

*community * equality * harmony * integrity * simplicity*

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
January 2012



Wil Rut (standing), who hosted the Friends holiday potluck at his home, enjoys the music of the Threshin' Session - From left, Pam Timme on mandolin, Helen Dickinson on flute and Sarah Shirk on accordian

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

Angela McElwain has a new website devoted to her artwork - check it out at <http://www.writeplanet.net/>

Condolences go to Sue Beckman, who recently lost her mother

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 224-935-2065.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Fri-Sun, 1/6-8/2012, Adult Young Friends Retreat, Evanston Monthly Meeting of Friends.

Sat, 1/7, MCGM Standing Committee meeting, Evanston MM.

Sat-Mon, 1/14-16, Annual Quake That Rocked the Midwest, Evanston Monthly Meeting. For all Quaker High School Friends (and their parents), all Yearly Meetings. More information to follow.

Sat, 1/21 - Illinois Yearly Meeting Site Envisioning Committee Meeting to review the plan for the property in McNabb. All are invited. Snow date is 1/28

Sat 2/4 - Metropolitan Chicago General Meeting. For more information, go to <http://www.mcgmqquakers.org/index.php/home/>

Fri - Mon 2/17 - 2/20 - Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns Mid-Winter Meeting in Milwaukee. Register at <http://flgbtqc.quaker.org/>



Rosalind Larsen recently returned to the area for a visit and got together with friends to catch up. She is seen here with Christina, Neal and Arushi - *Submitted by Pam Timme*

[2011 In the Trailside Native Plant Garden](#)

Submitted by Donna Cech

The Oak Park Friends Meeting and Trailside Museum combined efforts in 2011 to successfully tend the native plant garden we started last year. At the summer clean-up and planting session (see photo), 15 different types of plants were identified, thriving in our garden. The season saw blooming Columbine, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Queen of the Prairie, Shooting Star, and Cardinal flower. Other plants included lead plant, clustered poppy mallow, butterfly weed, wild petunia, gentian, aster (3 types), bug bane (also called Black Cohosh) and purple prairie clover. We look forward to next season and hope to expand the size of our garden. We are on the lookout for some hard-to-find native ferns to add to the shady corner of the garden plot.



Friends at the Trailside Garden during the 2011 Summer Cleanup / Planting Day

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

December 2011

The Finance Committee reports that year to date we have spent \$1,311 more than our income, which is a smaller deficit than last year at this time. In order to allow more time to assess our financial condition, the decisions about recommendations for additional contributions to other organizations will be deferred to the February business meeting, rather than January's.

The Children's Religious Education Committee reports that 14 people enjoyed the field trip to Drury Lane Theatre to see The Sound of Music. Another field trip will be planned for the Spring.

The Naming Committee gratefully approved Burke Shipley and Sarah Shirk to find a new member for the Nominating Committee.

New Business - Valarie Lester is interested in organizing a field trip to Starved Rock State Park for an "Eagle Watch" She will circulate possible dates

Concern was raised about the upcoming NATO and G8 meetings in May in Chicago. Judy Erickson suggested creating a constructive dialogue between the mayor, Chicago Police and the peace community.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Erickson, Recording Clerk

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

November 27 2011

The Peace and Justice Committee has been working for the past few months to arrange for a visit from Renny Golden, an activist for social justice. There is interest from both sides, but the date has not been worked out yet. We may cosponsor the visit with the Oak Park Coalition for Truth and Justice if they are interested.

Adult Religious Education on March 14th will feature a one hour session about Peace Testimony. This session is part of a larger 7-hour workshop from the Peace Resources Committee that would require 320 pages of reading by participants. After the March 14th session, we will evaluate if we want to attempt the entire program. The list of advance readings for the entire program is available here, many can be downloaded from the site:
http://www.ilym.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=28

Wil Rutt has arranged for a session with Jim Cason from the Friends Committee on National Legislation about how to effectively communicate your concerns with legislators. The meeting will be held Saturday, March 10th from 9 am - 1 pm at the Oak Park Public Library, small meeting room

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...

Some interesting quotes on the topic of peace:

I think it's naive to pray for world peace if we're not going to change the form in which we live.

Godfrey Reggio

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
Mother Teresa

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.

Eleanor Roosevelt

One cannot subdue a man by holding back his hands. Lasting peace comes not from force.

David Borenstein

Read more: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_peace.html#ixzz1iMmsnJoe

