

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS **NEWS**

December 2013



Woodville, Wisconsin
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 – Judith Erickson

Recording Clerk – Sarah Shirk

Treasurer – Valerie Lester

Newsletter Editors – Pamela Timme and Bob Southworth

(<mailto:ptimme@hotmail.com>)

Submission deadline – 25th day of the month

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

Sun 12/15 11:30am Holiday Potluck Brunch, Simplify your holiday with Oak Park Friends Meeting, 720 Chicago Ave. in Oak Park

Jan 17-20 Quake that Rocked the Midwest at Evanston Friends Meeting

Jan 25 – Eagle Watch at Starved Rock State Park with optional stay at McNabb and worship sharing at McNabb Friends Meeting house on Jan. 26.

MEMBERSHIP – ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Adult Religious Education Committee presented a session on the topic of Membership after Meeting for Worship on December 1st. Cossy Ksander reported the following:

There were 9 in attendance. We read the membership section of the ILYM faith & practice (See <http://tinyurl.com/ILYM-membership>) and did some journaling and then sharing on 1) the nature and/or history of our interest in Friends and 2) the queries that are listed in the membership section. It was a warm and tender time.



Adult Religious Education Co-clerks Kelly Maynard (left) and Cossy Ksander (right) hold up the ice-breaker project created at the beginning of the workshop. Each participant wrote items that filled them with pride on each finger. Hands were read and passed as we learned about each other's lifetime achievements.

Photo credit: Sarah Shirk

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

November 2013

Nominating Committee.

One of the members requests to cycle off the nominating committee. Ministry and Care will find 2 people to serve on the naming committee for reporting to the February business meeting.

Direction of the Meeting (DOM) Review- Each time a committee meets, they should consider the DOM input. The queries should be continued to be expanded at the committee level as living queries. Spiritual support in this group can be applied to a larger Quaker group at ILYM. Worship sessions can be expanded to a mid-week time slot. Movie, video, worship sharing, or book nights could be implemented mid-week. Living the Word video on religion & science will be reviewed by religious education committee.

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...

"A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of." ~ Nelson Mandela

*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to All!*

