



Here are some pictures from last year's Peace Fair

Peace Fair Draws Thousands!

Organizers of the first ever Oak Park Peace Fair estimate between two and three thousand people attended the Scoville Park fair September 10. The event was organized by the Oak Park Coalition for Truth and Justice (OPCTJ) in partnership

with thirty sponsoring groups and attracted more than 50 booth exhibitors including dozens of peace oriented organizations, musicians, dancers, poets, artists and performance artists. Attendance estimate was based on program distribution

Different Perspectives ..

So much went on during the Fair that it was impossible to experience everything. My own perspective included a view American Friend's Service Committee's "Eyes Wide Shut" exhibit of combat boots, each pair representing a fallen soldier in Iraq and an insider's look to the main stage entertainment.

Those on the opposite end of the park had formed different visions. Fair goers could choose entertainment, a wide variety of booths, visit with friends and learn something new.



Entertainment

The Fair's entertainment opened with The Mike Levin, **Donald Neale** Ensemble, conservatively described as "amazing" and "incredible." They were followed by the visual pageantry of the **Nahui Ollin Quetzalyolotl** dancers from Pilsen. Nahui Ollin enthralled us using fire, percussion, conch and mandolin to perform their traditional Aztec dances. Funk band, Laura Good and Friends was followed by more pageantry: Oak Park based **Inner Peace/World Peace** presented a "simple ritual" using drums and huge puppets with performers



converging from throughout the park to create and celebrate a vision of how people will create peace. Percussive guitar stylist **The Wandering Endorphin**, folk/bluegrass performers **Tim Coan & Rachel Baiman** and folk singer/peace activist **Dave Martin**, who concluded the afternoon's music. A last ritual by Peace/World Peace ended the Fair with a distribution of bread to the crowd.

Children gathered for activities under the trees by the library while **poets and politicians spoke** under the statute at the top of the hill in Scoville Park. Most notable of the speakers was Pat Vogel of Military Families Speak Out an ardent opponent war, who had lost her son in Iraq in 2003. Poet **Corwin** performed her works and recited (our own incarcerated) **JJ Jameson's** poem, "War." After the young persons of the **Oak Park River Forest H.S. Spoken Word Club** recited, the poetry section concluded with **Quraysh Ali Lansana** reading a moving selection from his "Harriet Tubman Poems."



Inner trees out Park. of the Nina

Laurel Lambert Schmidt
Third Unitarian Church Connections
Chicago