

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

OAK PARK FRIENDS
NEWS
December, 2014



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.

December 21, 2014 – Holiday potluck at OPAL, following worship

January 4, 2015, Adult Religious Education Program on Equality Testimony – John Woolman and the Abolition of Slavery.

February 1, 2015 - Adult Religious Education Program on Equality Testimony – Alice Paul and Women’s Right to Vote

March 1, 2015 - Adult Religious Education Program on Equality Testimony – Herbert Hoover and Progressive Taxes

May 3, 2015 - Adult Religious Education Program on Equality Testimony – Bayard Rustin and Civil Rights, 1st Freedom Ride

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.

December's Action Alert from FCNL

The action alert this month regards Iran's nuclear program. Through diplomacy, progress has been made to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons. International inspectors are now visiting Iran's nuclear program daily, instead of twice-monthly, and their numbers have doubled. Progress has halted on Iran's nuclear program this past year. These signs are encouraging, but as yet, a comprehensive agreement has not been reached with Iran. The US has agreed to extend talks and has a goal of March to reach a political or framework agreement. FCNL encourages you to contact your legislators to continue these negotiations, and seek peaceful means to end violent conflict.

Direction of the Meeting

Details of the Direction of the Meeting were shared at the November Business Meeting. The meeting took place November 5th. Much of the meeting focused on Peace and Justice. The meeting has been without a formal Peace and Justice committee for several months. While Peace and Justice has been working as a committee of the whole through Business Meeting, many people feel that Peace and Justice efforts have diminished recently, and much time was spent brainstorming ideas to increase Peace and Justice activities. Many good ideas were discussed, but the ones that seemed to resonate were to reach out to other monthly meetings, ILYM committee members, and other peace resources and create a partnership with them in Peace and Justice efforts that they are already involved in, depending on whether the nature of their efforts strike a chord with our membership. Another resource that may provide guidance is the book The Wisdom to Know the Difference by Ilene Flannigan.

Judy Wollicki from ILYM provided support and took notes and her assistance was much appreciated.

Business Meeting Highlights

November 12, 2014

Val and Cossy have been working to switch the meeting's voice mail to VOIP, which will save about \$12 a month. Annual income is at \$3,126 and expenses at \$4,119.

Thanks to the efforts of Val, Sarah and Judy, the Children's cabinets have been reduced from 3 to 2 cabinets, providing the opportunity for more rental income for the Art League.

This year, OPFM will again sponsor 5 individuals for the Holiday Food & Gift Baskets. The time to donate is now!

A subcommittee has been formed consisting of Val, Cossy and Sue to address maintenance of the kitchen. This was requested by OPAL in lieu of a rent increase.

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:

Integrity and Simplicity

What does our Meeting understand to be the meaning and implication of our testimonies on simplicity and integrity?

How do our Meeting's actions demonstrate this understanding?

As a Meeting, what are we doing to encourage members to embody integrity and simplicity in their everyday lives?

How do I strive to maintain the integrity of my inner and outer lives—in my spiritual journey, my work, and my family responsibilities? How do I manage my commitments so that over commitment, worry, and stress do not diminish my integrity?

Am I temperate in all things? Am I open to counsel and advice on overindulgence and addictive behavior, such as gambling? Do I take seriously the hazards associated with addictive and mood-altering substances?

Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me? Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?

Do I refrain from membership in organizations whose purposes and methods compromise our testimonies?