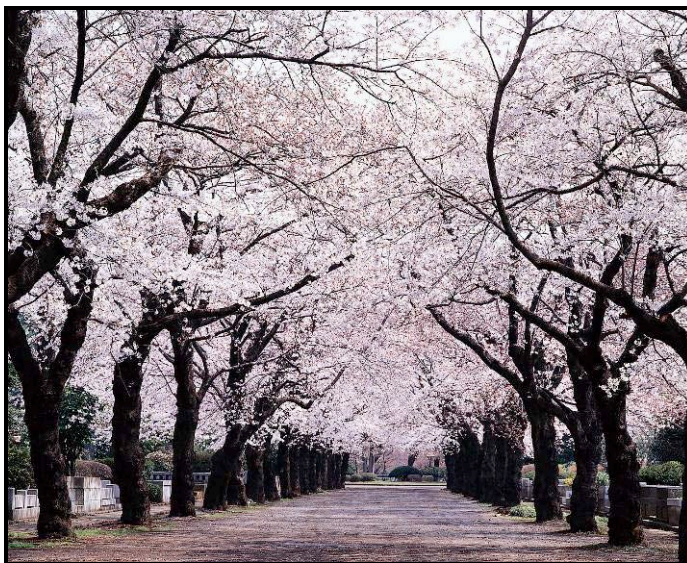


\* community \* equality \* harmony \* integrity \* simplicity \*

OAK PARK FRIENDS  
**NEWS**  
*April 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](http://www.oakparkfriends.org)

**Meeting for Worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Clerk – Wil Rutt   Recording Clerk – Donna Cech   Treasurer – Valerie Lester  
Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth  
(<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)

Submission deadline – 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS

Bob Southworth's father passed away recently. Our prayers and sympathy are with Bob, Renee, Katy and Matt.

### Request from Bonni McKeown:

Dear Oak Park Friends,

In order to be closer to the West Side music, history and politics that are my passion, I announce my intention to move to the Oak Park-West Side area. Things are fine here at the Chicago Friends parsonage, so I can wait for way to open.

For now I can't afford rent, so I seek a house or apartment caretaking situation not too far from the El. An unused "granny flat" or carriage house would be ideal, or a portion of someone's house with my own locked entrance, bedroom and/or living room, and a bathroom. I don't mind sharing kitchen space and working out whose food is whose. Laundry privileges would be really helpful. I use my 1995 Ford Taurus for music gigs. I have no furniture but could buy secondhand items as needed.

I have good references from my current and past housemates. I can do garden and yard work and housecleaning for pay or trade. I can help watch the house and pets, except during times when I myself am out of town visiting family in W.Va. or on a book or music tour, which is usually with plenty of notice.

I attended Oak Park meeting through 2004-05 and would like to become active again. Folks can check my websites below, and call 773-209-4712.

### Request from Patricia Marton (friend of Elinor Fallert):

I'm interested in a room in the Oak Park Lombard area April or May for 3-4 weeks. (Exact time not yet set.) I will be working for Pearson, a test scoring company during that time. I am from Bloomington Illinois, but am not connected to a meeting at the moment. (I would like to attend your meeting if I move to the Chicago area.) Payment will be given for the room.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Sun, 4/4, Adult Religious Education Presentation.** Adrian Fisher will present "Time to Make Peace with your Lawn". Her presentation about polyculture lawns will include samples of compost, a compost screen and clover seed.

**Sun, 4/24 - Happy Easter!**

Fri, 4/29-Sun 5/1, ILYM Women's Weekend, Yearly Meeting House, McNabb, IL.

Sun, 5/1/2011, 28th Annual Hunger Walkathon West Crop Walk, Oak Park.

### [INCLUDE A QUAKER EVENT IN YOUR 2011 SUMMER PLANS!](#)

Illinois Yearly Meeting, June 15-19 Activities for the whole family, [www.ilym.org](http://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](http://www.fgcquaker.org). Registration is beginning.

**Camp Woodbrooke**, Richland, Wisconsin, ages 7-15, two or four week sessions, [www.campwoodbrooke.org](http://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](http://www.friendsmusiccamp.org)

### [OPFM LETTER IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE](#)

The Oak Leaves printed the following letter from OPFM, which was developed by the Peace and Justice Committee, in their March 3<sup>rd</sup> issue:

As fears about Islam grow within the United States, we of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) would like to voice our support for Muslims within our community and nation.

We must work together to stem the rising tide of fear and the threat of persecution and violence. We call for an end to political posturing and misstatements that poison dialogue, stigmatize individuals, inflame the worst in human nature, create divisions in our society and promote a view of America that is anti-Islam.

People of all faiths share histories of intolerance and persecution. In the 1600s, Quakers were feared and the practice of our faith was against the law.

We recall these shared struggles for acceptance when religious freedom is threatened. Our faith and experience teach us that the Divine resides in us all. We bring a commitment to peace and the use of nonviolent means to resolve conflicts.

Freedom of religious expression is one of the cornerstones of American democracy. We all have opportunities every day to make this ideal a reality in our local communities.

Wil Rutt  
Clerk  
Oak Park Friends Meeting

A reader sent the following reply:

Dear Mr. Rutt and Clerk Oak Park Friends,

Assalamu Alaikum. May Peace Be upon you.

I recently read your letter to the editor to Oak Park Leaves regarding Muslim-Americans. THANK YOU!

I am so grateful there is at least one person that does not hate me because of my personal religious belief! I am very fearful for my family and my children in particular, but the entire Muslim-American community in general, due to the constant, and alarmingly more vicious, vitriol directed against us.

Thank you for your respectfulness and your solidarity in these troubling times. It is wonderfully refreshing to hear a voice of reason.

May God be with you.

The letter has been submitted to other local newspapers as well, and MCGM has agreed to send a version of the letter to the Sun Times and the Chicago Tribune.

### TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES - AFSC NIGHT

Valerie Lester and Wil Rutt arranged an AFSC night at Ten Thousand Villages in Oak Park on Feb 8th. It raised \$120 for AFSC's Windows and Mirrors exhibit. Thanks to everyone who participated.

### TEACHING NON-VIOLENCE - PANEL DISCUSSION

On Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, a panel discussion on teaching non-violence sponsored by OPFM was held at the Oak Park Public Library. The panelists were Amanda Sneed, Children's Religious Education Coordinator at OPFM, Sophie de la Mar, Board Member at Chicago Friends School, and Darlene Gramigna from the American Friends Service Committee.

The panelists presented information about working with young people on the topics of peace and non-violence in schools and other settings. Although the attendance was small, it was an informative program with much discussion and audience participation.

## Poem

### Justice

*By Patricia McMillen*

*(Previously published in Among Friends, Winter 2011, Illinois Yearly Meeting)*

Is it better to stone a woman to death  
for adultery, or for murder?

Say: for murder, in case adultery  
has left her with child.

Say: for adultery, because at least  
she has tasted happiness before death.

Is it better to hang a man high  
for treason, or for homosexuality?

Say: for homosexuality, because  
his lover will not pierce the skies  
with a woman's ululations of grief.

Say: for treason, because the flag  
cannot defend itself.

Which parent will the child  
miss least? Which sibling, which  
cousin, which child brings least joy  
to aunt, to brother, sister,  
to mother, cousin, father?

That is the one you should stone  
first. Evidence of actual crime,  
if any, is irrelevant.

## BOOK REVIEW: LISTENING FOR THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD – A CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

*Submitted by Pam Timme*

A friend of mine recently recommended a book which she had been reading for her Episcopalian adult religious education class: Listening for the Heartbeat of God – A Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell (Paulist Press, New York, 1997). This little book, about 100 pages long, is a fascinating study of two different Christian streams – the familiar Roman-based tradition and a Celtic tradition which began to be suppressed in the fifth century. The author maintains that the basic ideas of the Celtic Christian tradition have survived in the British Isles through the centuries to the present day, and argues that both traditions would be stronger if they were combined.

Newell states that the Celtic Christian tradition differed from the Roman in that it held that humanity and all of creation are essentially good, that the physical and the spiritual world are intermingled, and that God is to be found within and also as part of daily life, rather than far away or “outside”.

Newell wrote about Pelagius, a 4<sup>th</sup> century Celtic Briton, a monk, writer and teacher, who travelled to Rome and was eventually excommunicated because of his theological ideas that reflected his Celtic tradition. Below are a few quotes from Pelagius that were in Newell’s book. It was an education to me to see that ideas which I had thought of as “modern” or non-Western are many centuries old and are a part of Western thought. I also thought they expressed much that is in the Quaker tradition.

“Look at the animals roaming the forest: God’s spirit dwells within them. Look at the birds flying across the sky: God’s spirit dwells within them. Look at the tiny insects crawling in the grass: God’s spirit dwells within them. Look at the fish in the river and sea: God’s spirit dwells within them. There is no creature on earth in whom God is absent...When God pronounced that his creation was good, it was not only that his hand had fashioned every creature; it was that his breath had brought every creature to life. Look too at the great trees of the forest; look at the wild flowers and the grass in the fields; look even at your crops. God’s spirit is present within all plants as well. The presence of God’s spirit in all living things is what makes them beautiful; and if we look with God’s eyes, nothing on the earth is ugly.”

“You will realize that doctrines are inventions of the human mind, as it tries to penetrate the mystery of God. You will realize that Scripture itself is the work of human minds, recording the example and teaching of Jesus. Thus it is not what you believe that matters; it is how you respond with your heart and your actions. It is not believing in Christ that matters; it is becoming like him.”

“There are some who call themselves Christian, and who attend worship regularly, yet perform no Christian actions in their daily lives. There are others who do not call themselves Christian, and who never attend worship, yet perform many Christian actions in their daily lives. Which of these two groups are the better disciples of Christ? Some would say that believing in Christ and worshipping him is what matters for salvation. But this is not what Jesus himself said. His teaching was almost entirely concerned with action, and with the motives which inspire action. He affirmed goodness of behaviour in whoever he found, whether the person was Jew or Roman, male or female. And he condemned those who kept all the religious requirements, yet were greedy and cruel. Jesus does not invite people to become his disciples for his own benefit, but to teach and guide them in the ways of goodness. And if a person can walk along that way without ever knowing the earthly Jesus, then we may say that he is following the spirit of Christ in his heart.”

## **BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

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

### **March 2011**

OPFM will lay down the Crop Walk activity for this year. Individuals can still participate in the Crop Walk through other organizations.

OPFM supports having a booth at Day in Our Village if a member/attender is available to coordinate and sufficient resources are available. If volunteers do not come forward by the April business meeting, the OPFM will not have a booth this year.

## **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:

### **Care for the Meeting Community**

-- Are love and unity maintained among us? When conflicts exist, are they faced with patience, forbearance, and openness to healing? Are avenues for exploring differences kept open? To what extent does our Meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?

-- Do all adults and children in our Meeting receive our loving care and encouragement to share in the life of our Meeting, and to live as Friends? Do we truly welcome newcomers and include them in our Meeting community?

-- Am I ready to offer assistance as part of my religious community serving its members? Am I equally willing to accept graciously the help of others?

-- Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension? Is my manner with visitors and attenders to my Meeting one of welcome?

## AND IN CONCLUSION...

### Loveliest of Trees

*by A.E. Housman*

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.

*Happy Easter!*