

THE LIVING LIGHT

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

Volume 63, Number 06

Whittier First Friends Church

6th Month, 2024

Friends at Founder's Day



This year's Founder's Day, held on May 11, was well attended by both Friends from our meeting and by the community at large. We had three tables which included Whittier Friends School, the Meeting, and our Whittier FCNL Advocacy Team. Framed SPICE photos hung from the canopy, sharing Quaker values, and a large poster asked, "Might You Be a Quaker?" It led to many to deeper conversations and thoughtful questions.

We talked at length with a docent from the Bailey House and with another couple interested in FCNL. Yet another person plans to visit our Writing Group, and several were invited to attend our Meeting, either live or virtually as it suits them. Many also seemed interested in Peace Café and the Friends School.

Visitors took home bookmarks with Meeting information, Peace Café flyers, and FCNL stickers and information on peace and current lobby efforts. We thank all those who participated and helped to set up and take down the



displays. We also thank all those who talked and shared with our interested friends from the larger community, several of whom thanked us for our presence. This was a true community effort on many levels.



Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Most of us know that **Elisabeth Elliot & Michael Elliot** both go to Disneyland several times a week, (since they work there), but rumor has it that **Lori McLane** went to Disneyland in May with several family members including her daughter and grand niece. We also heard that **Marilyn Fant** went to Disneyland with her family as well. **Landon, Cassie & Steven Caringella** also got the opportunity to enjoy a day at Disneyland as a part of the end-of-the-school-year / pre-eighth grade graduation activities. (Whoever thought that going to Disneyland would be big Friendly Fare news?) Please, send me your news for next month.)

Friends Celebrate: Ron & Becky Memmelaar's son, **Max**, married **Ashley Kelly**



on May 25. They will live in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Max moved there in January 2015 and works for the Bureau of Land

Management. He manages about a million acres of range land for the US government. He is also a fire investigator. Ashley is finishing her degree in hospital administration and currently works in administration for the police department. It was a small family wedding in Evanston, Wyoming. They are going to Ireland for their honeymoon.

Happy Birthday to **Ami Troedsson** who celebrated her 95th birthday in May. So many family members were able to visit including her two sons, her two grandchildren, daughter-in-laws, and their fiances. Ami says it was beautiful to see them all together knowing

that they all love her. An extra special treat was that her oldest son prepared her favorite food for their celebration dinner. It was a very happy day for our friend, Ami.

Friends About Town: Current Whittier Friends School teacher **Marielle Askew** and former Whittier Friends School teacher **Alicia Atkinson** happened to run into each other at the Irwindale Renaissance Fair in



May.

Friends Travel: Last month, **Marie Hegwer-DiVita** traveled for the first time ever to Ohio to attend the Ohio Genealogical Society annual conference and take some genealogy field trips. She was eager to attend because the conference was being held in the same general area where one set of her great-grandparents had been from, around 1860 to 1900. Seeing the solar eclipse in a region of totality while in a cemetery where a grand-uncle and several of his children are buried



was an added bonus! Here she is with the Living Light continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)

Friends Sharing News: You can 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!

Loletta's Lines



June is the beginning of summer - not a really radical observation, I know. But I have the feeling of a new awareness of what it means to enter this summer season. You see it is different for me this year- it feels all new. I was away on sabbatical most of last summer. (It feels like an amazing dream I am so grateful for! Thanks to you I really did get to go to Egypt and serve with FCNL as a Friend in Washington!) And the three summers before were pandemic summers. I keep running into a wall of awareness: I am still getting over pandemic isolation and settling back into a familiar and wonderful place.

I am looking forward to the summer season with you very much. Promotion Sunday, picnics and concerts in the park, Summer Mission Project, meeting for worship in Fellowship Hall, ice cream social, Peace Camp/Day, organ concerts, and other old favorites as well as new things. (Like our plans to celebrate George Fox's 400th birthday in July - stay tuned!) I regularly find myself musing; so much has happened. So much has changed, and so much has remained the same, yet it gets better every time we do it, together. In the midst of it all, you have all been present and faithful to our meeting, to serving others, to our fellowship times, and to joyfully following the leading of the Spirit. I tell everyone who will listen: leading me to the Friends was the best thing Spirit has done in my life. When I think of you, I am always reminded of 1 Corinthians 1: 4-6. "I give thanks to God always for you..."

As we continue our discernment about where Spirit is calling us to go, how we will organize ourselves, and which activities you will feel led to join, know you are loved by God, by your meeting, and by me. It's the most simple and most important fact of all. It doesn't change - it grows and expands as we travel together in all the seasons!



Envisioning Task Group Formed

A new task group has been formed by the Coordination of Meeting Ministries Committee to look at our ministries and structure and to bring them into a set of values and goals for the future. We seek input from all persons in our meeting about the direction we will go as First Friends Church. Envisioning Task Group Meetings will be held on Sundays at rise-of-meeting on the following dates: June 2, August 18, September 15, October 6, and November 3, from 12:30-2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring lunch, and help us discern for the future.

Our working statement of values:

- *We follow the teachings of Jesus.*
- *We worship and learn together to listen for God's leading and to express gratitude.*
- *We love and respect all people and all creation.*
- *We serve others.*

Russ' Reflections

Russ's Summer Plans



A Message

I will be giving a message on June 9th about Daily Spiritual Practice. I hope to offer some ways that we can build habits that will help us deepen in our experience of God and why we should do so. I invite you to think of ways that you practice spiritually that you can share.

Tuesday Evening Concert Series

Speaking of practice, I will be doing lots of it. Beginning July 2nd and ending August 6th, I will be offering a series of organ recitals, some with friends, on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in our Meeting House. They will be wide-ranging in repertoire. An offering will be taken to benefit our Organ Fund. Each concert will conclude with the singing of a hymn together.

July 2 - Music by J.S. Bach, including the "Passacaglia" and "Fugue in C minor", a trio sonata, a fantasia, and a sung *aria* or two from the "Mass in B minor."

July 9 - Out of This World, will include music from the Star Trek series, *Interstellar*, and *The Mandalorian* and, perhaps, a star hymn or two.

July 16 - Iberia and Italia, will feature music from Spain and Italy.

July 23 - Hymn Arrangements from Then to Now will consist of a variety of organ pieces based on hymn tunes.

July 30 - Music by Cesar Franck: the "Three Chorales", his final organ works.

August 6 - Music for Solo Handbells and Organ/Piano will feature Linda Krantz with Russ accompanying.

Friends Choir and Section Leaders

Our section leaders will be on hiatus until September. In order to increase salaries to attract singers, we have needed to shorten our

choir season. We are pleased and grateful for their beautiful music-making and look forward to their return in the fall. Thank you to Nick, Eliya, Daniel, and Aaron!

Summer Singers

For the five Sundays in June, I would like to invite anyone interested to come to the Meeting House at 10:10 am to learn a simple anthem and practice the hymns that will be sung that day in Meeting for Worship. All persons are welcome, young or old. You can come once or twice or all five Sundays. Find out what singing in the Friends Choir is like.



A Huge THANK YOU

Shelter's Right Hand 5K Walk

A Huge THANK YOU to all who participated in the 28th annual Shelter's Right Hand 5K walk on Saturday, April 20th. It was an amazing event with over 817 walkers and 75 volunteers. Together they raised over \$67,000 to support the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter of Whittier. This year, First Friends participants teamed up with members of the Mission Collaborative to walk, volunteer, and cheer walkers on throughout the route!! Marilyn Fant, one of the coordinators of the 5K, expressed her thanks to all who participated in person and/or financially, especially all the energetic Mission Collaborative members who came out! "All of you helped to make this our biggest and best Walk ever!!!"



News from Whittier Friends School

What a joy it was to have the Fellowship Hall and Founders Court bursting with visitors at Whittier Friends School's annual Spring Event – Silent Auction, Dinner, and Performance – on Saturday, May 4. The children's play, "To Tell the Truth: A Patriotic Game Show," was very well-received. The host of the play, "Amelia Earhart," and three judges - "Statue of Liberty," "The 49er," and "Uncle Sam" - helped the audience figure out which of three "George Washington" characters was the real one, and which two were imposters. The play was full of patriotic songs, fun facts about some of the famous figures in American history, and had quite a few humorous moments, too. The finale, with two dozen children singing "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy" was quite a crowd pleaser. The audience also sat with baited breath as some of the children sang all fifty states and capitals, a classic song from *The Animaniacs*.

It wasn't just the play that was fun for our group, though. This was our first time having an in-person Spring Event dinner AND silent auction since 2019. Guests bid on over 50 items, including coveted items like children's books, Hot Wheel tracks, and freshly made fudge. The catered dinner included a "taco guy" with two-and-a-half hours of fresh tacos for all those who attended. Dessert consisted of all kinds of baked goods brought by families from our school. All in all, it was a successful and fun event, with lots of volunteers and supporters. Thank you to all who came, helped, and enjoyed it!

Whittier Friends School elementary and preschool children attended a trip to the Los Angeles County Fair on Thursday, May 9. The kids were excited to do and see all kinds of things. Children on our trip saw the giant Clydesdale horses, visited the bees (and tasted



the honey!), and even cheered for animals at the Barnyard Races. Pigs, ducks, and even geese raced against each other, and WFS students were pleased (putting it mildly!) that they had the most wins. Many parents joined the children on the trip, so that it was not just a learning activity, but also a fun, family-bonding activity, with families/parents getting a chance to spend time with each other! We were used to the County Fair being a trip to "wrap up" summer because the LA County Fair used to be held in September. A few years back, however, the fair changed its run time to May, so now it is starting to feel like a "kick-off" to summer. Traditions are special to us at Whittier Friends School, and the County Fair is one of those especially enjoyable traditions.

We continue enrollment for the elementary 2024-2025 school year, as well as our Elementary Summer Enrichment Program, which will occur from June 24 through August 8. Weekly summer enrichment themes will include such topics as Ocean, Zoo, and Fairy Tales. Families can sign up for whichever weeks they are interested in attending. Payments received by June 7 will reflect a discount. You can find information about our enrollment processes for summer and fall on our website, whittierfriendsschool.org, or by emailing Cassie at wfs@gmail.com. As always, you can follow Whittier Friends School's adventures on Facebook facebook.com/whittierfriendsschool/ Instagram instagram.com/whittierfriendsschool/ and visit our wishlist at amzn.to/2QK8Yp8

-Cassie Caringella

May AFFN - Memoirs Writing Group Returns

On Wed., May 8, the 2023-24 All Friends Fellowship (AFFN) season concluded with the return of the beloved Memoirs Writing Group (pictured to the right) which has been meeting in Fellowship Hall for the past 40+ years. (Sadly, this was their first year without their most recent leader, Gwen Woirhaye, who passed to new life this past December.)

Following an abundant potluck supper under the direction of Mary Marshburn and the Fellowship Committee, attendees were entertained by the writers' original compositions of memories, observations, and tributes. Some were poignant, others humorous, and all were memorable.

Mahlon Woirhaye recounted a few childhood "trials and tribulations" during his family's pre-World War II cross-country trips on Route 66. Megan Hobza shared some short vignettes of her "worst roommates ever" from her essay entitled, "Single Brain-Celled Organisms." Ted Marshburn regaled the audience with his "Rainy Vacation Trip" about a time when the family car's windshield wipers failed, and the problem was solved by rigging a rope to manually operate the wipers. Unforgettably for Ted, he ended up responsible for pulling the wipers back and forth for the remainder of the stormy trip.

Mary Marshburn read her poem entitled "The Bells and Whistles of My Life" a creative tribute to the helpful alarms and reminders in our daily lives that we tend to take for granted, from the doorbell to the teakettle to the microwave to our phones and beyond. Jerry Sarchet's "Stream of Music Through My Life" explained that, though he was reluctant to learn and practice the piano as a child, his rocky relationship with music later in life ended



in a promotion during his time in the service that may very well have saved his life.

Nancy Cowardin's humorous recollection entitled "Calendar Underwear," was about a time in college when a chance glance into another co-ed's dorm room revealed a clothesline of drying panties each labeled with the days of the week and the brief awkward exchange that followed. John Beynon's "Piache, Where?" was an ode to the historical glory and riches of a little recognized city in his beloved home state of Nevada. The program concluded with Marie Hegwer-DiVita's "The Power of Language" in which she recalls, as a precocious youngster, her mother's efforts to teach her about kindness, patience, and how our words can impact others.

The Memoirs Writing group meets Monday afternoons at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall and is open to anyone who wants to join. No writing talent is required, and ideas for prompts, as well as gentle feedback, are lovingly provided. Contact the church office for more information. The monthly AFFN potluck and programs will resume in the fall on Sept. 11. In the meantime, join us for weekly Wednesday night picnics in Michigan Park at 6 pm beginning June 19.

Get Ready for Summer!

Summertime brings warmer weather and more time outdoors. At First Friends, it brings a change in worship location and new opportunities for fellowship, feasting, and music



Meeting for Worship moves to Fellowship Hall:

Worship with us each Sunday at 11 am in the relaxed and intimate setting of Fellowship Hall from

June 30 through September 8, either in-person or online.



Picnics in the Park: Join Friends each Wednesday evening at Michigan Park, 6 pm, from June 19 to August 28, for food and

fellowship. Bring a dish to share and your own plates, utensils, and drinks. Invite your family and friends for a scrumptious potluck and fellowship in this beautiful outdoor setting.

Monday Concerts in the Park: Meet us on the hill in Central Park on Monday evenings from June 17 through July 29. From classical



music to classic rock. Music starts at 7 pm. Support the food trucks or bring your own picnic.

George Fox Turns 400!!

Celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker co-founder George Fox are taking place throughout 2024, including birthday parties, speaker events, and



contemplative meetings. Many of these gatherings can be joined online, from around the world. First Friends will officially honor the occasion in July with messages about George and his wife, Margaret Fell Fox, songs, and an Open Worship Sunday. For more information about celebrations worldwide, visit:

<https://fwcc.world/fox/>



Tuesday Organ Concerts in the Meetinghouse:

Russ's Summer Organ Series returns July 2 to August 6, in the

Meeting House. Each week is a different recital from a wide-ranging repertoire. Invite your friends to experience the transformative power of organ music.

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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!



FAMILY PEACE DAY FESTIVAL

"BE THE PEACE"

SPECIAL GUEST: PETTING ZOO

SNACKS -- GAMES -- CRAFTS -- STORIES

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 10:00 AM -1:00 PM

BROUGHT TO YOU BY FIRST FRIENDS CHURCH PEACE CAMP
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FREE ADMISSION



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

Barbara Cote, Kathy Hood, Kathy Robison
Ami Troedsson, Shirley Votaw