

# PRISM

Poplar  
Ridge  
Information  
Sharing  
Monthly

the Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

## AUGUST 2019

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 7:00pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	6 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	7	8	9 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	10
11 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Mary Beth Tierney	12 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Otis'	13	14 6:00pm potluck supper @ sammond/Rhudy's  7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond/Rhudy's	15	16	17 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
18 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Unprogrammed	19 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	20 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	21	22	23 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	24
25 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Bryan Bedell	26 7:00pm Ministry & Counsel @ Weld's	27	28 Deadline for PRISM submissions  7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'	29	30	31

Birthdays: 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Devin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ethan MacCormick; 9<sup>th</sup> Craig Kukuk; 15<sup>th</sup> Marlee Harris, Bradley Farrell; 24<sup>th</sup> Andrew Simkin, Shawn Grube; 28<sup>th</sup> Connie Mather; 31<sup>st</sup> Caroline Burch, Karen Menges

Anniversaries: 6<sup>th</sup> Scott and Julie Lockhart; 7<sup>th</sup> Tess Nelson and Perry Gorgen; 15<sup>th</sup> Helen and George Hebben; 16<sup>th</sup> Sarah Richardson and Aaron Green; 25<sup>th</sup> Gregory and Janet Otis

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  
JULY 21, 2019**

Present: Paul Simkin, Donald Simkin, Jane Simkin, David Connelley, Sigrid Mortensen, Dill Otis, Suzanne O'Hara, Andy Simkin, Hannah Richter, Charlie Weld, Howard Nelson, Craig Kukuk, Christopher Sammond, Barry Kahn.

Meeting began with some silence. June minutes were read. Christopher said that he was requesting more specifically than indicated in the minutes that we have two people, one from the Finance Committee and one from Ministry & Counsel Committee, attend the "Creating Generous Congregations" workshop; he was not requesting financial support for whoever might go. He considers the workshop an extremely valuable one. So far no one has stepped forward as able to attend.

**Treasurer's Report.** Ruth reported that we are close to 32% on donations so far this year: \$24,959 of \$46,706. Hannah asked that we have bar graphs made to show our progress, as has been done in the past. Ruth said that she is planning to do that.



**Ministry & Counsel:** Charlie gave an update on the membership request of Dean Faiello, as prisoner at CCF. We need to submit a letter from the Clerk to Imam Saad, who is facilitating the clearness process. Hannah will send this.

**M&C, second item:** Charlie distributed a handout on NYYM's Alternative Pathways to Membership Proposal (draft) (see below, attached). Charlie reviewed the current process, as outlined in detail in

Faith & Practice. The proposal, which was sent by Emily Provance, clerk of the Ministry Coordinating Committee of NYYM, recommends changes to Faith & Practice that would allow prospective members to apply directly to NYYM for membership, rather than to a particular monthly meeting. M&C has discussed the proposal in its recent meetings, with the outcome of reservations about the proposal. There was a strong feeling that Monthly Meeting worship is central and should not be bypassed in the membership process, and that dealing with differences a person may have with the monthly meeting is valuable. Charlie reviewed options for responding to the NYYM work group regarding the proposal. M&C now asks for input from our meeting. Extended discussion ensued. It was expressed that the situation of people who live where there is no monthly meeting nearby is a special concern. Others said in various ways that worship experience at a monthly meeting should remain a crucial criterion, that "work arounds" of established practice are not desirable, and that working through the process is valuable. Other points raised were that technological changes may be a means of addressing the problem; that "Wider Quaker Fellowship," an existing provision, might speak to the need being expressed; that physical disabilities play a part in the question; and that it is important "not to say no" and instead find ways to accommodate people's desire for change.

Hannah asked if we could use M&C's concerns as expressed in the hand-out as our response. It was agreed that many of us share M&C's reservations about the draft's proposal, but that we also recognize the importance of the concerns, particularly the aspect of physical isolation. We would suggest as alternatives to the proposal that individuals work on their own or with the support of Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly Meeting resources to find or found a worship meeting, or seek out Wider Quaker Fellowship. It was approved for the Clerk to communicate this to Emily Provance. It was noted that we are doing so in order to meet the deadline, but with a feeling that the issue of membership is a serious one and should not be rushed.

**Building Committee: parking lot project:** Andy and Dill reported that there is a need to replace the septic tank. In consultation with the excavating contractor, a request has been made for Health Dept inspection for tank replacement. Pumping will be

required prior to installation. Andy and Dill were given authority to take relevant actions to move the project forward.

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

**Announcements:** Hannah received a request from Kristen Brennan. Her church in Ithaca is working on becoming a sanctuary church and asks for financial support. It was agreed that her request should be forwarded to Peace & Social Action Committee for consideration, which will report back to monthly meeting before any action is taken or public announcements are made.

Sigrid said that the Music Committee is researching the possible need for more hymnals. Meeting ended with a period of silence. Hannah thanked those present for their attendance and attention on a hot summer day.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Nelson, Recording Clerk



**NYYM’S ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL (DRAFT)**

In April, 2019, Emily Provance, clerk of the Ministry Coordinating Committee of NYYM sent several documents to the PRMM clerk, describing work that has been underway since 2016 in various committees and work groups in NYYM to discern the need for and construct an alternative pathway to membership in

the Religious Society of Friends. The NYYM Ministry Coordinating Committee had identified barriers preventing seekers from joining Quakerism through application to a Monthly Meeting as has been the practice in NYYM. These included incarceration, differences in culture, scheduling conflicts, distance from a Monthly Meeting, caretaking duties, and inability of a local meeting to speak to a person’s spiritual condition. The Ministry Coordinating Committee concluded that, given these obstacles, there needed to be a new way to become a Friend, more flexible than that described in NYYM’s Faith and Practice. The following proposed changes to NYYM’s Faith and Practice would allow prospective members to apply directly to NYYM for membership:

(\*\*\*\* indicates quotes from material received from Emily Provance)

**\*\*\*\*MEMBERSHIP THROUGH NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING.**

The prospective member is actively involved in New York Yearly Meeting business, committees, communities, worship, events or sessions. Sometimes life circumstances make it difficult or impossible to regularly attend or join a monthly meeting: reasons include, but are not limited to, those living in remote locations, caregivers, incarcerated persons or those not finding a spiritual home in an adjacent monthly meeting. Those seeking membership should be prepared to give resources of time and/or money and participate in the work of the Yearly Meeting or its committees, task groups, Sessions, and Powell House. A commitment to enter wholeheartedly into the spiritual and corporate activities of the Society and to assume responsibility, as way opens, is expected.

**APPLICATION THROUGH NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING FOR MEMBERSHIP**

The prospective Friend should write a letter addressed to the clerk of Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of New York Yearly Meeting stating the reasons for joining the Religious Society of Friends and why membership under the care of New York Yearly Meeting is sought at this time, rather than monthly meeting membership. The letter should include how the applicant is in unity with Friends testimonies and principles, and how the applicant envisions being involved in New York Yearly Meeting. \*\*\*\*

These proposed changes were discussed at PRMM’s Ministry and Counsel Committee, and concerns were

expressed by members of the committee. One concern was our sense that regular worship in a Quaker community (i.e. a monthly meeting) is the activity that informs all other Quaker activities, and is the foundation that other Quaker activities are built on. By opening membership to persons that may know Friends primarily through participation in NYYM activities, that may or may not include Quaker worship, this connection to worship may be lost or may be unable to be realized.

As we read the extensive proposal and accompanying documents, we understood that a person who has had favorable experiences at summer sessions or Powell House would be free to seek membership in the RSOF through the Yearly Meeting, even without ever having had a relationship with a monthly meeting. This practice would enable someone to join Friends without the benefit of being in the life of a monthly meeting. We believe that there is a great benefit from the wrestling each one of us does in the day to day life of a monthly meeting; this is part of what shapes us spiritually, along with our worship. In this model of membership, both of those formative experiences would be lost.

An additional concern was that a rationale listed for seeking NYYM membership directly is “not finding a spiritual home in an adjacent monthly meeting.” It was our sense that this could be a fairly common experience. Many of us have had the sense of being more or less connected to the spiritual life of our Meeting, depending on our own circumstances and/or the circumstances of the Meeting. It was M and C’s sense that working through these feelings as individuals in the context of community is a strengthening experience for both the individual and the community.

NYYM is asking for reactions to this APM proposal from individuals and/or Monthly Meetings. PRMM’s Ministry and Counsel committee thought that the issue of how one becomes a member of the Religious Society of Friends is important enough to warrant bringing concerns about the proposal to the entire Meeting.

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.

## CHILD CARE FOR AUGUST

Please note that there will be no scheduled child care during meeting for worship in August. Children are welcome to remain upstairs or informal arrangements may be made.

## QUAKER WORSHIP IN SPANISH

Our Quaker Worship in Spanish group has been taking a summer recess. We hope to begin again in the fall. Contact Jane, [simkinjab@gmail.com](mailto:simkinjab@gmail.com), for more information

## OUR MEETINGHOUSE IS A SCENT FREE LOCATION

Just a reminder that we ask people to avoid using scented lotions, perfumes and other products when attending meeting to make our worship welcoming to all.



## QUAKER BASEBALL DAY

A group of Poplar Ridge Friends are planning to go to an Auburn Doubledays game on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, at Falcon Park. The game begins at 7pm.

Meeting at the front gate of Falcon Park around 6:30 would allow for buying a group of seats together. Look for George Hebben and Jack Charles. If you can't get there that early, tickets are always available. The group will meet on the 3rd base side, so they can sit together.

Root, root, root, for the home team. It's been said that Quakers root silently, but that is not true. Contact Sally Otis, [sotis3067@gmail.com](mailto:sotis3067@gmail.com), for more information.

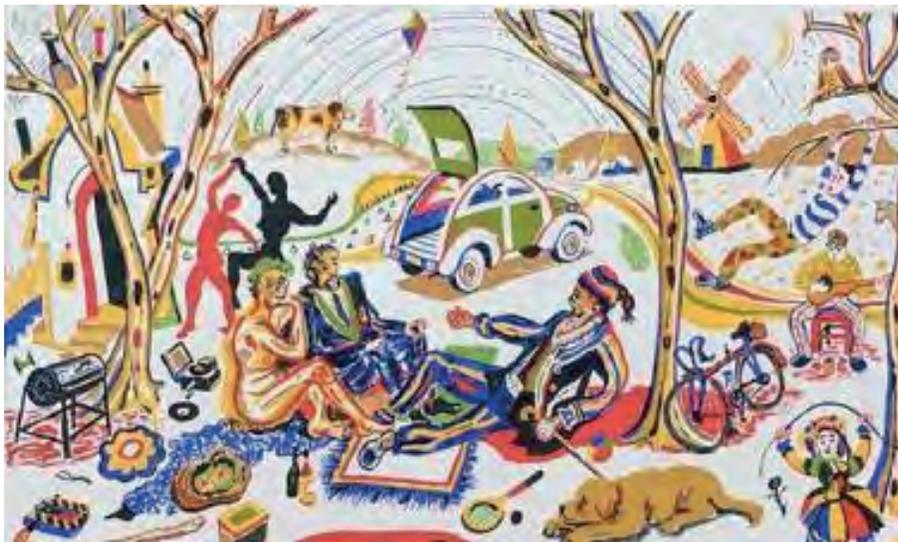
Dear Friends,

I hope this note finds you all well and enjoying your summer. Just a quick note to let you know of what's up at Pendle Hill in the next few months. You can also always check our online [calendar](#) to stay informed or [subscribe to our e-newsletter](#). Thank you for keeping the Friends in your meetings informed about these opportunities.

*Special notes:* [Journey Toward Wholeness](#) is a four-part seasonal retreat series based on the work of Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal® led by Valerie Brown and John Baird. Beginning **September 13-15, 2019**, the retreats are particularly helpful to those in transition. Register by **August 31**, and enjoy a **\$100 discount** on the fee for the series.

We are excited to offer a 12-day intensive internationally recognized [Permaculture Design Certification](#) course **September 15-27, 2019**, with an internationally known teacher, **Koreen Brennan**. Plan now for this important opportunity to do permaculture design in the mid-Atlantic region.

- August 4-8 - [Visual Storytelling: The Transformative Art of Altered Book-Making](#), a short course with Arts and Spirituality Coordinator Jesse White invites you to tell your personal stories by creatively altering books in a safe and brave community of artists.
- August 5 – [Good News for the Poor/Oppressed](#), a First Monday lecture by Steve Davison exploring the economics of redemption in the common-wealth of God—Jesus' promise of economic liberation, his plan for its fulfillment, and its implications for us today. In the Barn, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. Registration requested, and required for livestreaming.
- August 9-11 – [Alternatives to Violence Project: Training for Facilitators](#), for those who wish to continue towards becoming AVP facilitators, having completed the Basic and Advanced Training, with .O, Laurent Hahn, and John Meyer.
- August 11 – [Poetry Coffeehouse](#), for poets and poetry lovers, an open mic format with artisanal coffee and refreshments by Darius Lantz in the Art Studio, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- August 16-18 – [The Challenge of Paul](#). Francisco Burgos will facilitate a weekend workshop on the Apostle Paul, the first Christian theologian and often-controversial figure, using material developed by New Testament and early Christian historian John Dominic Crossan.
- August 17 – [Open Art Studio](#), 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Escape summer's heat in our air-conditioned Art Studio and spend the afternoon on your own creative project with help navigating the study provided by Jesse White.
- September 8 – Artist reception and gallery talk by **Lynn Lampman** on the opening of her **Barn Gallery** exhibit, **Grappling with What's Given: A Journey in Photo Mosaics, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The exhibit will be on display September 8 through January 2, 2020. Free and open to the public.
- September 9 – Open-water swimmer and human rights activist **Christopher Swain** will speak on **What the River Told Me: Reflections on love, oneness, and the living world**, in the **Barn, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** Free and open to the public. Registration requested and required for livestream viewing.
- September 13-15 – First seasonal retreat for [Journey Toward Wholeness](#) with **Valerie Brown** and **John Baird** based on the work of Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal®.
- September 15 – **Poetry Coffeehouse, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** in the **Art Studio** provides an opportunity for sharing poetry in an open mic format with refreshments hand-crafted by **Darius Lantz**.
- September 15-27 – [Permaculture Design Certification](#) intensive with **Koreen Brennan** results in internationally recognized certificate in Permaculture Design.
- September 22 – **Open Art Studio, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Work on your own creative project with guidance, if needed, by Arts and Spirituality Coordinator **Jesse White**.
- September 27-29 – Join **Lloyd Guindon** and **Bob Denison** in a working retreat, sprucing up the Pendle Hill grounds and buildings while enjoying fellowship and worship sharing in our annual [Lives of Service](#) weekend.



### 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, 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 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

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