

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

August 2013



*Indiana Dunes with Chicago Skyline
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

Meeting for Worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Clerk – Judy Erickson
Recording Clerk – Sarah Shirk
Treasurer – Valerie Lester
Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth
(<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)
Submission deadline – 25th day of the month

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christina Timme gave birth to Allen Eduardo Ruiz at 1:06 a.m. on July 20th, 2013 at Northwestern Hospital. Allen weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces. Christina and her baby are both doing well. Allen attended his first Quaker meeting at OPFM on July 28th. Friends appreciated his vocal ministry of soft baby sounds. Welcome to the world, Little Allen!



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 for further information.

Sat, 8/31 The Eighth Annual Old-Fashioned Corn Roast and Pot Luck Picnic

Metropolitan Chicago Friends, hosted by Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting.

When: Saturday, August 31, 2013 – 3:00 p.m. till dark

Where: Alice and Bill Howenstine's
Pioneer Tree Farm
4614 Pioneer Road (3 miles north of McHenry, half mile off Rt. 31)

McHenry, IL 60051 Tel: 815-385-8512
(a map can be printed from the farm's web site: www.pioneertreefarm.com)

What's happening:

3:00--5:00 – hiking the lanes, feeding the chickens, hayride, talking, singing, frisbee, horseshoes, or your own favorite game

5:00 (approx.) -- pot luck supper – (roast corn, lemonade, iced tea, and decaf coffee will be provided by Upper Fox Valley)

Evening -- campfire, singing, etc.

What to bring:

-- some food to share (with marked serving utensils, and cooler, if needed); soft drinks (if desired); your own plates, cups, utensils that you can take home with you; folding chairs or blankets to sit on (there are four picnic tables and benches); musical instrument; mosquito repellent if you use it

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER WITH OUTDOOR CLOTHING!

RSVP:

To order enough corn we need to know how many are coming!
815-385-8512 or abhow@oawl.net

9/27-9/29 Evanston Friends Meeting Community Retreat at Cabrini Retreat Center
To register go to: <http://tinyurl.com/community-retreat-2013>

LIBRARY

AUGUST IS FREE BOOK MONTH!

With help from Adrian & Cossy, I've nearly finished my work as library coordinator. In order to make room on the shelves for the remaining book donations, which have now been added to our collection, I had to remove some older and less relevant materials. (By the time this newsletter comes out, our online category lists will have been updated.) Some of the removed items are duplicates of items on the shelves; some are similar to current items but are older; some seem less relevant to our current needs; and some are unrelated to Quakerism and the categories in our collection.

However, some items may spark your curiosity and fill a gap in your own collection! These materials (books, pamphlets, and a few dvds) fill four bags. I plan to bring a bag each First Day in August and spread the items out on the big table. You are encouraged to take whatever items you want! I'll donate or recycle what is left.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

- If you return an item you borrowed before the transition to the new system, **please give the item to me** instead of trying to find where it goes on the shelves. I'll put its new category sticker on it and shelve it.
- If you have relevant items you'd like to add to our collection, please bring them to Meeting. They will be stored offsite until a new library coordinator takes up this work.
- Final request: please peruse our collection and borrow what you will. If we don't set out the library sign-out clipboard, you should be able to find it there pretty easily or just ask for help. On our shelves live some really fascinating and inspiring people, stories, and ideas!

Judy

OUR TRIP TO A LABYRINTH

Six Friends attended the trip to the Garfield Park Conservatory to walk the labyrinth there. The event was planned by the Adult Religious Education Committee. Cossy Ksander informed the group about how to walk the labyrinth in a beneficial way. She also explained the difference between labyrinths and mazes – labyrinths spiral in to a center point and then back out, and they exercise the creative/holistic right side of the brain, while mazes are like a puzzle with many dead ends, and they exercise the problem-solving, left side of the brain. The group also enjoyed touring the rest of the conservatory.



Sarah, Sue, Pam, Cossy and Helen (Wil, not pictured)

PROJECT LAKOTA UPDATE

PROJECT LAKOTA SEEKS SUPPORT

Released Friend, Candy Boyd, member of St Louis MM, writes that she "is headed up tomorrow evening (Saturday 7/27) to Lakota Nation/Pine Ridge reservation and we

really need support - both holding in the Light & financial - to get water into the trailers we have been working on for some years for a grandmother & many grandchildren."

Summer budget estimates are:

Electric	\$417.16	(already paid)
Run Water Line	\$1800 - 2000.00	(partnering with Hands of Faith*)
Redo roof	600 - 700.00	
Maximum TOTAL	\$3117.16	

* a regular contractor would cost \$3000 - \$5000)

Candy's new phone # 573-351-8871

Contributions can be sent to Project Lakota (check made out to St. Louis Friends Meeting with Project Lakota in the memo line), 7429 Brunswick Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119.

******Every little bit helps!******

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

July 2013

Finance Committee. Val reminds Committee Clerks to submit their budgets before September.

Ministry & Care Committee. When there are children among us, there should be at least two adults with them. This does not apply to family members of the child. This M&C decision and the entire M&C report were approved and accepted with thanks.

Nominating Committee. Cossy has informed us that they are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate the library.

New Business. We discussed the suggestion of sending representatives to a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a new ILYM quarterly meeting among the Chicago South Planning Group Meetings. We have reservations about our ability to support a quarterly meeting, but we are open to discussing it if there is broad participation from the Chicago South Meetings. If a meeting is scheduled to explore this possibility and all other Chicago South Meetings agree to send a representative, then Oak Park will also send a representative.

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:

Peace

How does our Meeting act to advance peace, to oppose violence, and to support the constructive use of authority in our community, our nation, and the world?

What are we doing as a Meeting:

- to free our nation from militarization, so evident in our society and in its economy?
- to understand the causes of war and violence and to work for the development of the attitudes and institutions of peace?
- to recognize and correct the causes of violence within our communities, and to work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
- to increase the understanding and use of nonviolent approaches for the resolution of conflicts?

Do I live in the power of that Life and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?

How do I maintain Friends' testimony that military training and all participation in war and its preparation are inconsistent with the teaching and the spirit of Christ?

Do I work for the establishment of alternative ways of settling disputes? Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention? Do I seek to recognize and respect the Divine in those with whom I have a basic disagreement? Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.
~*Rabindranath Tagore*

Kids: they dance before they learn there is anything that isn't music. ~*William Stafford*

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." ~ *The Bible, Mark 10: 13-16*