

# THE LIVING LIGHT

For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.  
Ephesians 5:9

Volume 62, Number 5

Whittier First Friends Church

Fifth Month, 2023

## Restroom Accessible to All



*Friends rejoice upon seeing the completed project*

First Friends Church has just completed our first major construction project in nearly fifty years! When the Meeting House was constructed in the 1970's, the idea of a handicapped restroom meant a wider stall and some handrails. We took a major step forward in our goal of being an inclusive and inviting meeting by building a fully accessible restroom that can be used by anyone, regardless of their physical abilities! The Trustees committee worked with an architect to re-purpose a janitorial closet and part of a utility work room adjacent to the existing men's room to create a space that we can all be proud of. The project took nearly a year to complete, but this month



*Work in progress*

we received the final approval from the city.

We want to acknowledge the gift of Gordon Crocker to the meeting, specifically to help supplement the cost of this accessibility enhancement to our Meeting House. As a friend of the meeting, Gordon feels this necessary upgrade is an extension of the warm hospitality and welcome of the Friends. We appreciate his enthusiastic support for this project.

In the foyer of our Meeting House, there is a sign that reads: *"As important and fascinating as history can be, its main value is to point the way to the future. One cannot live on yesterday's accomplishments. Each day, each year, presents new challenges. It is the intention of First Friends Church, a Quaker Meeting, to meet these challenges".*

## Friendly Fare, by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** After several months of so much rain, it's been so lovely welcoming the sun back. We have been experiencing an incredible "super bloom" this year. **Dan & I** really enjoyed all the flowers and greenery when we spent a week at Laguna Beach this last month.



**Friends Celebrate:** Several big anniversaries to report on this month. **Becky & Ron Memmel** celebrated their 35 year anniversary, **Dan & Lea Wright** celebrated 45, and **Chris & Lea Thirkettle** celebrated 50 years.



**Friends About Town:** Lots of friends from church went to "The Night Owl" in Fullerton and saw **Jo Nita Beede** sing, accompanied by her brother **Norm** on bongos.

**Friends Move:** **Dottie Andersen** is preparing to retire. She and **Lynne Drayer** will be moving to Cedar Hill, TX.

Lynne has quite a bit of family that live in Texas, and Dottie once lived there.



**Friends Travel:** **Candice Ryder** visited friends in the coastal city of Bandon, Oregon. She enjoyed fine seafood dining, stunning coastal vistas, and learning about

the local wildlife. She says, "It was cold, but the scenery made it all worthwhile."

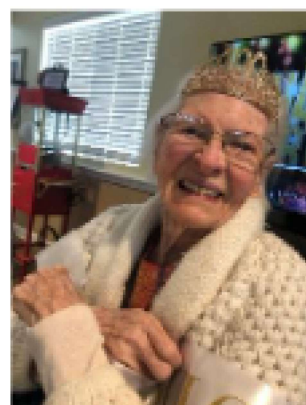
**Kathy Marin** traveled to Palestine and Israel and Ramallah. She said it was not a 'relaxing' trip but was informative. So many problems. So



many perspectives! When she visited the Friends school she discovered her travel guide had spent time playing soccer in their field. On the last day of her trip, she struck up a conversation with the owner of the hotel, and it turned out that he and his wife had graduated from the Ramallah Friends School. In mid-April, **Friends Correspond:** **Mary Alice Case** called to say hello from Alabama and offered prayers for Loletta's sabbatical. Mary Alice enjoys reading *the Living Light* and prays for all the Friends!

**Friends Remember:** **Marjorie (Margie) Hadley** shared her cheerful spirit with this world for the full century of her life.

Margie passed away on March 14th at the age of 100 in Kirkland, Washington. While attending Earlham College, she met **J Marcus (Mark) Hadley**. They married on June 1, 1945 and enjoyed more than 74 years of marriage. She and Mark



moved to Whittier, and they built their first home where their three children grew up. As a Quaker, Margie lived pacifism. Early on, Margie and Mark became members of First Friends Church of Whittier, later helping to form Whitleaf Friends Meeting, then eventually transferring membership to Sacramento Friends Meeting, where they lived for over a decade. In 2012, Margie and Mark left California after 67 years to live with their son in Oregon and later to Montana with their other son. She spent her remaining 1-1/2 years in Washington State, near her daughter.

**Friends Sharing News:** Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Tell me your news. Send it to Lea at [lealouw@gmail.com](mailto:lealouw@gmail.com), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month! Take a picture and send it in. Help us continue our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)





## At Monthly Meeting for April 2023

We approved the installation of a new roof for the Christian Education building, with funds to come from the Meeting's permanent endowment. We approved the display of the interactive art piece "Embracing Our World" by Jeanette Kelly. It is intended to be a traveling piece, and it was Jeanette's hope that First Friends be its first stop.

### **We approved this Minute of Appreciation for Dottie Andersen**

First Friends Church wishes to thank and recognize Dottie Andersen for her service to the community and Friends over many years.

Dottie worked with the Cold Weather Shelter and the Whittier Area Interfaith Council. However, FFC has especially relied upon Dottie's work with the Soup Hour as a place to refer any individual who needs a hot meal (or brown bag due to Covid), for any reason. Dottie was the ambassador for the Friends, many churches, and the community to people who need a listening ear, assistance accessing services including mailboxes, referrals, and transportation for supportive services, shelter information, and periodic visits with nurses.

Dottie's loving heart, sense of humor, and dedication to serve God's people in Whittier will be deeply missed by all. The Friends were happy to have Dottie join us in worship, fellowship, and friendship. We hold her in the Light and pray God will bless her as she retires and creates a new home in Texas. We know the common city there will be blessed to have her.

Monthly Meeting for May is May 21, at rise of meeting. Friends are invited to join us in person for lunch, fellowship, and business in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom.

## Loletta's Lines

Dear Friends - Reporting to you from Egypt! I am in Cairo, a week into my trip. The first days were just flying to get here! So far we have been to the Egypt Museum, ruins and temples in Sakkara and Memphis (2700 BCE), visited Old/Fatima Cairo and the mosques (1300 CE) and the Khan el-Khalil Bazaar, heard a presentation on women's rights, and had dinner with a family in their home.

Next up is flying to Luxor where we will stay on a river boat for 7 nights. We will travel the Nile to the Valley of the Kings (1535-1075 BCE), King Tut's tomb and Queen Hatshepsut's temple, the Karnak Temple, and temples of Temple of Horus and Kom Ombo. We will spend a day with a family on their farm and do a little traditional style farming. We will end our river travel in Aswan with the Philae Temple, Abu Simbel, and a trip to a Nubian spice market.

Flying back to Cairo, we will see the Pyramids of Giza (2600 BCE) and visit Coptic Cairo where the churches celebrate hosting the exiled refugee Holy Family during Herod's reign. My trip ends with visiting Alexandria; catacombs and ruins from the time of Cleopatra (70 BCE); and the site of the Library of Alexandria and orthodoxy/heresy arguments of Christians starting as early as the second century. It is a full trip of things to see and do, but I am also looking forward to sitting on the riverboat watching the Nile go by, taking a cooking lesson, sailing on a felucca (ancient style sailboat), strolling the gardens near the hotel in Cairo, and visiting the beach in Alexandria.

Peace,  
Loletta



## Russ' Reflections

### Jesus Ascended - A Hymn Service

On Sunday, May 21st, the Music Ministry people will lead a hymn service based on the Gospel accounts of Jesus ascending into the heavens. Since we do not follow the Church Calendar that much, it seemed like a good opportunity to sing some of the hymns associated with Jesus's Prayer for the Apostles (John 17), the Great Commission (Matthew 28), and His Ascension (Acts 1). Hymns may include: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven", "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing", "At the Name of Jesus", "Crown Him with Many Crowns", "Jesus Shall Reign", "Christ High Ascended", and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission". Our singers will present a colorful French motet from the era of Louis XIV. Join us to hear the scriptures and sing the praise of our risen Christ.



## News from Whittier Friends School

It was with great joy that friends and families visited Whittier Friends School for our Open House on Tuesday, April 14. Both classrooms were open for touring, and students shared about their studies with visitors. Elementary children as young as transitional kindergarten presented their research posters about Space. They also shared their castle models. The preschool science project, "cloud in a jar," as well as numerous art projects about weather and spring were on display. It was an unforgettable evening, with children and their parents spending time together in celebration of learning.

Whittier Friends School is currently promoting our annual Spring Event, which consists of an in-person performance happening in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm on Saturday, May 6, and a silent auction, which ends at 8:00 pm at the conclusion of the performance. Visit our school website for the link to our online silent auction for your chance to bid on wonderful handmade items, gift baskets, and services from local businesses and WFS supporters. The in-person performance, "Welcome to our Castle," is also open to visitors. Email for more information to: [cassie.wfs@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.wfs@gmail.com).

As always, you can follow Whittier Friends School's adventures on Facebook and Instagram at:

[facebook.com/whittierfriendsschool](https://facebook.com/whittierfriendsschool)  
[instagram.com/whittierfriendsschool](https://instagram.com/whittierfriendsschool)  
and visit our [Amazon Wish List](#).

Fall enrollment has begun for the 2023-2024 school year. Be sure to ask [cassie.wfs@gmail.com](mailto:cassie.wfs@gmail.com) for an application if you are interested!

*-Cassie Caringella*

### Summer Organ Recital Series?

I am contemplating doing a weekly organ recital series in July and August, perhaps into early September. These would be 30 to 45 minutes long and would include organ music in a variety of styles and by various composers. They may include voice or instruments and a guest organist or two. I would like to schedule a regular time for these. My question is: When would be the best time for you to attend? Here are some options: Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, Wednesdays at 12:30 pm, Wednesdays at 7 pm, Thursdays at 12:30 pm, Thursdays at 7 pm, or Sunday afternoons about 4:30 pm or 7 pm. The time is subject to the availability of the Meeting House. Please let Russ know if you would attend and what times would work best for you.

## Georgia Friends Continuing Mission



Since Peace Camp, Darrell Warren has been corresponding by email with several groups abroad, including a small group of Friends in the Country of Georgia. Some of you may remember Misha who has met with us before via Zoom on a few occasions. These Georgia Friends, although limited in resources, have initiated several mission projects to help families who have been impacted by the violence in Ukraine. Our Georgia Friends had earlier assisted Ukrainian refugees in Tbilisi, helping them with both living facilities and counseling services.



Their latest humanitarian effort involves taking much needed medical supplies to Ukraine. Getting to Ukraine from Georgia is not easy. Planes do not fly there directly. The Friends traveled first to Istanbul, then, to Ro-

mania and Bulgaria, finally completing their journey by bus to Kyiv. With the help of FWCC's Europe and Middle East Section, the Georgia Friends were able to purchase and distribute much needed medical supplies in Ukraine.

Our friend, Misha, visited several cities and villages in Ukraine. He reports that the country has a curfew from 11:00 p.m. at night until 5:00 a.m. in the morning. He heard air raids daily, and even several per day on some days. Although businesses stop during the air raids, many people have almost become accustomed to them. The medical supplies were delivered to a clinic in a village in the Cherkasy Region of Ukraine for distribution to poor villagers and refugees of the violence. Please continue to hold Georgia Friends in the Light.



### Remembering Gerry Wolfe

Gerry Elizabeth Palmer Wolfe (Gerry) was born March 20, 1934, and entered new life on February 27, 2023. She was a member of First Friends Church, and enjoyed participating in women's retreats. Gerry attended Whittier High School and regularly went to lunch with Joanne Camp and the "52 Girls." She raised two children, Lisa and Steve, and was very fondly and lovingly remembered by them, her grandchildren, and many friends at a celebration of Life at Rose Hills. They all spoke about how supportive she was of them; their education and careers; and remembered her sharing her love of reading and music with them. Gerry loved to gather with family and friends for meals and singing.



## AFFN - Happy Evenings are Here Again!!



All Friends Fellowship Night (AFFN), one of the most beloved of First Friends institutions, resumed Wednesday, April 19, after a two-year pandemic interruption. Mary Marshburn organized the pre-program potluck supper, contributing her famous lasagna as the centerpiece.

The program theme was a favorite of many of the thirty attendees. The Meeting hosted the Memoirs Writing Group (pictured above) has entertained Fellowshippers on many occasions over the last forty years. The recent event maintained the expected high standard of creative writing in nostalgic accounts of times past.

Gwen Woirhaye read the essay submitted by writer Norm Stevens entitled "The Old Rocking Chair". Norm's favorite spot after dinner was his rocker, listening to the classic radio programs of yesteryear. Norm experimented with comfort-enhancing adaptations to his rocker until one such modification resulted in its collapse in the middle of Burns and Allen.

Iris Harris's story recounted the time many years ago when, through family and community connections, she was assigned the task of entertaining the royal family of a small European nation which shall remain discretely unnamed. The haughty conduct of the princess made Iris feel grateful that we Americans have eschewed the institution of royalty.

Nancy Cowardin humorously made the case

that, if we Americans didn't have things "Made in China", we wouldn't have much of anything. She mentioned, among many other things, the tools of her studio. (Nancy is an outstanding artist, as evidenced by her cover decorations of the bound collections of Memoirs Group writers that were available to Fellowshippers).

Micheline Cassar shared her personal philosophy about aging. A major problem for many oldsters is anxiety over forgetfulness. The message of the antidote is to relax and be grateful for the present, without dwelling too much on the past. She recalled the famous statement of Eleanor Roosevelt: "Yesterday is history; tomorrow a mystery; today is a gift".

Mahlon Woirhaye's humorous recollections are familiar to long-time AFFN-goers. He described some of the concerns of being a landlord. Once, while Mahlon and Gwen were away on a cruise, an evicted problem tenant left his cat in the house after he moved out! Fortunately for the cat, the Woirhayes are feline-favorable, so the abandoned kitty found a good home. Gwen followed Mahlon's narrative with another amusing account of their succession of adopted cats—the lucky ones that found the Woirhayes's doorstep were never turned away.

Jerry Sarchet's essay "Trap the Rat—And Then What?" described his attempted solutions to another animal problem. Jerry's kind-hearted approach was to try to develop a non-lethal rat-trap. Once, an aggressive rat came in through an open window. Jerry's housekeeper suggested a novel technique—sticky glue instead of the cruel jaws of a conventional trap. For the first two nights of the experiment, the rat got away with the bait. The third night the trap was a success, but in attempting to free the creature, Jerry was bitten! He finally had to leave the rat outside to its own devices, trap and all.

Gabe Cassar's family's escape, when he was young, from the social upheaval of his native Armenia had an eventual happy outcome in California. He has tried to live out his father's advice: "Always try to bring happiness to others".

*Continued from page 6*

Ted and Mary Marshburn closed out the evening's narratives with their separate memories of children's wagons. Ted's "Our Oldest Wagon" was illustrated on-stage by the 150-year-old heirloom wagon itself. The Marshburns brought another antique: a tiny toy wagon with a passenger—a stuffed teddy bear that Mary has cherished since the age of six. Ted and Mary recalled experiences of youthful wagon-rides.

The revival of the grand old tradition of memoirs-reading, after such a long enforced layoff due to the pandemic (3 years!) was a moving experience for long-time AFFN-goers.

### **AFFN: Wed., May 10, 2023**

**AFFN for May will be on Wed., May 10, at 6 pm. Dr. Bruce Everett, retired neurosurgeon and local authority on plants and flowers growing in the Whittier Hills will speak about local toxic plants. Please join us for a delicious pot luck and what promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.**



**SAVE THE DATE:** First Friends will host its second annual "Peace Day" on Sat., June 17, from 9 am to 1 p.m. This will be a day of stories, games, art, activities, snacks, and special guests, centered on the theme "Water for Peace." The goal of this interactive event is to teach children the importance of worldwide access to clean, fresh water and its connection to a peaceful planet. Mark your calendar and tell your friends.

### **Remembering Carole Anne Borries and Barbara Tebbetts Koch**

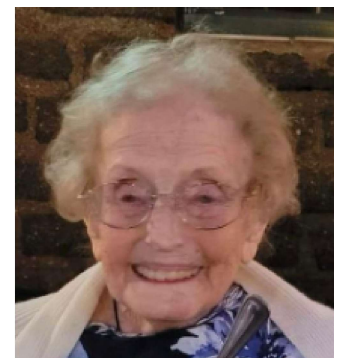


Carole Anne Borries, 86, passed away on February 19, 2023, in her residence at Oakmont of Escondido Hills. She was the widower of Hugh Richard Borries. They shared 39 years of marriage together.

Born in Los Angeles, she was the eldest daughter of Cecil and Elizabeth (Betty) Zachary. She graduated from Montebello High School in 1952.

Carole was a member of Whittier First Friends Church, president of P.E.O. Sisterhood of Montebello, and member of both East Whittier and Montebello Art Associations. She enjoyed painting in watercolor, traveling the world, and playing bridge. She will be remembered for her bright, friendly, warm, and inquisitive personality. She could light up a room and become everyone's best friend by the end of the evening.

The heavenly gates opened on April 4, 2023 to welcome Barbara Jean Tebbetts Koch who died of old age. She was born January 6, 1923 in Whittier, CA to parents Don and Carrie Mitchell. All her family celebrated



her 100th birthday with her. She remained of sound mind her entire life. She was a lifelong resident of Whittier until 2007 when she moved to Tucson, Arizona to be with her daughters, Patricia Christian and Joanne Whitman. Her son, Ronald Tebbetts, resides in Oceanside CA. Barbara was an active member of First Friends Church choir and senior high youth group in the 60's. She was a very kind and generous soul who will be missed by all who knew her.

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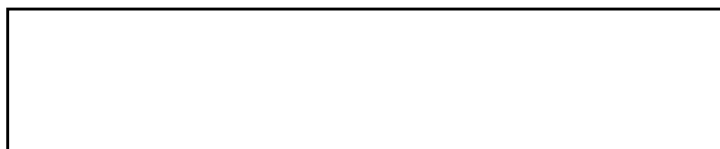
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Please remember in  
prayer those Friends  
unable to worship  
with us regularly.

**Barbara Cote**  
**Kathy Hood**  
**Rose Nedrow**  
**Kathy Robison**  
**Ami Troedsson**

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