

THE LIVING LIGHT

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

Ephesians 5:9

Volume 59 Number 7

Whittier First Friends Church

July/August 2020

Onward and Upward and Outward



Promotion Sunday was virtually celebrated on June 14, as we recognized a host of accomplishments by the young people of our Meeting.

Our Sunday First Day classes, following a new format this past year, combined our children and youth together for class. Coming together in the Children's Library, Jennifer Bermudez helped to facilitate and engage both the children and the youth in conversations about their week and share items of importance. We all attended Meeting for Worship and then many of the children proceeded to the Chapel after the children's message. Much of our time was spent discussing the Quaker testimonies, what they are and why they are important. Cassie Caringella, Tish Purkiss and Lynda Ladwig all participated leading the class.

Avalon Caringella, Landon Caringella, Elyse Woirhaye, Lara Wemmerus, Ashley Ryder, and Anatheia Woirhaye were all promoted this year and are receiving certificates by email, with a hard copy available upon request.

And our Scholarships Go To...

The Jessup Scholarship

It all started many years ago with a woman who loved her family and her Quaker Meeting. Mildred Votaw Jessup served our Meeting faithfully and with loving care. She adored her Sunday School students and was equally adored by them.

In 1985, Mildred's family requested that a scholarship fund be established in her name. The funds are intended to assist with the purchase of books and general supplies to aid students continuing their education.

Our 2020 Jessup recipients are Anatheia Woirhaye, Kat Ryder, Bella Sturr and Cedric Woirhaye.

Anatheia graduated this year from the Orange County School of the Arts where she was honored for her high academic achievements and named as a valedictorian of her class.

Katerina attends Cal Poly Pomona where she is pursuing a Bachelors degree in animal science. Kat has a particular interest in advocacy and has participated in the Friends Committee on National Legislation Lobby Weekend. She is a supporter and participant in Peace Café, Peace Camp and Christmas Children's Workshop programs.

Bella is a junior at the University of Redlands on her way to becoming a doctor with a double major in biology and religious studies, two areas she feels have a significant connection.

Cedric is currently a student at Rio Hondo College, where he finds a class in Chinese particularly interesting. Working with the school and church

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A CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CALLED TO LISTEN, GATHERED TO SEEK PEACE AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, We've definitely been going through a different sort of time. When we started our Safer at Home or quarantine time, did anyone really think it would last four months? We hear this is our new normal, but I don't think there is anything normal about this. As I write this, I think to myself—I don't want to sound cliché, but I wonder—how should we describe this time? Lonely, for sure, but maybe peaceful. I continue to hear that many people are cleaning out cupboards and closets. Some are walking more than before. Writing journal entries and memoir stories. Assembling jigsaw puzzles and playing board games. How about binge-watching a TV show that you always wanted to see? We're hearing about businesses that are starting to reopen. But still I wonder, what will it all look like come September when we get our next issue of *The Living Light*? It's too soon to know, but in spite of all that, I just want to say, be careful out there.

Friends Celebrate: It's always nice to hear about the arrival of new babies.

Dominic James, born June 7 to **Crescencio & Lauren (Marshburn) Zermeno** joins brother, **Liam Zermeno**. His grandparents are **David & Viki Marshburn** and great-grandparents are **Ted & Mary Marshburn**. **Aubree Devyn Lindsay** was born on April 24 to parents **Kyle & Ashley Lindsay**. She was born on the anniversary of great-grandparents, **Janice (Coffin) & Jack Lindsay**. Due to the current circumstances of the world, they were unable to meet her in person. With hope and prayers, they hope to hold her this month. June was the month for several 60+ years anniversaries. Celebrating are **Milton & Donna Wright** (64 years), **Ted & Mary Marshburn** (67 years), and **Don & Shirley Votaw** (69 years). Our love (not to mention admiration) to all of you!



School and Work: A few more graduates that weren't listed last month: **Shane Purkiss** got his masters in education technology from Azusa Pacific University. **Ethan Purkiss** got his EMT (Emergency Medical Technology) certificate from West Coast.

Melissa Berardino Shartle, who lives with her family in Columbus, OH graduated from Purdue University Global with a Bachelor of Science in

information technology.

Friends Zoom: Meeting for worship and most committee meetings continue to meet on Zoom. People enjoy the social time before and after, which has even been compared to *Romper Room* or *The Waltons*. It's been such a treat to be able to worship with far off Friends such as **Wendy Marsh**, **Jenni Root**, the **Eggletons** and all of our fellow members of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends.

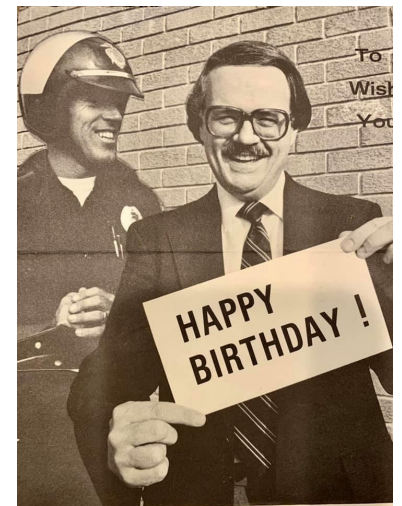


Friends About Town: **Deanna Woirhaye** is out and about taking and processing photos as best she can while under "Safer

At Home" orders.

Friends Travel: **Liz Ellis** hopes to have her three younger grandkids (ages 12, 10 and 8), with her at Lake Tahoe in early August. (Liz says she has to figure out if it will be safe for them first.) **JoNita Beede** went to Escondido to visit her sister **Lyn Gruber**.

Friends Flashback: Back in the 70's/80's, our pastor, **Klane Robison**, would have birthday cards made every year featuring his beloved Whittier. You might remember that in one he is hanging from the clock on Greenleaf/Philadelphia, and in this one he has been pulled over by Officer Stan Rees of the Whittier Police Department. His ticket, however, communicates something more festive! His daughter **Amy Robison Burke** says, "This one was during his unfortunate mustache stage, which thankfully didn't last very long." **Preston Mitchell** was the photographer and creator of his cards. Amy would love to see more of his birthday cards if anyone has them.



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!



At June Monthly Meeting on June 14, we gathered on Zoom and were provided minutes from May and the Business and Finance report in advance.

We discussed how we are living our faith in these times of crises. We discussed several ways that we can make Monthly Meeting minutes available to Friends prior to the next month's Meeting. We are pleased by our ability to meet with other meeting members on Zoom and would like to reach out to more F(f)riends.

The Trustees are coordinating CDC guidelines, as many of the organizations who rent our facilities would like to return. Trustees is dealing with many issues involving safe cleaning of the facilities before and after use.

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Meanderings, and Pondering a Group Study



Have you ever wanted to sit down and have a conversation with one of the great voices of contemporary literature? In the book, *40- Day Journey with Maya Angelou* by Henry French, the legendary wisdom of this well-known poet, educator, historian, actress, director and civil rights activist is clearly evident. Take a

spiritual journey with us and Maya Angelou as we ponder inspiring passages and are challenged by biblical passages and thought-provoking questions.

The first meeting of this group will be Wednesday, July 8 at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. You may purchase the book *40-Day Journey with Maya Angelou* if you wish your own copy. Used copies range from \$3 to \$8 and new copies are around \$13. However, it is not necessary to have the book on hand for this study. We will also discuss time and day of future meetings.

To receive a Zoom invitation, please email christianed_ffc@verizon.net or firstfriendswhittier@verizon.net or call the church office and leave a message on the answering machine (voice messages are picked up daily).

—Lynda Ladwig

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.

The Facing Bench

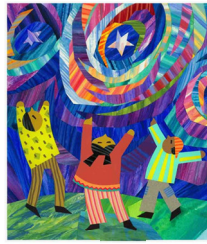
Distracted, displaced, disoriented and disturbed. I would say these words describe my condition these days. Disturbed, well, because the conditions in our world are...disturbing to say the least. Disoriented because that is the word psychologists use to describe what I feel in our time of uncertainty and lack of information about what each day will bring, much less the future. Displaced in time: some days go by so fast and others so slowly that I lose track of time and cannot remember what I did unless I write it down. Displaced in space: from my usual types and places of work, daily and weekly schedule and activities, and from people. Distracted because every little thing I try to get done seems to take five more steps than it should, which means I get lost in the jumble. I find myself going to the kitchen to get something and not only can't remember what I was going for, but end up in the office doing something "much more important," that I didn't even think about doing, much less set out to do.

But looking at it as "liminal" time and space, it is all good. I find myself stopping, looking and feeling each thing. Walking, I notice the flowers blooming in profusion and even an enormous blossom on a cactus—that I have never seen before. Cutting a little kumquat in even tinier little pieces I appreciate the smell, texture, color and taste of the fruit, and feel of the knife, and my hands that can manage it. Watching movies I never had time to see before and enjoying the art of the people who worked so hard to create them. Looking at cards and letters from friends—why did I save them? Ah! For just a time as this, to really read them and remember the people who took time to connect with me. Researching, educating and remaking myself in anti-racist attitudes and actions, and joining Ffriends for discussions about the long journey in dismantling unjust systems and building a community, a city, a nation, a world based on the true shalom God calls us to realize. Reading stories of people caring for people and poetry that speaks Truth. Letting my inner child play with paint and create cards to share in fun and joy.



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PEACE
CAMP
2020



COLORS OF PEACE

a free summer program for kids via Zoom
1st through 8th grade*

Open to all no matter where you are!

JULY 13- 17, 2020
10:00-11:30 a.m. each day

CONTACT CASSIE CARINGELLA AT
cassie.wfs@gmail.com or 562.500.9665

*as of fall 2020

'Monthly Meeting' continued from page 3

The Outreach Committee has approved sending Outreach Giving to several organizations, some in addition to those that receive Significant Giving from the Meeting. We continued to discuss recipients of Significant Giving funds. All Friends who would like to propose an organization or issue for us to consider for Significant Giving should email Presiding Clerk Deanna Woirhaye at fcclerk@woirhaye.com.

We have extended wi-fi into the Meeting House and are in the process of making the space functional for webcasting.

We discussed future endowments to Whittier Friends School.

Planned giving and faith promises are on a successful track but Friends are reminded that as we do not have a collection plate at the present time, unplanned gifts are welcome.

Our next Monthly Meeting will be on July 12 at 1:00 p.m.

'The Facing Bench' continued from page 3

Paul admonished the church in Philippi, "...beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Being distracted, displaced and disoriented has begun to help me put disturbed into a more God's eye perspective and purpose.



News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School wrapped up its 2019-20 school year remotely, with a few virtual festivities to celebrate everyone's hard work. On June 2, families were invited to attend a Trivia Night on Zoom, where attendees viewed a slide show presentation of 36 science, history, and literature questions reviewing this year's learning. For example, a shooting star is also known as a (join in, friends!) _____. Additionally, a _____ is a prediction made by a scientist. If you can answer those two questions, maybe you attended Whittier Friends School this year! Over half of our school families were able to attend our Trivia Event, and there was a lot of enjoyment seen on faces as the children showed off their knowledge to their parents. It was a unique kind of cumulative exam, and it was encouraging to see families come together for this 30-minute event.

On June 3, we offered a day-long virtual game day. Generally, the day before our last day of school is spent at the beach, so we wanted to offer something fun like that. Kids were able to attend four different 30-minute game sessions. Games included Boggle, "Build-a-Man" (imagine a friendly version of Hangman), Pictionary, and Tuku Tuku, a game where you have to think, within five seconds, of three items that match a category. We had a different number of children attend throughout the day and the children seemed to enjoy seeing their friends in a casual setting.

Finally, on June 4, we conducted our annual Recognition Ceremony, this time in a 30-minute virtual format. Again, more than half of our families were able to attend, as well as some representatives from our school committee and many extended relatives of the children in attendance. Again, using a slide show, we recognized our staff, our volunteers, our parents, and finally our children, with the unveiling of the class superlatives chosen by classmates. Each child was recognized for a special characteristic their classmates see in them. Dispersed throughout the slide show we showed photographs of the time spent before the sheltering-at-home, which made it especially fun for all in attendance.

Now we are in the process of virtual Summer Enrichment, offering two 30-minute games sessions each week, plus themed packets to practice skills. We have also sent home our 2nd Annual "Summer Adventures for Kids" which can also be accessed on our school website whittierfriendschool.org. These

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'Whittier Friends School' continued from page 4

adventures are tailored for families who are staying home. Play along with us! You too can complete these adventures, and if you'd enjoy sharing your escapades on social media, use hashtags #WFSsummer20 and #whittierfriendsschool and tag @whittierfriendsschool on Facebook and Instagram.

We are also pursuing plans of re-opening our school's campus in the next couple of months. We are carefully studying the news, plans that other schools are using, suggestions by the CDC, and input from Friends Council on Education. We are confident that the size of our school will make it possible to attend to the needs of our school's children while providing a safe place for our staff and students. Applications are available for new and returning children, both in elementary and preschool classes. If you would like to financially support our school and find out about our financial aid opportunities for our school families who are feeling economic stress, we appreciate your gifts in the form of checks, mailed to Whittier Friends School or First Friends Church (memo line: Whittier Friends School) or through Paypal at finance@whittierfriendsschool.org. You can also find a "donate now" button on our school website.

—Cassie Caringella

'Onward' continued from page 1

We recognized several young Friends who graduated from their respective schools this year. Each will receive the book *Seeds that Change the World: Essays on Quakerism, Spirituality, Faith and Culture* by Debbie Humphries. They are:

Anathea Woirhay—Graduated from Orange County School of the Arts, and entering the University of Redlands.

Amara Overmyer—Graduated from Los Altos High School, and entering Fordham University in New York.

Charley Aguirre—Graduated from Whittier College with a Bachelors' Degree in anthropology and hopes to find work with a non-profit organization or in the field of social work.

Ethan Purkiss—Completed his certification as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician).

Shane Purkiss—received his Masters in educational technology from Azusa Pacific University.

Congratulations and blessings to you all!

'Scholarships' continued from page 1

family, he has participated in projects such as Heal the Bay and Dig Deep which continue to fuel his interest in the environment and sustainability.

The Davidson Scholarship

From funds endowed by friends and family of Larry, Lucy and George Davidson, we have the opportunity to annually encourage and affirm youth who have been observed contributing and sharing their gifts and talents with the meeting and in our community. In addition to artistic contributions, gifts of love and dependability, steadfast service, faithful attendance, gifts of humor and a joyful spirit are all areas of consideration for this award.

Our 2020 Davidson recipients are Elyse Woirhay and Charley Aguirre.

Elyse has contributed to and participated in the meeting in many ways during her lifetime including youth group activities, ushering, and helping with work projects such as helping her dad bring wi-fi into the Meeting House.

Charley just graduated from Whittier College and came to First Friends as a choir scholar. Charley not only shares a beautiful alto voice with us but is faithful in attendance even when the choir is not called.

Both Elyse and Charley have deep insights and caring hearts and it is a delight to watch them share their gifts of friendship, laughter and service.

Our love and best wishes to you all!



JULY

Travis Allen
Eric Bald
Carrin Bouchard
Cassie Caringella
Jon-Paul Cook
Allison Coop
Amanda Cramer
Harry Eggleton
Lynda Ladwig
Elinore Petoletti
Jane Takata
Patty Tillman
Marci Vaden
Don Votaw
Julia Weitkamp

AUGUST

Bishop Aereaux
Hannah Aguirre
Trevor Allen
Loletta Barrett
Ellie Bewley
George Bouchard
Savanah Burke
Mary Case
Josh Fant
Linda Flournoy
Pat Garland
Laura Kaneko
Alexander Marshburn
Emma McIntosh
Jane Moody
Bruce Nelson
Tish Purkiss
Gloria Rice
Sandra Robison
Jennifer Root
Rob Settlege
Bonnie Streeter
Mel Sturr
Tom Van Dorn
Marylinn Wheatley
Deanna Woirhay
Isaac Wright
Philip Wright

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!

Return Service Requested
Postmaster: send address changes to:
The Living Light
Whittier First Friends Church
13205 Philadelphia St
Whittier, CA 90601-4384

Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Whittier California

The Living Light
 USPS 316-320
 Volume 59 Number 7
 Issue Date: July 1, 2020

The Living Light is published monthly by First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia Street, Whittier, California, 90601-4303. Periodical postage paid at Whittier, California.

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It's Summer and We're Still at 11:00 a.m. Join Us for Meeting for Worship Via Zoom

To give us continuity and avoid confusion with our Zoom worshippers, we are keeping Meeting for Worship at 11:00 a.m. rather than going to a summer schedule.

Our Meetings for Worship via Zoom continue to be well-attended with Friends from not only all over California but also from Arkansas, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington and, well, a lot of places.

Quite honestly, it didn't seem possible for Meeting for Worship through electronics to be so gathered, yet we have had some very rich open worship time listening for the Spirit together and vocal ministry that has been moving. We have also been able to include beautiful music and worship with fellow members of the Western Association of the Religious Society of Friends in Berkeley and Bakersfield.

Through it all we have seen, felt and affirmed that Spirit is moving among us and that of God is present within and between us, connecting us always. If you have not yet joined us with your computer, tablet or smartphone, please do! Call the church office (we're picking up messages daily) and we will make sure you receive an email with the Zoom meeting number.



*Please
 remember in
 prayer
 those Friends
 unable to
 worship with
 us physically
 on a regular
 basis.*

Peggy Anderson
Jack Carlisle
Rose Nedrow
Kathy Robison
Ann Smith
Ami Troedsson
Carol Urner
Gerry Wolfe