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equality

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harmony
simplicity

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integrity

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OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

November, 2011



Salt Creek - Elmhurst, IL

Oak Park Friends Meeting – Religious Society of Friends
720 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60303
708-445-8201

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.oakparkfriends.org

Meeting for Worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Clerk – Helen Dickinson
Recording Clerk – Judy Erickson
Treasurer – Valerie Lester
Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth
(<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)
Submission deadline – 25th day of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please see the meeting website at www.oakparkfriends.org for further information.

Vegan Mania - Paz may feature an art exhibit, November 5, 10 am - 6 pm. Pulaski Park, 1419 W. Blackhawk, Chicago

Chicago Friends School Open House - November 5, 2 pm - 4 pm, 1244 W. Thorndale, Chicago

Direction of the Meeting - November 6, 11:30 am, OPAL
Remember Daylight Savings Time Change

Benefit Concert for the Iraqi Student Project featuring Iraqi Folk Music by pianist Karam Salam and violinist Anton Shamoun - November 12, 7:30 pm, Mundelein Auditorium, Loyola University. More info: <http://iraqidepaul.org/>

Chicago Friends School Quarterly Meeting - November 19, 10 am, 1244 W. Thorndale, Chicago

OPRF Community of Congregations Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- November 20, 7 pm, Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave, Oak Park

The Sound of Music - November 27, 6 pm, Drury Lane, Oakbrook. For tickets, contact Sarah Shirk at co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com.

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 224-935-2065.

Paz is available for hire for jobs such as stenciling, signwork, yardwork, tuckpointing, brickwork, stonework, interior and exterior painting, and other odd jobs. Please contact him at 773-844-2977 for more information.

Announcements

Amanda Sneed's uncle recently passed away. The meeting holds her and her family in the light.

Wil Rutt and Dean Peerman were married on Saturday, October 29th at Wil's home in Berwyn. It was a small wedding attended by close family. Associate pastor, Ann Louise Haak of the Lake Street Church in Evanston officiated, and incorporated some elements of a Quaker-style wedding. The next day, Wil and Dean, and Wil's sons, daughter-in-law and granddaughter attended meeting for worship at OPFM and announced that they had been married the day before. The meeting congratulated them and celebrated with a cake. The meeting wishes them every happiness in their life together.



Wil and Dean

Some Recent Additions to the Oak Park Friends Library

Submitted by Wil Rutt

Recovering the Human Jesus - A scientific historical viewpoint, Kenneth Ives

An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbrook-Holocaust literature - Etty Hillesum

Friends, A People Disciplined to Follow - Jan Orion Smith

Beyond Consensus, Salvaging Sense of the Meeting - Barry Morley, a Pendle Hill Pamphlet.

Confident Quakerism - Ben Pink Dandelion, A Pendle Hill Pamphlet

The Power of Love - Paul D. Eppinger, A series of meditations

As Resident Aliens, Christian Peacemaker Teams in the West Bank - Kathleen Kern

Twenty-First Century Penn, writings on the Faith and Practice of Quakers by William Penn, translated into modern English by Paul Buckley

Bread, Body, Spirit, Finding the Sacred in Food - Alice Peck, editor

Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting for Worship with Concern for Business, October 9, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Dickinson, Sarah Shirk, Pam Timme, Judy Erickson, Burke Shipley

SILENT WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER MINUTES were reviewed.

QUAKER PRACTICE IN ACTION: We are encouraged by the protesters objecting to the concentration of vast wealth among 1% of the population of this country.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report.

MINISTRY & CARE COMMITTEE: The Direction of the Meeting has been rescheduled for Nov. 6, 2011 at the Art League. Kelly Maynard has agreed to this date; nothing has been scheduled for Adult RE on this date. Joan Pine will try to attend. A request for a \$50 budget item for food for the Direction of the Meeting was approved. Committee members will bring assorted finger foods. Sarah will send out a special email message.

The report on the 10/2/11 meeting was read. Please see M&C reports. Pam read a letter from Rosalind Larsen requesting transfer of membership to Ft. Collins Mtg in Colorado. (She also sent a contribution to our Mtg.) Pam also read a draft of a letter of response accepting the transfer of membership. This letter was approved. Another letter of appreciation and notice of our action will be sent to Rosalind. M&A will bring to business meeting the notice of acceptance by the Ft. Collins Meeting, at which time we will record termination of her membership. Copies will be placed in the OPFM membership file, which is in the care of the Clerk of the M&C Committee.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The last committee meeting was on Sept. 25, 2011. They composed a list of potential field trips and are asking for feedback from families. Responses so far have been diverse, with no unity about any one specific activity. Several activities may be supported. These responses will be discussed at the next committee meeting (10/30). A suggestion was made to open this survey up to the MCGM community. The committee will discuss various possibilities.

Pam discussed possible activities related to Halloween. One is Unicef boxes, and one is Reverse Halloween (re Fair Trade chocolate). We approved distributing the Unicef materials to parents, and letting them decide whether to participate. Information will go out on the weekly calendar and to parents.

Amanda has had a death in her family. The committee is subbing for her until she returns.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am on 10/30 at OPAL.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: No report..

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE: Due to illness of the clerk, there was no committee meeting on Sept. 25.

OLD BUSINESS: Sunday, 12/18/11 was approved for our Christmas potluck. Helen will check with the Art League to see if it is available.

NEW BUSINESS: We approved purchasing 5 copies of PYM Faith & Practice to distribute to anyone who requests a clearness committee for membership. We approve this expenditure without drawing on a committee budget. Helen will ask Valerie to do this.

Committees that meet at 9:00 am at OPAL on Sundays are requested to meet upstairs, or end by 9:45 so as not to cut into worship time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Our next PADS dinner service will be on Friday, 12/30/11.

SILENT WORSHIP

Respectfully submitted by Judy Erickson, Recording Clerk

QUERY QUOTATIONS

Rooted in the history of Friends, queries reflect the Quaker way of life, reminding Friends of the ideals we seek to attain. We approach queries as a guide, using them not as an outward set of rules, but as a framework within which we assess our convictions and examine prayerfully the direction of our lives and the life of the community. Here are a few selections from Faith and Practice, published in 1997 by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends:

11. Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more, - a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be Thy praise.
~George Herbert