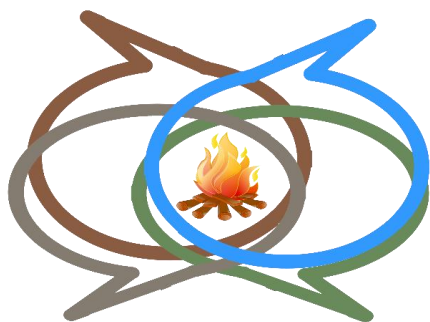


Spark Gap

Bulletin of the Fireside Chats

2024 Feb 13, Vol, 2, No. 4 (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.

Happy Black History Month

How many folks are aware of the juxtaposition of Black History Month with the Chinese New Year? Granted, this doesn't happen every year, but the Chinese solar-lunar new year ranges from the last two weeks of January to the first two weeks of February. Contrary to the divisive political rhetoric, there is a long history of Black-Asian solidarity. This culminated in the start of ethnic studies in California college and university curricula. Some early Black activists stayed in Japanese-town in Los Angeles, and many Chinese grocers in the Mississippi Delta region were critical to the Black communities. People can live in communities based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

Fireside Chat



Question Bucket

E-mail 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

Rob: drattatum@bellsouth.net

Greg: 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.