

Homer Alaska Friends Meeting
State Of the Meeting
Alaska Friends Conference Annual Session
July 30-August 2, 2020

The past year has been challenging and sorrowful as well as hopeful for Homer Friends. A core of 15-20 regular attenders, with an average of 6-7 on any given First Day, continued to gather at the comfortable facilities at Hospice of Homer, at least until the pandemic hit.

We welcomed Sarah Brewer and her sons: Ollie and Finn as our newest regular attenders. In the true spirit of "If you build it they will come," Finn and Ollie have pioneered the Homer First Day School on a biweekly schedule. They have inspired at least two other young families to visit our meeting and express interest. With this new opportunity has come the challenge to find additional or alternative space for the children's program. Just as we had began the process of addressing that challenge, the pandemic put things on hold. "The way will open" when the timing is right.

Homer Friends have attempted several ways to be socially distant and spiritually connected during the pandemic. In addition to joining the larger state Zoom meetings, we have also delighted in early spring meeting outside of Ginger Bryant's Station Twelve overlooking Cook Inlet. Currently a few folks hold the space outside the Hospice offices when the weather cooperates.

It has also been a year of sorrow and stress for the meeting.

On October 18, 2019 Anesha "Duffy" Murnane, left her assisted living facility on her way to a doctors' appointment and vanished. This is truly all that is known. We hold her dear and do our best to support Ed and Sarah Berg and her brother Gregory in their unending and devastating loss. We hold to the truth that someone knows. We pray for them to have a change of heart and share their knowledge with the family.

Our next tender note was the passing of our dear sweet Anne Nixon. On February 9th, 2020 Anne left us as she lived, in control of her life and her choices. Anne was one of the original members when Homer Friends established as a monthly meeting in 2004. Even after she moved to her home country of Canada a year or two before passing, Anne would often join us in worship via FaceTime, an unwitting precursor to our new normal on Zoom.

Before the month is over, it will also be a time of transitions. Karen Cauble has been a special addition to the Homer Friends Meeting and the City of Homer for over three decades. She has served as a founding member of the state-wide program, Hands of Peace/Alaska Alternatives to Violence Program. In the past year Karen and Art Koeninger, among other Friends and non-Friends, have facilitated Alternative to Violence Programs in two of the Alaskan prisons with two other prisons under contract when the pandemic permits the program to resume. Karen has made the life choice to move to Anchorage to live with her daughter & family in their beautiful new home. One of the joys is that Ginger dog will have a yard to experience freely with her furry cousins. Karen will be missed from our Homer Friends circle, but we are assured that we will see her at AVP training and AFC gatherings.

Besides HOP/AVP, a Homer FCNL Advocacy Team was organized, promoted and continues to be spearheaded by Susanne Wilson. This year the team contacted the Alaskan Congressional

delegation regarding the AUMF, authorized use of military force. The other Friends on the team include: Art Koeninger, Roy Wilson, and Ginger Bryant, as well as sisters Louise & Evelyn Seguela and Kate Rich.

The Homer Meeting had been doing Prayer Partners for several years as a way to send love and energy, especially to distant friends. Anne Nixon was the originator and first shepherd of this spiritual practice. Currently the interest in the program has diminished and it has been determined to let the practice go quiet for a bit.

May Alaska Friends and Friends everywhere find strength, and support each other and the world in the Light as we pass through these trying times.

Ginger Bryant & Art Koeninger, co-clerks
Rich Kleinleder, treasurer
Homer Alaska Friends Meeting