

Did You Know?

Friends House has 18 Interest Groups:

Continued from our Winter issue...

Men's Lunch Group
Peace and Justice
Poetry
Recorder Players
Stitch Witches
Watercolor
#18 just added:
War Tax Resisters

Book Donations

Friends House Library needs used books. Contact Harriett Gordon at 707-576-6606 or ffrybooks@yahoo.com.



FRIENDS
HOUSE

www.friendshouse.org

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Help us save paper and money by receiving communications via email.

Friends Association of
Services for the Elderly
684 Benicia Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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Spring 2010

Friends Association of
Services for the Elderly

A Quaker Not-for-Profit
Corporation



Friends House

NEWSLETTER

Go Green. Go Paperless!

In our efforts to save paper, ink, postage, time, and money, we'd like to send communications via email. Please send your email address to pcoreris@friendshouse.org; or write it on the enclosed response envelope and pop it in the mail. Thanks for helping us go as green as possible.



Tea and Tours

Want to learn more about Friends House? Join us in the lobby for **Tea and Tours** on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 – 4 PM. Please let us know you're coming by calling 707-538-0152.

Raising Funds for Friends House

Margaret Peck Grand Piano Renovation Fund

The average age of residents here at Friends House is 83, which is about the age of one of our five pianos on campus. Gracing our library/multipurpose room is a magnificent 1924 Mason & Hamlin grand piano, formerly owned by Margaret Peck.

As things go when one ages, this lovely musical instrument was in need of renovation and repair. In December certain parts were removed by piano technician, Larry Lobel, for much needed, precise work at a cost of approximately \$7000. Letters went out to musicians, and friends of music, in the area to raise money for the *Margaret Peck Grand Piano Renovation Fund*. We are pleased to report that enough was raised to pay for the repairs and renovation, and then some (which will be used to pay for tunings and general operations of Friends House). We are grateful to all who donated to bring this much-loved Library centerpiece back to its original state. Hmm... don't you wish replacement parts

for us humans could bring us back to our "original" state? Well, then again, maybe not.

Check our website calendar for upcoming programs and a concert date (TBD) to celebrate the return of our renovated Mason & Hamlin grand piano.

Donations

As a nonprofit organization, a portion of the Friends House budget depends on donations. We have goals for restricted and unrestricted funds. Donations come in through a variety of ways: cash, checks, credit cards, online donations, memorial gifts, tribute gifts, bequests, Pooled Income Funds, Charitable Gift Annuities, and the list goes on. Please contact Paddy Coreris, Director of Development, if you would like to discuss options for giving to Friends House.

If you do not wish to receive future fundraising solicitations from Friends House, contact Paddy at 707-573-4508 or email her at pcoreris@friendshouse.org.

Resident Profile: Lee Hause

by Barbara Hodgkinson

Lee Hause's many-faceted life began in China. She was born in Shanghai, but when she was nine her family fled to Hong Kong because the Japanese were bombing



Paul Burks

Shanghai. When the Japanese took over Hong Kong five years later, Lee, her two younger sisters and her mother spent six months in hiding before being allowed to leave. Her father had just gone to the U.S. to work with the Lend-Lease Program. An older male relative (called "Uncle" by Chinese custom), took Lee and her family into his spacious home in order to protect them from Japanese soldiers; unfortunately most of the neighboring houses, abandoned by the English, were taken over by Japanese officers. Not allowed to leave, Lee's family, her grandparents, some other guests and numerous servants were trapped there. Curtains were kept closed at all times to keep the presence of the women and girls a secret.

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Women of the World

by Betsy Harrell

As regular as heartbeat, every Friday morning four Friends House (FH) residents carpool, with two black banners, several signs and 60 flyers, to one of Santa Rosa's busiest intersections. Every week another FH resident contributes in a different way, by photocopying for us the educational flyers that we hand out to pedestrians and vehicle drivers as they pass our Mendocino and College corner. Still another member of our FH community, by virtue of long service on our FASE Board, regularly joins our weekly vigils. Along with some more women from other areas of our region, we stand publicly as part of the international movement, or network, called "Women in Black."

Between noon and 1:00 every Friday we follow the same ritual: we dress in black, symbolizing mourning for all victims of violence; greet each other as sisters; unfurl our long banners reading "WomenInBlack.org"; loft signs with slogans like "Non-Violent Solutions" and "Women Standing for Peace Worldwide"; respond to myriad supportive honks, smiles and waves with our own smiles and peace-signals; sometimes answer questions; and occasionally endure crude remarks and gestures.

We attempt to maintain silence and dignity and aim to be non-confrontational, non-political and non-denominational. Despite rare miserable weather—rain, cold, wind and heat—there has never been a Friday since Sept. 2004 without a few black-clad figures standing in peace. Even

last Christmas Day (a Friday) there were six women. For closing, we hold hands in a circle.

The flyers state Women in Black's positive message: "Vigils proclaim a conviction that there are more effective, humane ways to resolve conflicts than through harming others." The flyers and website inform about the Israeli Jewish women who began standing together in Jerusalem in 1988, and why they did so, and how the movement spread to Israeli Palestinians and, much later, to women in Belgrade, Tokyo, Paris, Tucson, Sebastopol and onward. Nobody knows how extensive it is; one estimate is 10,000 groups. Nobody can assess its impact.

But there is one impact we Women in Black of Santa Rosa are joyfully aware of, because for four semesters in a row we have been invited to wear black, stand with our banner and speak in a Junior College class about our effort. Nine of us appeared in March to present our views and discuss issues with about 30 students in their "Philosophy of Peace and

Non-Violent Action" class. In matters of anger, abuse, war, non-violence, pacifism, and alternative solutions, we all have big questions, difficult answers, and sometimes heart-rending experiences on our minds. Our group and the professor conclude that the Women in Black/student exchanges are becoming more valuable every time.

Let it be noted that such involvement in our local and worldwide community is absolutely typical among the independent-living residents of Friends House. We all possess rich talents to contribute, and many reach out in useful directions beyond our confines.



Bryant Harrell
Women in Black take a stand for all victims of violence in a peaceful vigil at Mendocino and College Avenue.

Friends House is a Continuing Care Retirement Community where simplicity and vitality are valued.

General Information

707-538-0152

Monday through Friday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Jim Johnson
Executive Director
707-573-4501

Joy Hahn
Financial Officer
707-573-4509

Paddy Coreris
Director of Development
707-573-4508

Apartment Resident Services
707-573-4504

Health Care Unit
707-573-4517

Assisted Living Center
707-573-4523

Volunteer Services
707-538-0152

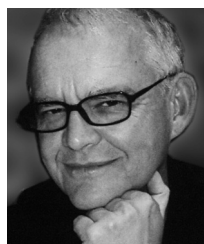
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Message from the Executive Director
Jim Johnson

Rhythms of a North Bay Village

I was very impressed by a small book written and photographed by Hugh R. Downs, called *Rhythms of a Himalayan Village*. Even my father-in-law, who rarely picks up a book, thumbed through this one, drawn to the photos showing a community saying goodbye to an elder, the father of the local shaman and Lama.



Edwin and Elspeth taking a stroll in the Friends House garden in 2008.

Recently, we said goodbye to one of our elders, Edwin Stephenson. I like to tell friends that Edwin, or “Red,” as many liked to call him, was part of the American Friends Service Committee team that was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1947*. In my opinion, that alone is an accomplishment of a lifetime. One may be tempted to first think of the external honor conferred by such an award, but since it was a team effort, one can reflect on the day-to-day lives and loves of these Quaker volunteers by Edwin’s telling the story through correspondence with his first wife, Madeline. He memorialized the story by publishing *When the Wild Geese Fly*. He loved that story.

Edwin’s wife, Elspeth, was by his side when he died in his apartment. He had had a “dense stroke,” as his doctor said, and Edwin struggled valiantly to get back on his feet. I would see him in the early morning with Terry, the physical

therapist, working on the parallel bars in the therapy room, but it was Terry who would lift him up, this tall powerful man, ravished by the natural processes of his own body. He couldn’t really swallow well, and when his Medicare coverage was discontinued due to “having plateaued,” he and Elspeth had other decisions to make. They opted to go home with hospice where he could be surrounded by friends and family. He died on February 17, Ash Wednesday for some, the beginning of the lunar New Year for others. By all rights, this was a memorable day.

His wife grieved, and sought solace, helped by Char Horning’s painting of a seagull, “Into the Light.” Certainly that was how Edwin worshipped, focusing on the light he had been taught by his Quaker parents to seek. Edwin seemed a worshipful man. And many of you knew him much better than I. But clearly one of our revered elders has moved on, and we too are in the same line in which Edwin was at the head.



“Into the Light” by Char Horning

*If you would like to read the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize Presentation Speech, go to: www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1947/press.html

Money Matters

by Betsy Harrell



Paul Burks

In spring 2005, during the height of the Iraq War, Joy Hahn arrived at Friends House to be interviewed for the post of Financial Officer and was promptly smitten by a resident’s “Peace Not War” sign and our appealing garden apartments. In any case, Joy Hahn accepted the position and has supervised the Accounting Department ever since. Those who knew her beloved predecessor, Finance Officer Guy Littman, remember that he was mortally ill that spring. Today she acknowledges, “How do you replace Guy?”

Joy also had professional reasons for casting her lot with Friends House. She earned an M.B.A., worked in the financial services industry, but realized that “something was missing in the corporate world.” Consequently, Joy became an independent financial consultant serving non-profits. One of the first ventures that led to this realization was volunteering her assistance to San Francisco Baykeeper.

Joy is quick of mind and motion. She is a whiz at producing financial tables and charts—stacks of them. The creative challenge of presenting financial information with clarity intrigues her. She believes that clear financial statements lead to better decisions. The balance sheet is her favorite financial document, for, she explains, it shows the results of all the decisions which have been made since inception.

Joy’s job is multi-faceted. She reports to the

“Resident Profile” continued from page 1

One night Japanese soldiers came to search the house. The women and children moved silently from room to room ahead of the searchers, who were being escorted by the “uncle” as slowly and loudly as possible. They were not found. After six months of surviving on only rice and home-grown tomatoes, they were allowed to leave, but only after needed papers were stamped by six different offices.

After settling the grandparents with relatives in Shanghai, Lee’s mother and sisters took the underground route to Free China (Chungking), most of it in overcrowded bicycle-drawn carts,

Executive Director and supports him and the FASE Board in financial decision-making. She staffs the Board’s Finance and Audit Committees. Preparation of our organization’s financial reports, including bimonthly statements to the Board and annual audits and IRS 990 forms, is her responsibility. She oversees our external investments and administers the loan portfolio. Pausing at this point, Joy offers “heartfelt thanks to the friends of Friends House—our wonderful donors, lenders and investors from both inside and outside our immediate community—who have believed in us and helped finance us over the years.”

The preciousness of money and time are constants. She and the department, ever mindful of the overall financial picture, try to balance the services they provide to residents with keeping our monthly housing fees low. On her way to work Joy looks forward to collaborating with her colleagues, whom she lauds as “a small team of highly-motivated accountants who produce a high volume of quality work while maintaining a great sense of humor.”

Incidentally, she also mentions the pleasure of knowing the apartment residents, through contacts over lunch, Finance Committee meetings and bumping into one another around campus. Breaking suddenly into a great, delighted laugh (which is entirely typical of Joy), she recalls telling prospective job candidates that the residents are one of the benefits of being at Friends House.

Beyond her Santa Rosa labors, Joy visits her parents in Sacramento, zips off to Toronto to an international film festival, discusses world events with her boyfriend over dinner, and soaks up modern art with him in L.A.

dressed as peasants, their only possessions jewelry sewn into their garments (to be sold to cover expenses). They then flew to Calcutta, where they stayed for eight months while her mother recovered from dengue fever, and went by train to Bombay, where they boarded a “Liberty ship” (cargo ship) headed for the U.S. with returning soldiers. After more than two years of travel, they joined Lee’s father in San Pedro, California, when Lee was 17. A brother was born when she was 18.

Fortunately, Lee had learned English while living in Hong Kong. She attended UC Berkeley and was briefly married to a graduate student.

“Resident Profile” continued

Because his stipend was not enough to live on, she took a job with a home-furnishings store in Berkeley. She proved to have a special facility for design and became an interior designer. Then, after moving to Minneapolis, she designed store windows. (Her second husband was hired to teach math at the University of Minnesota.) She worked as general manager for a dance company and later general manager of the International Design Center, where she managed two stores and was the window designer, working long hours. Over these busy years she not only raised a son but studied piano with excellent teachers and became adept enough to play chamber music with professional violinists.

Her third (and current) marriage is to John Hause—an old friend from faculty parties, a fellow pianist and an economics professor. When he was offered a position at Stony Brook on Long Island, they happily moved to New York. They shuttled weekly between a large house on the Sound in Long Island and a co-op apartment in Manhattan, across from the Museum of Modern Art and two blocks from Carnegie Hall! With two grand pianos in their Long Island living room, they had frequent musical events in their home, as well as dinner parties for 12. Yet there came a time when they were ready for a much simpler life.

They chose Friends House, where they are happily settled in a one-bedroom apartment. Lee serves on several committees here and volunteers as a piano teacher and English tutor to Chinese-speaking people.