

community*

equality *

harmony*

integrity *

simplicity

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

January 2011



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 – Wil Rutt

Recording Clerk – Donna Cech
Valerie Lester

Treasurer –

Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme (<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)

Bob Southworth (rollerbob@sbcglobal.net)

(Picture above taken at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, Hoffman Estates)

Announcements/Concerns

Elinor Fallert passed from this life in December at the age of 89. See further information below.

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 224-935-2065.

Upcoming Events

Please see the meeting website at www.oakparkfriends.org for further information.

Sun, 1/30, close by 1 PM Annual Direction of the Meeting. Paul Buckley, ILYM Field Secretary, will join us again this year. Pizza and salad will be served.

Sun, 2/6, 11:30 am - Adult Religious Education, an exercise in Journaling

Thurs Feb. 10, 5-8 Shopping Night at Ten Thousand Villages Oak Park to raise funds for the American Friends Service Committee

Sun, 2/13, 9:00 am, Pancake Breakfast.

Sun. 2/20, 11:30am - Worship with Attention to Business

March date TBD, Teaching Nonviolent Approaches to Children. Presented by Amanda S. and a guest TBA. Location TBA; open to the entire community.

Stepson of the Blues: Black History Month Tour



Bonni McKeown, who attended Oak Park meeting while living on Chicago's West Side in 2004-05, is the co-author of blues singer and drummer Larry Hill Taylor's autobiography, **Stepson of the Blues: A Chicago Song of Survival**. She will be taking Larry's story, plus a few blues tunes, to

Chicago area libraries and community centers for African American History Month, February 2011. If you missed her Second Hour talk at Meeting last August, you have another chance to see her and possibly Larry at Feb. 10, Thursday 7 p.m., Forest Park Library, 7555 W. Jackson, and on Feb. 23, Wednesday 7 p.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park.

Stepson of the Blues Black History Tour Schedule:

Jan. 29, Saturday 2 p.m.: Blackstone Library, 4904 Lake Park Av., Chicago
Feb. 2, Wednesday, 6 p.m, Bezazian Library, 1226 W. Ainslie, Chicago
Feb. 3, Thursday 6 p.m.,Walker Library, 11071 S. Hoyne, Chicago
Feb. 5, College of Complexes, Saturday 8 p.m. Lincoln Restaurant, 4008 N.Lincoln, Chicago
Feb. 7, Monday 5 p.m. North Austin Library, 5724 W. North, Chicago
Feb. 8, Tuesday 2 p.m., S. Shore Library, 2505 E. 73rd St., Chicago
Feb. 9, Wednesday: 11 a.m. Brainerd Library, 1350 W. 89th St., Chicago
Feb. 9, 5 p.m., W. Englewood, 1745 W. 63rd St., Chicago
Feb. 10, Thursday 7 p.m., Forest Park Library, 7555 W. Jackson, Forest Pk
Feb. 14, Monday 5:30 p.m., Wrightwood–Ashburn Library, 8530 S.Kedzie, Chicago
Feb. 16, Wednesday 6 p.m., Legler library, 115 S. Pulaski, Chicago
Feb.18, Friday 10:30 a.m, Learn Charter School 4th Graders Talk, Douglass Library, 3353 W. 13th St, Chicago
Feb. 20, Sunday 3 p.m., Blue Island Library, 2433 York St., Blue Island
Feb. 23, Wednesday 7 p.m., Oak Park Library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park
Feb. 24, Thursday 6 p.m., W Chicago Library, 4846 W. Chicago Av., Chicago
Feb. 26, Saturday 3 p.m., W. Pullman Library, 830 W. 119th St., Chicago
Feb. 27, Sunday 2 p.m., Beverly Art Center, 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago
March 1, Tuesday 6 p.m., Back of Yards Library, 4650 S. Damen, Chicago
More info at the website: www.stepsonoftheblues.com
CONTACT: Bonni McKeown, 773-209-4712,
bonni@barrelhousebonni.com

INCLUDE A QUAKER EVENT IN YOUR 2011 SUMMER PLANS!

Chicago Windows and Mirrors Exhibit, April 30th through May 15th, Columbia College, 600 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago. [Windows and Mirrors](#) is a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity to see ourselves in depictions of the war in Afghanistan through the eyes of artists and children. The exhibit includes 45 unique 4-foot by 6-foot panels created by artists memorializing Afghan civilian casualties, alongside images about living with war collected from Afghan schoolchildren.

Illinois Yearly Meeting, June 15–19 Activities for the whole family, www.ilym.org

Illinois Yearly Meeting Women's Weekend, April 29, www.ilym.org

Friends General Conference July 3–9

Part conference, part family camp, fantastic program for kids and teens, Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa www.fgcquaker.org

Camp Woodbrooke,

Richland, Wisconsin, ages 7–15, two or four week sessions, www.campwoodbrooke.org

Friends Music Camp, July 11–Aug 8

At Olney Friends School, Barnesville, Ohio, ages 10–18, two or four week sessions www.friendsmusiccamp.org



Elinor Fallert

Our good friend, Elinor Fallert, died on December 17, 2010. She was a part of the Oak Park Friends Meeting community for over forty years, and exemplified the Quaker testimonies of equality, integrity, simplicity, peace and community.

Elinor Fallert was born on a farm in southern Indiana. After graduating from college, she taught high school in the St. Louis area. Then she moved to Chicago, where she worked as an assistant librarian in a bank's

special library until she married. She and her husband, Richard, had two children: Bruce and Rosemary. When the children were fairly young, the family moved to the Oak Park home where Elinor lived for the rest of her life. Elinor also had two grandchildren, Heidi and Logan, who were her pride and joy.

After her children were raised, Elinor worked for open housing in Oak Park. She also worked in downtown Chicago for Meyer Weinberg, who published the magazine, "Integrated Education", until the magazine moved to the east. She then worked for William Lloyd, a Quaker, who published a newsletter called, "Toward Freedom", devoted to securing freedom for countries in Africa, until that publication moved to Vermont.

Through the years, Elinor continued her volunteer work for a number of organizations, including the Central America Action Coalition, Amnesty International, ASSIST (which helps elderly people in their homes and provides transportation), and as a hospice volunteer for the Visiting Nurses Association. Some of these organizations met in her home. In 1989 she was named Volunteer of the Year by an Oak Park volunteer organization. In recent years she became more limited in her activities from the results of a stroke and heart attack, and eventually ill health caused her to remain at home under the care of her home health nurse and the assistance of her children.

Elinor traveled widely in Europe, including Russia, and also in El Salvador, Turkey and China. In fact, it was while she and her husband were on their way to Egypt in 1983 that Richard became ill on the island of Rhodes. They returned to Oak Park, but he passed away two weeks later. His memorial service was held at Unity Temple under the auspices of Oak Park Friends Meeting.

Elinor became interested in Quakerism in the mid-1960s, after having been active in the Methodist church. She was attracted to Quakerism's receptiveness to racial equality, among other reasons. For the past forty years, Elinor worshiped with OPFM. She was very active in the Meeting, and hosted New Year's Eve at her home for a number of years. Whenever she perceived that the Meeting was neglecting its service activities, she gently encouraged Friends to become active again. She graced OPFM Meeting with her gifts of friendliness, wisdom and service, and were fortunate to have her in our midst for so many years.

-Submitted by Pam Timme

Some Memories of Elinor:

Elinor was a beautiful person who was unfailingly kind to all. She knew and cared about suffering and injustice wherever it occurred. She was also one of the most intelligent people I ever met, and a terrific cook. I had the pleasure and privilege of being served delicious treats while being gently but soundly beaten at Scrabble every time I played with her! I offer my

sympathy and condolences to her family to whom she was devoted, and who took such loving care of her.

~ Judy Erickson

First, her trip to El Salvador – She was “older” when she did this, must have been over seventy. She went with a group that walked – literally walked on their feet – in the footsteps of Cardinal Romero, who was murdered for his outspoken defense of the poor. They walked long walks through jungles and towns that he had walked through, and saw the people he had cared for. She was very deeply moved while doing this, it was a deep spiritual experience for her. She almost never spoke of “deep spiritual experiences” but I would almost say she used those words in describing this difficult but moving pilgrimage. She was involved here in Oak Park in some organization that connected Oak Park with Latin America.

Then her trip to Russia. I believe it was her last travel abroad. She went alone, tho maybe she met her grandson for awhile in Germany? She went alone after that. She went to Stockholm Monthly Meeting where she stayed for a few days and then went on to St. Petersburg by train alone. Was she about 80? She thought she had a place arranged to stay in St. Petersburg but it turned out not to be; there she was arriving at night, in a taxi, unable to speak Russian with no place to stay but somehow she just managed it and the taxi driver found her a place. She was VERY DETERMINED to see all the great art in the National Museum in St. Petersburg and she did!

I also remember her telling me about her trip to China with her granddaughter Heidi – they came to The Great Wall of China and Elinor was just not up to walking along the wall so she sat down and waited in a kind of gazebo area of the wall. There was an old Chinese man sitting there also, waiting for his family in the same way. Eventually the old man offered her some water in a bottle: she declined, a little reluctant to take water in an unknown bottle, but she smiled and was friendly to him. Then one of them showed with their fingers their age, with a question mark on their face and the other showed back the same number – they were the same age! Was this sixty or sixtyfive or seventy? I can’t remember. Then his family returned and he asked to have his picture taken with Elinor and she was glad to do it. So, as she said, “Somewhere in China is a picture of this old Chinese man and old American woman smiling happily together at the Great Wall!”

But most of all when I think of Elinor I always want to cry remembering her incredible kindness to me when Tom Forsythe had had his brainstem stroke and was at the Northwestern Rehab Institute. It was an indescribably difficult time for me. Every day for a month I went down and was at the hospital all day; when I arrived home in the evening there would be a box of dinner sitting on the porch that Elinor had made and someone from the Meeting had delivered. Every night it was completely different – she never used leftovers. It was always warm still; there would be a lettuce or fruit salad and some different kind of muffin or dinner roll, a main dish of meat and pasta or potatoes, and a special desert,

everything each individually wrapped. I would often cry, it just gave me such consolation and strength to be cared for so lovingly!

If there is a Goddess as well as a God, a Mother as well as Father of Creation, surely Elinor embodied the loving Mother for the human race.
~Marti Matthews



The following was taken from an e-mail from Elmhurst School District 205 to parents:

MOMENT OF SILENCE RETURNS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS – The Illinois State Board of Education notified all Illinois school districts today that the U.S District court injunction on the implementation of "The Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act" has been lifted. Students will be asked to observe a brief moment of silence at the opening of every school day. This moment is intended as a time of personal reflection. In compliance with the law, District 205 will re-implement this practice beginning sometime next week. A practice was already developed within the District to comply with the previous mandate. The moment of silence will typically take place in conjunction with morning announcements and the saying of the pledge.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is currently looking for adult and youth volunteers (12 years old and older) to volunteer on Wednesday afternoons or Saturday mornings to assist with a variety of tasks (e.g. assisting clients with their groceries, restocking, and distributing food). This is an ideal service project for youth groups, community groups, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for a one-time basis opportunity or as a recurring project. Please contact Kristi Braun at Kristi@oprffoodpantry.org to sign up.

Emergency Clothes Closet

Calvary Memorial Church provides The Emergency Clothes Closet, a community service for those in crisis in Oak Park and River Forest. More information about The Emergency Clothes Closet may be found at <http://emergencyclothescloset.com/>.

Business Meeting Highlights

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

January 2011 - Year-to-date donations exceed annual budgeted donations. It was decided that remaining donations would be distributed to AFSC-Chicago (\$100), Quaker Earthcare Witness (\$50) and OP/RF Food Pantry (\$50).

The Children's education program related to non-violence will be moved to March.

Faith communities of Oak Park / River Forest have been invited to a green summit to create a sustainability vision plan. The date for the summit is tentatively set for 2/16/11 @ 6:30. Concern was voiced, however, because the plan is being funded by a matching grant from Grand Victoria casinos. OPFM approved Wil signing the letter and participating in the summit.

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:

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 worshipers?

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?

And in Conclusion...

Selected quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase”

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal”

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men”

“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people”

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”

“The quality, not the longevity of one’s life is what’s important”

Happy New Year!