

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
September, 2014



Walworth County, Wisconsin

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

John (Jack) Kearney, Judy's father in law, passed away on August 10th. Please hold the Kearney and Erickson families in the light

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Evanston Friends Meeting Silent Retreat

September 19-21, Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort, IL – The silent retreat is a wonderful opportunity for Friends to come away to reflect, be creative, read and write. More info at <http://illinoisyearlymeeting.hosted.phplist.com/lists/lt.php?id=KkwMBUsAWkwEAwk>

October 5th – World Quaker Day – More info at <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

October 11th, 1:00 pm-5:00 pm – Understanding and Responding to LGBTQ Concerns in East Africa, hosted by 57th Street Meeting, 5615 S. Woodlawn, Chicago – A two part program, the first part is a discussion with Justimore Musombi, a gay Kenyan Quaker pastor who has been disowned by his family and meeting about his experiences being gay in Kenya. The second part is a showing and discussion about the documentary film *God Loves Uganda*. The film explores the intersection between race, class and religion in the context of an evangelical Christian campaign to change African culture with values imported from America's Christian right. More info at http://www.57thstreetmeeting.org/userfiles/LGBT_EA.pdf?utm_source=emailcampaign28&utm_medium=phpList&utm_content=HTMLemail&utm_campaign=ILYM+Announcements%2C+August+29

PEACE AND JUSTICE - FCNL ACTION ALERTS

The Newsletter has a new monthly feature which we hope will assist Friends in their commitment to peace and justice. The following link will take to you the website of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), where you can find out about and participate in advocacy for peace, for environmental restoration, and for social justice.

<http://www.fcnl.org/action/alert.htm>

This item can also be found on the OPFM website, www.oakparkfriends.org.

September's Action Alert from FCNL

We are all too aware that the United States has again stepped up military actions in the Middle East. This month's action alert focuses on steps the US should take to ratchet down those actions. FCNL urges the US to:

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Stop U.S. bombing of Iraq

Coordinate with the United Nations on evacuation efforts of US personnel

Press for and uphold an arms embargo in Iraq and Syria

Engage with the United Nations to reinvigorate efforts for a lasting political solution for Iraq and Syria

Increase humanitarian aid

Please contact your representative and urge these steps!

FRIENDS NEW UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Responding to the Ugandan government's passage of a law that targets the country's LGBTQ population, Olympia Monthly Meeting has formed an underground railroad. Some members of Uganda's LGBTQ community have been beaten, imprisoned, and killed. Many live in constant fear. The New Underground Railroad has aided 17 people to escape the situation. Find out more at:

<http://friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org/>

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:

Ministry of Outreach

Outreach

What are we doing as a Meeting to communicate our presence and our principles to the community around us? Does our Meeting's ministry of outreach lead Friends to share their spiritual experiences with others?

What are we doing to invite persons not in membership to attend our meetings for worship and to encourage their continued attendance? How does the Meeting welcome visitors? Are we sensitive to the needs and hesitations of each visitor?

Are we tender to the needs of isolated Friends and Meetings, and to nearby Meetings seeking support?

How do I ground myself in the understandings of my faith? Am I clear about my beliefs? How do I prepare myself to share my faith and beliefs with others?

Does my manner of life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?

Do I seize opportunities to tell others about the Religious Society of Friends and invite them to worship with us?

Is my manner with visitors and attenders to our Meeting one of welcome?

Collaboration

In what ways does our Meeting respond to opportunities to join with other faiths in worship, in social action, and in spiritual dialogue?

How does our Meeting encourage its members to seek opportunities to meet and work with Friends world wide?

What opportunities have I taken to know people from different religious and cultural backgrounds, to worship with them, and to work with them on common concerns?

What opportunities have I taken to know, to work, and to worship with Friends outside of my own Meeting?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses” ~Abraham Lincoln

