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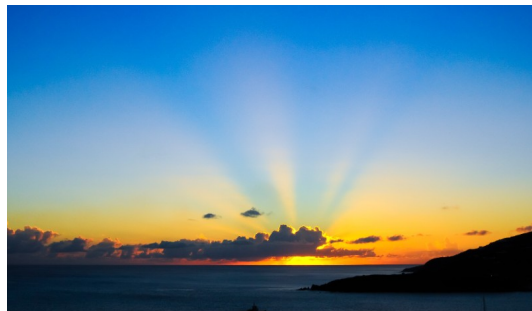
September, 2018



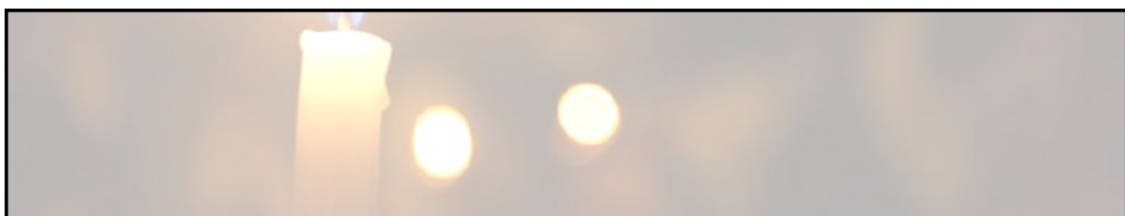
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What's on [our Friends' Minds](#) This Month



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[Draft Minutes - August 18, 2018](#)

Meeting was called at the rise of Meeting for Worship; no attendance was taken

Nominations for 2018-2019 Committees, Clerks and Representatives

Judith Searle read the nominations being brought forward for the second time.

Two corrections were discovered; Andrea Beane, on Pastoral Care, and Ann Fuller, on AVP. These were held over until the next meeting for business.

08-18-01 Meeting approves the names of Friends brought forward, with the exception of Andrea Beane and Ann Fuller, as noted above.

A Friend clarified that names of Friends who are completing a multi-year commitment do not need to be approved at this meeting.

A Friend asked for the list of names brought forward for the first time to be distributed, in consideration of Friends who are visual rather than auditory learners. The Clerk of Nominating noted that the list was complicated, since it included all names brought forward today without indicating which were brought for the first time; the list was distributed when all names had been considered.

Brought forward for the first time were:

- Eleanor Barrett and David Neptune on Adult Education;
- Curtis Raynor on AVP, as convener;
- Karsten van Sander as Representative to American Friends Service Committee;
- Judith Searle on House;
- Tamara Hopewell on Peace and Social Action;
- Abby Adorney, Tamara Hopewell and Gretchen Woelfle on Library.

Approval was held over to the next meeting for business in September.

Any concerns can be brought to the committee: Judith Searle, Ann Fuller, Abby Adorney, Donna Cooper and Karsten van Sander.

It was noted that if Friends are drawn to service, they are always welcome to speak to a member of the Nominating Committee at any time during the year.

A Friend reminded us that we are striving for unity today, concerns with process can be brought to the committee.

Meeting closed in silent worship in a spirit of gratitude for the work of the committee and the Friends gathered.

Respectfully submitted,
Celia Carroll, Clerk
Ann Fuller, Recording Clerk

[On Our Friend's Mind: Homelessness in LA](#)

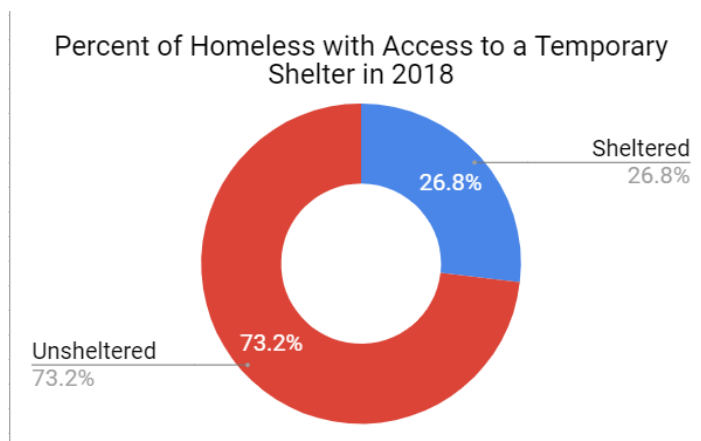
Greetings Friends! I've been away from the Meeting House for some time now, and it occurred to me that it would still be possible to share with you all about my life despite the physical distance. That's the reason for this idea I'm trying this month, "On Our Friend's Mind." If Friends like this idea, perhaps we can feature other friends in future Notes.

For our first attempt at this new venue for online community, I wanted to give you a glimpse into a topic that has been of interest to me ever since moving to the central LA Area. That topic is homelessness, and if you've been to downtown LA in the past year, you probably understand why this particular topic has been on

my mind.

It is well-reported that homelessness has been a growing issue in the Los Angeles area. As part of a regional effort to help homeless individuals find permanent housing, the [LA Homeless Services Authority](#) organizes thousands of volunteers and conducts a count of LA county's homeless population. The resulting information is publicly available, so interested parties can better understand where people without a permanent home are living.

Over 50,000 people were counted as homeless in LA county this year, and 30,000 of those were in LA city. With rent prices jumping every year, even those of us with the financial means to rent or own a home can understand the challenge of finding an affordable place to call home. The city of LA (and perhaps Santa Monica as well), is remarkable for many reasons, but one is our commitment to serving those who find themselves without a home. Temporary shelters are abundant in LA, especially in central Los Angeles. But unfortunately, there just aren't enough dedicated shelters in this city to serve all of the city's homeless.



In fact, based on the information gathered from the homeless count of 2018, over 70% of LA city's 30,000 homeless don't have access to temporary shelters. That means most homeless individuals and families are living in tents, vehicles, or with nothing but a blanket or a piece of cardboard to separate

them from the elements. We're blessed to live in a place with mild seasons and little rainfall, so in some ways LA is an ideal place to be if you don't have a home. And we can imagine that for some people of a certain mindset, a permanent home isn't even desired. But for the vast majority of homeless individuals, not having a permanent home is a heavy burden to bear.

Our Meeting House is located far from the center of the homelessness problem. There are shelters in Santa Monica, but most of the region's services are concentrated in downtown LA, and almost half of all homeless in LA county are located in central LA. Even though our Meeting House is separated by this problem by some distance, our hearts are not. At the moment, I don't know how to offer help to my neighbors without a home. Sometimes I feel that to make it through a work week is all my body can handle. But I pray that what I've learned so far about homelessness, and shared with you in the spirit of community, can become the seeds to future action.

- Jonathan, Friendly Notes Assembler

If there's a topic that you'd like to share about which matters to you, please email me your ideas at jonathanslakey@gmail.com, and perhaps we can add it to a future Friendly Note!



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