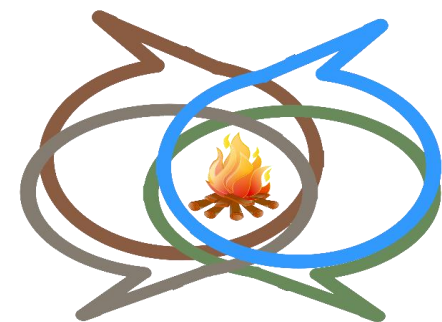


# Spark Gap

## Bulletin of the Fireside Chats

2024 Jan 17, Vol, 2, No. 2 (Past issues click [here](#).)



## Greetings from the Heart & Hearth

**What?** Spark Gap is a supplementary bulletin for the Fireside Chats activity announcements at AOM. The Fireside Chat is an inclusive egalitarian activity for people to meet and chat to build the warmth of friendship and community and transform strangers into friends.

**Why?** Fireside Chats help build a sense of community through informal, stimulating, friendly, and fun chats. They are opportunities for strangers to become friends, and friends to become family.

**Who?** The facilitators are Ray Ostolski, Dr. Rob Tatum, and Greg Lee. They coordinate with AOM management to schedule and announce the event. They do not teach or lead the activity. They are spark plugs and jumpstart the sessions. At least one of them will be available so the activity will not be canceled for lack of a facilitator. Participants are AOM residents, family, friends, guests, and visitors; All are welcome to participate.

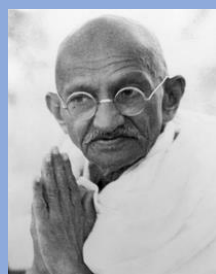
**When?** Every other Wednesday evening, 7 pm (check AOM Calendar).

**Where?** On the patio near the firepit outside the Community Room.

**How?** Anyone can jot down a question on a piece of paper, fold it, and add it to the "Question Bucket." Participants may volunteer or be randomly chosen to draw a question to answer. Others join in. When done with a question, someone else draws another question.

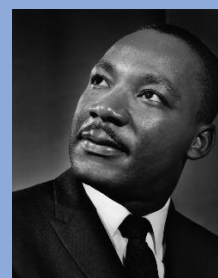
To foster a friendly and congenial environment questions of a political or religious nature are not allowed as these topics can become divisive. That would be counterproductive to bringing people together to build a sense of community. See Vol. 1, No. 7 about the Talking Stick.

## Gandhi and MLK: Social Justice Connection



Gandhi  
(1869-1948)

Monday, 15 January, is Martin Luther King Day. Did you know [how King was influenced by Gandhi](#)? Many associate the civil rights movements of Gandhi and King with "civil disobedience." Most understand the non-violence credo espoused by both men. Few are aware Gandhi used the term *Satyagraha* (holding to the truth and love) rather than civil disobedience. King connected Gandhi's non-violent protest to the words of Jesus to "love your enemies." However, most Western journalism fails to distinguish that satyagraha is not civil disobedience. Gandhi held that unjust laws are not based on truth, so protesting them did not constitute disobeying the law. Gandhi used satyagraha to free India from external colonial rule. King's civil rights movement has yet to free America from domestic political and social injustice.



M.L King  
(1929-1968)

### Fireside Chat



Question Bucket

### Get on the E-mail List:

E-mail [APPGEOG4SL@gmail.com](mailto:APPGEOG4SL@gmail.com) with "Fireside Chat" in the subject line.

### Add to the Question Bucket

You may email your question to

Ray: [ray.ostolski@gmail.com](mailto:ray.ostolski@gmail.com)

Rob: [drattatum@bellsouth.net](mailto:drattatum@bellsouth.net)

Greg: [APPGEOG4SL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:APPGEOG4SL@GMAIL.COM)

Or you can simply write it on a white slip of paper, fold it, and add it to the Question Bucket at any time during a Fireside Chat

### General Location



### Inclement Weather Alternate Location

In case of bad weather or other unfavorable conditions, look for signs for an alternate meeting location which depends on space availability relative to other scheduled activities. If the AOM office makes a change, we will roll with it and make do with what is available. Flexibility can be fun or frustrating. It is an individual choice. Romans, vote!

*Join us, bring a friend or guest. Share this bulletin with others and help to build our community and make the world a better place through inclusion, love, tolerance, compassion, and understanding.*