

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

October 2013



Volo Bog State Natural Area, Volo, Illinois

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 – Judith 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

Marti Matthews is planning to attend the 2013 Ministry of Writing Colloquium at the Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. If anyone at OPFM is interested in going, she would be happy to car pool. She can be contacted at 708-445-1570. See the article below for complete information about this event.

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.

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.

Fri-Sun, 9/27-29, Evanston Friends Meeting Community Retreat, Cabrini Retreat Center, 9430 Gold Road, Des Plaines. Please register as early as possible. Here is a link to the [registration form](#).

Sat, 10/19, 9:00am-4:00pm, ILYM Continuing Committee Meeting, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting. Coffee at 9:00am, business meeting at 10:00am.

Sat, 10/19, 7:00pm, David Zarembka speaking on "Peacemaking after Deadly Conflict in Eastern Africa," Downers Grove Quaker Meeting, 5710 Lomond Ave. in Downers Grove, just east of I-355, 1.5 blocks south of Maple Ave. All are welcome. David is the Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative, which our Meeting has supported for years. [Here](#) is more information.

Thurs-Sun, 10/24-27, Quaker Earthcare Witness Annual Meeting & Gathering, Cenacle Retreat Center, Chicago. For more information follow [this link](#).

Fri, 11/29, 6:30pm, PADS dinner service, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

FAREWELL TO TWO FRIENDS

On Saturday, September 7th, F(f)riends held a funeral for Carol Zimmerman and a memorial meeting for Paz St. John.

Judy Erickson and Adrian Fisher attended the ILYM Work Day on Saturday, Sept. 7th. An unforeseen opportunity came up that day to attend the interment of the ashes of Carol Zimmerman at the Quaker cemetery in McNabb. It was a lovely sunny

afternoon, with about 15 friends in attendance. Carol Bartles sang "Amazing Grace" and John Hackman led us in "'Tis a Gift To Be Simple." Various friends shared memories of her spirit and contributions to ILYM. Roses from the ILYM grounds were left both within and on the gravesite.

Carol occasionally attended Oak Park and other area Meetings throughout many years. She had been an active member of 57th Street Meeting and ILYM for decades. Her Memorial Service is being scheduled at 57th Street Meeting for Saturday, Oct. 26th. More information will be available at a later date.

Northside Friends held a memorial meeting for Paz St. John at the Evanston Meetinghouse. About seventy-five people that Paz knew from his many and varied activities gathered together to celebrate his life. People shared many stories, and sang "If I Had a Hammer," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and spontaneously ended with, "We Shall Overcome." A vegan potluck dinner followed.

Paz was an occasional visitor to OPFM and an attender at Northside Friends Meeting for over thirty years. He was a man of great conviction who believed in leading a peaceful, non-impactful life. His causes included veganism, halting nuclear proliferation, and stewardship of the environment.

A memorial minute and a number of slides showing Paz recently and as a young man, and also his artwork can be seen at www.northsidefriends.org. Click on Documents, then, within the Documents menu, click on Publications and Lectures. Then click on the item of your choice to open, and click on the blue download arrow.

EARLHAM EVENT

ESR to Host 2013 Ministry of Writing Colloquium

Earlham School of Religion will host their Annual Ministry of Writing Colloquium on November 1st and 2nd, featuring keynote presenter Jana Riess.

Riess is the author of *Flunking Sainthood*, *The Writer's Market Guide to Getting Published*, *What Would Buffy Do?* and several other books. Her newest book, releasing in November 2013, is *The Twible: All the Chapters of the Bible in 140 Characters or Less . . . Now with 68% More Humor!*

In her keynote presentation, *Writing through Failure*, Riess will share stories of failure—failure to publish, failure to write what's in our hearts, failure to be "successful," whatever that means—and point to writing as a spiritual practice, marked more by failure (or our perception of failure) than by success. She will share how maturity for a writer—and anyone on the spiritual path—means coming to terms with failure and finding ways to incorporate its teachings into our writing and our lives. She will also present a workshop on *Writing Your Memoir*.

The Colloquium will offer a choice of workshops from published authors on topics including *Field Guide for your Creative Journey*, *Writing Our Image of God*, and *The Art of the Interview: Spicing up Nonfiction*.

The cost for the Colloquium is \$70 per person (\$65 if registered by October 11th), and includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Undergrad and graduate college students can attend for a reduced cost of \$25. Participants are encouraged to attend a special evening reading with the workshop presenters on Friday, November 1st beginning at 7:00 pm, and an open mic night after the colloquium on the 2nd beginning at 4:30, where participants can share their own writing.

For full conference information and a printable registration form, visit <http://esr.earlham.edu/content/2013-ministry-writing-colloquium> or call (800) 432-1377, or e-mail fordma@earlham.edu.

The Colloquium will be held in the ESR Center on the Earlham School of Religion campus, located at the corner of U.S. 40 West (Old National Road) and College Avenue in Richmond, Indiana.

This event was created in honor of former ESR Dean Tom Mullen, who passed away on June 19, 2009. The Ministry of Writing Colloquium is one way ESR demonstrates its commitment to the written word as an important form of ministry.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

September 2013

Ministry and Care Committee. The Direction of the Meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2013 at 11:30am. A request was received from Wilmer Rutt for a transfer of membership to Northside Friends Meeting. Our response letter to Northside Meeting was reviewed, edited, and approved. A donation to MCGM WBEZ outreach was discussed. The radio advertisements would publicize the David Zarembka event at Downers Grove Meeting. The radio versions were distributed with the goal and background on this outreach effort. A check for \$55 was approved for MCGM general fund. A letter with suggestions for surveying event attenders, distributing Friends meeting locations, and utilizing other outreach efforts via social media will also be sent to the committee. Funeral expenses for Paz St. John were discussed. A donation to Northside Meeting in memory of Paz was approved for \$100 from the sufferings fund. This donation may be used for funeral expenses or a peace organization that Paz supported.

Nominating Committee. Judy will represent OPFM at Chicago South Quarterly Meeting. Valerie will serve as a back-up representative. Kelly will be representative for the Trailside garden. Nominees approved.

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...

In gratitude for seeds planted and apples harvested ~

Johnny Appleseed

Oh, the Lord is good to me,
And so I thank the Lord,
For giving me the things I need,
The sun and the rain and the apple seed,
The Lord is good to me.

And every seed I sow,
Will grow into a tree,
And someday there'll be apples there.
For everyone in the world to share,
The Lord is good to me.



Happy Halloween!