

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 7

Whittier First Friends Church

July/August, 2018

Building Takes Work—and Play!



Peace Camp for children 1st grade through 8th grade starts Monday, July 23 and runs through Friday, July 27.

This year's theme is "Puppetry for

Peace," which promises to provide many chances for children to express creativity. Beginning with the image from Isaiah of the Peaceable Kingdom, campers will learn about peace within self, with a partner, as a group and in the world.

The week will come to an entertaining conclusion with an original play for puppets, written by the children.

Registration forms are available at the church. For information, please call the church office or see Russ Litchfield.

Help Rebuild a Friendly Place

Bring your change, checks or cash to Meeting for Worship this summer as we raise money for the Friends United Meeting Summer Mission Project.

We'll be helping restore the Wilmington School, next to the Puerto Padre Meeting House in Cuba.

Summer Meeting for Worship
July 1 through September 2
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

"An Amazing Bunch"

Sunday School teacher Tish Purkiss sure found the right words to describe this year's high school graduates!

At Promotion Sunday on June 10, awards were given to all of our youth who have made outstanding contributions to our Meeting, and encouragement for those who are moving on to their next challenge.

The Larry Davidson Award recognizes artistic contributions, gifts of love and dependability, steadfast service, faithful attendance, gifts of humor and a joyful spirit. This year's Davidson went to Katerina Ryder, Bella Sturr and Anatheia Woirhaye.

The Mildred Votaw Jessup Scholarship, which helps graduating high school seniors with their upcoming college expenses, went to Katerina and Bella along with Wes Van Dorn and Cedric Woirhaye.

Kat will begin her field of study in veterinary science at Cal Poly Pomona. She dreams of working with animals and training guide dogs.

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Picnics in the Park

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. June 20 through July 25
(except July 4)

Michigan Park

at the corner of La Cuarta St. and Michigan Ave.

Bring food and drinks to share
and your own table service.

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Summer! Yay! I think we all enjoy this time when we get to slow down a little and enjoy the different activities that come our way. But does anyone really slow down with so many additional activities going on? Recently, I came across this picture of **Jack & Sharon Huffaker** (and family.) What a wonderful sense of family is represented here. Isn't this what summer is all about?



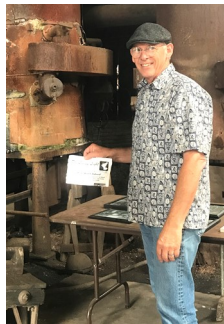
Friends Celebrate: For **Ted & Mary Marshburn's** 65th anniversary in June, they had a large family gathering at Yosemite, where they had honeymooned and have held several previous family reunions. **Carol** and family, including **Bethany**, who just graduated from Mt. Holyoke, came from Maine. **Donna** and **Milton Wright** celebrated their 62nd anniversary on June 8. **Don & Shirley Votaw** celebrated their 67th anniversary with a trip to their cabin at Lake Arrowhead. This year's anniversary was on Father's Day as was their original wedding day. And **Les** and **Ruth Marshall** celebrated 71 years of marriage on June 29.

School and Work News: **Liz Ellis** flew to Denver to attend her granddaughter **Hazel's** high school graduation. She is Liz's daughter **Toya's** second daughter. Hazel will be attending Creighton University in Omaha in the fall. In May, **Emily Wood** graduated with honors from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Family joining the celebration included parents **Michael & Betsy Wood**, sister **Sarah Wood** (pictured with Emily), grandmothers **Marygene Wright** and **Judy Wood**, aunts **Lea Thirkettle** and **Allison Lew** and uncle **Kirk Wright**. Emily majored in English with a minor in Creative Writing. She is currently an intern with LIISC, a non-profit organization in San Antonio.

Friends Visit: Niece **Susan Walker** from Anacortes WA visited her "Auntie Jo-Jo" (**Joanne Camp**) after completing the annual 400-mile San Francisco to L.A. bicycle ride, which was a fundraiser for HIV/AIDS. Our condolences go to Joanne on the passing of her golden lab Sedona. Sedona was much beloved by her family as well as members of Young Friends Fellowship, who loved romping with her during trips to Joanne's cabin. **Diane Wemmerus'** sister visited church on Promotion Sunday. **Marilyn Fant** got a chance for a solo overnight visit with granddaughter **Ryan Ruby June** when **David & Sarah Fant** visited in June. **Lind Coop's** son, **Ben** from Washington state stayed with him while Lind recovered from surgery. Daughter-in-law **Jennifer** also came down and joined Ben for a visit.



Friends Travel: Before her recent trip to Canada, **Elinore Petoletti** didn't know how light she could travel until it took 12 days for her suitcase to reach her from Midway Airport in Chicago! She visited Iles de la Madeleine, a group of small islands of mainly sand dunes, sea grass, fishermen and WIND. **Dan & Lea Wright** traveled to Sutter Creek for the first anniversary celebration of the reopening of the Knight Foundry. This might be considered one of Dan's dream vacations as he has spent a lot of time looking in the window at the deserted machine shop during their Gold Country trips. Here Dan is with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "**The Living Light Travels.**" (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.) The **Woirhayes** family (**Anathea, Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, & Elyse** and **Gwen & Mahlon**) traveled up to Ashland, OR for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. After a week of awe-inspiring theater, the clan met up with **Mahlon** and **Adrianna Woirhayes** (G&M's son and great granddaughter) on the Rogue River for a raft ride down to the Pacific Ocean.



Rogue River for a raft ride down to the Pacific Ocean.

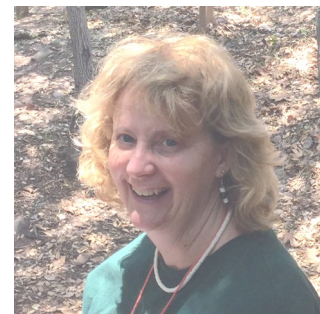
Friends Remember: Prayers for the family of **Betty Gibson** who passed to new life on June 7. A Celebration of Life is being planned for the end of July.

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!

July and August in Meeting for Worship

July 1	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Come on, Get up and Dance!</i> Psalm 30, Mark 5:21-43 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
July 8	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Dreaming and Visions</i> Jeremiah 29:11-14, Joel 2:27-28
July 15	Diane Wemmerus brings the message <i>What Do You Need?</i> Mark 10:46-52, Advices and Queries
July 22	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship,
July 29	Is the Spirit Leading You to Put Your Name Here?
August 5	Iris Harris brings the message <i>What's the Hurry?</i> Isaiah 17:12-13, Mark 6:27
August 12	Lynda Ladwig brings the message
August 19	Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship
August 26	Elisabeth Elliot brings the message <i>Timshel</i> Genesis 4:1-16
September 2	Is the Spirit Leading You to Put Your Name Here?

Loletta's Lines



I got to go—actually stay—on my first “stay-cation.” I jettisoned the stress of travel plans and I learned a lot. Making no plans can lead to spontaneity and can get you into doing a bunch of projects—or it can lead to sitting on the porch watching the grass grow. Either one can actually be satisfying! “Retting out” (that’s an old Midwestern expression for throwing out trash, cleaning, or clearing out unwanted items) makes you feel lighter. It is a good idea to plan ahead however; the recycling bin overflows, the thrift store isn’t open 24 hours for donations, and stay-cations can be just as tiring as vacations! Cleaning lasts a day, but gardening lasts longer and the plants are beautiful. Quiet time alone can be soothing, with God refreshing, with Friends enlivening. Taking your time makes nourishing food taste great, and it is even better when shared. Visiting churches can be eye-opening and there are wonderful people there, too. So what will you learn on your vacation or stay-cation?

Then I went to a “coaching” class. It’s not new, nor is it about sports or becoming an entrepreneur. It is about listening; intentionally and deeply to another, acknowledging them as expert in their own life, and helping them delve into their passions, gifts, and dreams to make plans for the future, simply by being present to them, and then supporting and encouraging them to follow through. Listening that deeply to the Light within someone and supporting them sounds a little like a Quaker clearness committee! How can we expand our “coaching” of each other and the meeting?

I also went to the annual gathering of the United Church of Christ, where the theme was “God is doing a new thing with us.” We are called to be co-creators out of the possibilities God has offered for the meeting and the world. I was reminded that we must ask the why of our ministry here: what we do and how we do it are secondary and must come out of the why. We will accomplish our purpose only if the “what” and “how” we do things serve the “why.” Why are we each here in this meeting? Why does this meeting exist now? Some “Light” summer thinking and Spirit-listening for us all! Happy July and August!



At Monthly Meeting on June 10, we gratefully accepted a gift from the estate of Dick and Doree Votaw.

Ideas and leadings as to what Friends would like to experience during summer worship continue to be accepted. We still have two Sundays that are open for Friends wishing to share messages.

The flag of the United States of America has been returned to the meeting house after being removed by mistake, but we do not have unity as to the role the flag plays in the worship space.

Continued on page 4

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.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



We've been preparing for our summer retreat to Quaker Center, located in the heart of the redwoods. And now it's time for us to get ready and go. The day after our arrival on July 18, we will hit the ground running as we travel to the Homeless Garden project in Santa Cruz. The Garden project is a program that offers structured transitional employment and paid job training of skills to help people get back into the work force. As we work and eat alongside the program participants and staff, we will perform a number of different farm tasks as defined by weather and priorities. Other activities consist of horseback riding, including "the draw" and barrel demonstrations, Friday night Bands on the Beach along with play on the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. Throughout, our main focus will be our relationships with each other and how we view ourselves and others through God's eyes. Our youth will be accompanied by Mel Sturr, Russ Litchfield, Diane Wemmerus, Jasmine Sturr and myself.

Upon our return, it is hoped that our youth counselors will be engaged and excited to help with Peace Camp.

August holds an excursion to the beach and a surprise come-as-you-are breakfast as we head back to school in the fall.

—Lynda Ladwig

Monthly Meeting continued from page 3

We have not found unity as to the length of Meeting for Worship, which is running an average of 70 minutes.

Our new solar array is producing well. We are still waiting on new lighting in the meeting house and we are hoping confusion with our contractor will be resolved soon. We continue our positive meetings with the members of Temple Beth Shalom in regards to sharing our facilities. We will again host the Cold Weather Shelter in January. Solutions are being considered for the unauthorized use of our parking lot by neighboring businesses and organizations. We are willing to share, but are experiencing parking shortages for our own needs.

The next Monthly Meeting is July 8 at rise of meeting. Remember that we are on summer schedule—Meeting for Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. with Monthly Meeting following. Please bring your own lunch as our kitchen staff is on summer break.



News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School Preschool is gearing up for a fun summer of activities here on our campus, which will again include exploratory activities like cooking, water play, bubbles play, and a visit to the Farmer's Market here in Whittier. Children will be able to enjoy sensory play while improving their fine and gross motor skills. Additionally, Whittier Friends School is offering an enrichment program four afternoons a week for children going into kindergarten through 6th grade. This program, which began the final week of June, will continue through the summer, will focus on improving reading and math skills while children play and interact with their friends for a few hours a day. Children can enroll in both the enrichment program and summer preschool by the month.

—Cassie Caringella

On Our Calendar...

Rally Sunday	Sunday, September 9
Solar Celebration and dedication of church solar array	Saturday, September 22
Peace Café	Saturday, September 22

Ready, Set, Park

Summer means Concerts in Central Park for the Whittier community—and an easy weekly fundraiser for us! Support First Friends Church this summer by collecting money on Monday evenings now through July 30 from concert-goers who wish to use our parking lot. Volunteers will collect \$3 per car from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. See Cassie Caringella or Lea Wright to sign up for this fundraiser. We collected almost \$200 last year, and we hope to break that record.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND GAME NIGHT

Saturday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m.
In Fellowship Hall

July and August 2018

Weekly Meetings & Events

Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship — 8:30 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Group — Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m.

Picnics in the Park — Wednesdays Jul 11-25, 6:00 p.m. at Michigan Park

Concerts in Central Park — Mondays 7:00 p.m. Jul 9, 16, 23, & 30 and Aug 6 – Parking Attendants 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting for Worship — 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Quiltmakers — 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.

July Meetings & Special Events

Jul 3, 9:00 a.m. – Trustees Meeting

Conference Room

Jul 8, 11:15 a.m. – Monthly Meeting

Fellowship Hall

bring your own lunch

Jul 15, 11:15 a.m. – Christian Ed Committee Meeting

Library

Jul 15, 11:15 a.m. – Music Committee Meeting

Conference Room

Jul 18 – Jul 22 – Youth Summer Retreat

Quaker Center

Jul 22, 11:30 a.m. – Outreach Committee Meeting

Conference Room

Jul 23 – Jul 27, 9:00 a.m. – Peace Camp

Fellowship Hall

Jul 24, 7:00 p.m. – M & C Meeting

Library

Jul 28, 6:00 p.m. – Ice Cream Social and Game Night

Fellowship Hall

Jul 29, 11:30 a.m. – Clerks' Quarterly Meeting

Fellowship Hall

August Meetings & Special Events

Aug 7, 9:00 a.m. – Trustees Meeting

Conference Room

Aug 8, 6:30 p.m. – Business & Finance Committee Meeting

Library

Aug 12, 11:15 a.m. – Monthly Meeting

Fellowship Hall

bring your own lunch

Aug 19, 11:15 a.m. – Christian Ed Committee Meeting

Library

Aug 19, 11:15 a.m. – Music Committee Meeting

Conference Room

Aug 22, 11:00 a.m. – Communications Committee Meeting

Library

Aug 26, 11:30 a.m. – Outreach Committee Meeting

Conference Room

Aug 28, 7:00 p.m. – M & C Meeting

Library

Sep 2, 10:00 a.m. – Meeting for Worship

Fellowship Hall

last Summer Meeting



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!

July Birthdays			
Travis Allen	Elinore Petoletti	Mary Case	Sandra Robison
Eric Bald	Patty Tillman	Josh Fant	Jennifer Root
Carrin Bouchard	Marci Vaden	Linda Flournoy	Rob Settlege
Cassie Caringella	Don Votaw	Pat Garland	Bonnie Streeter
Jon-Paul Cook	Julia Weitkamp	Laura Kaneko	Mel Sturr
Allison Coop	August Birthdays	Alex Marshburn	Tom Van Dorn
Amanda Cramer	Bishop Aereaux	Emma McIntosh	Deanna Woirhaye
Harry Eggleton	Trevor Allen	Jane Moody	Isaac Wright
Lynda Ladwig	Ellie Bewley	Bruce Nelson	Philip Wright
Les Marshall	George Bouchard	Trish Purkiss	
	Savanah Burke	Gloria Rice	

In the summer, things change around here. It is a good opportunity to take time in a laid-back manner to explore what uplifts, fills and energizes our spirits for life and ministry. Come open and ready to be present with and to hear the Spirit speaking, whispering, singing, humming, shouting, dancing. That wonderful Spirit! We never know where it will lead, but it always leads us somewhere better than we could imagine or plan for ourselves. We will have a couple of unprogrammed Meetings for Worship, several programmed Meetings, and who knows what else? You, me and God, what else can we need?

—Loletta Barrett



All Friends Fellowship Night is on summer vacation and will return in the fall. Look for the September issue of *The Living Light* for all the details.

Rebuilding and Forgiveness

Vietnam, once the site of so much trauma for Americans, is now a most attractive tourist destination. And, best of all, the Vietnamese people, survivors and their descendants of a bitter war, are friendly and accessible, seemingly sympathetic and welcoming to Americans. Kathy Marin learned these astonishing facts on a month-long excursion last February, and shared them with a large All Friends Fellowship Night audience on June 13 in Fellowship Hall.

Kathy's hour-long slide show documented her arrival in Hanoi during the Buddhist New Year celebrations, with people warmly dressed for the chill of the foggy upland climate. Shrines and flowers everywhere emphasized the importance of New Year.

Kathy related feeling an immediate kinship with the people, and her pictures revealed a life of hard toil, yet spirited and optimistic people who receive much health care and educational support from the communist government. Kathy brought a display of some of the lovely fabrics she bought—the northern tribal peoples are renowned weavers.

Kathy's tour group worked their way southward from the Chinese border by bus and river boat through cities whose names evoke poignant memories for many Americans—Hue, DaNang and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). In Hue, the site of fierce engagements during the Vietnam War, Kathy visited a Buddhist monastic community and the orphanage they support. The orphans are not released for adoption, but remain in the community through high school as they prepare for a life on their own. DaNang, another battleground, is now a popular visitor center featuring the remains of a 4th century Hindu temple complex.

Ho Chi Minh City is a thriving commercial city in the midst of a construction boom. Kathy's pictures showed the U. S. Embassy building from which the last American residents were evacuated by helicopter when the communists took over. A giant mural on the side of the building depicts the traumatic departure. The Embassy building is now dwarfed by neighboring skyscrapers.

Kathy's tour concluded with a boat trip down the Mekong River to the delta area. This was the escape route for the "boat people," who fled the communist take-over. Many of their descendants now live in the greater Los Angeles area.

Friends gained, from Kathy's superb lecture, a new understanding of and sympathy for the Vietnamese people. The pre-lecture potluck supper arranged by Mary Marshburn with the help of the Fellowship Committee was worthy of an extraordinary travelogue.

—Bob Newton

'An Amazing Bunch' continued from page 1

Bella was vice president of the Liberty in Korea Club at Southlands Christian School. She'll attend the University of Redlands with the goal of becoming an OB-GYN doctor like her grandmother.

Cedric is passionate about restoring the environment, so it comes as no surprise that he'll be majoring in environmental science and resource management at Cal State Channel Islands. His dream is to become a renewable energy engineer focusing on developing a zero carbon fuel.

Wes is currently at Riverside City College, where he enjoys tutoring and mentoring. He is exploring a wealth of interests including art history, music and photography.

In the message, Bella used the example of her favorite TV show "The Fosters" to illustrate her belief that "Blood does not make family. Love does." She then thanked everyone—"whether I have known you for a day or for my entire life"—for being a part of her family.

While pondering the question of what makes a family, Kat said she had a silly thought and "instantly face-palmed because it sounded so ridiculous." The thought was—can you be your own family? She touchingly related how her own loneliness and self-deprecation gave way to trust. "The wall that surrounded me, slowly and surely, began to lower...but I still had an empty feeling. I still didn't have much confidence in who I was, no matter how many people told me that I'm strong...I appreciated the support but I needed to say these things myself and believe them too. In a sense, I needed to be my own family. Today, I am finally saying to all of you what I taught myself—by being my own family, showing your true colors, just being you, that's all you can do."

We are blessed beyond words to have such delightful young people in our Meeting. We pray you will continue to share their gifts and talents and grow in their spiritual walk answering that of God in themselves and in everyone they meet.

—Elisabeth Elliot



Remembering Vi Smith

We will all miss my mother and your friend, Vi Smith. While going through her files, we found a two-page story of her life that she wrote and asked that one of her sons read at her memorial service.

So, I'm pleased to share with you Vi's words describing her own life. I've taken the liberty of adding a few names, dates, and phrases to help us all better understand her account.

—Richard Smith

On October 3, 1921, in El Centro, California, Allen and Mae Lewis and their six-year-old son Allen Lee welcomed Violet Marie Lewis into this world. She quickly became known to all as “Vi.” Her father operated large cranes and heavy construction equipment and his job often required him to work far from home often for long periods. Her mother was a homemaker and a great cook in the Southern style.

She was proud of the fact that her California heritage went back to at least 1875, when her 16-year-old grandfather moved from Missouri to the small town of Artesia in Orange County. Vi's father was born in Artesia in 1888 and the graves of many of her relatives are in a small Artesia cemetery. Vi's California connection goes back even earlier. Her great grandfather made two trips from Missouri to the Sacramento area, once in 1850 and again in 1859, traveling by ox teams and hoping to discover gold. This great grandfather died in the Civil War while serving as a Union soldier in the Missouri State Militia.

When Vi was one year old, she moved briefly to Bell and then to Huntington Park where she lived for the next 23 years. She attended elementary school, junior high, and high school there, graduating in 1940 from Huntington Park High School. That same year, in December, she met Charles William Smith, or “Charlie” as he was known to all. Charlie was also a native Californian, born in Los Angeles in 1915. Five months after Vi and Charlie met, they were married in Las Vegas, Nevada. Their marriage lasted 57 years until his sudden death in February 1998.

Together they had three sons. Charles Allen

(Chuck), born in 1942 in Bell; Richard Harold, born in 1945 in South Gate, and Jack Lee, born on New Year's Day 1947 in Whittier. In 1946, Vi and Charlie bought a new home in Montebello. In raising three sons, Vi became active in PTA and Boy Scouts, acting as a Cub Scout den mother.

The 1950's and 60's were busy years for the family. They went to San Diego often to see grandparents. Vi and Charlie enjoyed sharing hobbies with their three sons. Charlie—known for his ability to build, repair, or remodel almost anything—built two tear-drop trailers in 1947 and camping and traveling became a hobby the whole family enjoyed. The boys loved fishing and camping with their friends and all three learned to swim in Bass Lake near Yosemite National Park.

Charlie loved baseball and the family spent many nights watching Charlie play for the Thermador Electric Company team. Charlie encouraged Richard and Jack to play baseball as children and enjoyed practicing with them.

Charlie and Vi had their own hobbies. They loved square and round dancing as well as playing cards, especially pinochle, with their friends.

In 1959, Vi decided to go to work. She started as an account clerk in the accounts payable department at the Montebello Unified School District office. She worked there for 25 years and made many wonderful friends. She still saw them at monthly luncheon get-togethers and an annual retirement potluck gathering for all the retirees of the school district.

In 1968, after their three sons had graduated from high school, Charlie and Vi bought a new home in Hacienda Heights where they lived for 28 years. In 1980, after 45 years with Thermador, Charlie retired. Three years later, Vi retired. Almost immediately, they bought a motor home and began traveling. In the following years, they traveled to all 50 states and much of Canada. In addition, they enjoyed traveling and cruising to many foreign countries.

In 1986, Vi became interested in genealogy and began many years researching her family tree. She was proud to become a member of the John Greenleaf Whittier chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Whittier Area Daughters of the Golden West Genealogy Society.

In 1996, Vi and Charlie bought a home in Whittier. When they lived there, they began attending First Friends, a source of much happiness and comfort to Vi. After Charlie's death in 1998, Vi joined two Red Hat Societies, and thoroughly enjoyed the outings and friendships she found there.

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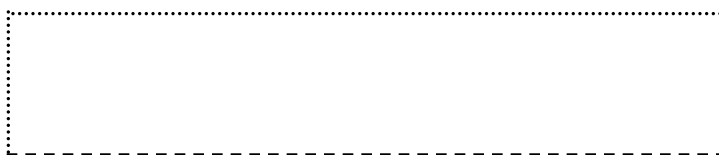
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SAVE THE DATE!

SOLAR CELEBRATION

Saturday morning,
 September 22

We're inviting the community to
 join us as we cut the cord and
 dedicate our new solar array



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

Peggy Anderson
 Carlos Bailey
 Helen & Jack Carlisle
 Rose Nedrow
 Maureen Russell
 Ann Smith
 Ella Tiffany
 Ami Troedsson
 Gerry Wolfe