

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

June 2012



Illinois Yearly Meeting



Square Dancing on the Lawn

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

Judy Erickson's mother-in-law is ill and is going to have surgery soon. Please hold her, Judy, and Judy's family in the Light. Judy has the following to say about her mother-in-law – "Lynn has always been a strong, resilient, and resourceful individual.

She has survived other cancers in past years and we are all hoping for the best this time, too. Other than this cancer, she has been in good health for years. Grateful for the amazing life she has been able to live, she continues to inspire her family and friends with her determination to meet this new challenge, whatever it may bring.

Thanks in advance for your caring prayers and thoughts."

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.

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 630-442-2672.

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 for further information.

Sun, 6/3, Day in Our Village, 11am – 6pm, Scoville Park, Corner of Oak Park Ave. and Lake Street, **booth volunteers needed**, please reply to co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com if you are able to volunteer.

Sun, 6/10, 2:00pm, Chicago Friends School Open House, 1246 West Thorndale Ave., Chicago

Sat, 6/16-Wed, 6/20, ILYM Site Prep (any part of this time period).

Wed-Sun, 6/20-24, Annual Sessions of Illinois Yearly Meeting. This year's theme is *Compassion (in the face of Difficult Things)*.

Sat, 7/14, 2:00pm, Chicago Friends School Open House, 1246 West Thorndale Ave., Chicago

No Need to Move!

An update on the status of our rental arrangement with the Art League – we no longer have to move from the Art League, but can stay as our rental arrangement predates the newer village directives.

National Nurses Union Rally

Judy Erickson participated in the National Nurses Union rally on Friday, May 18th in Chicago and found it to be a good experience. Here are a couple of pictures she took of fellow participants.



Picture submitted by Judy Erickson of Evanston MM Friend at the National Nurses Union rally on May 18th in Chicago

Peace Cookies

*Lois Platt emailed the following announcement to OP Friends about an exciting peace project she is planning for June 23 with donations to go to OPFM. **Thank you, Lois!!!***

Hello Friends,
Although I haven't attended a meeting for quite a while, I think of you often. My young men's peace group *American Families for Peace* is still operating, although our

meetings are few because most of the boys are in college. However, this summer *the boys are back* and they are having a concert to promote world peace. A couple of their rock bands will play at a block party in the 400 block of North Harvey on **Saturday, June 23** in the afternoon. We will be selling "peace cookies" and other baked goods to promote our message. We would like to advertise this as a fundraiser for Oak Park Friends, and of course donate what we collect to the Oak Park Friends Meeting. How does this sound to you?

In the Light,
Lois Platt

I'm sure that Lois would appreciate donations of cookies and baked goods, perhaps decorated with peace signs, for this fund-raiser. Please contact her at Lmplatt@aol.com.

Project Lakota Update *Submitted by Pamela Timme*

I just talked to Candy Boyd of St. Louis Friends Meeting and co-founder of Project Lakota. The purpose of Project Lakota is to raise funds to buy materials for housing construction and rehabilitation for the Lakota Nation at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Project Lakota is under the care of the St. Louis Friends Meeting and is one of charitable organizations that OPFM donates to each year.

Candy will be travelling to Pine Ridge this summer and plans to be working on rehabbing two trailers near the town of Red Shirt that belong to a grandmother who cares for her five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The parents of the grandchildren are disabled and live elsewhere. The grandmother and her three young grandsons live in one trailer and her two grown granddaughters and the baby of one of them live in the other trailer. The trailers are FEMA government surplus trailers and were in very poor condition when obtained. Candy reports that over the course of the summer she hopes to raise between \$3000-\$5000 to accomplish the following projects for the trailers: putting in a water line and a furnace, repairing electrical wiring, purchasing easements, and building a road to the trailers from the main road. Candy said that she has observed that people on the reservation who have been able to live in repaired and more stable housing are actually flowering in their own self-expression and personal lives. They are pursuing their dreams – for instance, one young woman is a writer and another is in the police academy.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering or fundraising for Project Lakota, contact Candy Boyd at (314) 623-7829 or candyboydwrite@yahoo.com. Donations for Project Lakota can be sent to "Project Lakota, c/o Diana Pascoe, 7429 Brunswick Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63119. Please make checks payable to "St. Louis Meeting" and put "Project Lakota" in the memo line.

Call for Bakers and Recipes!

Submitted by Pamela Timme

On a related topic, I hope to be going to IYM this year (June 20-24.) I plan to have a table or booth there with information about Project Lakota and am going to bake cookies to sell there to raise money for Project Lakota. If anyone else feels led to bake some cookies that I could bring with me to sell, I would really appreciate it! I would need them by **Tuesday, June 19th**.

Also, I have been thinking of putting together a very simple little OPFM cookbook that I could sell copies of for Project Lakota. We could sell it for other charitable activities as well in the future. So....please email me your recipes! I will put your name in as the submitter of the recipe. My email address is ptimme@hotmail.com. Deadline is soon, as this is a new idea – please email them to me by **Saturday, June 9th**. It would be helpful if they were on a Word 2003 attachment in Times New Roman 12 font. Thanks!!!

Service Opportunities for Friends

Submitted by Valerie Lester

WEST SUBURBAN PADS

TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

June 4 – August 31

MEAL PROVIDERS:

Dinner:

Option 1- Provide dinner, drinks & dessert for up to 15 guests. Prepare onsite with clients. Dinner will be served family style, with guests, volunteers and staff eating together.

Option 2- Drop off a prepared dinner, drinks & dessert to shelter site at 6:30pm. Volunteer dinner providers are welcome to stay for dinner with guests.

Breakfast – Purchase breakfast supplies** for up to 15 guests for the week. Drop off supplies to the shelter location on a Monday evening between 6:30pm – 9:00pm.

**Breakfast supplies to purchase: 3 gallons of milk – 3 gallons of juice – fresh fruit — 5 dozen eggs, breakfast meats (e.g. sausage, bacon). 3 boxes of cereal.

Lunch– Purchase lunch supplies** for up to 15 guests for the week. Drop off supplies to the shelter location on a Monday evening between 6:30pm – 9:00pm.

**Lunch supplies to purchase: 5-6 lbs of lunch meat, 4 loaves of bread, cheese, beverages (cans of soda, water, or juice boxes), snacks (fruit, vegetables, cookies, chips and/or granola bars)

OUTSIDE VOLUNTEERS:

SECOND SHIFT: 10:30PM – 5:00 AM – 2 VOLUNTEERS

- Usually quiet.
- Site security is most important: we recommend walk through building and sleeping area every 20 minutes.
- Monitor restrooms.
- Register late arriving guests, if accompanied by police or in need of shelter if space allows (check the suspension list).

- Handle any situations that may arise (health, medical, ect.) Call 911 in an emergency.
 - Wake up guests who request early wake up calls.
 - Complete shift log providing a brief summary of shift situation, even if very quiet all night.
- Communicate with third shift personnel who relieve second shift volunteers.

THIRD SHIFT: 5:00 AM TO 7:30 AM – 2 VOLUNTEERS

For the early risers who like to get going at a fast pace.

- Wake up all participants at 5:30 a.m.
- Monitor use of restrooms.
- Monitor smoke break at 5:30 a.m.
- Oversee participants clean-up, disinfecting and putting away pads, pillows, blankets..
- Oversee participants set up and serving a simple breakfast 6:00 a.m.
- Oversee participants removal of garbage.
- Oversee participants cleaning of sleeping room, bath rooms and kitchen.
- Return participant ID cards as participants leave.
- Check building to make sure all participants have left the building by 6:45am
- Do site check for cleanliness and order.
- Check area outside for trash

If you are interested in scheduling an opportunity, please contact Shelter Manager, Emily Aker shelter@westsuburbanpads.org #708.338.1724 ext. 228

A New Experiment with Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting

Submitted by Judy Erickson

To Be Known "Experimentally"

George Fox and the early Quakers learned what they knew "experimentally." During this past year the Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting (MCGM) went through a visioning process, which led to some "experimental" decisions at the February meeting.

We felt led to set up a two-year experiment to focus on Quaker fellowship, to be called Chicagoland Friends Gathering (CFG). Inspired by and including (as Way opens) the annual Upper Fox Valley Corn Roast, we approved a structure to plan several programs throughout the year to offer opportunities for fellowship, and to strengthen/deepen our spiritual connections across monthly and yearly meetings. A Steering Committee (Bonni McKeown, Margaret Nelson, and Judy Wolicki) was set up to plan programs. Please contact one of them if you are interested in attending the meetings of this committee; all are welcome!

CFG is also experimenting with having just one meeting for worship with attention to business per year, instead of three. Pam Wolfe (Downers Grove FM) will serve as Clerk and Diane Saper (Evanston and Chicago MMs) will serve as Recording Clerk for this two-year period. Helen Dickinson (Oak Park MM) has agreed to continue as Treasurer for the next two years, as well. Near the end of this two-year period we will survey how it will have gone. Because we won't have enough time at business meetings to devote to them, we ask all Monthly Meetings to send their State of Society reports for the next two years directly to their quarterly/yearly meetings.

Our first program was held on May 5th at Chicago Monthly Meeting (Western Yearly Meeting), and included a "Bughouse Corner" discussion on Quakers Called To Prophecy; what does that mean today?" and a banner creation workshop. Margaret

Nelson (Evanston MM) led us in creating banners. I estimate that 100s of photos were taken at the Chicago counter-NATO protests (5/18-20) of her banner (about the right to peaceful assembly) and my banner, which she helped me make (promoting the practice of peace). Our messages live on in these photos taken by journalists and interested people from all over the country!

All F/friends are enthusiastically invited to join us at our meetings, which may not be held according to the previous MCGM schedule but which will be announced well in advance. Our next event will be the beloved Corn Roast at the Howenstine's Pioneer Tree Farm on Saturday, Sept. 1. Mark your calendar and watch for the announcement!

State of Society Report

Thanks to Judy Erickson for preparing the 2012 State of Society Report for Oak Park Friends Meeting.

This year we have been cautious about taking on new work to avoid overextending our time and energy. Some of our more active members in past years have been pulled in other directions, either figuratively or literally. More recent attenders are becoming more comfortable and beginning to become more active. New nudges from the Spirit meant for our entire community have not been clearly sensed.

Vocal ministry has been given nearly every week, and has felt deeply Spirit led. Both silent worship and vocal ministry have refreshed and inspired us.

Our Ministry & Care Committee carries on faithfully. They have set up several Clearness Committees this year, and in many ways support the needs of our spiritual community.

Our Peace & Justice Committee is rather small and has not created a specific focus this year. However, they work hard to support individual concerns and to fulfill requests from business meetings. They often bring a list of action items to business meetings, which are usually appreciated and well accepted.

The Children's Religious Education Committee, working without a clerk, lovingly ministers to the needs of children and parents who attend. They continue to employ Amanda who develops and provides the curriculum each First Day when children attend. Her presence assures us that children will learn good Quaker values as they engage in age-appropriate activities. The Committee seasons the curriculum and communication decisions, and fill in when Amanda is away.

Our Adult Religious Education program is without a coordinator this year. However, there is a scheduler who finds appropriate time slots for programs that individuals want to give. We've had a wide variety of programs, and have been able to use unscheduled time slots for worship sharing on timely topics. We have started to explore Quaker Testimonies, which we hope will appeal to both newer and more experienced folks.

In late April we were told we could no longer rent our space at the Art League. We

started to discern criteria and places to contact, then learned that we do not have to move out after all. It was good to be able to put our sense of urgency to rest.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

May 2012

The Nominating Committee Report is listed below. If anyone is willing to fill any positions that remain unfilled, please contact Valerie Lester.

	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>	
Clerk	Helen Dickinson	Helen Dickinson	
Asst Clerk	Sarah Shirk	Sarah Shirk	Cossy to help w/ opening
Recording Clerk	Judy Erikson	Judy Erikson	
Treasurer	Valerie Lester	Valerie Lester	
Ministry & Care Clerk	Ann Chase	Ann Chase	
Ministry & Care Committee	Adrian Fisher	Adrian Fisher	
Ministry & Care Committee	Pam Timme	Pam Timme	
Ministry & Care Committee	Burke Shipley	Burke Shipley	
Ministry & Care Committee	Helen Dickinson	Helen Dickinson	(back up M&C Clerk)
Peace & Justice Clerk	Kelly Maynard	Kelly Maynard	
Peace & Justice Committee	Amanda Sneed	Amanda Sneed	
Peace & Justice Committee	Judy Erikson		
Peace & Justice Committee	Wil Rutt		
Peace & Justice Committee			
Trailside Garden Green Network Rep	Donna Cech	Donna Cech	
Trailside Garden Green Network Rep	Adrian Fisher		
Children's/Teen Religious Ed Clerk			
Children's/Teen Religious Ed Committee	Sue Beckman		
Children's/Teen Religious Ed Committee	Pam Timme	Pam Timme	
Children's/Teen Religious Ed Committee	Sara Shirk	Sara Shirk	
Adult Religious Ed Facilitator	Kelly Maynard	Kelly Maynard	
Adult Religious Ed Committee	Adrian Fisher	Adrian Fisher	
Adult Religious Ed Committee		Cossy Ksander	
Adult Religious Ed Committee	Helen Dickenson	Helen Dickenson	
Queries			
Finance Clerk	Valerie Lester	Valerie Lester	

	Finance	Judy Erikson	Judy Erikson
	Finance		
	Finance	Phil Weigrich	Phil Weigrich
	Audit	Lois Platt	
Nominating Committee Clerk		Valerie Lester	x
		John	
Nominating Committee		Muhlenberg	x
		Bob	Bob
Nominating Committee		Southworth	Southworth
ILYM rep		Judy Erikson	Judy Erikson
ILYM rep			Valerie Lester
ILYM - ecc/site		Adrian Fisher	Adrian Fisher
Among Friends Writer			
IL YM membership recorder		Pam Timme	Pam Timme
		Helen	Helen
MCGM		Dickenson	Dickenson
		Bob	Bob
Newsletter		Southworth	Southworth
Newsletter		Pam Timme	Pam Timme
website		Judy Erikson	Judy Erikson
		Bob	Bob
website		Southworth	Southworth
website		Denise Jacob	
			Angela
Answering Machine answering		Laura Maddox	McElwain
Librarian		Wil Rutt	Judy Erikson
			Leann
co-librarian			Beckman
Holiday F&G Basket Liaison		Sue Beckman	Sue Beckman
Holiday F&G Basket Liaison		Donna Cech	Sarah Shirk
Food Pantry Liaison		Sue Beckman	Sue Beckman
Pads coordinator		Valerie Lester	Valerie Lester
Pads co-coordinator			
Crop Walk Coordinator			
Community of Congregations			
Community of Congregations		Valerie Lester	Valerie Lester
		Amanda	
OPAL Liaison		Sneed	Amanda Sneed
		Helen	Helen
Contact List		Dickinson	Dickinson
Greeter coordinator		Valerie Lester	Sue Beckman
Stock coffee/tea/cocoa		Valerie Lester	Sarah Shirk

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:

Equality

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

Service is but Magic moving through the world
And mind itself is Magic coursing through the flesh
And flesh itself is Magic dancing on a clock
And time itself the magic length of God.

*Excerpt from the song, "God Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot",
Words by Leonard Cohen, music by Buffy Sainte Marie*