

# The Living Light

*“...and Christ shall give thee light.” Ephesians 5:14*



**Volume 53, Number 9**

**First Friends Church of Whittier**

**Ninth Month, 2014**

## Quaker Scholar to Lead Retreat

### **Peace Campers Learn About Empathy**

“Someone Else’s Shoes” was the theme of the 19th Friendly Neighbors Peace Camp held July 18-August 1 in Fellowship Hall. The week-long summer camp program was designed by leaders Justine Whitehead and Darrell Warren to promote empathy with and understanding of people of other cultures and living situations different from those of our comfortable community. Arts and crafts, games and songs were structured around the goal of building awareness.

Former Peace Campers Kat Ryder, Bella Sturr and Anatheia Woirhaye shepherded fifteen youngsters through many absorbing activities. Russ Litchfield and Marilyn Fant led songs, some traditional at Peace Camp, and some new, like “Take a Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes,” introduced by Russ.

Arthur Ogami, a life-long Whittier resident who spent the World War II years in the internment camp at Manzanar, came to tell of the hardships experienced by the Japanese American community during this enforced relocation. Their ability to build a constructive environment while interned there continues to inspire.

The first day’s activities centered around craft projects. “Sharing-bead” necklaces and bracelets were made and traded by campers in a confidence-sharing exercise. A large tree was made whose trunk and branches were actually the names of popular rock-and-roll bands, a fact that could not be discerned except on very close inspection.

On Tuesday, campers learned what it is like for children of many under-developed countries who have to spend a large part of each day carrying water from distant wells, at the expense of their education. Campers marched

Noted scholar-theologian Philip Clayton will lead the All-Meeting Retreat to be held the weekend of September 26-28 at Dana Point Marina Inn. Philip has brought several exciting and memorable messages at First Friends, most recently this past March.

The theme and subject of conversation of the Retreat is “A Transformative Faith: Seeking Inner Renewal, Shared Community and Transformative Service.” There are many changing demands on our Christian faith and adapting Christian practice to an ever-changing world and Philip is widely recognized for his studies and advocacy of this spiritual shift known as the Emerging Church movement. His recent book *Transforming Christian Theology* is a fascinating and highly readable study through which, as retreat convener Lynda Ladwig says, Philip “calls us to review commitments and discover what it is that we really believe.”

Philip is the Ingraham Professor of Theology at the Claremont School of Theology and an active member of Claremont Friends Meeting. In Quaker philosophy and traditions, he sees an amazing parallel with this emerging new understanding of essential Christianity.

See inside for information about what is sure to be an unforgettable weekend of inspiration and fellowship!

— Bob Newton



*Continued on Page 3*

# Friendly Fare by Lea Wright

**Dear Friends,** As summer comes to an end, we all prepare to go back to school or work if we have had vacation time. I've enjoyed hearing about people's travels. Remember to set your calendar appropriately as we return to our 11:00 a.m. Meeting for Worship time on Sept. 7. (First day classes begin that day as well.)

**New Friends:** Welcome to **Abigail Love Allen**, a new great-granddaughter for **Bob & Lou Secord**, born Sunday August 17 in Santa Maria. Her parents are **Noelle & Trevor Allen** and grandparents are **Lisa & Andy Adam**.

**Friends Celebrate:** **Marilyn Fant**'s father will celebrate his 102nd birthday on September 17.

**Friends Visit:** In late spring **Judith Austin**'s son and wife from Alabama were in town to visit her. When **Mary Richardson Davis**, who lives in Westchester, visited church on August 17, she recalled growing up in First Friends while **Robert Cope** was pastor and also being taken to the unprogrammed meeting on the Whittier College campus by her grandmother, **Eva Richardson**.

**Friends About Town:** Many friends enjoyed the summer concerts in Central Park in July and August. **James & Pat Garland** especially enjoyed the country music. **Sarah & Pat Garland** attended the Hollywood Bowl together and saw Yo-Yo Ma perform Elgar. **Wes**



**Van Dorn**'s four man indie/rock alternative band, *The Boulevards*, played at the House of Blues at Downtown Disney in Anaheim. **Marilyn Fant**'s son, **David Preston Fant** and **Sarah Cunningham Wilson** will celebrate their marriage on October 9. The families and friends of the bride gathered at Marilyn's home for a bridal shower on Saturday, August 11th. Marilyn commented, "The art of blending families has begun." On Saturday, August 9, Many Friends joined the Grunion Run summer adventure at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium: **Sarah Garland** (along with a friend), **Pam Laswell**, **Raquel Allen**, **Jack & Sharon Huffaker** along with **Andy & Yvonne Huffaker**



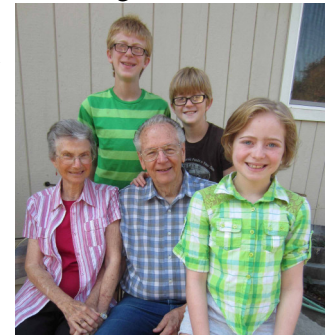
and their children, **Gavin** and **Ella**, **Bella & Sharon Sturr**, and **Carrin Bouchard**. They had a great time. Here they are

continuing the "*The Living Light Travels*" tradition. (Remember—we want your submissions!) **Katerina Ryder** and **Shreeya Dhawal** participated in the Whittier

Time Bank's Summer Youth Leadership Program's "Imagination Factory" event held at the First Christian Church. The fun-filled and entertaining afternoon started with a potluck luncheon followed by a gently-used item swap and an open mike talent show. Kat won first place for her rendition of the song "Beautiful."

**School News:** **Amara Overmyer** has started 7th grade at Edwards Middle School and her sister **Zoe** starts kindergarten at Whittier Friends School this September.

**Friends Travel:** **ABCDE Woirhaye** (**Anathea, Brendon, Cedric, Deanna, & Elyse**) and **Gwen & Mahlon Woirhaye** joined forces for a visit to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. *Richard III* was great for all the adults. The children enjoyed *A Wrinkle in Time* and *The Comedy of Errors* as well as some other plays. **Bethany Marshburn-Ersek** spent part of her summer as an intern in a large inner-city UCC church in Memphis and part with grandparents **Ted & Mary Marshburn** here in Whittier. She returned to her home in Maine in mid-August and has now gone back to college at Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts. **Lyn & Frank Gruber** could not go to Indiana in July with the other Whittier Beedes for the 90th birthday of their aunt, **Louise Beede**, but they paid her a visit in August. **George & Carrin Bouchard** went on an Alaskan cruise as an early celebration for their 30th wedding anniversary. **Don & Shirley Votaw** went up to Cloverdale, CA to visit their Great-grandkids, **Ben, Graham** and **Piper Ulliyott** who were visiting from Pennsylvania. They also enjoyed seeing **Randy & Lynda** (their daughter) **Ulliyott** and grandson **Aaron**. Don & Shirley continued their travels as far north as the Seattle area where they visited their daughter **Deena**. The **Overmyer** family, **Becky,**



**Pam, Amara,** and **Zoe** spent a week on a road trip to magical Mount Shasta, learning above all that road trips are much better when you don't have to rush from one destination to the next. They also learned again that California is an amazingly varied and gorgeous place. They also headed off to the northern Oregon coast to spend a week with more family gathered there from Vancouver, B.C. and Connecticut.

**Friends Remember:** Friends were sad to hear about the passing of **Bill (William Howard) Wright**, husband of **Karlene** and son of **Bill (William Harrison) & Marygene Wright**. His passing was peaceful, and he was surrounded by family members. Please, continue to pray for strength for Karlene and the entire Wright family.

**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.co](mailto:lealouw@gmail.co), or deliver to me at church on Sunday. See you next month!



*Campers continued from page 1*



to the Friends School grounds to fill large buckets to carry back to Fellowship Hall. Their sincere groans and fatigue showed that they understood the intended lesson. The campers decorated flip-flop sandals, much like footgear that is common for many of the world's children. They pantomimed living in rude huts, like so many poor families in Asia and Africa.

Wednesday was devoted to learning the concept of empathy. Campers made "empathy dolls" with swiveling faces that portrayed four emotions, and in so doing learned to look for emotional responses in others.

Thursday was the day of Arthur Ogami's visit. Arthur was born a block from First Friends, and has lived all of his life in Whittier except for his family's internment. Darrell Warren told the interesting story of how a few years ago when he was taking a middle school group to visit the Manzanar National Historic Site in eastern California, their bus broke down just 30 miles away. He made an emergency call to the Manzanar Museum and the rescue was swiftly organized by none other than Arthur's son Gene, who was acting as one of the docents.

Friday was "wrap-up" day. Campers made origami boats and lighthouses for each other as souvenirs and they recreated, for parents, some of their week's adventures in learning empathy.

— Bob Newton

## **Lego Movie Starts Season**

September marks the return of our Friday Family Flicks at First Friends. We are looking forward to movies that not only teach us important life lessons but also provide entertainment for the whole family.

Breaking ground for our new season is *The Lego Movie*, a story about an ordinary Lego construction worker, Emmett, who is thought to be the prophesied "Special One." Emmett is recruited to join a quest to stop an evil tyrant from gluing the Lego universe into eternal stasis. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Friday September 5 to see if Emmett and the others are successful in their quest.

— Lynda Ladwig

## **Library Book Sale Aids Modernization Effort**

Following the traditions of early Friends meetings, it is likely that our church has had a circulating collection of printed materials from its beginning in Whittier. Prior to the establishment of a public library in town, the collection in the church consisted of Quaker and other religious material along with volumes of history, poetry, and prose deemed useful for the edification of the congregation.

Many dedicated and concerned members of the long-standing Library Committee worked diligently through the years to develop an outstanding collection of books and pamphlets. Funds were budgeted and donations were encouraged to purchase new items. Members of the Meeting generously contributed from their own holdings and materials were donated from family estates by survivors.

Our present church building is the first to have been built with a specific facility for a library collection. The shelving and cupboard space far exceeded that which was available in the prior meeting houses, yet with the growth of the collection it became evident that we had more material than space. A decision was made by Library Committee members to develop policies limiting the content of the collection and guidelines for the acceptance of donated materials. These policies and guidelines were presented to the Monthly Meeting and adopted in 1968.

The current Library co-chairs, Ruth Marshall and Milton Wright, have finished re-cataloging and processing the basic collection. They are now joined by Darrell Warren, who is working with the pamphlets, and Barbara Coté, who will be helping to set up a system for selling extra copies and withdrawn titles. Sales will provide some funds for new materials, as there is no provision for the library in our current budget.

Beginning sometime this month, Friends will see a resale book shelf in the library and a collection box. Hardbacks will be offered for \$1 each and paperbacks for 50¢. For more information about the sale, contact Barbara Coté.

This is a great opportunity to acquire books on religion and Quakerism that could be hard to find elsewhere, and at the same time to support the modernization of our church library.

— Milton Wright

**Library**  
the original search engine



## **Summer Worship Created Gathered Meetings**

Meeting for Worship during the month of August was an interesting departure from the usual format. With the intimate circle of chairs in Fellowship Hall, the less-structured, more open-participation mode, the absence of choir and organ, it all seemed more like an old-fashioned Quaker Meeting. A spirit of close fellowship developed in this setting that many Friends found uplifting.

Russ Litchfield led Meeting for Worship on August 3, assisted by Mel Sturr, Marie Kaneko, Michael Elliot and Bella Sturr. Russ's worship message was "Speaking of Faith," based on Matthew 28:16: "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations." Russ handed out a sheet with six queries for Friends to ponder concerning their personal attitude towards faith. He built his message around the hymn "Go Into the World" by Natalie Sleeth, printed on the back of his query sheet. Russ repeated the words of the hymn, taken from Matthew, at various times during his message, and then led the congregation in singing the hymn, a new one for most Friends. During the offertory, Jo Nita Beede sang "Second Story Window," a song of the discovery of faith, accompanying herself on the guitar. The inspiration generated by Russ's message and the closeness of the gathering elicited numerous spoken contributions during open worship.

The Sunday of August 10 was an especially joyous gathered Meeting. George Bouchard was the designated message giver, but he structured his message as an open worship session, inviting all present to contribute to his theme of "Faith and Inspiration." George read some of his favorite lines from Quakers George Fox and John Woolman, and, interestingly, Albert Einstein, who said "If I were not a Jew I would be a Quaker." Carrin Bouchard

added a few of her favorite quotes, and several others were inspired to do likewise. Bethany Marshburn's contribution was to sing unaccompanied a new version of the Lord's Prayer (George Bouchard had earlier read the Bible version). Her clear voice gathered the worshipers in that spirit of unity that early Friends sought in their spontaneous worship mode. The "programmed" part of the meeting merged seamlessly into "unprogrammed" open worship.

The "Occasional Consort" singers contributed greatly to this memorable Meeting for Worship. The a capella mode of the group was ideally suited to the small venue. The seven singers (Richard Beatty, Alison Johnson, Lynne McGrath, Carole Polanskey, Ruth Ridenour, Daniel Sevilla, and Ted Sweetser) have shared their inique music several times previously at First Friends Sunday worship. They specialize in early music, both secular and sacred. They sang "Cantante Domino" for the Call to Worship, "Allelluya Psallat" (rendered by the female choristers, with parts written by member Ruth Ridenour) for the offertory, and "Nunc Dimittis" for the closing hymn: "Let Thy Servant Depart in Peace."

During the refreshment hour after the rise of Meeting, the Occasionals returned to the small Fellowship Hall stage to sing a number of charming songs, including "Il Grillo" (The Cricket) in Italian, and "The Little White Hen." Russ Litchfield joined the group for this after-Meeting entertainment. How much we appreciate the visits of this outstanding singing group.

— Bob Newton





# September 2014

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 9:15a Trustees 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	<b>4</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 6:30p Friday Family Flicks	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30a Sunday School Registration	<b>8</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers	<b>9</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p M&C 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:00p AFFN	<b>11</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Friendly Fare Deadline</b>
<b>14</b> WFS Sunday 12:15p Monthly Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>Living Light Deadline</b> 1:30p Writing Class 6:00p Monthly Mission Monday	<b>16</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> <b>Editors Compose Living Light</b> 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	<b>18</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00a Quiltmakers 1:30p Writing Class	<b>23</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>Living Light Folding</b> 7:00p Quaker Men's Evening Group	<b>25</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> All Church Retreat in Dana Point Begins	<b>27</b> All Church Retreat in Dana Point
<b>28</b> All Church Retreat in Dana Point Ends	<b>29</b> 1:30p Writing Class	<b>30</b> 7:00a Spiritual Growth & Quaker Men 7:00p Handbell Choir Rehearsal			<b>Schedule for Sundays</b> <b>Unprogrammed Worship—9:30a</b> <b>Sunday School Gathers—9:30a</b> Classes begin at 9:45a <b>Meeting for Worship—11:00a</b>	



Zachary Adam	Randy Hays	Lea Thirkettle
Lavelle Basham	Sharon Huffaker	Ella Tiffany
Mary Boltz	Bonnie	Julie Urner
Joanne Camp	Lowenstam-Grace	Mindy Van Dorn
Landon Caringella	Preston Mitchell	Christopher Votaw
Anne Eggleton	Susanne Mitchell	Gwen Woirhaye
Martha Fopiano	Esther Nelson	Mahlon Woirhaye
Lyn Gruber	Alpha Overin	David 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!

# 2014 ALL-MEETING RETREAT

## *A Transformative Faith:*

*Seeking Inner Renewal, Shared Community and Transformative Service*

Facilitated by Philip Clayton,  
Professor of Theology, Claremont School of Theology

Friday September 26 through Sunday, September 28  
The Marina Inn at Dana Point

At this year's All-Meeting Retreat, we celebrate our Christian and Quaker heritage. We meet in the conviction that our particular focus on seeking peace and listening for the Inner Light remains as relevant today as in the past — if not more so. Our goal is to grow in closeness to each other and to the Divine Light as we will seek God's leading for the next chapter of our lives together.

Philip Clayton, a Quaker and author of the provocative book *Transforming Christian Theology: For Church and Society*, will lead us as we consider the foundations of a transformative faith and how Quaker testimonies and practices are particularly well-suited to speak to the needs and desires of young people and young families today who are seeking a faith location and spiritual home.

Together, we will explore:

- What are the strengths of our particular faith tradition and of our community at Whittier First Friends Church, a Quaker Meeting?
- In the coming few years, what are some of the ways that we can “live into” who we are?
- What personal and communal practices contribute to growth in inner faith, in shared community and in meaningful service in our surrounding community?

We will gather at 7pm on Friday evening, continue on Saturday and conclude with Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning. The children's program will be led by Jacy Purkiss, assisted by Sarah Garland.

Bring: An open heart, an open mind, and a desire to discover new vistas along your own spiritual path.

**A \$50 deposit (payable to Whittier First Friends Church) is required by August 25, with the balance due by Sept 26.** Rooms may be available but cannot be guaranteed after August 25. If you have a scheduling conflict or financial assistance is needed, please contact a retreat committee member (Ted Marshburn, Pat Garland, Deanna Woirhaye or Lynda Ladwig).

Price includes two nights' accommodations with continental breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Name: Adults \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

### Room Preference

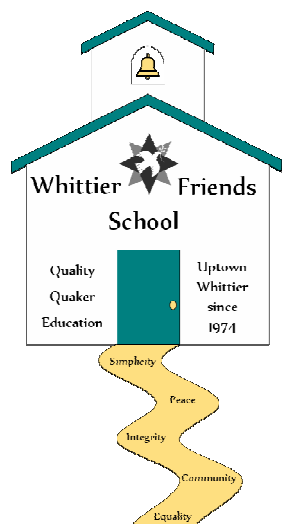
Single (no roommate) \$200 \_\_\_\_ Double (2 people) \$226 \_\_\_\_ Triple (3 people) \$252 \_\_\_\_

Quad (4 people) \$278 \_\_\_\_

I would like a King room \_\_\_\_ I would like a Queen room (2 beds, max 4 persons) \_\_\_\_

I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_ Please assign me a roommate \_\_\_\_

I can help with snacks \_\_\_\_ I will need transportation \_\_\_\_



## Another Year of Quality Education Begins at WFS

Whittier Friends School is starting its 40th school year, and there is much to be excited about! On September 14, Whittier Friends School Sunday at First Friends Church will feature our school and its supporters celebrating its legacy and the lessons of kindness our

education has taught. After Meeting, we invite guests to visit our classrooms. Then on Sunday, October 26 at the rise of Meeting, we will host our annual Chili Cook-Off. We hope you will be available to attend both of these special Sunday events.

The new school year officially begins after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 2 for Preschool and Wednesday, September 3 for Kindergarten through eighth grade. Studies for K-8 will include American history starting from 1776 and human biology and health. Field trips in the works include Riley's Farm to learn more about early American history, Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum for some Shakespearean fun, and the L.A. County Fair for some lessons in nutrition. We look forward to our students in 4th grade and up taking part in the National History Day — Los Angeles County competition for the 3rd year in a row, and all students participating in Christmas and Spring plays.

Teachers will include Alicia Atkinson (elementary), Cassie Caringella (intermediate) and Cindy Edmunds (preschool), plus some support from Whittier College work-study students. As usual for the beginning of the school year, there is a school-wide enrollment of about 20 students as of press-time, but WFS continues to have prospective students visiting daily so the number of actual students is expected to be higher by the time school begins.

How can you help WFS achieve its goals of providing quality Quaker education? See our "Pain-Free Fundraising" list, or donate items on our wish-list. Much needed items include pet store gift cards (to purchase supplies for our class snake), Dollar Tree gift cards, white multi-purpose glue, mod-podge, wide and narrow markers, band-aids, tongue depressors, 3x5 color index cards, tacky glue, googly eyes, white Velcro, and ink pads of various colors. We love all donations and will find a use for all kinds of things!

— Cassie Caringella, Intermediate Teacher

## Learning and Living As a Community of Friends

What great opportunities await us as we began another season of learning and living together as a community of Friends! As the summer wanes and fall beckons us with anticipation of what could be just around the corner, thoughts return to a time of learning and planning for what might lie ahead.

Beginning on September 7, 2014 friends will gather between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. to learn together and from each other on Sunday mornings. The Adult Class will meet in the Sharpless lounge and begin an 8-week study that will include some historical background on the Japanese internment in the US. We anticipate having a speaker who will share her experiences of being in the internment camps and we will use the book *Quiet Heroes*, by Tsukasa Sugimura as a guide to a brief overview of the way in which Friends as a society and as individuals shared love, help and hope during this period of our country's history.

Our children and youth will also experience what it means to learn and live together as community as they play, discuss and share the world around us. The younger children will meet in the children's library, playing together, making crafts and listening to Bible stories about the ways God is made known in the world around them. They will be exposed to how God shows love for them and how they can share that love with others and grow in the Light. Our older children and youth will begin the year by meeting together in the Christian Ed building Sunday school rooms. After a time of Bible Jeopardy, Trivia, or other Bible games, snacks and Biblical or Quaker lessons, they will separate into smaller age appropriate groups for discussion and expression thru art, conversation, or writing.

It is our hope that through this time of prayer, listening and sharing of our experiences, adults, youth and children alike will learn to walk cheerfully over the world answering that of God in all.

— Lynda Ladwig



### Save the Date



Our next Monthly Mission Monday

promises to be an interesting and fun time.

Gathering together to do a project that

benefits our community is always rewarding.

Plan to come to Smith Fellowship Hall on

Monday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. and help

us help our community!



## **Special Music Played For Worship and Charity**

July 27 was the last summertime Sunday before Meeting for Worship shifted to Fellowship Hall. It was also notable for musical gifts from two extraordinary musicians, Linda Krantz and Iris Harris.

Bell virtuosa Linda returned with her shining assortment of 63 handbells to embellish our worship hour with three contributions: Sibelius' "Finlandia" along with Russ Litchfield on the organ for the Call to Worship, the Shaker Hymn, which Linda played with small mallets on a remarkable bell-tree, and a medley of hymns including "Be Thou My Vision" for a postlude.

Linda is recovering from an injury to her left hand, and for that reason her otherwise demanding schedule of appearances has had to be temporarily curtailed. But no incapacity was evident in the grace and dexterity with which she manipulated her bells, sometimes several at once. The congregation remained seated after the close of Meeting to hear this extraordinary musician's postlude.

Music continued after Meeting for Worship as Friends gathered for a fine potluck luncheon organized by Carrin and George Bouchard (the latter having given an inspiring message during Meeting). The occasion was sponsored by



the Whittier chapter of the United Society of Friends Women International. This group is notable for its charitable outreach with an outstanding record of fund-raising on behalf of Friends missions overseas, some of which USFWI has supported continuously for over a hundred years. It is

currently raising money for the Lugulu Hospital in Kenya, the Ramallah Friends Schools in Palestine, and the Friends Boys' School in Belize. The local group hopes to raise \$3,350 for these missions and selected local service agencies, and may add to the list a Friends Indian Center in the U.S. Fund-raising goals in recent years have mostly been met, thanks to generous donors and Carrin's dedication and energy.

Iris Harris, a recent USFWI officer, is also an accomplished harpist. She brought her small golden Irish harp to the luncheon to provide music for the diners. Her graceful rendition of songs from "The Sound of Music" and other familiar tunes made a pleasant ambience for an enjoyable fellowship event in support of a worthy cause.

— Bob Newton



*Lea Wright and Lynda Ladwig at Earlham School of Religion*

## **Leading as Servants in the Manner of Friends**

The title of this article was the theme of the 2014 Earlham School of Religion Leadership Conference in Richmond, IN. Lynda Ladwig and Lea Wright, along with approximately 40 other Quakers, were engaged throughout the weekend in listening to a variety of speakers and perspectives on Servant Leadership, what it is and how it manifests itself in individuals, meetings (both local monthly meeting and yearly meeting levels) and how it goes from there out into the world.

The conference began with keynote speaker Alan Kolp challenging those in leadership to be spirit led change agents where character is core and vision is key. Referring to Robert Greenleaf's "10 Principles of Servant Leadership," Kolp spoke about the characteristics that help in identifying, equipping and encouraging the development of servant leaders.

The second keynote speaker, Ann Riggs, brought another perspective on servant leadership derived from her experience at Friends Theological College in Kenya. Ann says a servant leader needs to have foresight and a well developed sense of intuition about how the past, present and future are connected. Being aware of the culture you are in is important so you don't overwhelm people but rather make small changes that make a big difference.

Workshops were offered for more interaction on specific aspects of leadership. Panel discussions on the Spirit of Volunteerism and Servant Style Leadership within Organizations gave opportunity to learn more about the ways that servant leadership manifests itself within the Society of Friends. And all of these activities were moored together by anchor groups filled with in-depth conversation, questions, and sharing.

— Lynda Ladwig & Lea Wright



## **Gwen Woirhaye: A Friendly Face**



Gwen Woirhaye was born in Flint, Michigan to Owen and Lorena Vaden. She has two brothers and a sister. The family moved to California in 1945, eventually settling in Monrovia where Gwen attended high school. She graduated from Whittier College with a teaching credential and

began teaching 5th grade at Mill School in Whittier.

While teaching, Gwen was always interested in giving her students experiences outside the classroom as well as in class and took her students on field trips to interesting and historic places. She was also a resource teacher under the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title One program providing financial assistance to local educational agencies for the education of children of low-income families.

Gwen married Mahlon Woirhaye in 1967, acquiring as a bonus two stepsons: Warrick, who died in 1994, and Mahlon III, who lives with his family in Alabama.

When Gwen & Mahlon's children, Brendon and Loren, were young and Brendon was approaching school age, Gwen felt strong leading to provide them with a Friends education, where Quaker values were taught and practiced. Assisted by other Friends, Gwen founded the Whittier Friends School, now 40 years old. Brendon started Kindergarten in the new school. Gwen was the director for 3 years, worked there for 10, and has been active on and clerk of its Committee. She has now seen her grandson, Cedric graduate from the school.

Gwen and her sister Marci became the Meeting's secretaries in 1990 and Gwen was subsequently made Office Administrator. Her activities since her retirement in 2003 have only increased! She has served as Clerk of Monthly Meeting and taken on the huge job of digitizing all past Monthly Meeting minutes. She has also served as President of the United Society of Friends Women, and as a Meeting Trustee. Gwen started a "shawl ministry" to knit shawls for ill and bereaved individuals. She continues to co-lead the Monday afternoon writing class.

Beyond First Friends, Gwen has been a member of the American Association of University Women for over 50 years and twice its president, founding its memoir writing

group and through her knitting "addiction" has raised over \$2,500 for AAUW's Myra Long Scholarship Fund from the sales of her scarves. She also is on the Boards of the Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation and the Whittier Conservancy and is active in three reading groups.

Gwen enjoys researching family history and did a service for Whittier history by getting the early records of the White Emerson Mortuary published by the local genealogical society. She and Mahlon enjoy attending the theater together, especially Shakespeare. They have a cabin at Green Valley Lake which they have shared with Friends youth.

I would like to quote from Gwen's "Legacy To My Grandchildren" which she read to the writing class last year: "My highest values are my Quaker faith, family and education." Listen for "that 'still small voice' that is that of God within each of us, leading us to contribute to the earth and inhabitants thereof." "Always be honest and people will never need to doubt whether you are being truthful." "...use your words carefully because words are very powerful." "Be generous. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' If you are blessed with wealth, share it with those who have less." All these things help us to "be the best we know how to be." And one more thing: "Always cast your ballot."

We are blessed to have Gwen 'among us' in our Meeting.  
—Ted Marshburn

## **Upholding School Traditions**

Anathea Woirhaye, Gwen's granddaughter, enters the 7th grade this fall as the ranking full-time intermediate student of Whittier Friends School, where she has been a student since kindergarten..

Anathea's brother Cedric was one of the two first-ever Intermediate School graduates from the school. Anathea's younger sister Elyse will enter the 3rd grade at WFS. Their dad Brendon was in the first graduating class of WFS.

An accomplished student, Anathea has performed with numerous local children's theatre groups as well as in WFS special events. Last year, she delighted parents and school supporters with her outstanding interpretation of Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Earlier this year, her poem entitled "Poem" won first place in the State Agricultural District "Ag Fair" competition.

Cedric's great interest is science. He is a freshman at Don Bosco Tech High School this fall. Cedric has written several excellent feature articles for *The Living Light*.

The school that grandmother Gwen founded forty years ago continues as an outstanding center of learning not only for the Woirhayes but for students from all over the community.  
—Bob Newton

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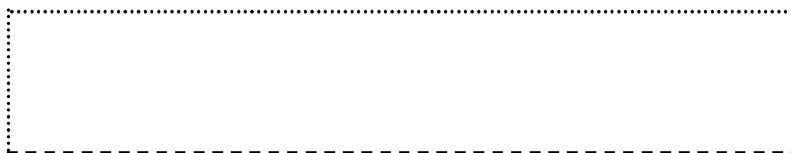
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## ***Disneylanders Take the Stage***

The annual Disney program at All Friends Fellowship Night is set to spread a little pixie dust in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday night, September 10.

This year, Elisabeth Elliot has invited some of her colleagues to talk about Disney Performing Arts, a program that may be one of Disneyland's best kept secrets. Through this program, performing arts groups are invited to perform on Disneyland stages and attend workshops taught by Disney directors, choreographers and performers. The guest coordinators attending our program have rich and varied careers in the entertainment world as well.

Elisabeth and company are looking forward to a lively discussion with F(f)riends about their sometimes crazy but always inspiring experiences working with young performers from all over the world.

All Friends Fellowship Night begins with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the program from 7 to 8 p.m. Please sign up in the church patio to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring \$1 per person if you bring food, or \$3 per person if you do not bring food but will be joining us for dinner. There is no charge for children 12 or younger who come with their parents.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to enjoy one of the Meeting's most popular programs.



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

Peggy Anderson  
Judith Austin  
Audrey & Carlos Bailey  
Helen & Jack Carlisle  
Jack Phinney  
Maureen Russell  
Vi Smith  
Ami Troedsson  
Gerry Wolfe