

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
November 2013

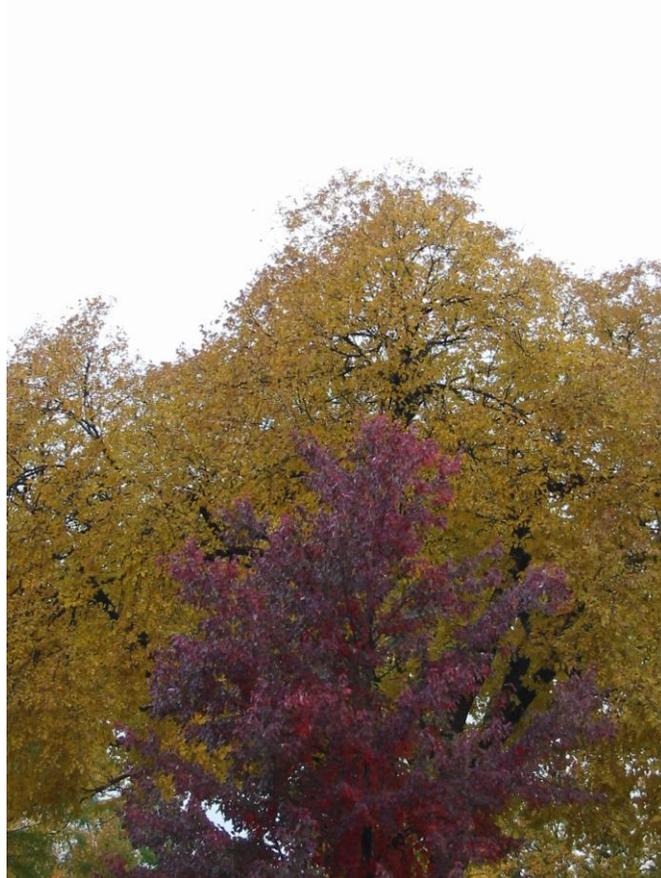


Photo – Bob Southworth

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 – Judy 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.

OPFM will be supporting the Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program. Would you be interested in sponsoring a local family? To learn more see co-chairs Sue Beckman and Sarah Shirk or go to: <http://www.communityofcongregations.org/hfgb.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Fri 11/8 – Sun 11/10, Teen Quake, St. Louis, For more information, contact Christopher Goode: chris@archandcons.com

Sat 11/9 6:30pm Adult Young Friends Potluck at Evanston Friends Meeting 1010 Greenleaf Street, contact Adrian Nelson ilymayf@gmail.com for more information.

Fri, 11/29, 6:30pm, PADS dinner service, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Sun 12/1 11:30am-1:30pm Program on Membership

Oak Park Friends welcome anyone who would like to join them for a program on membership following Meeting for Worship (10:00-11:00 am). The program “Membership: How do I officially become a Friend?” will be on Sunday, Dec. 1, 11:30am-1:30pm at Oak Park Friends Meeting, 720 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois (in the Art League).

The process of becoming a member of a Friends Meeting can be confusing/daunting as well as satisfying/transforming. This workshop has been arranged to in order to provide attenders the chance to explore the process with people who have gone through it, are considering it, or are just plain curious about it. It will focus on the practicalities. After introductions, the program will start by reviewing the procedure in *Faith and Practice* and advice from other Quaker writings, provide exercises designed to help you discern your beliefs/reasons for wanting to join a meeting, examine sample letters, and allow time for Q and A as well as personal journaling. In the end it is up to individuals to apply via letter for

membership in a specific monthly meeting. This workshop is designed only to shed light on the process.

For additional information contact Kelly Maynard
kellythelinguist@hotmail.com

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

May 23-25 Quake for HS Teens and Tremor for Jr Hi at Urbana/Champaign Meeting

ILYM has a year round High School Friend Program, about every three months they meet to have a Quake. Quakes are a great time for the teens to thrive in the Quaker community, and to meet other young Friends. Workshops are picked by the teens themselves, each one being very inspirational and educational. And of course there are out trips, anything from high rope courses to museums. Online brochure at ilym.org/HSFriends.

For additional information contact Rose Dennis, Youth Coordinator:
rosedennis25@yahoo.com.

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

November, 2013

Adult Religious Education will host an extended program on 12/1/13 from 11:30am-2:00pm on the subject of membership. The event will be promoted through MCGM listserv.

The recommended donations from the Peace and Justice committee were approved. More details are available in the P&J minutes. An annual fundraising project for a local organization was discussed and approved. The specific organization has not been identified yet. PADS is collecting house to home kits – contact Mandy Gawf for more information

Burke Shipley has accepted the position of librarian for one year

DIRECTION OF THE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. How does Meeting for Worship nourish your spirit? What might make it better for you?
Meeting for worship "allows time to think beyond self, forces me to slow down and reflect, communal silence is beneficial."

Meeting for worship "queries offer a connection to the wider Quaker world, but they could be distributed in a different manner, for example on chairs rather than vocally."

Meeting for worship "needs to be in a comfortable space, heat could be higher on cold days, stretching could be incorporated into the hour sitting time."

Vocal ministry continually needs to be encouraged.

2. Do you perceive a need for the Meeting or a service opportunity by the Meeting that is not currently being done? If so, what is it?

Service as a group such as the PADS dinner is a way to grow the sense of community. Too many service projects could be overwhelming, many people do individual service projects, participating in Community of Congregation events such as the Thanksgiving service is a way of reaching out to other faith groups. There is a sense of a "mid-week vacuum" with no meeting connection to each other or the community.

3. Do you perceive a gift within yourself that you would like to use in some way? If so, have you considered asking the Meeting to provide any spiritual support, such as prayers or a listening ministry?

The gift may not always be about a leading, but about completing tasks that must get done. Taking on "behind the scenes" work such as accounting is beneficial as is the stewardship of the meeting resources. Growth focus can be shifted to nurturing ourselves and this will show to people who visit and are a good fit spiritually. We are diverse in terms of "a calling" and many times have a committee of one. We could attempt to sustain a spiritual connection to people who come and go from our meeting.

4. Have you ever wanted to discuss something, of a spiritual or temporal nature, within the Meeting, or with some committee or individual at the Meeting? If so, has a gentle way opened to it, or is it not clear how to do this?

Network is more informal, people can ask clerk or get individual support. The methods for a clearness committee should continue to be promoted as a reminder on the process. Religious education co-clerks have continued to request topic suggestions and are open to responding to individual requests.

5. What do you think are the needs of the Meeting at this time?

It is part of the Quaker identity to do service as a meeting community. We are not known extensively in the community because we don't always do service as a visible group. The

violence on the West Side is a concern and has vast potential service opportunities. Diversity in the meeting could be expanded by reaching outside our comfort zone, engaging our neighbors, and introducing our meeting into conversations.

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:

11. Stewardship of Resources

Does our Meeting serve social and economic justice in its uses of property and money?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the Meeting's work, its ministry, and the upkeep of its property?

How does our Meeting engage its members in the support of the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?

To what extent does our Meeting rely on current members for financial support, and what role does endowment income serve? Does the Meeting consider carefully the appropriate role of invested funds?

Am I clear that I am the steward, not the owner, of property in my care?

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency (to avoid unnecessary dependence on others) and fair sharing of resources? Do I make choices as a consumer that support the equitable distribution of income?

Do my employment and other activities allow for use of time and energy in spiritual growth and in service to the Religious Society of Friends?

Do I contribute generously within my means to the funding of the work of Friends in my Meeting, in the yearly meeting, and in the wider world of Friends?