



# PRISM

Poplar  
Ridge  
Information  
Sharing  
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

**MAY 2015**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9am King Ferry Food Pantry
3 10am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback  11:30am Soup and Sharing  3pm Embrace the Lake	4 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	5 7:30pm Peace & Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	6 7pm Southern Cayuga Community Read @ Emily Howland Elementary School Library	7	8 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	9
10 Mother's Day  10am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller  11am Coffee Hour	11	12 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	13	14 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's  7:30pm Spanish Quaker Worship	15 Starts: NYYM spring gathering	16 Merrifield Concert - Avi Wisnia  9am Genoa Food Pantry
17 Ends: NYYM spring gathering  10am Meeting for Worship - Maryl Mendillo	18	19 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	20	21	22 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship	23
24 10am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)  11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting	25 Memorial Day	26 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	27 Deadline for PRISM submissions	28 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren- Thomas'	29	30
31 10am Meeting For Worship - Intergenerational						

**Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dikshing Lama; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Benjamin Gregory; 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlotte Jane Mumma; 7<sup>th</sup> Magdalena Wiedermann, Sophie Lucine Buffam, Elizabeth Brice; 8<sup>th</sup> Sullivan Malcolm Otis; 15<sup>th</sup> Evangeline (Lynn) Ray; 16<sup>th</sup> Mateo Labatut Pronto; 19<sup>th</sup> Robert Richardson; 26<sup>th</sup> Leif Gunderson; 27<sup>th</sup> Laurel Hanson; 29<sup>th</sup> Miles David Weiss; 30<sup>th</sup> Carmen Reynolds, Jesse Otis; 31<sup>st</sup> Jackson Otis

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

## **POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR APRIL 19, 2015**

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 12:15 p.m. Attending were Ruth Ann Bradley, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Craig Kukuk, Jeff Layton, A.T. Miller, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Andrew Simkin, Elizabeth Simkin, Jane Simkin, Karen Simkin, and Paul Simkin,

Two annual reports were read first thing, a change from our usual agenda, because some members need to leave early. The annual reports will be published in Prism over the next several months.

Karen Simkin offered the Membership Report; membership is at 78 full members and 16 associate members, a total of 94. Eleven of the 16 associate members are youth members, which is to say, under the age of 18.

Jeffrey Layton, Treasurer, summed up the Finance Committee report, which included a three-year financial snapshot of the Meeting, with now a \$52,373.09 total in accounts, including \$21,189.66 in operating.

To date, we have spent about 30 percent of the 2015 budget. Income to date is about \$9,400, or 26 percent of that budget.



Jeff reported that Yearly Meeting is not giving us money we requested for the roof this year. Finance Committee will meet soon to address how to close that deficit of \$2,934.

Minutes from the March Monthly Meeting were read next.

Sally reported for Ministry and Council the following:

- The Clearness Committee for Membership met with Craig Kukuk and recommended that he be accepted to membership. Monthly Meeting approved Craig as a member.

- A Soup and Sharing is planned for after the rise of meeting May 3 on Quaker worship.
- Following Soup and Sharing May 3, volunteers from our Meeting under the auspices of Embrace The Lake will clean up a portion of the shore assigned to them.

Sabrina Stedge and Steven Saville, who are not Meeting members or attenders, request use of our Meetinghouse for their marriage on August 15 with an estimated attendance of 100 people. We approved.

After reviewing nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee for committee assignments and officers, we made the appointments for the 12 months beginning now. Among those appointments is Ruth Bradley to Nominating Committee. All appointments are attached.

We heard the annual reports from the following committees: Building (Dill), Historical Materials (Jane), Ministry and Council (Sally), Outreach (Anne Dalton), Peace and Social Action (Andrew), Prism (Mary Lou), Cayuga Correctional (Dill), Social Committee (Hannah), Telephone Tree (Sally, incorporated in M&C report), Southern Cayuga Wider Parish (Ruth), and New York Yearly Meeting (Ruth). Those appointments are attached and will be published in the next editions of Prism.

Anne Dalton introduced additional changes to the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting brochure. They were approved.

Andy Simkin has suggested that Monthly Meeting find a way to review the upcoming monthly calendar, just for awareness.

To avoid competing with Spring Gathering next month, Monthly Meeting will be on May 24.

We approved the Hazard Library's use of our Meetinghouse for four events the coming summer.

Andrew reported on the Farmington Friends Meeting's one-day workshop on clerking on April 18, which he and Anne Dalton attended and about 30 people. Arthur Larrabee led it. Andy and Anne found the session very useful.

The Meeting closed after a period of silence at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk.

## FIRST DAY MESSAGES ON LINE

If you have missed a meeting or would like a copy of a message you can now read them on the web. (<http://www.quaker.org/poplar/messages.html>) This new page contains messages brought to the meeting on programmed Sundays. You can also find this link through the menus on our home page (<http://www.quaker.org/>). If you provide a 1<sup>st</sup> day message, please consider sending a copy to [pr.prism@gmail.com](mailto:pr.prism@gmail.com) to share with our community.

## SOUP AND SHARING

On Sunday May 3, 2015 Ministry and Counsel will sponsor a Soup and Sharing upon the rise of Meeting. The topic will be Quaker Worship. Hope folks will be able to stay for the discussion. A light lunch of soup will be supplied.

## MERRIFIELD CONCERT

This month, we are presenting Avi Wisnia ([www.aviwisnia.com](http://www.aviwisnia.com)) on May 16th at 7pm at Merrifield, 2345 Center Road, Scipio Center, the home of Craig Kukuk and A.T. Miller. This will be a great family concert filled with heart. Singer/Songwriter Avi Wisnia presents an eclectic mix of refreshingly original songs, finding inspiration in classic Brazilian bossa nova, acoustic American folk, 1950's west-coast jazz, and contemporary pop. A wordsmith as well as a composer and performer, Avi's clever lyrics give a knowing nod to those that came before, while his smooth vocals and deft piano skills assure you that this is truly something new.

We'd love to have you join us with friends and family for an intimate musical evening, fellowship, and sharing. We collect \$15 at the door. Along with Avi, we're hoping for a good turnout! Please pass along the invitation to others you think would be interested.

Contact Craig ([craigkukuk@gmail.com](mailto:craigkukuk@gmail.com)), A.T. ([atmiller@cornell.edu](mailto:atmiller@cornell.edu)) or call 734-717-7719 for information or directions.

## HISTORICAL MATERIALS ANNUAL REPORT

The only action in regard to historical materials since April 2014 was the acquisition of a fireproof file box for one-of-a-kind materials such as photographs. This file box was donated by members of the Meeting.

-- Jane Simkin

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The library continues to be a Meeting House resource open to members and attenders. There are books about the history of Quakerism, as well as biographies, local history, works about social justice, Bibles, world religion information, and even novels.

This year the committee purchased Parker J. Palmer's book Healing the Heart of Democracy. Also the Mosher Fund contributed several titles including Great Speeches by African Americans by James Daley and The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. An index of all the books can be found in the library.



## MEETING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of today's date April 19, 2015 the Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting Membership is:

- 78 Full Members
- 16 Associate Members of which 11 are Youth
- 94 Total Membership

This year Erika Richter became a Full Member from an Associate Member.

Laura Stevenson Marshall passed away on 12/27/2014

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Members: Anne Dalton (Clerk), Ruth Bradley, David Connelly, Suzanne O'Hara, Julie Lockhart, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Bess Simkin and Paul Simkin

The Outreach committee has met three times since the last annual meeting.

Actions taken include:

- Numerous Revisions to the website (<http://www.quaker.org/poplar/>) Our street address has been on our home page. Our webpage now states “Welcoming and Affirming”. A tab with the First day messages has been added to our home page. Updates of a Facebook page: We have added a picture with people in it as our main picture.
- Welcome to Poplar Ridge pamphlet being rewritten and updated with current contact information. New business cards were designed with current contact information and distributed in the benches. The committee held a second informal session for people interested in membership.
- We designed a welcome card requesting information from newcomers. The cards will be in the pew racks. Completed cards can be left on the pew benches. Monthly Meeting approved the new cards.
- In July we tried having a “Quaker on the Spot” available to answer questions for newcomers or anyone who wonders. We had minimal response and discontinued the idea.
- A child friendly luncheon was hosted after each multigenerational meeting on the fifth Sundays.

Ongoing actions include:

- Continue revisions to the website (<http://www.quaker.org/poplar/>)
- Continue building and updating the Facebook page.
- Continue hosting child friendly luncheon.
- Consider holding another informal session for people interested in membership.

- A revised “Welcome to Poplar Ridge” pamphlet and the welcome card requesting information shall be completed and placed in the pew racks. Submitted by Anne Dalton, Clerk April 2015

## **OUR TRANSITION AND RUTH'S RETIREMENT**

We have experienced a seamless transition from having Ruth as our strong and beloved pastor to providing messages and pastoral care from within our Meeting. A major reason this has occurred is because of the strong foundation which Ruth has nurtured within our meeting over many years. She has nourished and encouraged us. She has fertilized our very soil so that we have been able to flourish and grow and take care of ourselves. Due to the constant loving care which Ruth has provided we have emerged strong and capable. Anne Dalton, Clerk



## **A SHARED THOUGHT**

*“The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honor. But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; people who will appreciate our compassion, our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have a potential to turn a life around. It’s overwhelming to consider the continuous opportunities there are to make our love felt.”*

— [Leo Buscaglia](#)

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Social Committee was responsible for the usual Family Night Suppers the last Saturday of the month from September to April. It was our intent to plan a variety of programs in order to appeal to attenders and members of all ages as well as provide outreach to the wider community. The following programs were scheduled:

- September- We celebrated the arrival of fall at Merrifield Farm, Craig and A.T.'s home with a Fall Festival and potluck.
- October – Halloween Carnival – the Youth Committee continued the revitalized Halloween Carnival. The social committee assisted with the food aspect of the carnival and the making of pizzas to sell as a fund raiser for UNICEF.
- November –Kathleen Connelly's fascinating presentation on biomimickry
- January –Celebration of and for Ruth Bradley for her years of service as Pastor with a Potluck and contra dance held at the Poplar Ridge Fire Hall
- February – Friendly Suppers with meals in member's homes
- March – Scott and Julie Lockhardt presented a slide show about their trip to Italy.
- April – Singing with Nightengale's at A.T. and Craig's home

Monthly coffee hours were provided on the second Sundays providing great opportunities for fellowship and community. A multitude of people volunteered to bake delicious treats to entice us to further socialize and get to know one another.

The annual Christmas finger food supper is always a big success enlisting many helping hands! White Gifts are donated and gathered for friends and shut-ins during the Christmas Season. Many help participate in this annual tradition. .

Social Committee Members:

Linda Simkin, Jim Frisch, Laura Buffam, Trudy Buxenbaum, Janet Shea, Ann Burch, Kathleen Connelly, Suzanne O'Hara, Jay Ardai, Craig Kukuk and Hannah Richter - Clerk



## **STATE OF THE MEETING CAYUGA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

We reflected on these queries in preparing our State of the Meeting report

- quality of worship and spiritual ministry
- efforts to foster spiritual growth
- stands taken on Friends' principles
- personal and family relations

In thinking about the above queries, several members wrote down their personal reflections. This state of the meeting report is a compilation of those reflections.

The twice monthly meetings held at Cayuga Correctional Facility are without question—Wonderful We at Cayuga worship group have experienced some very exciting spiritual and emotional encounters during our meetings. It is there that we are able to relax and express our most inner feelings and thoughts. We can be open, not only to others but to ourselves.

There are several advantages to have a faith based on Quaker beliefs “A guiding premise of Quakerism is that our actions are as important as our basic beliefs and ought to reflect those beliefs.” I find this quote to reflect the theme of Quakerism. And of all the aspects, I am impacted the most by the form of worship... “Simplicity”. During worship the level of concern is second to none.

Each member at the meeting always shares with the group what is happening in their relationships with family and friends to the point where it generates concern and discussion. Even the smallest thought has a chance of developing into a valuable spiritual experience. The encouragement and inspiration that are displayed in our worship group create a significant opportunity for spiritual growth. Our meeting provides us with a conducive atmosphere so vital for spiritual growth, love and mutual support.

Members often share with the group various situations when they had to rely on principles which they have embraced through our meetings. In view of our limited access to the outside world and certain restrictions placed upon us we are often dismayed that we are not able to interact more frequently on such a profound level.



Everyone shares experiences they have undergone recently. The spirit of Christ can be felt within and around everyone at the meeting.

When you enter into our meeting, a sudden sense of excitement and anticipation sets in reassuring you that you are at the right place at the right time. We enter into silent worship at our meeting for at least 30 minutes which gives us a chance to connect with our inner selves and experience a heightened sense of peace allowing a deep spiritual focus to emerge.

During worship service I am not required to dot my 'i' s or cross my 't's. I only need to be conscious of myself and others.

Our meeting gives us an avenue to renew, cultivate and express our spiritual beings with confidence and freedom. We are able to connect with one another emotionally and spiritually because at the highest point of our meeting we become as one and the same.

When I combine my religious upbringing with my religious exploration I find myself neutral. In previous teaching, God was described as supreme but in practice I observed that God was often used as an excuse for different behaviors. It appeared to me that some worship activities seemed require a certain amount of college experience. Today I am proud of my current state of religious progress.

We discuss important current events that have had or could have an impact on our everyday living.

We read books that are motivational and inspirational. The current book we are reading is "The Wisdom to know the Difference" by Eileen Flanagan. Every attender, after taking a turn reading, has an undeniable sense of peace and calm. We have something to reflect and meditate on throughout our days when not in meeting for worship.

There are few things I look forward to these days and the Quaker Meeting is one of those things. This is when I am clearly reminded that the dictionary is the only place where success comes before work.

Members that come in from the outside bring such a refreshing and invigorating attitude that it eradicates all the elements of prison life. In looking forward to each and every meeting it is sometimes very difficult to be patient because it is such a rewarding and intriguing experience. Anticipation can be overpowering.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Meeting minutes and committee reports are approved at the monthly meeting. They are printed in the PRISM exactly as approved. Corrections or questions should be addressed at the monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting you may contact Anne Dalton, our clerk, or send an email to [pr.prism@gmail.com](mailto:pr.prism@gmail.com) and your concern will be addressed at the next monthly meeting.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2015  
POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

(Convener designated by \*)

**Clerk** - Anne Dalton

**Assistant Clerk** - Andy Simkin

**Recording Clerk** - David Connelly

**Treasurer** - Jeff Layton

**Musicians** - Claire Howard, Jeffrey Layton, Cathy Mullarney

***Building***

Dill Otis

Jay Ar dai

Kathleen Connelly

Peter Dalton

Dave Eckhardt

Scott Heinekamp

Claire Howard

Paul Simkin

Bill Tyler

Bob Layton

Larry Buffam

Scott Lockhart-consultant

***Bulletin Boards***

\*Stephanie Nelson

Anne Dalton

Sally Otis

***Finance***

\*Andy Simkin

Larry Buffam

Jeff Layton

Suzanne O'Hara

Paul Simkin

***Historical Materials***

\*Jane Simkin

Anne Dalton

***Librarian***

Stephanie Nelson

***Ministry & Counsel***

\*Sally Otis (16)

Karen Brennan (17)

Bess Simkin (18)

Jim Frisch (19)

Charlie Weld (20)

Anne Dalton (ex officio as MM Clerk)

Andy Simkin (ex officio as assistant MM Clerk)

Craig Kukuk (ex officio as pastoral care provider)

***Music***

Rebecca Damiani

Claire Howard

Barry Kahn

Jeff Layton

Cathy Mullarney

***Nominating***

Paul Simkin (16)

Linda Simkin (17)

Sally Otis (18)

Ruth Bradley (19)

***Outreach***

\*Anne Dalton

Dave Connelly

Julie Lockhart

Suzanne O'Hara

Hannah Richter

Christopher Sammond

Bess Simkin

Paul Simkin



***Peace & Social Action***

Larry Buffam  
Trudy Buxenbaum  
Andy Simkin  
Eric Devin  
A.T.Miller  
Suzanne O'Hara  
Dill Otis  
Jane Simkin

***PRISM***

\*Mary Lou Charles  
Laura Buffam  
Scott Heinekamp  
Suzanne O'Hara  
Jane Simkin

***Prison Oversight***

Jim Frisch (Auburn CF)  
Dill Otis (Cayuga CF)

***Religious Education/Youth***

\*Rebecca Damiani  
Kathleen Connelly  
Scott Lockhart  
Sally Otis R  
Rebecca Schillenback  
Charlie Weld

***Remembrances***

Julie Lockhart

***Social***

\*Hannah Richter  
Jay Ardai  
Laura Buffam  
Ann Burch  
Trudy Buxenbaum  
Jim Frisch  
Craig Kukuk  
Suzanne O'Hara  
Janet Shea  
Linda Simkin

***Statistician***

\*Karen Simkin  
Ann Burch



***Telephone Tree/Directory***

\*Sally Otis  
Laura Buffam  
Mary Lou Charles  
David Connelly  
Jane Simkin

***Trustees***

Larry Buffam  
Dill Otis  
Linda Simkin

***Wider Parish Representatives***

\*Ruth Bradley  
Sally Otis

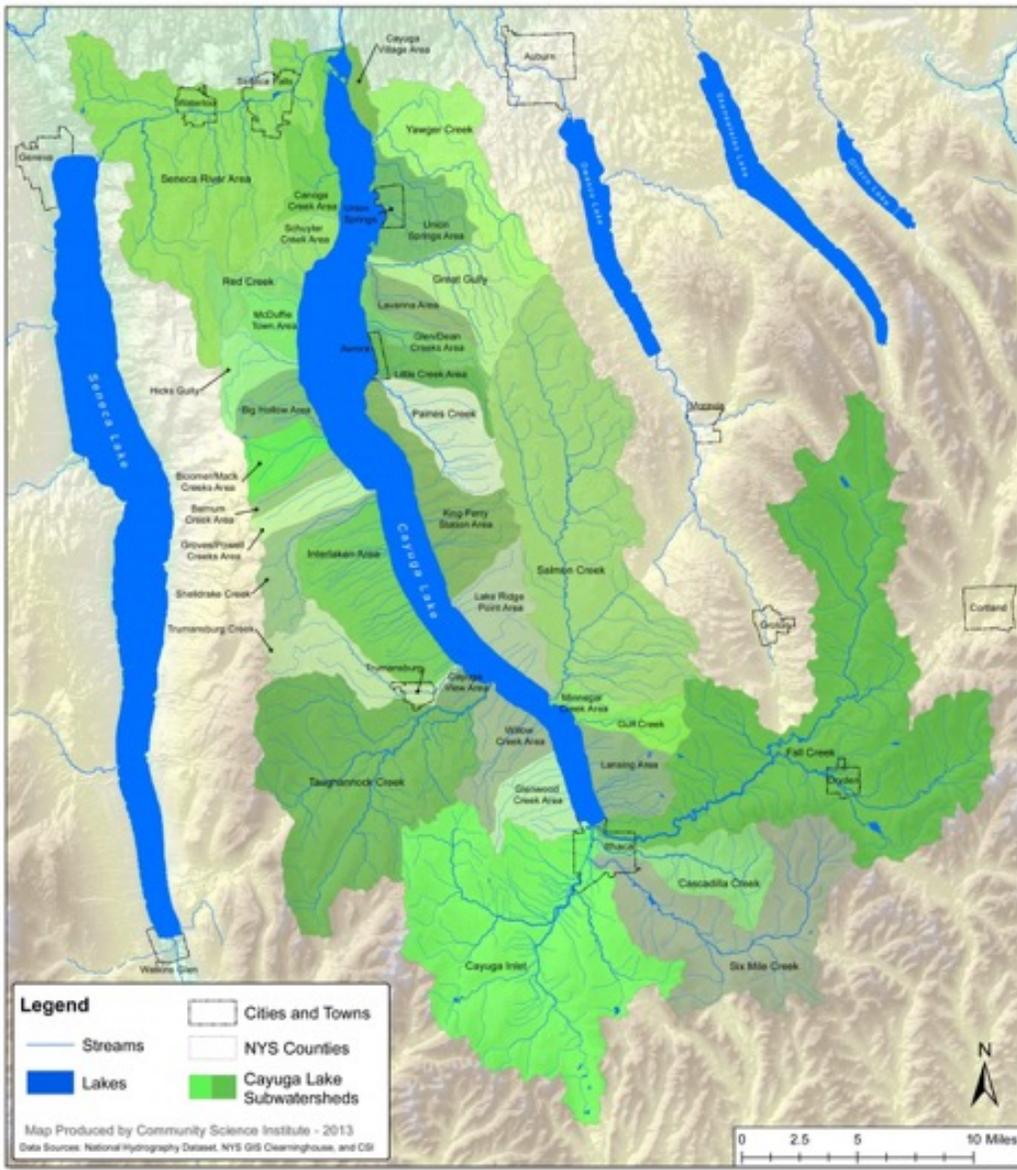
***Yearly meeting Representatives***

\*Ruth Bradley  
Rebecca Schillenback

**PR FINANCIAL ASSETS SNAPSHOT OF 4/19/15, 4/19/14, & 4/19/13**

Accounts	4/19/15	Notes	4/19/14	4/19/13
Operating	\$21,189.66		\$11,168.54	\$7,087.21
General	\$16,345.74		\$16,345.74	\$17,845.74
Searing	\$358.13		\$358.13	\$1,358.13
Memorial	\$321.87		\$321.87	\$7,321.87
Petty Cash	\$800.00		\$580.00	\$0.00
Talcott	\$2,212.06		\$2,212.06	\$2,212.06
Roof	\$250.00	Still owe \$2,934 for roof	\$17,600.00	\$0.00
Youth	\$10,895.63	\$1,393.22 spent for San Pedro Youth trip	\$12,477.99	\$15,477.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,373.09</b>		<b>\$61,064.33</b>	<b>\$51,303.00</b>

**Cayuga Lake Watershed - Major Subwatersheds**



**EMBRACE THE LAKE CLEANUP**

On Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00pm Poplar Ridge Meeting will again be hosting our annual lakefront cleanup project in cooperation with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s “Embrace the Lake” program. All are welcome to participate.

We will meet at the parking area at the bottom of Poplar Ridge Road across from the Wells College ball fields. The network will again provide gloves and trash bags. If it’s a nice day feel free to bring a bag lunch along to enjoy by the lake.



### **POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING**

Clerk – Anne Dalton

Assistant Clerk – Larry Buffam

Treasurer – Jeff Layton

Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk

Recording Clerk – David Connelly

Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Sally 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 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 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](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  
of the Religious Society of Friends  
Poplar Ridge, NY 13139