

PRISM The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar Ridge Information Sharing Monthly

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00am Meeting for Worship- Rebecca Schillenback	7:00pm FSRM - Dismantling Racism as Quakers	7:00pm Peace and Social Action 7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Claire Howard	7:00pm Youth Committee		7:00pm Midweek Worship			9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
					Farming	ton Scipio Spring
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller Monthly Meeting for Business		7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group		
Gathering (virtual)						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	7:00pm Ministry & Counsel		Deadline for PRISM submissions 7:00pm Midweek Worship			
30	31					
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Intergenerational	Memorial Day					

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, Jeff Turney and Bronwyn Losey

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

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING (PRMM) FOR BUSINESS FOR MARCH 28, 2021

Meeting, via Zoom, began at 11:45. Present were: Christopher Sammond (Clerk), Jane Simkin, Paul Simkin, Charlie Weld, Dill Otis, Sally Otis, Andy Simkin, Claire Howard, Hannah Richter, Suzanne O'Hara, Merrie Elisens, Larry Buffam, John Reed, Rebecca Schillenback, Maryanne Nobin, Jan Burton, Julie Lockhart, Scott Lockhart, Stephanie Nelson, Howard Nelson.

- 1. Minutes from the February meeting for business were read.
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Andy Simkin presented the report prepared by Ruth Bradley.

To date, contributions total \$6,566, 13.4% of our 2021 budget. As the first quarter ends March 31, Ruth will plan to give a budget update at meeting for business in April. Peace & Social Action Committee has reviewed and reported to Finance Committee on the Outside Contributions item. The report was shown on screen; it will be published in Prism. Christopher expressed appreciation for the work of P&SA on this task.

3. M&C: Claire Howard read the report: Ministry and Counsel discussed the issue of Covid safety at the PR Meetinghouse. What protocol would make us safe? Vaccinated people are 94% free of transmission according to latest information. NYS attendance guidelines for church attendance is 33%, so 50 people could attend at PR. Our discussion settled on these recommendations: We encourage people who are vaccinated to come worship in person. We want anyone who feels safe to come. We will all mask and socially distance with the exception of the worship leader who may speak and sing unmasked, and the pianist who may play unmasked. The congregation may sing if masked. The furnace fan will be on to provide ventilation, and it has been fixed to run more quietly. Multiple laptops in use in the meetinghouse at once will

reduce the bandwidth and therefore hamper sound quality. M&C recommends that these suggested guidelines be considered by MMB.

We have settled on a shortened version of Christopher Sammond's piece entitled "Ways of Centering Down to Enter Quaker Worship" to be distributed in the pews at our meetinghouse.

Our Meeting now offers a Prayer List to those who wish to receive prayers and to those who would like to hold others in prayer. Barbara Rhudy will manage these requests which can be emailed to her, and Hannah will explain the prayer list process during the announcements at our meetings for worship.

A new Faith and Practice edition is available. We will ensure that there is a supply of these books in our library.

M&C approved the draft State of Society Report prepared for 2020.

Our Adult Ed series this winter featured three books on systemic racism and was very well attended.

Ministry & Counsel has taken initial steps to arrange a memorial service for Barry Kahn, date and location yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Howard, Clerk, Ministry & Counsel.



State of Society Report was taken up first. Appreciation was expressed for the work that went into the report. Andy Simkin suggested two small edits, which were accepted. The report was approved. Christopher will send it to Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and NYYM. (Copy of report below.)

Recommendations for meeting house safety regarding Covid were taken up. There was extended discussion. The number of 50 for people allowed in the meeting house was questioned; Claire said that number was derived from NYS guidelines. It was decided that we will revisit the allowable number issue as we go along, month by month. The question of children, who are not vaccinated, was raised. Children would be welcome, and should wear masks (as should everyone). It was mentioned that the blue seating markers be observed: we should sit where the blue marks are. Andy Simkin suggested having windows open as possible, and that we acquire some larger window screens. Building Committee was authorized to procure such screens. With these clarifications, the guidelines in the report were approved. The guidelines will be published in Prism, and also sent out as a special email message.

4. Christopher introduced the question of what the "new normal" after the pandemic ends will look like. He noted that decision-making about this will require a long-term threshing process. Will we have a hybrid meeting, combining in-person and remote, permanently? Are we clear that there will be some kind of technological link available from now on?

It was expressed that we are not willing to give up the remote component—though we are aware that we value in-person worship. It was acknowledged that implementation is, and will be, a more complex question. The current experience of sitting in the back of the meeting room with an ordinary laptop was described—it is satisfactory regarding audio, though visual is very limited. Maryanne Nobin, who has been attending remotely from Norway, spoke about her experience, mentioning the importance of not only being able to see and hear, but also to speak. The fact that remote technology offers many new options was mentioned. Concern for not reducing the amount of in-person experience was raised, as it has been in previous discussions of these issues.

Christopher suggested that we consider over the next month the question: "How important is it for those participating via Zoom to be able to see everyone in the meeting house?" We will take up that question when we continue our discussion at the April business meeting.

- 5. Jane Simkin requested use of the meeting house for a gathering after a memorial service for Susan Simkin on May 8, or possibly May 15. It would take place outside, under a tent. Approval was given, the tent to be set up in the grassy area by the meditation garden. Assistance from Social Committee was requested; Hannah Richter will consult with Jane.
- 6. Meeting closed with some silence. Respectfully submitted, Howard Nelson, Recording Clerk



POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT 2020

Query: "How has this year like no other impacted us as a community?"

Members and attenders met via Zoom on February 28, 2021 to assess our state of society during this past year, 2020. We have been unable to meet in person for nearly a year due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, and this huge change has impacted our community both positively and negatively.

Just prior to the lockdown last March we held a retreat at our meetinghouse entitled "Building our Community: Deepening Common Unity, Exploring Quaker Worship" led by Jonathan Vogel-Borne and lasting a day and a half. In hindsight, our physical proximity during the retreat, the ability to interact face to face, fostered a closeness and unity that we have had difficulty replicating for the rest of the year. Worship via Zoom has been a challenge for us all, but we agree that it is better than no worship together at all. One member put it this way: "At first I felt very grateful to see everyone, but the camera has felt intrusive and voyeuristic, making it harder to settle to a deep place. Worship has been challenging. I'm a herd animal. The silence over Zoom is sterile; it is rich at the meetinghouse. Another member said, "There is an erosion of something we have at the meetinghouse. An element of social presence is in jeopardy over Zoom."



Geographically we have enlarged because of remote meetings. Family and friends Zoom in from the west coast, Florida, Norway, Vermont, New York City, Pennsylvania, etc. They have expressed gratitude and appreciation for the ability to connect with our Meeting; it has supported and sustained them during times of illness, loss, and isolation. But locally our youth community suffers from a lack of in-person contact with us and from "Zoom fatigue." Some multigenerational Sunday worship programs on Zoom have been heartwarming, entertaining, and fun for all, but they were no substitute for the real thing. We miss the children, and they miss us. Our community outreach has ground to a halt. We had one demonstration to protect the vote, but we could have done more in the community without lockdown. Inreach, however has been thriving as we are just beginning our third adult education series on systemic racism. Intensive study and discussion of three books on the topic continues to lead us to a far deeper understanding of racism,

and that understanding has and will lead to greater activism. Attendance at our sessions has averaged 30-35 persons per week which is more than have attended in past adult ed series at the meetinghouse. Also inspirational have been our regular worship leaders. In spite of (perhaps because of?) personal losses, tribulations, and challenges, these Friends have delivered messages about love and hope over these past months that have nurtured and sustained us. Our gratitude goes out to them. Our Pastoral Care person as well has worked tirelessly meeting the multitude of needs in our community.

Our holiday traditions have been sorely missed: The Shepherds' Play, the Children's Christmas Pageant, Children's Day in June, Graduation Celebration. Also eating together, singing together, chatting after worship services, visiting our homebound elders, gardening together, and more, no doubt!

However, our absence at the meetinghouse has enabled our industrious and talented Building Committee to address repairs and renovations, including heating systems, insulation, replacement windows, siding renewal, and painting. We are amazed and grateful for this work and dedication. Our continued monetary contributions have ensured financial stability this past year as well as supporting these building improvements.

And so we have pivoted toward things we CAN do during these hard times: Faithfully worshiping and meeting together remotely in spite of the drawbacks, finding time to read, meet and discuss important societal issues, tending to one another by phone, text, email and facetime, cards and letters, renovating our patiently waiting meetinghouse, and giving generously with time and money to aspects of our community that we value. Our flexibility, nimbleness, and resourcefulness are strengths that have become evident during a very difficult year. In the words of a member, "I thought the pandemic would destroy us. But our community has come together!"

We are blessed by the presence and power of the Spirit in our Meeting, made manifest in the love and caring we share for one another.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Howard, clerk Ministry and Counsel



MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING (PRMM) FOR BUSINESS FOR APRIL 18, 2021

Meeting, being held both in person and via Zoom, began at 11:50. Present were: Howard Nelson, Larry Buffam, Jane Simkin, John Reed, Suzanne O'Hara, Phyllis Bunker, Andy Simkin, Julie Lockhart, Scott Lockhart, Ruth Bradley, Charlie Weld, Jan Burton, Rebecca Schillenback (attending from home); Christopher Sammond (Clerk), Dill Otis, Paul Simkin, Sally Otis, Craig Kukuk, Claire Howard, A.T. Miller, Hannah Richter (attending at the meeting house).

1. Minutes from the March meeting were read. Howard Nelson commented that he felt that the establishment of the on-line prayer circle was something that should have come before monthly meeting for consideration, rather than being decided by Ministry & Counsel. Christopher clarified that there is no online prayer circle, that the prayer list is only a list of people requesting prayer, and a separate list of people who have volunteered to hold others in the Light as needed.

Jane Simkin requested that each person speaking identify themselves before speaking.

2. Christopher Sammond asked Larry
Buffam to bring forward
recommendations from the
Nominating Committee. Before
presenting the list of nominations,
Larry read the Nominating
Committee's annual report. The list
of nominees was presented on-screen.
Members in the meetinghouse were
provided hard copies. Larry
commented on some of the changes
represented in the list. Time was
taken for Friends to read and consider

the list. Various questions were raised and responded to. The proposed list of nominees was approved and the meeting appointed those Friends for the next year's service..



- 3. Annual Committee Reports:
- Julie Lockhart gave the annual report from the Youth Committee. (This and other committee reports are attached below.) Approved.
- Andy Simkin gave the report from the Building Committee. Approved.
- Hannah Richter gave the report from the Social Committee for Trudy Buxenbaum. Approved.
- Howard Nelson read the annual report from the Peace & Social Action Committee for Trudy Buxenbaum. Dill Otis suggested adding to the report the demonstration for every vote being counted, which took place at the Human Rights Heritage Center in Auburn after the Presidential election. This demonstration was organized by an ad hoc group with connections to P&SA, in conjunction with the "Choose Democracy" initiative. This addition and the report were approved.
- Bulletin Board Committee: due to there having been limited activity in the

- meeting house during the pandemic, there was no report.
- Andy Simkin gave the report for the Finance Committee.
- Ruth Bradley gave the Treasurer's annual report. She then gave a budget update:
- contributions to date total \$8,856 (18% of our 2021 budget), as compared with \$6,391 in 2020 and \$8,361 in 2019. The report was approved. Appreciation was expressed for Ruth's service as treasurer above and beyond the call of duty and beyond the term originally agreed to.
- Ruth Bradley gave the report for the Remembrances Committee. Approved.
- Ruth Bradley gave the report for the Gardens Committee. Approved.
- Jane Simkin gave the report for the Historical Materials Committee. Approved.
- Hannah Richter gave the Statistician's Report for Karen Simkin. Approved.
- Howard Nelson gave the report of the Library Committee for Stephanie Nelson. Approved.
- Claire Howard gave the report for the Music Committee for Cathy Mullarney. Approved.
- Claire Howard gave the report for the Ministry & Counsel Committee. A couple of small points were noted and revised in the report, which was then approved.
- Rebecca Schillenback gave the report for the Outreach Committee. Approved.
- Sally Otis gave the report for the Communications Committee. Suzanne

O'Hara added a note about the newly established Prayer List. Approved.

- Dill Otis gave the report for Prison
 Oversight. He added the list of Friends
 participating: Dill Otis, Anne Dalton,
 Jeff Layton, and Phyllis Bunker, at
 Cayuga CF; Jim Frisch remains the
 contact for Auburn CF. Approved.
- Sally Otis gave the report as representative to Wider Parish. Approved.
 - 4. Jane Simkin proposed the creation of an ad hoc committee to address the situation of having a "divided meeting," i.e., the situation of combined remote and in-person worship. Discussion ensued. Christopher noted the fatigue factor in an extended meeting, and said he didn't think that Friends had the energy to take up that issue at the time. He asked the meeting if his sense of this was correct, and the meeting indicated that this was the case. The issue of hybrid worship will be further discussed at the next monthly meeting for business, along with the question that Friends were previously asked to think about: "How important is it for those participating via Zoom to be able to see everyone in the meeting house?" It was noted that M&C will be discussing these issues at their next meeting, in one week. Jane reiterated her sense of urgency, and requested that she be recorded as standing aside, not in unity with the decision not to appoint a committee at this time.
 - 5. Meeting closed at 2:10 with some silence.

Respectfully submitted, Howard Nelson, Recording Clerk



ANNUAL REPORTS:

Building Committee

Committee Membership: Larry Buffam, Kathleen Connelly, Peter Dalton, Dave Eckhardt, Dill Otis, Paul Simkin, Scott Lockhart-consultant, Mark Ferrari, Andy Simkin (clerk), Sigrid Mortensen, Jodi Gunderson, Ben Janssen

The Building Committee held three meetings this year – June 7, 2020, August 23, 2020, and November 2, 2020. Members of the committee also participated in various work sessions, many of which included informal discussions of work projects on the Meetinghouse.

We have had a good year as a committee, with a strong volunteer spirit, enabling the building committee to accomplish more than we had expected to be able to do.

All of the committee's work during the year was conducted with careful sensitivity to the need for Covid-19 protection - social distancing, masking, and other measures to keep each other safe.

The main project for the committee was the removal and replacement of the siding and windows from the south and west sides of the building's south extension, as well as the vestibule. This is the portion that houses the kitchen, bathrooms, and library. During the

demolition phase we discovered that there were portions of the walls that held blown-in cellulose insulation, but most of the wall area was uninsulated. We removed the cellulose and installed mineral wool insulation, with a thickness equating to an insulation level of about R-17 in parts of the walls, and R-23 in parts with wider framing. Then we installed plywood sheathing and plastic housewrap, then fiber-cement siding. New double-pane windows were installed. The exterior trim was replaced by rot-resistant boards, some of cedar and others of Azek, a 100% recycled plastic product. This work was performed by meeting members and a young volunteer, Cole Simkin-Boyar.

As part of the exterior project, parts of the stone foundation wall were rebuilt and re-pointed.

The building committee also coordinated installation by Verizon of fiber-optic internet service for the meetinghouse, and coordinated with the Halco company for installation of an air-source heat pump system for heating and cooling the south extension of the meetinghouse, on both levels. A Meeting volunteer installed the electric cable for the heat pump, reducing the cost of installation. The committee installed a catwalk through the meetinghouse attic, north to south, to facilitate any needed work there. Scrap lumber from the exterior demolition was used for this.



During the winter months, committee members performed various tasks in the basement and kitchen areas. Interior trim was installed around all the new windows, and caulked and painted, as were window trim and sills in the dining room. The two doors from the dining room to the kitchen were repaired and repainted. The double doors to the children's room were repaired so that they no longer scrape the floor, and can easily be operated. The existing counter and wainscoting along the south wall of the kitchen were removed and replaced, with new framing, insulation and mouseproofing screens underneath. The new south counter and adjacent table on the east side of the kitchen have been resurfaced with ceramic tile. Thanks to a generous donation by the Buxenbaum and Otis families, a new refrigerator has been acquired and delivered. The chair rack in the dining room has been re-configured to hold the newer black plastic chairs. The basement floors were scrubbed.

Some measures were also taken to enhance the safety of building occupants during the pandemic. The upstairs furnace now pulls its supply air through enhanced air filters to screen out small particles, and has been set to operate in continuous fan mode on Sunday mornings, circulating and filtering air independently of whether the heat is on. A new combination lock was installed on the east door, to facilitate direct entry to the upstairs without transiting the basement. Six new window screens were procured, 20 inches in height, (taller than the prior screens), to allow more air circulation during the warmer months. Proposals for additional ventilation and filtration measures were developed, but action was deferred.

Further work yet to be addressed by the committee includes potential closet/storage space to be added in the basement. The west kitchen counter area will be insulated, reframed and resurfaced, and more painting

will be done in the kitchen. Baseboards and backsplashes need to be installed. A cabinet will be installed around the water heater in the downstairs bathroom, and the lighting in that bathroom will be improved. Additional trim will be installed and painted around the east basement window exteriors. We will be monitoring humidity in the summer, to see whether the new heat pumps can dehumidify the interior air sufficiently without use of a dehumidifier.

Larger projects under consideration for the future include installation of a mechanical lift, for accessible transport between levels, and possible re-siding and insulation of the west exterior wall.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew Simkin, Clerk



Bulletin Board Committee
The Bulletin Board Committee was inactive during the pandemic.
Stephanie Nelson, Clerk

Communication Committee

Internet: Opportunities began this summer for high-speed internet at the Meeting House. People knowledgeable in this field created a subcommittee of technology. The ideas they formulated were brought to monthly meeting for our consideration. The following report thanks to Andy Simkin, Scott Lockhart, and Christopher Sammond describes the new

technology for our Friends Meeting. These improvements have facilitated our continual connection through Zoom.

Andy Simkin reports the following: The Meetinghouse contracted with Verizon for installation of fiberoptic internet service, in September 2020. Actual speed of the service was recently tested at 38 megabytes per second, for both downloading and uploading. This is sufficient to comfortably transmit and receive video. The cost of the service is \$71 monthly.

Scott Lockhart reports the following: In the Fall (2020), we purchased and installed an Asus RT-AC5300 router in the library and connected it to our new FIOS internet. This \$300 router was chosen because it had enough Wi-Fi range enabling its 2.4GHz signal to cover the entire meetinghouse; it can even reach to the garden out back. This router also supports 5GHz connections for higher speed data but the range on that is much less. The password (for both 2.4GHz and 5GHz Wi-Fi) is: guestprfm

Christopher Sammond has donated a microphone to enhance the music over Zoom. Two small speakers were located in the vestibule and are being used to allow the people in the Meeting House to hear those worshiping remotely.

Facebook by Julie Lockhart:

Poplar Ridge Facebook Page. Because not many Poplar Ridge members actively use Facebook, the Poplar Ridge Facebook page functions more as an outreach tool than a way to communicate internally with the Poplar Ridge Friends community. Because of the pandemic, local events open to the public have not been happening so there isn't a lot to promote for the immediate community. When such events do occur, such as the Thanksgiving and Christmas promotions for King Ferry Food Pantry, those are shared. The FB Admin

regularly posts NYYM newsletters and "Quaker Speaks" videos when they are available. A person who lives in the local area and who is comfortable with FB would be a welcome addition to or replacement for the current FB Admin. "Insider" knowledge of the local area would be most valuable for this type of social media outreach.

Directory by Laura Buffam:

This year, using information provided to me by various people in the meeting, I have updated the meeting directory as needed. Thank you all for keeping me informed.

To keep the directory up to date I depend on people letting me know of changes, so please let me know if your address, email, phone number or other information has changed. A digital copy of the updated meeting directory (in pdf format) is available on request. For those who don't have a printer available I can print and mail you a hard copy.

To report changes or request a current copy of the directory please send an email to laurabuffam@gmail.com.

Phone tree by Sally Otis:

David Connelly and I updated the phone tree. It was useful during the stay-at-home order when the callers checked in on their calling list. This was helpful to stay in touch.

PRISM: Suzanne O'Hara

We currently send 171 PRISMs by email. 13 paper PRISM's have been mailed monthly by Dill and Sally Otis. Scott Heinekamp has copies made at Wells College that we mail . . We have had a PRISM go out for every month of the year. The pr.prism@gmail.com email has been monitored regularly with messages redirected to the appropriate group or person as necessary. The google group poplar-ridge-friends@googlegroups.com is also used for communications with the full community. Announcements from outside

PRMM that are requested to be sent to our community are received and distributed with approval from the clerks of meeting and M&C as necessary.

Web Page: by Suzanne O'Hara There were problems with accessing https://quaker.org/legacy/poplar/ over the last year due to issues with http://quaker.org. It has been attempted to keep current with messages and PRISM newsletters, but dates are often slow due to Suzanne's schedule. She has been unable to complete our new site https://poplarridgefriends.org/ and has been trying to locate someone else to take over this task

Submitted by: Sally Otis



Finance Committee - Annual Report, 2020-2021
The Finance committee was made up of Ruth
Bradley (Treasurer), Larry Buffam, Suzanne
O'Hara, Andy Simkin (Clerk) and Paul Simkin.
The Committee met, via Zoom virtual
conferencing, on May 27, 2020, October 21,
2020, and January 12, 2021.

In the May meeting, the committee discussed potential financial impacts of the pandemic, and concluded that no major impacts were apparent. The committee also discussed costs of the planned work on the building's exterior, concluding that the Capital Expense Fund would be sufficient to fund that work.

In the October meeting, the committee coordinated arrangements for the annual

financial appeal letter, which was drafted as a message from the full committee, rather than from the Treasurer. The committee also began planning for the 2021 budget process. Committee members then worked together to prepare and mail the letters.

The committee then sought input from other committee clerks regarding anticipated expenses for 2021, for shaping the 2021 budget. The committee worked together by email and in a January 12, 2021 meeting, to prepare a draft budget, which was subsequently submitted to the monthly meeting for approval. The committee recommended an increase in the total amount of the meeting's outside charitable contributions, and a review of the recipients of those contributions. These recommendations were approved, and the subsequent review of contributions by the Peace and Social Action Committee and by the Meeting as a whole led to some good changes, including the addition of more local non-profit organizations as recipients of support.

Committee activity during the year was productive and collegial. Ruth Bradley continued to do commendable work as Treasurer throughout the year. Respectfully submitted, Andrew Simkin, Clerk

Gardens Committee

Committee Members: Ruth Bradley, Anne Dalton, Peter Dalton, Claire Howard, Benjamin Janssen, Leigh McGonagle, Linda McGonagle, Stef McGonagle, Hannah Richter 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.

Due to the pandemic, we communicated by email and text, but did not have a face-to face meeting. Also, we were not able to have large group clean-up days, but small groups and single individuals came on their own time to do weeding and other garden maintenance tasks. We are grateful to Leigh McGonagle and her crew for the heavier and more time-consuming work of fall and spring clean-up. She and her staff have volunteered their time to freshen beds and prune, which is a big help.

In 2020, we received a gift of \$1,500 to be added to our garden fund, which is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Ann Bradley



Historical Materials Annual Report
There was no formal historical activity during
the past year.
Jane Simkin

Library Committee Report

The Library Committee added a shelf dedicated to awareness of Black lives. Many Friends have lent relevant books. Barry Kahn contributed This is Your Time by Ruby Bridges. A Hard Road to Justice, Tony Gaenslen's book is also available. On the general shelves were added: A Force More Powerful by Ackerman and Duvall; The Agitators by Dorothy Wickenden; Deep Denial by David Billings, and A Procession of Friends by Daisy Newman. Stephanie Nelson, Clerk

Ministry and Counsel Annual Meeting Report 4/18/21Members of M&C: Phyllis Bunker, Claire Howard (clerk), Suzanne O'Hara, Dilwyn Otis, Jane Simkin, and Ex-officio: Craig Kukuk (pastoral care provider), Hannah Richter (assistant clerk of MMB), and Christopher Sammond (clerk of MMB)

Members of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel committee met together on twelve (12) occasions between 4/27/2020 and 3/22/2021. The clerk and assistant clerk of the Meeting and the pastoral care provider joined M&C's five members for most of their meetings. All M&C committee meetings and all Meetings for Worship were held via Zoom. The Ministry and Counsel committee discussed on a monthly basis many issues regarding remote (Zoom) Meetings for Worship and Covid safety at the Meetinghouse, at times bringing recommendations to Monthly Meeting for Business. A member of M&C committee regularly hosted the programmed Meetings for Worship on Zoom. During the year, M&C organized three adult education series focusing on systemic racism: in October David Billing's book, "Deep Denial" was studied and discussed; in January and February Ibram Kendi's "How to Be an Anti-Racist" was presented with the assistance of Peace and Social Action committee, and for two weeks in March Bryan Stevenson's book, "Just Mercy" was discussed. Adult ed attendance averaged well at 32. M&C continued to document attendance at Meeting for Worship. The average attendance this past year was 45. The highest attendance was 65 and the lowest 26. Programmed Sundays were better attended than unprogrammed Meetings for Worship. During the 2020-2021 year, two members regularly brought prepared messages to Meeting for Worship, each providing leadership and a message monthly. Thirteen members of our Meeting brought prepared messages or participated in programming in some way over the year. In the late Fall the M&C committee held annual reviews with the

two regular worship leaders and also with the pastoral care provider, each separately. No changes were made, and a report was made to Monthly Meeting for Business, including the recommendation that the pastoral care provider's contract be approved for 2021. The M&C committee prepared a State of Society report which was approved by the Monthly Meeting for Business on 3/28/21 before being forwarded to NYYM.Outreach under the care of M&C was different this past year due to the Covid pandemic. There was no ministry allowed at the correctional facilities. Worship in Spanish was put on hold. Mid-week worship was held via zoom with more participation from distant attenders. Men's and Women's Spiritual Nurture Groups met over Zoom on a regular basis, men's group weekly and women's every 2 weeks. In support of individual members' search for well-being, work in ministry, and/or witness in the world, the M&C committee made appointments and supervised several care and clearness committees. One care committee was laid down due to the death of a member of our Meeting.

Two new initiatives were undertaken by the M&C committee this year: a Prayer List was initiated for those who wish to receive prayers and for those who wish to hold others in prayer, and a guide to centering in Quaker worship was prepared and distributed to PR pews.

Respectfully submitted, Claire Howard, clerk



Music Committee Annual Report 2020-21

The music committee met sporadically as needed throughout this pandemic year via Zoom and phone in various combinations of members and in conjunction with Ministry and Counsel. We provided opinions and guidance in an effort to maintain good quality music through zoom that would enhance the spiritual life of the meeting. In February 2021, pianists began playing again for Meetings in the Meeting House, still on Zoom. We appreciate the patience the Meeting has shown as we worked our way through the various artistic and technological challenges we faced over the past year.

We will continue to facilitate coordination with speakers and special events, as music is an important part of the life of the Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting, and as life begins to slowly return to its pre-COVID state.

Committee Members: Cathy Mullarney – Clerk , Claire Howard, Sigrid Mortensen, Rebecca Damiani, Ben Janssen

Musicians: Claire Howard, Mary Jo Granger, Jeffrey Layton, Cathy Mullarney

With gratitude, Respectfully submitted, Cathy Mullarney – Clerk



Nominating Committee Report April 18, 2021
The nominating committee this year consisted of Christopher Sammond, Joanne Brumm and Larry Buffam, clerk. Christopher is rotating off

the committee at this time and we are looking for one or two volunteers to join us for next year.

Our committee feels like our work of connecting with all the meeting's members and attenders is a real opportunity for speaking of the meeting more broadly than just committee assignments. It has provided an opening for outreach in many conversations. We find joy in these conversations and appreciate this opportunity to talk to Friends.

One thing we have been thinking about as we discuss committees at the Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting is the growing distances at which many members live from Poplar Ridge. In light of our experiences of the virtual meetings of the past year, we wonder if committees might find it useful to conduct at least some of their meetings virtually in the future? We could anticipate advantages in less fossil fuel consumption and in more efficient use of (member's) (members') time. We believe it would also make it possible for those living at a distance to take a more active role in the life of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Buffam, clerk

Outreach Committee

Due to the pandemic, the Outreach Committee's activities were on an unofficial hiatus throughout 2020. However, we observe that the Social and Peace and Social Action committees' own numerous activities and accomplishments often overlapped with Outreach concerns, as did the Meeting's and Ministry and Counsel's continued efforts and discernment regarding hybrid worship and internet connectivity in the meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Schillenback

Peace and Social Committee report 2020-2021
This report covers a year full of Zoom
meetings, with one exception in the summer on

a front porch with masks. We met monthly on the first Tuesday.

The Fall meetings focused on the elections with members working in various ways to help with voter registration and political campaigns. A recurring discussion in our meetings was how to respond to people when confronted with aggressive comments. Something as simple as "I don't see it that way "could help.

We organized a virtual FCNL presentation on January 10th with Ashley Wilson. Ashley shared strategic opportunities for Friends to impact public policy in line with Quaker values.

Later in January we co-sponsored with Ministry and Counsel a 5 week Sunday discussion of "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram Kendi.

In February and March our meetings focused on recommendations for outside contributions for the Monthly Meeting.

In March we showed the film "Just Mercy" which was followed by 2 Sunday discussions. Our meetings have offered participants an opportunity to share news of events and topics of interest to them including the following - Choose Democracy, Justin Murphy, of Rochester Meeting, presentation of redlining and racial problems in Rochester, Anne Frank book read and discussion of "The Hate You Give", Poor People's Campaign, George Lakey's responses to election, and Claire Grady going off to Alderson Federal Prison for 6 months. The technology of Zoom has allowed us to stay safe and in touch all year.

Submitted by Trudy Buxenbaum for Peace and Social Committee



Prison Worship Group

During this past year Cayuga Correctional Facility suspended all visitor activities due to the danger of spreading COVID-19. It has not been possible for outside Friends to join with the men inside for our Prison Worship Group. Friends listed by The Department of Corrections (DOC's) as Volunteers are not allowed to communicate directly with inmates. Others in our Friends Meeting however have maintained communication with inside attendees. A recent communication received from The Supervisor of Volunteers at (DOC's) indicates that volunteers should prepare for the resumption of programs. This gives us hope that we can again worship together. Dillwyn Otis

Annual Report of Remembrances - April 2021 Each year, one or two persons are appointed to be responsible for remembrances. Ruth Ann Bradley served for 2020.

On behalf of the meeting community, those appointed send cards or notes to members and attenders on significant occasions, such as illness, death in the family, a special anniversary or accomplishment, as sometimes noted in our joys and concerns.

Currently, birthday cards are no longer sent routinely, but because we were meeting remotely, I did sometimes send birthday cards as a way of saying, "We're thinking of you on this special day!" Respectfully submitted, Ruth Ann Bradley



Social Committee Report for 2020-2021
It has been an exceptional year to navigate Social activities with social distancing and masks.

Our only in person gathering was on September 26th when many attended Craig and A.T.'s annual Fall Fest.

October 24th - our zoom team of Suzanne,
Susan Deacon and Andy stepped up to bring us together for all of our Saturday Night
Gatherings. The first program on the 24th was "Traveling in Scotland" with Claire, Rob,A.T., and Craig.

November 21st- showing of film "Quaker's, the Quiet Revolutionaries".

December- Secret Friends was organized to share joy and surprise for our attenders, plus many others.

January 30 th - singing and chanting with Paulette Meier

February 27th- An evening of poetry and stories shared by many.

March 12th- film "Just Mercy"

April 24th- A.T.and Craig will be presenting a slide show of their Pilgrimage to Vezelay in France.

The committee is extremely grateful for everyone who stepped up with ideas and programs for all of us to enjoy during our pandemic year.

Submitted by Trudy Buxenbaum for Social Committee.

Youth Committee Annual Report

'20 – '21 Active Members: Scott Lockhart , Julie Lockhart, Sally Otis, Charlie Weld, others. Cathy Mullarney: Music support and major planning for 5th Sundays and Children's Day

New Committee beginning in May 2021: We have learned that Joanne Brumm will join us on the Youth Committee this coming year. Other new members may be identified in the near future. We are grateful for an infusion of new ideas and energy. We have not had an official clerk for the past year, although Scott and Julie Lockhart have served informally in that capacity.

Activities this pandemic year: The committee generally met virtually the second Monday of each month.

- · Any interaction with our children primarily happened virtually, or via the US postal service when the committee sent families of young children notes or invitations to upcoming events.
- · We could not hold our annual YSOP trip, Halloween Carnival or Christmas Pageant.
- · Virtual Children's Day was held on June 28, 2020. Youth Committee members and other helpers visited children at their homes before that date, bringing marigolds grown by Dill Otis, and snacks that would be typical of a regular Sunday First Day School. Wystan Gunderson received a Bible. High school graduates had a special get-together with a drive-through "parade" at the meetinghouse past waving, noisy Quakers! Graduates recognized were Patrick Connelly, Alex Arpino, Jairo Velasquez, and Alonzo Lopez. The theme

of Children's Day was "Resilience in Community" and included a slideshow featuring the home visits and graduation parade. Cathy Mullarney read a story and provided all the music.

- · The Youth Committee interviewed the children about their summers, and shared their stories in Prism.
- · The Youth Committee planned two 5th Sunday Intergenerational Meetings for Worship. In September, Cathy Mullarney presented the largely musical theme of "Together in Spirit." Julie Lockhart presented the January theme of "Winter and Waiting."
- · An informal, indoor Egg Hunt for the children took place for the week starting Easter Sunday afternoon, with young families invited to come separately to maintain safety.
- · Planning for Children's Day 2021 is ongoing. Annual Report Respectfully Submitted by Scott and Julie Lockhart

INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

Sunday, May 30th, worship will be a family friendly format. Worship will start with a brief story, songs and sharing of thoughts. We encourage everyone to be prepared to create a picture during silent worship to share with the meeting.



MEN'S SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUP NEWS

The Men's Spiritual Nurture group has returned to a schedule of meeting monthly. The next meeting will be on May 20. Meeting time is now 7 pm (changed from 7:30). As with other groups, this is a time of transition, and figuring out what life will be like as the pandemic (hopefully) recedes. Our intention is to meet in person at the meeting house, but with Zoom available for those who are not ready for in-person meeting. The Zoom link will continue to be sent. Those gathering in the meeting house will observe distancing protocol. The group continues to be open and welcoming to anyone new who would like to attend.

PRMM ZOOM MEETINGS

Here is the <u>zoom</u> information for attending meetings remotely. Click on an url below or call on your phone. You may be asked to install an app or answer some questions when using zoom for the first time, so plan to make the connection to the meeting a little early. Email <u>pr.prism@gmail.com</u> if you need assistance.

Joining by phone

You can join any meeting by phone by calling the number (646) 558 8656. You will then need to enter the Meeting ID and Password for the meeting listed below.

Joining with computer, tablet or smartphone Meeting for Worship: Sundays 10am

- https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd
 =OGxRTlcvL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09
- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

Men's Spiritual Nurture: Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89032629023?pwd=aUx3 Y01vU1ZxRHVtZk9vU2s1WUxVdz09

- Meeting ID: 890 3262 9023
- Passcode: 923814

Women's Meeting: Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. The 3rd Tuesday is Spiritual Nurturing, the 1st for check-in and support.

- https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87120285652?pwd =eihrNzJwWkpKOWo5L0QwcWlzSkptZz09
- Meeting ID: 871 2028 5652
- Passcode: 925330

Midweek Worship: Every Wednesday at 7pm. Meeting begins with check-in and support.

 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87873154230?pwd =SHhPOWxHbG1FYU9xR093eFpXNXo0UT 09

Meeting ID: 878 7315 4230

• Passcode: 584140

WORSHIP IN THE MEETINGHOUSE

The sanctuary will be heated and open each Sunday for those who feel led to worship in the Meetinghouse in person. There will be someone to provide a zoom worship connection. The pews are marked with blue tape to indicate where you or your group should sit for appropriately distanced seating. Remember to wear a mask and remain socially distanced even when visiting after the rise of meeting. Contact Hannah (hannahrichter79@gmail.com) for more information.

FARMINGTON SCIPIO SPRING GATHERING (virtual)

May 14-16



Friends, our theme this year isn't words: it's an Image. Our "Image" is provided in this message. The "Image" here is showing the Intersectionality of Racial Justice, Economic Justice and Climate Justice. The twining vines and leaves that surround the circles show all of our Regions Meetings work joined (inward and outward) in Spirit. This will be the focus of the Regional Spring Gathering. Using this image - We ask that All Clerks of Meetings, Interest/Affinity groups, ARCH, Prison Worship groups, Youth and Young Adults and additional Friends. discuss what is rising in your Meetings. What Leadings-issues, actions

and interests are currently rising for all.? This "image" will grow larger- with the Regions input. BE CREATIVE- Create a vine or leaf labeled with your Meetings actions, leadings, work, recent books read and hopes for the future. We want to hear from the Youth, Young Adults and Elders as well. This is a chance for discussion and to learn what is rising for all. The "Image" will become a Virtual Art Project. Complete your leaf/vine with the concern/issues that are rising within the Racial, Economic, and Climate Justice areas.Many leaves are welcome.Please send your "Budding" ideas to Mary Klaus at klausmc29@gmail.com by March 28, 2021 for "Grafting" onto the Region's Working Justice vine.

Beverly G. Ward has accepted the FSR invitation as the plenary speaker and will be with us throughout the Spring Gathering weekend. Beverly is the field secretary for Earthcare, Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and co-clerks of the Quaker Earthcare Witness United Nations Working Group. She is an experiential workshop facilitator trained in conflict transformation, mediation, strategies on healing for trauma, and personal growth. She is an Alternatives to Violence Project facilitator and helps to provide community and prison workshops. We are grateful and welcome her to share her rich experiences with us.

If you have any questions, please ask Mary. We hope that you have creative enriching fun with this. More information to come soon. https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/orchard-park-friends-meeting/announcements/farmington-scipio-spring-gathering-virtual-may-14

FCNL LETTER WRITING

• Environmental Justice for All

There is a divine ecology at work in the world that calls us to live in accordance with the "design of creation," as John Woolman puts it. Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL, believes that legislation supporting environmental justice for all can bring us closer into alignment with that sacred ecology. It will return the right to a healthy environment for low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, who have been unjustly deprived of that right for decades.

On March 18, Rep. Donald McEachin (VA-04), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03), and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (IL) reintroduced the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021), which aims to advance environmental justice and health equity for all underserved communities. Urge your legislators to co-sponsor the Environmental Justice for All Act today.

Please act using the <u>accompanying letter</u> template, call script, and this <u>email</u> template. Add 2-4 sentences letting your member know why you are personally concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your representative's and senators' offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours. You can also use this <u>link to submit a letter-to-the-editor to your local paper!</u>

• Help Stop Voter Suppression

On January 6, 2021, a white supremacist mob tried to overthrow our democracy.

Attacks on voting rights and our democracy are part of a long history of intentional disenfranchisement. They are just the latest attempts to silence the voices and political power of Black people and other people of color. This is unacceptable and we cannot wait for change.

The House Oversight and Reform Committee has voted to advance legislation that would make Washington, D.C. the nation's 51st state (H.R. 51). This paves the way for a vote by the full House — possibly as soon as next week.

Congress must no longer exclude D.C. residents from the democratic process. D.C. residents should no longer have to sit on the sidelines as decisions are made that impact them directly. They deserve full representation in both chambers of Congress.

Voter suppression continues to threaten our democracy. Here is one way we can push back. <u>Tell Congress: Now is the time to finally grant statehood to the District of Columbia.</u>

Your letters, emails, phone calls to Congress, and letters-to-the-editor matter now more than ever. We ask Friends to continue contacting elected officials using the materials we provide. Please share this call to action with your community email lists and organize virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome.



Here's wishing you a Mother's Day That's filled with every pleasure, And a future that's as happy As the memories you treasure! ~ Anon.

2021 COMMITTEE LIST

Clerk – Christopher Sammond (2023)
Assistant Clerk -- Claire Howard (2025)
Recording Clerk – Howard Nelson
Treasurer – Sigrid Mortensen
Musicians -- Mary Jo Granger, Claire Howard,
Jeffrey Layton

Building Committee

*Andy Simkin
Scott Heinekamp
Dill Otis
Paul Simkin
Peter Dalton
Larry Buffam
Kathleen Connelly
Jodi Gunderson
Mark Ferrari
Dave Eckhardt

Gardens

*Ruth Bradley Kathleen Connelly Claire Howard Hannah Richter Leigh McGonagle Linda McGonagle Steph McGonagle Anne Dalton

Bulletin Boards

*Craig Kukuk Rob Howard

Finance

*Andy Simkin
Larry Buffam
Paul Simkin
Suzanne O'Hara
Sigrid Mortensen
John Reed
Jim Burkett

Historical Materials

*Jane Simkin Anne Dalton

Librarians

*Stephanie Nelson Sally Otis Phyllis Bunker

Ministry and Counsel

*Hannah Richter (2022/2024)
Suzanne O'Hara (2022)
Phyllis Bunker (2023)
Jane Simkin (2023/2025)
Larry Buffam (2024/2026)
Christopher Sammond (ex officio as MM Clerk)
Claire Howard (ex officio as MM asst Clerk)
Craig Kukuk (ex officio as Pastoral Care Provider)

Music

*Cathy Mullarney Claire Howard Sigrid Mortensen

Nominating Committee

*Larry Buffam (2022) Joanne Brumm (2023) (2024)

Outreach

*Anne Dalton Rebecca Schillenback A.T. Miller Paul Simkin Christopher Sammond

Peace and Social Action

*Larry Buffam Trudy Buxenbaum Dill Otis
Jane Simkin
Andy Simkin
Janet Reohr
Tony Gaenslen
Jeff Turney
Rebecca Schillenback
Janice Burton

Communications

*Sally Otis (Tel. Tree, directory,PRISM)
Suzanne O'Hara (PRISM, email, web)
Laura Buffam (Tel Tree, directory)
Jane Simkin (Tel Tree, directory)
David Connelly (Tel Tree, directory)
Julie Lockhart (Facebook)
Jeff Turney (web)
Barbara Rhudy (Prayer list)
Zoom tech-Julie Lockhart, Scott Lockhart, Kathleen
Connelly, Susan Deacon

Prison Oversight

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

Religious Education/Youth

*Julie Lockhart Charlie Weld Sally Otis Scott Lockhart Alyssa Binns-Gunderson Joanne Brumm Craig Kukuk # Annie McCleary #

Remembrances

Ruth Bradley Anne Dalton

Social

*Hannah Richter

Laura Buffam
Trudy Buxenbaum
Joanne Brumm
Kay Burkett
Cathy Mullarney
Andy Simkin --set up
Bess Simkin
Merrie Elisens
Howard Nelson
Susan Deacon
Kathleen Connelly #
Mary Jo Granger #

Statistician

Karen Simkin

Trustees

Dill Otis Andy Simkin Hannah Richter

Representatives

Wider Parish Sally Otis

New York Yearly Meeting Phyllis Bunker

Meetings for Discernment

Christopher Sammond

*first meeting convener #help as needed

NOTE: It has been discovered that there are some minor changes that need to be made on the list of committee appointments. This is the list the meeting approved at our April meeting for business. Those changes will be brought to business meeting in May and the revised and final list of committee appointments will then be published in the June PRISM

WAYS of CENTERING DOWN TO ENTER QUAKER WORSHIP

We speak of centering down to enter into Quaker worship, yet few, if any of us have ever been actively taught how to do this. We are expected to find our own way. This is far from helpful, and the experience of trying to (or being forced to) sit through Quaker worship without the benefit of knowing how to center down needlessly turns many seekers off, losing the gift of their presence.

So what does it mean to center? What state are we after? We are looking for entering into a place of being relaxed in body and mind, and open in spirit. When we are centered, our brainwaves actually shift. We are looking to find a state where we are open in heart, and unattached to our thoughts. We actually seek to get to the space beneath our thinking, to create a space in which the Divine Spark within can find voice. We can't find that when our mental space is full of chatter or interesting reflections.

I once thought worship was something I do, but for many years now it has seemed as if worship is actually a state of consciousness which I enter, so that I am immersed into a living, invisible stream of reality which has always been present throughout history. ~Bill Taber, Four Doors

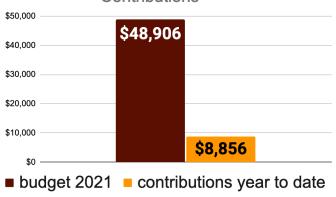
Here are some different techniques for finding the gift of this state, but these will only get you so far. This is something we can't make happen. It is grace. Humility and surrender of self-will will get you further than any technique.

- 1. Focus your heart on awe, bringing up past experiences or present things which take you to a place of genuine awe.
- 2. Focus your heart on gratitude, opening to the many things in your life for which you are grateful.
- 3. Open your heart to the Divine, and when your thoughts intrude, keep bringing your focus back to the bodily sensation of an open heart.
- 4. Engage in a "letting go" breath pattern. First, become aware of your breath. Then, allow your throat to open and relax, and breathe deeply, all the way down to your belly. Take long, slow inhales, hold for a brief pause, and then release your breath all at once. Release any tension with each exhale.
- 5. Mentally chant a mantra, or a short chant set to music. As these techniques are designed to "fill up" our mental space in order to initiate a state of being centered, they should be discarded once one has entered a centered space, to allow room for the Divine to be present.

For a more extensive study guide, please see Christopher Sammond's 3 page centering guide in our library. Please ask permission before copying or disseminating it. Thank you.

Contributions are at 18.1% at 33% of the 2021 year.

April 28, 2021 PRMM Budget vs Contributions



Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting

Clerk – Christopher Sammond Assistant Clerk – Claire Howard Treasurer – Sigrid Mortensen Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Mary Jo Granger Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk (<u>734-717-7719</u>) Recording Clerk - Howard Nelson Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Claire Howard

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10 am for worship. The fourth Sunday of the month is usually 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 or Scott Heinekamp at 315-246-7151. You can request PRISM electronically 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

Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting PO Box 146 Aurora, New York 13026