



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

the Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry 2:00pm Memorial Service for Robert Simkin
5 10:00am Meeting for Worship- A.T. Miller	6 7:00pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's Last day to register for Spring Gathering	7 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	8 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond/Rhudy's	9	10 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	11 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish
12 Mother's Day 10:00am Meeting for Worship – Rebecca Shillenback Coffee Hour	13 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Otis'	14	15	16	17 Farmington Scipio Regional Spring Gathering Starts	18 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry Spring Gathering
19 10:00am Meeting for Worship - San Pedro Visitors (Cathy Mullarney, et. al.) Spring Gathering	20 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	21 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	22 Deadline for PRISM submissions 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'	23	24 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	25
26 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	27 Memorial Day 7:00pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	28	29	30	31	

Birthdays: 1st Dikshing Lama; 2nd Jack Benjamin Gregory; 3rd Charlotte Jane Mumma; 7th Magdalena Wiedermann, Sophie Lucine Buffam, Elizabeth Brice; 8th Sullivan Malcolm Otis; 15th Evangeline (Lynn) Ray; 16th Mateo Labatut Pronto; 20th Mazarine Ferrari; 26th Leif Gunderson; 29th Miles David Weiss; 30th Carmen Reynolds, Jesse Otis; 31st Jackson Otis

Anniversaries: 28th David and Kathleen Connelly

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

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FOR APRIL 28, 2018.

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

Attending were Ruth Bradley, Karen Brennan, Larry Buffam, Phyllis Bunker, Trudy Buxenbaum, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Jim Frisch, Robin Grube, Rosa Grube, Craig Kukuk, Cathy Mullarney, Howard Nelson, Stephanie Nelson, Suzanne O'Hara, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Andy Simkin, Don Simkin, Jane Simkin, Linda Simkin, Paul Simkin and Charlie Weld.

- On the Treasurer's report, Ruth handed out copies of the updated Monthly Meeting budget and mentioned a few updated transactions. Its total is \$46,706.

- For Ministry and Counsel, Charlie reported that the clearness process for the membership of Sigrid Mortenson has been completed and it is recommended. The Monthly Meeting approved. The Monthly Meeting also approved the request to Ministry and Council of Craig Kukuk for a leave of absence without compensation for the month of June. Monthly Meeting will assume Craig's responsibilities during his absence.

- We approved the Hazard Library's request to use the Meeting House July 11, 18, and 25, and August 1, 8, 15, and 22, and possibly the 21st. They are Thursday mornings at 10.

- No Monthly Meeting is planned in May because of a conflict with Spring Gathering. Our next Monthly Meeting will on Sunday, June 16.

- We appointed the committee members whom the Nominating Committee nominated. The list will be published in PRISM.

- During our annual meeting, we heard the following Committee reports, which will be published in PRISM during the next issues:

Buildings and Grounds, Bulletin Boards, Communications (Telephone Tree/Directory, Webmaster, Facebook Contact, PRISM), Finance, Gardens, Historical Materials, Librarians,

Nominating, Ministry and Counsel, Music, Outreach, Peace and Social Action, Prison Worship Group: Auburn and Cayuga correctional facilities, Religious Education & Youth, Social, Statistician, Treasurer, and Wider Parish

We closed after a period of silence about 2 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk



NO MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS IN MAY

Please note that there will be no Monthly Meeting for Business in May. Join Friends at the Spring Gathering weekend instead.

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

FARMINGTON SCIPIO REGIONAL SPRING GATHERING

Join us for the Farmington Scipio regional Spring Gathering on the 17th to 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 or call Bronwyn Mohlke (607) 220-3219 or Lu Harper (585) 732-4779.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

4/28/2019

Members of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel committee met together on thirteen occasions between April 30, 2018 and April 28, 2019. Ministry and Counsel also met with the Music Committee twice, and met with the Outreach Committee several times during the year. The Meeting's clerk, assistant clerk and pastoral care provider attended most Ministry and Counsel meetings.

During the year, the Ministry and Counsel committee received one request for membership from a Meeting attender, and one request from a member of another Monthly meeting to transfer membership to PRMM. A Clearness Committee was appointed to evaluate the attender's readiness for membership, met with the attender, and recommended that the Meeting receive the applicant into membership. The transfer of membership was successfully completed by PRMM's clerk and the clerk of Farmington Monthly Meeting.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee organized two adult education series. The first series (10/13/2018, 10/21/2018, 10/28/2018, 11/4/2018, 11/11/2018) focused on William Taber's Pendle Hill pamphlet *Four Doors To Meeting For Worship*. The second series (2/17/2019, 2/24/2019, 3/3/2019, 3/10/2019, 3/17/2019, 3/24/2019) focused on the Quaker testimonies. Both series were well attended and well received by the PRMM community.



In addition to ordering Quaker literature to support participants in these adult education series, Ministry and Counsel ordered subscriptions to *Quaker Life*, *Friends' Journal* and the Pendle Hill pamphlet series

for members and attenders' use. Ministry and Counsel also ordered 15 copies of the print edition of NYYM's 2018 Faith and Practice for the Meeting community.

Ministry and Counsel reestablished the role of Door Greeter on programmed Sundays to reinforce the idea that the musical prelude is part of Meeting for Worship, not a musical expression preceding Meeting for Worship.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee reviewed and revised the business agreement for the part-time pastoral care position, met with the pastoral care provider, and referred the 2019 agreement to the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting for approval. In addition, the M and C committee experienced its role in providing pastoral care expand during the year, as the committee sought tangible ways to support the pastoral care provider. The Ministry and Counsel committee also met separately with the Meeting's two regular worship leaders to review their experiences of relationship with PRMM, and the Meeting community's experience of their leadership of First Day worship.

During 2018, many members, attenders, and guests from outside of the Meeting were invited to bring prepared messages to Meeting for Worship. Two members did so regularly, each typically providing leadership and a message at Meeting for Worship monthly. During the 2017/ 2018 academic year and part of the following summer, one of the regular worship leaders took several months off from the work of preparing a monthly message in order to complete a graduate degree (M.Div.), resuming her role as worship leader in September, 2018.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee continued to support ongoing ministries at Cayuga Correctional Facility and Auburn Correctional Facility, and weekly worship in Spanish. The committee notes that mid-week worship, which meets under the care of Ministry and Counsel, needs more active support from the Ministry and Counsel committee. No committee member has attended mid-week worship this year.

In support of individual member's search for well-being, work in ministry, and/or witness in the world, the Ministry and Counsel Committee made appointments and supervised several care and clearness committees. In addition, women's and men's spiritual nurture groups, both active and well-

attended for many years, continued to meet monthly under the care of the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

The Ministry and Counsel committee perceives itself as vigorous, creative, and well-supported by PRMM. The committee's vitality is rooted in the group's commitment to supporting the lives of individual members and attenders of PRMM and the community as a whole so that all may experience the abundant life referred to in John 10:10 (*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*) The committee feels grateful for the years of service of Jim Frisch and Andy Simkin, who will be leaving the committee in April, 2019.



GARDENS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019

The Gardens Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the front and rear gardens and the two container gardens on the front steps of the meetinghouse.

The meditation garden and labyrinth continue to be enjoyed as a place for reflection, contemplation and quiet conversation. Over the summer, one meeting for worship was held in the garden.

Four garden workdays were scheduled and were well attended and productive. Responsibility for planting the front step containers continues to be divided amongst members for three seasons.

Committee communication occurred electronically this year. The gardens committee is now part of the budget and all earmarked contributions were moved over. Funds will be used for purchasing mulch and replacing/adding plants to the gardens. All labor will continue to be volunteered.

Reported by Heidi Richter

MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

April 2019

While the Music Committee did not actually have occasion to meet as a committee, music has played an active role in the life of the Meeting over the past year. Four pianists have worked cooperatively to provide accompaniment and contribute musically to the spirituality of programmed meetings. We have made a concerted effort to have good communication with speakers in order to provide cohesive and well-presented themes.

Meeting musicians have also contributed to the life of the Meeting by providing music for Nance Simkin's and Roger Simkin's memorial services, recorded music for a birthday party for Jane and Beyla Lopez's son Gerson, music and an ad hoc choir for the Christmas Program, and by organizing a November music night in which several people performed and all participated.

The issue of the role of music in spiritual readiness and settling for Meeting was addressed over the past year. The musicians worked with Ministry and Counsel to encourage a more thoughtful way to provide music as a way to draw people into the light of worship together. It was decided that each week, someone would stand outside the door as prelude music began to wait with any latecomers until music had concluded. We will revisit this periodically to maintain good practices. We were also called upon to consider the balance between the need for planning and thoughtful presentation, and the desire for individual expression. Ministry and Counsel and Monthly Meeting assisted in careful consideration of these important concerns.

Our musicians and the Meeting seem grateful to each other for the care that passes between them to welcome the contributions and talents of all.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Mullarney, Clerk - Music Committee

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

WIDER PARISH

April 2019

Poplar Ridge Friends Monthly Meeting continued to be represented on the Southern Cayuga Wider Parish by Sally Otis. Other churches that are active are United Church of Genoa, King Ferry Presbyterian Church, United Ministry of Aurora, The Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Scipioville Presbyterian Church, Union Springs Trinity United Church of Christ and the Seventh Day Adventists Church in Union Springs.

The group meets regularly and each church is asked to contribute \$100.00 each year toward expenses.

Activities since our last annual meeting:

- Crop Walk was not sponsored this fall.
- Celebrating God's Gifts: an afternoon for spirituality held at Camp Gregory (10-14-19) This event was poorly attended. Location was one factor.
- Thanksgiving Worship service is really planned by the King Ferry Presbyterian Church. Many of us are asked to be readers. We bring cookies for the social hour afterwards.
- Selling SERRV craft items at the local craft fair and then circulated among those churches that request them before Christmas. This year the "torch" was passed from Jeanne Herst and Vivian Hughes to Sally Otis and Cathy Mullarney to carry on this project.

Most of our hard work circled around the Lenten series from March 10th to April 7th. The theme was Bringing It Home: Living Your Faith in Practical Ways. We engaged 5 speakers who shared their faith in their lives. Five churches agreed to host and make 7-10 soups for each week. There was an average of 48 attendees each week.

In depth discussion at our meetings centered on Health Tapestry which is a local mission started by Deb Herst-Hill. She provides home visits and medical aid and transportation to medical visits. Deb is supported by Wider Parish and many volunteers and we hold some of her money in our bank account. She had signed up to be a 501(c)(3) which is a non-taxable organization. This accounting means that the organization needs to follow certain guide lines which had not been carried out. Wider Parish has tried to give Deb strict guide lines that she needs to follow if she will continue with the 501c3. Health

Tapestry has improved since last fall implementing many of the suggested guide lines.

A strong member and detailed secretary, Bryan Bedell from the United Ministry in Aurora is leaving Aurora at the end of May. He will be missed by all.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Presented April 28th, 2019

The communications committee was formed during 2018 to encourage connections among the various groups that handle communication and information for Poplar Ridge Meeting. This report summarizes the action of these subcommittees.

PRISM:

The Poplar Ridge Information Sharing Monthly (PRISM) was published and distributed each month in the 2018 fiscal year. Our PRISM is sent electronically to 160 email addresses and approximately 17 postal addresses. Printed PRISMs are also provided in the Meetinghouse.

During 2018 Sally Otis stepped up to handle the mailing of paper PRISMs. We wish to thank Mary Lou Charles, who previously handled this task, for her long time commitment to the PRISM.

Website:

The website was updated regularly with first day messages and the PRISM. Updates and improvements were made as necessary. Handling the website under quaker.org has become difficult and it is time to modernize the existing site. The Monthly Meeting

approved for the website to be moved to a different location and updated using website building tools.

Email:

Email to pr.prism@gmail.com was read regularly. Requests were handled directly or forwarded to individuals or committees as appropriate. Email announcements sent to the account were forwarded to the mailing list.

Directory:

A digital directory of members and attenders has been updated as information is received. The last complete printing of the directory was done in July 2017. Update sheets with new information are added as needed.

Paper copies of the meeting directory are usually available at the meeting house. Current electronic or printed copies are available on request.

We are considering another bulk printing of the updated directory this summer.

Facebook:

We currently have 144 Facebook followers. Posts are made at least once every week or two.

People are encouraged to send photographs and information for posting as text, JPG or by URL link. Please do not send PDF documents as they cannot be posted directly.

Phone Tree:

The phone tree is used to notify members and attenders of a last minute change in Meeting for Worship or of a message that needs to quickly reach our Meeting family. We are very near completing the new 2019 phone tree and expect to soon provide an up-to-date phone tree for Poplar Ridge Friends.

The members of the communication committee are pleased to share their gifts with the Poplar Ridge Friends in the belief that they are providing tools that improve the life of the meeting.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

April 2019

Members: Ann Burch, Laura Buffam, Trudy Buxenbaum, Jim Frisch, Cathy Mullarney, Hannah Richter, Heidi Richter, Andy Simkin.

The Social Committee had their organizational meeting for the year in August 2018 at the home of Ann Burch.

We decided to rename our Family Night Suppers to Saturday Suppers. They were the following: September- Fall Fest at Craig and A.T.'s, October - Halloween Carnival to benefit UNICEF, November - Family oriented music night with Cathy Mullarney, December - Christmas Pageant, finger food supper and Santa visit, January- Game Night, February- Friendly suppers, March - Speaker Barb Taylor speaking about Underground Railroad from Elmira to Oswego, April - The Nightingales singing group.

Coffee hours were organized for the second Sunday of each month, after the rise of meeting , from September through May. Our February coffee hour welcomed Donald Simkin, returning his membership back to Poplar Ridge, from Farmington Friends.

We arrange pop up events when needed. One event this past year was a reception following the memorial gathering for Nance Simkin.

If we could request a couple new members it would be helpful for us.

Report by Trudy Buxenbaum

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 28, 2019

The central focus of the committee for the past year was dealing with a charge to improve accessibility to the meetinghouse. Over the past years, the meeting has responded to increased awareness of the need to be accessible to all persons by building a ramp to access the second floor, and, later, by converting a portion of the library space to an accessible restroom on the second floor. Access to the basement as well as movement between floors inside the building remains difficult.

As a committee, we met several times to consider various ideas for improving the situation. Finally, we recommended to meeting that the parking lot be regraded to provide access to the basement at the new ground level with no steps up or down involved. Meeting approved this plan. We have engaged a local contractor, Chris Janssen, known to some of us as a skilled excavator, to do the work this spring for approximately \$12,000. The committee sees this as phase I of a plan to increase accessibility by lessening the difficulty of entering the basement space. A secondary benefit of refinishing the parking lot should be improved drainage and the laying of a solid base so that cars will not get stuck in the mud.

Concurrent with our work on that, we have explored the options for installing an elevator or a lift to facilitate movement from one floor to the other within the building. There are currently lifts in operation at Rochester and Ithaca meetings in our area. We consulted with people in both meetings regarding their experience with them. We also spoke with makers and installers of lifts to get an idea of cost, design, size and maintenance requirements. Kathleen Connolly presented us with several drawings showing options of different schemes for increasing accessibility. We anticipate that further consideration of a lift will be forthcoming. There are some tricky questions of how to add a lift and its' shaft to our beautiful building, the initial cost and the commitment to the long term expenses of maintenance and repairs. A possible

secondary benefit might be the ability to eliminate the ramp and all the work it has entailed.

Various work projects in the past year included: installation of snow guards on the east roof in an attempt to protect the ramp from snow sliding off the roof (the guards themselves came off the roof with the snow in a later storm); furnace maintenance and a replacement of a motor in the basement furnace; clock repairs; rebuilding the foundation wall under the SW corner of the kitchen; clearing away obstructions to clear entrance to the base of the ramp; repairing the ramp railings; regular snow removal from the ramp; and supervision of building maintenance.

We have a strong and active building committee and welcome others with ideas or other energy to pitch in as the spirit moves them or join the committee. It seems as though we will have a busy time working on and around the meetinghouse again this year.





POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Hannah Richter

Assistant Clerk – Christopher Sammond

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 Howard Nelson

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 1st 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 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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of the Religious Society of Friends
Poplar Ridge NY 13139