

CRIBBS NOTES – June 24, 2007

We welcome Clive and Carol Hoffman to San Marino Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. After many years of absence and separation, Clive and I have been joined together by our dear and mutual friend, Nancy Trask, former executive director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in Los Angeles. Seeing Clive again after nearly 41 years was a great joy beyond measure. We quickly discovered how time can collapse and our conversation recaptured our passion for knowledge and justice.

In the mid-1960s Clive was on staff of the NCCJ and participated in an annual summer camp experience for high school students. In that capacity, he worked with teen leaders from Southern California and other Western States. For one week in the San Bernardino Mountains, youth were introduced to various religions, political perspectives, and races. “Brotherhood/Sisterhood Camp” was a place where differences were explored and opportunities to imagine another world were presented.

There was a time in America when young people truly believed they could change the world and make new history. There was a feeling of possibility for racial harmony and world peace. Early in the morning and late at night, high school students discussed the critical issues of the day. We were encouraged to speak openly and sincerely about our lives and expectations. We learned the thoughts of others and shared points of mutuality. Clive Hoffman was part of that experience. Nancy Trask headed the programs that brought together an array of adult supervisors, counselors, and youth.

41 years later, the conversations continued. Clive remains committed to racial and social justice. He uses his business to advance equity and opportunities in real estate and education. He demonstrates ways communities can work together to improve quality of life across Los Angeles.

It is a great honor to have him share his thoughts and vision with us. A lasting friendship is not deterred by time and distance. It is the foundation upon which collaboration can be built to work toward a vision framed by hope, love, peace, and goodwill.

Thank you, Clive, for coming and speaking your truth.