

Community * Equality * Harmony * Integrity * Simplicity

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

January 2013



Longwood Gardens, PA

photo by Renee Southworth

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 collage in exhibition at the Elmhurst Artists Guild Winter Members Show. The name of her piece is "Ideological Engine" and it has an anti-war theme. The show is being held at the Elmhurst Art Museum, 150 Cottage Hill Avenue, Elmhurst through January 18th. The museum hours are Tues, Wed, Thurs and Sat 10-5, and Fri 10-8. (Fridays are free.) For further information, see www.elmhurstartistsguild.org and www.elmhurstmuseum.org. More of Angela's artwork and also poetry can be seen at her website, www.writeplanet.net. Check it out!

Marti Matthews has started a blog called "Marti and friends explore the universe." She has written a number of interesting and entertaining observations, and invites you to take a look at it and send her your comments, either on the blog or by email. You can find her blog by googling www.martiandfriendsexploretheuniverse.blogspot.com. Check this out, too!

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, 1/6/2013, 11:30 am, Adult Religious Education examines aspects of the Peace Testimony. Please read in preparation:
<http://www.oakparkfriends.org/frozen-in-time-escaping-the-victim-abuser-rescuer-triangle.html>

Fri-Mon, 1/18-21, High School Quake (Evanston MM).

Sat-Sun, 1/26-27, OPFM Eagle Watch, Starved Rock State Park/McNabb. Eagle watch at Starved Rock will be 1/26, then on to the Clear Creek House in McNabb for potluck dinner and overnight stay. Worship with Clear Creek on 1/27

Sat, 2/2, Chicagoland Friends Gathering. Fri-Mon.

2/15-18, FLGBTQC Annual Gathering.

Thurs, 2/28, Among Friends submission deadline.

Sat, 3/9, ILYM Continuing Committee, 57th St Meeting.

Thurs, 3/21, Chicago Friends School Dinner/Auction.

Fri. 3/29. PADS dinner served by Friends at St. John Lutheran Church, Forest Park

Business Meeting Highlights

Submitted by Judy Erickson

Meeting of 12/9/12

Adult Religious Education. The workshop on Grieving, given on 12/2 by Cossy & Kelly, touched many people in healing ways. The January program will center on an article by Peaceways

Treasurer's Report. We have spent a little more than \$200 over our income

Ministry & Care Committee. We have received a transfer of membership request for Jeffrey Moore from Madison, WI Monthly Meeting.

Peace & Justice Committee: has been working with two themes, "with rights come responsibilities" and the hidden nature of Guantanamo Bay Detention Center.

Mountain of Waste Conference

Paz recently attended a conference dedicated to the dangers of nuclear power at the University of Chicago and would like friends to be aware of some of the points made. A nice recap, written by Kari Lyndersen, can be found at this link:

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/12/06/70-years-after-first-atomic-reaction-anti-nuclear-movement-presses-on/>

Off the Shelf

Submitted by Judy Erickson

This month I want to highlight a category called "Meeting Resources." These items can help you better understand how Meetings work, and to help you feel better prepared to participate in them. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* reflects the wisdom of many generations of Quakers in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, probably the largest yearly meeting in North America, on such

things as membership, finances, marriage, memorial services, etc. ILYM has been laboring faithfully to write its own Faith & Practice and many sections of it can be found on the IYLM website, but it is not yet finished. PYM's latest version of *Faith & Practice* is our "default" guidance if there is no comparable approved ILYM section. If you are curious about how the Meeting functions, check it out! Also note that many yearly meetings (including PYM) also post their books of *Faith & Practice* on their websites.

Other resources in this section provide guidance on practical matters such as how to conduct a business meeting or how to participate in a clearness committee. Other books and pamphlets provide guidance to members of ministry & care committees dealing with various aspects of spiritual nurture and pastoral care. Guidance can also be found here on how to do outreach and become more visible in the wider community. For example, if you are interested in helping create our space at the next Day in Our Village, you will find some good ideas here!

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:

1. Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?

As we worship is there a living silence in which we are drawn together by the power of God in our midst?

Is the spirit of our worship together one that nurtures all worshipers?

How does our Meeting respond when the vocal ministry seems inappropriate, or when the meeting for worship is consistently not gathered?

Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, and expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?

Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness, and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationship with others?

Have I experienced in worship that direct leading to listen or to speak, and have I been faithful to my own experience?

In Conclusion

Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will. –*Jonathan Edwards*