

The Living Light

"...and Christ shall give thee light." Ephesians 5:14



Volume 54, Number 4

First Friends Church of Whittier

Fourth Month, 2015

He Is Risen Indeed!

Easter tide is the blessed season when Christians reaffirm that Christ is alive in the world and in our hearts. This year the Western Easter Sunday precedes Eastern Orthodox Easter by one week.



Our Meeting will be open its doors to the community for the Community Good Friday Service at 12 noon on Friday, April 3. There will be meditative singing, short readings and meditations on "Those Who Were There" at the crucifixion as well as open worship during this special Meeting for Worship.

First Friends will be observing Easter on April 5. The Youth Fellowship groups will start the joyful Easter celebration by preparing and serving breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. Then, amidst lilies of tribute and remembrance, we will rejoice with special hymns and prayers.

April 18 is the date of the rescheduled Quaker Forum, a Saturday workshop to be led by J Brent Bill. The theme is still *Listening to God and Others--Even Those We Don't Expect to Hear From*. Brent will also bring the message on April 19. Sign up (yes, please do so again) in the courtyard.

April 18 is also the day of the Annual 5K Fitness Walk to benefit the Women's and Children's Crisis Center. Our Marilyn Fant organizes and oversees this important community event that starts and finishes in Central Park, a block from our church. There is always a goodly First Friends turnout to support the Crisis Shelter. We can get breakfast items at the walk or afterwards before the Quaker Forum

May your Teakettle Sing!

A time of listening. To savor the complexities of our lives, steep in God's love and presence and boldly brew new flavors and new ideas. It's time for the Women's Retreat.

"Tea Time: A Time of Listening" is the theme for the weekend of Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at the Dana Point Marina Inn. The Women's Retreat offers us the opportunity to slow down, to focus, to open up a broader view of our lives and feel grateful for the miracles that surround us.

The price includes dinner on Friday evening, continental breakfast on Saturday and lunch on Saturday. Reservations for the Retreat are due in the church office by Friday, April 3 with full payment due by April 20th. Single occupancy is \$160, double occupancy is \$100 and \$40 for the program only. Accommodations are also available for Thursday night for an additional cost. Reservation forms are available on the courtyard table. If financial assistance is needed, please call Lynda Ladwig at the church office.

If you are a "single" and want to go "double," let us know if and who you would like to room with. We can also assign you a roommate.

Bring a favorite tea cup or mug that holds special meaning for you and prepare to sip a cup of encouragement, breathe in the fragrance of new friendships and simply relax and enjoy.

*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.--Proverbs 31:25*

Looking ahead, Peace Café is May 30. This is a First Friends tradition of several years standing. The peace-minded musicians and music-lovers who gather in the cabaret setting contribute, with their respective talents and voluntary offerings to the support of another of our important outreach activities, the summer Peace Camp for neighborhood children.

May our Easter season bring peace and hope for progress!
— Bob Newton

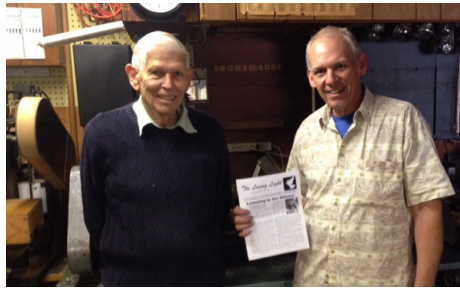
Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, In March of 2009 we started a new feature in the Friendly Fare column. We have been including photos of Friends from their vacations or from around town when they take the *Living Light* with them. I think people have been enjoying this as I often hear it mentioned when a picture is about to be taken at a Meeting activity, "Where's the *Living Light*?" Dan & I love sharing our family events with you, but we want to hear from you as well. Help us out, take your *Living Light* with you. Also, did you know that the *Living Light* is available to read on-line? Go to <http://www.firstfriendswhittier.org/livinglight/index.html> and you can see color photos from "*The Living Light Travels*."

Friends Celebrate: **Christian Eggleton & Andrea Hardlund** were married on February 28 at Grace First Presbyterian Church, Long Beach. **Marilyn Fant** attended the wedding.

Friends About Town: **Dan Wright** was recently spotted at the home workshop of master craftsman and fabricator extraordinaire

Les Marshall, and the *Living Light* was there. The engineering and ingenuity of the modified and home-made shop machinery



created by Les is inspiring. Dan came away with many ideas for his own workshop. **Ami Troedsson** participated in the CROP WALK for hunger. She wasn't sure she would be able to do it, but she remembered Paul's, "I can do all things..." so she took her walker, and she completed more than half of the 4.25 miles. She was thrilled that so many can be helped by her little effort combined with her faith. **Weston Van Dorn** was selected to participate in the California All-State Honor Choir. Their concert was held at the First United Methodist Church, Pasadena on Saturday, March 28. **Lynda Ladwig** is on the planning committee for FUM's "Stoking the Fire" event being held in Cincinnati May 22-25.

Friends Visit: It was a special visit for **Milton & Donna Wright** when their grandson **Adam**, his wife **Aubrie** and their daughters **Addy & Alaina** came to So Cal.

Mike, Betsy and **Sarah Wood** attended church on March 8 while in town from Texas to see Betsy's mother, **Marygene Wright**, who was recovering from her broken ankle. Sarah is a senior at Southern Methodist University. **Jeananne Coop** had always wanted to see the musical "Wicked." She got that chance when her sister **Lea Thirkettle** arranged an evening outing while Betsy and

Sarah were in town. Lea drove them to dinner and then to the Pantages. Another family event occurred when **Emily Wood** a student at Trinity University in San Antonio went on a west coast choir tour. She had family at three of the six concerts: **Ben, Jennifer, Hannah** and **Nelson Coop** attended the Seattle concert, Emily's uncle **Kirk Wright** attended in Portland, and in Los Angeles at Mt. St. Mary's, **Betsy, Mike** and **Sarah Wood, Lea & Chris Thirkettle** and **Jeananne Coop** were all present.

School and Work News: **Russ Litchfield** would like to thank the Meeting for appointing a clearness committee to help him find clarity about his choice to leave his job as Secretary of the Music Department at Whittier College. While it will be a challenge to live a more simple life, he is looking forward to more practicing, studying and writing music both for First Friends and for his own edification. Neil Stipp, the organist at Whittier College, dedicated a new Sonatina to Russ and learning it will be one of Russ' first projects. He says, "It's a hard piece!" The Whittier College newspaper, the *Quaker Campus* had a nice article about Russ's "retirement." You can catch it online at: <http://thequakercampus.com/2015/03/12/goodbye-russ-music-archivist-to-continue-his-love-for-music/>

Friends Travel: On **Elinore Petoletti's** recent Winter Rail Trip to Grand Canyon and Durango she had a new experience. About midnight, at Winslow, AZ, there was a rude awakening. "Evacuate the train, there is a bomb threat!" At least, they had La Posada, a restored Harvey House, in which to spend their time while sniffing dogs searched the train. Elinore's response was, "We could have been in the desert somewhere!" With numerous delays, they were 12 hours late getting into Fullerton.

Carol Urner is to leave from New York on her birthday, April 21, for The Hague in the Netherlands where she will attend the Centennial of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on whose national US board she sits. Attending another conference being held in conjunction with the Centennial



will make it a 10-day trip for her. Last month **Dan & Lea Wright** spent some vacation time in Laguna Beach and other So Cal locations. Here are Dan & Lea with friends at Knott's Berry Farm, continuing

our "*The Living Light Travels*" tradition. (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

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 deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!

African American Friends Urge Faith, Love and Action

In the opening session of the Berkeley Friends Church Quaker Heritage Day on February 21, Steve Angell introduced his audience to the writings of two African-American authors featured in the anthology *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*, which he co-edited in 2011. Helen Morgan Brooks (1904-1989), born in Pennsylvania, and in her later years of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, was a poet, teacher, home economist and dietitian who served on the boards of Pendle Hill and *Friends Journal*. Three poems in her posthumously published collection *I Choose Love* (1990) were brought into the discussion. The morning theme, “My faith, in spite of everything, keeps straining up to God” came from her poem “Faith.” Lines quoted from “The Bus Comes,” another of her poems, included:

*I must believe in love
As a testimony against madness
And war and broken promises.
I choose love.*

Howard Thurman (1899-1981), more widely known, wrote over 20 books. The University of Southern California Press is just now publishing his complete works. Born and raised in segregated Florida, Thurman graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta and the Rochester NY Theological Seminary. His study under Rufus Jones at Haverford around 1929 led him to define himself as a mystic devoted to social change. He went to India to meet Gandhi in 1935, and for the rest of his life preached nonviolence, equality and love, becoming an advisor to leading American civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. *Luminous Darkness* (1965) is the work in which he most directly deals with the effect of segregation on the human soul and with civil rights. He spent two decades of his life as a university chaplain, at Howard and Boston Universities, but on retiring, returned to San Francisco and the multicultural Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples which he had helped to found in 1944, and had supported over the years from his speaking fees. He was a member of the Wider Quaker Fellowship and a frequent speaker at Quaker conferences. He spent Spring 1966 as a visiting professor at ESR.

It is doubtful that these two authors ever knew each other. Both had been close in their childhoods to grandparents who grew up as slaves. Both emphasized the centrality of religion and the humanity of Jesus. Both appreciated the role of silence, but called for social action. Thurman explored the difference between the religion of Jesus, a marginalized Jew who said “Why call me good, there is none good but God” (Matthew 19:17, KJV), and the religion of Paul, a Jew traveling with the privilege of Roman citizenship who became a Christian upon hearing



the voice of Jesus without ever having met the living human Jesus.

Some of the common themes in Thurman’s writing were the need for mystics to know God in a comprehensive sense, for activists to have a keen awareness of others, and for all to keep searching for common ground. He said that society must concern itself with the marginalized, the underprivileged, and the outsider, knowing that “while there is a man in jail, I am not free.” He said it was important to speak out for peace and observe the discipline of nonviolence. Knowing one is loved by God takes away fear. He said the world needs people who are alive and asks “What makes you come alive?”

The importance of love was one of the recurring themes of Helen Brooks. She imagined Jesus calling disciples in a modern city’s littered streets and she prayed for mercy for hired hands, sharecroppers, derelicts, scrub women, and prostitutes.

In the second morning session, each of several small groups was given one selection from Brooks and one from Thurman to read aloud and discuss. The readings were different in each group. In a third and final session, after lunch, Friends reflected together on what had been shared in the morning, including how America’s slaves changed the Christian religion into a source of hope and redemption.

Thurman echoed King’s call to the churches from Birmingham to be thermostats, transforming society, not mere thermometers, registering popular opinion. One action suggested for Friends today is promotion of “Shared Security,” the alternative to war proposed by FCNL and AFSC, the goals of which are peaceful engagement in conflict under the rule of law, global cooperation, sustainable economies, wise stewardship of creation, and restorative justice. Also heard were reminders that change comes slowly but does truly happen—laws mandating racial segregation were abolished, and peace returned in Ireland.

— Sabron Newton



I Remember Bill Miller

There were many Friends among the more than three hundred who came to honor Bill Miller at the First United Methodist Church on February 28. I found his funeral more like a Quaker memorial service, and was deeply moved as his family and friends shared how he had touched them during his long life. I learned much that day and I loved it.

I think Bill would have been embarrassed by all the attention. He never sought or seemed to welcome the limelight. He carefully developed and nurtured many organizations yet generally refused positions in them. He was the stage hand as others performed, moving the pieces together. He could get a whole conglomeration of organizations working in harmony with one another. He drew people in. I was one.

I may have been the only Quaker at the reception afterward. I hoped in some way he was able to be there. I think he would have been moving from friend to friend, introducing people he thought should know each other, starting new processes, planting new seeds for the future.

There were many people in the room I did not know. I thought I belonged to most of the groups that bore Bill's mark but where did all these people come from? Labor unions, like those whose members Bill supported in the Walmart strike? The people whose homes he had tried to save from foreclosure? Other congregations? There were Jewish yarmulkes, Muslim scarves, tennis shoes and impeccable suits. I wondered in what ways Bill had touched each of these lives.

Perhaps I should have spent my time meeting these people, hearing stories of the other sides of Bill. Instead I gravitated to those I knew--from the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition, the United Nations Association, Great Decisions, the Interfaith Council, homeless shelters and from his newest ventures in climate change and cooperating with evangelicals on peace and justice issues.

I had a rich afternoon with friends I had come to know through Bill, the man who had brought us together in work that mattered.

I met Bill during one of my first winters in Whittier about 13 years ago. US troops had invaded Afghanistan, bombing that poorest of countries back to the Stone Age. I read of generals complaining that there were not enough targets on which to try their cruise missiles, and of other high-tech weapons being turned out by the aerospace industries that flourish in southern California.

Aware of the *American Century Report*, Bill had already heard the drums of war beating and knew that Iraq was a pre-selected target for invasion. He began to travel on his bicycle throughout the Whittier area, pulling together people he thought should know and care.

He visited many Quakers on his forays, seeking to revive the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition (WAPAJC) to which several Friends had given significant input during the Vietnam War. I was then attending the unprogrammed meeting at Whittier College. My husband Jack and I had always been members of Friends General Conference unprogrammed meetings, and programmed Friends churches were less familiar to us. Even so, I was soon attending First Friends which had so quickly become a center of war resistance in ways I always expected of Quakers. Harry Eggleton, our Clerk, and his wife Anne responded immediately to Bill's concerns. So did other Friends, and we drew new people to the work. In those feverish days a group of us met every week in Fellowship Hall to pray, share information and brainstorm new creative actions.

Sunday afternoon vigils were organized by the newly resurrected WAPAJC and signs were painted. (*How Did Our Oil Get Under Their Sands?* was one). But our vigils ended as we became targets of shouts and angry screaming by those who disagreed, called by our clerk "violent communication" elicited by our non-violent vigils. Although most Friends withdrew they continued to seek peace and pursue it, in other ways, Bill then set out to gently educate WAPAJC members on the ways of non-violent communication. After some tension and disagreement, WAPAJC gradually became well versed in friendly persuasion.

In a sense Bill, a Methodist, wanted to make Quakers out of everyone in Whittier. He certainly wanted Quakers to more fully live their faith in the way shown by Christ Jesus. Like early Friends, he was also universalist, believing that God loved and sought to empower each person who will listen and respond. Bill also focused on individual people. He encouraged me to share from my experiences of working in the United Nations and Congress for human rights and ending war.

Bill Miller was God's salt and yeast, forming organizations and relationships that will still be here for our own work of healing in our troubled world. May we continue to reach out and to build on the foundations he has laid.

— Carol Urner

April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule for Sundays Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a First Day Classes—9:30 a Meeting for Worship—11:00a			1 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	2 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	3 12:00p Community Good Friday Service 6:30p Family Movie Night	4
5 9:30a Easter Breakfast— <i>No First Day Classes Today</i>	6 1:30p Writing Class	7 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:15a Trustees 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8:00p M&C	8 10:00a Personnel Committee 6:00p AFFN	9 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 12:15p Monthly Meeting	13 Friendly Fare Deadline 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class 6:00p Monthly Mission Monday	14 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	15 Living Light Deadline 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	16 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	17	18 9:30a Quaker Forum
19 12:15p Quarterly Clerks Meeting 3:00p Jeanette Wong Concert	20 1:30p Writing Class	21 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	22 Editors Compose Living Light 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	23 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	24 Women's Retreat at Dana Point Marina Inn Begins	25 Women's Retreat-All Day
26 12:15p Christian Ed Committee	27 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	28 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal 10:00a Personnel Committee	29 Living Light Folding 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	30 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	Friday May 1 6:30p Family Movie Night	Sunday May 3 12:15p Monthly Meeting



Peggy Anderson	Wendy Marsh
Audrey Bailey	Kat Ryder
Mary Coop	Gabriel Sadler
Jeananne Coop	Abigail Sadler
Todd Cramer	Lou Secord
Christian Eggleton	Ann Smith
Betty Gibson	Carol Uner
Lloyd Kaneko	Doree Votaw
Kathy Marin	Bonnie Scott

If we've missed your birthday, we apologize (and happy birthday)! We're working hard to keep our birthday calendar up-to-date so please let us know if we're forgetting anyone.
Thank you!

WFS Events and Other News

The preschool through 8th grade students are gearing up for their annual Spring Event, to be held on Saturday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This year's event will feature a performance called "Tall Tales," as well as the traditional spaghetti dinner, dessert, and silent auction. Presale tickets will be available in late April. If you are interested in donating new items, home-made goods, or gift cards for local businesses, let us know. We look forward to seeing you at our special event!

The annual WFS Science Fair and Open House was held on Tuesday, March 24, with the preschool, elementary and intermediate classrooms open for visiting. Pictures for this event will be in the May *Living Light*.

On Friday, February 27 our preschool through 8th grade celebrated Grandparents Day with patriotic activities to learn about American symbols. The preschool students used the colors from the American flag in a project while the K-8th grade students played "Guess Who: American Presidents" and made a bald eagle art project. The Los Angeles History Day competition on March 14 gave our students a chance to present to judges their projects about "Leadership and Legacy in History." Ashley Ryder and Shreeya Dhawal received a finalist ribbon for their project about Helen Keller. Anatheia Woirhaye's performance about Shakespeare and Hunter Collins and Avon Dhawal's website about Steve Jobs were both well-received. On March 27 our K-8th grade group enjoyed a trip to the International Printing Museum.

Our students are now busy at work on entries for the Agriculture Fair for the 48th District Agricultural Association. Besides entering their Science Fair projects, they are working on seed art entries and some poetry. The entries will be displayed at the Ag Fair during the week of May 11, with the winners of the competition announced on May 16. Last year we had several poems recognized, as well as a wall-hanging that our students made.

The Open House on March 24 was the official start of enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year at Whittier Friends School. The early bird enrollment deadline is coming up. The school will award a \$250 discount for any application turned in by Wednesday, April 29.

Coming with the new school year will be a new education option for younger students. Transitional Kindergarten will be available for children who are turning 5 years old after the California kindergarten deadline of September 1. Transitional Kindergarten will allow the more advanced preschool students to progress academically, while still allowing them a chance for play-focused learning. We are excited for the option to increase our focus on the students who are this age. For more information about transitional kindergarten, see our website at www.whittierfriendsschool.org.

Stand Up and Walk for Hope!

Put on your walking shoes and join with the Whittier community to raise funds for the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter! Our shelter gives a temporary home and emergency support systems to survivors of domestic violence. These services, along with transitional housing, are provided for clients who live in the Southeast area of Los Angeles County, including the Greater Whittier area.

On April 18, 2015 Shelter's Right Hand will hold its 19th annual 5K Walk in support of the shelter. The walk begins in Whittier's Central Park where participants will find activities, food, entertainment and lots of prizes! Not only will WCCS receive 100% of the proceeds from all sponsors and walkers, but also awareness will be raised about the devastating issue of domestic violence in our communities. Brochures and reminder cards are available in the courtyard. For more information see sheltersrighthand.org or call Marilyn Fant at 562-693-7378. Come along, friends!

— Marilyn Fant

3Cs—They Make a Difference

The weaving of communication and love between our members is a ministry that all of us value. There are Friends who would like to come to meeting but are looking for something as simple as a ride. Frequent attenders may be looking to carpool (which means more parking for everyone!). Perhaps someone's day would be inspired and refreshed by a card or a phone call. This is a blessed opportunity to nurture our Community, Care for our friends (and make new ones) and strengthen the threads of Connection. 3Cs--simple to remember and valued by all. Speak with, call or email Loletta, Ellie Bewley or any member Ministry and Counsel, including George Bouchard, Elisabeth Elliot, Sarah Garland, Becky Overmyer-Velazquez, Candice Ryder, or Lou Secord.

We have also been informed that the Friends Council on Education is offering a substantial three-year scholarship to new students whose parent has been a member of a Quaker meeting for a year or longer. If you or someone you know is interested in enrollment, please contact Cassie Caringella at:

whittierfriendsschool@gmail.com or 562-945-1654.

— Cassie Caringella

Youth Open a Basket of Love

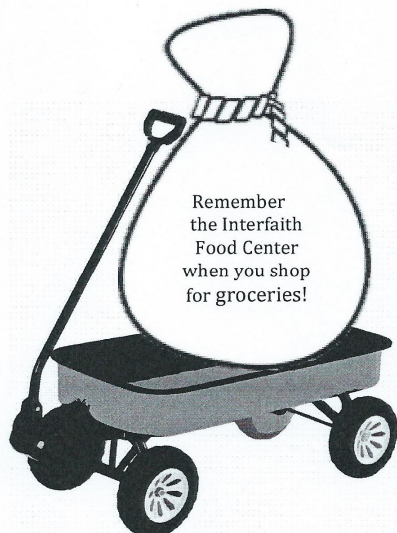
Three chefs, four mystery ingredients and one round to create something beautiful, with a taste of God's love. *What's in Your Basket?* is a cooking show you may not have heard of. But for Youth Sunday on February 22, our young people brought a wonderful message home in a creative and completely delightful way.

Here's the premise: the chefs (portrayed by Ashley Ryder, Ethan Purkiss and Amara Overmyer) opened their baskets and found Crow, Humble Pie, Fruit of the Spirit and a spoonful of sugar to help it all go down. Ashley and Ethan got busy taking care of only themselves with only winning in mind. But Amara focused on using the Fruits of the Spirit by helping the other contestants in whatever way possible. Three judges (Katerina Ryder, Bella Sturr, and Cedric Woirhaye) provided commentary on the discord in the kitchen and were skeptical when Amara started giving all her best ingredients away. But, in the end, the judges were astonished by how well Amara's dish turned out. The lesson of this cooking competition was clear—that Love is so much better in appearance, aroma and taste when you give it away.

Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Peter 4:8-10, as read by Ethan, encourage us to follow the Spirit's lead and allow for the active presence of the Spirit to guide us.

Not only did our youth provide creative theatre in their Meeting for Worship but also a lovely rendering of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah* by Amara Overmyer, Kat Ryder and Bella Sturr and even a dance by First Day classmates Ashley Ryder, Lara Wemmerus, Elyse Woirhaye, Isa Marin and Anna Marin. Lara and Elyse also gave the offertory prayer. Wes Van Dorn welcomed us to Meeting with a query: "How long since you've had a checkup to assess your spiritual health?"

As Wes said, reading from an article by Scott Williams, we need physical checkups but our Spirits need to be attended to as well if we are to enjoy good spiritual health.



Quakers in Unity

News from Friends Organizations

Friends United Meeting (FUM)

The *Stoking the Fire Gathering* is a time of workshops and worship to fuel personal ministry. May 22-25 in Milford, Ohio. See Lynda Ladwig or visit www.fum.org to register.

Friends General Conference (FGC)

Grow Our Meetings is a new workshop to empower meetings to create meaningful and powerful opportunities for growing our spirits, growing our presence and growing our Quaker community. The first workshop was held in March at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana and FGC plans to bring it to the West Coast in 2016.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Friends Woven Together in God's Love was the theme of the Section of the Americas' meeting in Mexico City in March.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

A call for congressional action on climate change was the focus of Spring Lobby Weekend in March as hundreds of young people lobbied members of Congress in Washington.

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)

27 projects with the goal of empowering women are in progress in Kenya, India and Sierra Leone.

— Elisabeth Elliot

**A RECITAL OF
COMPOSERS' MUSICAL
POSTCARDS**

**JEANNETTE WONG, PIANO
BEVERLY HOWARD, CELLO**

**APRIL 19TH
3:00 P.M.**

TRAVELING TO...
SPAIN
FRANCE
INDONESIA
AND ITALY

WITH THE MUSIC OF...
ROBERT SCHUMANN
CLAUDE DEBUSSY
JOAQUÍN NIN
HALSEY STEVENS
AND FRANZ LISZT

EXPERIENCE...
GREAT ART
WATER FEATURES
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES
AND NASTY WEATHER!

IN THE MEETINGHOUSE

BRING THE FAMILY
AND GO ON AN AFTERNOON JOURNEY!



WARSF Meets in Berkeley

WARSF (pronounced “War-Suff”) is short for the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends. This is the organization which serves as a yearly meeting for three Friends meetings on the West Coast which have strong ties to Midwestern Quakers and Friends United Meeting. Its annual meeting takes place in February or early March and is held in alternate years at the Berkeley Friends Church or Whittier’s First Friends. This year WARSF met in Berkeley on the weekend of February 21-22 in conjunction with Berkeley’s annual Quaker Heritage Day.

Two Board members were present from Berkeley Friends: Convener Brian Young and Recorder Dharma Galang. Bob Newton was the only attending Board member from Whittier. There were no representatives from Bakersfield. Sabron Newton from Whittier and Keith Barton from Berkeley sat in as observers.

Because of the small attendance and other circumstances, not much substantive business could be transacted. Board members, officers and WARSF representatives to larger Friends groups were appointed or discussed. As Brian Young’s term as Convening Clerk is ending, possible replacements were suggested. Darrell Warren was appointed to a second Board term, subject to his acceptance. Bill Wright will continue as Financial Clerk. The following WARSF representatives to affiliated Friends organizations were proposed for approval: Bob Secord to the FUM General Board; William Wright and Deanna Woirhaye to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas; Dorothy Kakimoto (Berkeley) to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); and Tim Root, Rob Settlege and Sue Settlege to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Bill Wright, Financial Clerk, who was unable to attend, had delivered a comprehensive statement of WARSF finances and a proposed 2015 budget to Convener Brian Young prior to the Board meeting. Brian took extraordinary pains to make sure that the other Board members understood the summary in detail. The report was approved. Most other agenda items cannot be attended to until the corporate status of WARSF is clarified with the State of California, seemingly a difficult undertaking. Dharma Galang of Berkeley will pursue this matter.

The General Meeting of WARSF on Saturday was much better attended, with about 20 present. Proposed nominees for the WARSF Board were approved. Representatives to the affiliated Friends organizations gave detailed reports on their activities, summarized in printed reports handed out to attenders. Tim Root reported

on the legislative priorities for the 114th Congress which were approved by the FUM General Committee at their meeting last November 20-23. More than 430 Quakers and like-minded activists from 43 states met in Washington to lobby for the priorities that FCNL supports. Dorothy Kakimoto gave a summary of AFSC activities. Under a new Clerk (Phil Lord of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) it is currently streamlining the organization to address more effectively its paramount issues of peace and justice, immigrant rights, just economics and ending discrimination. Eric Moon, retiring from the San Francisco AFSC Office staff, gave an interesting summary of criminal justice efforts, including pressing for an end to the terrible torture of solitary confinement endured for years by some inmates. Bob Secord presented the WARSF gathering with a lengthy summary of the many activities of our umbrella group, Friends United Meeting, with interesting summaries of the management changes at Kaimosi Hospital, and activities at Friends Theological College in Kenya, the Ramallah Friends Schools in the West Bank, and the Belize Boys School, all institutions supported by FUM and, corporately and individually, by members of First Friends Church.

— Bob Newton

What is Your Leading?

In our interim time, we experienced extraordinary spiritual growth as a meeting. During this time, many Friends brought the message in Meeting for Worship. The Spirit spoke to us through this sharing and we are enthusiastic about continuing to accept these gifts.

Do you feel a leading to bring a message? How is the Spirit lighting the way in your daily life? What experiences have touched you and your loved ones? How does your life speak? Our members and attenders are eager to listen for the benefit of our life together.

Speak with, call or email Loletta, Ellie Bewley or any member of Ministry and Counsel, including George Bouchard, Elisabeth Elliot, Sarah Garland, Becky Overmyer-Velazquez, Candice Ryder or Lou Secord.

FRIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



APRIL 3



MAY 1

6:30

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Free admission and popcorn
Open to the community



Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult

Donations of canned goods for
the Interfaith Food Center are appreciated



Two Familiar Friendly Faces Dan and Lea Wright

Dan and Lea Wright. The names go together and so does the couple. Indeed, they have been with us since they were born. Both sets of parents were Whittier College students and both sets of parents were members of First Friends when Dan and Lea grew up in our nursery and in our Sunday school.

It was in the Young Friends Fellowship group that they really took notice. They started dating in high school and married after Lea graduated from Whittier College. She also attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona and Rio Hondo College.

Dan attended Rio Hondo College as well, taking art classes and then deciding to go into the stained glass business. It was an opportune time as many people were becoming interested in hobby crafts. Dan worked on large and small projects, doing repairs and undertaking the design of new commissioned works. He helped many “do-it-yourselfers.” There were four stained glass shops in Whittier then, but today Dan’s D & L Stained Glass is the only one.

While in college and for a short time after, Lea worked for Sears. Subsequently, she worked for 30 years in the payroll, sales and accounting departments of Oroweat Baking Co. in Montebello.

Lea’s and Dan’s children and grandchildren are real joys in their lives. Daughter Cassie, with BA and Master of Education degrees from Whittier College, is the administrator at Whittier Friends School, where she is also the intermediate class teacher. Her husband Steven Caringella operates California Best Kettle Korn, selling

this delicious snack at special events and farmers’ markets, along with being very involved in care of their children, Landon and Avalon. Son Philip’s interest while attending Rio Hondo College was mechanical drawing, and he has inherited Dan’s artistic gifts. He now works full time at D & L working with Dan, and helping customers refine their art work designs and select appropriate colors of glass.

When it comes to Dan’s hobbies, two stand out. He says he plays with old cars, some restored, some not. They include a 1919 Chevrolet Light Delivery, which cost \$490 new (to compete with the Model T Ford for \$495). The 1929 Ford Model A Phaeton convertible, the 1938 Chevy Business Coupe, the 1943 Ford Jeep and the 1959 Nash Metropolitan round out the drivable antiques. His “project” cars include a 1948 “Woodie,” a 1928 Chevy farm truck and a 1922 Overland speedster waiting to be restored. No, they are not all garaged at their home.

In 1997, Dan built a calliope which often resides in the back of his 1919 truck. In 2002, Dan attended an organ rally in Fullerton where street organs, hand crank organs and carousel organs were on display. Dan met a man who had built his own organ using a simplified design from plans drawn by a man in England. With his keen interest in mechanical things as well as music, he decided he would try his luck at building a hand organ from scratch. He has since built four organs and he and Lea have visited the designer in England! They have on several occasions traveled to California Gold Country to attend organ rallies. The family has also traveled to England, Denmark, and Sweden. When in Denmark, they visit Lea’s brother Steve and his family.

One of Lea’s hobbies, besides her grandchildren, has been creating websites. She designed the D & L Stained Glass website and has maintained the Meeting’s website as well as the Whittier Friends School website. Constant updating for this is needed and she does an excellent job. She enjoys writing and has written the Friendly Fare column for the *Living Light* for seven years. She has been clerk of the Christian Education Committee and the Communications Committee. She was the recording clerk for Ministry and Oversight and is now Recording Clerk of the Monthly Meeting. She is active in the Handbell Choir.

Both Lea and Dan do coffee hour and work in the kitchen regularly. Dan has been a valuable member of the Trustees for years. He knows exactly how to fix broken stained glass windows and works on many other projects. He has been on the Spiritual Life Board and attends the Wednesday evening men’s group. Both Dan and Lea have presented programs for All Friends Fellowship Night. Our meeting is thankful for the presence of Dan and Lea and their participation in so many programs and activities of our Meeting.

— Ted Marshburn

“The Eyes Have It!,” Dr. Marshburn Tells AFFN

Birthdays are a major risk factor for loss of vision. This makes sense, when you stop to think about it. The intricate mechanical and sensory apparatus of the eye



tends to wear out with long usage. In his illustrated talk on March 11 at a well-attended All Friends Fellowship Night in Smith Hall, ophthalmologist David Marshburn outlined other sight-endangering

factors: excessive sunlight exposure, trauma, smoking, and genes. Unfortunately, we cannot control the last factor, but a prudent lifestyle with regular eye check-ups and corrective procedures can greatly increase the number of birthdays that our eyes can keep up with.

David’s elegant projected illustrations made the causes of vision loss understandable to a lay audience. Macular degeneration, common among senior citizens, comes about when the cells behind the retina, or sensory screen at the back of the eye, become defective, resulting in a blind spot in the central part of the eye. The most common problem in older people is cataracts, or clouding of the fluid in the lens. Glaucoma results from an increase of fluid pressure, hence deformation of the eye’s interior.

All of these conditions are now treatable. According to David, the emplacement of artificial lenses is more than 95% successful in restoring good vision to cataract sufferers. The great breakthrough in recent years is laser surgery, and David is a leading practitioner of this art. The progression of macular degeneration can be efficiently inhibited with injections and vitamin therapy. Glaucoma can be controlled by laser treatments, prescription eye drops or surgery. Early detection and treatment are all-important in countering these problems.

In introducing his son, the speaker, AFFN organizer Dr. Ted Marshburn did not mention the family medical tradition. Ted’s grandfather, William Valentine Marshburn, was a prominent physician in Whittier around 1910. Ted founded the Marshburn Eye Center, which has been providing eye care in Whittier for over 50 years. Ted says that he made no effort to influence his sons David and John (the latter also an eye doctor) in the choice of a career. Paul, the third son of Ted and Mary, is also a medical doctor. But the Marshburn medical saga was not lost on the AFFN audience, many of whom have been patients of Ted and David.

The Sweet Side of Easter

Yes, it’s true. The chocolate crème Easter egg was invented by Quakers.

We know you have long pondered the Quaker view of chocolate. Or maybe not. But it’s a good story.

As the 18th century drew to a close, Friends in Great Britain were gaining a reputation as good merchants (especially for their fair and honest practices) and in time they were attracted to the chocolate trade. With its medicinal qualities endorsed by reputable scholars, Friends embraced chocolate as a healthy alternative to alcohol.

The first Quaker to make his name in chocolate was Joseph Fry, a physician who sold chocolate as a pharmaceutical. By 1795, the Fry family was knee-deep in the chocolate business and the first chocolatier to use factory methods to manufacture their product.

In 1824, 23-year-old Quaker John Cadbury opened a shop selling tea, coffee and cocoa in Birmingham. About the same time, the Rowntree family also opened their chocolate shop. And yes, the Rowntrees were Quakers too. Thus, a veritable trinity of Quaker chocolaty goodness.

And they transformed the way we eat chocolate. Fry invented the chocolate bar. Cadbury discovered how to extract natural cocoa butter, sold the first boxed chocolate candies and yes, created the first chocolate crème Easter egg, filled with fondant cream in a variety of flavors.

More importantly, they brought to their trade an enlightened attitude toward employees. Cadbury was the first company to grant its workers a 5-day workweek. In addition, they built sports facilities, medical facilities, schools, kitchens and community gardens--all for their employees. Then, to help their employees and others escape the slums of Birmingham, they built housing on 120 acres near their factory. Within 25 years, death rates and infant mortality in the Cadbury community were half of those in other British cities.

In this tradition of caring for others, Cadbury employees drove through the streets of London throughout World War II, distributing hot chocolate to shelters as bombs fell all around them.

So, Friends, let us continue to be inspired by the Cadburys and seek the connection between prosperity and service. And enjoy those eggs.

— Elisabeth Elliot

David’s mom, Mary Marshburn, turned out her annual sumptuous corned beef and cabbage entrée for the potluck supper, in honor of their son David and of Saint Patrick.

— Bob Newton

Sweet Treats Designed at MMM

Fifteen Friends gathered in Fellowship Hall on the evening of March 16 for Monthly Mission Monday. Their task was to frost sugar cookies for the St Patrick's holiday the following day. The cookies were delivered to the St. Matthias Soup Hour, just down the street from our Meetinghouse. St. Matthias volunteers prepare a hot meal every afternoon for anyone who is hungry. They are currently serving about 90 meals a day.

Three hundred cookies were baked by Marilyn Fant, Lynda Ladwig and Donna Wright. The cookie decorators then mixed coloring into bowls of white frosting to create every shade of green. Cookies were frosted in whites and greens and decorated with candy gels, sprinkles, sugars, and shamrocks.

All ages are welcome at Monthly Mission Mondays to help perform a one-hour task that benefits someone in our community. Supplies are provided, and there is always fellowship and good conversation.

Join us for our next MMM gathering on Monday, April 13 – one week earlier than our usual meeting time. From 6 to 7 p.m. we will fill goodie bags to be given to participants in the Shelter's Right Hand 5K Race/Walk that will be held on April 18. — *Vikki Kendrick*

Scouts March to FFC To Hear 5th Commandment

A legion of uniformed Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts listened to their leader explain the meaning of the Sabbath while taking their picnic lunch and resting on the lawn in Central Park on 7th Day, March 14. Pastor Rocky Supinger of Claremont Presbyterian Church emphasized the need of us humans for rest, and that God set aside the Sabbath (originally 7th Day) to remember Him.

At a quarter till one the Scouts shouldered their packs, and, escorted by a dozen Scoutmasters and Den Mothers, marched the remaining block to First Friends Church to hear Loletta Barrett and Lynda Ladwig tell about honoring parents. The occasion was the Rio Hondo District Scouts annual 10 Commandments Church Visitation March.

This year four churches in Whittier hosted the marchers. The Scouts had previously visited the Plymouth Congregational, First Christian, and Calvary Baptist Churches of Whittier. Cubmaster and March organizer Sally Grimaldi explained that she planned that First Friends, the first church in Whittier, would be the culmination of this year's church visits.

The large group gathered gratefully in the cool Meeting Room interior after marching on a very warm



Loletta's Lines

Time is an interesting thing. Many struggle with the Daylight Saving Time change for days after the clocks are moved ahead. In Namibia they decided to switch to DST a couple of years ago. But one person I know has worked for a company headquartered in South Africa for so long that he refuses to go with it. He just keeps all his clocks and life on "South Africa time." His family adapts to him.

Finding my place in time this month has been difficult because we WERE going to have the Quaker Forum. I was SO looking forward to hearing from Brent Bill about listening that my whole orientation to time this month has been focused on it. But the gremlins of mechanical things made it not happen. So during the second week in March, it felt like it couldn't be, because the first week had not finished yet. Perhaps after we DO have Quaker Forum in April my "clock" will reset.

Then, trying to plan time ahead is confusing. I am writing items for the April *Living Light* when it is not even the middle of March. How can I be sure we get all the announcements in for the interesting and fun things that are going to happen?! I worry someone will miss out on something coming up.

Refusing to be moved by time and making others adapt is one attitude, being stuck waiting for something to happen is another, and living in worry about missing something that is not here yet is still another. And then there is just being in this moment. I do try to do that. When I am listening to someone I try very hard to just be in the moment. Not thinking of anything else, or what I will say when they stop talking. Just be a pair of ears and eyes and a heart, a deep loving heart. Not worrying about how to help them or prove I am smart or witty. Just sit, breathe, and listen in the Light. It is hard to stay in a moment of time with someone. Even with God. But when I allow it to happen, it is always worth it.

day. Loletta explained Friends' tradition to the Scouts, who listened attentively. Lynda amplified her remarks, and interpreted respect for parents as a way of learning reverence for God. At the end of the welcoming, Sally and Scoutmaster David Limon of Pico Rivera Troop 330 presented Loletta and Lynda with a beautiful plaque bearing the Scout emblem.

Refreshed, the marchers thanked their hosts and headed for Founders Park on Broadway for their final exercise, a meeting with Buddhist monks from the Hsi Lai Temple in Hacienda Heights. — *Bob Newton*

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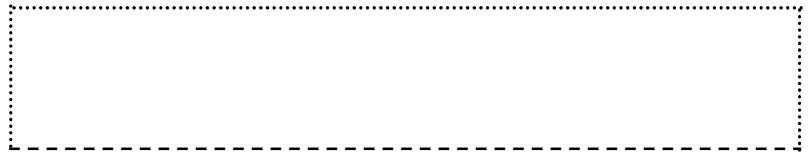
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AFFN To Journey to Peru

Twenty years or so ago, Gina Low followed the Spirit's leading to Peru. There she founded the Association Promoting Education and Conservation in Amazonia (APECA). At All-Friends Fellowship Night on Wednesday, April 8, we will hear the exciting story of her vision and grass-roots efforts in communities on a tributary of the Amazon River.

Join Gina in Fellowship Hall for dinner at 6 p.m. with the program following from 7 to 8 p.m. Please sign up in the church patio to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 with food or \$3 per person if you do not bring food. There is no charge for children who come with parents.

—Ted Marshburn



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

Quaker Forum Is Now April 18

We were so disappointed to have to postpone Quaker Forum last month. The reason? Mechanical problems! Brent Bill's flight from Indianapolis was cancelled.

Saturday, April 18 is the new date. The theme is still *Listening to God and Others--Even Those We Don't Expect to Hear From*. We'll start a little later in the morning – at 9:30 so Friends can participate in the Shelter's Right Hand 5K walk through Uptown. The Forum will wrap up at 4 p.m.

If you have friends who have asked you “what exactly IS a Quaker anyway?” the Forum is a perfect opportunity to introduce and explore our faith. Think about sending some emails, posting it on Facebook, tweeting it and taking your phone out of your pocket and making some calls.

Peggy Anderson
Judith Austin
Audrey & Carlos Bailey
Helen & Jack Carlisle
Phil & Liz Ellis
Rose Nedrow
Alpha Overin
Maureen Russell
Vi Smith
Ami Troedsson
Gerry Wolfe