



Las Cruces Friends Meeting Newsletter

June 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 **Equality**.

The primary reason for this ... is our conviction that there is that of God in every one which makes each person too precious to damage or destroy. – Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting, 1987 – IMYM faith & practice p. 177

Until we as a Religious Society begin to question our assumptions until we look at the prejudices, often very deeply hidden, within our own society, how are we going to be able to confront the inequalities within the wider society? – Susan Rooke-Matthews, 1993 – IMYM Faith and Practice p. 135

... We are called to meet each other as equals. We must take up this testimony with the willingness to follow it to its conclusion. We are called forward now to act as one Society in challenging white privilege and the constant, generations-old diminishment that is the result of racism. To do anything less is, in essence, to disavow our membership in the Religious Society of Friends. We invite you from our hearts to join us from your hearts. – Epistle from the Quakers & Racial Justice Conference 2001, Fit for Freedom not for Friendship p. 392

Calendar

Sunday June 1st – Peace Social and Environmental Concerns will meet after Meeting for Worship

Friday June 6th – Timer Meeting – a chance to share with others at the home of the Browns 1:30 PM *(If you need a ride or directions contact Vickie Aldrich)*

Sunday June 8th - Potluck following Meeting for Worship

June 11th – June 15th Intermountain Yearly Meeting annual gathering at Ghost Ranch

Thursday June 12th – Ministry and Oversight at 3 p.m. at 2711 Sunrise Point Road, Las Cruces

Friday June 13th – Timer Meeting – a chance to share with others at the home of the Browns at 1:30 PM (*If you need a ride or directions contact Vickie Aldrich*)

Sunday June 15th – Meeting for worship

Sunday June 22nd – Spiritual Practice session after Meeting for Worship. The focus is on Equality.

Sunday June 29th - Meeting for worship for Business after rise of Meeting for Worship

Up Coming Events

Intermountain Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering at Ghost Ranch June 11 – 15th
Early Days June 8 – 11th

Friends Peace Teams – Peace Quest 2014
20th anniversary celebration in Baltimore, MD
June 20 – 22nd

Friends General Conference Gathering in Pittsburgh, PA
Let Love be the First Motion
June 29th – July 5th

Friends Mountain Camp near Santa Fe, NM
July 1 – 27th

Links for events:

IMYM: <http://www.imym.org/2014regis> and for online registration see <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1443785>

FPT: <http://peacequest2014.org/>

FGC: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

Friends Mtn Camp: <http://mountainfriendscamp.org/>

COMMUNITY NOTES:

From Miki:

Hi Vickie. I write from cloudy rainy chilly Vermont. Apple trees and lilacs are in bloom and the lawn is covered with forget-me-nots and violets. I have to say I don't miss the 100 degree heat! Hope all is well with everyone, Miki

From Dave R:

The only things I have to offer are that I did this diary on the Organ Mountains- Desert Peaks National Monument (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/05/22/1301306/-Organ-Mountains-Desert-Peaks-National-Monument>) and another on Alice Hamilton, a pioneer in industrial medicine (<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/05/29/1302888/-Women-in-Science-Alice-Hamilton-1869-1970>).

Who are we giving to this month?

WEAVING FOR JUSTICE

Each month we give to an organization, some are local and some are further away. Weaving for justice is a local group that supports the work of women's weaving cooperatives in Chiapas, Mexico. We began giving to this group when it was first organized. Some of the members and attenders of our meeting had gone on a trip to Chiapas and met the women and started organizing with others in Las Cruces to help the women sell their products in the US.

Below is some information from their website, which you can check out at: <http://www.weaving-for-justice.org>

You can buy their weavings locally at the Mountain View Market and at the following special sales in June

All proceeds from sales go directly to three Maya women's cooperatives in Chiapas.

When: SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. What: Wine and Cheese Fundraiser to Benefit Hogar Casa Luz, an orphanage in Ayacucho, Peru. Peruvian Weavings, Folk Art, Sweaters, Purses, and Tapestries will be for sale, as well as Maya weavings from Chiapas. Where: 457 Spanish Trail, Las Cruces For further information please call Judy Forney - 575 525-8619 forneyjudy@earthlink.net

When: SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. What: Sale of weavings made by Maya women in three cooperatives in Chiapas

Where: Farmer's Market Downtown Las Cruces, 125 N. Main St. inside the Cooperative Enterprise Center

When: SATURDAY, JUNE 14th, 10-4 p.m. What: Sale of weavings from Maya co-ops in Chiapas at the Wise Latina International Innaugural Summit: Tapestry of Evolution, Strength, Power, Influence.

Where: El Paso Museum of Art, One Arts Festival Plaza, Downtown El Paso

Weaving in Highland Chiapas



Photo by Rebecca Wiggins-Reinhard

The weavers we assist live in several communities in the rural townships of San Pedro Chenalhó and San Andrés Larrainzar. They live in scattered hamlets near their *milpas*, small plots where they raise corn and beans. Some also raise coffee to make a little money. One of the groups, the doll makers, is located in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, the urban center of highland Chiapas.

Strident economic inequalities in Mexico have created intolerable conditions for indigenous people of Chiapas. Hunger and disease, high child mortality, scarce and distant water supplies, and minimal or non-existent health and educational facilities are

the legacy of the unjust economic system in Chiapas. For decades people have migrated to cities in Mexico to work in order to supplement subsistence farming, but recently migration has increased dramatically with more people leaving from Chiapas for the United States than from any other Mexican state. Weaving products to sell through fair trade markets provides women a means to support their families while staying on their lands and remaining part of their families and communities.

From the Library—an MP3 CD

Wild Lives : Celebrating the World Around Us
written and narrated by Susan J. Tweit
(background) (guitar) music by David Tipton

Put your CD player and Susan Tweit's CD in the kitchen as you're doing mindless chores, or cleaning out a room, or, as I did, finally get to that hand sewing or mending you've been putting off for months.

This CD is very long, and once you're actually hearing it, you wish it wouldn't end. (Or you can push the pause button and just take in a few sips of her narration at a time.) Tweit has strung together 28 five to seven minute segments from her radio broadcasts about the amazing wildlife community native to Southern New Mexico or Southern Colorado. "Juniper Fragrance," "Pygmy Owls," "Inhabiting the Wind," "Pulling Weeds," and "Chickadee Chatter" are some of my favorites.

The underlying theme of her part-scientific, part-poetic, part story-teller approach is how nature (including us) works together in a specific region. It really is a magical, often unknown web (or community) that surrounds us.

Although she sometimes suggests the alarming disappearance of species (such as in "California Condor,"), the emphasis is on the magic. At times her voice slips into the cadence of poetry, and then back into narration, seamlessly.

I did find the repetitive "This is Wild Lives, by Susan Tweit, of Salida, Colorado"--brief announcements that originally began and followed each individual radio segment--rather interruptive of the meditative word-

paintings. You just have to ignore them, like pushing a pause button. They shouldn't spoil your enjoyment of her descriptions of our often unrealized, amazing, yet scientific wonders of "the community of the land" we live in.

5/19/14

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Las Cruces Religious of Friends

Present: Al Galves (clerk), Miki Webb (recording clerk), Harold Jamison, Anna Underwood, Larry Underwood, Jean Hansen.

Meeting opened in silence.

1) Minutes were read and **approved** with the following changes:

Under 9b the sentence should read: There has been a change in county law which will prevent sheriffs from asking anyone they stop for more documentation than a driver's license, car registration and proof of insurance.

2) Treasurers report

Members continue to find the form of the report difficult to understand. The suggestion was made that if David is willing, he and Tim meet to clarify this. One specific request was that there be a place for gifts in kind – such as someone donating food for the retreat.

3) M&O

a. Recommendation that letter writing, as suggested by PSEC, will be done on potluck Sunday.

PSEC would supply the topic and materials, addresses of the places to write. It could be discussed during potluck if desired and the writing set up for afterwards.

Approved

b. An alternate convener for PSEC may be needed as David Richman is very busy at present.

This will be turned over to Nominating Committee

Approved

4) Website

There was discussion of the wording for the part "about us" on the website. There are also probably other places that need improvement and additions. We need to have the outreach committee decide who will receive suggestions and how choices

will be made. Do we need another committee or is the present outreach committee able and willing to do this. Al will speak to Vickie about this.

5) Buildings and grounds

a. The outside light in back is not working. Replacement of the bulb does not help; the fixture probably needs to be replaced. Larry and Harold will figure out what is needed and replace the fixture if needed.

Approved

b. This was the last month cleaning was paid for. It needs to be decided whether to continue. We have paid \$50 monthly. Reluctance was expressed at deciding to continue without input from the treasurer about the budget. We have also many different ideas about this, though the general feeling of those at this meeting was that it should be a regular line item like water and electricity. Larry Underwood offered to pay for the next three months while the meeting comes to some agreement. The offer was gratefully accepted.

c. The corner of the building has been checked by Larry, who believes this is probably just the typical settling of adobe buildings. He recommends having Pat Taylor, an expert on adobe buildings, check it and will find out what his fee would be.

Approved

6) Meeting Retreat report

Two of the small groups were represented at this meeting: care and nurturing of the meeting and our community and outreach.

a. Care of Us: Ways were discussed that the meeting could support people on their spiritual journeys or with issues arising in their lives. More emphasis on Clearness committees was suggested. If issues of grief and loss concern people in the meeting, it was suggested that we could devote time, maybe on a fourth Sunday, to those issues. This small group plans to meet again on June 4th after Spiritual Practice.

b. Outreach: More contact with El Paso Meeting is sought; maybe we could join El Paso sometimes for Meeting for Worship and vice versa. Jean will get contact information from Vickie.

In the fall we would like to offer to ourselves and the larger community some kind of introduction to and exploration of Quakerism. Ways of advertising this are needed. Harold will start exploring this during the summer and he and Miki (and anyone one who wants to help) will get something started in the fall.

The meeting was closed in silence.