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Volume 60, Number 3

Whittier First Friends Church

March, 2021

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## LyndaVision

On January 24, over 80 Friends and friends from all over the country took to Zoom to celebrate the retirement of Lynda Ladwig for a three hour online party.

The formal (if you can call it that) program centered around the Quaker SPICES and how Lynda has represented and exemplified them for over a quarter of a century.

Marilyn Fant, in her introduction to the festivities, said, "Some spices stand alone, bold and confident, while others give just a hint of presence and some blend well with others, forming a robust and memorable combination. Lynda achieves that sensational balance." Bob Secord spoke on behalf of Lynda's recording committee, outlining "her faithful journey through a demanding process." Loletta Barrett honored Lynda as a representation of love and "a gentle challenger."

A beautiful montage of photos, video greetings, and memories, including a musical performance by Jo Nita Beede, had everyone reaching for the Kleenex.

After the "seasoning," it was time for the roast and toast, with George Bouchard warming up the crowd. Cristy Tavernelli and her mom, Vicki Kendrick spoke, of Lynda's simple use of ordinary objects (like an avocado) in her messages. Russ Litchfield sang and spoke a peaceful tribute appropriate to Lynda's work on Peace Camp.

Candice Ryder, Cassie Caringella, and Darrell Warren added smiles in speaking of goat walking, a song about a cow, coffee, flexibility, and the Magi on Zoom. Michael and Elisabeth Elliot spoke on Lynda's building of community, with a cameo appearance by the Wonder Box.

*Continued next column*

*My Dear F(friends),*

*Wow, what a retirement celebration! I have to say that you certainly know how to make a person (me) feel loved and appreciated! Today I am simply writing to say thank you. Thank you to each and every one who took the time to put this celebration together, thank you to those who participated with their words and those who joined with us on Zoom to make this celebration so special. Thank you for your thoughtful cards, notes and gifts. The framed Minute of Appreciation and acknowledgement of recording are hanging in my office as reminders of your abundant generosity. Throughout my time at First Friends I have always felt your love and support for my ministry as well as for me and my family. It is that love and support along with your prayers that I shall always hold dear. You are such an amazing group of Friends and I feel so blessed and honored to be among you.*

*In God's Love.,  
Lynda*

*Dear Friends,*

*I wish to thank all of you friends who gave Lynda a great retirement send off. The outpouring of accolades and tributes to Lynda were very heartfelt. I also want to thank you for my love offering, which I didn't expect but very much welcomed. Thank you again.*

*Mike Ladwig*

Mel, Bella, and Jasmine Sturr remembered how Lynda could always "fix" things, and demonstrate equality by treating everyone with the same respect no matter what their age. And find good pizza. As Mel is famous for saying, "it's all good."

*Continued on page 5*

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*A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CALLED TO LISTEN, GATHERED TO SEEK PEACE AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE*

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## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** I've been doing a little reminiscing this month regarding *The Living Light*. The first Friendly Fare that I wrote for you was for the Tenth Month, 2008 issue. Over the years, (I can't believe it's been years!) many friends have shared stories and pictures with us. As we transition to a quarterly version of *The Living Light*, I want to be sure friends continue to share their news, stories and pictures. The Third Month, 2009 was the first time we shared *Friends Travel* (along with categories such as Friends Celebrate, Friends About Town, etc.) Here is a quote from that column so long ago.

*February (in 2009) was a wet, rainy month in southern California, but it dried out long enough for Dan & Lea Wright to enjoy a happy Valentines Day weekend in Laguna Beach. The Living Light went along for the trip, and this month we thought we'd start a new tradition: 'The Living Light Travels.' You may have seen a similar feature in a local newspaper. Your submissions are welcome."*

*The interesting thing is that this week I am packing for our annual trip to Laguna Beach and wishing I had until next week to submit my article and picture, but then I decided it would be fun to share the*



*picture that started it all. Friends, please send in your news, stories and pictures!*

**Friends About Town:** The Boltz-Smith family has been very busy in late January and in February getting projects around the house completed including outside wood repair, painting, and reroofing. (pictures available upon request.) Dan Wright and family (Lea, Cassie, Steven, Landon, Avalon, Hudson, Milt & Donna) have been enjoying getting the old cars out and creating their own antique car tours.

**School and Work:** The Woirhayes have been very grateful to have learned that both Elyse and Cedric closed their Fall terms of the school year at Rancho Starbuck Intermediate and Rio Hondo College respectively, earning straight "A"s on their report cards. Elyse has been accepted at Troy High School in Fullerton. Anatheha has moved onto the Redlands University campus for the Spring term. We pray for the success for this brand new transition for her.

**Friends Remember:** Long time member and Friend, Ann Smith passed away in February. She became a member of First Friends in 1981 with her son, Paul Smith, who was

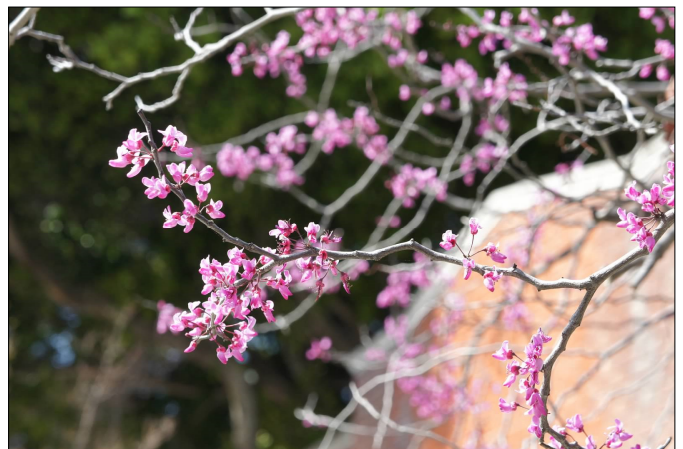
a part of Young Friends Fellowship. For many years, Ann brought her granddaughters, Erin (Jennifer) and Emily to participate in Sunday School. Continued prayers of comfort for the family during this difficult time. Paul is grateful that the Friends have kept Ann on our prayer list, (and for our prayers for him as well), sent notes and brought flowers, and visited Ann over the past years.

**Friends Sharing News:** Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at lealouw@gmail.com or to the church office by mail. See you next month!



Sara Adams  
Carole Borries  
Jack Carlisle  
Ella Coffin  
Adrian Day  
Annabelle Day  
Micah Eggleton  
James Garland  
Eric Haynes  
Debbie Hays  
Sheri Hendrix  
Pati Jackson-Johnson  
Allison Lew  
Erik Livingston  
Susan Marshall

Lauren Marshburn Zermeno  
Jonathan Moody  
Evan Mooney  
Rose Nedrow  
Debi Nelson  
Sabron Newton  
Willie Riley  
Sue Settlage  
Dennis Upton  
Gary Wemmerus  
Lara Wemmerus  
Gerry Wolfe  
Emily Wood  
Dan Wright



*He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither—in whatever he does, he prospers.—Psalms 1*

Photo by Deanna Woirhayes

## This Month in Meeting for Worship

March 7	Music Sunday <i>Commandments</i>  Exodus 20, Psalm 119: 174-175, Micah 6:6-8, Isaiah 6:1-6, Matthew 16:24-26, and John 13:34-35
March 14	Meeting for Worship with Berkeley Friends
March 21	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Children of Light</i>  John 12:20-36, Hebrews 5:1-10
March 28	Palm Sunday Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Love</i>  Psalm 118



At Monthly Meeting on February 14, the Christian Education and Outreach committee shared letters of thanks from Dig Deep and the Navajo Nation for our donations from the Young Friends Fellowship cupcake sale in November. Business and Finance reported strong earnings in our investment portfolios. Whittier Friends School is applying for a waiver to reopen lower grades for in-person learning. The Communications Committee reported that *The Living Light* will now be published four times a year, and work on the website and email newsletter is continuing. We are holding Midway City Friends Church in the Light as they have sadly been separated from Evangelical Friends International and have lost their church property. We are continuing our communication with them.

Upcoming Monthly Meeting dates for 2021 are:

March 14  
April 11  
May 16  
June 13  
July 11  
August 8  
September 12  
October 10  
November 14  
and December 5

**We welcome and encourage your comments as well as your contributions and photos for inclusion in *The Living Light*. Kindly send your email to Elisabeth Elliot at [communiquaker@gmail.com](mailto:communiquaker@gmail.com).**

## The Facing Bench

It's been quite a year. At the time of our Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends yearly meeting last year, the first case of the virus had appeared. On January 19 of this year, our church bell rang to honor the 400,000 lives we lost to the virus. Sadly, it is now over 500,000.



While the vaccine brings some hope and light, we are on a long journey. As I write, 42.5 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed since December 15. Theoretically that brings full immunization to 21.25 million people. That means there are about 310 million left. If we need 80-90% vaccinated to achieve "herd immunity," the number is reduced to 248-279 million. If we keep the pace of "100 million doses in 100 days," and require two doses, we need 248-279 days to get the population half immunized, or 496-558 days to get full coverage for our "herd." This is all a rough estimate of course. Some good news is we are administering 1.4 million shots a day (this according to an NPR story on February 9). Perhaps it will increase as we gain momentum in distribution and organization in administration. It's still a long road.

But we have resources to support us to not only weather the storm, but expand our ministry and vitality. The followers of Jesus experienced doubt, fear, confusion, chaos, and persecution in the first year(s) after Jesus's execution. The stories of the Gospels, Acts and Paul's letters tell us that God's Spirit accompanied individuals and the community giving them strength, words, actions, and directions they needed to not only continue Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem but to take it to all the world. The early Friends experienced persecution, jail, and death to spread the message that Jesus himself comes to teach us, that of God exists in each of us, and that we are to be patterns so that our life speaks and we are a blessing to all.

God has been present and faithful and always will be. Friends have been present and faithful and will be. Some of us might look back wondering where the year went and wishing we had accomplished more. Those of us who have so much often wish we had more, rather than experiencing the joy of the now; what is Present in this moment. Know that we have accomplished much together and individually; exactly what God gave us to accomplish. And thanks be to God, we made it, and we are still here. Stay home, wash your hands, wear your mask, get your doses, and come to Meeting for Worship. You are loved, needed, and appreciated!





### Russ' Reflections

## A Music Checkup

Since September, the Friends Choir section leaders and our one Choir Scholar have been meeting weekly to rehearse and record music for Meeting for Worship. For the most part, our efforts have been effective. I am using a small stereo microphone with my iPhone to record the group, and the sound is pretty good, sort of like you would hear in person. As we investigate technology needs for the future that may include in-person worship as well as remote participation, we may be able to improve the music experience by using multiple microphones and cameras. For the time being, my equipment meets our needs.

I have had a few comments from worshippers since March 15 when we started Meeting for Worship by Zoom. I (the Music Director) would like to invite you to give a little more feedback on the following topics:

- We generally have less music than we have in person: some centering music (sometimes a prelude, sometimes a sung piece), and a hymn or anthem. I wonder if this meets your musical needs or expectations?
- Since we are unable to sing together online due to "latency" issues (different capabilities or speeds of Internet use) I wonder if anyone sings along at home, (muted of course) when we include a hymn?
- Which speaks to your condition more, a choral piece presented by our singers, or a hymn that you can sing along with at home, led by one or more of our singers?
- Is an organ or instrumental prelude, or a sung piece, more helpful to you for centering yourself for worship?
- Would having a hymn or anthem after Open Worship or a postlude at the closing of Worship enhance your worshipping experience?
- I must confess that I (as the organist) am missing the preparation of preludes and postlude. If I were to offer a short weekly or bi-weekly program of organ music online, would you attend?

If you have any questions or comments about our music for worship, I invite you to submit them to me via email at [musicffc@verizon.net](mailto:musicffc@verizon.net). You may also communicate with members of the Music Committee: Iris Harris (clerk), Jean Sponsler, Margret Nagy, Mindy Van Dorn, Stevan Del George, or Michael Elliot.

Thank you for your feedback!



## News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School has many exciting events coming up in the next few months. Our Annual Open House and Science Fair, which launches registration for the new school year, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. This event is planned a little differently this year, occurring on Zoom with our Open House in the form of a slide show, and students sharing projects about human bodies and U.S. History. Attendance at this event is by invitation only, but please feel free to email [cassie.wfs@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.wfs@gmail.com) if you are interested in receiving an invitation. People in our church family, prospective families, past families, and current families are all encouraged to attend this special virtual event.

Enrollment has begun for the 2021-22 school year at Whittier Friends School. We continue to offer our multi-age classrooms with small class sizes, with opportunities for collaborative and hands-on learning with a lot of attention from teachers. Though we do not know what to expect for schools due to continued COVID-19 regulations, we do know that we will be open and learning in person as much as we are authorized to be. With our re-opening procedures, we feel confident in our ability to keep our children and staff healthy, while also allowing for important social and educational interactions. If you or someone you know is looking for a school for a preschool or elementary-aged child, contact Cassie for more information. Our early bird enrollment offers a discount on tuition when students have applications and fees turned in by April 30.

Fundraisers are virtual right now, which makes it easier to share with friends from all corners of the earth! Available now through March 19, our school's "Yum-raising" See's Candy fundraising website will be available at this link: <https://rb.gy/hytz7L>. The traditional chocolate eggs will be available for \$7, awarding our school \$3.50 in profit for each egg sold! Larger boxes of chocolate will give our school 20% in profit. These chocolate items will be delivered to your home for a small shipping fee, or free shipping with an order of \$60 or more.

Keep in touch with Cassie or watch the E-News for updates on other current virtual fundraiser opportunities.

—Cassie Caringella

## Outreach Continues Success Amidst Challenges

Generous New Year greetings from the Christian Education and Outreach Committee!

What a joy to welcome our friends Dottie Anderson from St. Matthias Soup Kitchen and Veronica Castro from Interfaith Food Center at our first Meeting for Worship in 2021! Both of these passionate and productive women shared information regarding our local nonprofits and their engaging programs. Since the pandemic has affected vulnerable populations with unrelenting hardships, both of these missions became the focus for our Meeting's winter mission project.

Friends gathered winter clothing items, and on Saturday, January 30, Friends and friends of Friends drove down the alley behind the church and deposited all their gifts into Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Friends' generosity, we were able to donate eight blankets; 48 coats, jackets and sweaters; two backpacks; 15 caps; 28 scarves; 12 pairs of gloves, 30 pairs of socks and 14 pairs of shoes. In addition, we contributed 145 items of food and monetary gifts—in the form of gift cards purchased through Whittier Friends School—totaling \$250 for EACH organization.

We are grateful for contributions made by so many people. Connections nurtured with friends and families in our immediate community lift everyone's spirits. We know that the Light of our Meeting shines far and wide!

—Marilyn Fant

## Ring for Remembrance and Hope

On January 19 at 2:30 p.m., Cedric Woirhaye rang the First Friends church bell for eight minutes (approximately 480 times) in memory of the over 400,000 people in the U.S. and 2 million in the world who have lost their lives to the Covid-19 pandemic. The bell of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington DC, rang 400 times over 41 minutes. The solemn tones rang out once for every 1000 souls lost. The faster pace of our bell added

an urgent and emergent call— a call to all of us to action in taking and continuing to take precautions, and a call for compassion and caring for the families who have lost loved ones, the people currently suffering, and those that will continue to suffer the consequences of the disease, and the medical caregivers laboring with love to save lives where possible and to provide comfort when it is not possible.



## Remembering Paul Partington



Paul G. Partington passed to new life on February 19, 2020. He was born June 17, 1937, and became a member of the Meeting in 1955. Paul was actively engaged with the Meeting for many years, as well as with the American Friends Service

Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation. His wife Joellen (Cox) was also active in the Meeting as were Paul's parents. Mary Marshburn recalls Paul having a sharp, bright mind, and Ted recalls that Paul and Joellen lived at Ted's parent's house for a couple of years when the elder Marshburns were in Kenya.

He had a scholarly interest in civil rights activist W. E. B. DuBois, with whom he had correspondence, and even sent some copies of articles Du Bois had written back to him. He wrote and published books in the 1970's and 1980's on DuBois' writings.

Paul was also an avid stamp collector, and wrote multiple books on stamps.

When Paul died, he left a significant part of his estate to our Meeting. Although his health did not permit him to attend for many years, our Meeting remained on his mind. Many members and attenders have chosen to leave some money to the Meeting in their wills, which has established critical support for our ongoing operation, upkeep, and ministry, but few have left as much as Paul. Monthly Meeting will be considering how to utilize this gift in the next few months, and express gratitude to the legacy of Paul's abundant life.

*'LyndaVision' continued from page 1*

Finally, the Woirhayes explained how Lynda "served" up a variety of projects such as the Souper Bowl and the Monday Before Christmas, not to mention safely baking socially-distanced cupcakes for Dig Deep in the middle of a pandemic.

Afterwards, everyone settled in for a nice, long group visit filled with memorable stories and gratitude.

Although Lynda will no longer be on our staff, fear not. She and Mike will continue to be with us as members in worship, fellowship and service.

Lynda's future plans include spending time with Mike and her family and saying no to all other activities for at least three months.

—Elisabeth Elliot

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## Next month: How do you want to stay connected?

Our long period of social distancing has been challenging to be sure but it has also allowed us to explore new ways to worship, to minister and to communicate. More and more, Friends are looking to news available through email, social media and other online resources in addition to the mail.

We're looking at all the ways we can most effectively communicate how Friends are serving in the world, and share our vibrant life here at First Friends.

In the April issue of *The Living Light*, we are going to try to give all Friends an insider's look at the many different ways the Meeting is connecting to the world. We'll ask some questions and look forward to your plain-spoken, Quaker-like responses! Hopefully, you'll come up with questions of your own—questions that we hadn't even considered.

We want to know how we can best serve Friends and provide us rich, spirit-based content. We would like to broaden our contributions, and give all Friends the opportunity to share what's happening along their spiritual journey. Our Meeting community is world-wide and there are lots of ways we can share our love for God and each other.

Our communications should reflect our entire community. Connection is a two-way street. Friends want to be spiritually connected to the Meeting, and the Meeting wants to feel spiritually connected to you!

In the meantime, if you have an idea, an opinion, an article, an idea for an article, a photo, news of what you and your family are up to, words of spiritual encouragement to share or pretty much anything else, please email [communiquaker@gmail.com](mailto:communiquaker@gmail.com) or mail (attention: Communications) to the office.

—Elisabeth Elliot, Clerk of Communications



*Please  
 remember in  
 prayer  
 those Friends  
 unable to  
 worship with  
 us regularly.*

**Peggy Anderson**  
**Jack Carlisle**  
**Rose Nedrow**  
**Kathy Robison**  
**Ami Troedsson**  
**Carol Urner**  
**Gerry Wolfe**