



# PRISM

Poplar  
Ridge  
Information  
Sharing  
Monthly

the Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

## APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	2 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	3	4	5	6 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
7 Lenten Series  10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	8 7:00pm Youth Commitee Meeting @ Otis'	9	10 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond/Rhudy's	11	12 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	13
14 10:00am Meeting for Worship – Rebecca Schillenback  11:00am Coffee Hour	15 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	16 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	17 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	18	19	20 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
21 Easter Sunday  10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	22 7:00pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	23	24 Deadline for PRISM submissions  7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'	25	26 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	27 6:00pm Saturday Supper - Nightingales
28 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)  11:30am Annual Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting	29	30				

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

For more information about calendar events, check the PRISM or contact [pr.prism@gmail.com](mailto:pr.prism@gmail.com)

## MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FOR MARCH 17, 2019

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of silence about 11:40 a.m.; the minutes from the February 17 meeting were read.

Attending were Ruth Bradley, Phyllis Bunker, David Connelly, Claire Howard, Jim Frisch, Barry Kahn, Howard Nelson, Stephanie Nelson, Suzanne O'Hara, Sally Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Andy Simkin, Jane Simkin, Linda Simkin, Paul Simkin, and Charlie Weld.

- The Treasurer, Ruth, indicated that there was nothing that needed to be discussed.
- For the Ministry and Council Committee, Charlie read a draft of the State of Society Report to be forwarded to New York Yearly Meeting. This year's question is "How are we making Friends' testimonies a way of life?" Monthly Meeting offered suggestions. Charlie will make a few changes to be reviewed by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk forwarded to Yearly Meeting. The final copy will be published in PRISM and posted on our website
- Christopher reported that Nominating Committee suggests three-year terms for members of the Ministry and Council Committee rather than our present five-year terms. Committee membership is demanding, and Monthly Meeting felt that a five-year term can sometimes be too much to ask of a new Committee member. Monthly Meeting approved the change, adding that members may be appointed to a term renewal of one, two, or three years. Nominating Committee will now implement the change for new appointments. Additionally, Nominating Committee will check in with Committee members annually.
- Hannah asked Monthly Meeting whether it wishes to continue our Annual Meeting practice of hearing the reports from each Monthly Meeting committee. We agreed to continue the report readings, and committees are encouraged to share the life of their year's service as well as the committees' detailed reports.
- Because Easter is on our third Sunday, Monthly Meeting agreed to delay April's Monthly Meeting a week, until April 28. It will be our Annual Meeting.

We will not hold business meeting in May because of a conflict with Spring Gathering.

- We approved Suzanne's calling to pursue having a Worship Meeting at the Genesee Country Museum Village Quaker Meetinghouse. Friends interested in participating should contact Suzanne.

We closed with a moment of silence about 1:20 p.m.

**SUBMITTED BY DAVID CONNELLY,  
RECORDING CLERK**



**ANNUAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS**  
Friends are reminded that our Annual Meeting this year is on **April 28<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting was changed because the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday is Easter.

Chairs of all committees should bring written reports to this meeting.

### **SATURDAY SUPPER – NIGHTINGALES**

Come sing with the nightingales on April 27<sup>th</sup> for our Saturday Supper at the Meetinghouse. Supper begins at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass and your place setting. Contact Trudy, [trudybuxenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:trudybuxenbaum@gmail.com), for more information.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ROGER SIMKIN**

A memorial service for Roger Simkin (brother to Paul, Donald and Linda) will be held at the Poplar Ridge friends Meeting House on May the 4th at 2:00 p.m. Friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow.

## NEW EMAIL FOR NYYM CLERK

Dear Friends,

When I began my service as your current clerk, I set up a new email address, which is in the current Yearbook. It does not work for unknown reasons and AOL is unable to fix it. Please use my prior email address: [jephreyaaron@aol.com](mailto:jephreyaaron@aol.com). I regret the confusion and the revision of the revision, but compared to all the craziness around us in today's world, this is "small potatoes".

I look forward to our upcoming Spring Sessions together, an opportunity for Friends to gather to share the love for our community and the news of the good works by so many dedicated Friends that softens a little of the world's harshness. The agenda will have intriguing items that need your discernment. I hope to see many of you there in two weeks, at our own wonderful Oakwood School.

Jeffrey Aaron  
NYYM clerk

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

## FARMINGTON SCIPIO EARTHCARE SEEKING COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEETINGS

Roy Allen, a member of Rochester Monthly Meeting, recently relaunched their Earthcare Committee and is actively seeking collaboration with other Meetings on Earthcare issues. Several things are happening:

- Roy launched a Give the Gift of Nature – Peace Garden initiative with two schools in Rochester to bring more nature into the lives of K-12 school children ([www.givethegiftofnature.com](http://www.givethegiftofnature.com)) and is also developing a model for local churches that would like to practice Creation Care on land around their worship spaces
- Both Roy and Margaret McCasland (Co-Clerk) from Ithaca Meeting are members of the NYYM Earthcare Working Group and would like to expand and support Earthcare activities within NYYM.

If you, as an individual, or part of a worship group would like to learn how to get more happening in your area around Earthcare, please contact Roy or Margaret at [seven7cats@gmail.com](mailto:seven7cats@gmail.com) or [mamccasland@gmail.com](mailto:mamccasland@gmail.com).



## NYYM SUMMER SESSIONS

Registration for Summer Sessions is now OPEN!

When is the last time you spent a whole week in a beautiful place among hundreds of other Quakers? A week of Spirit-filled events on a lakeside campus, with beaches and a long porch full of rocking chairs? [Summer Sessions](#) is the annual gathering of New York Yearly Meeting, at which we worship, conduct business, discern, play, learn, create, and rejuvenate together. **Come join us!**

This year, for the first time, New York Yearly Meeting's Summer Sessions is PAY AS LED. That means you can choose the amount you pay to attend; some will pay more so others can pay less. Read more about Pay as Led [here](#). Because of the complexity of this change and the new contract with our host Silver Bay, we are opening registration early — that is, **RIGHT NOW!**

All the information you need to decide to attend is [here](#). If you're an old hand at this Sessions stuff, you can go directly to the [registration](#) form. The deadline for regular registration is earlier than previous years: **May 15.**

## FARMINGTON SCIPIO REGIONAL SPRING GATHERING

Join us for the Farmington Scipio regional Spring Gathering on the 17th or the 19th of May. Members of Poplar Ridge are presenting the Plenary session on Saturday morning, "**Reaching the Sacred Across the Divide**". We would love to have you come for support. Register by May 6, 2019 at <https://tinyurl.com/y615u4c3>, email [FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com](mailto:FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com) or call Bronwyn Mohlke (607) 220-3219 or Lu Harper (585) 732-4779.



## SING WITH THE NIGHTINGALES

Dear Nightingales and other singers who don't know that you are Nightingales (just yet),

Come join us for a weekend of singing, potluck food, and the fellowship of open hearts and shared voices in song! Christopher Sammond and Barbara Rhudy are welcoming us gathering at their place April 26-28. Poplar Ridge Meeting is glad to have us come and join them in song and potluck fellowship Saturday night, and to "warm up" the worship room before worship Sunday morning.

We have an online registration form at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4utp29e>

If you have any questions or are having troubles with the online registration, please contact Bronwyn Mohlke at [BJQMohlke@gmail.com](mailto:BJQMohlke@gmail.com) or (607) 220-3219.

All are welcome. Perhaps you know of Friends you'd like to invite to come along! If you can talk, you can

sing. This isn't about performance, but is all about the love of song and of singing with others who also love to sing, sharing open hearts and open spirits.

## SOUTHERN CAYUGA WIDER PARISH LENTEN SERIES 2019

Come to the final presentation on April 7<sup>th</sup>, "Living Each Day As If It Were Your Last" by the Rev. Matthew Binkewicz at the United Ministry of Aurora. Donations support Matthew House.

Soups and beverages are provided. Please bring a soup bowl, utensils, and mug. Supper is served at 5:00 p.m. The evening's presentation begins at 5:45 p.m. and concludes by 7:00 p.m. All are welcome

## SPARK, MARCH 2019 - TRANSFORMING CONFLICT

Download a [pdf file of the March 2019 Spark](#)

Contents

- [Transforming Conflict](#), Heather M. Cook & Karen Reixach, Guest Editors
- [Why Conflict Transformation?](#) by Karen Reixach, Ithaca Meeting
- [The Restorative Framework as a Pathway to Peace](#), by Kay Pranis, Author: *Little Book of Circle Practices*
- [Helpfully Preparing a Controversial Matter for Meeting for Business](#), by Steve Mohlke, NYYM General Secretary
- [A New Approach to Engaging With Our Conflicts](#), by Tom Rothschild, Brooklyn Meeting
- [Finding Potential in Conflict](#), by Stuart Bartram, Genesee Valley Meeting
- [Conflict, Gospel Order, and the Covenant Community](#), by F. Peter Phillips, Cornwall Friends Meeting
- [Lean On Me](#), by Marha Gurvich, Wilton Meeting
- [Power Among Us](#), by Heather M. Cook and the Committee on Conflict Transformation
- [Herding Cats: Are We in Conflict or Not?](#) by Jeffrey Aaron, New Brunswick Meeting
- [Seeking Peace in the Poland-Ukraine Conflict](#), by Hugo Lane, Flushing Meeti



## **POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT 2018**

Member and attenders of the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting believe that the Friends' testimonies supporting Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship inform the spirit of the PRMM, and the individual lives of members and attenders in many ways. The testimonies have been explored in 2018 and 2019 during Meetings for Worship that focus on NYYM's queries, during adult education discussions about the testimonies, and monthly movie nights that are hosted by the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's Peace and Social Action committee.

Of the six testimonies, Community seems to be primary for many Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting Friends who rely on the sense of being part of a community that supports individual endeavors and enriches them as people. Members' and attenders' leadings are explored and clarified in clearness and care committees and in the Meeting's men's and women's spiritual nurture groups. Friends describe the informal social time that follows the rise of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's Meeting for Worship as evidence of the bonds that connect members of the Meeting community. Friendly Suppers which are informal gatherings in members' homes, and monthly Saturday suppers at the Meeting House offer opportunities for members and attenders to develop deeper relationships with others in the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting community. Recent renovations and a planned, future renovation of the Meeting House invite participation by making it easier for members and attenders with physical limitations to attend Meeting House gatherings. And Poplar Ridge members and attenders—perhaps, because sustaining and growing community is a value important to the Meeting—are members of many groups outside

Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting, and work in various ways to sustain and grow these collateral communities.

The Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's relationship with San Pedro, El Salvador, active since 2004, is an example of one of these wider projects rooted deeply in the Meeting's consciousness, and involving many Meeting members and attenders. San Pedro is a small community in a rural, mountainous area of El Salvador where approximately 40 families live—about 300 inhabitants, about 200 of which are children. Economic support, correspondence and visitation annually by a group from the Poplar Ridge community assists the San Pedro community's efforts to achieve sustainable, economic well-being.

Another example of a community event supported by PRMM is the Shepherds Play which has been performed most Decembers at the PR Meeting House for the past forty years. Many PRMM community members have participated in this medieval mystery play which is part of the Waldorf education tradition. On performance night, the Meeting House is filled with an enthusiastic audience of Friends, people from the local community and, often, spectators from Ithaca, Auburn and Syracuse. Like the Shepherds Play, the annual Halloween UNICEF fund-raising party attracts many children and their families from the local community and beyond.

Many Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting members and attenders work to support Camp Gregory, a local, summer day and overnight camp for children on the shore of Cayuga Lake. Camp Gregory board meetings are often convened at the PR Meeting House, and Meeting members and attenders work on a variety of projects at the camp.

Many Meeting members and attenders also work to support Opendore which is a Victorian-era home—one of 27 properties in the Sherwood Equal Rights Historic District—that is being restored as part of a local history museum's effort to educate the public about past area inhabitants' role in abolitionist activities and the struggle for women's suffrage.

In addition, Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting supports a worship group in Spanish, an effort to extend community and become more familiar with the lives of farm laborers in the area's dairy industry. These are a few examples of local efforts that individuals from the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting support, hopefully,

bringing the vitality of the Meeting to these outside organizations.

The Quaker testimonies of Simplicity and Stewardship also seem to be important influences in PRMM's members' and attenders' lives. Many in the community heat with wood, utilize solar energy, have home vegetable gardens, and in other ways try to reduce their impact on the Earth's limited resources. The Meeting House's meditation garden is a visible testimony to the community's efforts to beautify and care for their immediate environment. Many members and attenders support organizations that advocate for conservation and the natural environment such as Nature Conservancy, the Adirondack Council, Audubon Society, Sierra Club etc.

The Peace testimony has been central to many PRMM's members' and attenders' sense of themselves as Quaker for generations. Recently, the Meeting's Peace and Social Action committee has engaged with our elected representative to Congress to discuss concerns about undocumented immigrants, and supported letter-writing to public officials on a variety of issues. Individuals in the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting community have participated in public demonstrations supporting peaceful solutions to international conflicts. And before the recent mid-term elections, many members and attenders canvassed area residents, listening to and educating neighbors about political candidates' views on immigration and other issues.

Equality is also a value close to the heart of Poplar Ridge Friends. Friends note that the Meeting's ongoing participation in and support of prison worship in local correctional facilities demonstrates commitment to the idea of equality.

Being in meaningful relationship with the children that attend Meeting gatherings is also perceived as an important commitment to treating everyone as gifted and equally precious to God. The Meeting attempts to transmit the values inherent in the testimonies through weekly First Day School, participation by youth in the Youth Service Opportunity Project, and a local, environmental initiative Embrace the Lake. The Meeting's willingness and ability to extend itself to members and attenders suffering from physical or mental impairments due to age or disease is viewed by

the community as a measure of our commitment to the Equality testimony and to the testimony of Integrity.

Finally, the Meeting, through Ministry and Counsel, has invited many members and attenders to lead semi-programmed worship in acknowledgement that a wide variety of spiritual gifts encourages us to examine our own biases and seek "that of God" in everyone. Evolution Sunday, typically the Sunday in February preceding Charles Darwin's birthday, has been recognized at Poplar Ridge for many years through an appropriately-themed worship service.



### **COMMIT TO A RECURRING NYYM GIFT BEFORE SUMMER SESSIONS**

An enthusiastic supporter is offering a match to encourage us all to make sustaining contributions to New York Yearly Meeting. \$50,000 is available to match new and increased recurring gifts offered before Summer Sessions 2019. For your contribution to be eligible, all you have to do is indicate that your gift is recurring (monthly, yearly, etc.).

Your gifts help support all of the work of NYYM, work that strengthens our communities and helps us continue to bring our Quaker faith to the world. We hope that you will consider this request to be well-ordered and needed, and that you will make a donation in an amount that reflects both the value our yearly meeting has for you and your own capacity to give. [Donate online](#) or call the NYYM office at 212-673-5750 to donate.

Please join us for the 47<sup>th</sup> Spring Gathering of the Farmington-Scipio Region, NYYM  
Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)



**Friday evening – Sunday afternoon  
May 17-19, 2019**

At Watson Homestead Retreat Center  
9620 Dry Run Road  
Painted Post, NY 14870

**Explore with Friends to discover  
That of God in Everyone**

**Inspiration and fun for all:** worship, Bible study, business meeting, workshops, nature walks, games, crafts, singing, contra dance and more!

Register by May 6, 2019 at <https://tinyurl.com/y6l5u4c3>,  
email [FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com](mailto:FSRMSpringGathering@gmail.com) or  
call Bronwyn Mohlke (607) 220-3219 or Lu Harper (585) 732-4779.

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

### POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Hannah Richter  
Assistant Clerk – Andy Simkin  
Treasurer – Ruth Bradley  
Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney, Mary Jo Granger  
Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk ([734-717-7719](tel:734-717-7719))  
Recording Clerk – David Connelly  
Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Charlie Weld

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10 am for worship. The fourth Sunday of the month is an unprogrammed meeting. The fifth Sunday has a variety of formats. 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 1<sup>st</sup> day messages. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/poplarridgefriendsny>.

To change or correct a mailing label please contact Sally Otis at [sotis3067@gmail.com](mailto:sotis3067@gmail.com) 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](mailto:pr.prism@gmail.com).

To contribute items for PRISM contact us at [pr.prism@gmail.com](mailto: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  
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Poplar Ridge, NY 13139