



PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00am Adult Ed 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Charlie Weld (Youth Message)			6:00pm potluck @ Sammond's 7:00pm Midweek Worship	6:00pm PCC meeting		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time Cheer Box Items 9:00am Adult Ed 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller Social Hour	3:00pm Ministry & Counsel 7:00pm Youth Committee		7:00pm Midweek Worship			9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Merrie Elisens Meeting for Business		7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)			6:00pm potluck @ Sammond's 7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Peace and Social Action		
31						
10:00am Meeting for Worship Intergenerational						

Birthdays: 2nd Elizabeth (Leigh) McGonagle, Ellie Mumma; 8th Jill Charles Gomez, Trey Anthony Otis, Luther Hallett; 9th Maryl Mendillo; 12th Ed Maassen, Mia Boynton, Carter Robert Otis; 16th Linda Simkin; 18th Henry Brice; 19th Bill Tyler, Richard Loosemore; 21st Susan Weisend; 23rd Phyllis Bunker, Linda McGonagle; 26th Meghan Charles; 28th Heidi Richter, Kara Otis; 29th Mary Fairhurst;

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 MONTHLY
MEETING FOR BUSINESS
FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

1. Meeting began at 11:45 with some silence. Present were: Claire Howard, Rob Howard, Howard Nelson, Ann Dalton, Cathy Mullarney, Charlie Weld, Suzanne O'Hara, Scott Lockhart, Jim Frisch, Donald Simkin, Merrie Ellisons, Stephanie Nelson, Janet Reohr, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Sigrid Mortensen, Julie Lockhart, Liz Johnson, Larry Buffam, Janice Burton, Rebecca Schillenback, Ruth Bradley.
2. Minutes from the January business meeting were read.
3. Treasurer's Report: Sigrid Mortensen reported:
At the start of 2024, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting had received contributions of \$1,656 or 3.7% of our 2024 budget and 21% of our year-to-date spending. This compares to \$2,128 in contributions by the middle of February, 2023 (5.2% of the budget) and \$5,366 by this time in 2022 (10% of the budget).

We have spent 17% of our 2024 budget so far (\$7,703), the bulk of which (\$5000) has gone to our Building's Gen*Cap fund according to our budget. The rest has gone to Ministry, Music, and other building expenses, and to a few minor Motto Calendar and Prism expenses. The total spent compares to \$8,208 spent by this time last year (20%),

and \$3,880 spent by this time in 2022 (7%).

4. Ministry & Counsel Committee: Suzanne O'Hara asked to give a message about her personal journey in her professional setting concerning the formation of a code of conduct regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. She shared a prepared statement narrating and commenting on some of her experiences. She said it was a positive process and a learning experience. She then suggested that a class on diversity, equity, and inclusion be held within the meeting. This suggestion was positively received.

The committee's monthly report, prepared by Hannah Richter, was read by Howard Nelson.

A. We met with the Pastoral Care Committee to discuss boundaries and to review the Pastoral Care Experience. A beneficial discussion ensued. It was shared that there is a need to discuss length of service ...should there be a rotation/term limit? No recommendation made at this time. A draft outline of the role of the PCC members was worked on to provide guidance in the future for pastoral care members.



B. It was suggested that there should be an explanation of the

differences between Clearness Committee, Care Committee and Pastoral Care for New and Old members and attenders.

C. ARCH has created under the care of NYYM a workbook on End of Life. (Hannah will show a copy if received) This can be ordered for \$15.00 through NYYM. PCC left at this time.

D. We have reviewed the order of service and a concern was raised about the length and detail of some messages given during Joys and Concerns. Could friends be encouraged to be more brief in their shared messages and perhaps not so graphic? Is this of concern to the Meeting at large?



E. Adult Ed schedule:
March 3 - Inward Light part 2 - Ruth Bradley
March 10 - Testimonies - Dave Eckhardt
April 07 - Business Meeting - Christopher Sammond
April 14 - Meeting and Community - Dill Otis

Claire Howard asked for responses to the question in the report regarding Joys & Concerns. Various thoughts and feelings were shared. There was support for shorter statements, with less graphic detail regarding health situations, partly in keeping with the presence of children. There

was support for keeping Joys & Concerns as part of our order of worship. It was expressed that sometimes Joys & Concerns can take up time that would go toward the silent period in worship. The possibility of moving Joys & Concerns to the end of meeting was raised. Advantages of having Joys & Concerns remain in its current place in the order of worship were raised. It was expressed that people should not feel “policed” in sharing joys and concerns. Claire summarized M&C’s recommendation to leave Joys & Concerns in its current place, hopefully with some awareness of making comments simple. No formal action is required at this time.

5. State of Society: Claire read the query from NYYM: “What is shaping your spiritual life, and how are you being led to respond?” Statements were made and were recorded by Claire. She will blend them with statements she recorded at a recent meeting for worship that was focused on the same query, and create a State of Society statement, to be presented at the March Meeting for Business.
6. Peace and Social Action Committee:
Larry Buffam gave a recommendation from PSA for use of the money from the recent sale of donated books (\$22,300). He read a proposal prepared by PSA over the past few months. The proposal:

“ A Proposal for Good Use of the Funds Raised from the Sale of Books”

Peace and Social Action committee recommends that Meeting set up a Fund, perhaps named the Frederick Douglass Social Justice Fund, which would be available to fund good works as and when the Meeting sees fit.

We agreed that the Fund could best be seen as a short to medium term fund, neither lasting for decades as some of our dedicated funds have done nor necessarily be entirely distributed immediately.

Knowing that the money was received by sale of narratives written by enslaved persons and as a Meeting we have been building relationships across racial boundaries, we believe expenditures from the Fund would be appropriately directed toward work for such reconciliation and peacemaking.”

(Claire Howard requested that she not clerk this part of the meeting; Charlie Weld clerked.) Discussion followed. It was asked how the word would get out that such a fund exists. Larry responded that the intention is not to solicit proposals, but rather that there be research by P&SA, to be aware of deserving organizations or initiatives. It was suggested that putting ourselves in the role of benefactors can be problematical. There was a review of the process that brought us to this point. It was suggested that since the money was the result of works by

and about African Americans, it should go to causes that benefit African Americans. It was voiced that rather than naming the fund for Frederick Douglass, some other name, recognizing a broader representation of those who suffered from racial injustice, would be preferable. It was suggested that the Harriet Tubman Liberation Foundation, founded by Rev. Paris Price of AME Zion Church in Auburn, would be an appropriate recipient of the money. The complexity of taking on the role of philanthropy was recognized, and that we need to undertake the responsibility with care. There was support for the basic concept that the money should be used for racial reconciliation and peacemaking, and that the decision of how to use the money will rest with Monthly Meeting. It was requested that the Library Committee prepare a statement describing the process of the receiving and sale of the books, to be published in Prism; Stephanie Nelson agreed to do this.



After a period of reflective silence, it was suggested that the decision be laid over for the future and further thought individually and collectively. It was agreed to lay the question over. Larry noted that P&SA will continue the work of discernment. (Claire resumed clerking the meeting.)

7. Library Committee: Stephanie Nelson proposed that the meeting's historical materials be placed in the Stone Store Museum for safekeeping. Andy Simkin said that there is precedent and a legal mechanism for an arrangement that allows for storage of documents at the museum with the Meeting maintaining ownership. Proposal approved.
8. A review of the "Safe and Warm" initiative was requested. Claire Howard gave a review, saying that the program was just in its beginning stage.
9. Meeting closed at 2 o'clock with some silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Nelson, Recording Clerk



QUAKER 101

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Adult Ed classes that will be held at 9:00 a.m. prior to worship in the basement and on Zoom . You won't want to miss these Quakerism 101 informative sessions!

You can view an interesting video about [Quakers: Most Asked Questions](#), but it is not necessary to participate in the discussions.

- March 3 - Inward Light part 2 - Ruth Bradley
- March 10 - Testimonies - Dave Eckhardt
- April 07 - Business Meeting - Christopher Sammond

- April 14 - Meeting and Community - Dill Otis

PRMM ZOOM MEETINGS

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. Join using a zoom app or website with the information below.

First Day Meeting for Worship:

Sundays 10am

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09>
- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

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

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87873154230?pwd=SHhPOWxHbG1FYU9xR093eFpXNXo0UT09>
- Meeting ID: 878 7315 4230
- Passcode: 584140

Spiritual Nurture group for men:

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09>
- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

Spiritual Nurture group for women:

Every 3rd, Tuesday at 7:30p.m.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09>
- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

CHILDREN'S MESSAGES/ INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICES

We look forward to the continuation of youth 1st Sunday messages. Charlie Weld

will provide the children's message on March 3, 2024. We also plan to have youth assist in leading worship on Intergenerational Services.

There will be an Intergenerational Service on March 31, Easter Sunday,. As in 2003, The March 31st service will replace the children's message April 7th.

Watch the [Poplar Ridge Calendar](#) for upcoming youth events.



CHEER BOXES

The youth of PRF have been working on creating cheer boxes! On March 10th , we will be assembling and wrapping the boxes for delivery.

Please consider donating small items for our boxes, such as: travel size lotions, small candles, individual Kleenex packages, small containers of fruit or puddings, baked goods or other packaged treats, tea bags, candy, note paper, apples, tangerines, perhaps bananas, or any other items you think someone might enjoy receiving. Items can be left in the youth room on the table. Many thanks in advance for any donations!

BOOKS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Here is the story of the books that were sold to create a social justice fund. In August 2022 Marcia Heffernan Woolsey emailed Hannah Richter stating that she was looking for an appropriate place to donate twenty-eight books that she found when getting a house ready to sell. Hannah forwarded the message to the

Library Committee and we arranged to receive the books. The books were from the 19th century about religious matters except for four that were on the topic of slavery. Wondering if they were valuable, we arranged for George Shillenbeck to look at them. He referred us to an antique book expert, Samuel Meyer Nelson, who confirmed that they were quite valuable.

The books were: My Bondage and Freedom by Frederick Douglass, 1855, published by Orton and Mulligan, New York and Auburn, second edition; Narrative of the Life of a Slave by Frederick Douglass, 1849, published by the Anti-Slavery Office; Narrative of William W. Brown, by himself, published by the Anti-Slavery Office, 1847; and Manual, Fact and Arguments on American Slavery, by Rev. La Roy Sunderland, published by S. W. Benedict, 1839.

We offered the rest of the books to the Friend's Historical Library at Swarthmore. They requested three of the Reformer books that they needed to complete the series.

Several of the books were signed by Mathias and Thomas Hutchinson. Mathias was inspired to move to King Ferry after he traveled through the area with the painter Edward Hicks. Mathias and his father Thomas are listed in the membership rolls of Scipio Quaker Meeting starting around 1823. He was part of the underground railroad. He wrote a letter of introduction for the Phillips family to Slocum Howland. The family of five had walked carrying a baby from Maryland. They settled in Sherwood.

Knowing the books' worth, with the approval of the Meeting, we decided to sell them. If we donated them, it is probable that they would have been sold by another organization. We considered an auction, but unless the right bidder attended, we would not get a good price. Sarah Nelson connected us to Bauman's Rare Books and they found the right buyer quickly.

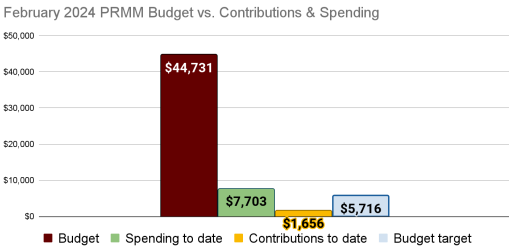
Now we hope that the proceeds can be put to a good use!

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Contributions

At the start of 2024, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting has received contributions of \$1,656 or 3.7% of our 2024 budget and 21% of our year-to-date spending. This compares to \$2,128 in contributions by the middle of February, 2023 (5.2% of the budget) and \$5,366 by this time in 2022 (10% of the budget).

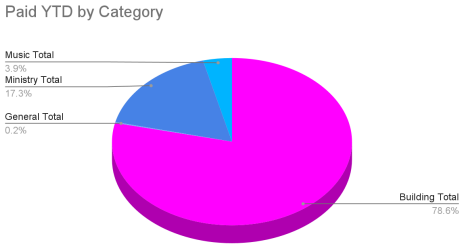
At 13% of our way through 2024, the following chart shows our contributions (yellow) and spending (green) relative to a year-to-date target (blue) and the total proposed budget (brown).



Spending

We have spent 17% of our 2024 budget so far (\$7,703), the bulk of which (\$5000) has gone to our Building's Gen*Cap fund according to our budget. The rest has gone to Ministry, Music, and other building expenses, and to a few minor Motto Calendar and Prism expenses. The

total spent compares to \$8,208 spent by this time last year (20%), and \$3,880 spent by this time in 2022 (7%).



American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Resources

- [Meeting for Worship with attention to peace in Palestine & Israel \(every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. ET\)](#)
- [Action Hour for a ceasefire now \(every Friday at 12 p.m. ET\)](#)
- [AFSC Just Migration Apartheid-Free campaign](#)
- [Gaza & Israel resource page](#)

KING FERRY FOOD PANTRY

Support the food pantry! Participate in this month's events. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/KingFerryFoodPantry/>.

Easter Basket Project

A donation from you will bring a little seasonal joy into the lives of our neighbors in need.

We welcome pre-assembled Easter/Passover baskets or candy or supplies to make baskets. A basket could feature candy, a small toy or stuffed animal, coloring book and crayons, book, or other items of your choice.

Your donation may be dropped off at the food pantry on Thursday, March 14 between 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The mission of the King Ferry Food Pantry is to provide access to healthy food and resources for our neighbors in need. If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance with obtaining food, please suggest they contact Debbie Patrick at 315-497-2049 for further information.

Donations may be dropped off at the pantry (2384 State Rt 34B, Aurora, by the SC High School greenhouse) on Thursdays between 2:30-3:30 or call to schedule a drop off time (315) 497-2049. There is also a food collection box at the Aurora Library



WELLS COLLEGE EVENTS

Wells is offering some programs that may be interesting to our community. Learn more about these events at [Wells center for Sustainability: Sustainability Events Upcoming](#)

- **Science Colloquium: 50 Years of Lessons Learned from Project Puffin**
Friday, March 1, 2024 12:30PM
Stratton 209
Stephen Kress, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- **Sustainability Perspectives series: Hazardous Chemicals in Consumer Products**
Monday, March 4, 2024 12:30PM
via Zoom
 - Zoom #: 833 1494 0917
 - passcode: h*ZS\$&5f
- **Sustainability Film: Regenerating Life – How To Cool the Planet, Feed the World, and Live Happily Ever After**
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
7:00PM deWitt Lecture Room,
Zabriskie Hall 106

Runtime: 137 minutes Organic popcorn and butter served.

- **Sustainability Perspectives series: But What Can I Do? From Reducing Your Carbon Footprint to Decarbonization**
Monday, March 25, 2024 12:30PM
via Zoom
 - Zoom #: 830 9341 5060
 - passcode: DSfb?S9L

SEED EXCHANGE AT WELLS

The Wells College Seed Exchange is still open. All seed is available for free from our exchange and is available while supplies last. We have created an on-line seed supply inventory to review and an order form you can download and complete. The inventory list includes information for each item about the specific seed company donor if you wish to research particular seed varieties of possible interest.

To view the current Seed Exchange inventory, click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/5t58mt3e>

To request seed, please download and complete this Seed Exchange order form:

<http://tinyurl.com/4rw7bkmm>

If you have a preference for seed from a specific company, please provide that information on the order form – we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Email your completed and saved order form to seeds@wells.edu; we will fulfill orders as they are received and update the seed inventory accordingly.

[ARCH GROUP:SEASONS OF LIFE, 80 +](#)

Join ARCH Coordinator Yana Landowne for an ongoing meetup group for Friends ages 80 and up. We will discuss issues related to this season of life while deepening relationships, mutuality, and

support. This Seasons Group will meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. A Zoom link will be sent to your email once you register (use [this link](#)).

THE INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS AND MULTIGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

March 6, 8-9:30 pm EASTERN.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) offers this slide presentation about the federal government's policy of family separation and forced assimilation of Native children and the ongoing impacts experienced by Native American families today. Jerilyn is co-director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a program of Friends Peace Teams. She is past president of the board of directors of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. She currently serves on the supreme courts of the Kiowa Nation of Oklahoma and the San Ildefonso Pueblo.



HARRIET TUBMAN DAY

Harriet Tubman Day to be Celebrated with Ceremony on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 4pm

Officially proclaimed as a national holiday in 1990, Harriet Tubman Day is observed each year to honor her heroic work as a freedom fighter on the date of her passing on March 10, 1913.

The 4 p.m. reception at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center will feature special guests, live music by SingTrece,

official proclamations and more to celebrate the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman Davis. Followed by a 5 p.m. panel discussion at Auburn Public Theater hosted by the Harriet Tubman Boosters focused on "Passing the Torch: Honoring Harriet Tubman's Legacy for Another Generation."

The four panelists who will bring their unique perspectives to these and other questions are:

- Ednita Wright, President of the Harriet Tubman Boosters,
- Deanna Stanford Walz, a Tubman descendant,
- Jaziyah Estes-Johnson, a current Auburn High School student,
- and Terry Cuddy, Auburn City Councilor.

Join together for an enlightening conversation on preserving and amplifying the legacy of one of history's most remarkable figures.

For more information visit:

www.visitauburnny.com

IT MUST BE SPRING

By May Fenn

Hush, can you hear it?

The rustling in the grass,

Bringing you the welcome news that

Winter's day is past.

Soft, can you feel it?

The warm caressing breeze,

Telling you the sticky buds

Are bursting on the trees.

Look, can you see them?

The primrose in the lane.

Now you must believe it —

Spring is here again.

Contact a care committee member if you could use support in your spiritual life or life situation, they can be there to listen or help point you to the resources you need. The committee seeks to be present for our community and their families in whatever ways we can in times of both joy and trouble, and with help in each other's practical lives.	Poplar Ridge Friends Pastoral Care Committee	
	Cathy Mullarney	315-730-9039, cathy.mullarney@gmail.com
	Howard Nelson	315-730-2962, nelsonh33@hotmail.com
	Suzanne O'Hara	315-406-3016, fwyarn@gmail.com
	Hannah Richter	315-729-3784, hannahrichter79@gmail.com
	Rebecca Shillenback	607-227-7462, rschillenback@nyym.org

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting

Clerk – Claire Howard pr.clerk.prmm@gmail.com

Assistant Clerk – Larry Buffam

Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Hannah Richter

Recording Clerk - Howard Nelson

Treasurer – Sigrid Mortensen

Musicians – Claire Howard, Mary Jo Granger, Cathy Mullarney

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