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(Near Southern Oregon University)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Third Month 2018

Curious About Cuba?

Two members of South Mountain Friends Meeting truly have Cuba on their minds.



1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First-Hour & Rise of Meeting:

4 March

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: F&H Committee

11 March (Day Light Savings)

9:30 am: FCNL Priorities

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

18 March

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

25 March

9:30 am: How Do Quakers Worship? (*Details on page 5*)

Rise of Meeting:

FELLOWSHIP OVER FOOD

Core Meal Provided by

Alex & Javan

Others may bring a side dish or simply their appetite

Jean Semrau and Fran Curtis will be traveling with a Witness for Peace Delegation: *“Curious About Cuba? Learn about Arts, Culture, and Social Programs”* from 30 March to 9 April ‘18.

Witness for Peace describes Cuba as an “island home to 11 million people and more social and economic services than anywhere else in the Caribbean. Delegates will learn how a socialist country organizes itself to provide social services, education, health care, food, housing, safety, and access to the arts to its citizens in an equitable manner and will explore the many ways that this island nation, just 90 miles from our shore, has met these challenges for nearly 60 years in the face of opposition from its neighbor to the north.”

Jean and Fran invite us to participate in their journey. They will be able to take a few much-needed school supplies and art supplies, as well as some over-the-counter pain meds. If anyone(s) would like to contribute, either Jean or Fran will be happy to receive monetary donations. That way they can purchase appropriate (packable) items before they leave. Gracias!

In Worship, In Witness, In Service



Northwest Quaker Men's Fellowship (Save the Date!)

Gathering April 12—April 15, 2018
Ocean Park Retreat Center
Ocean Park, WA

Cost:

Thursday—Sunday (\$175)
Friday— Sunday Only
(\$150—meals provided)

For more information, a registration packet or ask about financial assistance contact:

Al Hendrix

Phone: (503) 405-5541
E-mail:
andgodblinked@gmail.com

Join with men from across all our traditions in worship and prayer to listen deeply to one another and share from our experience as Quaker men "Finding our Way Forward."

The core program (Friday Evening– Sunday Midday) will include 3 led sessions, group worship, and lots of time for reading, contemplation, conversation or enjoying nature. All are encouraged to come on Thursday to settle in and for informal sharing. Final program and registration packet will be available in February.

For more information on the retreat facility

<https://opretreat.org/facilities/>

UNPACKING RACISM ALONG WITH OTHER QUAKERS

Through my contact with the “unpacking racism” subcommittee of North Pacific Yearly Meeting’s (NPYM’s) committee on peace and social justice, I’ve learned that **Olympia Monthly Meeting (OMM)** would like to hold a workshop called **Undoing Institutional Racism (UIR)** sometime this spring. Unfortunately, no specific date has yet been set. The seminar will be put on by the 25-year-old, Bellevue (WA)-based People’s Institute NW: For Survival and Beyond. OMM is extending an invitation to Friends who would like to explore institutional racism, not unrelated to the fact that *unpacking systemic racism* will be the focus of the Friend in Residence at this year’s Annual Session.

Friends on the subcommittee who have already participated in a UIR workshop highly recommend it (and even consider re-taking it). Workshops strengthen or build community, create a visceral learning experience and in-depth understanding of systemic racism, and inspire engagement to create change. The UIR workshop will take place from a Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon.

Several folks who have already attended are sponsoring prospective attendees who haven’t the finances. As well, our South Mountain Ministry & Council has funds available to help with tuition and other expenses. It costs \$350 per participant. I plan on driving up to Olympia and participating and am open to carpooling.

THE WORKSHOP ADDRESSES THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Analyzing Power – Effective organizing requires accurate analysis of the systems that keep racism in place, why people are poor, how institutions perpetuate the imbalance of power, and who is responsible for maintaining the status quo.

Defining Racism – In order to undo racism, it must be understood. Organizers and educators who intend to build effective coalitions need to be very clear about what racism is and what it is not in order to avoid serious strategic and tactical errors.

Understanding the Manifestations of Racism – Racism operates in more than just individual and institutional settings. The dynamics of cultural racism, linguistic racism, and militarism as applied racism is examined.

Learning from History – Racism has distorted, suppressed and denied the histories of people of color and white people as well. An accurate knowledge of history is a necessary organizing tool as well as a source of personal and collective empowerment.

Sharing Culture – One of the most effective methods of oppression is to deny a people its history and culture. The training process strongly emphasizes “cultural sharing” as a critical organizing tool.

Organizing to Undo Racism – Community organizing principles are discussed in terms of how communities can achieve concrete results in dismantling the structures of racism.

--Bob Morse

Following the recent massacre of 17 teens and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, these thoughts welled up within me:

In this time of fear, anger, chaos, confusion, and righteousness, we must focus with determination on peace: Active love and peace, reaching out to our neighbors, community, and country with Truth and trust to lift the veils of denial and blame of others.

We are all “us” with no one else to thank or blame. Can we truly look at and embrace our own selves?

We must to survive. We must to heal the gaping wounds which now lay open.

Turn anger into action. Love actively. Listen actively. Trust actively. Practice Peace!

--Crystal Bosbach, Clerk, SMFM’s Ministry & Counsel

Meeting For Worship For Business: 18 February 2018

Present: Bill Ashworth (recording clerk), Melody Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Barbara Arrais, Crystal Bosbach (acting clerk), Anna Monders, Herb Rothschild

Meeting opened with worship. Clerk Crystal Bosbach read a passage she had recently written on active love.

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild reported that a November expense of \$117 had not been reported; this has been added to the cumulative expense amount reported this month. Income is running \$2266 ahead of expenses at this point, a reversal from last month's deficit. Our main checking account has over \$7600; overall, we have roughly \$25,700 in all accounts.

Peace and Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild asked if Peace and Social Concerns could be authorized to say "yes" to requests from Peace House to co-sponsor events in the name of the Meeting for Peace House's ongoing educational project regarding the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. Peace House is working with other organizations up and down the I-5 corridor on this.

2018.2.1. The Meeting authorizes the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to sponsor and co-sponsor events in the name of the meeting regarding the UN Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons as the committee deems appropriate. Approved.

The committee was asked to keep us apprised of these events.

Peace and Social Concerns asks anyone with suggestions for area organizations for the committee to donate to, to bring them forward. The emphasis should be on social change, rather than social service,

organizations. The committee plans to ask the Finance Committee to increase the amount appropriated for donations as they prepare the next Meeting budget. The aim is to tithe the Meeting's income (this would be approximately \$1400; the current budgeted amount is \$800).

North Pacific Yearly Meeting: Crystal reported that Annual Session will be July 25-29 at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. The Yearly Meeting has adopted a policy of "abundant financing"; attendees are asked to pay as much as they are able, instead of being charged a fixed amount. Requests and vetting are not required. Friends' presence at Annual Session is considered valuable to the Yearly Meeting. The theme is racial justice; the Friend in Residence will be Vanessa Julye. The Inclusivity Minute accepted last year will be examined in terms of possible implementations.

Ministry & Counsel: Melody Ashworth reported that Pam Vavra has requested a membership transfer to Palo Alto Meeting. Ministry & Council asks us to approve this.

2018.2.2. South Mountain Friends Meeting lovingly approves Friend Pamela Vavra's request for a letter of transfer of membership to Palo Alto Meeting. Approved.

Olympia Meeting will be doing a workshop on undoing institutional racism sometime during the period of March through May. They have invited Friends from the various Pacific Northwest yearly meetings to attend. Bob Morse will be attending from our meeting, so there is a possibility of ride sharing if other Friends wish to go. There is Meeting financial support available.

Ministry & Counsel also wants to

encourage participation in the Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference in Canby, Oregon, this coming June. Quaker women from all traditions of Friends are invited; the conference attempts to keep a balance between traditions. Patricia Morrison will be presenting at the conference.

Building/Grounds/Joint Committee: Herb Rothschild reported that the bathroom off the library is still out of order. The sink drain has corroded through. Steve Wells will be repairing it this week. Room rental income has picked up, so it will not be necessary to increase our monthly dues to the committee. The rule of "nothing but water" in the meeting room is an issue for some renters. Joint Committee feels that it is Joint Committee's call whether or not coffee and other drinks are brought into the room, as that committee is financially responsible for the carpet cleaning and replacement; accordingly, they are suspending this rule for groups renting the building (the rule remains in effect for Friends at this time). Joint Committee will purchase a carpet cleaner and request that renters use it on any spills they cause.

Homeless warming shelter: Crystal reported that clerk Patricia Morrison has requested that the Meeting give her permission to consult with a contract lawyer over our contract with the city of Ashland for the homeless warming shelter. Patricia is seeking the simplest way to continue to work with the shelter and protect volunteers from our Meeting. She has identified a lawyer who will give us a discounted rate. A Friend stated that he felt we should move forward but should not commit to anything without a price tag.

To be continued on page 5

Suggest Recipients of SMFM Donations, *please*

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee will decide at its meeting on the first Sunday in March which area organizations to support financially. The gifts aren't major—\$50 or \$25—but they express our appreciation of the organizations' work.

The Meeting decided several years ago to prioritize groups focused on social change rather than social service. This for two reasons: First, the only way to end the damage requiring social services is to effect systemic change. Second, social change groups have a harder time raising funds because they are often regarded as too "political." Examples of area groups we have been funding are Veterans for Peace, Health Care for All Oregon (which works for single payer), and NAMI (which among other things advocates for more mental health funding).

Please email me your suggestions ASAP at herbertrothschild@hotmail.com.

--Herb Rothschild, committee clerk

Meeting for Business (continued from page 4)

Assistant Clerk Anna Monders stated that no figure has been currently identified, but that it is expected to be in the region of hundreds instead of thousands of dollars.

We do not have insurance that covers our volunteers; we have a homeowner's policy for the building, but it covers nothing off-site. Attempts have been made to find a path forward without legal assistance, but none has been found.

2018.2.3. Meeting authorizes clerk Patricia Morrison to consult with a contract attorney regarding the city's requirement of liability coverage for our volunteers at the Ashland homeless warming shelter. Approved.

Meeting closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Bosbach, Acting Clerk
Bill Ashworth, Recording Clerk

ADULT EDUCATION:

How Do QUAKERS WORSHIP?

9:30 am Sunday 25 March 2018

Quakers are unique in their worship practice.

With the exception of the Catholics (who invite/hold that the Presence of God/Spirit is actively experienced by those in worship through the transubstantiation of Christ during Communion), Quakers are the only other religious community that actively seek the intercession of the Divine Presence during worship by seeking to be in the Light.

To learn more about the practice of Quaker worship—both sitting in Silence (which is more than mere meditation) and the process of Vocal Ministry—please join us during first hour on the fourth Sunday in March.

Patricia Morrison and I will co-clerk this Adult Education session devoted to how to prepare, how to approach, and what to hold in our consciousness during "The Sacrament of Silence."

As well, we will engage a discussion about the discernment process for messages that come from the Silence: "How do I know whether the message is for me or for Thee?"

--Gabrielle Leslie

ADVICES & QUERIES ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The bible and other religious literature are the rightful heritage of us all, and study and discussion in the family is a valuable source of religious training. Yet the written word has little meaning unless it leads to the expression of personal religious experience, which is the work of the Spirit behind the word. As individuals and families, we must show our children and each other that our search for truth involves every aspect of life.

In what ways does our Meeting help to develop the spiritual lives of our children and of all of our members and attenders?

Do we provide our children and young adults with a framework for active, ongoing participation in Meeting?

How do we encourage our children to participate actively in Meeting?

How do we share our deepest beliefs with our children and with one another?

What influences among us tend to develop our religious life?

People of Earth: A Poem

By Christina Elcock of the American Friends Service Committee

1 February 2018

There is a Light in each of us,
yet, still, we question our worth:
"How is it that they are more
free than me -
aren't we all people of earth?"

But she is from a troubled land -
scathed from the stampede of
corruption
and a tainted past,
and a soiled present,
and a muddied future

In d r e a m s her aunt tells her,
"we must go"
and holds her hand
tight
to stop her knees from knocking
together at the border
on the other side, way opens
there is opportunity on the
horizon
hidden by heavy clouds
her aunt's hand squeezes tighter
as she repeats under her breath
that America is synonymous
with free
that America "is every
immigrant's drea-"
but the words lodge in her throat
when work is hard to find
when their language isn't "right"
when threat after
threat hurtle out of
The White House

and the dream before them
catches on fire
and in a sudden it burns to the
ground
behind bright flames there is a
coldness they cannot shake
she awakes
nothing about this moment feels
"safe"

Again, their wellbeing is being
targeted;
their protection punctuated with
an asterisk
all along "safe" had been just a
mirage
with each case of immigrant
eviction
mounting fear grips them with an
iron fist
the land that had seemed to kiss
their feet
now bites them instead
like unwilling civilians being
drafted for war
one by one people are being called
It is a fox hunt;
A game that has been rigged from
the start
with bowed heads they pray
their hands once again joined
hope is the song on their lips
when safety goes astray
community is all they have
when discrimination pervades

SMFM CALENDAR

March 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fr Sat

				1 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	2	3
4 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light 12:30 pm F&H Committee	5	6	7	8 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	9	10 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
11 (Day Light Savings Begins) 9:30 am Discerning our South Mountain Recommendations for FCNL's Lobbying Priorities (convened by Ken Deveney) 12:30 pm M&C Committee	12	13 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	14 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group***	15 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	16	17
18 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	19	20	21 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	22 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	23	24 Bill in Folk Concert at Morriplum
25 9:30 am How Do Quakers Worship (Discussion to be led by Gabrielle & Patricia) (Details on page 5) 12:30 pm Fellowship Over Food: Luncheon Provided; Bring side dish or just your appetite	26	27	28 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group***	29 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	30	31

***Light Group Re-Kindled

6:30 – 8:30 pm (expanded to Second & Fourth) Wednesday Evenings

A **biweekly** gathering, the "Light Group" invites everyone to attend any or all group sessions. The group explores Quaker spirituality as practiced by the early Friends and as described by Rex Ambler in his book, *Light to Live By*. For further information, please contact Alex Reid, convener, at 707-499-9146 or ralexandrareid@gmail.com.

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Patricia Morrison 520-390-0674

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 231-1475

Corresponding Clerk: Adam Thompson 215-350-1780, assisted by Alex Reid, Pam Johnson, Sylvie Weaver, Mary Ellen Gordian

Recording Clerk: Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild 531-2848

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, assisted by Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 303-523-1811

Grants Pass Worship Group: Colombe Leinau (convener) 479-4409; **Liaison:** Melody Ashworth

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Jean Semrau 488-6855, assisted by Sylvie Weaver

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney (convener) 488-5506, Melody Ashworth, Cathy McDaniel

Warming Shelter Committee: Alex Reid (clerk), Liz Olson, Becky Hale, Bob Morse, Steve Wells

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse (morse@mind.net) Wed. after Business Meeting

Finance Committee: Melody Ashworth (clerk), Adam Thompson, Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Lanita Witt (clerk), Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Steve Wells, Glenn Allister

Nominating Committee: Adam Thompson (clerk)

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Scott Plummer (clerk), Steve Radcliffe, Crystal Bosbach, Sylvie Weaver, Brent Howell

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild (clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Liz Olson, Pam Allister

Library Elves: Anna Monders assisted by Colombe Leinau, Steve Wells, and Bob Morse

Adult Education Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (clerk), Becky Hale, Colleen Graham

Outreach Committee: Ken Deveney (clerk), Steve Radcliffe

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Crystal Bosbach 930-4222 (clerk), Ken Deveney 488-5506, Melody Ashworth 324-9824, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Brent Howell 841-8841, Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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Ashland, Oregon 97520