

# THE LIVING LIGHT

*For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.*

Ephesians 5:9



Volume 57, Number 4

Whittier First Friends Church

April, 2018

## Sing a Sweet Song of Peace

Contemporary folk singer-songwriter Kristina Olsen will be the featured artist at Peace Café on Saturday night, April 14.

Peace Café, a First Friends tradition, is an evening of social justice through music, poetry, art, conversation and fellowship. Featuring cabaret performances by award-winning singers and songwriters, the Café is also an art boutique and information forum featuring local artists and social justice organizations.

A variety of coffees, teas and appetizers are served throughout the evening and admission is free with pay-what-you-will donations appreciated. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

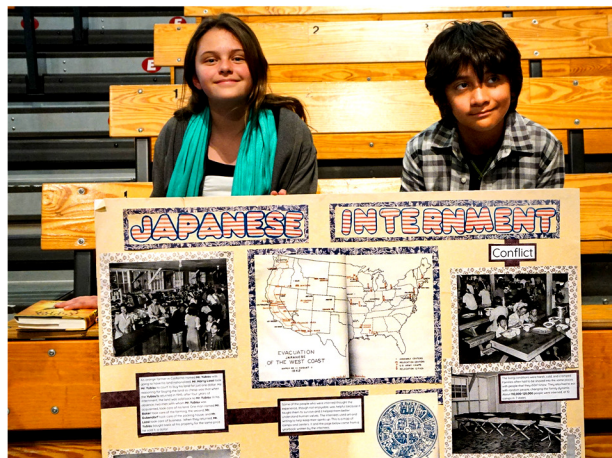
Born in San Francisco and raised in Haight-Ashbury during the 1960s, Kristina Olsen tours throughout the world ten months out of the year. Her approach to music and life was formed by an environment of vital cultural expression, social activism and diverse musical influences. Her songs include a tribute to the victims of domestic violence, "I'm Keeping This Life of Mine."



Kristina also does workshops and teaches at songwriter and guitar camps, where she first met Jo Nita Beede. Her most recent recording *Sweet Stillness* is the fruit of her fascination with the blending of musical styles from folk and blues to jazz. We are thrilled to welcome Kristina to Peace Café.



*Adrian and Annabelle Day make their contribution to "The Living Light Travels." For more news about Meeting members and friends, see Friendly Fare on page 2.*



*Elyse Woirhaye and Aiden Rodriguez display their project on the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II at History Day L.A.  
Photo by Deanna Woirhaye.*

## Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

*Dear Friends,* Welcome to spring.

**New Friends:** Last year, **Jerry Coffin** moved to the Philippines. He got married to **Joan** and acquired a five-year-old stepdaughter, **Karizza**. Last month, they all welcomed a new baby, **Ella Audrey Coffin**. Jerry, don't let so much time pass between updates! Congratulations on all your exciting news.

**Friends Celebrate:** **Carrin Bouchard** traveled north to babysit her grandtwins, **Annabelle & Adrian Day** so their parents **Stacy & Adam** could celebrate their fifth anniversary. They had plans to celebrate the twins' first birthday in La Mirada with family and friends. See their picture on the front page continuing our tradition "*The Living Light Travels*." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

**Friends About Town:** **Jo Nita Beede** and her musical group performed at the Hillcrest Arts Festival on February 25. **Deanna Woirhaye** had four of her photographs on display.

**School and Work News:** **Ryan Hoffmann** got a new job—he's officially a Cast Member of the Walt Disney Company, working in entertainment costuming.

**Jasmine Sturr** started a job as a program associate for Stanford Medicine X, officially staying on through the end of April for the Med X Ed conference. After that, we will see what happens! She is so excited to be living in the Bay Area and to work on the upcoming conference. **Darrell Warren** attended the annual Day of Remembrance program at the Japanese American Museum in February and heard one elderly World War II internment camp survivor recall the helpfulness of the Quakers.



**Friends Visit:** **Darrell Warren** and **Loletta Barrett** visited **Peggy Anderson** in Yucca Valley. They shared a nice lunch and picture together. Our former pastor **Rex Jones** and his wife, **Paula**, who live in Indianapolis, visited church on February 25. Rex said that he has been away for ten years, but our Meeting still feels like his spiritual home. With them were

**Melissa** and her fiancé **Alex Grabmitter**, who are planning a fall wedding. **Nathan** is currently working with Volunteers of America. **Lanning Bald**'s parents are here from China for an extended visit with Lanning, **Eric**, **Danielle** and **Olivia** until mid-summer and then the whole family will go back with them to China for a visit.

**Friends Travel:** **Marina Harris** was recently in town visiting, and did some video recording at First Friends. **Iris Harris** flew to Charlotte NC to visit **Clint & Alyssa Harris**. They went to dinner and a harp concert. They celebrated Clint's 32rd birthday and she attended a harp conference. Her plan was to go to the conference to "schmooze harps and shop for new music." **Cassie & Steven Caringella** went on a four-day cruise vacation, and **Dan & Lea Wright** got to be full-time grandparents. **Elinore Petoletti** went on a winter rail trip to Vancouver and train trip to Jasper. They traveled to Lake Louise and Banff and spent a day in Yellowstone in a snow coach. No cars are allowed in the park in winter. They saw bison, bighorn sheep, a bald eagle and coyotes. They saw lots of snow, Old Faithful erupting and frozen waterfalls. The she took the Zephyr over Donner Pass to Sacramento where she ended the trip having dinner with her daughter, **Lynda Bates**.

**Friends Remember:** Many prayers for comfort and peace to our friends and their families who have lost loved ones recently. **Doree Votaw** passed to new life and **Richard Ridenour's** mother, **Mary Ridenour**, also passed away. **David T. Heusel**, son of former pastor **Lorton Heusel** and a graduate of Earlham College, died in September 2017 in Ireland. He had lived in Europe for many years and made a name for himself in the world of music as a conductor. Also, prayers for the family and friends of **Virginia (Ginni) Spragins Gauldin**, who passed away in February. **Liz Ellis** sent her heartfelt thanks and extreme appreciation to everyone at the Meeting who was there for her in her time of need with **Philip's** memorial service and reception. **Loletta** and **Mary Boltz** were so wonderful beforehand, and **Loletta**, **Russ Litchfield**, **Iris**, the ushers, and sound manager were perfection at the service. **Mary Marshburn** and **Donna Wright** were in charge of the lovely reception, **Sue Settlege** "poured," and many of our members served at the reception, including many who prepared food ahead of time. **Liz** is so grateful to those who managed cleaning up.

**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](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!



## This Month in Meeting for Worship

April 1	Easter Sunday Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Say Nothing</i> Mark 16: 1-8
April 8	Carol Urner brings the message <i>Cheerfully Over the Earth</i>
April 15	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>On the First Day</i> John 20: 19-31, Acts 4: 32-37
April 22	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Recognizing Him</i> Luke 24: 13-16, 1 John 3: 1-7
April 29	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Vines, Branches, Fruits and Nuts</i> John 15: 1-8, Acts 8: 26-40



At Monthly Meeting on March 3, we discussed having Quaker Forum more often as part of our desire to go deeper in our discourse beyond superficial conversation. Permits for the solar project have been submitted. We have begun discussions on how to put our sanctuary space into practice.

Monthly Meeting for April will be Sunday, April 8 at rise of Meeting.



## End of Life with Dignity Workshop Continues

Our fifth workshop will be “Memorials and Celebrations of Life” at 2:00 p.m. on May 5 in Fellowship Hall. If you haven’t attended previous workshops, you are still invited to come! Just let Loletta know if you are coming for the first time. If you are interested in the handouts from previous workshops, see Loletta, she has lots of stuff for you!

**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).**

## Loletta's Lines



Although I have now been in California longer than I lived in the Midwest, I still feel connected to the seasons experienced there. My earliest spring Easter Sunday memory includes a new, pastel colored dress, white gloves, and a hat-with elastic that hurt! With clunky old snow boots over my shoes and winter coat, of course! It was Cleveland, Ohio after all. But there was also a very special treat, a beautiful corsage of a cymbidium orchid. All the ladies in my family got one and I still love them. I remember learning the song “In Your Easter Bonnet,” and in response to the Pastor’s joyous declaration, “He is Risen,” instead of my two year old brother yelling out the traditional response, “Risen Indeed,” he piped out, “And I found my Easter basket!”

Spring in the Midwest can come surprisingly early, with warm weather breaking through all too briefly before winter slams the door shut again, or it comes very late, with blustery cold until May. One thing is guaranteed: mud, mud, and more mud. But sometimes brave flowers struggle and burst through the snow, ice and mud, and you can tell spring has arrived by the smell of the earth. New life is coming. There were definite traditions of spring cleaning in my family; opening up the house, doors, and windows to let in the (freezing sometimes) air and to try to sweep out the winter staleness and the mud!

These memories make me smile, but are not much related to Easter. Or are they? There was certainly a feeling of something very special, newness, love, beauty, amazement, and joy. Wonderful emotions, many of which I imagine the women at the tomb, and then the disciples experienced when they learned that Jesus was risen, indeed! Emotions are connected to our deepest memories, and our core as human beings; we are both physical beings having a spiritual experience and spiritual beings having a physical experience!

These are some metaphors for the spring season of our lives. Yet, in each one, God is present, luring us to newness, beauty, joy, amazement, wonder, peace, zest, and love, experienced in every moment, even in the struggle. God invites us into the seasons of our lives; each one unique and special. I am glad to be sharing this season with you.

## YOUNG FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP



*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

John 13:15

After washing His disciples' feet—an act of love, humility, and service—Jesus encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another.

As we study the words written in the scriptures, we are called to do more than just study these words! Therefore, Young Friends Fellowship has decided to take action to provide care and serve to others in our community as we are able. St. Matthias helps our neighbors who live on the street by providing basic hygiene essentials and they have requested our help. At this writing, 350 prescription bottles have been filled with shampoo and delivered to St. Matthias for distribution. After we complete this, we will be bagging up powdered laundry soap (each enough for one load of laundry) to be given to those in need. The youth are using some of their funds for this project. If you would like to help, donations of shampoo, laundry soap and bar soap are appreciated.

Serving and helping others means helping your friends as well. We put out a call to the Meeting for friends with fruit trees that are in need of harvesting, and several friends came forward. What we thought would be an afternoon project has turned into a several day event. It's a good thing that spring break is happening at just the right time. The fruit not claimed by its owners will be going to the Interfaith Food Center.

On Easter morning before Meeting for Worship, YFF will be preparing and serving breakfast between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

This month, we will step out against domestic violence by supporting our Meeting's Monthly Mission benefitting the Women and Children's Crisis Shelter and "Sack's on the Boulevard," the Shelter's Right Hand thrift store. We will be canvassing our church neighborhood with scavenger hunt flyers, requesting items for the thrift store and then will return to pick up these items the following week. The flyer will also provide information on other ways that they too can support this cause.

Jesus told us that he has set for us an example that you should do as "I have done for you." What will you do this month to serve others?

—Lynda Ladwig



## News from Whittier Friends School

On Saturday, March 17, Whittier Friends School students Elyse Woirhaye and Aiden Rodriguez went to Azusa Pacific University to present their Japanese internment project to History Day L.A. judges. Hundreds of students presented projects on the theme "Conflict and Compromise in History." Elyse says that History Day is an amazing way to showcase history. It is an opportunity for students in fourth through tenth grade to choose a topic of personal interest, do research emphasizing primary sources, and then analyze how their topic is related to the annual theme. For their project, Elyse and Aiden interviewed Kathy Marin (daughter of Bob and Helen O'Brien) and David Dungan (grandfather of our teacher Marielle Askew), who both had stories about ways Japanese Americans were helped during the internment period. They also used some neat sources belonging to the O'Brien family. The students are excited to see *Allegiance*, the musical play based on personal experiences of being interned during World War II.

This year's Open House, on Tuesday, March 13, was focused on the human body, with projects presented by students in all grades. Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students made life-sized tracings of their own body, adding illustrations of the main organs. First through third grade students made projects describing one of the main body systems. The fifth graders presented their Japanese Internment project. There was also a five senses project made by the preschool teachers to explain the experiments of their students as they made observations about Cutie tangerines.

Join our school on Saturday, April 28 at 5:00 pm for our annual Spring Event! Our preschool and elementary classes will be presenting "To Tell The Truth," a game show where the audience must participate to help us determine which "George Washington" is the real deal. Our host, Sacagawea, will lead our judges, played by the Statue of Liberty, a Forty-Niner and Uncle Sam through a series of interview questions. A half-time trivia game will be conducted by Annie Oakley. Many songs will also be performed at this revue of American history. Pre-sale tickets will be available in a couple of weeks. Also included in the evening is a silent auction, dinner, and dessert. Silent auction offerings are now being collected so let Cassie Caringella know if you'd like to donate an item.

—Cassie Caringella

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 1:30p Writing Class	3 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 9:00a Trustees	4 3:00p Personnel Committee 6:30p Business & Finance Committee	5 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 12:15p Monthly Meeting	9 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	10 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	11 6:00p AFFN	12 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	13 <b>Friendly Fare Deadline</b>	14 6:00p Peace Café
15 <b>Living Light Deadline</b> 12:15p Mission Project — Goodie Bags for 5K Walk 12:15p Music Committee 12:30p Outreach Committee	16 1:30p Writing Class	17 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group	18	19 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	20	21 8:00a Shelter's Right Hand 5k Walk-Central Park
22 12:15p Christian Education Committee 1:30p MTAC Students' Piano Recital	23 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	24 7:00a Spiritual Growth Group 7:00p M&C	25 <b>Living Light Folding</b>	26 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00a Rio Hondo Symphony Guild Concert Preview	28 5:00p WFS Spring Fundraiser
29 12:30p Clerks' Quarterly Meeting 3:00 Piano Studio Students' Recital	30 1:30p Writing Class				<b>Schedule for Sundays</b> <b>Unprogrammed Worship—8:30a</b> <b>First Day Classes—9:30a</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal—9:30a</b> <b>Meeting for Worship—11:00a</b>	



Peggy Anderson  
Mary Coop  
Todd Cramer  
Christian Eggleton  
Betty Gibson  
Lloyd Kaneko

Kathy Marin  
Wendy Marsh  
Nancy Marshall  
Kat Ryder  
Gabriel Sadler  
Abigail Sadler

Lou Secord  
Ann Smith  
Carol Urner  
Bonnie Wright-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!



## On Our Calendar...

Whittier Friends School Grandparents' Day	Friday, May 4
Monthly Meeting	May 6
Founders Day in Central Park	Saturday, May 12
Stoking the Fire in Stony Point, NY	May 17—20
New Century Singers Spring Concert	Sunday, May 20 3 p.m.
Jeanette Wong in Concert	Sunday, June 3 3 p.m.
Whittier Friends School Recognition Night	Thursday, June 7 6:30 p.m.
Monthly Meeting	June 10
Summer Worship Schedule	July 1—September 2
Friends General Conference Gathering in Toledo, OH	July 1—7



On Wednesday, April 11, we look forward to hearing Tamera Rodriguez-Smith, a Los Angeles native, tell her story as a domestic violence survivor and now an advocate for women and children who have been victims of domestic violence. You will want to hear her story and what she is doing now.

Potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with the program to follow at 7 p.m. Sign up in Founders Court to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 per person with food or \$3 per person if you do not bring food but will be joining us for dinner. There is no charge for children 12 or under with their parents.

—Ted Marshburn

## Tell Me a Story

Storytelling has been a favorite recreation since our remote ancestors first gathered around the evening camp-fire. We have in our community many good storytellers, as evidenced at All Friends Fellowship Night on March 14, as AFFN featured the Meeting's writing group. This group was founded 26 years ago by our beloved late member Carl Nelson. Memoir writers have entertained us at AFFN numerous times over the years.

Following a fine potluck supper featuring Mary Marshburn's famous Irish corned beef (in tribute to St. Patrick) and home-grown baked Argonaut squash, Gwen Woirhaye introduced the memoir readers. First off was Gene Romig, telling of his encounter with the Bearded Bellbird, an astounding bird that makes a sound like a hammer hitting an anvil. This unforgettable meeting took place at a bird sanctuary in, of all places, the island of Trinidad, as part of Gene's 49-day cruise circumnavigating South America.

Artist Beverly Harris told of her thrilling first award. As a middle-school student, her watercolor was selected to hang in a special show at the L.A. Metropolitan Museum. Norm Stevens, a California native, contrasted what passes for winter in southern California winter with the real thing that he once encountered back East. Gabe Cassar, of Armenian descent, recounted his many other ethnic influences, including Turkish, Arabic and French. Gabe's father and family escaped the Armenian genocide in 1915 by fleeing to Canada. To illustrate his narrative, Gabe sang in English, French and Arabic!

Gwen McCants gave a humorous account of the cultural differences between dogs and cats (and between dog and cat owners.) Michelline Cassar told of



*Whittier Friends School students display their projects at the school's Open House.*



a chance meeting with a large party of Armenian-Americans on a recent Caribbean cruise (her interest in them stems from being married to one!). She recommended the current Whittier Reads selection “Orhan’s Inheritance” by Aline Ohanesian as an introduction to the culture of Asia Minor.

Salvatore Di Vita’s story with the enigmatic title “Playing in the Meadows” turned out to be a history of Las Vegas, which is Spanish for “the meadows,” and a description of the modern casino city. Mahlon Woirhaye’s remembrances of his childhood in the then largely rural southeast Los Angeles area are always entertaining AFFN fare. This one, “Barefoot Boy,” was inspired by John Greenleaf Whittier’s famous poem. Mahlon’s story produced nostalgia in this observer, as I was once a barefoot boy myself!

Diane Diaz’ “Could It Be?” told how her spirited and strong-willed daughter, often an exasperation to her mother, used her energy and imagination in later life to build a successful career. Jeremy Sarchet, a retired psychologist, had a second career as an advocate for clean and renewable energy. As a result of his and others’ efforts, Whittier will soon join the Clean Energy Alliance, a 30-city consortium to achieve a goal of 50% of electrical power from renewable sources. Jeremy’s concern was stimulated by his daughter’s worries about rising sea levels threatening her home on Balboa Island.

Iris Harris concluded a most entertaining evening with her contribution “Racing,” in which she described her learning to love speed when, as a high schooler, she unexpectedly won a ski race. She confessed that the downside of doing everything fast is that she often doesn’t have time to enjoy her activities! In contrast, her AFFN audience greatly enjoyed her narrative, and all of the stories of the writing group.

—Bob Newton



*Photo by Deanna Woirhaye*



Our spring mission project focuses on serving Shelter’s Right Hand and Women’s and Children’s Crisis Shelter for the entire month of April.

The annual 5K Walk “Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence” is Saturday, April 21. The Meeting walk team is forming and sponsor sheets are in the foyer. Join us, with or without sponsors, for exercise, a tour of Whittier and great company!

We’ll also be stuffing goodie bags for the Walk at rise of Meeting on Sunday, April 15.



*Young Friends Fellowship fills containers of shampoo for friends living on the streets.*

## Counting Down to ‘Stoking the Fire’

Join Friends as we stoke our spiritual fires and stretch ourselves through communal worship, learning, and fellowship. This year’s “Stoking the Fire” conference is May 17-20 in Stony Point, New York and reservations are still available.

“Stoking the Fire” is a yearly program offered by the Friends United Meeting North American Ministries Committee. It’s timed to coincide with Pentecost Sunday in the Christian calendar, held in locations across North America, and is intended as an annual retreat for individuals who are “on fire” with the Holy Spirit and are seeking deeper faith and bolder witness.

The keynote speaker for the 2018 Stoking the Fire is Amelia Kegan, Legislative Director for Domestic Policy at Friends Committee on National Legislation. In addition to being a well-qualified advocate for Christian social justice, Amelia is also a passionate, charismatic, even fiery, preacher.

See Lynda Ladwig for information about joining us in New York next month.



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## The World We Seek

On March 18, Friends met at rise of Meeting to discuss priorities that the Friends Committee on National Legislation will bring to the 16th Congress.

The meeting began with pie, which may account for the large turnout. But the enthusiasm and spirit demonstrated can be more truly attributed to the depth of social commitment Quakers are known for.

Among the priorities being raised up by members of our Meeting are:

- Ratifying the Treaty on the Ban of Nuclear Weapons.
- Developing stronger language on ending gun violence, and building bridges to the gun-owning community.
- Developing stronger language about climate change and protecting our planet, public lands and natural resources.
- Promoting affordable, accessible and quality healthcare for all.
- Pursuing policies that end deportation by profiling and provide a path to citizenship for all immigrants.
- Promoting educational policies that create equal access to affordable quality learning experiences at all academic levels,
- Advocating for funding of historical and educational sites and programs that educate the public about injustice past and present

If you were unable to attend, we would still like to hear your voice. Please take a moment and see Tim and Neva Root, Sue and Rob Settlege or Michael and Elisabeth Elliot before April 10.



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

**Peggy Anderson**  
**Carlos Bailey**  
**Helen & Jack Carlisle**  
**Liz Ellis**  
**Betty Gibson**  
**Rose Nedrow**  
**Maureen Russell**  
**Ann Smith**  
**Vi Smith**  
**Ella Tiffany**  
**Ami Troedsson**  
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