

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
December 2012



Prepared with Love
Photo taken by Pam Timme

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several OPFM Friends have been dealing lately with ill parents, parents-in-law, or close friends. Please hold them and their families in the Light at this difficult time.

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.

Patricia Marton is looking for help with the items listed below. Please contact her at pmarton61701@yahoo.com.

- a place to stay occasionally on Saturday nights so she can attend the meeting. If she decides to move to the Chicago area, she might be looking for a room to stay in for a longer period of time, but might be going home for weekends. If you have any information for her, please contact her at pmarton61701@yahoo.com.
- help editing pictures and text in a booklet (c. 56 pages back to back, 8 by 12) in publisher. There have been some formatting problems. Any suggestions would be appreciated.
- someone with sewing skills who could help her put together a wardrobe out of some really attractive material she has, i.e. dress, skirt, vest, blouse primarily, a little at a time.

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.

Helen Dickinson is performing on her flute with the Triton College Community Band on Monday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the Triton College Performing Arts Center.

Patricia McMillen is performing with "Molly's All Stars" at a reading at Powell's Bookstore, 1218 S. Halsted, on Sunday, December 9th from 3-5 p.m.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Thu. 12/6 - Holiday Food and Gift Basket items due to United Lutheran Church-Please deliver "wish list gifts" to co-clerks Sue Beckman or Sarah Shirk by 12/5

Sat, 12/8 - HFGB delivers packages to families. Volunteers welcome.

Sun, 12/16 - 11:30 am, Holiday Potluck!

Tues, 12,25 – Merry Christmas!

Sun, 1/6/2013 - 11:30 am, Adult Religious Education examines aspects of the Peace Testimony. Please read [this article](#) in preparation.

Sat, 1/26 - Sunday, 1/27 – Eagle watch trip to Starved Rock; overnight stay if desired at Clear Creek House at Illinois Yearly Meeting near McNabb, Illinois

Direction of the Meeting Report

Our annual Direction of the Meeting gathering was held after Meeting for Worship on October 21st. The Direction of the Meeting is our time to look at the things about the Meeting that worked or didn't work well in the past year, and also what changes or enhancements we would like to see in the next year. Here are the thoughts of the participants:

WHAT WORKED WELL?

Able to maintain individuality

People willing to use individual skills

Finding ways to put together individual interests with Meeting needs

New Childcare initiative

Potlucks / Outings Work

Business Meeting can be a good way to get to know one another

Nice sense of Community

Having Potluck at the Meeting House is a positive change

Card welcoming me to meeting (note)

Meeting for Worship – Why we're here

Silent meeting is a value

Staying here (at the Art League) is GOOD (as opposed to moving to another location).

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Community –

Get focused on bringing new attenders

Do a better job of caring for those already here

Identify how to recognize whether to inquire after someone

Quick question at end of Meeting (Reach out – we missed you)

Recognize and support those who need help (as caregivers) making them aware they are thought about.

Help with meals on occasion

Finding out if someone needs help
Do they need help to get to Meeting?
Make a Name Tag Day during the November Potluck?
Worship sharing opportunities /and Spiritual Support Groups
Appreciation (not criticism) from One another and ourselves
When there is need for a letter or connection, help make the connection
Learning how to help one another when it is hard to ask for help.
[giving general instructions on how to ask for help in the newsletter]
Finding our how to help / deciding how to help

WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED?

Vocal ministry

IDEAS:

Vocal ministry workshop

Reverse brainstorming

Sing along on Potluck Day

List of 10 things new attenders need to know

[Newsletter or announcement]

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Habitat for Humanity

Environmental Petition Request

Adrian Fisher has started a climate change petition on the White House petitions site, We the People. She needs 150 signatures to get it to go public. 25,000 signatures by December 13 will get it addressed by White House staff.

Will you sign it? <http://wh.gov/9Sai>

Here is the text:

we petition the Obama administration to:

Provide strong leadership to help the U.S. transition to a low carbon, green tech economy and society

The military, reinsurance companies, municipalities, and scientists and plenty of other members of the American public agree: Climate change is an overarching, terribly dangerous threat to life as we know it.

Warming and extreme weather events have already been set in motion by past greenhouse gas emissions. But there is still a small window of opportunity to reduce present and future emissions enough to keep warming and resultant climate disruption below catastrophic levels. The know-how and expertise already exist to move to a sustainable society and economy. We do not need to wait for or put our faith in new technologies.

The Obama administration should make addressing climate change a top priority and provide firm--and vocal--leadership to help our nation surmount this challenge.

Will you sign it? <http://wh.gov/9Sai>

Explore Our Library!

Submitted by Judy Erickson

Our library collection has a new look. All the materials have been relabeled and sorted into 17 categories, with cardboard dividers separating the categories. We are hoping that this work will enable people to better see what we have in our collection, and to more easily find items of interest. We encourage you to browse through the category lists, which are on our website at oakparkfriends.org/library-collection, and to browse through the shelves. We hope you will be pleasantly surprised at the breadth and depth of our collection. I plan to highlight various categories or items in future newsletter articles.

This month I want to highlight the 17 categories. Previously there were 5 broad categories, but with the addition of 12 new categories you have more clues to find items that are likely to meet your needs. Please know that there is a lot of overlap; some items could easily fit into more than one category. Here are the categories and their 3-letter codes, in the order in which they can be found on the shelves. If you find something you'd like to borrow, simply fill out the sign-out sheet on the green clipboard.

MUS - Music Media: Song books, cds.

MTG - Meeting Resources: Books of Faith & Practice; guidance for ministry & care committees, mtg officers, clearness committees, marriage, membership, outreach.

IYM - Illinois Yearly Meeting - Minute Books, Plummer Lectures, and occasional addresses by invited speakers.

ARE - Adult Religious Education: Curricula; resources on Quaker faith & practice.

WPM - Worship, Prayer, Meditation: items about worship, vocal ministry, praying and prayers, meditation, and spiritual nurture.

PTR - Personal Spiritual Transformation - accounts of or guidance on spiritual transformation.

QTH - Quaker Thought: reflections on Quaker faith, theology, testimonies, concerns.

HQW - Historic Quaker Works: writings by early Quakers, works by notable Quakers.

BBL - Bibles, Bible Studies & Literature: bibles, bible history & interpretation, literature related to bible stories, New Testament apocrypha.

BIO - Autobiography & Biography: mostly about Quakers, a few non-Quakers.

HST - History: Quaker history, history of religion.

I&E - Interfaith & Ecumenical Literature: interfaith explorations, ecumenism, learning about other faith traditions.

CON - Conflict Resolution: history & practice of conflict resolution, mediation, restorative justice.

P&J - Peace & Justice: items about peace & social justice issues.

STW - Stewardship: stewardship of economic & environmental resources.

CRS - Children Resources: curricula for children; items about children's spirituality, education, parenting, care for children & youth.

CBK - Children's Books: storybooks, origami, fiction.

I want to send out a special thanks to Leann, who helped tremendously with this work. She gave graciously and generously of her time and expertise to help see this project through to the end. Having worked for about a year at the Oak Park Main Library doing this kind of work, she brought a lot of insight and cheerful enthusiasm to the project, and worked at a pace about 2-3 times faster than mine. She also gave great suggestions about where to put various items and how to do the dividers. THANK YOU, LEANN!

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

November 2012

OPFM will sponsor 4 individuals for the Holiday Gift & Food Basket program.

News from Project Lakota

Submitted by Candy Boyd

A THUNDER-BEING NATION - Pine Ridge Indian Reservation excerpt on housing



This is a 7 minute excerpt from our epic feature length documentary about Pine Ridge Indian Reservation that goes from the origin story for the Lakota all the way through to their contemporary situation...

Project Lakota is in somewhat desperate need of funds. Last week, we received 4 calls in 4 days from the reservation for assistance and we are still paying for some supplies from the summer (as the summer building season is so short in the Dakotas, we sometimes upfront a small budgeted amount, and fundraise through the winter). As Project Lakota is becoming better known on the reservation, we are also receiving more requests during the cold season for help with utilities, firewood, indoor repairs, underskirting, transportation emergencies, and assistance for elders – some to avoid foreclosures. The snow has already started to fly on the Lakota nation.

The Dakota summer was productive for Project Lakota. Candy went up early and we were finally able to get the land easements secured for Minerva Blacksmith and her 3 families of grandchildren. This meant that by the end of the building season, we had electricity and heat (hooray!) in to all 3 trailers.

In addition to electricity (yes!) and heat (yes!), we replaced a door which had been blown dysfunctional by the storms, put in a screen door, put vinyl tile flooring on top of the subfloor throughout one trailer, brought in tons of gravel for the long reservation driveway which we raked by hand, and helped to replace the old outhouse which had blown over a few times in the summer storms. We networked with another nonprofit who provided an electrician to hook up the electricity and labor for the outhouse, and we saved thousands of dollars by doing the work on the driveway. The grandchildren, children, and Minerva were working every step of the way. Minerva is currently negotiating with the tribe to do the mapping for her waterline and hookups for which we seriously need to fundraise.

The McGaa family trailer is now fully set up with underskirting, handicap ramps, electricity, indoor plumbing and water, and septic system. Hooray!

If you feel so led, please donate to Project Lakota, 7429 Brunswick Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119.

For more information on housing on the Pine Ridge reservation and the Lakota people, please see the following video link at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIPnI97Kwx4>

There was also an article in the August 2012 National Geographic, "In the Spirit of Crazy Horse: Rebirth of a Sioux Nation."

Many thanks,

Candy Boyd
candyboydwrite@yahoo.com

A Related Story:

Presidential Proclamation – National Native American Heritage Month, 2012

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As the first people to live on the land we all cherish, American Indians and Alaska Natives have profoundly shaped our country's character and our cultural heritage. Today, Native Americans are leaders in every aspect of our society -- from the classroom, to the boardroom, to the battlefield. This month, we celebrate and honor the many ways American Indians and Alaska Natives have enriched our Nation, and we renew our commitment to respecting each tribe's identity while ensuring equal opportunity to pursue the American dream.

In paying tribute to Native American achievements, we must also acknowledge the parts of our shared history that have been marred by violence and tragic mistreatment. For centuries, Native Americans faced cruelty, injustice, and broken promises. As we work together to forge a brighter future, we cannot shy away from the difficult aspects of our past. That is why, in 2009, I signed a bipartisan resolution that finally recognized the sad and painful chapters in our shared history. My Administration remains dedicated to writing a new chapter in that history by strengthening our government-to-government relationship with tribal nations while enhancing tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination.

Because we know that the best ideas for tribal nations come from within, my Administration has continued to engage tribal leaders in developing an agenda that respects their expertise on matters affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives. In collaboration with tribal nations, we are making critical investments to improve health and education services, create jobs, and strengthen tribal economies. In July, I was proud to sign the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership (HEARTH) Act into law, which will enhance tribal control over the leasing of Indian lands. Last December, I signed an Executive Order to expand educational opportunities for Native American students. It aims to preserve Native languages, cultures, and histories while offering a competitive education that prepares young people to succeed in college and careers. And under the Tribal Law and Order Act and the Safe Indian Communities initiative, we are continuing to work with tribes to build safer communities. My Administration also supports the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Many longstanding Native American legal claims against the United States have been resolved, which will help accelerate the restoration of trust in our relationships with tribal nations. The settlements that came out of these claims -- including the historic Cobell and Keepseagle settlements, as well as more than 50 settlements in cases alleging Federal mismanagement of

tribal trust funds and resources -- will put an end to decades of litigation and help drive economic development in tribal communities in the years to come.

In partnership with tribal nations, my Administration has addressed injustices and built new avenues of opportunity for American Indians and Alaska Natives. As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, let us move forward in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual trust, confident that our challenges can be met and that our shared future is bright.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2012 as National Native American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 23, 2012, as Native American Heritage Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

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:

Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that overcommitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

“For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.”

~ *Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

