



## Las Cruces Friends Meeting Newsletter

### February 2014

**Friendly Words:** Since our Spiritual Practice sessions this fall are focusing on Quaker Testimonies I am finding Quaker quotes that relate to the discussion. This month the focus is on integrity, which I believe this passage is somewhat about and it is nice that it also speaks of 'spoons' .

“ The simple life does not begin outside with the house or the spoons. It begins inside with *the quality of the soul*. It is first and foremost the quality of sincerity, which is the opposite of duplicity, or sham. Emerson’s famous line, “ Your life talks so loudly that I cannot hear the words you say”, makes the idea pretty clear. The fountain must be right, if we want the water to be clear. Unclouded honesty at the heart and center of the man is the true basis of simplicity. The tone of the bell is settled by the quality of the constituent metal, and, if that is wrong in stuff and mixture, you will not get a good bell by putting on a coat of fine paint”.

- Rufus Jones, p. 73, *The Faith and Practice of the Quakers*

### Calendar

Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Peace Social and Environmental Concerns will meet after Meeting for Worship

Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup> – Ministry and Oversight at 11 am, see Miki Webb for location

Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> – Timer Meeting – a chance to share with others at the home of the Browns 1:30 PM

Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> - Potluck after rise of Meeting

Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> – Friendly dinner at Erica Samuel’s see sign up sheet

Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> - Meeting for worship for Business after rise of Meeting for Worship

Friday February 21<sup>st</sup> – Timer Meeting – a chance to share with others at the home of the Browns at 1:30 PM

Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spiritual Practice Group Meets after Meeting for Worship Focus will be on the testimony on Integrity

#### Up Coming Events

Friendly Dinners Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board

IMYM Representatives Committee meets February 8 – 9<sup>th</sup>

NM Friendly Women's Retreat March 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup> in Silver City

AVP Basic Workshop March 28 – 31<sup>st</sup> in El Paso

NM Regional Meeting April 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe, NM

### SAVE THE DATE! New Mexico Spring Quaker Women's Retreat, Silver City, NM, 2014.

Save the date and plan to join with Quaker women from all over New Mexico for a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship and sharing, March 21, 22, and 23 at St. Mary's Retreat Center on the west edge of Silver City, NM. Our theme will be "What is Waking Up in You, What has died out?" St. Mary's Center is where Regional Meeting was held in 2013, with dorm space, plenty of beds, meeting rooms, and kitchen.

As many of us as are able will arrive on Friday late afternoon and share dinner, meet together and settle in. For the evening we plan to have a show and tell time (a timer meeting facilitated by Las Cruces women). On Saturday morning after breakfast we will gather and plan our next retreat. The rest of the morning program will be facilitated by Erica Samuel. After lunch we will have activities centered around the theme and what's been pruned away. The afternoon hopefully will not require too much sitting. We can tweak the agenda as we wish as things arise. There will be open time for sleeping in, hiking, personal reflection, journaling, or relaxing as well. On Sunday morning we will have Meeting for Worship following breakfast, then have lunch and clean up.

Saturday daytime participants are welcome too. Plan to bring food to share. There is a stove and refrigerator space. The cost of this facility to us is low and we may also wish to make a donation. We have scholarship funds so don't let the price stop you from joining us. Hopefully some of us will be able to car-pool. More information

will be sent about specifics later. Reservations are not needed but are very helpful for those who are making arrangements. RSVP to us or let us know if you need more information or have questions: contact Marion Bowers Newton, 575-536-2864, marionbowersnewton@sbcglobal.net or Rebecca Henderson, 505-989-8627 rebeccahenderson4@hotmail.com.

### **COMMUNITY NOTES:**

#### **From Dave Richman;**

On the Becky front, she formally signed the papers to become an employee of Esri in Redlands, CA and is to report on March 3rd.

As for me - I went to the public meeting on the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument bill proposed by Udall and Heinrich. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell was there and about 750, people attended (they had to close the doors because the fire marshall said no more). I was selected by lot to be the fifth audience commenter and left right after. They held a vote at the end - 15 for nothing being done, 35 favored Pearce's Organ Mountains only, and 450 favored the current Senate bill establishing nearly 500,000 acres of monument and wilderness land. As I have been involved with earlier BLM assessments of the area I was very pleased to hear this. It was a good thing that I left early as Becky awaited with her good news and we went out to celebrate, afterward going to the performance of "Eleanor and FDR" with Loretta Swit and Ed Asner - wonderful play.

#### **From Spiritual Practice Sunday;**

A group of us met on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday to discuss the Peace Testimony. Some queries that we discussed were;

Am I aware that to build a world community requires that we all face our differences honestly, openly, and in trust?

Do I treat conflict as an opportunity for growth, and address it with careful attention?

Do I look for ways to reaffirm in action and attitude my love for the one with whom I am in conflict?

Where there is distrust, injustice or hatred, how am I an instrument of reconciliation and love?

#### **From Tim Reed;**

Further report on A#074673830. A very diverse group of people exist in one location. People from China, Congo and various hamlets south of El Paso where the most spoken language is not Spanish but many native languages. Confusion reigns. Fortunately A#074673830 has dual language capacity and has helped a number of people with letter writhing to various state officials. A#074673830 apparently is going to be held for a minimum of six weeks more due to the odd workings of the "justice" system. Keep A#074673830 in the light. }

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As Nominating Season is on us, I thought I would share some thoughts from Robert Griswold of Mtn. View Meeting in Denver, this is from his March 2012 Western Friend article "A Condition Beyond Membership: the Quaker gifts of Experience, Discipline and Discernment"

*Friends don't just get to be Sunday worshipers, if you are just coming to worship on Sunday and steadfastly declining an office or committee work you are avoiding a key element that will let you grow as a Quaker. The meeting needs to have the service of all members. If you sit back and let others take on the work of the meeting or just grab the 'easy jobs' (for none of the jobs are easy if taken seriously), you will miss the discipline of working spiritually with others. Your spiritual growth will be stunted. All of us have many demands on our time and energies. But busyness by itself isn't a virtue and it isn't an excuse for not sharing the work of the meeting community.*

*When we work with other Friends we learn that some of the certainties (we might call them notions or prejudices) we have been carrying with us need to be examined. Other Friends have Lights that shine in corners different from us, and when we work with them the Light may illuminate a dark corner in ourselves that we have not noticed. And we may discover that we have gifts to bring them in the same way. These may be gifts we never knew we had. Sharing work teaches us to bring our love, courage and patience to our service. These lessons do not take root in us by our thinking about them or wishing for them. They become our humble strength by practice.*

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Meeting for Worship for Business  
Las Cruces Religious Society of Friends  
January 19, 2014

Attending: Miki Webb, Larry Underwood, Anna Underwood, Harold Jamison, Karin Wiburg, Jean Hansen, David Hansen

**Treasurer's Report** David Hansen presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Tim Reed. He explained the new layout of the report. The clerk questioned whether the 2014 giving guide was approved at the Dec. 15 Meeting for Business. It was finally decided that the giving guide was approved at the Dec. 15 Mtg. Also, David clarified that the listed "outreach persons" next to certain organizations on the giving guide are members or attenders who would report back to Meeting about the organization opposite their names. As well, they would represent the Las Cruces Society of Friends to the organization. The individual who is a liason between Las Cruces Meeting and a particular non-profit organization would be approved by the Meeting. These are the current liasons/representatives already approved by the Meeting:

David Hansen	TIAS (Tim Reed is an alternate if David is out of town)
Lynda Goin	FCNL/AFSC (i.e., Lynda sends on news from these organizations)

to all of us electronically)  
Tim Reed            NAACP

Treasurer's report was approved.

**December 2013 Meeting for Business Minutes** A copy of these minutes was passed around. The only addition/amendment was that the 2014 giving guide had been approved. With this addition, the Dec. minutes were approved.

**Outreach** The website designer Monica Kekuewa presented the current progress of our website construction. She showed on her computer how the home page might look. All agreed they wanted a picture of the Meetinghouse on the homepage. Someone trying to find the Meetinghouse would be aided, everyone felt, with a photograph of the Meetinghouse. The Peace Crane Memorial should have a smaller photograph on the home page, and have a link to its own page, everyone agreed. Another link was suggested that would answer the question, "What is a Quaker unprogrammed Meeting for Worship like?" The Meeting should be identified as "unprogrammed" somewhere easy to see on the home page, the clerk pointed out. And a link called "about us" would include IMYM and FGC affiliations. Monica thought changing pictures of what events were happening at Meeting during a particular month might be interesting. Some felt that might be too hard to keep up with. But any extra activities, such as the current spiritual study on the testimonies, or pizza and peace crane construction, could be at least listed for viewers, Monica urged. Karin said that the Meeting's membership in the university's Interfaith Council was worth a paragraph somewhere. Monica reminded those present that yearly rent for the website was \$125. In addition there was a fee of \$12.95 for the domain name. Karin volunteered to pay this last fee. "Keep going, Monica," everyone chimed in. Monica promised to show the Meeting an "un-live" version before the final version is online and "live."

Those in attendance approved the **new Nominating Committee**: Vickie Aldrich, Erica Samuel, and David Hansen.

**Ministry and Oversight Report** M & O would like members and attenders to season a plan for a series of meetings to be advertised to the public on the topic of basic Quaker beliefs and history. This would take place in the fall. Miki is interested in gathering materials for such a study. She will peruse the binders with the older Quakerism 101 materials from the Meetinghouse library, and Anna will call Quaker Bookstore to see if a study format on that topic already exists.

The Las Cruces Monthly Meeting Spring Retreat: when? On a pot luck Sunday? In April? (March has the Women's Retreat; April has Regional) There is general agreement to have an all day or nearly all day retreat like the one last spring. However, people who will serve as planners, the focus, and a set date are still needed. A few ideas on the possible focus followed.

Friendly Dinners: Check the bulletin board and see if the dates posted are agreeable.

Al Galves, convenor of this committee, will be out of town for one month.

**Building and Grounds Report** Housekeeping: the attenders and members decided that with such a small group it was difficult to keep up with the indoor cleaning. Money could be budgeted to pay someone to come in once a month and clean. When the membership grows, members can once again assume those regular cleaning tasks. Money to pay someone to clean the Meetinghouse was approved. Anna volunteered to find someone for once a month hire. Karin volunteered to donate her new steam cleaner for the carpet.

Two chairs sported new white polyester chaircovers, as samples. Everyone felt more uniformity was needed than the muslin covers now give. The muslin covers, which have served us well (for years!) until now, wrinkle, and slide apart. One poly cover costs \$2.00. Nearly everyone liked the white poly chaircovers for the folding chairs. Miki said she would order enough for those chairs. Nothing was found yet for the bigger chairs.

Miki offered to donate her electric stove to Meeting at the end of the month. Those in attendance accepted her stove. Anna will ask her farmworker Gustavo Gomez if he can help to move the stove, and move the old one out. Probably a friend or relative of Gustavo's will also help.

Weed and Seed for at-risk youth is giving trees away to Mesquite neighborhood homes. We have said we would like a young tree through Karin Wiburg, the unofficial liason. Desert trees requiring little water are available. Larry Underwood said we could plant the tree in the place where an Afghan has died. It will require no extra water since that space is still receiving some water from the emitter on the hose line. The Weed and Seed youths will pull the old stump and plant the tree for us. All approved the new tree.

**PSEC Report** (Peace, Social, and Environmental Concerns) For the new year, David Hansen reported, the PSEC gathering (not an official committee now) would decide on one germane topic to focus on for the month and report on that to Meeting for Business. The topic for the next month would also be chosen so that attenders could be working on that, in thoughts and actions, ahead of time and have something to share. In addition, PSEC would link up with the Outreach committee when possible.

For the January meeting, the planned work was on helping to ease our nation's tensions with Iran, and consideration of their nuclear energy program. Actions to be taken would be support for diplomatic negotiations, and expressions of opposition to the escalation of economic sanctions. (For example, letters to the editor, calling NM senators to support on-going negotiations. Material to support the Iran question is on FCNL site.)

Vickie and Tim held an Alternatives to Violence Project in Truth or Consequences on January 19, Sunday. It is the first *advanced* workshop in Southern N.M.

Vickie, Tim, and Jim Tolbert of El Paso Friends gave support to detained Ana Karina Vivar at her two El Paso hearings. At one hearing 30 supporters attended. The judge signed an order to transfer Ana back to Santa Fe, close to her home. She is at risk of being deported, though having children who are U.S. citizens and a job with the state.

Jim Tolbert is inviting Alternatives to Violence Project people to his home. David will check on time and place, and see if Jim includes Las Cruces AVP students as well as El Paso students.

**TIAS Report** TIAS (Taskforce for Immigration Advocacy and Support) per se has been temporarily dormant. Efforts have focused on the NM Ad Hoc Border Immigration Reform Committee. That group sponsored a grand public dialogue on immigration. Both Tim and David had to miss it for reasons of health. Tim and David continue to attend and represent Las Cruces Quakers in both these groups. Last year, TIAS leadership came from the NM chapter of ACLU. But the ACLU has expanded its commitments to the Southern Border Communities Coalition and the Revitalize Not Militarize campaign. The next TIAS meeting Jan. 29 will consider the future leadership and viability of the organization.

**IFC report** (Interfaith Council of NMSU) Karin attended the last meeting. Discussion centered around the depleted lottery scholarships for students. Donations are accepted to help students caught by the sudden withdrawal of funds. Whether to work on adding a chapel to the university campus was another topic.

**Library report** Anna asked for money to buy books and pamphlets for a "Newcomer's Shelf." The books would not be expensive so if they were not returned, it would not be a big loss. The suggestion was made to wait for the amount to be approved until the treasurer was present.

**Spiritual Study report** Jean Hansen advised that the next meeting would be the next Sunday, fourth Sunday, and the study would highlight peace, the "P" of the acronym SPICE. (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Ecology.) An art project would be offered.

**IMYM** Boulder Meeting has proposed a minute on the indigenous peoples for consideration at the June 2014 gathering. ("The Doctrine of Discovery and the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples") We can find the minute online on an IMYM link by that title. We will also get a packet in the mail. Having read the minute, we can consider whether to support it. Boulder is offering a "powerful" workshop to which we can also register and schedule by contacting Paula Palmer ([paulaRpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:paulaRpalmer@gmail.com)).

**Regional Meeting** April 11 and 12, Friday and Saturday are the dates for the 2014 New Mexico Regional Meeting. Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, all are invited to worship together. Santa Fe is the Monthly Meeting hosting Regional this spring. Watch for registration forms and think about shared transportation.

Next year, spring 2015, might be Las Cruces' and El Paso's turn to host Regional. Can we do it? Regional planners are asking for \$5 per member to help defray Regional expenses. All present approved this amount; however the treasurer was not present so his opinion needed to be weighed in. We have four months with five Sundays in 2014. Do we still want to connect with Silver City or El Paso Friends on those Sundays?

We ended the Jan. 2014 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with a time of silence.