

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

FRIENDLY LINE

April 2024



Children's Peace Libraries Support Rwandan Children and Families

(Part One of two articles sharing Peter's recent trip to Rwanda)

In February, traveling to Rwanda to support and learn from Friends Peace Teams programs there, I had the chance to visit two of the Children's Peace Libraries supported by the Transformational Leadership Center, which is based in Kigali. There I met with librarian Tuyizere Jean D'Amour and he explained how the Read Aloud program encourages children to reflect upon the stories they heard with particular kinds of questions. These include "wondering questions" to encourage the children to go beyond the story with deeper reflections. Later, I spent time visiting the Children's Peace Library in Gicumbi (pronounced Gih-chum-bee), a small city north of the capital Kigali. There

I met Odette MUKABALISA, an exceptional person who loves her work as the librarian. We worked together for about one week and I could see and feel what her love for the children meant to them.

The children come after school. For all children the time they spend in the Children's Peace Library brings many benefits. Typically the children arrive and select one or more books to spend time with. They return books that they have checked out. Helping Odette included reorganizing the books after the children had visited as the books get rather jumbled with each visit. When healthy snacks are available these are provided to the children as part of their visit. As testimonies from Rwandan children have emphasized, the healthy snacks make a real difference, as many Rwandan children are hungry

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A Quaker Minute

That of God in Everyone

The concept of "That of God in Everyone" explores the Quaker belief that there is that of God in everyone.

Quakerism is experiential. It relies upon each Friend's experience of the Divine presence, not primarily upon scriptures or an ordained priesthood.

George Fox's knowledge of the Bible was extensive, but when he said, "and this I knew experimentally," he was declaring that his faith was based upon his experience of God, not upon his beliefs about God or upon his reading of the Bible.

George Fox's revolutionary concept and experience that 'the Lord Christ Jesus was come to teach his people himself.' That Spirit could actually speak to us, teach and guide us, individually and corporately, without any intermediaries, was powerfully transforming.

-- Inspired by "Exploring Quakerism" by Marsha Holiday, in the 2006 publication of Quaker Press of Friends General Conference.

One in a series on Quaker history and practice, contributed by Pam Blackburn.

**MEETING FOR WORSHIP
WITH ATTENTION TO
BUSINESS 03/10/2024**

Present: Carol Spaulding-Kruse (clerk), Dorothy Lifka (recording clerk), Jim Dietz-Kilen, Ann Robinson, Andrea Holveck, Susan Meyers, Deborah Fisch, Katie Jacoby, Dick Douglass, Billie Wade, Jack Holveck

We opened with silence.

Approval of Minutes from February, 2024

The minutes were corrected with the clarification that the P&SC committee was going to be contacted about the establishment of a fund for immigration concerns and asked whether they wanted to administer that fund or if a new committee should be created, but no one was assigned to contact the committee.

The minutes were approved with that correction with appreciation to the recording clerk.

Announcements from the clerk:

1. It's DIRECTORY time. Please watch for a request to review your information and make any additions, changes or deletions. Also, please note that you are warmly invited to participate in the "fun fact" column that many in our meeting have already agreed to do.
2. The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace will sponsor a Palm Sunday procession on March 24. The procession will begin at 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Corinthian Baptist Church, 814 School St. DMVF will co-sponsor the event.

3. In supporting materials below please find a copy of an email, sent on behalf of the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting, which is a call to all Quaker Meetings in the U.S. to participate spiritually and financially in an historic Quaker moment: [Homeland Return](#) of the Sierra Friends Center (Woolman) to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.
4. Ann Robinson has offered to host an informal light supper on the evening of March 22 for Friends gathering at the meeting house for the Open Book story gathering project.
5. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel, meets virtually on Thursdays, 4:30 Central Time; Meeting ID: 858 3133 3364
Passcode:759311

Ministry & Council Committee Report (Jim Dietz-Kilen)
March 3, 2024

In attendance: Gordon Bivens, Andrea Holveck, Dorothy Lifka, Billie Wade, Deborah Fisch, Peter Clay and Jim Dietz-Kilen (convener).

We discussed the status of support for Logan and Corey's expenses for attending FCNL's Lobby Weekend. We approved a \$363 disbursement from the Quaker Education & Enrichment fund toward their \$880 request. We were unable to contribute more toward those expenses because the approved disbursement exhausted the available funds. We reached out to Peace & Social Concerns to see whether they would be able to contribute \$517 to close the gap. We are not sure whether this

happened. Katie (Treasurer) has had some difficulty connecting with Logan and Corey to get the check from the QEE fund to them. We understand that the Finance Committee has a plan for replenishing the fund and broadening its stated purpose, which will be presented to Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. Our committee supports this plan.

We wish to remind Friends of the book club, which has begun discussing [How the Word Is Passed](#), by Clint Smith. Friends can contact either Dorothy or Billie for more information. Dorothy has copies of the book available through a Book Club Pack from the library.

Dorothy updated us on Friends House. Renee Cawthorn, one of the building tenants, is the new property manager. Dorothy is impressed with her. They have received an updated architectural report on the building, which the Board will be reviewing carefully. The initial overview verview is that the building is in relatively good shape for its age.

There are a number of members/attenders with concerns of various types. Individual committee members are staying connected with them to determine whether and how we can support them.

We have received an inquiry about a possible clearness committee for an attender.

Minute: The report was approved with appreciation for the work of the committee. The Meeting thanks Logan and Corey for their work with FCNL.

Treasurer's Report: (Katie Jacoby)

Katie reviewed the financials, including Budgeted Receipts and Expenses report; the Summary of Available Funds report; and the Designated Funds Detail report.

Minute: The report was approved with appreciation for the work of the treasurer and bookkeeper.

Finance Committee Report

(Catherine Dietz-Kilen, reported by Katie Jacoby) – Feb. 21, 2024

Attendees: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy Lifka and Dick Douglass

1. Financial Statement. The Committee reviewed and approved the January 2024 financial reports.
2. Purchase of Certificate of Deposit. Katie has researched our options of purchasing a Certificate of Deposit. She is authorized to purchase a \$30,000 six-month CD at Community Choice Credit Union which will have an interest rate of 4.93%.
3. Internet for the Meeting House. Katie has done a great deal of research on the options for having an internet account for the Meeting House separate from Friends House. The cost of doing so is significant, and the new manager of Friends House is most cooperative to ensure that members of Meeting would have access to the server at Friends House and therefore the Committee decided it was not necessary to set up a separate internet account.
4. Designated Fund for Immigration Concerns. At the direction of Business Meeting, the Finance Committee has created a designated fund for Immigration Concerns, with the intent of transferring \$2,500 from the Meetings' general fund reserves to this designated fund. This action does not require an amendment to the current budget.
5. Action Item. After discussion, the Finance Committee recommends to Business Meeting that the "Quaker Education and Enrichment" designated fund be expanded and renamed the "Quaker Education, Enrichment and Advocacy" designated fund to permit funds in this account to be used for Friends to travel for advocacy or to advocate on issues locally, as well as continue using funds as we have in the past for Quaker education and enrichment.
6. Action Item. With the support of the family, the Finance Committee recommends to Business Meeting that the funds held in the Jean Sandstrom Memorial Fund be transferred to the Quaker Education, Enrichment and Advocacy designated fund.
7. It has come to Finance Committee's attention that the mail that would have been mailed to Friends House at the very end of December and at the beginning of January may not have been distributed appropriately during the time period when the former Friends House manager was out of the country. It is possible that donations may have been sent in the form of checks through the US Mail during this time period. The Finance Committee believes it is appropriate to alert our members, attenders and donors that if a check was sent to the Meeting during this time period, which has not been cashed, that it has probably been lost. We will make an announcement at Meeting for Worship and also ask Ann to include a notice in the Friendly Line.
8. The Finance Committee has noticed that the current lease that Meeting House has with Friends House dated September 2018, requires Meeting to pay \$1 per month of rent and that this rent has not been paid. A retroactive payment will be made and the rent going forward will appear as a budget line in future budgets.
9. Our next scheduled meeting will be on the third Wednesday of next month March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Additions to the report:

- The certificate of deposit has been purchased.
- \$2500.00 has been transferred from the Meeting's general fund to the new designated fund, Immigration Concerns.
- Dorothy has contacted regular contributors to DMVF by email about possible missing checks.
- Past rent payments have been made to Friends House, and we are now up to date. It was recommended that from now on the yearly

payment be made in January.

- In regards to transfer of funds in the Jean Sandstrom fund to the newly named Quaker Education, Enrichment and Advocacy fund, it was noted that the finance committee trusts that if in the future there is a wish for funding for improvements to the outdoor space, perhaps including a playground, the Meeting will be supportive.

Minute: The Business Meeting approved that the “Quaker Education and Enrichment” designated fund be expanded and renamed the “Quaker Education, Enrichment and Advocacy” designated fund to permit funds in this account to be used for Friends to travel for advocacy or to advocate on issues locally, as well as to continue using funds as we have in the past for Quaker education and enrichment.

There was discussion of the Jean Sandstrom fund and what Jean’s wishes might have been for the use of this fund. It was clarified that this fund consists of donations made to DMVF in Jean’s name. To support the recommendation of the committee, we were reminded that Jean had used the Education and Enrichment fund in the past and had requested money to attend a clerking worship at Friends General Conference not long before her death. It was noted that in the recent past there were few requests for funds from the Quaker Education and Enrichment fund, but there have

been more in the past year. It was clarified that Corey and Logan can retroactively request funds for their FCNL trip from this fund.

Minute: After discussion with the family, the Business Meeting approved closing the Jean Sandstrom fund and taking the entire amount that is in that fund and transferring it to the newly named Quaker Education, Enrichment and Advocacy fund. In keeping with Jean’s involvement with the youth of the Meeting, Meeting is reminded that this fund could fund scholarships for Camp Woodbrook or similar youth opportunities.

The Meeting appreciates the work of the committee.

Building & Grounds Committee (Dick Douglass)

Iowa Fire Equipment did their annual inspection for Friends House and the Meeting. Several smoke detectors need to be replaced in both buildings. Renee Cawthorn, manager at FH, is arranging replacements since the contract is with FH.

Fred Nelson noticed gutter guards damaged over the winter. We plan on evaluating replacement once we know the cost of replacing the smoke detectors.

Send questions or concerns to Fred, Charlie, Bob or Dick.

Additions to the report:

- Dick, Bob and Renee are meeting with Mark Gruber, recommended by Friends, to talk about repairing the smoke detectors. Concerns were raised about MG’s insurance related to this and

about making sure that repairs are consistent with building codes.

- Concerns were raised about the elevator. Dick will follow up with the elevator company.

The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the committee.

Religious Ed Committee: No report this month.

Friends House Board Meeting (Dorothy Lifka) – March 1, 2024
Present: Dorothy Lifka (clerk), Deborah Fisch, Billie Wade, Cole Fuller, Renee Cawthorn (manager)

The meeting began and ended with silence.

The meeting was called for the new manager to give a transition report on the building and for the board to discuss how to make decisions on urgent issues that arise between scheduled board meetings.

A fire inspection was being conducted during the board meeting and a report of their findings will be given by the DMVF building and grounds committee and by the FH manager.

Manager’s Report:

- The Amazon automatic re-order account has been canceled. The board authorized the manager to purchase a Sam’s Club account for future purchases. The clerk also has a personal Sam’s Club account which she is willing to use for necessary purchases in the manager’s absence.
- The Culligan water account has been put on auto-pay.

- The manager caulked one of the bathroom windows. Other windows may need caulking.
- The manager has taken on cleaning duties for now and is keeping track of those hours separately from her hours as manager. The board will review this arrangement at our April board meeting. It was suggested that we might want to get a quote from the cleaning company that currently cleans the DMVF's side of the building.
- The manager has one bid to repair water damage in the entry and will get two more bids. She also has one bid for lawn care and will get two more.
- Cleaning the gutters is urgent. The manager has one estimate with immediate scheduling possible. The board approved going forward with this vendor. The board appreciates the manager's efforts to put together a list of trusted vendors for repairs and other FH needs.
- Des Moines Mutual Aid has rented out the vacant second floor office. All offices at FH are now rented with a waiting list of one prospective tenant.
- The manager and others have donated furniture for the main common space. The manager plans to paint wooden chairs in the entry way. Three chairs will be requested from DMVF to replace damaged chairs in the conference room. In the future both FH and DMVF

may coordinate repairing damaged chairs.

- Cole will help the manager locate the October board minutes or Deborah will see if she still has the notes she took. The clerk took minutes for this board meeting. The manager will resume that duty with our April board meeting.
- Cole brought up name and suite number plates for office doors. He has already done this for the Des Moines Tutoring offices. Other tenants will be contacted to see if they are interested.
- The manager will administer the FH website.
- The manager commented about Jon Krieg's help.

Minute: The board appreciates Jon Krieg's help during the transition between managers at FH.

Minute: The board appreciates all of Renee's work to make FH a good place to work and for her stewardship of the building. The board discussed payment of the manager. She is willing to be paid monthly and the clerk will sign her paycheck.

The board also discussed the decisionmaking process between board meetings. When possible, the manager is asked to get three bids for work requiring a substantial outlay of funds. For emergency situations, we authorize her to do what is necessary to address the emergency and then to contact the clerk who will contact the rest of the board. Board members will have 24 hours during which to contact the clerk to okay any actions recommended by the

manager. After that time, anyone who has not contacted the clerk will be assumed to be in agreement. Similarly, board members will have 48 hours to contact the clerk about decisions that are urgent but not emergencies. The board approved the manager spending up to \$500.00 for necessary expenses without board approval. In the event of emergency actions or repairs, we authorize her to exceed this amount. Angelo Architectural Associates has submitted an updated building assessment which board members received shortly before the board meeting. The report will be discussed at our next board meeting.

Minute: The board confirmed Geral Blanchard's joining the FH board as a tenant representative. Renee will continue on the board as a non-voting member. Next board meeting: April 19th at 1:00.

Appreciation is expressed for the new manager and board members.

Minute: Business Meeting approved the exchange of chairs.

Business Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the Friends House Board.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report (Patty Wengert)

Our committee met on March 5, 2024, at noon via Zoom. Attending: Patty and Billie.

We opened focusing on Quaker advices and queries. We approved co-sponsorship for the Palm Sunday procession and service for Peace event. \$50 donation approved.

The Business Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the committee.

Outreach & Publications Committee Report (Ann Robinson) – Feb. 25, 2024

Attending: Ann Robinson, Billie Wade, Katie Jacoby

The Outreach and Publications Committee had a short meeting to touch base and plan for our next meeting.

1. Hosting: We expressed gratitude for Linaja's initiative in creating an accessible calendar for tracking hosting responsibilities, and we appreciate Charlie's previous efforts to maintain the hosting schedule.

Although there is overlap between outreach and hosting, our committee is not responsible for coordinating hosting responsibilities. That said, we are pleased to report that a growing number of people have stepped up to help host for Meeting. The new task list description is good. There are still some minor issues to communicate more clearly, for the hosts and all who use our kitchen, such as unloading and loading the dishwasher and turning it on before leaving, how to use the coffee maker and where to find the coffee filters. Hosts are requested to take the recyclables home for collection, if possible. As of now the recycling bins are hit or miss for being emptied, and it's unclear where they could be disposed of at the meeting site. We discussed how there is a lack of awareness among some users of the kitchen regarding what is recyclable and plan to address that with signs above the bins.

2. DMVF Social Media and Website: We are excited that Lindsey Baker has offered to assist with social media and look forward to discussing this further at our next meeting.

We're enhancing our Facebook page to deter bots or problematic users from exploiting the page. Rules for use have been posted, and we look forward to Lindsey's assistance in maintaining a secure and friendly page.

We discussed the need to increase content on the website to provide more information to those who are new to Quakerism. We will be revisiting this at our next meeting and plan to have some updates later this spring.

3. Plan Second Hour on

Outreach: Ann will ask Carol to include the Outreach and Publications Committee on the list for a Second Hour. We'll be bringing ideas and seeking input on how we can increase our outreach efforts.

4. T-shirts: We explored the idea of creating DMV Friends t-shirts for soft publicity and recognition at events, with *Des Moines Valley Friends (Quakers)* on the front and a short but catchy slogan on the back, such as "Seeking the Light". Suggestions welcome!

5. Miscellaneous: We encourage folks to wear nametags.

Our committee does not see ourselves tasked only with "outreach" to new people, but also "in-reach" to each other and we're glad to see the interest in reading "How the Word is Passed" among DMV Friends, a book discussion group offered by Ministry and Counsel.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

- Review responsibilities of Committee members.
- Discuss social media strategies with Lindsey.
- Explore options for a banner or new, more visible permanent sign outside the Meeting House.
- Initiate planning for the next Second Hour session

The Business Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the committee.

Library Committee Report (Deb Fisch) – March 2024

On 02/17/2024 the Library Committee held their first Annual Used Book Sale since the COVID Pandemic shut everything down in 2020. Because all Second Hours in First and Second Months in 2024 were already filled we decided to experiment with holding the sale on a Seventh Day instead. Scattergood Friends School students and staff, who were living in the meeting house for their annual service week in the Greater Des Moines Area spent their last evening in Des Moines helping Deborah Fisch sort the many donated books. They put the books into categories such as Quaker Books, Fiction, Children's books, Young Adult, Biographies, etc. This helped the clerk of the Library Committee get an idea of how many tables would be needed to display the books. After sorting the books the students helped move them to the newly designated Library storage cupboards in the pre-school room. Two or three of them even selected a book or two leaving generous donations in the donation bow.

On the day before the sale Virginia Smith, Charlie Brown, Katie Jacoby, and Deborah Fisch moved the books out to the tables in the dining room in preparation for the next day sale. Complete with signage and signs were put up on the directing potential “customers” to the basement. Virginia Smith, Katie Jacoby, and Deborah Fisch were present for the sale to serve hoped for customers (and keep each other company.) The sale was, as announced to Meeting F/friends, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Unfortunately, no one came to the sale until late afternoon. Fortunately about half-dozen folks did come to the sale before closing time. Four of those were tenants from Friends House. Special thanks to Katie Jacoby for preparing a flyer sharing about the sale that she arranged to have put up in Friends House the week before the event! Those folks ended up getting several books and were also generous in their donations. We recommend that we put up flyers over there again next year!

We decided we would leave the books out through Second Day so F/friends from Meeting would have a chance to peruse them before meeting for worship and after Second Hour. Some F/friends were able to pick out books at that time and others suggested we leave the books out for the next First Day so they, and others who were not able to be at worship that day could have more time to consider the books. We consulted with Claire Cumbie-Drake who keeps the calendar for use of Meeting House space during the week and she approved.

Early in the week Katie Jacoby and Deborah Fisch consolidated the remaining books so that three tables were open for use, as they knew there was a surprise party for Corey’s 30th birthday being held there in the middle of the week. It turns out the Library Committee benefited a lot from the suggestion to leave the books out. The weekly Meditation Group participants and several of Corey’s F/friends picked out books and left us very generous donations and F/friends also were able to peruse and pick out books on the final day of the sale the next First Day.

Katie, Charlie, and other F/friends helped move the remaining books back to the Library cupboards on First Day afternoon, keeping them in their categories, after more than one F/friend suggested we put those books out again next year along with whatever new donations we get. We really appreciate the opportunity to have good storage space for our used books and supplies we use when preparing books for shelving for our library. The committee is pleased to report that by the end of the extended sale it received \$467 in donations!

So, the Committee will now be able to purchase some new books for the library. We ask F/friends to share titles and authors of books you would like us to purchase. One place to find books by Quaker authors, about Quakerism, or various topics of current concern by F/friends is Quaker Books of FGC. Their website is www.quakerbooks. You may already have some good ideas for the committee as well. Please have ideas to

Deborah Fisch via email or text no later than 03/31. We will be inviting the teens in the First Day School for suggestions as well. The Library Committee will be going over the suggestions and some books will be ordered before the end of Fourth Month.

We also hope to get some needed repairs done for the library books shelves. Some glass needs to be replaced for the drop-down doors to help keep them in good condition and at least one set of shelves need to be anchored to the wall for safety purposes. We will contact Building & Grounds for assistance.

We want to be sure to thank all those donating and “buying” books, the Scattergood Friends School students & staff, the volunteers not on the Library Committee who showed up to help put out books and put them away and even designed a flyer so Friends House tenants would know about the sale. We ended up having a great sale!

We recommend that we not hold the book sale on Seventh Day next year; that we consult with Carol Spaulding Kruse soon to find a date for a First Day in First or Second Month to begin the sale and then reserve that same First Day annually; that we continue leaving the books out for a whole week and that we continue to place flyers at Friends House. We also recommend that large posters be prepared to be placed on the parking lot sandwich board and that it be placed outside for First Day afternoon.

We continue to subscribe to *Friends Journal* and *Pendle Hill Pamphlets*. The most recent

issues of *Friends Journal* can be found in the display rack on top of the piano and Pendle Hill pamphlets are stored in the bookshelf next to the pullout room divider. Thank you to all F/friends who checked their bookshelves for books they'd check-out and unintentionally kept for several weeks ...months... We have had several books returned in the last few weeks. If you missed the request for Friends to check for books from the library, please do that soon. There are still several books that have been checked out for a long time. If you have had a book for more than a few weeks but are still reading it, please consider finding its card in the basket by the piano and checking it out again.

The committee was reminded that a list of books bought and donated to the Meeting is included in the Religious Education report submitted each year to IYM-C.

It was recommended that concerns about safety issues posed by the tall book shelves and cracked glass on the book shelf doors be referred to the B&G committee.

The Business Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and for the book sale. Virginia is thanked for her long-term service on this committee and her current work with the new committee clerk.

Nominating Committee (Claire Cumbie-Drake)

There was brief discussion of moving Meeting positions to a calendar year. The clerk will ask the current nominating committee to stay in their current

positions through the end of 2025.

New/Other Business

1. What is the status of the possible immigration co-sponsorship planned with Grace United Methodist Church? Have we staffed the proposed Immigration Committee to begin work on this?

There was discussion of the need for an immigration committee first. Funds are available which could be approved for use by meeting for business until such a committee has been formed. The clerk will ask the clerk of the nominating committee to find people to serve on the new immigration committee.

2. Phone message from Jacob Noah 406-549-0124 - long message about his father, now deceased, who was at Friends House at the time of the bombing. He wonders if we (DMVF) are doing anything about the upcoming 50th anniversary of the bombing and/or figuring out who was behind it. He asked that we get back to him, but I don't know if you want to follow up on this.

There was discussion of whether to follow up with M. Noah. The clerk will do so. It was mentioned that the Friends House manager is considering FH/DMVF doing something in regards to the 50th anniversary of the bombing. Ann, Andrea and Deborah will go through material on the bombing that DMVF has in its archives.

FH's plans will be discussed at the next FH board meeting in April.

3. Wendy Lee, an occupational therapist at the VA, has asked to use our space for a therapeutic movement group. She will have one session this week. Dorothy will be the contact person for this group. Katie will update our expectations for groups using our space. It was suggested that the group not be given a key until a probationary period is completed.
4. Ann will send – mini forest project info. again to P & SC, a first-of-its-kind project for Iowa she is working on with several volunteers who are active in the Unitarian Church, WDM Parks & Recreation and others. Ann thought this might be something the Meeting would want to support with a small donation (that would be matched by a generous Unitarian) and/or there might be members of the meeting who would want to participate in planting activities, scheduled for early May.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Business (Reps: Ann Robinson, Carol Spaulding-Kruse)

The main thing at this time is to consider participating in the Open Book storytelling project, which begins with a kick-off at the Meeting House, March 22. Midyear Meeting is March 22-23. Also, consider attending and supporting Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative at Scattergood Friends School, July 25-29. Several DMVF members and

attenders are involved in planning and/or moderating panels.

We closed with silence.

Supporting Material & Supplemental Information

Dear Friends,

This email, sent on behalf of the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting, is a call to all Quaker Meetings in the U.S. to participate spiritually and financially in an historic Quaker moment: [Homeland Return](#) of the Sierra Friends Center (Woolman) to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

The board of the Sierra Friends Center (formally, College Park Friends Educational Association, CPFEA) has entered into a purchase agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe through the Tribally-led California nonprofit, [California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program \(CHIRP\)](#). The Tribe has not had land since 1964 when the Federal Government illegally terminated the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and sold their reservation at auction. This is the Tribe's best opportunity to re-establish a tribal homeland and may support their efforts toward Federal re-recognition.

The land that Sierra Friends Center has operated from is the site of an ancestral Nisenan village called Yulića. These 232 acres, as well as the surrounding land known as "Nevada City, California", were taken from Indigenous peoples during the Gold Rush and sold to settlers who were colonizing the area. A group of Quakers purchased the

land in the 1960s for educational programs.

The Sierra Friends Center nonprofit, originally under the care of College Park Quarterly Meeting, was created to operate the school programs and manage the property. The Center ran the John Woolman boarding school, which operated from 1963-2001, followed by the Woolman Semester school, which operated from 2004-2016. The Center also operated outdoor education programs as well as a summer camp rooted in Quaker faith and practice.

The Sierra Friends Center board's journey is chronicled in detail on the [Woolman at Sierra Friends Center website](#). The Tribe now has a time-limited opportunity to purchase the property. The agreed-upon price includes the purchase price, government-mandated improvements, and an operating endowment. The overall fundraising goal is \$2.4 million; the first phase of this effort, to raise \$1.5 million, closes on April 4, 2024. CHIRP launched a [GoFundMe campaign](#) at the end of January, which has already reached \$166,000 with over 850 individual donors, including Quakers.

As Quakers, we believe that supporting this process both spiritually and financially is a living example of our Stewardship testimony and our legacy as activists. It is our faith in action. It creates healing from a moment of loss. It is restorative and it is ethical. It feels important to do all we can to support the Tribe.

At our Second Month Meeting for Worship for the Purpose of

Business, the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting passed a minute of support. By encouraging Friends to donate and specifically to identify themselves as Quakers along with their Meeting affiliation, we are broadcasting our support as a faith community. Our Meeting is inviting Meetings across the country to spiritually and financially support this effort. The minute we passed reads as follows:

Santa Cruz Friends Meeting Minute #2 2-11-24: Santa Cruz Friends Meeting supports a \$500 donation from the Donations Fund to the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program (CHIRP), the nonprofit raising funds to purchase the Sierra Friends Center to return the land to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. [To date, Santa Cruz Friends Meeting and members and attenders have donated \$2000.] SCFM also encourages individuals to make donations "on behalf of the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting". The clerks and Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood will contact other Meetings and publications with this information.

We invite your Meeting to consider this appeal, create a minute of support, make a donation that reflects the significance of this moment, and encourage your members and attenders to donate on behalf of your Meeting as well. Imagine

what we can do when we do it in community!

-- In peace, on behalf of the Santa Cruz Friends Meeting, Hans Brinker and Nancy Wood

PS: Should your Meeting pass a minute of support, or make a donation from your Donations Fund, please reply to Hans or Nancy, or let the Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee of Pacific Yearly Meeting's Ministry Committee know. The committee clerk's email is: indigenousconcernsclerk@pacificyearlymeeting.org

PPSS: Here are links to the GoFundMe page, the CHIRP website, and the Woolman at Sierra Friends Center website. A resource sheet is also available from the PacYM Indigenous Concerns Subcommittee.

- GoFundMe page: Homeland Return for Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan <https://gofund.me/19243a9a>
- California Heritage Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) <https://chirpca.org/>
- Homeland Return for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe <https://chirpca.org/homelandreturn>
- Woolman at Sierra Friends Center <https://www.woolman.org/>

Donations can also be sent via check to:
CHIRP (memo line: "Homeland Return"), P.O. Box 2624
Nevada City, CA 95959

Help Celebrate DJ's Birthday at Open House, May 11

DMVFriends are invited to a 95th Birthday Open House for DJ Newlin, on Saturday, May 11, 2024, 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm, in the Auditorium at Wesley on Grand (formerly Wesley Acres), 3520 Grand Avenue.

Dan Knight (The Piano Man) will lead a sing-along at 3:30! No gifts. For more information, please call DJ at 515-276-5673.



This year's Palm Sunday Procession for Peace in Des Moines, included DMVFriends David Drake, Jon Krieg and Patti McKee, Ann Robinson and Jon Tesdell, and Patty Wengert.

News of Our Friends

Friends are encouraged to hold in the light DMVFriends who are experiencing serious health issues, including **Pam Blackburn** and **Virginia Smith**.

– Upcoming Events –

DMVF Hosts AFSC Speakers for Second Hours

- **Sunday, April 21, 11:45 a.m. Quaker action for a just world: A conversation between Friends and AFSC with Brian Blackmore, Director of Quaker**

Engagement. More on Brian: <https://afsc.org/search/content?keys=Brian+Blackmore>

- **Sunday, April 28, 11:45 a.m. AFSC's work in Gaza. Discussion with Mike Merryman-Lotze, AFSC Just Peace Global Policy Director,** We'll be sharing the Zoom link with Friends throughout Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). More on Mike: <https://afsc.org/profile/michael-merryman-lotze>

Weekly Vigil for Peace

AFSC and other F(f)riends of peace invite all to weekly vigils for Gaza at the Federal Building in downtown Des Moines, every Wednesday at 8 am.

All are invited to AFSC Corporation Meeting

All who are interested in the work of the American Friends Service committee are invited to participate in the AFSC Corporation meeting, April 11-13. Find out more and get the link to participate virtually in the plenary and workshops at: <https://afsc.org/afsc-corporation-program-2024>

Des Moines Celebrates Earth Day, April 20-22

Check out a list of local activities from Des Moines Parent for some fun and meaningful events to celebrate Earth Day in and around Des Moines, Iowa in celebration of Earth Day. A special Earth Week event at the Varsity Theatre, on April 22, is a showing of the documentary Common Ground at 6:30, with discussion to follow on a more sustainable food system.

Mini-Forest Community Planting Day, May 4

Volunteers are needed to help plant, mulch and fence Iowa's first mini-forest Saturday, May 4, in West Des Moines' Brookview Park, near Brookview Elementary School and the Jordan Creek Recreational Trail. (Rain date: May 5.) Find [out more online where you can volunteer or donate](#) or contact Ann Robinson (anny.robinson1@gmail.com) with questions.

DMVF Book Club reads How the Word is Passed

DMVF readers continue to discuss How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith, the first and third Sundays, 5:30pm-7pm, over Zoom through April 21st. Schedule for final reading/discussion: 4/21/2024: New York City, Goree Island, Epilogue - pp207-290 (84 pages)

Contact Dorothy Lifka (dmlifka@yahoo.com) or Billie Wade (billiewadewriter@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom invitation/link or to ask questions.

Peace Libraries in Rwanda

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due to high inflation for basic foods. This increases stress within the family and the supplemental nutrition provided at the libraries helps to reduce that family stress.

Odette sometimes leads the children in active games outside on the grass. In one inspiring example she led them as they danced in a circle singing, "Who is the leader? I am the leader!" They sang this over and over

again! This positive message seemed to resonate with the children, who came from a range of primary and secondary school grades.

Two Peace Clubs meet weekly at the library in Gicumbi. One meets on Fridays and Bruno KABELA, an eleven year old student in P 6, is the President of the Friday Peace Club. They gather to share perspectives on how to build a peaceful life from the family up to the community and country, to sing and play together and to have fellowship that encourages making good choices. When asked why they enjoyed the Peace Club they explained that it gives them confidence and knowledge, relieves stress, opens their mind and helps them "know how to be in peace." One student said it helps her to be honest and to be friendly.

Sonnica HAKIZIMANA, an eleven year old student in P6, asked me a stunning question- She asked, "Do you have Peace Libraries in your country?" I responded, "Wow! What a great question! We certainly need them in my country." It was truly a joy to spend a week with Odette and the children living near Gicumbi who benefit enormously from the Children's Peace Library that is sponsored by Friends Peace Teams.

Upcoming Hosting List

April 14 – Ann & Linaja
April 21- Deborah & Katie
April 28 - TBA
May 5 - Peter and Andrea
May 12 - Ann
May 19 - TBA
May 26 - TBA

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, Carol Spaulding-Kruse, at carol.spaulding@drake.edu

Meeting for Worship/Business: Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Second Hours & Events:

April 21- Conversation with Brian Blackmore, AFSC Director of Quaker Engagement

April 28 – Discussion on Palestine with Mike Merryman-Lotze, AFSC Just Peace Global Policy Director

Query Discussions: First Sundays, 11:45 a.m. - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

Child Care: If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, contact Dorothy at dmlifka@yahoo.com.

Building & Grounds: Questions about the building or grounds of the Meeting House to Building & Grounds Committee Convenor, Dick Douglass, 515-864-1119.

Hospitality Committee: Questions about housekeeping at the Meeting House to Hospitality Committee convenor Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

Friendly Line: Send info for April FL to Ann Robinson at anny.robinson1@gmail.com by Friday, April 26.

Find us online at:
<https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/>

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at jfalb0326@yahoo.com.