



Volume 60 Number 8

Whittier First Friends Church

Ninth Month, 2021

Hands of Peace Across Boundaries

The Meeting has joyfully made two substantial donations to the Roots for Peace project and the San Diego Chapter of the American Friends Service Committee. These donations were made possible by the estate of Paul Partington.

Roots for Peace, administrated by AFSC, utilizes urban farming, leadership development, and community organizing to address health and economic inequities. Through this approach, Roots for Peace supports community members to organize a food system that improves access to healthy and cultural foods, rebuilds ancestral connection to the earth, and increases collective power and self-determination.

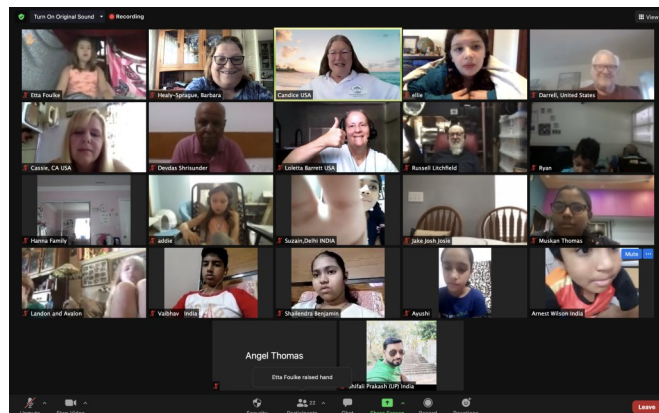
Continued on page 6



Making progress towards full internet connectivity!

Peace Camp Goes International

For the second year in a row, the global pandemic moved Peace Camp online. As this year's theme was "Seeking Peace Around the World," the Peace Camp committee felt a leading to take advantage of the benefits of the Zoom format, by inviting participants from far and wide. In addition to last year's campers from communities in the United States, invitations were extended across the globe.



A special thanks goes to committee member, Darrell Warren, for cultivating contacts with Quakers in Switzerland, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Geneva, the Congo, the Philippines, India, and the United Kingdom. These efforts resulted in several participants from various locations in India, a peace poem submission from Geneva, a slide show from the Philippines, and a guest speaker, Ellis Brooks, from Britain Yearly Meeting to name a few.

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

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

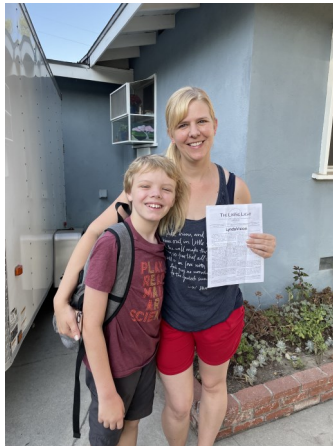
Dear Friends, It's been a long summer since we last reported on Friends' comings and goings. I'm grateful for all the news. Welcome back, everyone!

Friends About Town: **Marina Harris** is returning from a successful singing engagement with Glow Opera Company in South Carolina. **Alyssa & Clint Harris** have moved into Charlotte, NC, and are expecting a baby boy around the end of the year. **Iris & Dave Harris** report they have been "bums" during the pandemic and have accomplished nothing of note except happy survival.

Friends Move: Prayers of thanksgiving for our Friends who have recovered. **Barbara Cote** is doing very well and moving from rehab to assisted living at Brookdale in Ontario. **Jean Sponsler** is now living with her son and daughter-in-law **Jim & Lori Hopkins**. Prayers for peace, healing, and relief from pain for **Ami Troedsson**. Ami had a bad fall recently and broke hip, arm, and leg. Her move to a rehabilitation/ assisted care facility after discharge from the hospital will mean a new permanent home.

Dave Kingrey is walking and off all pain medications and hopes for full recovery over the next few months. It's been a treat to see **Dave & Carol** at Meeting for Worship on Zoom. He called to thank friends for their prayers and loving support.

School and Work: **Landon Caringella** began middle school last month at Benton Middle School, a visual and performing arts magnet school in La Mirada. He is very excited to be taking drama and robotics. Here are Cassie and Landon on the first day of school with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels" (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed).



Cedric Woirhaye is returning to Rio Hondo College, **Anathea Woirhaye** is going back to the University of Redlands, and **Elyse Woirhaye** is a freshman at Troy High School in Fullerton. They will try to get involved with the Cyber Patriots team (cyber security) and Science Olympiad this year.

Friends Travel: The **Caringella** family (**Cassie, Steven, Landon, Avalon, and Hudson**) visited the Colonial Manor Inn in Springfield, OH this summer, a bed & breakfast owned and operated by Steven's aunt and uncle, Debbie & Brent. While there, they got to spend time with Steven's cousin, her husband, and their five children, who live on the grounds. The cousins and second cousins had a great time bonding over hiking trails, the reservoir and water park, epic games of hide and seek, and the fantastic breakfasts cooked by Aunt Debbie. One of the highlights other than seeing family, was the Caringella crew's first time spotting fireflies! **Liz Ellis** just returned from visiting her daughter, **Toya**, in Leadville, CO which is 10,000 ft. elevation in the Rockies. She is planning one last trip of the summer to Lake Tahoe in September, her favorite time of the year there. **Weston Van Dorn** and his girlfriend, **Rebekah**, took a road trip to Vancouver, BC, Canada where Rebekah is starting grad school to get her Masters degree in counseling and art therapy. Their sightseeing included the Golden Gate Bridge, and they had fun checking out different vegan food establishments along the way. After dropping Rebekah off at her new apartment, Weston picked up **Mindy** at SeaTac. On the drive back to Moreno Valley, they enjoyed the company and accommodations of our F/friends **Christina and Mary Coop** in Seattle, **Sharon & Dale Rollins** in Tigard, OR, and **Harry & Anne Eggleton** in Cambria. Here are Mindy and Weston with *The Living Light* in front of legendary Powell's Books in Portland.



Continued on page 6

This Month in Meeting for Worship

September 5	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Worship</i>
September 12	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Gifts</i>
September 19	Loletta Barrett brings the message <i>Abundant Ministry</i>
September 26	Darrell Warren brings the message <i>My Grandmother's Neighbor</i>



At Monthly Meetings in July and August, we welcomed our new tenant Lighthouse Church. The kitchen has been painted and has had new lighting installed.

We affirmed gifts to American Friends Service Committee (see page 1) made possible by the estate of Paul Partington. We are taking part in Friends United Meeting Summer Project for the benefit of the Lagulu Mission Hospital in Kenya. Russ Litchfield and Darrell Warren are covering office duties for the time being until our hiring process bears fruit. A Hospitality Group made up of the clerks from all committees is meeting to design procedures for safety when we return to Meeting for Worship in person.

Monthly Meeting for September is September 12, at rise of meeting on Zoom.



Tim Colohan, Senior Dharma Teacher at Kwan Um School of Zen, brought a message concerning "the Heart of the Buddha" on July 11, as part of our summer worship series.

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

It seems we are in a "season of change" but change is always "in season." Even when things look the same, seeds are germinating and things are happening to prepare the way for something new to emerge. This is true in our Meeting—and for our whole lives! Life passages occur reminding us of

change: the new school year, driver's license, graduation, marriage, new job, new home, a friend or family member is born, another passes to new life. If we sit still and focus in the moment, everything might seem to be standing still, but that is an illusion. Change happens constantly. How we live into it makes all the difference.

Our Meeting continues to do change well. Not without a few bumps and bruises, mind you. But we continue to hold to our course—a Christian people, called to listen, gathered to seek peace, and sent forth to serve. Our center is God, our model is Jesus Christ, our tools are listening and peace, and our goal is living and serving where the Spirit leads. Love is our guiding Light.

As individuals, we are called to continue a journey of change and growth in faith. "The Human Library" is facilitating this in an interesting way. They create "libraries where you can borrow a person instead of a book to listen to their life story for 30 minutes." The goal is to fight prejudice. Every person has a title: "unemployed," "refugee," "bipolar," and so on—but if you listen, you realize how much you shouldn't "judge a book by its cover."

So this raises two queries for me. First, what book would you choose to check out? Someone might respond with the name of a celebrity or hero—but that is not the point. What "book" might challenge you or open your mind to a different life experience? Someone whose life experience is completely different than yours? Perhaps you are challenged to see that of God in them? The second query is what would your "title" be? You are a beloved and unique child of God and have much to share. How is your life different from others? What are your challenges and opportunities? What experiences do you have to challenge and invite others to try on a new perspective? On which shelf would I find you? You know I hang out on the science fiction aisle but I do love mysteries!



Russ' Reflections



As we move slowly toward resuming in-person activity, I have been reflecting on the way music will contribute to our Meetings for Worship. The amount of music has been truncated this past year, so one question will be what music will most enhance the experience of those attending in person while still meeting the needs of remote attenders? Will we be able to sing together safely? Who will provide music for worship? Can we depend on music from our section leaders? Two are not returning this year, so we are seeking a soprano and a tenor. Is it time to reinstitute the Friends Choir? Vaccinations and wearing masks will be necessary. Will we still need to pre-record anything?

I am envisioning some sort of instrumental (wordless) centering music, followed by an opening hymn or song sung/hummed by everyone; a musical offering provided by our section leaders or the Friends Choir, and a closing hymn or song sung/hummed by everyone. Some sort of instrumental sending music or postlude might be useful or not. Initially, I would like to focus more on music for the whole congregation and less on preparing choral music.

Questions for the music-makers of the Meeting: who is willing to return to the Friends Choir—or join for the first time? Which evening is best for rehearsal, Wednesdays or Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. with a Sunday call time of 10:15 a.m.? Or, would a Sunday-only schedule be appropriate for us to ease back in: Sunday rehearsal at 9:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. with a break before Meeting for Worship? Are there handbell ringers that would like to meet weekly to practice for an hour? Five or six ringers and regular attendance would be necessary. Does anyone who plays an instrument have an interest in contributing music for Meeting for Worship on occasion?

There is no start-up timetable yet, but we need to start planning so we have sufficient time to prepare in-person music. Please communicate your interest and schedule availability to me as soon as possible. Please send email to musicffc@verizon.net, or call or text (562) 309-5461. Thank you.



News from Whittier Friends School

Whittier Friends School has begun another new school year, and we look forward to the fresh promises of fall. Our preschool and elementary classes are open for learning, with before and after school hours care available. History and science topics this year are ancient history and biomes, dinosaurs, and ecology, and we look forward to all the reading, arts and crafts, and activities surrounding these topics. Our staff and students are now old pros at going to school during a pandemic. We are prepared for all the procedures, like facial masks, social distancing, and doing daily health checks, and we are prepared to hold our family events virtually for the time being. It's a good thing we were already accustomed to frequent hand washing before all of this happened!

Our school continues to rely on fundraising to support our budget. During the next few weeks, invitations are going out to support our Annual Giving Campaign. Please consider adding us to your regular giving. If you do not receive an invitation, please email Cassie at cassie.wfs@gmail.com.

There are also other ways you can support us. Scrip gift card orders are placed monthly. You can email Lea at lea.wfs@gmail.com for information on scrip, which are gift cards where you receive the face value that you pay for while the company donates to us. It is a great way to budget your monthly spending or purchase gifts. You can also purchase scrip and then donate it back to the school to help with classroom expenses. We especially appreciate amazon.com and Petco scrip. Please visit our Amazon wish list.

We thank our Meeting community for the ceaseless support, and look forward to sharing with you all of the exciting things we do this year. And remember to refer us to local families seeking a new school!

—Cassie Caringella



'Peace Camp' continued from page 1

The Zoom sessions were held from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time, which presented a significant challenge to participants on other continents. Those from India joined at 10:30 p.m. their time, and many stayed until midnight, and still went to school the next morning.



A family from the Philippines sent us a slide show, as it would have been the middle of the night in their country. They had their very own Peace Camp as well. Other challenges included language and internet issues, yet despite these minor obstacles, the Spirit prevailed; lasting Quaker connections were made, and all who

attended were blessed.

The daily schedule included a geography lesson, songs, a read-aloud, inspirational videos, a craft, a quote of the day, and passport stamps. All activities were centered on supporting Peace Camp's mission of "encouraging and enabling youth to promote an understanding of peace and justice, appreciate themselves and others, cooperate and work together in group settings, manage conflict and impatience, and appreciate our environment."



Special thanks go to Russ Litchfield, Marilyn Fant, and Allyson Coop for producing our traditional Peace Camp songs videos and to Barbara Healy-Sprague for recording herself reading and demonstrating the crafts as well as making a daily summary video.



Lavelle Basham
Mary Boltz
Joanne Camp
Hudson Caringella
Landon Caringella
Anne Eggleton
Martha Fopiano
Lyn Gruber
Randy Hays

Sharon Huffaker
Bonnie Lowenstam-Grace
Susanne Mitchell
Lea Thirkettle
Julie Urner
Mindy Van Dorn
Chris Votaw
Gwen Woirhaye
Mahlon Woirhaye

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!

The highlights of the week included individual and group musical performances and a psalm reading by youths joining from India on Tuesday, a virtual tour of the United Nations with a live docent on Wednesday, and an age-appropriate anti-war presentation on Friday from Ellis Brooks of Britain Yearly Meeting that prompted the kids to think about how they can prevent war, even at such a young age.

Throughout the week, the children shared the amazing artwork they had created. If you wish to view a sample of the week's activities, visit our page on the church website: firstfriendswhittier.org/peace.



Continued on page 7

'Friendly Fare' continued from page 2

In late July, **Candice, Bill, and Ashley Ryder** made a mid-week getaway to Pismo Beach with side trips to Solvang and Santa Barbara. In early August, Candice visited a friend in Mendocino County with stops in the Anderson Valley, Fort Bragg, Mendocino County Botanical Gardens, and Hopland, to name a few. Meanwhile, **Kat Ryder** visited friends on the East Coast and enjoyed attractions in New Jersey, New York, and Myrtle Beach, SC.

Friends Remember: Friend **Barbara Koch** let us know that **Preston Mitchell** passed to new life in August, three weeks short of his 104th birthday. He was ready and at peace. **Brendon Woirhaye** recalls. "I really liked some of the early photos of Whittier Friends School (the Growing Place) taken by Preston when I was a child there, and remember him taking photos. He also has photos hanging in the hallway in the church office." **Barbara Adams Fuller** called to let us know that her father, **Albert Langley**, passed away in August at his home in Pasadena. Al was a recorded Friends minister, and he & his wife **Carol** transferred their membership from Pasadena Friends to First Friends in the '90s, and worshipped with us until health concerns prevented their participation. Prayers for the family and friends of **John Maurer**, who also passed in August. John was a member of the Berkeley Friends Church

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. See you next month!

'American Friends Service Committee' continued from page 1

Crystal Gonzalez, the director of Roots for Peace, is committed to improving the Los Angeles community. recently the South Central neighborhood, which includes one of the local gardens, was in crisis caused by the explosion of illegal fireworks by the Los Angeles Police Department. On July 18 at rise of meeting, Crystal spoke and answered Friends' questions about Roots for Peace and the explosion's aftermath.

Loletta Barrett, Deanna Woirhaye, and Barbara Healey-Sprague recently had the pleasure of visiting the South Central farm. They learned how Roots for Peace empowers the neighborhood to advocate for the community, and teaches residents how to grow food in personal and collective gardens, including a 6,400 square foot urban farm.



The San Diego Chapter of American Friends Service Committee conducts a program on the Mexican border to advance the human rights and self-determination of migrant communities. Pedro Rios, director of the US-Mexico Border Project spoke and answered questions at rise of meeting on August 1.

It was such a wonderful pleasure to observe how our church community helped these AFSC projects in California, and how we are building future relationships with Roots for Peace and the US-Mexico Border Project. We are currently planning a future day to work on the farm.

—Barbara Healey-Sprague

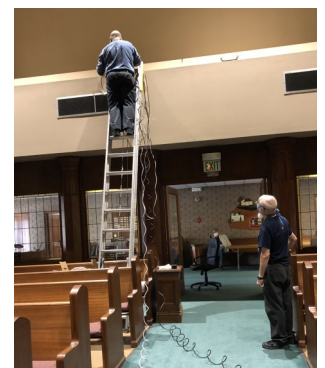
Update TECHNOLOGY

The Meeting's Technology Group has been working hard to bring technical updates to our facilities. Our next objective is to bring Meeting for Worship on Zoom live from the Meeting House on September 12.

The long term goal is to be ready for the time when we can do a hybrid Meeting for Worship, inviting those who are ready to come back to the Meeting House, and sharing Sunday morning on Zoom with those not in the area or unable to join us in person.

The clerks of our committees have been meeting to prepare the processes for in-person and hybrid worship. Things aren't ready yet, but we're making progress and it'll be sooner than you think.

—Brendon Woirhaye



'Peace Camp' continued from page 5

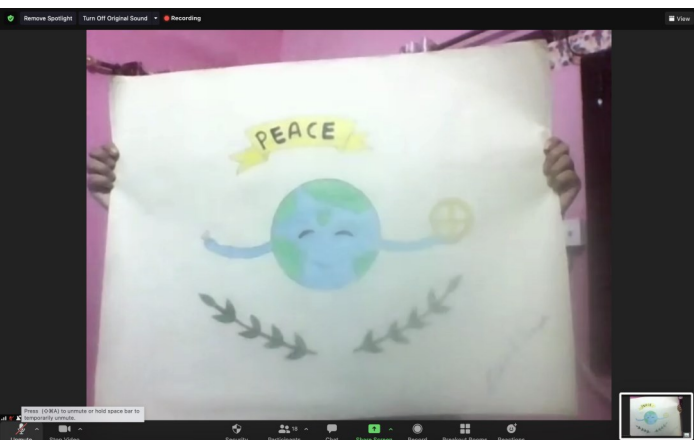


For the second year in a row, no fee was charged for Peace Camp participation with all supplies provided. This year, there was an added expense of shipping to some participants internationally. Fortunately, Peace Café, our annual fundraiser, will be held remotely on Saturday, September 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (that's local time!).

This year's event will be a livestream concert which will include music, poems, art, and fellowship. In addition, you will see scenes from this year's camp. All funds raised will support the continuing mission of Peace Camp so be sure to mark your calendar for what promises to be a memorable evening. If you can't attend and want to provide financial support, send your check to the church office with Peace Camp on the memo line.

While we hope to return to an in-person format next year, the committee recognizes the unique opportunities that remote Peace Camp has offered. We hope to continue to strengthen and renew the connections that were made and look forward to future peace-making opportunities.

—Candice Ryder



**Quakers in Unity
New From Friends
Around the World**

Right Sharing of World Resources—In an average year, Right Sharing of World Resources Field Representatives visit with multiple women's groups to offer training in business and group dynamics. They also notice areas outside of the women's businesses where they could be helpful. As the pandemic continues, our field representatives have been attuned to the needs of the women's groups. They have provided trainings on sanitation, mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing. When the first wave of Covid-19 hit the global community and shut down many businesses, our field representatives in all three countries requested food aid. While the mission of RSWR is to provide grants to women's groups, the Board and the field representatives agreed that our commitment to the women extends into times when their businesses are shuttered in quarantine. Pauline Ayodi is a field representative in Kenya. During the pandemic, she noticed that disaster preparedness was vital to women's ongoing success. "I realized that what women and other people went through in their economic lives, after the pandemic struck the world, was partly because of lack of emergency preparedness. I thereby took on the burden to get knowledge of what we can do in the future in case of later emergency disaster events."

Pauline enrolled in an online course to learn how to prepare for disasters, with the goal of sharing this information with the women with whom she works. "If the community can be alert and prepared, including the women we deal with, we can minimize damages and improve on the recovery and sustainability of their projects as well."

www.rswr.org



Pauline distributing masks and soap.

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Elisabeth Elliot..... Editor
 Candice Ryder..... Copy Editor
 Loletta Barrett..... Pastor
 Russell Litchfield.....
Dir of Music Ministries & Organist
 Lorenzo Mora Custodian

Telephone 562-698-9805
 FAX 562-698-1127
www.firstfriendswhittier.org

Whittier Friends School Staff
 Candice Ryder School Committee Clerk
 562-945-1654



at Whittier First Friends Church, a Quaker Meeting

Join us LIVE online
 Saturday September 25
 6:30—8:30 p.m.

- Art
- Music
- Poetry
- Storytelling
- Photography
- Social Justice

To join the event and donate. For the benefit of Peace Camp, visit irstfriendswhittier.org and click on the link for PEACE CAFÉ



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

Peggy Anderson
 Rose Nedrow
 Kathy Robison
 Ami Troedsson
 Carol Urner
 Gerry Wolfe