

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

April 2012



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 – Helen Dickinson
Recording Clerk – Judy Erickson
Treasurer – Valerie Lester
Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth
(<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)
Submission deadline – 25th day of the month

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paz is available for hire for jobs such as stenciling, signwork, yardwork, tuckpointing, brickwork, stonework, interior and exterior painting, and other odd jobs. Please contact him at 773-844-2977 for more information.

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 630-442-8655.

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.

The World Conference of Friends (FWCC) will be taking place in Nakuru, Kenya 4/17-4/25. IYLM representatives and international representatives are raising funds. To help a fellow IYLM Friend attend the conference checks can be sent to IYLM care of Valerie Lester with "World Conference Travel" in the memo line. Any extra donations will be put into the travel fund for International Friends. To help International Friends send your contributions to: Friends World Committee, 1506 Race Street, Philadelphia PA 19102 with "World Conference Travel Fund" in the memo line.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sat, 4/7, 1pm, Chicago Spring Celebration. A group of Friends from Northside Friends Meeting has been led to participate in the Chicago Spring Celebration. Occupy Chicago has designated April 7th as a day of community building between diverse religious groups, neighborhood organizations, labor unions and activists. These groups will come together to build relationships through conversation, art, education and action. The group of Northside Friends will gather for worship at 1pm in Butler Field, prior to the arrival of marchers from Jackson and LaSalle. They hope others will join them for worship and to witness and participate in this event throughout the afternoon. For further information visit northsidefriends.org, or email QuakerSpringA7@gmail.com.

Sun, 4/8, 11:30, Easter – POTLUCK AFTER MEETING

Sun, 4/15, 11:30, Meeting for Business (3rd Sunday instead of 2nd Sunday in April)

Sun, 4/22, Earth Day

Mon, 4/23 – Wed, 4/25, 12th Annual Summit of Peace Laureates.

Location: UIC Main Campus, Chicago, IL. For more information visit <http://www.nobelsummitchicago.org/>

Fri, 4/27- Sun, 4/29, Annual ILYM Women's Weekend, ILYM, McNabb, IL.

Sat, 5/5, MCGM Meeting, Chicago Monthly Meeting.

FCNL Lobby Training

The Peace and Justice Committee organized an event led by David Culp from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) on how to effectively interact with your elected officials. The workshop was sponsored by OPFM and held at the Oak Park Public Library on March 10th. Twelve people attended the workshop. Among the things they learned were that three of the most effective techniques are visiting a legislator or his staff in person, writing an individualized letter via email to the legislator, and writing a letter to the editor naming the piece of legislation and the legislator. It is also important to stay focused on one issue per visit/letter. The fcnl.org website has a wealth of information about issues and how to contact your elected officials.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

March 2012

The Ministry & Care Committee reported that ten additional copies of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice books have been ordered

The Children's Religious Education Committee reported that they had talked about the curriculum, will make changes, and present it to business meeting. They also suggested planning a canoe trip this spring. The committee is also considering how to create a time for singing, so that the children of the Meeting can learn Quaker songs, and Quaker values through the songs. A decision was made to season the singing suggestion before or at potluck next week.

The Nominating Committee has reviewed the positions to be filled. They have started doing outreach to individual members and attenders. Their goal is to present their nominations in time for the May business meeting.

New Business: A Day in Our Village is coming up. Amanda will ask the Art League about whether they will participate. (One year we collaborated with them.) No other decision was made.

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?

Is the Meeting a safe, loving place? When we become aware of someone's need, do we offer assistance? Are the meetinghouse and the Meeting property physically accessible to all?

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?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the Meeting respond?

How does our Meeting keep in touch with all its members?

*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 recognize and face disagreements and other situations that put me in conflict with others? Do I manifest a spirit ready to give or receive forgiveness?

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...

*Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for the springing fresh from the World*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dewfall, on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass*

*Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day.*

~ A Traditional Song, Lyrics by Eleanor Farjeon



Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago