

Community * Equality * Harmony * Integrity * Simplicity

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
November 2012



Wilder Park, Elmhurst, IL

by Bob Southworth

photo

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

Third Sunday Sing-alongs - Join Friends every third Sunday of the month at OPAL at 9:40 am for fellowship through song

The Ministry and Care Committee want you to be aware that there is a suffering fund for those that need. Contact a committee member for details.

Patricia Marton is looking for a place to stay occasionally on Saturday nights so she can attend the meeting. If she decides to move to the Chicago area, she might be looking for a room to stay in for a longer period of time, but might be going home for weekends. If you have any information for her, please contact her at pmarton61701@yahoo.com.

Paz is available for hire for jobs such as stenciling, sign work, yard work, tuck pointing, 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 for further information.

11/9 - 11/11, High School Friends Quake at St. Louis Meeting, St. Louis, MO - Contact Rose Dennis for more information at rosedennis25@yahoo.com

Sunday, 11/18, 7:00 pm, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, hosted by OPRF Community of Congregations

Friday, 11/11, 7:00pm PADS Dinner at Saint John Lutheran Church in Forest Park, 305 Circle Ave. Friends will collect food and serve. Contact Val Lester for more information.

Weddings at OPFM

Submitted by Pam Timme (reprint from Feb 2006)

There have been two weddings under the care of Oak Park Friends Meeting, one in 1982 and the other in 1983.

“Perhaps the most warmly affecting and pleasurable activity of the past year has been the celebration of Oak Park Friends’ first wedding in over 40 years of meetings. Louise Sayon and Ian Bower were married at a special Meeting for Worship on Saturday afternoon, February 6th. Blizzards of 1982 notwithstanding, the wedding was officially witnessed by more than 80 guests, hailing from the far reaches of Connecticut and Pennsylvania to Seattle, Washington and Oak Park, Illinois. Warm messages of love, joy and friendship were shared during worship. The simple decorations of candles and hanging wicker plates holding white and yellow daisies and cornhusk dolls added to the pleasant family-community feeling of the occasion. A reception dinner followed the Meeting for Marriage. This was the first wedding to be held at Hephzibah House. Their board expressed pleasure at lending the center for such an occasion. Being included in the Bowers’ wedding preparations has been particularly bonding and enriching to Oak Park Friends.”
~OPFM 1982 State of Society Report and Among Friends, Spring, 1982.

Annette Ward and Frank Dowling were married at Hephzibah House under the care of the Meeting on June 4, 1983. Annette recalls that she and Frank and her daughters, Heather, 7, and Charlotte, 4, sat facing the meeting in the decorated dining room of Hephzibah House. (On a light note, according to Annette, Charlotte had a small plastic cowboy peeking out of her little purse, and she entertained herself by chewing gum and blowing bubbles.) Howard McKinney was clerk of the Meeting at that time, and gave a few explanatory remarks about Friends weddings at the beginning. Annette and Frank said their vows to each other, and Wally Conrad and others added spoken ministry. Toward the end, Louise Bower read the wedding certificate, and brought it to the couple to sign. After the wedding, all who were present signed the certificate, which now is framed and hangs on the wall in the Dowlings’ home.

Business Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Judy Erickson

Meeting of 10/14/12

Burke Shipley has resigned from the Ministry and Care Committee. We thank him for his years of faithful and fruitful service on this Committee.

The Children’s Religious Education Committee held a meeting in September in which they outlined a new program that would involve more adults than those on the CRE committee. It was decided not to hire a new religious education provider. Religious education will be offered to children on the third Sunday of each month, and on other Sundays, volunteers will be sought to provide day care upstairs. If there are no volunteers, children will remain in the gallery with quiet toys (more materials are sought for this).

The Adult Religious Education Committee has a couple items planned, including a discussion on Islam on 11/4, a workshop on grieving on 12/2, and a discussion of an article about peacemaking written by Laura Chico while she lived in Rwanda, on 1/6/13.

The Peace and Justice Committee supports the decision of the AFSC to join a lawsuit that challenges the designation of “Specially Designated Terrorist” This designation, once assigned to an individual, no person or organization is permitted to engage in coordinated speech with them, even if only to express concerns about the government’s conduct. OPFM supports the AFSC decision to join such a suit because we believe the details of the Specially Designated Terrorist label violate basic civil rights and liberties, not only of the person so labeled, but also of any citizen daring to discuss the case. Freedom of speech is the cornerstone of justice which allows the least in our society to speak truth to power.

Sue and Sarah are coordinating the Holiday Gift Basket service project this year.

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?

In Conclusion

To give thanks in solitude is enough. Thanksgiving has wings and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more about it than you do. -*Victor Hugo*