

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
September 2013



Photo – Bob Southworth

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paz passed from this life on August 29th. An occasional visitor to OPFM, Paz was an attender at Northside meeting for over 30 years. Paz was a man of great conviction who believed in leading a peaceful, non-impactful life. Two of his causes included veganism and halting nuclear proliferation. A celebration of his life will be held on September 7th, see more information in the events section below

Chicago Friends School is NOW accepting applications for Fall 2013, K-2nd Grade
Are you looking for a progressive, project-based learning environment on Chicago's North Side? The Chicago Friends School is a coeducational elementary school in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. Currently the school provides K-2nd education and will be expanding one grade per year through 8th grade. Chicago Friends School is guided by Quaker principles of peace, equality, simplicity, integrity, community, and service. Children of diverse backgrounds are welcome, Quakers and non-Quakers. The educational environment provided meets children's intellectual, social and emotional needs, nurtures relationships, and fosters a sense of belonging, social awareness, and personal responsibility. Scholarships available. Please visit the website to learn more at: <http://chicagofriendsschool.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.

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.

Saturday, September 7th, 7:00 pm – Vegan Potluck and Celebration of Paz’s Life

Evanston Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf Street in Evanston just 2 blocks north of Main Street and 2 blocks east of Ridge Avenue,

Please bring a vegan dish (no meat, chicken, fish, dairy, eggs, honey) to share with 20 - 25 people

Please include an index card with a list of ingredients with your dish for those with restricted diets. In honor of Paz, please bring your own dish, utensils and cup for your meal - let's have as little waste as possible!

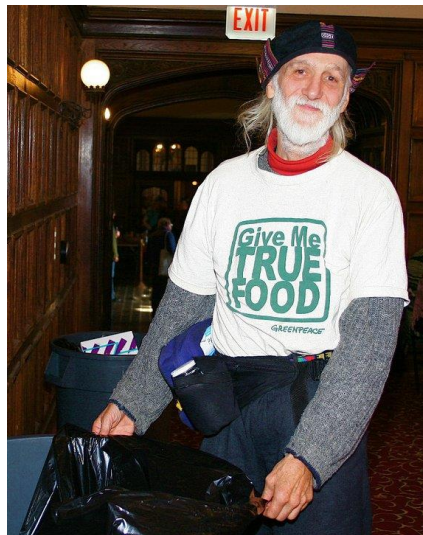


Photo by Mikael Nielsen

Saturday, September 7th, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (followed by clean up and dinner at 6pm) – ILYM Semi Annual Workday

Come enjoy working with Friends as we maintain the ILYM 12-acre campus. We really need everyone's help even if for just a day. Any skill level is welcome. We will be doing pruning, cleaning, finishing the cabins, and putting up wall siding in the junior meeting house.

Food: Please bring a dish to share for lunch; dinner will be provided Sat. night.

Monday, September 30th, 7:00 pm – Community Meeting, Our Neighbors to the East, Ascension Catholic Church, 808 S. East Ave. in Oak Park; Recent publicity has presented a one dimensional portrait of the Austin community. In order to help us get a better understanding of our neighbors and learn how we can meaningfully partner with them, the Oak Park-River Forest Community of Congregations will convene a panel of community activists at our first Community Meeting this fall.

Fri-Sun, 9/27-29, Evanston Friends Meeting Community Retreat, Cabrini Retreat Center, 9430 Gold Road, Des Plaines. Please register as early as possible.

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.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Sarah Shirk

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

August 2013

Quaker Earthcare Witness has provided a \$111 grant for the Trailside Garden. The nominating committee will be asked to locate a coordinator for the stewardship of the garden.

Chicago South Quarterly Meeting is looking for 1-2 representatives from OPFM. The decision should be made by the second first day of September.

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:

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?

In Conclusion

Nuclear weapons, which jeopardize the very existence of humanity, epitomize the tragic truth that our development as human beings has not kept pace with our scientific advances. *Daisaku Ikeda*