



Las Cruces Friends Meeting Newsletter

May 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 **community**.

“Our inability to get along with each other threatens all life on this planet... I think our meetings become Blessed Communities by becoming places where we can engage in learning how to get along with each other, where we consciously learn by doing. Our meetings are the place we can experiment and experience, the place where we can make mistakes and then learn from our mistakes.”

Marty Walton, *The Blessed Community*, p. 8, 1994

“Community is the context in which people come to understand their relatedness.”

Parker Palmer, *A Place Called Community*, 1977

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Penington, 1667

Calendar

Friday May 2nd – 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 May 4th – Peace Social and Environmental Concerns will meet after Meeting for Worhsip

Thursday May 8th – Ministry and Oversight at 11 am at the home of Lynda Goin?

Sunday May 11th - Meeting Retreat Day before and after Meeting for worship See notice below for more information.

Friday May 16th - 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 May 18th - Meeting for worship for Business after rise of Meeting for Worship

Sunday May 25th - Meeting for worship

Up Coming Events

Las Cruces Friends Meeting Retreat Day - May 11th

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/>

Las Cruces Friends Meeting Retreat Day May 11th

Focus: Community

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Food: Brunch, Lunch (Potluck), Snacks

Activities: Worship Sharing, Worship, Music, small group Discussion, Spiritual Practice group session

Retreat Day schedule

9 am – Brunch

9:15 am – 9:45 am Worship Sharing facilitator – Erica

Topic: What is your vision of our Quaker Community? What are our strengths and challenges as a community? How do we embrace diversity within our community?

10:00 – 11:00 am Meeting for Worship

11am – 12 noon Potluck lunch

12:00 – 1pm Spiritual Practice Committee

1:00– 2:00pm – Community Music Jam bring your favorite instrument and song.

2:00 – 3:00 Small topic groups

Community building/growing our community

Caring for our community/how we invest in our community

Diversity in community

3:00 – 3:10 Light and lively

3:10 – 4:00pm small group report back and wrap up

Comments from attending Regional:

From Jim Tolbert:

Those who attended Regional Meeting in Santa Fe came away with an enthusiasm for what lies ahead – the Yearly Meeting, next year's Regional in El Paso and commitment to the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice<<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B405GrUYRD4JMk01WVRrRTg3cWM/edit?usp=sharing>>.

Many thanks to all those who made our time together so productive and nurturing especially the Santa Fe Monthly Meeting and their exuberant clerk, Jan-Willem Jansens; and to Sharon Gross, our Regional Clerk. Of

course, just mentioning two names would seem to minimize the dedication of so many more. That is not the intention here.

Everyone seemed delighted about holding Regional in El Paso next year. Those who have or are working with Youth have many ideas. Immigration was the topic that resonated with everyone and El Paso is certainly ground zero for that issue. There is much preparation to do but I got the sense that so many throughout Regional and especially Las Cruces Friends are ready to help make next year's Meeting a great event. If you have not read the Kabarak Call, it is worthwhile. It would also be worthwhile to explore on your own the Queries from Santa Fe about that Call. Here are the Queries:

1. What are my strengths, resources, and positive experiences for coping with despair and inertia as I seek to bring peace, heal the planet, and open my life to the Light?
2. How do differences in power, race, and privilege affect me as I seek to bring peace, heal the planet, and open my life to the Light?
3. How do differences in how we live with capitalism and consumerism affect us as a community as we seek to bring peace, heal the planet, and open our life to the Light?
4. How do differences in how we are directed by beliefs, religion, or emotions affect us as a community as we seek to bring peace, heal the planet, and open our life to the Light?
5. How can I become more compassionate to myself and others as I seek to bring peace, heal the planet, and open my life to the Light?
6. How can I help myself and others see (or at least envision) more wholeness in the world?

Note from Tim: There will be an article in the Rotarian magazine re the Peace Crane Memorial and its trip last spring to Washington D.C.

Book Review by Anna Underwood: *The Conversion of Margaret Lucas (1701-1769) In Her Own Words*

This is a short but compelling book. It's only 77 pages, not counting the two introductions. However, because it's in the language of early 18th Century English, as well as describing 18th Century English culture, it takes a little reflection. The introductions help.

Margaret Lucas has been orphaned when she begins her story. She leaves London and goes to live with her paternal aunt and uncle when she is twelve years old. Some of her siblings, one older sister and two younger children, also go to live with these relatives in a town called Leek. None

of them is happy. Margaret's other older sister, her favorite, dies suddenly at the age of 19 and Margaret plunges into sadness and religious questions.

Margaret's aunt and uncle belong to the Church of England. Her uncle seems to dote on her more than her siblings and he and his wife invest in singing, dancing, and pastry lessons (!) for her. They even sell their home and buy a bigger one that happens to be across the street from a church in order to advance her socially. Her uncle finances the shop where Margaret starts her own small retail business at age eighteen. Apparently Margaret is very pretty and the aunt and uncle are counting on her making a good marriage match. In Jane Austen's books from the same period, we see how a good marriage match monetarily benefits the whole family.

Margaret watches the funeral processions come and go in the church across the street from her home. She ponders the meaning of life, death and the afterlife. She attends her aunt and uncle's church, but also secretly attends Quaker meetings, then in quiet compares the two.

In the first and most recent introduction, we read that by the beginning of the 18th Century Quakers are still suspect in the society at large. Their rejection of the trinity, water baptism, their silent worship where some shake under the influence of Spirit, their plain dress and the use of "thee" and "thou" instead of "you" in speech still brought ridicule. When Margaret decides to become a Quaker, she endures much emotional and physical abuse from her family. Yet, you must read between the lines to discern what is really going on. She tries not want to blame her aunt and uncle, especially her uncle. Her aunt seems to have a violent temper.

This short book is fascinating because it tells, painfully, a young woman's courage to be true to her convictions, even when it costs her dearly. You can find the book in the "Journals and Autobiographies" section of the library.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Religious Society of Friends Las Cruces
April 27 2014

Present: David H. (clerk), Miki (recording clerk), Anna, Larry, Al, Vickie, Erica, Jean

- 1) Nominating Committee: Recommended Larry be Representative for Las Cruces to IMYM

Recommended that Miki be Recording Clerk

Approved

Minutes from the march Meeting were discussed. The following corrections were suggested: The Human Rights Organization referred to was the UN (under the heading TIAS) and Al and Erica agreed to be alternates for the Clerk if he is away.

Approved

- 2) Treasurer's Report: Vickie brought Tim's report as he is sick. Some suggestions were made: a column could be added to reflect budget adjustments. The figure on income may need to be checked and changed. Appreciation to Tim for getting us a report when he is not well was expressed.

Approved

- 3) Ministry and Oversight:

Listing our meeting in the Friends Journal was recommended.

Approved

Recommended that the meeting support sending the clerk to the Clerking workshop at Pendle Hill in November; dates and degree of financial support to be determined at a later date.

Approved

State of the Meeting report has been sent to IMYM and was read at Regional Meeting. It has never come to Business meeting for approval. It is suggested that we move the date for writing and presenting this report to the previous month (writing it in February and presenting it to Business meeting in March) so that it has been approved when it is read at regional and sent to IMYM.

Approved

- 4) Newsletter and website

Vickie presented the following questions to the meeting:

- a. Who will be the contact listed on the website? Erica is willing to have her name and number listed.
- b. Any pictures would be welcome to put on the website. Send them to Karin.
- c. Which committees will be listed? Peace and Social and Environmental Concerns, Spiritual Practice, Library, Buildings and grounds (for pictures). Each committee will be responsible for posting news or invitations and pictures.
- d. Shall we offer Gila and El Paso Meetings space, contacts, links? Vickie will offer this to them.

Approved

- 5) PSEC:

- a. NM ACLU wrote a letter endorsing UN Human Rights statement re Border States. Psec has endorsed this. There are many aspects to concerns for the immigration issues. As a meeting do we wish to become involved with some part of this problem.
 - b. AFSC has expressed concern for what they are calling Healing Justice, including transforming our system, specifically prison reform, immigration rights and solitary confinement.
 - c. Albuquerque Meeting is doing a month book study of the book The New Jim Crow.
 - d. A suggestion was made that we find a way to encourage and support individual letter writing at the meeting.
- 6) Spiritual Practice: Community will be the focus next month.
 - 7) Meeting Retreat: This was scheduled for May 4 but will be changed to May 11. The committee that will plan it consists of Erica, Vickie, Larry Jean and Miki. Anna will bring breakfast food because it will start at 9 AM. It will include meeting for worship and potluck.

Approved

- 8) Building and Grounds: Harold has a concern about the northwest corner of the building. Larry will check that.
- 9) Community Outreach:
 - a. Report from TIAS regarding deportation and border crossing. A video called Torn Apart is recommended.
 - b. There has been change in county law preventing sheriffs from asking anyone for more documentation than a driver's license.
 - c. Advanced AVP workshop being offered in El Paso May 30 – June 1.
- 10) New Business: the old linens from the chairs will be taken to the big Rotary garage sale by Larry. Anna will keep some to make pillows if appropriate.

The meeting closed in Silence.