

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
July 2013



Kelly & Rick June 21, 2013

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

Rick Spiwak and Kelly Maynard were wed under the care of Oak Park Friends Meeting on June 21, 2013. More details and photos below

Wally Conrad passed on June 12, 2013. More information below

Chicago Friends School is NOW accepting applications for Fall 2013, K-2nd Grade
Are you looking for a progressive, project-based learning environment on Chicago's North Side? The Chicago Friends School is a coeducational elementary school in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. Currently the school provides K-2nd education and will be expanding one grade per year through 8th grade. Chicago Friends School is guided by Quaker principles of peace, equality, simplicity, integrity, community, and service. Children of diverse backgrounds are welcome, Quakers and non-Quakers. The educational environment provided meets children's intellectual, social and emotional needs, nurtures relationships, and fosters a sense of belonging, social awareness, and personal responsibility. Scholarships available. Please visit the website to learn more at: <http://chicagofriendsschool.org/>

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.

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.

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.

Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Protest Against US Intervention in Syria, Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams, Chicago. More info at <https://afsc.org/event/protest-against-us-intervention-syria-2>

Monday, August 5th, 2013, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Hiroshima Day Rally, University of Chicago Campus, Henry Moore Atomic Energy Monument, Ellis Avenue between 56th & 57th Streets, Chicago. More info at <https://afsc.org/event/hiroshima-day-rally>

Kelly & Rick's Wedding

Submitted by Bob Southworth

Kelly Maynard and Rick Spiwak were wed under the guidance of Oak Park Friends Meeting on June 21, 2013! The ceremony was held outside at the Morton Arboretum in the evening.

Valerie Lester acted as clerk to this very special meeting, which included elements of Jewish wedding traditions as well as the Quaker traditions. Helen Dickinson provided musical accompaniment on the flute.

After a day of stormy weather, the skies cleared to provide a lovely setting for the meeting. Rick and Kelly were escorted to their seats by their parents. Valerie stood to explain the Quaker practice of Friends Meeting to the attendees, which included members of various faiths.

As silence settled over the crowd, the chirping of birds in the bushes provided the background for everyone's thoughts. One at a time, people rose to share their blessings, memories and advice for the happy couple.

Rick and Kelly then signed the wedding document and together lit a unity candle, creating one flame from their individual flames, symbolizing their union.

A chuppah was held aloft over the couple. A chuppah is an element of the Jewish tradition that consists of a large cloth attached to four poles at the corners. It symbolizes a house in which the couple will spend their lives together. The chuppah used in the ceremony has been a part of other Spiwak family occasions.

Continuing in the Jewish tradition, Rick broke a glass wrapped in cloth as shouts of *Mazel Tov* were heard from the crowd.

Witnesses then had the opportunity to sign the wedding document, and the attendees convened to a lovely reception inside the arboretum.



Helen plays as the ceremony begins



Rick and Kelly surrounded by loved ones



The lighting of the unity candle



Rick underneath the Chuppah

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Sarah Shirk

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

June 2013

The nominating committee has nominated Sarah Shirk as recording clerk. The nomination was approved.

Until a new librarian is found, please limit donations to the library. A volunteer offered to temporarily store new donations in her garage for now. Judy will process last year's donations, but her obligations as meeting clerk limit her availability to process new donations. If anyone feels led to care for the meeting's collection, please contact a member of the nominating committee (Cossy Ksander, John Muhlenberg, or Bob Southworth)

To honor Kelly & Rick's marriage, a donation of \$25 will be sent to West Suburban PADS

Wally Conrad

Wallace V. Conrad, 86, died June 12 of natural causes at Wesley Glen Retirement Center.

Wally attended OPFM faithfully for several decades before moving to Ohio about 10 years ago to be closer to their daughter.

Conrad, a native of Chicago, was a retired postal worker, a World War II veteran, and a longstanding Quaker attender, who enjoyed long walks in the woods and trips to the opera and

symphony with his wife of 62 years, Rose. The couple moved to Clintonville 10 years ago.

Conrad studied languages, philosophy, history, opera and psychology for fun. His humanitarian outlook led to aiding hapless motorists, cleaning parks, prairie restoration, and care of elderly friends. He loved walking, ballroom dance, choral singing, and the arts. His final memories included singing with the University of Chicago Chorus in Rockefeller Chapel and attending Chicago Symphony Concerts for more than 30 years. After a lifetime of contemplation, he found that he agreed most with Aristotle that a life well included a continual search for Truth, Beauty and Goodness.



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:

Social Responsibility and Witness

How does our Meeting work:

- to overcome social, legal, economic, and political injustices, locally and in the wider world?
- for the funding of community services that does not rely on gaming income?

Does our Meeting serve the community through action on concerns for civic improvement?

What actions are we taking to assure everyone equal access to education, health care, legal services, housing, and employment as well as equal opportunities in business and in the professions?

When a member has lifted up a concern, how does our Meeting respond?

Does our Meeting encourage those seeking clearness for their convictions of conscience to hold up such convictions with prayerful openness to the Light?

Am I mindful of how my lifestyle and my investments can contribute to the improvement of the human condition, or to the exploitation of others?

Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience and to assisting others in doing so?

How do I respond and support one who acts out of a clear leading when I am under the weight of another?

What am I doing to work for the betterment of my community to assure the maintenance of effective public services which do not rely on funding from gaming?

Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leadings?