

“Walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.” - George Fox

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
January 2015



Skaters on the new skating ribbon in Maggie Daley Park, Chicago

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

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.

January 16-18 - High School Friends retreat at Evanston Meeting House sponsored by IL Yearly Meeting.

January 24-25 – Eagle Watch at Starved Rock – In cold weather, eagles gather near the locks on the Illinois River at Starved Rock to fish where the river is not frozen over. The Illinois Waterways Visitor Center across the river from Starved Rock has various activities to celebrate the eagles. For the past several years, OPFM has organized an Eagle Watch trip. Those who wish may stay overnight at nearby Clear Creek House, home of Clear Creek Meeting. Clear Creek House is a renovated farm house which is located on the Illinois Yearly Meeting property near McNabb, Illinois.

January 30 – PADS Dinner

February 1 – Adult Religious Education on the topic of Alice Paul and Women’s Right to Vote



April 24 – April 26 – Women’s Weekend at Illinois Yearly Meeting

BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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

December 14, 2014: The Ministry and Care Committee has given Johnny and Marie Gillespie a copy of Faith and Practice and will follow up with plans to schedule their clearness committees for membership. The Art League has accepted our offer of service in lieu of a rent increase. A committee has been formed to make sure we honor our commitment to maintain the kitchen.

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:

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?

AND IN CONCLUSION...

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11