

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 09

Whittier First Friends Church

10th Month, 2024

Deanna Woirhaye Shares Her Adventures in South Africa



This past August, Deanna Woirhaye attended the Plenary Meeting of Friends World Committee on Consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa. This gathering of Quaker representatives from all over the world meets once every few years to conduct FWCC business and participate in worship, fellowship, and exchange of ideas. On Sept. 11 at All Friends Fellowship Night, Deanna shared her travel challenges as well as photographs she captured during her visits to destinations after the

conference. Her narrative was preceded by an abundant potluck which was attended by numerous Friends in addition to friends and family invited by Deanna.

As an introduction to the slide show, Deanna shared that she was able to stop in New York City to visit her daughter, Anatheia, (who is there for a nine-month internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art), prior to embarking on her 17-hour plane ride to Johannesburg. She also shared some of the challenges she encountered along the way, including close connections, delayed flights, and lengthy wait times. Additionally, on her return trip, she made it home safely despite similar challenges without her phone, (which, sadly, had been stolen). She reflected that these obstacles were worth overcoming to be able to obtain the once-in-a-lifetime photos seen in her presentation (although some great pictures had been on her phone, too).

Deanna's post-conference adventures included stops at Kruger National Park, Graskop Gorge Adventure Center and God's Window (both featuring panoramic mountain views), Bothongo Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve, as well as an elephant sanctuary, a national botanical garden, and the Cradle of Humankind

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Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, Every month I struggle a little wondering (and hoping for) whose news I will receive for the next Friendly Fare. And I have to admit, I truly feel blessed when friends choose to share something from their lives with me so that I can share with all of you.

Friends Celebrate: **Ellie Bewley** will be honored when Earlham College holds a dedication ceremony for the “Ellie Bewley Softball Stadium” on October 19. Ellie played field hockey, tennis, and basketball all 4 years at Earlham. She was a campus leader as president of the Women’s Recreation Association. As a senior, Ellie was named “Earlham College Girl of the Year”, and she was inducted into the Earlham College Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994. Ellie is currently a member of the Earlham Board of Trustees and the Earlham School of Religion Board of Advisors.

Friends About Town: **Milt** and **Dan Wright** at-



tended the 12th annual Car Show at La Habra Christian Church in August. Milt won a *Best Antique Car* trophy for his 1921 Studebaker. Milt brought his trophy to one of the summer picnics to share. **Tina (Beede) Post** shares

that on October 31, the Harborlites Chorus will be competing at the International Competition of Sweet Adelines in Kansas City, MO. It has been six years (due to the pandemic) since they have been on the international stage. They are looking forward to their return. Singing truly gives Tina’s heart joy. (That sounds a lot like her sister, Jo Nita.) Tina also continues to attend Apple Seed Friends Meeting on Zoom. They meet in Cotati, CA. **Brendon, Deanna, Cedric, Elyse Woirhaye,** and their friend **Hunter**

joined **Mahlon** at Green Valley Lake for Labor Day, enjoying a temperate weekend before the mountains caught on fire. They are relieved that the Line fire has been held off at Running Springs, and Green Valley Lake will likely be spared.

Friends At Home: The **ABCDE Woirhaye** family has been hosting four lovely kittens abandoned on their back porch by their feral mother. They are very cute and affectionate, and looking for permanent homes.

Friends Move: **Judy Browning** sold her Whittier townhouse and is now living in a retirement community in La Mirada. It is close enough to Whittier to allow her to continue her friendships and associations within the town. Her new contact information is available from the church office. **Iris Harris’s** daughter, **Marina Harris,** and her husband **Marc Hirsch** will be moving in with Iris on October 15. They’re all looking forward to a full house again. Really.

Friends Travel: **Deanna Woirhaye** traveled to South Africa for the FWCC plenary. Per **Brendon,** she came back. **Lynda Ladwig** traveled with family to a beautiful area in the Poconos to attend granddaughter **Krystal’s** wedding to **Christopher Leed** in September. They were blessed to spend a lot of time getting to know new extended family members and friends, and make new memories.

Bella Sturr traveled to Washington DC over the long Labor Day weekend to meet up with friends and roommates from college. She had



a wonderful time with non-stop fun, but unfortunately came back with Covid. She bounced back quickly and is much better. **Laura Torres**

Loletta's Lines

In 1 Kings 19:11-12 we read: "Spirit said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain... for the Creator is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind... but the Presence was not in the wind; and



after the wind an earthquake, but the Holy One was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Divine was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence." That is when Elijah heard God speak.

There is no doubt in our busy world that centering down and listening in silence together in Meeting for Worship can help us block out distractions, pay attention, hear and experience the Presence. But we know that is not the only way or place. Where do you go? In what way do you hear God speak?

Here are a few places and ways I heard God speak lately. Watching my kitties play and having them cuddle with me. Receiving rare, unexpected, and unconnected texts from my sister and aunt, on the same day for two completely different, joyful reasons. Warm hugs at friends' memorial services from their families after long separations. Remembering visits with a friend and her horses. Familiar beloved voices and regular check-in conversation with (F)friends. Feeling coolness in the air after the harsh heat. Reading the introduction to the *First Nations Version; an Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* and *Healing Haunted Histories*. Experiencing sincere actions meant to build trust and reconcile a relationship. Hearing a "cheerful, uplifting and loud" organ eulogy. Tasting anything grown by God and made with the love of Friends. Seeing hummingbirds hover over the flowers. Dreaming dreams with strange and interesting messages and people who have touched my

mind, heart, and soul and gone on, but never left. And sitting in silence in the chapel, fellowship hall, and meetinghouse with you.

What I heard is what I need and what I think we all need to hear: "You are loved, you are enough, live in my peace, act in my love, I am here always."

Not every moment of life can be an Elijah mountain-top experience, but there is Light in every moment.



Friends Committee
on National Legislation

Lobbying with Quakers

FCNL Advocacy

Team Update

Our Advocacy Team has been busy. We recently visited the offices of both U.S. Senators, dropping off information about FCNL's current advocacy issue. On Friday, September 20, we also joined together with the visiting FCNL Field Team for a wonderful dinner prepared by George and Carrin Bouchard. The Field Team members came from as far away as Alaska, Montana, and Washington, D.C. In addition to the warm fellowship, each of those present shared a little about themselves and told what FCNL meant to them. These heartfelt accounts were inspiring. On the following day, several on the Advocacy Team hosted a table at the Pride Festival at Whittier College, where we shared information about Quakers. Many conversations were deeply spiritual. Finally, we invite any of you interested to the next FCNL National Call on Wednesday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m. in the church library. For more details, please ask Russ Litchfield or Darrell Warren.

Russ's Reflections

On the Importance of Silence



I have been reflecting on the importance of silence lately. It is one of the central hallmarks of traditional Quaker worship. We are admonished to listen for God's leading, but how can we hear the still small inner voice if we are not quiet to hear it? Another distinctive feature of Friends is that our silence in Meeting for Worship is where we listen together for God to speak to us; it is less about individuals and more about the assembled meeting connecting with the Spirit.

Whittier Friends love words, and we have an abundance of them in our Meetings for Worship. I often note the time of each worship element in my bulletin and have discovered that spoken words lately average between 35 and 40 minutes. Our music times out at about 12-15 minutes, not counting preludes and postludes, which bring it to about 20 minutes. Our open worship times seem to hover around 20 minutes. The centering silence is quiet, though the longer open worship has had much vocal ministry the last month or six weeks. [This morning, 9/22, there was no vocal ministry, and I actually was able to deeply center a couple of minutes before Loletta closed the open worship time.]

Silence is an important ingredient in music. We have notes, but we also have rests. Humans require breath, and the texts we sing require breaths, also, in order that the words and ideas don't run together into gibberish. Organs are capable of producing continuous sound without pause. I find that some organists never leave spaces or breaths when they lead hymns. It is very unsettling when the sound never stops. I try to lift my hands, as the

text requires, to allow for those singing to breathe and to separate the ideas so they can clearly be comprehended. I hope that you find it comfortable and meaningful to sing with my leadership.

I have a quote posted above my file cabinets full of music that says, "The closer to silence, the closer to God." It is a reminder to me that pauses are necessary and important for those who sing, who pray, who listen for God. I would encourage Friends to test their impulses to speak out of the silence of open worship. Is the message for you alone, or are your words a channel for God to speak to the gathered meeting? If so, can you convey the message in only a few words?

I think it is important for Friends to be able to share their thoughts, experiences, and stories with the meeting. Sharing is the way we get to know each other more deeply, and we can gain insights when we hear ideas expressed by others. We are going to try to provide an opportunity for conversation (and food!) after Meeting for Worship on Sundays, beginning October 6th. Bring some simple food to share and join others in Fellowship Hall for Food and Conversation. This is something early Christians did regularly. I am hopeful that this will become a regular activity in addition to Monthly Meeting Sundays and that you will consider joining the conversation.

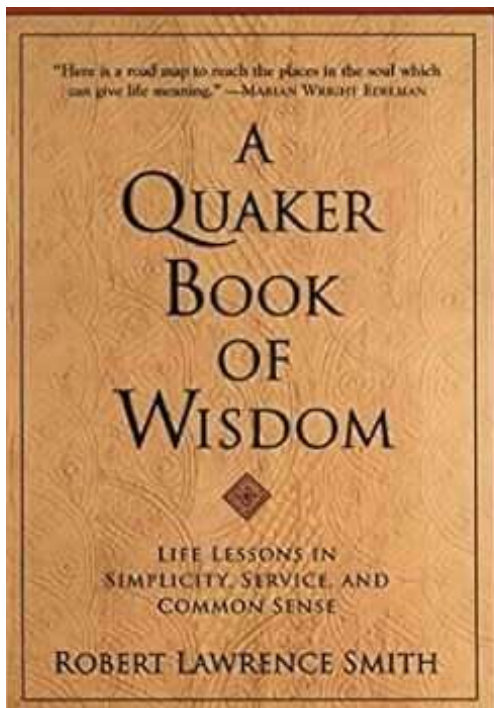
Friendly Fare, continued from page 2

had a wonderful visit with **Emlyn** in London the last week of August. She saw Kew Gardens, the pub which was featured in the TV series *Ted Lasso*, and she ended the trip on the south coast to see the Seven Sisters chalk cliffs near Dover where she walked 19,000 steps to view them.

Friends Sharing News: Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news at lealouw@gmail.com, or deliver it to me at church on Sunday. See you

The Sunday Morning Adult Class has resumed (9:30 am in the Library.)

Candice Ryder will facilitate a study of **A Quaker Book of Wisdom** by **Robert Lawrence Smith**.



Taking his inspiration from the teaching of the first Quaker, George Fox, and from his own nine generations of Quaker forebears,

Smith speaks to all of us who are seeking a way to make our lives simpler, more meaningful, and more useful. Beginning with the Quaker belief that "There is that of God in every person," Smith explores the ways in which we can harness the inner light of God that dwells in each of us to guide the personal choices and challenges we face every day. How to live and speak truthfully. How to listen for, trust, and act on our conscience. How to make our work an expression of the best that is in us. His book culminates with a moving letter to his grandchildren which imparts ten lessons for "letting your life speak."

In addition to the book study, Loletta will conduct a Bible discussion on the **fourth Sunday of the month** focusing on seeking the meaning and relevance to our lives today of stories found in the Bible. We encourage you to join us whenever you can. If you can't attend in person, join us on Zoom!



News from Whittier Friends School

Grand Pals Day at Whittier Friends School resulted in 25 guests (grandparents and others) present on Friday, September 6. "Welcome to Our



Zoo" was our theme.

(Sometimes it feels like schools are full of monkeys, right?!) Within this theme, chil-

dren and their guests read together, played together, learned together, and did arts & crafts together. The day culminated with having lunch together of pasta, fruit, and bread. We were so happy to have guests on campus, and even though the day reached a blistering 108 degrees, a cool time was had!

Back to School Sunday, also known as Whittier Friends School Sunday, will occur on Sunday, October 20, this year, with the theme, "Walking in truth, walking in legacy." We look forward to kicking off our 50th anniversary year with this combined Meeting for Worship, as we celebrate what it means to be a child of Whittier Friends School. Our relationship with our founders, Whittier First Friends Church, is special to us, and we hope we have a great turn out that day, in person and on Zoom! Be sure to join us.

LGBTQ+ Center Ribbon Cutting Opening



On Sept. 21, the opening of The Greater Whittier LGBTQ+ Community Center on Painter Ave. was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event featured music, giveaways, and remarks by Supervisor Janice Hahn and Assemblymember Lisa Calderon who teamed up to secure funding for the renovation of a portion of the county health building there. The center will be operated by LA-CADA to provide essential services and resources including youth services, a drop-in center, mental health support, and substance use disorder treatment. They also want to foster a sense of community through cultural events, social gatherings, and health and wellness activities, creating a safe and welcoming space where everyone can thrive.

Among the dozens of attendees were members of First Friends Church, Friends Committee on National Legislation Field Committee and staff, Whittier Area Clergy Association, and the Mission Collaborative.

Recognizing that First Friends Church was not only the founding church of Whittier, but

also an open and affirming faith community, Pastor Loletta was invited to offer the prayer for the event. Her opening remarks included an invitation to join in respectfully “acknowledging that we are present on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Gabrielino-Tongva peoples.” She also recognized that it was International Peace Day. Peace Day, “a day for humanity to commit and recommit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.”

She went on to explain, “In 1887 Friends were led by God to build First Friends Church, a Quaker meeting, the city of Whittier and Whittier College. Those Friends intentionally planned, invited, and welcomed other people and faith communities in order to create a diverse community. Today Friends continue to support the beautiful richness found in a diverse community of all of God’s people.”

“We endeavor, and encourage others to Be patterns, be examples in all places...so that our ... [presence] and life [speak]... with and to [everyone without bias, prejudice or discrimination]... to be peaceful and welcoming, acknowledging and encouraging that of God in everyone; so we will be a blessing to them and the presence of God in them blesses us.”

“We believe there is that of God in every person, that when one child suffers, all suffer, and that the Light of God is around us in all of Creation. An opening prayer is often called an invocation. Since God cannot be contained in any space, creed, or people, we do not pray to invoke the Presence. Instead our prayers invoke our awareness of the Presence within and around and connecting us.” Then, after the manner of Friends, she invited attendees to join in a few moments of silence in order to listen to the spirit of God prior to offering the prayer.

Remembering Dave Harris

January 31, 1942 - August 1, 2024



David Clinton Harris was born on January 31, 1942 to Clinton and Flora (née Honeyman) Harris. Dave grew up in Whittier, graduated from Whittier High School in 1963, and attended Rio Hondo College and UCLA for a short time, along with his good friend, musician Steve Gillette. Dave was always fascinated by pipe organs, and once got in trouble in his youth for breaking into his family church when their new organ was installed just so he could play it and figure out how it worked. He was instantly enamored, and so began a lifelong love of the pipe organ, or as it is also known, the king of instruments.

Mr. Harris later became a prolific pipe organ builder who founded his business in Whittier in 1971. He trained as a young organ builder in the Netherlands and later traveled to France in the late 1960s, paying his way with money he had earned in the Air Force Reserve. Learning how to tune and repair organs in Europe, he returned home and continued this work throughout the Los Angeles area, (including designated organ tuner for Liberace's Beverly Hills estate.) He went on to build instruments and components for many churches across the nation **including First Friends Church in Whittier**. He was even commissioned to build the organ for the Church of Saint Eustache in Paris, the second largest

church in the city behind Notre Dame. One of Dave's crowning achievements was the installation of a Wurlitzer theater organ built in 1926 at his alma mater, Whittier High School in the Vic Lopez Auditorium. It was his last major project, and a fulfillment of a dream he had since being a student there. Dave loved the city of Whittier, and he was deeply proud of his hometown. Harris Precision Products are still ranked among the industry's best in quality and innovation, and his passion for his work and his impact on the world of pipe organ manufacturing will not be forgotten.

Dave met his wife Iris through organist and friend Tom Hazelton in 1982, and the two later married in the Stanford University Memorial Chapel. They had two children, Marina and Clinton. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren Lily and Luke, son-in-law, Marc, daughter-in-law, Alyssa, sisters Kathy and Maudi, brothers-in-law Roger and Mike, and his nieces and nephews Brian, Rori, Lisa, Kristen, Noella, Louise and Jesse.

Adventures in South Africa continued from page 1

and Apartheid museums. In addition to lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and African buffalo, she shared photos of lovely hornbills and rollers, kudu, elephant toddlers grazing on grass, an adult leopard grazing on an impala, spotted hyena pups, and a bloat of hippopotami in Kruger National Park. Deanna claims having the opportunity to hug, feed, and walk with the gentle giants as an incredibly blessed experience.

In spite of the difficulties she encountered, Deanna says, "It was a wonderful opportunity to see and experience these places." She also credits "the grace of the Creator" for being able to find her way home with one single app on a "cheap replacement phone with limited connectivity." We are glad she is back and so grateful she was able to share her experiences.

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

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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!*