

FRIENDS IN SAN ANTONIO

7052 North Vandiver at Eisenhower

December 2015

Quakers, No Friends of Israel?

This, without a query, is a November 5 *Wall Street Journal* headline above an article which says “Few suspect that one central mission [of Friends] is promoting the boycott, divestment and sanctions, or BDS, movement that opposes Israel’s existence.” This, it says, because AFSC is “a leading member of the BDS umbrella group known as the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.” It says that in recent decades “the AFSC has come dangerously close to anti-semitism, treating Palestinians as the ‘new Jews,’ displaced and downtrodden.” The AFSC, it says, has become part of the vanguard of the Protestant left. And, “Quakerism’s lack of a coherent theology and Christian praxis renders it especially susceptible to shifting fashion.” While we must beware of this we might doubt that “a coherent theology and Christian praxis ” would provide a certain protection

Friends General Conference has issued a statement pointing out that the article fails to differentiate between the different Friends groups such as FGC, FUM, Evangelical Friends, etc. and is filled with misinformation about Friends. It refers readers to what the AFSC says in its “Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace” in that region . In this AFSC says that Israelis have exercised their right to self-determination but Palestinians continue to be denied that right. “Specifically, AFSC affirms the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to live as sovereign peoples in their own homeland.” The “principles of reciprocity present in self-determination must also extend to the discussion of human rights, civil and political as well as economic, social, and cultural, which provide the foundation to any building of peace.” Such rights must be secured for minorities within both Israel and a future Palestinian state. “All parties need to take action to ensure equitable access to resources such as land and water. ” It goes on to oppose “illegal settlements. . . AFSC supports the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to choose their forms of governance. . . . The foundations of security are to be found in trust, respect, and mutual recognition of the humanity and past and present sufferings of both parties . . . Since the 1967 war, unilateral Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories has been one of the greatest obstacles to the peace process. . . . In accordance with

Calendar

- 6. Sunday
Potluck lunch at
11.30 a.m..

- 13. Sunday
Forum – Facing
Threats of Violence:
a Loving Plan of Ac-
tion. Worship shar-
ing with Val and
Carol B. 11.30.

- 20. Sunday.....
Meeting for Busi-
ness, 11.30.

- 24. Thursday
Christmas Eve meet-
ing for worship and
potluck supper.

- 27, Sunday
Forum – Update on
Refugees' Needs
with Lori and David

- 30. Wednesday
Midweek Meeting,
7.00, Gary’s home.

international law, AFSC recognizes East Jerusalem as occupied territory and Israel as the responsible occupying power. . . . “[And] in working to resolve this conflict, AFSC believes that international actors must fulfill their obligations in line with the principles outlined above.”

(See <http://www.afsc.org/.../principles-just-and-lasting-peace-bet...>)

While AFSC may believe that BDS represents a currently useful tactic, its statement summarized above suggests that this is only a tactic to dissuade Israel from its internationally illegal actions in the West Bank. This a hard approach to take, yet it is clear that Israel is the strongest partner, reflected in the disparate numbers of Israeli and Palestinian deaths in the conflict, and as such must take primary responsibility for settling its problems with Palestine. In the ongoing conflict composed of terrorist tactics by Palestinians and military strikes and police actions by Israel, the “elephant in the room” is the existence of Israeli settlements and “the Wall” in the West Bank, often separating farmers from their land.

The view expressed in the *WSJ* probably reflects that expressed by the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). A very different view is expressed by the Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which supports divestment, and J Street, which doesn't, two other, liberal, American Jewish groups. The BDS movement urges various forms of boycott against Israel until it meets its obligations under international law by:

Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall;

Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and

Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

(- See more at: <http://www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro#sthash.kiSE7uT.dpuf>)

This does not call for an end to the state of Israel, but it indicates AFSC's emphasis on Israel's responsibilities.. Its principally difficult feature is the last, which would challenge the existence of Israel as a Jewish state and impose a great burden on Israelis occupying those homes and properties, and their neighborhoods.

We cannot support the use of violence by either Palestinians or Israelis, and must hope and pray that peace and security will be achieved for both by legal and nonviolent means.

Here are five things AFSC says Meetings can do to bring about just and lasting peace in Israel and Palestine

1. Listen and learn, take time to listen to both Palestinians and Israelis
2. Join the Quaker Palestine Israel Network.
3. Support boycott and divestment initiatives (BDS) to stop human rights abuses against Palestinians by the Israeli government. AFSC has developed an investment screening tool for individuals and groups to review their investments: investigate.afsc.org.
4. Take time for Meeting to learn about the issue and consider writing a minute or statement of support for BDS.
5. Become an advocate. It is critical that Representatives know more about what change in the region their constituents would like to see.

And another: Host or visit AFSC's "Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism" exhibit. All the “current” exhibits are finished

AFSC has answered *WSJ*'s accusation thus;

AFSC has maintained connections to Israel and Palestine since 1948, when AFSC was asked by the United Nations to respond to the needs of Palestinian refugees in Gaza and displaced persons in the newly formed state of Israel. AFSC continued to implement programming in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza during the 1950s and 1960s, and in the 1970s established offices in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Starting in 1970, AFSC also began supporting advocacy work

in the U.S. with the goal of changing policies that sustain violence while building support for a just and lasting peace.

In 2007, AFSC staff and partners working in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory asked AFSC to look at its investment portfolio and, if needed, take action to ensure that it was not investing in companies engaged in business practices that violate its *“Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel.”* Their request led to an extended conversation by AFSC’s board and eventually resulted in AFSC adopting an internal investment screen in 2008. That investment screen committed AFSC to not invest in companies that:

Provide products or services that contribute to violent acts that target either Israeli or Palestinian civilians.

Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance of the Israeli military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance and expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Provide products or services that contribute to the maintenance and construction of the Separation Wall.

After nearly two years of research and deliberation, AFSC’s board of directors decided that AFSC can support BDS in the Israel-Palestine conflict as a nonviolent social change tactic that is in line with both Quaker values and AFSC’s *Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel*. Those principles uphold the right of both Palestinians and Israelis to self-determination, emphasizing that realizing both peoples’ right to self-determination necessarily means ending Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory and addressing refugees’ right of return.

At AFSC we continue to view economic activism actions as appeals to conscience, actions that seek to raise awareness in those engaged or complicit in harmful practices. It is our belief that economic activism keeps us accountable to our values and, when rightly ordered, serves to affirm our common humanity. We also believe that boycott, divestment, and sanctions tactics, when used strategically, are effective nonviolent tools for realizing political and social change.

Ed. Note: We would grieve to think that our service arm, AFSC, would ever promote a movement that opposed the very existence of a nation.



Friends, we’re glad to say that the computer glitch noted last month has been cured and so nobody will now be deprived of this valuable resource!

Personal News

James has bought some vacant land in Vermont. He hopes to create a rural “camp” where he can stay each summer, away from the heat of Texas. Ashley is working again as an architect., her original profession. Margaret M is in Florida and has discovered anew pursuit – bowling! With a partner she is leading the field.

Karen is about to open The Urban Farm Stand, a year-round, indoor farmer’s market to retail Sustainable, Organic, Local produce [SOL food]. The shop, at 1423 So. Presa reclaims

a 1940’s gas station, featuring locally sourced eggs, honey, artisan bread, lotions & soaps. There are books on gardening and cooking, African baskets and Karen’s own specialty jams and her seasonal vegetable plants and herbs. It is also the Southtown location for Ten Thousand Villages with hand-made, fair trade linens and pottery. She is creating a food oasis in this part of San Antonio. Find her on Facebook [The Urban Farm Stand] or the web. Come to visit and let friends know! [www.theurban

farm stand. com]).

Most of us came from somewhere else even if some of us are native Texans. You may know that Ruth came from New York, where she took a close interest in Brooklyn Friends School, and she receives the school Journal regularly. The Fall issue has a photo of the children meeting in the meetingroom. You may remember that a writer in the *New York Times* reported one of the students saying – what was the phrase? – “the silence hits you like a truck.”

We have, again, seen Michelle’s obituary for her brother, Sal. He attended meeting here for a while before retiring to his room. He had started environmental NGOs,, was a member of the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy. And he tried to start a clowns’ union in the circus. Michelle very much misses talking with him each day.

On Thursday, December 10 (mark the date), at the Austin Mennonite Church, 7:30pm, Pam W., Founding Member, will play the clarinet at a Balcones Reed Quintet Premiere Concert. And here, on the 14th, there will be a Candlelight Meeting for Worship at 6:30pm, with Tamales and Beans at 7:30pm. Please let Bill W know if you can bring beans or dessert.

Business Meeting

Meeting for Business commenced with an advice of Britain YM:

Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

The Clerk opened with a welcome for visitors from Olympia Meeting, Ted and Kristal. She continued with concerns about emergencies during congregating in the meetinghouse.

The treasurer said that a small refund had been obtained, resulting from a lost check. And that general contributions were higher in October. Nothing else was of note.

Meeting welcomed Fabian into membership.. The Nominating Committee gave its initial report, to be completed and approved in December. Some positions remain vacant.. Peace and Social Concerns Committee is considering the voluntary organizations to which we should donate in January, and by how much we should

donate.

Meeting closed in silence.

Friends Respond to Refugees

As a result of the article in the October *Friends Journal*, written by David Bristol, Gretchen Haynes & Lee Teran, the Meeting has received nearly \$10,000 in contributions for the RAICES Bond Fund. These donations come from all across the country and are responsible for giving freedom and hope to many Central American refugee families. The need continues, with even more mothers and children expected in the coming months. David and Lori will report on the continuing crisis and the growing needs on Dec. 27. In the meantime, everyone can help with making visits to detention centers and donations of warm clothes, blankets, items for the travel backpacks and of course, cash.

The border

Dear Austin Tan Cerca de l Frontera Friend and supporter,

You are hereby invited to join a delegation to Mexico at the border to learn from maquiladora workers organized by Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera/Austin So Close to the Border, Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, 2016

Whether you've been on a delegation before or this is your first time, this is your personal invitation to join the Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera Delegation to Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña, México. Oh, and do spread the word!

The cost of the trip is \$325, which includes transportation, meals, and two nights hotel lodging. Some partial scholarships are available.

For more details, contact Charles Rand at crand@austincc.edu. We can't give you the website for registration here. The message is from Josefina Castillo.

Terrorism

This year's Global Terrorism

Index (GTI), published Tuesday by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), claimed the world needs more locally-led efforts to counter extremism and conflict in the world.

According to the report, religious extremism – which accounts for the activities of terrorist groups ISIL, Boko Haram, the Taliban and al-Qa’ida and the majority of deaths from terrorism worldwide – can only be counteracted by credible forces within Islam. These local actors, it says, are best placed to recognize and respond to the underlying causes of terrorism, such as group grievances, human rights abuses and a lack of access to law and justice.

A similar recommendation has been made by the Rainforest Alliance, after a study, for the saving of forests around the world. Governments cannot save them by declaring them reserves and clearing everybody out. The finding is that local people who depend on the forest for their livelihood, know it well, and preserve it as well as use it, are most likely to identify intruders and prevent them from stripping the forest of its vital treecover.

Since the 1960s, 83% of terrorist organizations that ended, ceased to operate due to policing or politicization. Only 7% ended due to military intervention. And In the US an individual is 64 times more likely to be victim of a homicide than terrorism.

Terrorism happens in a larger context and is therefore influenced by that context. Terror campaigns have lapsed because they lost popular support. Terror’s strategic use is often to gain attention, provoke a violent response and win more support in the broader population. . . .

The U.S. civil rights movement’s non-violent tactics reduced the KKK’s appeal among white segregationists.

Governments sometimes make choices that invite — almost beg for — a terrorist response. . . Robert A. Pape showed in 2005 that the United States has repeatedly done this, often by putting troops on someone else’s land. In his recent book *Cutting the Fuse*, he and James K. Feldman give concrete examples of governments reducing the terror threat by ending such reckless behavior.

See Wagingnonviolence.org

“At the request of a group of U.S. experts on counter-terrorism, I [George Lakey] described our Swarthmore work and especially eight techniques. The experts recognized that each of these tools have indeed been used in real-life situations in one place or another, with some degree of success. They also saw no problem, in principle, in devising a comprehensive strategy that would create synergies among the tools.

The problem they saw was persuading a government to take such a bold, innovative leap.

“As an American, I can see the direct contradiction between, on the one hand, my government’s huge effort to convince taxpayers that we desperately need our swollen military and, on the other, a new policy that mobilizes a different kind of power for genuine, human security. I understand that for my country and for some others as well, a living revolution might need to come first.

What I like about having an alternative, non-military defense in our back pocket, though, is that it speaks to the real need of my fellow citizens for security in a dangerous world. Psychologist Abraham Maslow long ago pointed out the fundamental human need for security. Analyzing and criticizing militarism, however brilliantly, doesn’t actually enhance anyone’s security. Imagining an alternative, as my students did, may give people the psychological space they need to put energy into something more life-giving.”

George Lakey,
wagingnonviolence.org/feature/8-ways-defend-terror-nonviolently/

And at the time we place this in the newsletter, Lebanese in Beirut, very much in peril, feel forgotten. All our eyes and our hearts are focused on Paris.

End of Life

Susan has given us a forum on last wished before death. These should be recorded in a variety of ways, which she listed:

Living Will – instructs what end-of-life care is wanted. This can include the desire that you not be kept alive by artificial means but wish to receive relief from pain. Hospitals and doctors have to keep you alive by any means otherwise.

Advance, or Healthcare Directives – written instructions on future medical care when we become physically/mentally unable to say.

Power of Attorney (POA) – legal agency which ends at fulfillment, incapacity, or death.

Durable POA (DPOA) – lasts through incapacity. POAs may be for financial or medical powers.

Do Not Resuscitate Form – Instructs professionals not to use CPR, etc., in case of heart stoppage or stopped breathing.

Will – For how estate should be distributed.

Living Trust -- names a trustee to hold and distribute funds.

A Texas medical POA can be obtained from your doctor, hospital, attorney, and Texas Medical and Health Care Associations. Your lawyer or the Texas Bar Ass'n. also can provide you with POA forms. The Texas Dept. Of State Health Services can provide necessary Texas DNR forms.. POA forms are available free online (in PDF.) And the Texas Directive to Physicians and Family or Surrogates, is your living will.

Forms legal in Texas are necessary, and may require notarizing. Complex situations may need an attorney. You should discuss everything with your agent for last wishes. Give a copy (may be xeroxed) of the form to him/her, in fact distribute copies to whomever might need one.

A hospice, for terminally (6 months) ill patients, is covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Palliative care, for serious illnesses, is covered by these and supplemental insurance. Age is not considered by the doctor (though terminal.)

At the time of complaint the newsletter we read that doctors may now be paid under Medicare for discussion of end-of-life care. Meeting also has a form for us to tell Meeting what we wish it to do.

AFSC's 2015 Actions

Here are AFSC's accounts of achievements in 2015:

Prison justice: AFSC released an investigative report about riots at a for-profit prison in Arizona. Our report revealed insufficient medical care for prisoners, inadequate cooling in the facility, repeated sanctions for failing to fill staff vacancies, and mistreatment of prisoners by guards. Following the release of our report, Arizona's governor canceled the contract with that for-profit prison corporation.

Emergency relief for refugees: This summer, when thousands of Haitians were deported from the Dominican Republic, AFSC responded to the humanitarian crisis. We launched an emergency relief effort in conjunction with our ongoing programs in Haiti that provided food, shelter, sanitation kits, and healing activities for children living in temporary shelters.

Solitary confinement: In September, a landmark settlement in California overhauled the state's use of solitary confinement. The settlement is expected to sharply reduce the number of prisoners held in solitary and includes prohibiting placing people in indefinite solitary based on presumed gang involvement. AFSC has been a part of these efforts every step of the way.

Corporate influence: In Iowa and New Hampshire, AFSC's Governing under the Influence (GUI) project is working to shift our nation's political conversation. We've trained more than 900 people as "bird dogs" to follow, question, and engage candidates about the excessive influence corporations have on policies that drive our country toward more wars, more prisons, and more violence. Our GUI messages have reached influential media outlets, such as Fox News and the Boston Globe.

Morality and Creation

At the end of his book, *God*, Deepak Chopra quotes Rabindranath Tag-

ore:

“... we know that Tagore was profoundly right: ‘Love is the only reality and it is not a mere sentiment. It is the ultimate truth that lies at the heart of creation.’”

George Ellis, a Quaker South African cosmologist, would agree, having concluded that explanation of the universe requires a concept of ethics and, ultimately, of God.

In their book, *On the Moral Nature of the Universe: Theology, Cosmology, and Ethics* Nancey Murphy and George Ellis, relating the sciences in a hierarchical order, each level contained within the one above, say that an upper level of the science of Ethics is required. They describe a kenotic ethic and argue that the implications of this ethic are that legal systems should be aimed at restoration rather than retribution, economic behavior should be for the welfare of others, governments should work for the welfare of marginalized people and seek peaceful international relationships, and that all change should be accomplished through nonviolent means. This ethic is, they say, an integral part of the universe, to be found on other worlds, when we find them.

George Ellis opposed apartheid in the 1970s and 1980s, While he has a high reputation as a scientific cosmologist, his research has focused on philosophical aspects of cosmology. He won the Templeton Prize for this. He was also awarded the Order of the Star of South Africa by Nelson Mandela, and has been elected a Fellow of the British Royal Society. But he is still just a Quaker.

Miscellany

The December issue of *Friends Journal* is in the mail to print subscribers, and it is now available online. This month's theme is Economic Justice & Poverty.

“When we realize we are in need of help,” writes Jeff Rasley in this issue, “we should reach out to those willing to provide it.” In these pages you will find examples of Friends wrestling with deep and essential problems that challenge us spiritually and materially. You will see a sub-

stantial and blessed unity emerging from many different perspectives about what the love in our hearts can and must do.

Read the articles online:

<http://www.friendsjournal.org/2015/december-2015>

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“I know many people whose own wounds — held in a broken-open heart — have made them “wounded healers.” Instead of growing bitter and brittle and passing their pain on to others, they've said, “This is where the pain stops and the love begins.” Not in spite of their suffering but because of it they're better able to offer active forms of compassion to others who suffer.” Parker Palmer, *On Being*,, <http://www.onbeing.org/blog/parker-palmer-heartbreak>

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A group of us went for a retreat at Lebh Shemoa in November. Some of us went to a simple prayer service in the Catholic manner. A little lady crossed herself, a ritual our forebears historically rejected. For her, it was probably very meaningful, reminding her of her devotion. Quakers have felt that it could often be practiced almost unthinkingly. The priest led prayers, with the congregation responding. The words were from a book, also something we would regard as potentially unfelt. Yet, for her, the words could have reminded her of obligations she might have forgotten along with others she knew well.

We believe that the words in our meetings must come from God within us at that very moment, relevant to our current situation. It is for us to ensure that this, by our centering, is true.

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Problems at Volkswagen, in trouble for cheating software which conceals roadside pollution, start at the boardroom,, according to an article in the *NY Times*. An academic observer points out that VW, like other German automakers, is inefficient compared to Toyota. This is due

to guaranteeing jobs for half the supervisory board, union representatives. “This is a fundamental conflict” as the company’s responsibility is to ensure profitability for the shareholders.

Those great Quaker entrepreneurs, Cadbury and Rowntree, would not have agreed. They felt their responsibility included the welfare of their workers, e.g. at Bournville. The Cadburys began to develop their factory in the new suburb of Birmingham. Hard-working workers were treated with great respect and relatively high wages and good working conditions; Cadbury also pioneered pension schemes, joint works committees and a full staff medical service. They had no other shareholders to consider, however. (This from Wikipedia.)

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During those fierce days of 1967, when Detroit seemed about to be going up in flames, a member of Ann Arbor Meeting was in touch with young Black militants there. They were vowing great destruction. She invited them to come and speak to the Meeting.

They came and did everything except spit at Friends. They glared and vowed revolution. Friends sat and listened patiently to their threats. When the time came for them to leave, they said, “Well, we won’t come here first.”

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The American Friends Service Committee-Kenya (AFSC-Kenya) has funded AGLI’s partners, Friends Church Peace Teams (FCPT) and AVP-Trust, to initiative Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) in high schools in Kenya. HIPP is based on AVP but focuses on teenagers. Friends Church Peace Teams has just hired Ezra Kigodu to be the HIPP coordinator in western Kenya. Ezra became involved with FCPT in 2008 when he took his first AVP workshop in the Turbo displaced person’s camp during the post election violence. He is a Kikuyu by tribe which at that time were being targeted by the local Nandi tribe. He then became one of FCPT’s lead facilitators in AVP, HROC, mediation, Turning the Tide, listening sessions, civic education, election observer trainings, and community dialogues. Part of the grant to western Kenya will be to conduct AVP workshops in the northern Rift Valley

among the warring pastoral tribes, the Samburu, Turkana, and Pokot.

## The Irrational

Oscar Wilde, of course, was imprisoned in England for two years (see his *Ballad of Reading Gaol*) for his homosexual behavior. Before he was released he wrote *De Profundis*, at the end of which he looks forward to seeing flowers and nature again. But, “satisfying though this may be, there is some spirit hidden of which the painted forms and shapes are but modes of manifestation, and it is with this spirit that I desire to become in harmony. . . . The Mystical in Art, the Mystical in Life, the Mystical in Nature – this is what I am looking for. It is absolutely necessary for me to find it somewhere.”

As said by its name, it is difficult to open *De Profundis* anywhere without finding something profound.

Deepak Chopra, seeks something similar in his book *God*, saying, “Richard Dawkins, who has become the outspoken voice of modern atheism, looks into miracles from a rational point of view . . . [He] assures us [that] We need to get past myths and wish fulfilment since they promote unreality. . . . But the argument loses its potency once you realize that spirituality is based on the irrational, not by being feeble and childish, but by celebrating the inner world. There are levels of the mind where rationality cannot go. Here we find the source of imagination, art, beauty, truth, faith, hope, love, trust, compassion, and most of the other things that make life worth living.” (p84)

## Islamic Gifts

“Indeed, We have revealed to you, [O Muhammad], as We revealed to Noah and the prophets after him. And we revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, the Descendants, Jesus, Job, Jonah, Aaron, and Solomon, and to David We gave the book” [of Psalms]. (Holy Quran 4:a63)

“Then We sent following their footsteps Our messengers and followed with Jesus, the son of Mary, and gave him the Gospel. And We placed in the hearts of those who followed him compassion and mercy and monasticism, which they innovated”; (Holy Quran 57:27)

### **Paris: A World That Has Lost Its Ethical Direction & Spiritual Foundation and a Media that Cheerleads for Fear and Militarism**

This is how Rabbi Michael Lerner headlined his article in *Tikkun*, which can be seen at [www.tikkun.org/nextgen/25711](http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/25711) . Here is his first paragraph:

“For many years, we at Tikkun and the Network of Spiritual Progressives have warned that the domination and power-over strategies to achieve “homeland security” have been tried for over 7,000 years and all they have produced is more wars and violence, interspersed with short periods of peace that have, with the help of the sensationalist and nationalist media and professional apologists for the existing inequalities, managed to hide from public view the degree of covert structural violence that every system of inequality and domination embodies. (Please read Cynthia Moe-Lobeda's important study *Resisting Structural Evil--Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation* published by Fortress Press to get a full understanding of how deeply our own daily lives in Western societies are built on the exploitation and impoverishment of people around the world).”

Love is a spiritual quality within all religions, but so easily forgotten. Tikkun olam (Hebrew: *תקנת עולם* or *תקנת עולמות*) (literally, "repair of the world", alternatively, "construction

for eternity") is a concept in Judaism.

Does your computer have the Hebrew alphabet? Just go to Wikipedia and copy.

### **Global Warming**

David Zarembka sends us this information from Kenya

“The African Great Lakes Initiative works in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northeast Kenya, an area of semi-desert. There are now 180,000 people in this camp. Between 2011 and 2013 it did not rain there for twenty months. Then it poured. People were killed in the floods. As one man commented, From what I witnessed more than seven refugees have so far died in floods in Kakuma. We don't keep data of natural calamities. Ten people may get drowned but we might only receive three bodies. The flooding was so bad that people couldn't wear shoes because the shoes would get stuck in the muck and come off the feet. The refugees said that they preferred the drought because the rains increased the amount of disease from malaria, typhoid, and dysentery.

This, as I see it, is the result of drought and flooding from climate change. Is the world prepared to deal with the consequences of this climate change and the conflicts, destruction, and deaths that it will generate?”

### **Query for December**

Early Quakers were strictly against celebrating on “that day called Christmas” and other Christian holy days. Most modern Quakers do not support the commercialization and buying frenzy, but in the wider culture, Christmas still represents a time of giving, kindness, charity, selflessness, and peace. How do Friends currently feel about Christmas in relation to our testimonies?

Meeting for Worship is held on Sunday at 10 a.m., followed by refreshments and a Forum discussion at 11.30, usually lasting until about 12.45. Children are invited to join worship for the first fifteen minutes, after which they may go to join with the Young Friends program. Child care is available during Forum.

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