

THE LIVING LIGHT

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

Ephesians 5:9

Volume 62, Number 11

Whittier First Friends Church

11th Month, 2023



The theme for World Quaker Day 2023, a project of Friends World Committee on Consultation, was *Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and one-another*. This year, to commemorate the event (traditionally the first Sunday in October), we asked our members, attenders, and a few of our overseas F(f)riends, to share their thoughts to the query: "How has being part of the Quaker community shaped you as a person?" These responses were compiled and shared in Meeting for Worship on Sunday, October 1. Next August, FWCC will hold its World Plenary Meeting with the same theme, and to keep the "Spirit of Ubuntu" close to our hearts, we will share some of the responses we received each month in the Living Light. In this issue we share thoughts from Misha, a Friend in Tbilisi, Georgia:

"Connections with Quakers throughout the world means a lot to me as well as to the other

Georgian Friends. First, it means friendship and realizing that we are not alone and isolated in a country where most of the population belongs to the Georgian Orthodox Christian Church. Then, it means that we know that there are Friends around with whom we can share our experience, conversations, worries; with whom we can ask for advice, and from whom we can learn and maybe, in some ways, teach. It also means the possibility [that] sometimes we can worship together via Zoom, and live in, and understand, and feel the Godlike Light. In Friendship."

As an added connection, Kathy Marin visited Georgia and fellowshipped with Misha. She will share this and other travel experiences at the November All Friends Fellowship Night on Wednesday, November 8th. All are invited to attend in Fellowship Hall (6 pm potluck, 7 pm presentation).

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

Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

Dear Friends, I'm feeling nostalgic this month, (as I often am) as I put the finishing touches on *The Friendly Fare*. The history of this column goes so far back and ties us to Friends past, present, and future. I know that is the stewardship campaign theme this year, and I received a lot of news from Friends that aren't currently located in Whittier so I'm feeling touched and blessed to be able to share their news with all of you.

Friends Celebrate: Happy Birthday to **Mary Raymond** who turns 100 in November. **Mike & Lynda Ladwig** and their family spent a few days in Big Bear to celebrate their 58th Wedding Anniversary. **Emily Wood & Jacob Connerly** were married in San Antonio, TX on October 7. Emily is the daughter of **Michael &**



Betsy Wood, granddaughter of **Bill & Marygene Wright** and **Dick & Judy Wood**. Family members joining the celebration were (l to r) **Jayne Harlan, Allison Lew, Kirk Wright, Lea Thirkettle**, Jacob, Emily, Betsy, Michael, **Sarah Wood, Ivan Morales, Judy Wood** and **Kara Harlan**.

Friends At Home: Now that the dust has settled on summer 2023, after many rearrangements, cancellations, illnesses, etc, the **Harris**s wound up having a wonderful summer. **Marilyn** and **Iris Harris** had a great time visiting **Clint & Alyssa** and their kids in N Carolina. Clint is now working on antique cars and en-

joying being a BUSY dad. **Lily** is happy in pre-K, and little **Luke** is running the house, of course.



Look who **Elizabeth Camp** ran into at Costco - Friendly Faces! **Rob & Sue Settlege** and **Amanda** and **Trinity**.

School and Work: Congratulations to **Taylor Hays**. After working retail for several years, he has finally been promoted to a store manager at Rip Curl in Santa Ana.

Friends Travel: **Elinore Petoletti** went on a trip: "Red Rocks to the Rockies by Rail." It included stops at Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyon Land, Rocky Mountain and Zion National Parks, and Dead Horse Point State Park.



Kathy Marin enjoyed a wonderful evening walk with our Quaker friend, **Misha**, through the old town of Tbilisi, Georgia. He sent greetings from Georgian Quakers to Whittier Quakers! Here Kathy is with *The Living Light* continuing our tradition: "The Living Light Travels." (Remember, your submissions are welcome and needed.)



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Loletta's Lines



Halloween has just ended, Thanksgiving is almost here, and Christmas is coming just around the corner. During holiday times, I want to experience feelings of joy and love, with fun, gratitude, and deep appreciation for God,

family, F(f)riends and time together. Yet, I am challenged by the evidence of hungry people, the world on fire, and violence everywhere in the news. As I write, war has consumed Israel and Palestine, in addition to Ukraine and Russia, and all the other places that do not make the front page. It can be hard to find a place of balance and emotional stability when we want to be celebrating, yet others are suffering, or when others are experiencing joy, yet our hearts are broken.

I think God, who sees everything and experiences it with us, knows and understands this see-sawing surge of emotional outpouring from the world. God listens to all of our prayers- those lamenting and pleading, and those praising and celebrating. God is affected by it and continues to walk with us through darkness and light, tears and dancing.

God has provided us a meeting, F(f)riends, and family to share with, support, and be supported by. We are also blessed with an entire Bible, writings from Friends and others, music, and other art that express the highs and the lows of life that we can turn to. God also reminds us that we are responsible for our choices. We reap what we sow. Fear, greed, and hatred beget violence, which begets war and Death. We have the choice to sow love, kindness, compassion, joy, and possibilities; Life in a new tomorrow within a Beloved community which embraces all of God's people and creation.

Friendly Fare - Continued from page 2

Amy Robison Burke and her family visited her brother **Kurt Robison** in CA

this summer, where they visited the Peterson Car Museum. Kurt and Amy used to visit the car museums with father **Klane Robison** and have fond memories. Amy's kids **Savanah** (18) and **Liam** (14) are pictured with their uncle Kurt.



David & Pier Aviorom traveled to Port Orchard, WA where their son **Noah** (WFS from 1995 to 2003) bought his first house this summer.

They went up to see how the fixing-up was going. Here is a photo of the three of them in front of his view of the Puget Sound looking towards Seattle.



Friends Sharing News: Help to keep the Friendly Fare going. Email me a quick note and tell me your news. Send to Lea at leal-ouw@gmail.com. See you next month!

Loletta's Lines Continued

God's response to everything that happens is to draw closer to us, send us love, and lure us into places of compassion and communion. God gives us choices to respond to the world around us and to God's impulse toward peace, justice, love, harmony, caring, and beauty. We are blessed to share our sorrows and joys in community. May our choices create and encourage, support and empower, both ourselves and others, and may our gratitude, generosity, and joy uplift those around us.

Russ' Reflections Friends Choir Updates and Music Events

The Friends Choir has two new section leaders

- hooray! **Nick Webster**, soprano, comes to us with varied experience. Nick holds a Bachelor's degree in Music from Azusa Pacific University and aspires to get a Master's in Vocal Pedagogy and Trans vocal health. They have served as lead singer and director of contemporary worship teams in several churches and sung classical repertoire and opera as well. Nick's favorite composer is Clara Schumann. They have a lovely voice and are a great addition to our choir.

Daniel Crespo, tenor, has degrees in Communication from Rio Hondo College and Bellevue University. He sang in choirs in middle and high school and has been active in Musical Theatre. He performs and writes music with friends in several bands. Daniel and Aaron Espinosa (our Bass) attended high school together and remain good friends. He has a particularly mellifluous voice, and we are happy to have him in the Friends Choir.

We are still seeking an Alto Section Leader but are pleased that Rita Barakat is singing with us when she can: travel from USC is a challenge. If any Friends are interested in joining the choir, please speak to Russ Litchfield. We meet at 9 am on Sundays to rehearse and sing for Meeting.

Organ and Advent Hymns - Tuesday, November 28

Come sing Advent and hear some seasonal organ music at 7 pm in the Meeting House.

Music Sunday - December 3, 2023

This year, the Friends Choir will offer an Advent Music Sunday during Meeting for Worship that will include anthems that look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus



News from Whittier Friends School



Whittier Friends School joined First Friends Church for Meeting for Worship on "Back to School Sunday" (also known as Whittier Friends School Sunday) on October 15. Sixteen children, 6 staff members, and more than 30 family members attended along with usual First Friends worshippers as the theme "One Body, Many Parts" was explored. School Committee Clerk (and former Whittier Friends School parent) Candice Ryder presided. The school children sang the song "We've Got the Whole World in our Hands" to signify how all the different parts of the world are important and protected by us. They also sang "We all Sing with the Same Voice," and the First Friends Choir added their voices with the song "Many Gifts, One Spirit." These songs supported the idea of individuals uniting. Director Cassie Caringella gave the prayer of Thanksgiving and Offering, teacher Marielle Askew shared the scripture, and teacher C-J Conklin gave the message. The message ended with an inspiring experiential moment, when all the children in attendance joined hands with a circuit buzzer which would only buzz if all hands were united. To further drive home the idea of how important every individual is to a group, all in attendance that morning were then invited to join hands to experience connectivity through the circuit buzzer. Children and adults, school members and church members, new guests

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at Christmas. Themes of waiting, preparing, yearning, justice, marvel, and rejoicing will fit into a matrix of a set of short organ pieces for Advent based on Gregorian chant themes by French composer, Charles Tournemire (1870-1939).

Ninth Night Organ and Hymns - Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Come sing Christmas Hymns and hear organ favorites of Russ at 7 pm in the Meeting House.



Christmas is Coming Mark Your Calendar

This year, our Christmas celebrations will include a Christmas dinner. **On December 10, at 5 pm**, please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall for an evening of festive fun. It will be a potluck, so start dreaming now of what "sugar plums" you will bring to share from your favorite holiday recipes - Christmas casseroles, salads, and, of course, dessert. Plans are just getting underway, and we welcome anyone who wants to help us dream up the details for the evening. We want to include food, music, crafts, games, and ... what else?! Contact Loletta Barrett with your ideas and interests.

and long-time attenders, all became one in that moment.

Whittier Friends School children have had a busy fall so far! Our school visited Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Patch



on Thursday, October 19, where children of all ages enjoyed traditional pumpkin patch festivities. They also had the privilege of meeting with Beth Shalom religious leader



Lance Topper on Monday, October 16, when he shared with them a little bit about all the fun fall Jewish festivals. Our Halloween

party occurs after this issue goes to print, so keep an eye out for stories about our biography-themed costumes at a later date.

In the midst of our 50th year, Whittier Friends School is gathering stories, pictures, and paraphernalia to commemorate this important milestone. If you have anything to contribute to this project, we encourage you to share it with us! You can email cassie.wfs@gmail.com or visit this link: <https://forms.gle/b5XcjUtjKmUfo5sx7>

Also, if you did not get your 12-bean soup pre-ordered, we do have a few extras available! You can request your soup by email, or by visiting this link:

<https://forms.gle/wiApkKdC2VH53Re36>

Our Friend in Washington D.C.

Loletta Barrett spent five weeks last June and July as a "Friend in Washington" program awardee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Her sojourn at FCNL in the heart of the Capital was an in-depth experience of Friends' involvement in national affairs. As a result, an All Friends Fellowship Night gathering of 20 Friends in Fellowship Hall on Oct. 12, was treated to another fine travelog, following upon Loletta's presentation last month of her recent trip to Egypt. Mary Marshburn again marshaled the Hospitality Committee to create a bounteous potluck supper for the occasion.

Loletta's mission as a Friend in Washington included interviewing Friends pastors from all around the country about their knowledge and support of the activities of FCNL. In her spare time, she managed to visit many of the most important capitol, historical, and cultural sites that abound in Washington. Her outstanding photos were captioned to supplement her AFFN narrative.

Loletta found that one of the most beautiful buildings in Washington D.C. is the Library of Congress, with its frescoed ceilings. Here she discovered that our current Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden, is the first woman and the first Black person to serve in the 223 year history of the Library. Viewing the Capitol Building was a sobering experience after the January 6, 2021 events. Still, there are interesting effigies commemorating contributors to our democracy. One of these is of the suffragette Quakers Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. The National Statuary Corridor contains bronze and marble statues of great figures of American history, two representing each state. California currently displays Junipero Serra and Ronald Reagan. A singular honor was awarded to Rosa Parks, whose defiance of segregation laws in Alabama inspired Martin Luther King



Jr.'s civil rights campaign. Her statue is the only one that stands in perpetuity.

Other important places described by Loletta were the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the Arlington Cemetery, the Japanese-American Memorial, and the newly created National Museum of African American History and Culture. This outstanding museum provides a unique tour of the history of Black people in America, starting from enslavement, portrayed in the basement level, ascending to exhibits on successive floors describing Emancipation, Civil Rights, and Black people's contributions to our modern democracy. Loletta also visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The display "What Did America Know?" was particularly poignant and impactful for her.

Loletta worshiped with the Friends at the Friends Meeting of Washington. Her friend Val Allyse, who is kindly remembered at First Friends from her visits from Salt Lake City, also visited her. They were able to participate in the Capital Pride Parade with Friends from FCNL and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

Friends expressed great appreciation to Loletta for her fine AFFN contributions. Next up: World traveler, Kathy Marin, will bring a presentation of her recent travels to Caucasus - Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia on November 8. Be sure to join us!

~Bob Newton

Successful Turkana Summer Mission Project



Christian Education and Outreach committee extends heartfelt gratitude for all who participated in this year's Summer Mission Project to support the Turkana Friends Mission in honor of Eden

Grace. A total of \$944.00 was collected and sent to them. "This amount far exceeded our goal," says Committee Clerk, Marilyn Fant, "and we are so thankful for everyone's generosity and participation." Check back next month for news about the Winter Mission Project.

November 16, 2023! Engage in Democracy beyond Voting!



On Thursday November 16, 2023, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, the Whittier FCNL Advocacy Team and the Ministry Consortium will present training on how to engage in Democracy. We will learn to create relationships and communicate our concerns with our elected representatives. It is a perfect time to focus on peacebuilding programs that deescalate conflict, stop violence, and prevent genocide. And save money! All great reasons to participate! RSVP by calling the office at 562-698-9805, ext. 4.

*Give thanks with a grateful heart - for the past,
present, and future possibilities*

Every year we query meeting members, attenders, and supporters about their plans to support First Friends Church for the upcoming year. This is a significant part of our budget process, and in December, we hope to reconcile the plans for giving with the requests from our committees so the Meeting can make decisions about how we will fund our ministries.

Please help us by filling out your 2024 Plan for Support. Watch your U.S. mailbox for our stewardship campaign letter and return the enclosed response card, or visit the link below to send your commitment online. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

<https://forms.gle/JC7FwHNStNdqsQ9o7>



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

Barbara Cote

Kathy Hood

Kathy Robison

Ami Troedsson

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!