

San Diego Friends Meeting:

Sundays 10:30-11:30, 3850 Westgate Place, San Diego CA 92106

April 2009

The Newsletter Changes Hands

On April 5, 2009, we approved a minute: "We thank Albert Rodewald for years of loving service to the Meeting in the production of our monthly newsletter."

We planned to print this in the May edition, which would have been my first. I had insisted on a chance to do the newsletter, if I was to go on as Recording Clerk--and checked with Albert; would this be alright with him? He said yes, but he may well have felt more pressured than I intended, in my eagerness to try new things.

Producing a publication can be a joy as well as a burden; I want to thank Albert for the grace with which he agreed to the change, and hope he will send in writings in the future.

Forrest Curo

Annual Retreat with La Jolla

The annual retreat for San Diego & La Jolla meetings is back again in early summer, May 29-31. (Memorial Day will be May 25 this year.) It begins Friday at 4:00 and ends with Meeting for Worship on Sunday; one day attendance on Saturday is an option. Registration forms will soon be available.

The name of the camp is now Wildwood Ranch, but it's at the same location, about two miles down Mussey Grade Road near Ramona.

Come and enjoy the beauty of the sky and the earth. Refresh your mind, body, and spirit.

For more information, contact Rachel Clibborn or me

Alison Lawrance

A New Concept:

We will still, of course, want news of San Diego Friends, and writings by members or attenders, whether or not published elsewhere.

What I propose is to widen our scope, even get a little frisky sometimes. Truth is not confined to what we all agree on, and you're all welcome to disagree here as much as I will. I'm a writer, not a talker, and I'm doing the layout, which gives me some unfair advantages, but I promise not to play as rough as the Quaker pamphleteers of the 1600s! The object is to share what might inspire and nourish us, not to impose even my own superior notions!

You may miss the old format, but let's give this a try!

Forrest Curo

Are We Doing Right By the Earth?

The Advices and Queries for April, which you may read on page 51 of Faith and Practice, are on 'Harmony With Creation.' They end with a poignant question: "Does our way of life threaten the viability of life on Earth?"

If the situation is unclear, readclimate.org is a trustworthy source of information, a site maintained by scientists professionally engaged in the study of climate change-- past, present and future. Many of the articles are merely about distortions in media coverage; the others sometimes get technical enough to give the old brain a real stretch--but if you persist, it can be fascinating!

Although "ending up like Venus" is not among the possibilities, the Earth has undergone climatic disasters in the past--and taken vast periods for recovery. The story of Earth's mass extinctions has only come into focus quite recently. We knew there were tiny mammals underfoot during the long reign of the dinosaurs; we now understand that their larger relatives had gone extinct at a time when intense warming drastically reduced the atmosphere's oxygen content. Michael Benton, in When Life Nearly Died (2003) gives a clear, readable history of the science involved--or you might prefer to search for the Scientific American article of a couple years ago on mass extinctions.

A Russian scientist of the Cold War era, asked whether a nuclear war would trigger a period of nuclear winter, replied that finding out would take a very large experiment, and be a very bad idea. Is what we are doing now analogous?

Forrest Curo

News of Friends by Alison Lawrance

One of our Meeting's early members, Annette Spelman, has only recently retired from nursing. She is now 80, and lives 7,000 feet up in the mountains north of Los Alamos. Here two sons live in Santa fe, not too far away, and her daughter, Anna, a ballet dancer (She shared her talent at age 10, in La Jolla Meeting cottage long ago) now lives in Chicago with her family, which includes twin baby girls. Annette is concerned about recent work at Los Alamos, where scientists have become involved in research on our genetic codes.

John Penery is now 95, still living at home with Anne. Their daughter Ruthe and grandson Mark live on the property as well.

Virginia Flagg just returned home from a trip to Spain and Morocco. She will soon be attending La Jolla Meeting as she has 'transistioned' into the Casa de Manana successfully, and is now within walking distance of their Meetinghouse, as well as the local high school swimming pool.

Pam Rider was assisted in her move recently by George Gastil and Vernon Mitchell. She is grateful to be out of an interim location! Her new address is 4425 Copeland Avenue, San Diego CA 92105.

Phone: 619-488-3634. Thank you, guys!

Karim Carlock was recently featured in an exhibit in Bard Hall at the Unitarian Church here (near the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest.) Laurie Carlock and Anne Curo are in their current show, with Forrest Curo to take a turn next month. The next receptions (3rd Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30, followed by an artists' discussion) will be April 21 and May 19.

Lowell Tozer was recognized at a luncheon recently along with other long-term volunteers and employees from UCSD Medical Center. He has completed 15 years of cuddling premature babies (who much appreciate and need that!) and is still going strong. He will be 88 later this month.

FCNL Report: [from Charles Gillespie]

Barack Obama has become the first US President in history to declare an intention to seek peace and security in "a world without nuclear weapons.

Friends Committee on National Legislation is working to support his call for Nuclear Weapons Disarmament. They have created the following online petition, to be collected and delivered to members of Congress as they start actively lobbying this summer. They ask Friends to sign it, and pass it on to others.

On April 5, 2009, President Barack Obama called for the United States to work for a world free of nuclear weapons. The President joins a long list of U.S. leaders, including former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, former Senator Sam Nunn, and former Defense Secretary William Perry, who have declared their support for universal nuclear disarmament.

- ◆ Declare your support for the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
- ◆ Support and work for ratification of the follow-on agreement to START, when it is submitted to the Senate
- ◆ Support significant increases in U.S. funding for initiatives to secure dangerous stockpiles of old nuclear materials that could be used to build bombs

Thank you.

The petition can be signed online at:
<http://action.fcnl.org/petitions/409nukes>

from:

San Diego Friends Meeting
3850 Westgate Place
San Diego, CA 92105

to:

AFSC Roadmap to Peace

As requested by AFSC, we have endorsed their following as key principles to guide US dealings with other nations:

- 1) Our nation should invest in peace. A federal budget that invests more in long-term capacity for diplomacy, development, and conflict prevention across U. S. government agencies is a cost-effective way to foster peace and improve human, national, and global security.
- 2) Military force should be the *last* option. Expanded U.S. government capacity for civilian-led and implemented foreign assistance and crisis response offers a more strategic and cost-effective alternative to military-led involvement.
- 3) Give diplomacy a chance. A well-resourced and field-present diplomatic infrastructure will enhance U.S. ability to prevent and resolve conflict through dialogue, and restore U.S. credibility and trust in the world.

4) Be a part of global efforts. U.S. recommitment to constructive participation in international institutions and partnerships is necessary to address key global challenges that include conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, nonproliferation, climate change, migration, public health, and poverty.

5) Create justice through development and trade policies. U.S. development and trade policies that reflect a long-term commitment to gender-equitable welfare, poverty alleviation, and sustainable use of natural resources will enhance aid effectiveness, contribute to national interests, and ensure a stable global environment.

A Chinese residing in France thinks in his own terms, in his own tradition. He has his own criterion of judgement and of action; he is really a stranger and a foreigner. He is also a citizen of another State, and his loyalty is given to this State, and not to the country in which he is living. It is the same with the Christian.

Jacques Ellul

The Presence of the Kingdom

Local Announcements:

Southern California Quarterly Meeting, Saturday April 25 in Santa Barbara.

Meeting potluck/discussion on 'Globalization & Immigration' led by Ben Prado of AFSC's San Diego Border Project. At the Curo's new upstairs apartment, 3770 El Cajon Blvd, Friday May 1 at 6:00. (619) 528-8211 for directions.

Red Lotus Society has invited us to join in the First Annual Sit-a-Thon at their meditation studio downtown, 540 3rd Avenue, May 9 starting at 8:00 a.m. Forrest Curo is to organize one hour specifically for Quaker worship at 3:00 p.m., but we are welcome to participate in meditation led by representatives of other religious traditions, from 8:00 a.m. until the final session at 8:00 p.m.

Pacific Yearly Meeting at Walker Creek Ranch, Marin County, Monday July 27 through Saturday, August 1.

When people read a religious book together, in a spirit open to whatever understandings it may bring forth, it's different from reading alone. It's different from "discussion." It can make God's process of teaching us a palpable element of our lives. Anne and I found this in the New Testament classes at Pendle Hill, in the Torah study at P'nai Or Synagogue in Philadelphia. And sometimes in our reading group downstairs in the Theosophical Lodge Bookstore.

That group has always been small; we aren't all in good health; lately we've run down altogether. To resume--We really do need more members, just to keep the momentum going when someone occasionally can't make it.

We've read books of the Bible, parts of The Essential Rumi, The Empty Mirror, and Zen Flesh, Zen Bones. We've read things by Marcus Borg, Erich Schiffmann, Brian Drayton, and NT Wright--also some choice Pendle Hill pamphlets and stuff about the Gnostics. If there's a book that moves and interests you, please let us know about it! Tell me what times would fit your schedule, and I'll do my best to fit in everyone interested.

Forrest Curo