncy balls for the kids to play with during free time at First Day School. The room looks beautiful and is warm and inviting, and we thank everyone who helped make it so.



WHAT IS THE FRIENDS PEACE TESTIMONY?

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world."

From "A Declaration to Charles II," 1661. Full text at: <http://www.quaker.org/peaceweb/pdecla07.html>

Because there is no single, world-wide authority that can speak for all Friends, there cannot be a single, absolute answer to any question that begins, "What is the Quaker position on . . . ?"

Nonetheless, there are certain principles that have emerged again and again in the lives of Friends in different times and situations, informing their efforts to lead lives that are faithfully guided by the Holy Spirit.

Friends call these principles "[testimonies](#)." There is no definitive list of the testimonies, but under different names they have continued to reappear with both consistency and fresh variation in the lives of the Friends who adhere to them. "They are not optional extras, but fruits that grow from the very tree of faith" (Harvey Gillman, 1988).

The best known of these testimonies is the Peace Testimony. Yet since there is no single authoritative expression of it, perhaps the best way to understand it is to look at some of the different ways it has been expressed by individual Friends and Friends communities.

Below are only a few of the many ways that Friends have spoken on the subject of peace:

The peace testimony in the words of some early Friends:

- [Historic expressions of the peace testimony](#)
- [Virginia Memorial and Petition](#) (an 1810 argument for fair treatment of conscientious objectors)
- Some general expressions of the peace testimony in the words of some contemporary Friends:
- [Advices on Conscriptation and War](#) (1948 "Richmond Declaration")
- [Quaker Peace Testimony](#) by Mary Lou Leavitt

- [1987 Statement on Peace](#) by the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand
- ["What Can the Bible Teach Us About Peacemaking?"](#) by Ron Mock
- ["The Peace Testimony as Questing Beast"](#) by Chel Avery
-

Some contemporary expressions of the peace testimony with reference to recent world events:

- ["Can Love Really Overcome Violence and Hate?"](#) by Mary Lord
- [Joint Statement in Response to Military Attacks on Afghanistan](#)
- [A Statement from Leaders of Friends Organizations in the U.S. Regarding the War in Iraq](#)
- [Healing from Slavery, War, and Genocide: Lessons from John Woolman and Friends in Rwanda and Burundi](#) by David Zarembka. (2006 John Woolman Memorial Lecture. Especially recommended is the 10-point summary on page 10.)
- [Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's](#) November 06 called session on peace.

Some links to resources on peace issues:

- [American Friends Service Committee](#)
- [Center on Conscience and War](#), an interfaith organization for conscientious objectors
- [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#)
- [Resources for Peace](#), a website maintained by Bob Seeley
- [Swarthmore College Peace Collection](#)

From <http://www.quakerinfo.org/quakerism/peace>



ODE TO AUTUMN

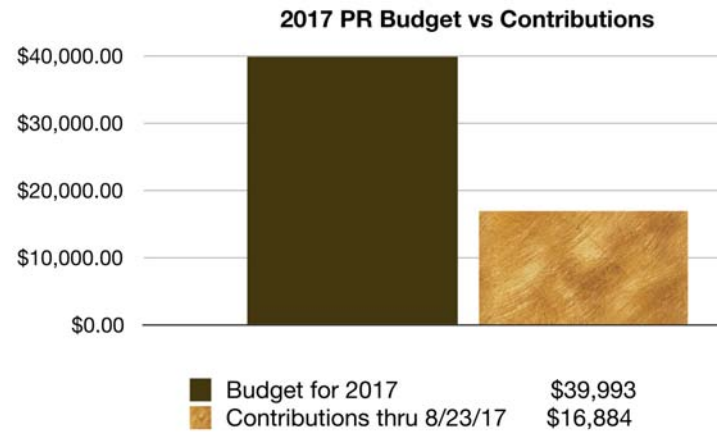
by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves
 run;
 To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,
 Until they think warm days will never cease,
 For Summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cell.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
 Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
 Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
 Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
 Or on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep,
 Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
 Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers;
 And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
 Steady thy laden head across a brook;
 Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
 Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
 Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,---
 While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
 And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
 Then in a wailful choir, the small gnats mourn
 Among the river shallows, borne aloft
 Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
 And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
 Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
 The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
 And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Budget for 2017	\$39,993.00	
Contributions for 2017	\$16,884.00	42.22%
Budget deficit for 2017	\$23,109.00	



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Andy Simkin	Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk (734-717-7719)
Assistant Clerk – Hannah Richter	Recording Clerk – David Connelly
Treasurer – Jeff Layton	Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Charlie Weld
Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney	

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