

community * equality * harmony * integrity * simplicity

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
March 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

INSIDE...

Announcements – p. 2
Upcoming Events – p. 2
Library Additions - p.3
Business Meeting Highlights - p.4
Peace and Justice Highlights - p.4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patricia Marton is looking for a place to stay in the Oak Park-Lombard area in March and early April. Candy Boyd has friends seeking housing 3/9-3/10. For contact information for these housing requests, please send e-mail to co-clerk-opfm@hotmail.com.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Saturday, March 10, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Lobby Training Workshop, Oak Park Main Library, Small Meeting Room, 834 Lake St. Oak Park - See additional details below

Sunday, March 11, 2:00 pm, Faith Perspectives Forum on Immigration Issues in America, Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division, River Forest. The program includes immigrants telling their stories; immigration lawyers Royal Berg and Heena Musabji; Jenny Dale of the Chicago New Sanctuary movement; and Arturo Gonzalez, community organizer with the Interfaith Leadership Project. Admission is free. There will be time for questions and discussion. For more information visit www.graceriverforest.org or call 708-366-6900.

Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm, 2nd Annual Dinner / Auction for Chicago Friends School, Drinker, Biddle and Reath, 191 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago

Saturday, March 17th, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm, Peace in Chicago: An interfaith gathering promote nonviolence and peace in Chicago with Laura Simms, DePaul University Student Center, 2256 N. Sheffield, Chicago

Sunday, March 18th, Potluck, following meeting for worship, OPAL

Saturday, March 24th, ILYM Ministry and Advancement Cmte is holding a workshop on conflict in meetings and difficult people in meetings in the home of Chip and Bridget Rorem in Kankakee. Contact Judy for more info.

Sunday, March 25th, Pending Business Meeting Approval, the Peace and Justice Committee will host a meeting to make recommendations to the Friends Committee on National Legislation for topics of discussion in the upcoming year with lawmakers

Friday, March 30th, Friends serve PADS dinner, servers and food donations are needed - contact Valerie Lester

Monday April 23rd - Wednesday April 25th, 12th Annual Summit of Peace Laureates, UIC Main Campus - More info:

<http://www.nobelsummitchicago.org/>

Friday, April 27th - Sunday, April 29th, Annual ILYM Women's Weekend, McNabb, IL

Lobby Training Workshop

This is a unique interfaith opportunity that we are sponsoring. (Please note that the Library is not a sponsor of this event.) This workshop is designed to help persons of faith develop good relations with their elected officials. The leader of the session will be Jim Cason, the Associate Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington DC . FCNL is the largest peace lobby group in the USA , and Jim has had many years of leadership experience in this area. 834 Lake Street in Oak Park; garage parking is available. The training workshop is free and open to the public. There will be light refreshments during the session and an optional Dutch Treat luncheon following at a local Thai Restaurant.

Recent Additions to our Library

Submitted by Will Rutt

Embracing Israel / Palestine - Rabbi Michael Lerner - A first step is for both sides to stop the blame game and the attempts to make one side "right" and the other side "wrong." This book will give you all the information you need to become an activist for peace.

Create Space for Peace - Gene Stoltzfus ed. by Dorothy Friesen - Essays and letters from the founder of Christian Peacemaker over a forty year period

Great Soul, Mahatma Gandhi - Joseph Lelyveld - A Pulitzer Prize winning biography

Black Fire, African American Quakers - edited by Weaver, Kriesc, Angell - Essays on spirituality and human rights by 18 African American Quaker writers between the 18th and 20th Century.

Iraq, A Journey of Hope and Peace - Peggy Gish - The moving experiences of Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq, before, during, and after the 2003 war and occupation.

The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness - Michelle Alexander - If you care about justice, you need to read this book!

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

February, 2012

The Ministry and Care Committee reports that Rosalind Larson has been accepted as a member of Fort Collins Monthly Meeting. We are now going to cease her membership in Oak Park Friends Meeting. We will continue to hold her in the light as she continues her spiritual journey with Ft. Collins F/friends

Adult Religious Education - Helen and Adrian presented a program on what happens during silent worship, which was well attended. Judy Wolicky, ILYM Field Secretary, attended and spoke about discerning appropriateness of speaking during worship, which could be developed into another program. Wil mentioned a long article that could be used for adult religious education sometime, an outsider's view of Quakers and their influence in the larger society. We like both ideas. We asked Wil to present his program in March, and the other program when it is ready. Suggestions for future programs should go to Kelly Maynard, who is organizing these programs.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Erickson, Recording Clerk

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Kelly Maynard

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

February 26, 2012

Report on February 23 Meeting with Sen. Durbin

Several Friends were scheduled to meet with one of Senator Durbin's Legislative Assistants to encourage the senator to support the Budget Control Act which is cutting 1 trillion dollars from the Pentagon's budget over the next ten years. We met with an aide instead, but he gave us 30 minutes to present our ideas.

Ideas about initiating a commons area in Chicago

Janice gave usable input about other movements in the US that are working on the disappearance of commons. She said most of the groups are working at a legislative level, and introducing bills that designate some areas as commons at the state and municipality level. She suggested looking at good governance groups like League of Women Voters or Common Cause.

Related to this is the fact that tens of thousands of protestors are coming to Chicago in May for the NATO/G8 Summits May 18-21. We discussed the possibility of encouraging Friends to provide hospitality to visitors. Things to

think about when offering hospitality are: do guests need transportation and or parking? A bed or just crash space? meals? Also, we need someone who can vouch for these people-Wil has a relative who is coming from Toledo and can get names from him. We decided to bring an action item to the March Meeting for Business.

**Peace and Justice recommends that Friends consider giving hospitality to visitors to Chicago for the NATO/G8 summits from May 17-22 who may find it difficult to find room and board. To this end we recommend passing around a sign-up sheet at upcoming rise of meetings.

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?

How do we respond if we notice the meeting has lost an understanding of the presence of God?

Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?

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?

Do I consider prayerfully the many concerns that are lifted up on any issue, acknowledging that the search for truth in unity involves what God requires, being open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?