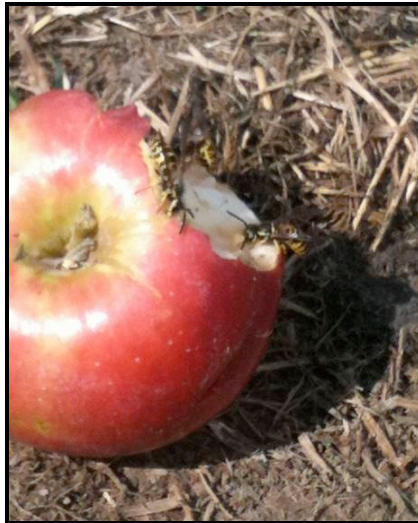


OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

October 2011



Picture taken by Christina Timme at Radtke's Orchard in Michigan City, Indiana

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 630-248-7976.

Pam Timme was nominated to be the Meeting Archivist. At Illinois Yearly Meeting she attended a workshop on record keeping for monthly meetings. There is an archive at the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign which collects records from ILYM and its monthly meetings. She would like help in considering whether to send some of our records to this archive, which ones to send, and in what format, perhaps over pizza! Please contact her at ptimme@hotmail.com if you are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Silent Retreat, October 14 - 16 - In association with Evanston Meeting at Menno Haven. **CURRENTLY AT CAPACITY. WAITING LIST ONLY.** For more information go to registration form:
[http:// evanstonquakers.com/PDF/SilentRetreat2011.pdf](http://evanstonquakers.com/PDF/SilentRetreat2011.pdf).

Quaker Earthcare Witness Annual Gathering - October 21 & 22, 2011, The Cenacle, 513 W. Fullerton Pkwy, Chicago, IL.

Food and Biodiversity: A Crisis in the Making
What will the Quaker response be to another human induced calamity?

Featured Speakers are:

Marcia Cleveland FCNL's Legislative Representative for the Environment, "Lobbying Works: Thoughts on Lobbying in the Tea Party Era." Friday, October 21 at 7:10 .p.m.

Laurel M. Ross Urban Conservation Director, Environment, Culture and Conservation, The Field Museum, "The Chicago Wilderness: Expressing an Urban Land Ethic." Saturday, October 22 at 1:35 p.m.

Molly Anderson Partridge Chair in Food and Sustainable Agriculture Systems, College of the Atlantic, "Food: Security, Politics, Rights, Sovereignty, and Sustainability Metrics." Saturday, October 22 at 7:10 p.m.

On going discussions will cover the history of the problem of food and biodiversity and what different responses from various Quaker communities have been to the topics of health, nutrition, production and distribution of food to our communities.

If you wish to hear one or more of the speakers, we would appreciate your letting our General Secretary, Anne Mitchell, know by email, anne@quakerearthcare.org. A contribution to help with speaker expenses will be welcome.

QEW also invites you to attend the entire QEW Annual Gathering in which we will consider how we can address the many challenges of caring for the earth and the actions that requires of us.

At <http://www.quakerearthcare.org/Meetings/QEWFallMeeting/FallMeeting.html> you can find information about: The (preliminary) agenda for the QEW Annual Gathering; The general setting and format for this meeting at the Cenacle in Chicago; On-line or printed registration forms (deadline September 30); and Financial assistance for young adult Friends (18-35) to attend the QEW Annual Gathering.

Please contact Roy Treadway at treadway@ilstu.edu if you have any questions.

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

FIELD TRIP FUN FOR EVERYONE!

The Children's Religious Education Committee has developed field trip ideas for 2011-2012. The field trips are open to all ages – kids and adults. Children's Ed Budget will be utilized to keep costs affordable to participants. Please respond to Sarah Shirk at SarahShirk@hotmail.com as to which of the suggested activities below interest you, and if you would be interested in leading an event, and any other ideas you may have.



- Canoe trip on Chicago or Des Plaines Rivers
- Vegan Mania at Pulaski Park Field House (November 5th)
- Mug making at craft store
- Pumpkin picking on local farm (October)
- Sporting event (professional or local)
- Theatre event (professional or local)
- Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at Goodman Theatre (November 27th, 2pm matinee)
- "The Sound of Music" at Drury Lane, Oakbrook (November 27th, 2pm matinee)
- Eagle watching at Starved Rock State Park
- Other suggestions?

Afghanistan, the Longest War

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

The U.S. led War in Afghanistan began on October 7, 2001 and the tenth anniversary of the U.S. led invasion is soon. Peace and Justice recommended, and the September Business Meeting approved, the following Action:

We are asking all Friends to call, email, or send a letter to Sens. Kirk and Durbin between Friday September 30 and Thursday Oct 6th stating our opposition to the war in Afghanistan, noting that the ten-year anniversary is upon us, and requesting they act to discontinue the war immediately.

Sen. Dick Durbin
230 S Dearborn St.
Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 353-4952

<http://durbin.senate.gov/public/>

Sen. Mark Kirk
230 South Dearborn
Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-3506

<http://kirk.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Teens and Parents of Teens:

October 15 deadline to apply for next summer's pilgrimage

Young Friends who will be ages 16 to 18 next summer should apply by October 15, 2011 for the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Europe, planned for July 12 - August 13, 2012. Some scholarship funds are available to help with the cost of attending this month-long journey.

"I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity I was given. I feel blessed for the confidence I gained in telling others "I'm a Quaker" and being able to describe what that means for me as well as what it might mean for Friends with other experiences and in other branches." - a former Pilgrim

Read more about FWCC's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage at
http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/programs/youth.shtml

The application form is at
http://fwccamericas.org/events/12_qyp/2012_pilgrim_app_distributed.pdf

OPFM Budget Information

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

Hello Friends. I was asked at the last Business Meeting to provide this information about the money we give to charities. Below is a table of the organizations to which we gave donations in the last two years and plan to give charitable contributions in the 2011-2012 year.

changes	Organization Name			
		11-12 rec	10- 11 actual	09-10 actual
		<u>1,900</u>	<u>1,906</u>	<u>\$1,890</u>
	AFSC	50	50	\$50
	AFSC-Chicago	200	200	\$200
	IYM Building Fund	0	0	\$0
	Friends Peace Teams	100	100	\$100
	Christian Peace Makers	75	75	\$75
	Quaker House	75	75	\$50
25	St Louis Mtg/Lakota	125	100	\$100
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	125	125	\$125
	FCNL	225	225	\$225
	Fr World Comm for Consult	75	75	\$75
	Af Gr Lks Initiative	100	100	\$100
-25	IL Coalition to Abolish Death Penalty	50	75	\$70
25	Openlands Urban Green Programs	75	50	\$50
25	Ceasefire	125	100	\$70
	OPRF Walk in Ministry	125	125	\$150
-56	West Suburban PADS	100	156	\$100
	OP Food Pantry	100	100	\$150
	Sarah's Inn	75	75	\$75
	Holiday food & gift basket	100	100	\$125

RECENT ADDITIONS TO OPFM LIBRARY

Submitted by Wil Rutt

Check these out:

- The Freedom Riders, a movie about the Freedom Riders of 1961
- Where was God on Sept. 11? Seeds of Faith and Hope
- Islam for the Western Mind

- Hope and Justice in a World of Violence
- Cross Purposes, The Violent Grammar of Christian Atonement

Community of Congregations – Help Homeless Vets

Submitted by Valerie Lester

Grace Episcopal Church of Oak Park, Oak Park River Forest Community of Congregations, The Episcopal Veterans Fellowship and Jesse Brown VA Medical Center invite you to do justice and to love kindness by providing direct aid and encouragement to more than fifty Chicago area veterans, many of whom are homeless. On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, just a few days before Veterans Day, we are hosting a big dinner and educational event at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago for many of the vets and family members who rely on its services.

Our November 9 event will begin with an informal “meet and greet” session at 3:00 p.m. This will be followed by a 3:30 p.m. memorial service, with a chance to hear Episcopal Bishop Jeffery D. Lee and other speakers. At 4:30 p.m., we will have a catered dinner. At the conclusion of the dinner, each vet will receive a care package filled with warm clothes and personal items that homeless vets need in the winter. We call on the congregations of Oak Park and River Forest to provide the items to be included in these care packages. Each congregation can provide one of the following items:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reading Glasses · Shaving kits · Deodorant · Shampoo · Body Wash · Comb · Foot powder · Winter hats · Winter gloves · Scarves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Band aids · Lotion · Pocket New Testament or other Scriptural text · CTA cards for transportation · \$5 gift cards to McDonalds/Burger King · Hand warmers · A personal greeting from your faith community with an invitation to worship |
|--|--|

Feel free to add any item you feel is missing or would be helpful to add. Please provide about 50 of the items your parish chooses and send to Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois **no later than Sunday, October 16, 2011**. We will assemble these items into care packages after the 10:30 a.m. service at Grace on October 23, 2011. Our veteran’s Day program is sponsored by VITAS, Sheriff Dart and the Cook County Sheriff’s Department, Jesse Brown and Hines VA Hospitals, St. Clement’s Episcopal Church in Harvey, St. Joseph/St. Aidan Episcopal Church in Blue Island, Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park, The Episcopal Veterans Fellowship, and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m., one month after our Veterans Day event, Episcopal Veterans Fellowship will be sponsoring the annual Christmas Gift Drive for Hospitalized and Homeless Vets. This will happen at St. Joseph and St. Aidan’s Church in Blue Island. Last year, people from all across the Chicago area donated more than four truckloads of warm clothes, coats and other gifts for the vets who rely on area VA hospitals. More information about both of our events will be available soon.

Please contact James Redden at episcopalveterans@gmail.com if you are interested in contributing to these projects. You may also sign your church up to donate items at this link: https://graceoakpark.org/Caring_for_Veterans.html.

Shawn Schreiner, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, President, COC, 708-386-8036

Chicago Friends School Information

Submitted by Sophie de la Mar

September 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

The discernment process of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Friends School has led us to the decision not to open as a school this year. While we had a very successful school year 2010-2011 (see article on Teaching Nonviolence in Among Friends Summer 2011), we did it in a temporary space and have since moved our location to 1244 W. Thorndale as lessees of the Bethany Lutheran Church. This is a beautiful, accommodating space and gives us room to grow in future years. The open houses in this new space have been well attended and we are receiving an enthusiastic welcome from our new neighbors. However, most of the interest in our school is for future years. Our arrival in our new neighborhood came too late for the families who enrolled their children elsewhere for this year.

At our community meeting held at the Evanston Friends Meetinghouse on Saturday, August 20th, it seemed clear that people recognize the value of having a Friends school in Chicago, as an important contribution to the city and the world striving to prepare leaders for tomorrow who are strongly spiritually grounded as well as rigorously prepared academically. The difficulties lie in the practicalities of how to keep our doors open in order to do this.

We are looking at this school year as an opportunity to strengthen our organization, to grow our support base, to develop a strategic long term plan, to raise money, and to become a presence in our new neighborhood and community.

As part of this process, we have discerned several ways to move forward. One change we have already made to our organization is to ask Sophie de la Mar to serve as Administrative Co-Clerk with Mark Robinson. This allows us to balance our organization's day-to-day needs and the visioning that will make Chicago Friends School a vital school for the Chicagoland community. We would also like to explore the idea of a relationship between the new Quaker regional body that is forming in the stead of Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting (MCGM) and the Chicago Friends School.

In order to further strengthen our organization, we need to fill the vacancies on our board and committees. Please consider giving your time in service to the school. We are currently seeking people to serve in the following ways:

- * on an advisory committee to develop a strategic long range plan
- * as board officers, including a recording clerk and a treasurer
- * on our finance and fundraising committees
- * as an admissions coordinator, assisting with activities such as open houses and school visits and helping with outreach to interested families

* as an outreach coordinator or on our outreach committee coordinating activities such as First Friday Fun Night (movies, music, arts and crafts, games, etc. at the school and open to the community)

Even if you are unable to serve on the board or on a committee, any time you could give to the school would be much appreciated.

We need to raise money as well. Total fundraising efforts brought in \$40,000 last year—we will need to raise about \$44,300 for this year and would like to have some money in the bank when we re-open, which we plan to do in the fall of 2012.

Friends, we deliberated carefully and listened intently for the guidance of Spirit as we made this decision. Many people, particularly educators and educative administrators, that we spoke with advised us to keep going if at all possible. We need your help in order to do so.

Many thanks, Friends for your current and past support. . We hope to hear from many of you soon.

In peace,

Sophie de la Mar, Administrative Co-Clerk
Faith Gately, Recording Clerk
John Gately
Contessa Miller
Mark Robinson, Presiding Clerk
Katherine Young
Members, Board of Directors
Chicago Friends School
1244 W. Thorndale Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660-3348

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Please see the meeting website at www.oakparkfriends.org for further information, including reports from individual committees.

August 2011

The Peace & Justice Committee recommended and the Meeting approved that OPFM sign a statement to ratify the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture) treaty being circulated by NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture.)

September 2011

The Finance Committee's charitable contribution recommendations were discussed and approved.

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:

Stewardship of the Environment

Is the Meeting concerned that human interaction with nature be responsible, guided by a reverence for life and a sense of the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Are the decisions of the Meeting and its committees relating to the uses of property, goods, services, and energy made with sensitivity toward the environmental impact of those choices?

Am I aware of the place of water, air, and soil in my life? Do I consider with care the necessity of purchasing substances hazardous to the environment? Do I act as a faithful steward of the environment in the use and disposal of such hazardous substances?

Do I choose with care the use of technology and devices that truly simplify and add quality to my life without adding an undue burden to essential resources?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

Theme in Yellow

by Carl Sandburg

I spot the hills
With yellow balls in autumn.
I light the prairie cornfields
Orange and tawny gold clusters
And I am called pumpkins.
On the last of October
When dusk is fallen
Children join hands
And circle round me
Singing ghost songs
And love to the harvest moon;
I am a jack-o'-lantern
With terrible teeth
And the children know
I am fooling.



