



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	2 7:30pm Peace & Social Action @ Buxenbaum's	3 5:30pm Friends of Roots Event @ Greenspace, Ithaca, NY.	4	5	6 9am King Ferry Food 8pm Diane Ackerman reads
7 10am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Schillenback	8	9 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	10	11 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas household 7:30pm Spanish Quaker Worship	12 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship 7:00pm Anne Frank Birthday Celebration	13 7pm Merrifield Concert - Josh Harty
14 Flag Day 10am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	15	16 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	17	18	19	20 9am Genoa Food Pantry
21 Father's Day 10am Meeting for Worship - Unprogrammed 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	22	23 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	24 Deadline for PRISM submissions	25 7pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond's	26 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	27
28 10am Meeting for Worship Children's Day message and picnic	29	30				

Anniversaries: 8th Ron and Trudy Buxenbaum; 16th Micheal and Walter Foulke; 28th Paul and Jane Simkin; 29th Brenda Rose Simkin and Bill Mumma

Birthdays: 1st Barbara Bowen, Mark Vorreuter; 3rd Annie Brennan McCleary; 5th Ann Burch, Anne Dalton, Jack Charles, Nancy Evangelista; 8th Ishi Buffam; 12th Andreas Richter; 16th Rebecca Schillenback, Robin Grube; 17th Bruce Berggren-Thomas, George Hebben; 21st Tess Nelson, Delia Hallett; 22nd Bill Mullarney, William John Charles; 23rd Lucas Labatut Pronto; 27th Claire Benton; 30th Aden Weiss

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

POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES FOR MAY 24, 2015

The Monthly Meeting opened with a period of worship about 11:40 a.m. and approved of the minutes from the February meeting.

Attending were Ruth Ann Bradley, Larry Buffam, David Connelly, Anne Dalton, Andrew Simkin, Bess Simkin, Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, and Charles Weld.

We approved minor editing changes to the April minutes.

Anne Dalton reported for Ministry and Counsel Committee that the three clearness committees for Kevin Johnson at Cayuga Correctional Facility met and recommend him for membership. (The reason for three clearness committees, Ruth Bradley said, is to introduce him to more of our meeting's members and attenders and because of the complexity of visit requirements. She added that Ministry and Council was particularly inspired by his letter saying that "for the first time in his life," Ruth said, "he had an experience of the Spirit within himself." His letter requesting membership was read. On the committees were Paul, Ruth, Christopher, Dill, Anne and Jeffrey. After thorough consideration of our responsibility to his spiritual needs, Kevin's membership was approved.

The Building Committee is working on plans for our annual spring cleanup.

We received a thank you letter from Adrienne Torea for supporting her transportation to the upcoming visit to our sister community, San Pedro.

Larry noted that several Regional Meeting committee and clerk positions have not yet been filled. Open is assistant treasurer position, and the following committees: directory, nominating, regional gathering planning, youth activities, NYYM spring sessions planning, and Yearly Meeting nominating committee.

The Meditation Garden is being worked on today.

We closed in with silence at 12:32 p.m.

Submitted by David Connelly, Recording Clerk

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Please join us for our annual Children's Day service on June 28th. The service will be built around a mini play, "The George Fox Story", done by Rebecca Damiani.

A potluck picnic will follow the service at Jay Ar dai and Suzanne O'Hara's farm in Genoa. Please bring your own plates, cups, and utensils. All are welcome!

For directions or more information call [315-497-1542](tel:315-497-1542) or email pr.prism@gmail.com.



THE SOUNDING BOARD

A message of encouragement for the Quaker community at a Poplar Ridge Meeting

Never in my life have I witnessed such a loving and supportive community in action. Your commitment and care for each other are nothing short of remarkable, and I am grateful that God has led me here. As the minister of pastoral care, I wanted to offer my services to you. I am there through your sorrows to provide you and your families with needed support. None of us need to walk this journey alone. I also am there to celebrate those joys that come along in life as well. If you ever need a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, or pastoral counseling please know I am there for you. I also can be a sounding board when those moments arise, as they will, where conflicts, misunderstandings, or unmet needs happen within our meeting. God has no other hands but ours, and I for one am thankful of all the hands at Poplar Ridge.

In the Light

Craig Kukuk

(<mailto:craigkukuk@gmail.com>, 734 717-7719)

NYYM REPS ANNUAL REPORT

Rebecca Schillenback and Ruth Bradley continued this year as our named representatives to NYYM. Individual schedules and family needs made attending spring and fall sessions, as well as Meetings for Discernment, difficult this year, but each of us was able to spend time at summer sessions. Attention to yearly meeting minutes and issues covered in Spark help to keep us up to date with issues.

It is hard to provide a summary of all of the activities of the yearly meeting, but here are some highlights:

- After much heartfelt emotion was expressed and a period of time of deep and trusting searching passed, The Priorities Working Group Report and Priorities Statement was approved at summer sessions*. The implementation phase followed this approval and became a priority of the yearly meeting for Fall and Spring sessions, as there are implications for the financial, staffing and committee structures of the yearly meeting. The details of the report and the recommendations proposed for its implementation are available at the yearly meeting website, nyym.org. The ad hoc group now has been laid down.
- Work to end the effects of racism continues through many efforts. At spring sessions, the body approved joining the host planning team for the **White Privilege Conference** taking place in Philadelphia in the spring of 2016.
- Peace and Environmental concerns continue and once again the yearly meeting will support public actions and endorsed the **Peace and Planet Mobilization** taking place April 24–26 in New York City to encourage renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.
- Plans are being made to establish and fund a **Children and Youth Field Secretary** position, working jointly with New England Yearly Meeting. (Gabi Savory-Bailey (Chatham-Summit meeting) who served the yearly meeting as Young Adult Field Secretary for four years, has requested medical leave.)
- First readings of proposed changes to two sections of *Faith and Practice*: the **Care of**

Gifts and Recording Gifts in Ministry section and the **Spiritual Care of Members** section.

- The yearly meeting budget appears to be on track. The 2014 surplus of \$11,393 was approved at fall sessions 2014 to be carried over to the 2015 budget year.
- Submitted by Ruth Ann Bradley

*Six clear priorities were listed in the Report:

- The development of programs to teach and share our spiritual skills with each other and to help meetings revitalize themselves
- The development programs to help sustain monthly meetings financially and increase membership
- Promote activities to increase contact and spiritual relationship among Friends
- Develop resources to assist meetings in teaching our children, youth and young adults the substance of our faith and practice, and promote actions that better integrate them into the fabric of our community.
- Recognize the yearly meeting's responsibility to be an active voice for Friend's faith, values, ministry and witness in the world
- To have the yearly meeting be an accountable and transparent organization whose structure and operations are well understood by all Friends that make up the Yearly Meeting



ANNE FRANK'S BIRTHDAY

There will be an Anne Frank birthday celebration at SCCS School on Friday June 12th at 7:00 pm. The program will include community service awards, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers (<https://dorothycottonjubileesingers.wordpress.com/>) from Ithaca and speaker Fabina Colon, director of Tompkins County Multicultural Resource Center. Viewing of the tree and refreshments will be served. For more information see <http://sccsannefranktree.org/>.

BUILDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Roof Replacement:

The building committee met four times in 2014:

1. Our first meeting was to establish the specifications for the roof replacement. Those specifications were presented to the bidding contractors.
2. We met at a job site of a residence south of Aurora to inspect the work of contractor Joe Signor.
3. We met at the meeting house to choose the color of the roof and downspouts. We decided to award the bid to Joe Signor.
4. We met to expand the original plan to include the back room and entrance way after an offer was made to donate funds paying for the expanded plan.

The roof of the meeting house has been replaced. A 24 gauge standing seam metal roof covers the main building plus the rear meeting room and the entrance way. The total cost of this project was \$38,050. We currently owe the contractor \$2934.00. Snow accumulation this winter indicated that snow stops are needed on the east side to prevent the snow from sliding onto the handicap ramp. Joe Signor would be able to add those stops for the cost of \$800.00.

Repairs were made to the sign in front of the Meeting House.

Light fixture over the front entrance was replaced.

Projects for consideration in 2015:

- Painting the south end of the meeting house
- Parking lot improvement
- Suggestions for ways to lower the high cost of heating the meeting house
- Refinishing the front porch floor.
- Continue work on the meditation garden.



“We can only be happy now, and there will never be a time when it is not now.”

-- Jampolsky, Gerold G. M.D.

PEACE AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Peace and Social Action Committee met nine times over the past year.

On September 5, the committee conducted a public event titled "Seeking an Earth Restored - an Evening for Environmental Awareness". The event, held in Auburn, featured several local enterprises involved in environmental issues, and drew front-page coverage in the Auburn Citizen newspaper.

The committee welcomed Laurence Clarkberg for a second annual Friends Bike Clinic in the Meetinghouse parking area following meeting on Oct. 5. Environmentally friendly electric bikes were on display and available for test rides.

The committee arranged Soup and Sharing events at the meetinghouse - one with Ann Tiffany and Ed Kinane on the military use of unmanned drones, November 2, and another with Nick Rozard on ceramic water filters, February 8.

We organized a monthly movie-night series featuring the following films:

- The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil (October)
- Voices Across the Divide (December)
- The Wool Cap (January)
- Bella (February)
- Wadjda (March)

The committee also supported a briefing/reception by the Finger Lakes Land Trust, and a presentation on organic farming, both in Auburn, and a briefing/training on civil disobedience in relation to Seneca Lake gas storage, held at the Meetinghouse.

The committee is planning for a Cayuga Lake Clean-up event to be held on May 3.

Members: Andrew Simkin, Suzanne O'Hara, Dill Otis, Jane Simkin, Trudy Buxenbaum, Eric Devin, A.T. Miller, Larry Buffam, Tony Gaenslin, Brian Gregory

COFFEE HOUR

There will be no coffee hours during the summer months. We look forward to joining everyone again for treats and talk in September.



MINISTRY AND COUNSEL ANNUAL REPORT

Committee members: Sally Otis, clerk; Bess Simkin, secretary; Karen Brennen, Jim Frisch, Anne Dalton, as clerk; Larry Buffam, as assistant clerk; Craig Kukuk, pastoral care; (Ruth Bradley until 12/31/14) (Hannah Richter resigned 3/15 due to illness in the family)

Ministry:

In May 2014, Ruth Bradley announced that she would be retiring on December 31, 2014.

Ruth Bradley took a sabbatical leave for three months from June 1 thru August 31, 2014.

The biggest job that lay before us a year ago was to discern how our Meeting would function after the retirement of Ruth in December. At the same time we were functioning without her for three months as she was on sabbatical. It was so helpful to have her return from the sabbatical in September and help us tie up all the loose ends of her almost 14 years of being our pastor. It was with mixed emotions that we accepted her retirement. Ruth has done an exceptional job of being our pastor. Her messages, her loving concern for all, her leadership in so many realms of our Meeting have been cherished and we all knew would be so missed. We as a committee rose to meet this challenge that was before us with the help of the entire Monthly Meeting.

This year we have met monthly and in some months we have met twice.

In July we held a Meeting for Discernment. It was very well attended and most everyone spoke out of the silence to the two queries presented:

*What do you cherish about our Meeting?
What do you envision for the future of our Meeting?*

The overwhelming sense of this Meeting for Discernment was to continue with spoken messages, silence, and music and to maintain our friendliness for all who enter.

AT Miller and Rebecca Schillenback stepped forward offering each of them to provide a message a month. This was approved for a six month period and has now been extended for another six months. The third Sundays have been filled with various folks from our Meeting community. We are very grateful for each one and their willingness to share messages with us. We continue with unprogrammed worship on the 4th Sunday and intergenerational worship on the 5th Sunday.

An honorarium of \$150.00 will be offered to anyone who leads our worship service and prepares a message.

A link has been added to our website <http://www.quaker.org/poplar/> to post the Sunday messages. This allows all of us to access the messages at our convenience.

Another facet of Ruth's pastoral position was providing pastoral care; visits and individual attention to persons in need of support. After discussion with Ruth and conducting research from other Friends Meetings, a proposal was brought to Monthly Meeting to hire a person to fill this position. It was approved. An agreement was drawn up and approved. (See Monthly Meeting minutes for November 16, 2014 and updated on Monthly Meeting minutes for January 18, 2015.) Craig Kukuk has been hired in our pastoral care position. He began on January 1, 2015 for a six month period. We will review this position in June 2015.

We have updated contact information for our Friends Meeting in various publications, outreach material and newspapers to remove Ruth's name as pastor. We have used the clerk's name and phone number and/or pastoral care person's phone number which ever was appropriate.

A midweek worship for Spanish speakers was formed under the care of the Meeting beginning on a Thursday evening in December. They will meet

once a month on the third Thursday of the month. They met on the third Thursday of December, January and March in the Meeting House basement. Attendance varied between 3 and 8 Spanish speakers and equal number from the

Membership: from April 2014 – April 2015

Robin Heinekamp (through his parents), Evan McGonagle and Erika Richter asked to have their memberships changed from associate to full member.

Elizabeth Brice asked to be removed from membership.

Longtime attender, Marguerite Nedrow passed away.

We attempted to make contact with 5 other associate members who are over 18 years of age but have not heard from them.

Two membership clearness committees are in the works. One for Kevin Johnson, inmate at Cayuga Correctional Facility and an attender at the Cayuga Prison Friends Meeting and the other for Craig Kukuk.

A new Directory was finished and is on Laura Buffam's computer. It can be updated easily.

Booklets are available for anyone.

A new phone tree was completed.

Care Committees:

As needs have become known we have set up several Care Committees which provide support for attenders or members of our Meeting upon request.

Pastoral Care:

Craig is working on meeting with individuals in our Meeting community to get to know them and to let them know how he can be of help to them.

This past year has found many in our Meeting community needing various kinds of support.

Serious health issues have occurred. Work bees have been organized, farm chores done, transportation and meals provided, also including other forms of caring support. We have needed to hold all in the Light daily.

This past year with all the changes in our Meeting ministry and personal needs of so many in our community we feel that our Meeting community has become stronger and more vital.



SOUTHERN CAYUGA WIDER PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

Poplar Ridge Friends Monthly Meeting continued to be represented on the Southern Cayuga Wider Parish Committee throughout the year by Ruth Bradley and Sally Otis. There are ten churches represented in the Wider Parish. In addition to our Meeting, member communities include King Ferry Presbyterian Church, United Church of Genoa, United Ministry of Aurora, the Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Scipioville Presbyterian Church, the Seventh Day Adventists Church in Union Springs, and the Union Springs Trinity United Church. Ledyard Methodist Church and Fleming Federated Church have not been as active as in past years.

The group meets regularly, and each church is asked to contribute \$75.00 each year toward expenses.

Activities since our last annual meeting include:

- Sponsorship of the area CROP Walk, raising \$1,656.00, (2015:\$1,706)
- A Thanksgiving Worship service at King Ferry Presbyterian. Their music director, Eric Machan-Howd, planned the service and the music.
- Sponsorship of the selling of SERRV products at the annual craft fair at Southern Cayuga School and rotated through some of the Wider Parish churches
- The annual Lenten Series, the theme of which was "The 3 R's of Lent: Reflection, Repentance, Reconciliation."

- Ongoing support of the Health Tapestry Mission and Ministry Team, which provides home visits and medical collaboration by a parish nurse, and transportation to and from medical appointments, among other things. There is ongoing discussion about how to better support this important ministry.
- Neil Rotach (King Ferry Presb.) offered to compile a cookbook of soup recipes used at Wider Parish suppers if people will send her the recipes. ☐

The group works well together, strengthening the connections among our various local faith communities through our work and programming.

Submitted by Ruth Bradley and Sally Otis
April 2015



“Seek to be love, to be wisdom, to be life,... and let the results take care of themselves”

--Cady, Emile

“FRIENDS OF ROOTS” EVENT

A Palestinian and a Jewish settler will be speaking on Wednesday night, June 3rd at Greenspace, Ithaca, NY. Dinner and text study lead by Rabbi Schlesinger start at 5:30pm. The main event is at 7:00pm. To check on location mszdds@gmail.com

A team of four Friends--Joe DiGarbo, Joe Moore, Ann Wallace-DiGarbo and Nadine Hoover--spent the last few days working with a joint Palestinian - Israeli group called Roots, who are doing the impossible -- hosting joint Israeli - Palestinian gatherings, dialogs and events in the West Bank!

"Friends of Roots" was established in the US to learn about and support their extraordinary work.

Ali Abu Awwad travelled to the US in March 2015. Joe DiGarbo met him at that time and invited him to speak at the Lancaster Friends Meeting and stay in his home, which led to the work here this past week.

Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad are leaving for the US on this Saturday for a speaking tour. The locations, dates and times are listed below and on the Friends of Roots website: <http://friendsofroots.net/roots-leaders-to-visit-us-in-mayjune-2015.html>

We encourage Friends to attend their events, if at all possible.

Pastoral needs or questions:
Call Craig Kukuk at [734-717-7719](tel:734-717-7719).

EVENTS AT MERRIFIELD

On June 13th at 7:00pm, Craig and A.T. will be hosting a concert at their home, Merrifield, 2345 Center Road, Scipio Center, 13147 with Josh Harty. Josh was born and raised out on the North Dakota prairie and writes and sings compelling story-songs in the folk/blues/country tradition of Gordon Lightfoot. Check out that wistful and rich sound at www.joshharty.com and come on over that evening to be with an intimate group of friends to enjoy music together. Newcomers are always welcome, and we also love having our regulars, as do our sheep and chickens. We collect \$15 at the door to support the musicians.

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

DIANE ACKERMAN READS

NY Times Best-selling author Diane Ackerman will be at the Morgan Opera House on Saturday, June 6th at 8 pm. The event is FREE with donations accepted.

Come hear this award-winning Ithaca-based writer read from her many books including *“The Zookeeper’s Wife”*, *“A Natural History of the Senses”* and her most recent landmark book, *“The Human Age”*.

“One of our most adventurous, charismatic and engrossing public science writers.” NY TIMES



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Anne Dalton

Assistant Clerk – Andy Simkin

Treasurer – Jeff Layton

Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney

Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk ([734-717-7719](tel:734-717-7719))

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 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
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Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
Poplar Ridge, NY 13139