

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

**OAK PARK FRIENDS**  
**NEWS**  
**March 2014**



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](http://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 – 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

Wanted: babysitter for a six-month-old boy from 9am to 1pm on the first and third Saturdays of the month. If interested, please contact Pam Timme at [ptimme@hotmail.com](mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Please see the meeting website at [www.oakparkfriends.org](http://www.oakparkfriends.org) for further information.*

**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am, ILYM Continuing Committee** – Evanston Friends Meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf St, Evanston

**Thursday, March 20, 6pm Chicago Friends School Dinner/Auction Benefit** at DrinkerBiddle, 191 N. Wacker Drive.

**April 25 – 27, ILYM Women’s Weekend** – McNabb, IL “Sharing Our Stories, Reveling in Joy”  
The brochure and registration information will be available at the beginning of March

**May 23-25, Quake for High School Teens and Tremor for Junior High** – Urbana Champaign Meetin

**June 14-18** – Site Preparation for Illinois Yearly Meeting, McNabb, IL

**June 18-22** – Illinois Yearly Meeting, McNabb, IL

## Project Lakota

Project Lakota is in desperate need of funds. They are currently about \$1300 overspent (i.e., no money in the bank) on heating & utility bills along with emergency vehicle repair with this unbelievably harsh winter on the Pine Ridge reservation (Lakota nation). It is always a hard winter up there, but even worse this year. Some of Project Lakota’s friends with Partnership for Housing foresaw that late last summer with the large wild fruit and nut harvest, but still, it is hard to bring in that much firewood. News came recently that the tribe was out of heating/utility assistance money for elders.

Also, Ana's roof on her trailer is falling in. Project Lakota has been trying to help with that and trying to get Minerva's woodstove moved from her old trailer to the

new one, to help keep her from having heating bills that are \$600 every month. These old FEMA trailers are hardly insulated. Help is needed. Please contact Candy Boyd (Released Friend, St. Louis Monthly Meeting). Her new number is 573-351-8871. She cannot text back and is rarely on the internet, but free to call her anytime. Project Lakota is under the care of St. Louis Monthly Meeting.

Donations for Project Lakota can be sent to “Project Lakota, c/o Diana Pascoe, 7429 Brunswick Ave. , St. Louis , Missouri , 63119 . Please make checks payable to “ St. Louis Meeting” and put “Project Lakota” in the memo line

## **MID-WEEK ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STARTING**

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

Dear Friends,

In response to a discussion which occurred during the Direction of the Meeting gathering, Adult Religious Education has organized a pilot program for OPFM to gauge the interest and participation level in mid-week worship activities. We have decided to start with a 4-week study group based around the video series, *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*. If enough people are interested we can extend this program for three additional weeks. ARE is also hoping to organize a book study for the summer or fall if mid-week gatherings find a positive reception. We encourage other committees or individuals to organize programs for the future (both one-off and multi week is fine).

The gatherings are scheduled for Weds April 9th, 16th, 25th, and 30th. Please feel free to come to all or just one or any number in between. We will be meeting at Cossy Ksander’s home at 7 pm and will finish around 8:30.

About the series *Painting the Stars*: “The theme of each session exposes participants to observations and ideas about the intersection of science and faith that seek to be a catalyst for discussion about the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. The themes are arranged in order to provide a broad introduction to the conversation that is going on among theologians and other thought leaders on the leading edge of wrestling with where Christianity is going in the 21st century.” Each week we will watch a short video. The video come with multiple materials to help facilitate a multi perspective spiritual discussion. We hope to gain clarity a understanding on an important contemporary issue with Quakerism, does a religion need God?

Please note we can not meet the first Wednesday of April, but fortunately April 2014 has 5 Wednesdays. We hope you’ll join us.

## **BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

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

## **February, 2014**

Adult Religious Education will meet on the first Sunday of the month in March and April at OPAL. The May meeting will be held offsite due to a conflicting event at OPAL.

Sue Beckman and Mandy Gawf will join the Nominating committee starting immediately. Sue will serve a two year term and Mandy will serve until August 2014. Bob Southworth will be the convener of the meeting until May 2014.

Judy Erickson and Valarie Lester attended the Chicago South Quarterly Discussion Meeting in Portage, IN and brought back a document of the ideas discussed. The business committee approved the vision, but cannot provide leadership of it at this time.

## **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:

### **3. Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education**

Does our Meeting encourage the ministry of both word and deed? How does our Meeting recognize, develop, and nurture the gifts of our members and attenders of all ages?

Does our Meeting prepare all its members and children for worship and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends? How do we teach about Quaker practices in business and worship and their importance to the functioning of our Meeting community?

In what ways do we support each other in order to seek God's will and act upon our understanding of truth? Is there opportunity in our Meeting to share the excitement of religious discovery and the possibility of religious transformation?

Does our Meeting provide opportunities for all in the Meeting to learn about:

- the Inner Light, the living Christ within, the Bible, the writings of Friends, our Christian heritage, other religious traditions and their respective roles in the history and formation of Friends' principles?

- the common testimonies Friends declare?

- the variety of expression Quaker faith takes today?

Do I maintain as part of my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, with disciplined worship, inward retirement, and communion with the divine spirit?

Do I frequently read the Bible and other religious literature, including the records of the lives and experiences of Friends? Do I take the time to explore these resources with others, and likewise encourage my children?

Do I share my own faith and spiritual journey, and encourage such sharing within my family?

## **Think Positive**

*Spring*, by William Shakespeare

When daisies pied and violets blue  
And lady-smocks all silver-white  
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue  
Do paint the meadows with delight,  
The cuckoo then, on every tree,  
Mocks married men; for thus sings he,  
Cuckoo;  
Cuckoo, cuckoo: Oh word of fear,  
Unpleasing to a married ear!

When shepherds pipe on oaten straws,  
And merry larks are plowmen's clocks,  
When turtles tread, and rooks, and daws,  
And maidens bleach their summer smocks,  
The cuckoo then, on every tree,  
Mocks married men; for thus sings he,  
Cuckoo;  
Cuckoo, cuckoo: Oh word of fear,  
Unpleasing to a married ear!