

*Simplicity \* Peace \* Integrity \* Community \* Equality \* Stewardship*

## **OAK PARK FRIENDS**

# **NEWS**

**August 2012**



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](http://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 – 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

One of our long-time ILYM Friends, Carol Zimmerman (57th St MM), had a stroke on Thursday, 7/6/2012. She has experienced partial paralysis of one side, but is managing with a walker. She is having trouble with her eyesight and can no longer drive, but her independent spirit is still strong. Please hold her in the Light. If you would like to call her, the best way to call her is to call the front desk at the Oak Park Arms (708-386-4040) and ask to speak with her. The desk clerk will forward your call to the phone in her apartment.

Several OPFM Friends have been dealing lately with ill parents or parents-in-law. Please hold them and their families in the Light at this difficult time.

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.

OPFM welcomes donations for the needs of the meeting which include the meeting space, activities and charitable giving. Donations can be mailed to Oak Park Friends Meeting, PO Box 3245, Oak Park, IL 60303.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Please see the meeting website at [www.oakparkfriends.org](http://www.oakparkfriends.org) for further information.*

**Sun, 8/12 2:00pm** - Chicago Friends School Open House, 1246 West Thorndale Ave., Chicago

**Fri, 8/24 - Sun, 8/26** - Adult Young Friends (Quakers ages 18-35) retreat at Michigan Dunes. Contact Tom Fairbank for more information at [thomasfairbank@gmail.com](mailto:thomasfairbank@gmail.com)

**Sat, 8/25 10am** - Friends Canoe/Kayak Trip (Rain date is 9/8) Location: Silver Lake in the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville (off of Butterfield Road, near the intersection of Butterfield and Winfield.) Contact Pam Timme ([ptimme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com)) or Sarah Shirk ([co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com](mailto:co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com)) for further information.

**Fri, 9/21 – Sun, 9/23** - Evanston Friends Meeting Community Retreat. For more info go to: <http://www.oakparkfriends.org/evanston-community-retreat.html>

## **Canoe/Kayak Paddle and Picnic**

IT'S TIME TO PADDLE!!! Oak Park Friends Meeting has selected a "main date" and a "rain date" for the long-awaited 2nd canoe/kayak outing. The outing will take place the morning of Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. This time we have chosen Silver Lake in the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville (off of Butterfield Road, near the intersection of Butterfield and Winfield.)

Silver Lake is a small, curved lake next to a beautiful, shaded picnic grove. There are canoes, kayaks and rowboats for rent, and people can also bring their own boats. Rental fees are \$10/hour/boat. People bringing their own boat must pay a \$7 daily fee for a permit for the boat if they are residents of DuPage County, or \$9 for non-residents.

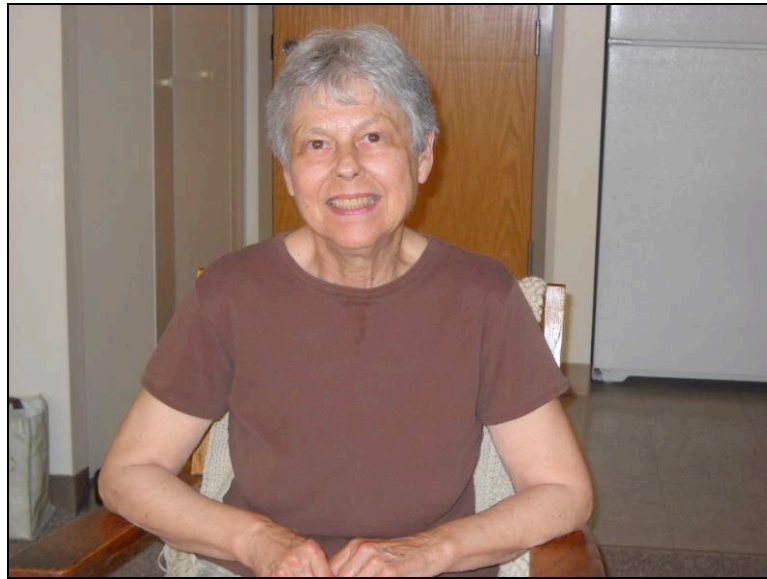
If cost is an issue, please contact Valerie Lester, treasurer, in confidence for financial coverage for the canoe/kayak trip.

Although no prior registration is required, it is advisable to arrive by mid-morning so that there will still be boats available. Our plan is to arrive around 10 or 10:30 on a Saturday morning, paddle for an hour or two, and then have a picnic lunch in the adjacent picnic grove. Afterwards we could have a few games, possibly bean-bag toss, non-competitive games, or whatever strikes our fancy.

PLEASE RESPOND TO SARAH SHIRK ([co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com](mailto:co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com)) OR PAM TIMME ([ptimme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com)) IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND HOW MANY PEOPLE YOU WILL BE BRINGING. Guests are welcome if there is space in addition to OPFM Friends. There is a limit of 25 people.

For further information about Silver Lake and Blackwell Forest Preserve, please go to [www.dupageforest.com](http://www.dupageforest.com) and click on Recreation, and then Boating. Also, click on Conservation, then Forest Preserves, then Blackwell.

## Friendly Bio – Ann Chase



Oak Park Friends are pleased to welcome Ann Chase as a member. Ann transferred her membership in May 2012 from her previous meeting, Orono Friends Meeting in Orono, Maine.

Ann describes herself as being born and raised a “Hoosier” near Indianapolis. She had two brothers and a sister, and graduated from high school in Gary. Her father was an attorney and the president of the Gary Street Railway System.

Ann’s family also had and continues to have strong ties to northwestern Lower Michigan. Her grandparents built a summer home there in 1919, after camping in the area since 1907. After the death of her grandmother and father, Ann’s mother bought the Michigan home in the 1950s and moved there. Ann is currently working on the final book in a series of five about the region, which involves interviewing long-time residents of the area about their memories. These books include many intriguing stories and old pictures, and are a true historical treasure.

Although Ann had been raised in the Episcopal Church, her father encouraged her to attend Swarthmore, a Quaker college, in suburban Philadelphia. It was at Swarthmore that Ann attended her first Quaker meeting. Swarthmore Friends Meeting has an old, beautiful meetinghouse located on the Swarthmore campus. The room where meeting for worship is held has a huge log across the roof of the room, from which curtains were hung in an earlier era to separate the room into two parts for men’s and women’s business meetings. Ann said she felt a little awed and overwhelmed – a lot of professors were there and very voluble – but at the same time felt a part of it all. She went back, as she picked up right away that it felt peaceful there, and felt that something spoke to her.

After graduating from college with majors in classics and history, Ann began her first teaching position in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, where she taught Latin and English for four years. She also married John Starr, a fellow student who majored in biology and

eventually became a doctor. They started going to Quaker meetings together and raised their children, Louisa and Gordon, as Quakers.

Ann and John embarked upon an adventurous life together. They spent a year in Panama, where Louisa was born. Next, they moved to Peru for two years where John was on the Staff of the Peace Corps. Gordon was born in Peru. While they were in Peru, Ann worked as an AFSC volunteer on a community development project which set up and developed a group of small cooperatives in one of the barrios. One cooperative consisted of a group of women, including Ann, who sewed dresses for sale in local stores in Lima, and another cooperative made cots. Ann and John also started a Quaker worship group in Peru.

Next, the family moved to Atlanta, where John worked as an epidemiologist for the Center for Disease Control. They attended Atlanta Friends Meeting there, and sometimes Martin Luther King, Jr. sent his two youngest children there to attend First Day School alongside Louisa and Gordon.

John decided to change his career focus and became a pediatrician; his residency and later his practice was in Cleveland. Ann and John also bought a vineyard in Ashtabula County in northeast Ohio; John commuted while Ann farmed. The crop was mostly Concord grapes for jams and jellies. Ann farmed the vineyard for twenty-two years, and liked it very much. She also went back to teaching at the same time; she taught English and speech in a work-study program for students at risk of dropping out. In addition, she worked with a peer counseling group called Re-evaluation Counseling. While in Ohio, Ann and John started the Cleveland Community Quaker Meeting, which was part of the Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. John passed away in 1989.

Ann still had other places to see and things to do. She sold the vineyard and moved to Seattle for six years, where she worked as a counselor at the Re-evaluation Counseling Center. She attended the Seattle Quaker Meeting while living in Seattle.

Ann then retired to Socorro, New Mexico, for four years. Following that, she moved to Bangor, Maine, to be closer to her son Gordon, and her grandchildren, Felicity and Charles. She lived there for six years and attended the Orono Friends Meeting, which she loved.

Next, she moved to Oak Park to be near her daughter, Louisa, and her grandchildren Eliot and Ian. Long-time attenders of OPFM will remember Louisa attending meeting and Eliot and Ian in First Day School. Ann has now been in Oak Park for four years and shares her home with Gracie, a delightful little dog. Ann spends her summers with her sister in her beloved family home in Michigan.

OPFM feels very fortunate to have had Ann as an attender, and now as a member. Ann serves as clerk of the Ministry and Care Committee at OPFM, and is always ready to share her gifts of kindness, intelligent observation, and spiritual leadings. Welcome, Ann!

## **FWCC and the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice**

*Friends please read and consider the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice recently approved by Friends in Kenya at the FWCC World Consultation on Global Exchange. Those of us at the July Peace and Justice Meeting found it well written and replete with eloquent turns of phrases.*

*~ Kelly Maynard*

**The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice was approved on 24 April 2012 at the Sixth World Conference Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011. It is being circulated with the Conference Epistle.**

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me".

We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations – this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems – by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.
- We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38:4)
- We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.

- We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us – where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

**Bwana asifiwe. Apu Dios Awqui. Gracias Jesús. Jubilé. Salaam aleikum. Migwetch. Tikkun olam. Alleluia!**

## **BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Please see the meeting website at [www.oakparkfriends.org](http://www.oakparkfriends.org) for further information, including reports from individual committees.

July 2012

**Finance Committee.** The budget is expected to be presented in September. If you want a different budget for your committee or work, please contact Valerie Lester.

**Children's Religious Education Committee.** The committee will organize a called meeting about what the children's program will look like next year. It is important for everybody, especially those with children, to attend this meeting.

The committee shared some information they have gathered about a possible canoe trip.

There will not be a business meeting in August.

## **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:

### **Peace**

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

— to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?

— to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?

— to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?

— to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

*Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?*

*How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?*

*Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?*

*Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?*

## **AND IN CONCLUSION...**

Why are you surprised?  
Did you forget?  
We were once in a paradise  
We were sharing a paradise  
We were happy with the paradise  
In the spirit of the paradise  
We were one  
We are one

Why are you surprised?  
Did you forget?  
Never turn your back  
On the paradise.

*Excerpt of lyrics from "Rift Valley" by Tony Bird on his "Sorry Africa" album (Rounder Records).*