

# Friendly News

December 2016

## Words to Reflect Upon

When we find ourselves teaching . . . can we draw upon that respect for one another and faith in one another's potential that will enable the other to feel taller and more capable? At Rufus Jones's memorial meeting, one of his students simply said: "He lit my candle." That is a high aim for us all to aspire to in educating ourselves and our young people.

*Barbara Windle, 1988 in Quaker Faith & Practice of Britain Yearly Meeting, 1993*

## Advices and Queries on Religious Education Advices

1. The Bible and other religious literature is the rightful heritage of us all. The study of sacred books expands and deepens our awareness of our own spiritual heritage and that of others. What we read means little unless it helps us understand our own personal religious experience, the work of the Spirit behind the words. It helps to know that our search for truth can include a multitude of experiences.
2. It is essential that children be taught the meaning of silence and vocal ministry in meeting, and the history of the Religious Society of Friends. Knowledge of our testimonies and their evolution is equally important to their religious education. Work camps, community activities, and opportunities to serve others enhance their experience. We must be gentle and respectful as our children seek their own spiritual truths, appreciating whatever insights they bring to us.
3. All adults in meeting can benefit from religious education in the form of Quaker Studies programs, spiritual formation groups, prayer groups, worship-sharing groups, or adult First Day school classes. Like a garden, the spirit within must be tended and nurtured. The meeting is enriched when all those participating care for their own spirits.

## Queries

1. In what ways does our meeting help develop the spiritual lives of our children and adult members and

attenders? Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in meeting? Do we welcome their presence among us?

2. How does our meeting educate its members of all ages about the Bible, other sacred writings, our Christian heritage, and the history and principles of Friends?

3. Do we encourage our children to participate actively in meetings for worship and meetings for business? Are they aware of the meaning of membership in the meeting and the importance of service to the community?

4. How do we share our deepest beliefs with our children and with one another? What inspires us to develop our spiritual and religious life?

## Notes of the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting (AMM) for Worship for Business (MfWfB), December 4, 2016

Minute: annual meeting of the Corporation.

Sharon discussed the role of officers and directors of the AMM Corporation. Mfwb today is our annual meeting, required by our bylaws. Meeting approved the following Minute:

***(2016.12.1) The following persons are appointed to serve as Directors of the Meeting until the next regular annual meeting or until their successors are appointed, whichever occurs first:***

***Tina Kachele***

***Sara Keeney***

***George Thomas***

***Fred Koster***

***The following persons are appointed to serve as officers of the Meeting until the next regular annual meeting or until their successors are appointed, whichever occurs first:***

***Tina Kachele***

***President***

***Sara Keeney***

***Vice-President***

***George Thomas***

***Treasurer***

***Fred Koster***

***Presiding Secretary***

Exploring whiteness. Reflections on the Query: How does whiteness show up in your personal life? What are you called to do about whiteness? (*related: How can we link our work on whiteness to our witness in support of Standing Rock?*)

This is our third meeting discussing this issue. Clerk read excerpts from the AFSC guideline document. Clerk clarified we are in worship sharing mode where we listen deeply.

Comments:

- Member commented on the role of the 2000 veterans at Standing Rock, their demonstration of support for native peoples.
  
- Regarding Standing Rock, the authorities are using harsh techniques against the protestors. Member questions why this is happening. Member believes it is due to corporate greed.
  
- Member notes that talking about whiteness is difficult. Discussion of benefits of diversity can distract us from query on whiteness. We need to keep focused on our reflection of whiteness. Member discusses her journey of addressing this issue. Member wants to be an accomplice in dismantling racism.
  
- Member expresses concern with the current voices in our country that amplify whiteness. Member concerned about where we are headed as a country.

- Member related her experience as a teacher working with a native student for whom she found work. Student's family was grateful and member spent a week living with student's family. Member was grateful for the experience. Member believes racism can be reduced by folks sharing common experiences.

Meeting of the Whole & Follow-up on Recommendations for Rejuvenation Period

Clerk discussed how busy the meeting has been. Transgender workshop had 30 attendees, Adult Ed workshops have been full and we had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal.

A. Personal and group contributions/Year of Rejuvenation

Comments:

- Member expressed appreciation for Thanksgiving meal and sharing at meetinghouse. Particularly appreciated the different perspectives on nativity.
  
- Member expressed appreciation for workgroup on working thru difficult issues of right sharing, workgroup was even fun.
  
- Member expressed appreciation for a new family member's support.
  
- Member related that an Earlham staff member passed away.
  
- Regarding children's committee, a member expresses appreciation for the growth of children's committee and their increased involvement in Meeting.
  
- Sessions on mutual care have been helpful. Friday contemplative meeting has been rewarding.

***(2016.12.2) Mfwb for January, 2017 will be held on January 8, 2017.***

***(2016.12.3) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting approves the 2017 Budget as presented by Finance Committee.***

***(2016.12.4) The AMM removes the following individual as signatory on all accounts at Nusenda Credit Union: Sharon Gross. George Thomas and Sara Keeney are currently signatories and will continue as such.***

***The AMM authorizes the following individual as signatory on all accounts at Nusenda Credit Union: Frederick Koster.***

***The AMM authorizes the following individuals to be signatories on all accounts at the Nusenda Credit Union: George Thomas, Sara Keeney, Frederick Koster.***

***These authorizations will be active until revocation by the AMM.***

***(2016.12.5) Meeting approves Chadron Kidwell and Henry Selters to be on the adhoc committee to write the 2016 State of the Meeting (SOTM) Report. Elizabeth Freyman will contact Melissa Pizzo and John Penery to request them be on the committee.***

*Members and attenders will submit a few sentences to the adhoc committee, as they feel led. Standing committees will submit information to the adhoc committee. All submissions should be received by 1/15/2017. The SOTM report should respond to the query: how has the spirit moved in the meeting this past year?*

*(2016.12.6) Albuquerque Monthly Meeting approves the following nominations: Frederic Koster to Presiding Secretary of the Albuquerque Monthly Meeting Corporation (December 2016 through December 2018); Richard Knottenbelt to Worship and Ministry (December 2016 through December 2018); Minor Morgan continuing as Recording Clerk through December 2017; Clyde Milner continuing on Finance Committee (Member at Large) through December 2018; Henry Selters continuing on Adult Education through December 2017.*

*(2016.12.7) Nominating Committee nominates the following: Nancy Rice to continue as AMM representative to IMYM Representative's Committee for the period January, 2017 thru January 31, 2019. Diana Koster as AMM Representative to New Mexico Regional Nominating Committee for the period January, 2017 thru January 31, 2019. Elizabeth Freyman and Mirium Bennett to continue on Worship and Ministry thru December, 2017. These nominations will be seasoned for one month until January, 2017 MFWFB.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NM Regional Meeting 2017**

Dear Friends,

Durango Monthly Meeting will host the annual spring gathering of New Mexico Regional Meeting the weekend of April 21-23. Please alert Friends in your meeting or worship group to save the date. More details about the gathering, registration, and activities will be forthcoming in early January.

In Friendship,

David Henkel, Clerk  
New Mexico Regional Meeting

**Updates to our web page!!** We now have a section for posts about special events and projects of the Meeting, including Christmas Day singing, Standing Rock Action, the Nativity Bible Study sessions, and support for St. Martin's in 2017. See <http://abq.imym.org/cms/> for more (right hand side of the home page for links). Thank you to Joann and Rob Pierson for making this happen!  
You can also find minutes of the Monthly Meeting for Business! Click on the link for "minutes" (so far, Nov 2016 is up!).

### **Advent Calendar Information**

Thank you, AMM Friends, on behalf of Mary Ray Cate who has been a long-time member of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting. Thanks to your generous contributions \$330 was raised with your purchases of 40 of Mary Ray's beautiful advent calendars which are now available at the Christmas Store if you want more. Three checks for \$110 were sent to AFSC, to Pronica, and to a small Guatemalan school through a Meeting in Colorado.

For further information please contact Mary Ray at [\(505\) 989-1630](tel:5059891630)

### **SAVE THE DATE! Anti-racism training at the Peace Center, the evening of**

**Monday, Jan 30:** Abq Center for Peace and Justice will be hosting a two-hour anti-racism training (introductory) taught by Enrique Cardiel, a wonderful trainer and organizer in the community. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Time to be announced in January.



## Volunteer Opportunities/Indigenous Rights

Greetings New Mexico RPCVs,

I am writing to let you know of exciting volunteer opportunities in an indigenous rights organization that, like many RPCV-run groups, has been contributing to the Peace Corps Third Goal since 2004. [Native Future](#) was born of Peace Corps Panama service in Wounaan, Ngäbe and Buglé indigenous communities, and continues to be driven by the passion and commitment of [Returned Peace Corps Volunteers](#).

Since Native Future's founding by RPCVs, we've been helping the [Wounaan](#) people of Panama protect their land rights, forests and future, and we provide educational scholarships to all three indigenous groups. For example, [our work](#) has contributed to the collective title of three Wounaan communities, which helps them control illegal logging, encroachment from ranching and farming and deforestation. Still, six communities remain untitled and all Wounaan communities are making their best efforts to protect, restore and sustainably manage their forests, and secure their way of life.

We are a growing team that spans many continents, and have a variety of exciting volunteer needs to fit your talent and time, anywhere from an hour or two a week to quarterly commitments to annual special events. *Let us know what interests you!* We're especially looking for people willing to help with communications and outreach, social media, graphics design and support, fundraising, grant writing, annual benefit events, donor and sponsorship development.

*Spanish is not a requirement*, however if you can work in Spanish (or their native languages), you may also be able to help develop the capacities of our Wounaan, Ngäbe and Buglé friends by directly sharing with them your skills and talent.

Finally, we understand not everyone can take out time to volunteer. If you can't give your time but can support with a [donation](#), it is tax-deductible and this year matched 1:1 by three [generous donors](#).

Please don't hesitate to write us for more information: [native.future.contact@gmail.com](mailto:native.future.contact@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Marsha Kellogg  
Panama, 1992 - 1994  
President, Native Future  
<http://www.nativefuture.org/>

## Women's March on Washington—ABQ Support

On Saturday, January 21, 2017 there will be a rally on Civic Plaza, Downtown Albuquerque to support those who are marching in Washington D.C. . The peaceful rally will be from 11am to 1pm.

## December Faith and Practice Topics

Dear Friends - As announced at Meeting, December's Faith & Practice topic is Religious Education, which includes Bible study. ***Please send me ([robpierson0@gmail.com](mailto:robpierson0@gmail.com)) a note from your desired email address if you want to sign up.*** After you send me a note, you should get an invitation to the discussion group within a day or two. (this is new to all of us, so please be patient with any techno-glitches!) Peace & Love for this season of the coming of the Light, - Rob

The Nativity:

A Study on the Birth of the Birth Stories

*[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" [Mark 8:29]*

This will not be your typical Christmas Pageant with manger, angels, shepherds, and wise men – although we'll encounter all of those along the way. What this study asks us to do is read the stories in the Bible from the context of our own faith experience and listen deeply to what the authors are trying to tell us about *who Jesus was* and *where he came from*. If you think there's one answer, you may be in for a shock.

The final session will be Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9:00

· Dec 18 – JOHN: THE "QUAKER CHRISTMAS"

All in-person sessions are 9:00 Sunday morning at the Quaker Meetinghouse. Readings and exercises (hopefully fun) available ahead of time online.

The sessions would be suitable for any curious persons, from middle school age up, Quaker and non-Quaker, and for those who love the Bible and those who are suspicious of the Bible or simply Bible-illiterate. Invite others who might be interested. Come along, do a little detective work, and read the story the way it was first told – before all the Hallmark cards and the plastic Jesus in a manger.

To join: Contact Rob Pierson  
[robpierson0@gmail.com](mailto:robpierson0@gmail.com)

## Supporting Standing Rock

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us today in sharing a bit about our trip to Standing Rock, and again for your support and care in the Light for our journey. It was an honor to go, and our privilege to share it with you today.

**MEANWHILE... if you are wondering what you can DO to support, here are some links and phone numbers:**

**1. FYI: Statement from the Sacred Stone Camp** in response to the Army Corps letter that Oceti Sackowin Camp must be evacuated by Dec 5: <http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/11/27/the-us-army-cannot-evict-us-from-treaty-lands>

### 2. Make phone calls THIS WEEK:

--the **White House**: comment line: 202.456.1111, or 202.456.1414 (if busy, try again in a few minutes)  
--**US Army Corps of Engineers**: main 202.761.0011; public affairs 202.761.0014  
--**US Dept. of Justice**: 202.353.1555  
--**Sen Udall**: 202.224.6621; local 505.346.6791

The main messages are:

STOP THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE.

RESCIND THE PERMIT and DENY the Easement.

Order a FULL Environmental Impact Statement.

Investigate Human Rights Abuses by militarized police.

Reverse course in the decision by the Army corps to 'close' the land where Oceti Sackowin Camp is located on Dec 5.

If you wish, thank Sen Heinrich for his statement in support of Water Protectors (see here: <https://www.facebook.com/MartinHeinrich>): "Today, I am calling on the President and the Army Corps of Engineers to reroute the pipeline. No pipeline is worth more than the respect we hold for our Native American neighbors. No pipeline is worth more than the clean water that we all depend on. This pipeline is not worth the life of a single protester."

### 3. This is a good statement about being allies (if you need some inspiration):

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/11/27/shailene-woodley-how-be-indigenous-ally-video-166587>

### 4. Finally, this short video with three of the midwives at the camp is worth

watching: <https://vimeo.com/192739803>

Carolina Reyes used to live in Albuquerque and is a good friend of some of the people in our group. We were able to bring her supplies and some funds for her ongoing work.

Thank you!

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Tina Kachele  
505.977.3767  
kekachele@earthlink.net

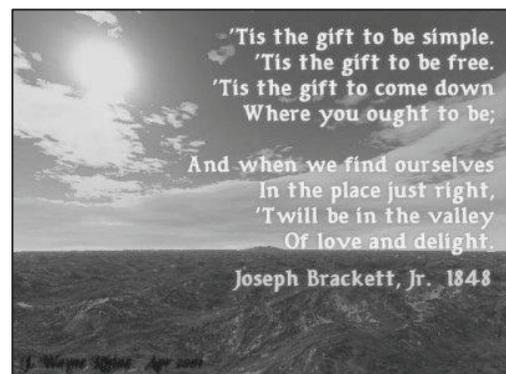


## CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

~ Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby

December 11, 2016 was a busy morning for our children. They created Simple Gifts: rosemary swags, candles, cards, truffles, and bird feeders. The children would ask you to join them Christmas morning to sing carols and welcome them to attend Meeting for Worship.



**COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE**

I have been in the Greensboro/High Point, NC area for a year now. I am enjoying it very much. I attend Meeting for Worship at Salem Creek MM in Winston-Salem and participate in a brown bag lunch/contemplation afternoon on Tuesdays at Friendship MM across the street from Guilford College in Greensboro. Right now I am in a small apartment in Greensboro. This is my mailing address as long as I live here in NC:

and my cell phone number also remains the same. It is likely I will be by to visit this spring. :-) Hugs, love and light!! Cheryl Clemmensen

Thank you. I was part of the AMM from 2011 until Sept. 2014. I miss everyone!!

Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles.

Unknown

“Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”

~ Oren Arnold



**RECURRING EVENTS**

Event	Time
Meeting for Worship	Sundays at 10:30 am
Wednesday Meeting for Worship	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays: Worship from 7pm to 8pm
Meeting for Worship for Business	First Sunday of each month at 11:00 pm Child care available
Adult Ed Reflective Reading Group	Fridays, 12:00 to 2:00 Bring a sack lunch
Sunday socials	Third Sunday of each month at 12:00 pm

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

Event	Time
NM Regional Meeting Durango, CO	April 21-23, 2017
Women’s March Support DC March Civic Plaza ABQ	Saturday, January 21, 2017 11am to 1pm
Anti-Racism training ABQ Peace Center	Monday, Jan 30, 2017 Evening—Time to be announced

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<b>First Sunday</b>	9:00-10:00 Adult Education	10:00-11:00 Meeting for Worship	11:00-? Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business	
<b>Second Sunday</b>	9:00-10:00 Worship Sharing	10:00-10:20 Singing and Fellowship	10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship	11:30-12:30 Afterthoughts/ Fellowship Q&A
<b>Third Sunday</b>	9:00-10:00 Adult Education	10:00-10:20 Singing and Fellowship	10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship	Potluck
<b>Fourth Sunday</b>	9:00-10:00 Worship Sharing	10:00-10:20 Singing and Fellowship	10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship	11:30-12:30 Afterthoughts/ Fellowship Q&A
<b>Occasional Fifth Sunday</b>		10:00-10:20 Singing and Fellowship	10:30-11:30 Meeting for Worship	11:30-12:30 Afterthoughts/ Fellowship Q&A

### A note from the co-editors

With grateful acknowledgement of the generosity of Friends who have provided material for this issue of Friendly News. Sharing from many Friends of all ages are warmly encouraged so that the newsletter reflects the experiences of all of us. If you have any questions, or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact co-editors: John Penery, 505-480-4814; Erin Hulse, 505-507-4154 or either of us at [Erindrama@comcast.net](mailto:Erindrama@comcast.net).

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED