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equality

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harmony
simplicity

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integrity

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OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

September 2012



Friends Paddle Trip - 8/25/12, Warrenville, IL

photo credit: Sarah Shirk

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

Rosemary Hutchinson is going back to school and is looking for a room to rent for quiet study where she can “come and go and sometimes spend the night”. Her phone number is 630-400-4523

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.

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.

Mon, 9/17 - Occupy Monsanto, St. Louis, MO - Protest against leading manufacturer of genetically engineered foods. If interested in going, contact Paz at 773-844-2977. More info at <http://occupy-monsanto.com/>

Fri, 9/21 - Sun 9/23 - Evanston Friends Meeting Community Retreat - More info at: <http://www.oakparkfriends.org/evanston-community-retreat.html>

[Hiroshima Anniversary](#)

Submitted by Paz

Every year on August 6th, people gather at the Hiroshima sculpture, located at the University of Chicago, to reflect on the horrific event. The gathering is emceed by Brad Lytle from 57th street meeting. Readings were offered by people of the time closely associated with the event, such as Harry Truman, the Chaplain of the Air Force, and victims of the bomb. Paz, a regular attender of our meeting, highly recommends this annual event.

[Library Reorganization Project](#)

Submitted by Judy Erickson

Greetings from your new co-librarians, Leann Beckman (the fastest sorter in town) and yours truly. We've been working hard at resorting and thinking about our wonderful collection of books, pamphlets, cds and dvds. We want to make it easier for people to access and use these resources. One aspect of this project is to group items together using more specific categories. Our current categories are:

Biography, Children's Books, Devotional, ILYM, Meeting Resources, Music, Peace & Justice, Religious Education

For example, the current ***Peace & Justice*** category might be more meaningful if sorted into subcategories such as ***Conflict Resolution, Other Countries, or Environmental Literature***. The ***Devotional*** category could be divided into subcategories such as ***Worship & Prayer, Personal Transformation, or Interfaith/Ecumenical Work***. Is there a subcategory that you would like to have in a specific grouping on the shelves?

Because many items could fit into more than one category, we'll do our best to discern the underlying theme of each item. However, your suggestions for categorizing specific items are most welcome, too!

Please email your suggestions to me, or talk to me whenever you get a chance.

My email address is jmessage1@yahoo.com. Thanks!

[An Appeal for Shakir Hamoodi](#)

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

Friends in the Columbia Friends Meeting and ILYM have endorsed a petition, in the form of a letter to President Obama, asking him to commute the sentence of Shakir Hamoodi. Shakir is an Iraqi who has been living in the Midwest for about two decades. Between 1998-2003 he committed civil disobedience and sent money and living supplies to his extended family in Iraq who were suffering under the US imposed sanctions. He was arrested, charged, and pled guilty. However the evidence is very clear that the money sent went only toward humanitarian use by his family or friends' families, and the US prosecution is only for breaking the

sanction law. Many Friends in ILYM committed the same act of civil disobedience (recall the FOR/AFSC water filter project circa 1999).

Below is an excerpt from an appeal to try to gain clemency:

“His “Crime” to which he had to admit in a plea agreement (to avoid an even longer sentence) was that he sent money to his family in Iraq during the UN/US sanctions regime: 1990-2003. His mother was going blind; his sister lost a baby because they couldn’t get \$10 worth of antibiotics. As so many in this town have been saying since we were stunned to learn his sentence several months ago, “Who among us wouldn’t have tried to do the same?”

“Shakir Himoodi’s only chance for not having to be separated from his family for the next 3 years is to be granted Executive Clemency. We don’t expect that the President will act on this request until after the fall elections, and in fact the appropriate documents can’t be filed until Shakir is locked up. But a highly committed group in town - including people who have never been “political” before - is organizing to do our best to bring this to President Obama’s attention, including working with the cooperative staff of our Senator McCaskill

The link to the petition can be found here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/president-barack-obama-commute-the-36-month-sentence-of-dr-shakir-hamoodi>

Friends Canoe Trip at Blackwell Forest Preserve

Submitted by Pam Timme

On Saturday, August 25th, twelve OPFM Friends and their family and friends gathered to paddle and picnic at Silver Lake in the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrentville. The group used canoes and kayaks to explore the small lake and its wildlife. We saw ducks, geese, a beaver lodge, and one mink sighting! Afterwards, we gathered in the beautiful picnic grove for an extensive potluck lunch, followed by bocce ball. It was a fun morning, and we look forward to the next group outing - ideas anyone?



Left: Dan and Judy Right: Sue and Lean
Photo credit: Sarah Shirk

Website Announcement - Meeting Supplies

Submitted by Judy Erickson

Greetings to all. Over the years, individuals have faithfully taken custody of various Meeting resources and kept safe until needed. However, at times we have scratched our heads and wondered where various things are. I have created a new page on our website to help us keep track of such things. It is called "Information about Supplies" and is password protected. Right now it has information about our banner and Day In Our Village supplies, and the materials used for the teen retreat held some years ago.

If you have any materials that you are holding in care of the Meeting, please let me know what they are. I'm not seeking out your own personal collections of minutes of business or committee meetings, but more along the lines of unique documents or artifacts that belong to the Meeting (that you might not have known what to do with). Please let me know if you have something like this, and I'll be glad to add them to this page on the website. Thanks!

Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

Meeting of 8/26/12

The Peace and Justice Committee is interested in leading a discussion on the article "*Frozen in Time: Escaping the Victim-Abuser Triangle*" by Laura Shipler Chico. P&J will confer with the Adult Religious Education Committee on the matter, and if agreeable, the discussion is planned for the first Sunday in January. The article is 5 1/2 pages long, and a link to a pdf can be found on the Peace and Justice page on OPFM's website

The appeal for Shakir Hamoodi (see above) was discussed and it was agreed that the committee supports this petition and will ask Sarah to send the appeal to friends via the OPFM calendar.

Yearly Meeting has not appointed an new FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) rep. The FCNL rep would attend the FCNL annual meeting from Nov. 15 to 18.

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:

9. Ministry of Outreach

Outreach

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?

Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?

Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

Collaboration

In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

What opportunities have I taken to know people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, to worship with them, and to work with them on common concerns?

What opportunities have I taken to know, to work, and to worship with Friends outside of my own Meeting?