

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

**OAK PARK FRIENDS**  
**NEWS**  
***April 2013***



*Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago*  
*Photo taken by Pam Timme*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to John Muhlenberg, March 28<sup>th</sup>!

*If you would like to have your birthday announced in the newsletter, please contact the editors.*

Marti Matthews is planning a trip to Lebanon Valley College in central Pennsylvania for the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27. If you would be interested in attending and travelling with her, please contact her at [martim1234@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martim1234@sbcglobal.net). For more information on the conference, and to register, go to [www.fcrp.quaker.org](http://www.fcrp.quaker.org).

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.

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.*

**Fri-Sun, 4/12-4/14 Peace Testimony Workshop, McNabb, IL**

<http://www.oakparkfriends.org/peace-testimony-workshop.html>

Interested in carpooling to McNabb? Read on...

Judy is planning to attend the Peace Testimony Workshop at ILYM in McNabb on 4/12 & 4/13 (coming back on 4/13). She encourages others to also attend! She has 3 new tires on my car and is willing to drive. It should be a great opportunity for spiritual nurture and friendly fellowship with others from throughout the Yearly Meeting area. The grounds are in a quiet, serene, rural environment and the buildings are simple, vintage, not luxurious but well maintained. The drive takes only about 1.5 hours each way. A link is provided above with more information.

Please contact Breeze if you want to attend so she can get an accurate headcount, or if you have any questions. And do let Judy know if you would like to travel there with her. Come and see what ILYM is like during the "off season!"

**Sat, 4/20 Chicago Friends Gathering**

The Chicagoland Friends Gathering has scheduled its Spring Meeting for Saturday, April 20, 2013.

North Side Friends will be hosting the meeting at the Admiral at the Lake, a Kendal retirement community, 929 Foster Avenue, Chicago IL 60640. The theme will be "Dancing on the Edge of Time: Maturing in the Spirit." See details below...

#### 9:00am at CHICAGO FRIENDS SCHOOL

Those interested in finding out more about Chicago Friends School can begin the morning with a 9a.m. "beginning of life" tour of the school, <http://chicagofriendsschool.org>, at 1246 W. Thorndale, Chicago, about a mile (two Red Line stops North) of the main meeting site.

#### 10:00am at the ADMIRAL (see <http://admiral.kendal.org/>)

The full Gathering will convene at 10 a.m. in the Lighthouse Lounge, the 14th floor meeting room of the Admiral. Use the Red Line to the Berwyn stop. For those driving, indoor free parking is available. Park in any open space from 40-70 and use the public entrance signs to enter. Our morning activities, still in the planning stage, will include coffee, conversation, music, silent worship, and presentations centering on the theme "Dancing on the Edge of Time."

#### POTLUCK LUNCH

We'll have a potluck lunch as we have been doing in recent gatherings. If weather cooperates, we'll set up as a picnic, while admiring the view from the terrace outside our meeting room. Lunch will be followed by a short business meeting, which will include a treasurer's report and evaluation of the Gathering's first year as an experimental reworking of MCGM (Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting.) In late afternoon, interested Friends may take a look at celebrating "life at the end of life" with a tour of the Admiral, <http://admiral.kendal.org> which uses a Quaker form of governance.

#### **Fri-Sun, 4/26-28, ILYM Women's Weekend.**

Please save the date for our annual Women's Weekend, to be held this year April 26 through 28 at the beautiful Illinois Yearly Meeting grounds in McNabb, IL. Our facilitator Jennie Isbell is hard at work preparing what promises to be an excellent program centered on the theme of "Exploring Flexibility in Body and Soul." Jennie writes, "As women, there are many areas in which we are encouraged and challenged to be flexible from physical fitness to scheduling the rhythms of our lives, to being with others who test our emotional flexibility and boundaries. Sometimes it's good to embrace flexibility, but other times, being too flexible may cause us to drift from our center. At this retreat, we will take time to explore many aspects of flexibility including physical, spiritual and relational flexibility. We will also consider what it means to be flexible without compromising or diluting our values. Come prepared to stretch into a time of spiritual exploration with your sisters."

Our weekend will include worship sharing, gentle chair yoga, a walking meditation, and much, much more! There will also be space and time set aside for relaxing, creating, and connecting with other women from throughout the Yearly Meeting. The full Women's Weekend brochure, including registration information, will be distributed in early March, so mark your calendars for the weekend of April 26-28 and keep an eye on your inbox or go to [www.ilym.org](http://www.ilym.org) for more info.

#### **Sun, 5/5 - CROP WALK <http://www.oakparkhungercropwalk.org/>**

Main route 5 miles, Alternate: 3.4 miles - if you'd like to see a route map and/or walk, please contact Val Lester for a packet. 75% Funds raised go to Church World Services international hunger relief programs and 25% is split between OP/RF, Columbus Park, Forest Park, Pine Ave,

Proviso and St Eulalia Food Pantries, OP/RF Walk In Ministries, Cluster Tutoring, and West Suburban PADS.

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Peace and Justice Committee is looking for someone who would be interested in composing a letter on the topic of gun control from a Quaker perspective. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Maynard at [kellythelinguist@hotmail.com](mailto:kellythelinguist@hotmail.com).

## RECYCLING EVENTS

**River Forest** will be holding three recycling events where residents can come to properly throw away electronics and old appliances.

The events, co-hosted by the village and Vintage Tech, a Romeoville disposal company, will be held **April 28, July 28, and Oct. 27**, from 9am to 1pm in the west Thatcher parking lot, located on the west side of the 400 block of Thatcher Avenue, across from the Metra train station.

Electronics that can no longer simply be thrown out or recycled by the curb include: TVs, monitors, printers, computers, electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, digital video disc players, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, computer mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers and digital video disc recorders. All of the devices contain metals and or plastics with toxic compounds that can pose serious environmental threats if dumped in landfills.

**Triton College** will also be holding a recycling event at 9am to 1pm on **May 4** in Triton's North parking lot. Triton will collect electronics, clothes, unwanted medications and shoes to recycle with Vintage Tech Recyclers and USAgain. For more information, contact our own Adrian Fisher at 708-456-0300, ext. 3578, email [afisher@triton.edu](mailto:afisher@triton.edu), or visit [www.triton.edu/sustainability](http://www.triton.edu/sustainability).

## BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

### March 2013

**Finance Committee.** Val presented the Treasurers Report. YTD we are about where she expected us to be in relation to the budget. She proposed for our Meeting to give \$50 to each of the organizations for which we had budgeted a donation for this year, except those to which we have already made (earmarked) donations this year. The total of suggested donations is \$600. Friends approved this suggestion. We acknowledge all the friends/attenders who

generously gave earmarked contributions to facilitate our ability to live within our budget while still making contributions to worthy organizations. Val expressed appreciation for the harmonious way we have engaged in these discussions in the spirit of good Quaker practice this year.

**Ministry & Care Committee.** We discussed whether to take Kelly & Rick's upcoming marriage under the care of our Meeting. Last Fall we had a Clearness Committee to help the couple season their decision to marry. We have formed an Arrangements Committee to help them plan their wedding. We talked about ways in which we can care for their marriage, such as keeping them informed about Quaker couple enrichment events, and asking the M&C Committee to check in with them periodically. We approve taking this marriage under the care of this Meeting.

Kelly expressed gratitude from Rick and herself for the help various individuals have given to them. Rick has learned a lot about Quakerism as a result. It is also great for them to know how much we care about them.

**Children's Religious Education Committee.** Sarah reported that there was a good group for Les Miserables. Ten attended together.

**Adult Religious Education Committee.** Kelly facilitated a discussion about the stewardship of Meeting's finances last week, that Cossy helped to prepare. Cossy & Kelly will work on a presentation on Vocal Ministry for the April event

**Nominating Committee.** They asked about finding people for Childrens Religious Ed, Peace & Justice, & Crop Walk Coordinator.

**New Business.** We need a volunteer to write a State of Society report

## 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:

### Care for the Meeting Community

Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

*Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?*

*Do I recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?*

*Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?*

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

### ***April Rain Song***

Let the rain kiss you  
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops  
Let the rain sing you a lullaby  
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk  
The rain makes running pools in the gutter  
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night  
And I love the rain.

*~ Langston Hughes*