

OAK PARK FRIENDS **NEWS**

February/March 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 Treasurer – Valerie Lester
Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth (<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)

Submission deadline – 25th day of the month
(Picture above taken on Liberty Island, New York City)

INSIDE...

Announcements and Concerns – p. 2
Upcoming Events – p. 2
Quaker Summer Events – p. 3
The Dark Side of Chocolate – p. 6
Local Fair Trade Sources for Chocolate, Coffee and Tea – p. 6
Project Lakota Winter 2011 Update – p. 10
February Business Meeting Highlights – p. 13
Query Quotations – p. 13
Service Queries – p. 14
And in Conclusion...Joy – p. 14

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS

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

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 for further information.

From now until 3/11: Apply to conduct a workshop at the June 2011 ILYM Sessions. Please go to http://www.ilym.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=70 for more information.

Sat, 3/5, ILYM Continuing Committee meeting, Downers Grove Friends Meeting. All are invited to attend the Spring meeting of ILYM's Continuing Committee, Saturday March 5th. Downers Grove Meeting (5710 Lomond Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516) will be our hosts.

Thurs, 3/10, 6:00 pm, First Annual Dinner/Auction, Chicago Friends School. Theme is *The Future Is Ours To Seed: Plant a Garden, Support a School*. 37th Floor Conference Center of Drinker, Biddle, & Reath, 191 N. Wacker Dr; Music by Big Eyed Rabbit. For tickets (\$100), to donate auction items, or for more information contact Sophie at sophie@chicagofriendsschool.org.

Sun, 3/20, 2:00 pm, Teaching Non-Violence at Home and at School – a Panel Discussion. Presented by Amanda Sneed and a guest speaker (TBA), sponsored by OPFM and the Chicago Friends School. Location: Oak Park Public Library, 845 Lake St., 2nd Floor, Small Meeting Room; open to the entire community. The Children's Religious Education Committee would appreciate it if you would **PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!**

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

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

Neighbors East and West Travel to Palestine – Israel

Ruth Neff of the Clear Creek Friends of Richmond, Indiana, would like to share this invitation with Illinois Yearly Meeting and its monthly meetings. At the time of her request, spaces were still open.

Neighbors East and West announces a 13 - day visit to Palestine and Israel In June, 2011. The intention of the trip is for participants to gain an informed perspective regarding efforts to establish a just and balanced peaceful settlement in the region. In addition, there will be ample time set aside to visit many of the historic and religious sites in this land which is holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews.

This program will involve visits to Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron and other towns and cities on the West Bank, and Haifa, Jerusalem and Nazareth in Israel. In the course of these visits participants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives

of many active organizations, including (among several others) Christian Peacemaker Teams, faculty and students at Bethlehem, the Arab Human Rights Organization the Rapprochement Centre in Bethlehem, and B'tselem (an Israeli Human Rights organization.)

The primary leader and facilitator for this program is Dr. Tony Bing, emeritus professor from Earlham College. Dr. Bing has visited the Holy Land thirty-five times in the past twenty-seven years, often leading groups similar to ours. He has connections in both Palestine and Israel, and will provide participants with a unique perspective.

Also helping with leadership and travel arrangements are Sam and Ruth Neff, who, in the past twenty-six years, have led or facilitated seventeen or more trips to (the former) Soviet Union, Cuba, and Iran.

Trip Summary:

Tentative dates: June 13 – June 26

Cities and towns to be Visited in Palestine: Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Bil'in

Cities and towns to be visited in Israel: Haifa, Jaffa, Nazareth and Jerusalem.

Accommodations in three star hotels, with dinner and breakfast provided; overnight home stays in Bethlehem and Bil'in.

All transportation and English-speaking guides provided as part of the program

Transfers to and from Tel Aviv Airport

Cost: \$1400 for 12 days in Palestine and Israel based on sixteen participants. Airfare to Israel not included.

For further information contact Sam or Ruth Neff at samn@earlham.edu, or phone (406) 862-1629. Itinerary and application forms are available at <http://neighborseastandwest.org>.

Volunteer Opportunity with Project Lakota

Project Lakota works on housing with volunteers and residents of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Project Lakota is under the care of St. Louis Friends Meeting. For further information, contact Candy Boyd, Co-coordinator of Project Lakota, at 314-623-7829 or candyboydwrite@yahoo.com.

AGLI (African Great Lakes Initiative) Summer Workcamps in Burundi and Rwanda, June 25 – July 30

We accept all ages: workcampers have been as young as 8, as old as 84. Workcampers have included an entire family of five (the Amoses). Our goal is for each team to include 6 international (non-African) and 6 local workcampers plus professional builders.

Physical & Skill requirements: Good health and willingness to do manual labor.

Construction skills and experience are not necessary

1) Burundi Workcamp – Kamenge

Host Partner: Friends Women's Association (FWA) – learn more <http://www.aglifpt.org/Program/fwa.htm>.

Location: Kamenge, Burundi - On the outskirts of Bujumbura

Objective: The Workcamp Peace Team will work at the FWA Clinic which primarily serves HIV+ women and their children. Details are still in the planning stages but most likely the team will build a security wall around the plot behind the clinic which where there will be a dormitory for patients so that, in due time, the Clinic can become a full hospital. Learn more about the clinic at <http://www.fwaburundi.com/>

Housing: Workcampers will stay in an apartment at the Friends Center in downtown Bujumbura.

2) Rwanda Workcamp – Gisenyi

Host Partner: Gisenyi Friends Church

Location: Gisenyi, Rwanda. On the northern edge of Lake Kivu, just across the border from Goma, Congo

Objective: plan in process - The 2010 Workcamp Peace Team began construction of a conference hall, this may be completed or a new project begun. Afternoons the Workcampers will also help local residents improve their English.

Housing: Workcampers will stay with local families.

More info? Contact Dawn Rubbert via dawn@aglifpt.org or go to www.aglifpt.org

Dawn L. Rubbert, Program Manager

African Great Lakes Initiative/Friends Peace Teams

1001 Park Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63104 USA

314-647-1287

If you want to travel quickly, walk alone. If you want to travel far, walk with others.

~ Traditional African Proverb

THE DARK SIDE OF CHOCOLATE

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

Approximately 45 people attended the screening of *The Dark Side of Chocolate* on Sunday Feb. 27th at the Oak Park Library, an event co-sponsored between Oak Park Coalition for Truth and Justice, Oak Park Library and Oak Park Friends Meeting. Afterwards, Nancy Jones the director of Chicago Fair Trade gave a short talk and answered questions. In addition, representatives from the Oak Park Ten Thousand villages shop gave out free samples of Equal Exchange chocolate. Kelly Maynard distributed the OPFM Chicagoland Fair Trade Resources (for coffee, tea, chocolate) brochures, and collected the names and contact information from several people interested in learning/doing more on the issue. A few people suggested forming a steering committee to work together to get Oak Park to pass the resolution and become a fair trade village. The Peace and Justice Committee would like to thank all those who attended and especially Beverly Walters of the OPCTJ for organizing the event. Judy Erickson has donated the DVD of the movie to our (OPFM) library and Friends can check it out.

Local Fair Trade Sources for CHOCOLATE, COFFEE and TEA

Prepared by Oak Park Friends Meeting

Fair Trade Certified means farmers receive fair prices for their harvest. Harmful agrochemicals and GMOs are strictly prohibited in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods. Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy safe working conditions and fair wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited. Fair Trade farmers and workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, healthcare services and quality improvement training.

In the United States, the symbol for Fair Trade Certified products is a small black and white square with the outline of a human and the words "Fair Trade Certified".



Fair Trade Certified CHOCOLATE

Chocolate Bars	Where to Buy	Comments
Wild Harvest Organic	Jewel Osco	3 oz. bars, Dark and Milk.
Green & Black's Organic ¹	Jewel Osco	3.5 oz. bars, Dark, Milk and assorted flavors.

	Dominick's	I didn't find a single fair-trade chocolate product at my local Dominick's (but they have several teas and coffees).
Trader Joe's Fair Trade Swiss Chocolate Bars	Trader Joe's	3.5 oz bars, Dark and Milk.
Green and Black's Organic ¹	Target	3.5 oz. bars, Dark, Milk and assorted flavors.
Equal Exchange	Ten Thousand Villages 121 N Marion St Oak Park, IL 60301	3.5 oz. bars, Dark, Milk and assorted flavors.
Divine Chocolate	Ten Thousand Villages 121 N Marion St Oak Park, IL 60301	3.5 oz. bars, Dark, Milk and assorted flavors.
Alter Eco	Whole Foods Market	3.5oz bars, Dark, Almond, Mint, Quinoa Crunch.
Divine Chocolate	Whole Foods Market	Milk chocolate coins.
Health by Chocolate	Whole Foods Market	These chocolate bars are infused with vitamins and minerals. For example, Beautiful Bones has calcium and Vitamins D and K.

¹ According to their webpage, their entire range of products is Fair Trade Certified, Fair trade symbol expected on all products by end of 2011.

Fair Trade Certified COFFEE

Coffee Beans/ Ground Coffee	Where to Buy	Comments
Caribou Fair Trade	Caribou Coffee	Offers Fair Trade Mexico Single Origin Medium Roast (at least online).
Kirkland Signature Fair Trade	Costco	House Blend (Medium Roast), Espresso Roast, and Decaf available. Look for FTC symbol.
Ambassador Organics	Dominick's	All coffee is Fair Trade Certified. Whole bean and Pre-ground available. Founded by Carol Mosley Braun, these products are also certified organic and

		minority owned.
Seattle's Best	Dominick's	Look for blends with the fair trade symbol.
Newman's Own Organics	Jewel Osco	All coffee is Fair Trade Certified. Decaf Available. These are produced by Green Mountain Coffee.
Wild Harvest Organic	Jewel Osco	All coffee is Fair Trade Certified. Pre-ground only. Available in Light, Medium and Dark roast. Decaf Available.
Peet's Fair Trade Blend	Peet's Coffee and Tea online	Offers Fair Trade Blend (at least online).
Starbucks Fair Trade Certified	Starbucks	Whole Bean Fair Trade Certified is available at all stores (but not at small counters like those in O'Hare). Ask cashier if not found on Shelf. Café Estima is one of their Fair Trade Certified blends. Café Estima is available in single pot brew packs (makes 50 oz) online.
Archer Farms Organic	Target	Whole Bean: Fair Trade Espresso and Fair trade Tierra Del Sol. Ground: Fair Trade Nicaraguan.
Newman's Own Organics	Target	Individual serving kups. Newman's is produced by Green Mountain Coffee.
Equal Exchange	Ten Thousand Villages 121 N Marion St Oak Park, IL 60301	Several varieties available. Decaf available. Pillow Packs available.
Trader Joe's Organic Fair trade	Trader Joe's	Whole Bean, but can grind in store. Look for blends with the Fair Trade Symbol: including Café Pajaro, Shade grown Ethiopian, French Roast, and Guatemalan.
Pre-Brewed Coffee		
Dunkin Donuts	Dunkin Donuts	All their espresso products are Fair Trade Certified.

		This includes their Espresso, Cappuccino, various Lattes, and Turbo Ice.
Starbucks	Starbucks	Many stores rotate Fair Trade as a possible pre-brewed choice. Some places will brew a Fair Trade if you ask.

Fair Trade Certified TEA

Tea Brand	Where to Buy	Comments
Ambassador Organics	Dominick's	All teas Fair Trade Certified. Founded by Carol Mosley Braun, its products are certified organic, fair trade, minority owned, and biodynamic.
Numi	Dominick's	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol.
Stash Premium Organic (in brown cartons)	Dominick's	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol. Shelved apart from regular Stash Teas.
Zhena's Gypsy Tea	Dominick's	All teas Fair Trade Certified. Has Pink Tea for women's health.
Traditional Medicinals	Jewel Osco	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol. For Example, Nighty-Night.
Wild Harvest Organic	Jewel Osco	All teas Fair Trade Certified.
Archer Farms Organic	Target	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol.
Traditional Medicinals	Target	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol. For Example, Nighty-Night.
Equal Exchange	Ten Thousand Villages 121 N Marion St Oak Park, IL 60301	All teas Fair Trade Certified. Regular bags and pyramid pouches available.
Trader Joe's Organic	Trader Joe's	Look for blends with the Fair Trade symbol.

Project Lakota Update – Winter 2011

Submitted by Pam Timme

“We had been without running water (except for our well, which enabled us to carry water into the house for drinking and other needs) for five years.

This housing condition was reported by Tammy McGaa, resident of Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota. The reservation includes the two poorest counties in the United States.

“As the Alvarez and Blacksmith trailers are still uninhabitable for the winter, they have been staying with friends and family.”

Reported by Candy Boyd, co-coordinator of Project Lakota, which works on housing with volunteers and residents of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Project Lakota is under the care of St. Louis Friends Meeting.

“It was the summer of 2009 when I met Candy Boyd for the first time and this was also my first encounter with Project Lakota...the project helps families on the reservation (Pine Ridge Indian Reservation) with housing repairs and winterization, amongst many other things.”

~Ana Alvarez, resident of Pine Ridge Reservation

“We used Lakota trainers and trained youth to help with all work...I was impressed with the hard work these young men and two women accomplished, even though the heat was 105 degrees...I felt great and my daughter whom I was very proud of came home with calluses on her hands. She never complained, none of these unique persons did. But we had a great time knowing we had also saved a house.”

~Randy (Tuttle) Red Owl, resident of Pine Ridge Reservation

Contact Candy Boyd at 314-623-7829 or candyboydwrite@yahoo.com if you wish to volunteer with Project Lakota on Pine Ridge Reservation. You will have an unforgettable experience, and accomplish something worthwhile. Pam Timme will be happy to talk to you about her experiences volunteering for Project Lakota.

“Your donation will make a difference, one family at a time.”

You can also help a great deal by donating money to Project Lakota at:

*Project Lakota
c/o St. Louis Friends Meeting
7429 Brunswick Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63119*

Your money will go directly for Project Lakota’s mission of building and repairing housing at Pine Ridge.

“Thank you for your support and please hold the Lakota and Project Lakota in the Light.”

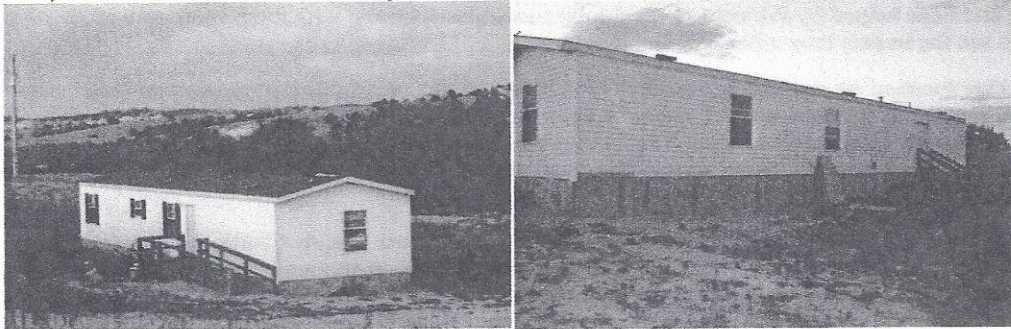
See the complete Project Lakota update below:

Project Lakota
c/o St. Louis Friends Meeting
7429 Brunswick Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63119
candybovdwrite@yahoo.com
cell: 314-623-7829

January 30, 2011

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support and please hold the Lakota and Project Lakota in the Light. Last summer was very productive. One family we helped out was the McGaa family. Here is what Tammy had to say: "My name is Tammy McGaa. I would like to share with you something that Project Lakota has done for us. Our tribe was sent many FEMA trailers, but each person who wanted one had to pay \$2,900.00 for one. We were in desperate need for one, but could never have afforded the money to get one as my parents and I are on disability...between the three of us we bring in a little over \$2,000.00 a month. The trailer we were living in needed extensive repair on the plumbing before we could even get hooked up to water or have a septic system installed by the tribe. We had been without running water (except for our well, which enabled us to carry water into the house for drinking and other needs) for five years. Thanks to the generosity and caring of Project Lakota, we now have a FEMA trailer. More than that they got a local group to install a handicap ramp and steps for the back door as well as install the skirting for us...Project Lakota paid for the material." This family is still waiting on Indian Health Services to put hook up water for indoor plumbing and to install the septic tank. If this is not completed soon, we will have to raise the money to do this.



Since the last letter you received from us we have completed many things. In the Minerva Blacksmith and Ana Alvarez trailers we installed a septic tank, set up the trailer by getting the cement blocks set up, the hurricane tie downs and under skirting installed. The second trailer has been delivered and we need to get it fixed up as soon as possible. Now the big project is to get the water and electric in as soon as possible to both trailers. There are many issues with installing these two things. There are easement issues, land issues and utility issues. It is also a very big cost. We need \$1,000 to get the trench dug so that we can lay the electric line. Then we need another \$2,000 for the electric line itself and other materials. As for the water we may have to dig a well. The cost for this may be at least \$9,000. We would like to hook up a waterline but we would have to get 50 signatures for an easement to run a water line through adjacent land between the trailers and the water lines by the main road; estimated cost for the water line is \$3,000. We're dedicated to having the families live in this area far from gangs in their old trailer park, but absolutely need to get the basics like electricity, heat and water in for the families.

As the Alvarez and Blacksmith trailers are still uninhabitable for the winter, they have been staying with friends and family. We have helped these friends and families with their gas and electric

bills. Ana Alvarez has started to attend Oglala Lakota College and we have advanced her enough money to pay for a laptop, programs and a printer to assist with her education and to continue her work coordinating Project Lakota work during the fall, winter, and spring. Now a word from Ana Alvarez:

"It was the summer of 2009 when I met Candy Boyd for the first time and this was also my first encounter with Project Lakota. I was working at a community thrift store and had no idea what Project Lakota was about. My grandmother introduced me to Candy and I was immediately curious to find out what her purpose was here. I later asked my grandmother what Project Lakota was about. She told me that the project helps families on the reservation (Pine Ridge Indian Reservation) with housing repairs and winterization, amongst many other things. At the time Candy was working with my grandmother and they were making plans to move her trailer house from the community we lived in Oglala, SD to Red Shirt Table, SD. Once the move was made there were also repairs that needed tending to. The year prior, Project Lakota repaired the floor on my grandmother's home and that year, preparations for winter, plumbing and sewage had to be made. As they made arrangements to get things underway, I approached Candy and asked Project Lakota for their assistance with my current housing situation. I moved back to the reservation in December of 2008. At the time I had been living with my grandma and was making efforts to get a trailer house of my own. Candy informed me that Project Lakota would be able to fulfill my request. That summer we made our move to the country and Project Lakota made numerous repairs on my grandmother's house. That summer I also assisted Project Lakota with some repairs and clean up of another family's property. October 2009, I received my trailer house. This past summer, Project Lakota helped stabilize and winterize my trailer house. Project Lakota also assisted in setting up our plumbing and septic systems. This past summer I once again had the pleasure of working with Project Lakota in making repairs to a log house they built for a family a few years ago. My experiences with Project Lakota have been wonderful and enjoyable. They are making a difference one family at a time and I'm honored to have helped and been helped by Project Lakota. I look forward to working with them again as well as being able to see the impact they will make in the future."

Another location we worked on was the One Feather cabin. We did lots of renovations and repairs, fixed plumbing, replaced a toilet, vented a dryer to the outside, hung a gutter system with underground drainage, repaired flooring, put up extra insulation in the crawl space under the floors, winterized windows, and put in a small window air conditioning unit. This fall, we had Butch's Heating fix the furnace.

We used Lakota trainers and trained youth to help with all work. Randy (Tuttle) Red Owl and his daughter had this to say, "I and my 17 year old daughter went out and spent nine days out at Oglala at the residence of Joan Decker. So nine of us camped out there. I was very impressed with the hard work these young men and two women accomplished, even though the heat was 105 degrees. We still pitched in and dug those drain pipes. These homes have many minor damages or plumbing problems but when ignored it turned into a big problem. I felt great and my daughter whom I was very proud of came home with calluses on her hands. She never complained, none of these unique persons did. But we had a great time, also knowing we saved a house."

Your donation will make a difference, one family at a time. Thank you for your support. We are growing strong.

Sincerely,

Candy Boyd

Coordinator

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

February 2011 – The Meeting approved sending a letter from OPFM to Governor Quinn recommending abolition of the death penalty. The letter was written by Burke Shipley.

The Nominating Committee made recommendations, including the following: (1) Change name of “Ministry and Oversight” Committee to “Ministry and Care”, based on practice suggested in *Faith and Practice*; (2) Combine Children’s and Teen’s religious education committees into one committee; (3) have term limits (renewable, except for clerk) and staggered term rotation to help ensure continuity of experience; (4) Add position of Assistant Clerk; (5) At the end of the first year the Clerk would have a clearness committee with the Nominating Committee to assess how things are going.

The Meeting decided that Wil will send an email to the OPFM group seeking a coordinator the Crop Walk for this year. If no one responds by the next business meeting, OPFM will lay down the Crop Walk activity for this year. Individual could still participate in the Crop Walk through other organizations.

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 Business

--Is our meeting for business held in the spirit of a meeting for worship in which we seek divine guidance?

--Are we careful to keep in the spirit of worship each of the concerns that emerge, whether of nurture, of Spirit, of social concerns, of property, or of finance?

--Are Meeting decisions directed by prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and are difficult problems considered carefully with patient search for truth, unhurried by the pressures of time?

--Do I regularly attend meeting for business and in a spirit of love and unity? If unable to attend, how do I attend to my responsibility?

Spiritual Nurture, Ministry, and Religious Education

--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?

--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?

SERVICE QUERIES

Illinois Yearly Meeting asked monthly meetings to consider the following queries. The Peace and Justice Committee of OPFM reviewed them and decided that Kelly Maynard would submit them to the newsletter and also read them at the February 27th meeting for worship.

- What efforts does your monthly meeting make to identify and help with needs in your community? Does your meeting work with other religious or community groups on any service projects or ongoing concerns, such as a food bank or after school program?
- What efforts has your monthly meeting made to identify members or attenders who are led by the Spirit to engage in service projects, whether among Quakers or otherwise? To what extent does your Meeting nurture and support members and attenders who feel led to engage in such service projects?
- How can your monthly Meeting make voluntary service and support of such service central to your Meeting's culture?
- How can, and to what extent should, Meetings engage collectively in voluntary service?
- How can Illinois Yearly Meeting make voluntary service and support of such service central to ILYM culture?
- What should be the role of Illinois Yearly Meeting in nurturing and supporting Spirit-led volunteerism or other expressions of faith?
- What role should ILYM play in facilitating Friends' endeavors that further traditional Friends values, such as Peace & Social Justice?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

Joy ~

"The beating heart of the universe is holy joy." ~*Martin Buber*

"Joy is you at the deepest level, and your joy is one with the infinite timeless joy of this unbound universe." ~*Robert Ellwood*

"You have to sniff out joy. Keep your nose to the joy trail." ~*Buffy Sainte-Marie*

"...keep knocking, and the Joy inside will eventually open a window and look out to see who's there." ~*Rumi*

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." ~*Psalms 30:5*

"Where there is joy there is creation. Where there is no joy there is no creation: know the nature of joy." ~*Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)*

"Joy is not the absence of suffering. It is the presence of God." ~*Robert Schuller*

