

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
October 2012



Photo taken by Pam Timme at Illinois Yearly Meeting

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

Please hold in the Light Mary Pikul & Heidi Enger during this time of grieving for their Father and Grandfather Kazimierz Pikul. The obituary notice from the Tribune is provided in the following link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chicagotribune/obituary.aspx?n=kazimierz-pikul&pid=159461426&fhid=2009#fbLoggedOut>

Sibel Kusimba lost her 20-year-old nephew, Neil Filley, in a tragic accident in September. Please hold her and her family in the Light. The link to his obituary is <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailycamera/obituary.aspx?n=Neil-Filley&pid=159574929#fbLoggedOut>.

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

Most Oak Park Friends remember and miss Tom Dix, Marti Matthews' son, who passed away three years ago this September. We miss his friendship and his many spiritual gifts.

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, 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 for further information.

Thu-Sun, 10/4-7, Quaker Earthcare Witness Annual Fall Gathering, Cenacle Conference & Retreat Center, 513 Fullerton Parkway, Chicago. It's their 25th anniversary! The public are welcome to attend presentations by speakers without registering. (Donations for speakers' expenses are requested.)

Sat, 10/13, 10:00 am-late afternoon, Seeking Peace: Preserving Apples, Illinois Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse & Kitchen, McNabb, IL. *THIS JUST IN: Peace Resources Committee is thrilled to announce the generous contribution of apples from Tanner's Orchard of 740 State Route 40, in Speer, IL. We will be gifted all we need for the workshop, so come join us for a day of learning and fun! (posted 9/14) Full details at: <http://peaceresources.wordpress.com/2012/09/04/seeking-peace-preserving-apples/>*

Tues, 10/16, 6:00-8:00 pm, Interfaith Hunger Banquet, Dominican University & Concordia University Chicago, in the dining hall of Dominican's Priory Campus, 7200 Division Street, River Forest. Free and open to the public, but space is limited. RSVP by October 9 to Fran Nolan at fnolan@dom.edu. For more information, contact Matt

Palkert, Dominican University Ministry, 708-524-6686 FREE 708-524-6686 or mpalkert@dom.edu.

Modeled on a concept originated by Oxfam International, the hunger banquet is designed to raise awareness of global hunger and the ways that interfaith cooperation is addressing this complex and pervasive issue. Participants will share an orchestrated meal designed to demonstrate global food disparity, with diners divided into three groups representing high-income, middle-income and low-income people around the world. According to the United Nations, over 925 million people do not have enough to eat. While many of those people live in developing countries, hunger is also an issue in the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that more than 9 percent of Illinois households face food insecurity. Speakers from Catholic Relief Services and the SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality will expand awareness of the hunger issue and representatives from several hunger response organizations will be available to answer questions.

Sun, 10/21, 11:30, Direction of the Meeting discussion.

Direction of the Meeting

Our annual Direction of the Meeting gathering will be held after Meeting for Worship on October 21st. We will be combining it with our usual third Sunday potluck meal. The Direction of the Meeting is our time to look at the things about the Meeting that worked or didn't work well in the past year, and also what changes or enhancements we would like to see in the next year. Please feel free to participate, whether you are long-time members, new attenders, or anything in between! The more of us that participate, the clearer our sense of the meeting will be.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

September 2012

Kelly presented the recommendations from the Peace & Justice Committee for donations to other organizations. If approved, these recommendations would result in spending \$355 less than was spent on last year's donations. We approved the suggested changes to the DUES sections. We approved holding over the Contributions section until the October meeting.

Our Direction of the Meeting meeting has been scheduled for Oct. 21st. Judy Wolicki can attend; Joan Pine cannot attend. Val will ask OPAL if we can use the whole building, or at least the kitchen and gallery, until 2:00. It will be a potluck. We asked M&C to create the program, reaching out to Judy Wolicki if more input is desired.

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?

How does our Meeting learn about environmental concerns and then act in the community on its concerns?

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all?

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...

Autumn

By Emily Dickinson

The morns are meeker than they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.