

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

January 2014



Photo – Renee 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 – 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

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.

Jan 17-20, Quake that Rocked the Midwest, Evanston Friends Meeting

Jan 25th-26th, Eagle watch at Starved Rock State Park. Eagle watch on Jan 25th with option to stay at the McNabb house and worship with Clear Creek Meeting on Jan 26th <http://www.starvedrocklodge.com/events/event/eagle-watch-weekend/>

Fri, 1/31, 7:00pm, PADS dinner service, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

An interesting idea was brought up at the December Business Meeting to replace the existing individual committee structure with a single "Committee of the Whole". The idea was discussed in December, and will be further explored in the January Business Meeting. Below is a summary of the idea, penned nicely by Judy Erickson:

The Ministry & Care Committee considered the charge from the November Business Meeting to find two additional people to work on the Nominating Committee this year. Ours is a very small Meeting, and active participants tend to participate in more than one committee, as well as managing family, work, and other volunteer tasks outside of the Meeting. This discussion led to a suggestion that was intended to lighten the loads carried by those active in our Meeting. The suggestion is to replace our current committee structure with a "Committee of the Whole." Ann Chase was a member of a monthly meeting that used this type of structure, and she thinks it may work for us. This Committee is composed of those who attend the monthly meeting for worship with concern for business, and they take care of all business together during worshipful business meetings. It was noted that, although there are many differences between their practices and ours, early Quakers met without elaborate committee structures.

More information about the discussion around this can be found at the business meeting minutes page at <http://www.oakparkfriends.org>

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Sarah Shirk

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

December, 2013

The membership workshop was well-attended by 9 people. Several ideas from the Direction of the Meeting results were discussed, and seemed to favor a book club. An ad will not be taken out in the Pioneer Press as it was deemed that the cost is too high.

Expenses in 2013 have outpaced income by about \$1,050. The difference will lower the reserves

Will Rutt has been accepted as a member of Northside Meeting, so will be dropped from the OPFM member list

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:

1. Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshippers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

CONCLUDING THOUGHT

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

--Edmund Burke.