

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS

NEWS

July 2014



Alan Ruiz ponders ILYM – Photo by Christina 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 – 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

Join us after Meeting for Worship on July 6th for a lunch in Chinatown. Go green and bring your train pass.

Please keep Cossy Ksander and Sarah Shirk in your thoughts as both have recently lost their fathers

Christina Timme is available for babysitting, cleaning projects, etc. If interested, please contact her at 708-927-4940.

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.

JULY'S ACTION ALERT FROM FCNL

This Month's Action Alert from the Friends Committee on National Legislation

The Action Alert this month concerns the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). This law, passed shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks, gave the President broad new military powers to fight terrorism. This law continues on the books today, but there has been recent interest in repealing it in Congress. Barbara Lee (D-CA), the only member of either house of Congress to vote against the bill in 2001, recently sponsored an amendment to repeal the law. This garnered 157 votes in favor, not enough to pass, but a strong showing. With the debate likely to continue in Congress over the next few months, all Friends are encouraged to contact their representatives to make your position known.

Sources: Wikipedia, fcnl.org

Find more information about AUMF and how to contact your legislator at
<http://fcnl.org/action/alert/>

A MESSAGE FROM JIM ROSE

Friends,

I have been working with Friends Journal for three years on making their archive more widely available. To this end I have developed a new web site <http://fjarchive.info> This is an index of over 8000 articles by over 4000 authors on 200 topics; articles written between 1955 and 2011. Subscribers to Friends Journal have easy access to the text of those articles on the FJ site.

A MESSAGE FROM COSSY KSANDER

My friend Linnie Thomas sent out this message: Please help! My agent doesn't believe the public is ready for a young adult fantasy featuring non-violence and real energy healing techniques. I would like to prove her wrong with 30,000 likes for this page.

If you are on Facebook, you can "like" The Wasaru Stones page. And she is working on a way for folks to "like" her concept at her web site, www.linniethomas.com

Linnie is also seeking stories of successful, non-violent strategies for the up-coming volumes in her series, if you would like to share with her. Thanks, cossy ksander

JUNE BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The preliminary treasurer's report shows \$9,818 in income and \$9,632 in expenses for 2013/2014.

Adrian Fisher led a discussion in June about Earthcare & Spirituality. No summer sessions of Adult Religious Education are planned for summer.

Kelly Maynard authored a response to a recent Forbes article that draws comparisons between Vladimir Putin and Adolf Hitler. The Forbes article recommends a US military presence in Ukraine and supplying the former Soviet states with oil produced by fracking to lessen their energy dependence on Moscow.

Kelly's response, approved for submission to Oak Leaves, the Chicago Tribune, and Forbes, points out in a poignant way the drawbacks of these strategies.

On May 31st, Mark, Rick and Kelly weeded and mulched the Trailside Garden. Further work days will be arranged if needed

The next Business Meeting will be August 10 (no meeting in July)

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:

7. 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?

CLOSING THOUGHT

“The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.”

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

