

543 South Mountain Avenue Ashland, Oregon 97520 (541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

1st HOUR: Discussions &

Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays **Childcare During Worship**

First Hour & Rise of Meeting:

2 December

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

9 December

9:30 am: Worship Sharing on NPYM's draft Uprooting Racism Minute (see page 3)

10:30-11 am: Sing along with Lisa

Rise of Meeting: Fellowship over lunch; core meal provided by the Grants Pass Shuttlers. All are welcome to bring ancillary dishes or just themselves.

16 December

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

23 December

9:30 am: Holiday Singing

30 December (see page 6)

9:30 am: Let Your YEAR Speak: 2018 Reflections; 2019 Callings

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon **Twelfth Month 2018**

Deepening Learning, Examining Faith, **Experiencing Community**



The Oregon Extension's Students, Staff, and Faculty's Family

Our Meeting has been blessed by having a half-dozen university students worshipping, conversing, and pot-lucking with us this fall. They mostly hail from midwestern towns and universities. They are spending this semester in the Cascade Mountains outside Ashland at The Oregon Extension. A well-kept secret, the OE was founded in 1975 as an opportunity for university students across America and around the world to set aside four months to live in an intentional Christian educational community.

Longtime Quaker and former George Fox University instructor Cherice Bock arrived for her initial OE teaching experience in August. Bock explained that all the students (a total of 26 this season) engage in the same three-week-long courses. The intention is to expand the experience of learning, while deepening self-knowing and their relationship with others and with nature. Each course is followed by such excursions as backpacking in the Cascades or living in yurts on the coast.

Our Meeting recently held a worship discussion to better get to know the OE and the students who regularly visit with us on Sundays. On page 2 are the students' composite responses to the various questions that were posed. Continued on Page 2

The Oregon Extension

Continued from Page 1

What about the OE inspires you? In such a small, close-quartered community, we get to watch each other grow and learn which inspires me to grow and learn. I had felt that it was only I who deeply cared about animals as individuals; now I feel less alone. Being here has inspired me to re-invest in people, to "love on" people, to become more comfortable with myself. The OE community is infused with everyone's passions, and there's time and permission to address and discuss social injustices. We read and discussed a book from which I learned that it doesn't matter how long we live; we can experience eternity in every moment.

What makes the OE safe enough to grow? We realized early on that we're not going to get to know each other and grow unless we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. In a small community, we need to do tasks with, and rely on, each other; if we want dairy products, we need to milk the goats. We will try to bring this vulnerability back to our home universities, but without this level of safety, it will be hard.

What about the OE called to you and how has the OE surprised you? I felt stagnant and unchallenged at my university and prefer to be engaged in worthwhile pursuits. I was not expecting to love anyone here, but through the OE, I've come upon (friends and) Friends—and peace and silence! Not having our phones during the week, we've learned to entertain each other—a connection that we believe many of our peers are craving—and found the joy in cooking meals together and reading aloud to one another.

How has the OE altered your views of the places from which you've come? Home is no longer a place for me, but instead a feeling of liking what I'm doing. Right before arriving here, I engaged in an activity for which I hadn't been trained, yet I succeeded. I brought with me the confidence that I can do anything to which I set my mind. I've come to realize how each of my family members helped shape me, and for this I feel grateful.

What has your brief encounter with Quaker Meeting been like so far?

I appreciate the authentic welcome; at my home school it was difficult to express any confusion about my connection with God. Being unsure where I am in relationship to faith, it's helpful to have this chance to feel what I feel instead of what others say I should be feeling. Back home I didn't know this amount of generosity and open-mindedness, nor older people so invested in social justice. I'm inspired by Quakers' being so unafraid to speak their minds.

For more information on The Oregon Extension: https://www.oregonextension.org/

-Bob Morse

Visiting with Barbara

Barbara Rosen is one of our elders who, through the challenges of age and dementia, no longer attends Meeting for Worship. Ken Deveney and I arranged a visit through her daughter, Susan Moen, in mid- October. Barbara's language nowadays it muddled, and it is often unclear what she is saying. Yet her lovely British accent continues to make her words sound melodic as she speaks. She is as gracious as ever and stands tall and erect like one who wishes to right the wrongs of the world. Yes, that is the spirit of Barbara. She still has that determined drive to make sure the children and the disadvantaged are cared for even as she struggles with her own health. Forever an avid reader, Barbara continues to enjoy reading poetry for short periods; however, she is unable to read most other things. She does at times like to be read to. When I opened a copy of our new Faith & Practice, she beamed with recognition as I read the names of historic Quakers who were quoted inside. Barbara's kind caregiver, Martha, offered to read aloud from Faith & Practice in the future. As our visit came to a close, Barbara walked us out through the door and continued on for a walk with Martha around the



block to view the fall colors. There is still so much she enjoys in life, including visits from old f/Friends. If you find yourself smiling as you recollect some of your warm memories of Barbara, please pass along your stories with other Friends who haven't had the good fortune of knowing Barbara first hand. --Crystal Bosbach

MINUTE ON UPROOTING RACISM YOUR INPUT REQUESTED

A minute is a proclamation that can serve as a position paper and/or a call to action.

A subcommittee of the Yearly Meeting's Peace & Social Concerns Committee has researched and written the following minute on uprooting racism, a draft copy of which was read at the 2018 Yearly Meeting's Annual Session in Tacoma. The following version includes changes made after incorporating suggestions vocalized during the focused worship that took place immediately following the minute's summertime reading.

The subcommittee (of which I am a member) requests that South Mountain and all other Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in North Pacific Yearly Meeting "season" this minute through discussion, discernment, and action.

For starters, we will hold a **worship sharing at 9:30 am Sunday 9 December** in which we will speak out of silent worship on each of the seven aspects of this minute. Although it'll be possible to suggest alterations in the minute's wording, our primary focus will be on the spirit, not the letter, of the minute.

All are welcome to join this hour of discernment during which we will examine our emotional and spiritual responses to this calling to uproot racism in ourselves, our meetings, and our communities.

If so led, at a subsequent session, we will discuss ways in which we might take action personally, as a meeting, and/or out in the community.

--Bob Morse

- 1. We Friends affirm our commitment to live our intertwined testimonies of Integrity, Equality, and Community, and we look to the transformative power of love to guide us in uprooting racism.
- 2. Friends recognize the impact of racism on all people of color, from overt individual discrimination and violence to insidious systemic rules and mores that limit educational opportunities, economic prosperity, shared power, medical treatment, housing security, and human dignity. Friends cannot ignore the injustice of substantial racial disparities in our prisons.
- 3. Friends recognize that white supremacy is a belief based upon lies; that people of extraordinary intellect and wisdom come from all continents and in all colors, and that the spiritual value of all people is paramount to the testimony of equality.
- 4. Racism also melds multiple ancestries, erasing cultural diversity and creating a false dichotomy of whites and people of color. Too easily a common dominant culture is presumed, and this inhibits making room in our meetings for people of color. We acknowledge that Friends have been unwittingly complicit in perpetuating systemic racism. Like fish in the sea who only know water, that water is invisible to many.
- 5. Under Divine guidance, we are led to explore how the veiled system of white supremacy rewards people racialized as white with unearned advantages in tandem with punishing people of color with pervasive disadvantages. We seek a deepening awareness of how these advantages and disadvantages have manifested in each of our lives. We endeavor to use this awareness to speak out against racial injustice.
- 6. Friends acknowledge the intergenerational trauma created by cultural annihilation, as well as the theft of native lands, genocide suffered by Native Americans, and enslavement of African people by European colonists. Friends acknowledge the economic benefit colonists and their descendants derived from all these actions, the results of racial inequity, and the egregious lack of reparations and profound suffering that remains. We acknowledge the need for institutional and personal apologies as a necessary step to healing and conciliation. We also acknowledge the necessity to seek guidance in how to remedy continued injustices perpetuated by systemic racism, and in the creation of improved alternatives.
- 7. Our Quaker values affirm that of God in everyone. Compassion calls us to eradicate white privilege in our individual lives, in our Meetings, and in our greater communities. We trust that divine assistance will guide us toward greater inclusivity so that by sharing power, all may benefit from everyone's gifts and none will struggle to feel heard and included. We commit to challenge ourselves and our meetings to take action that dismantles oppressive societal attitudes and institutions, creates equity, and constructs multiracial movements to solve the pressing problems of our times. We aspire to become a beloved community structured by equality of opportunity, respect, and spiritual and economic well-being for all.

Background information about racism and anti-racism-related resources are available at www.npym.org

Excerpt from "The freedom to seek sanctuary: A Quaker perspective on the migrant caravan"

There are many communities in the U.S. willing to open their hearts and resources to welcome [migrants and refugees]. What if, instead of characterizing folks seeking home as "threats" or "invaders," we understood them to be our neighbors, that our futures are interlocked and that how they are treated is connected to the well-being of us all? What if we understood love as not constrained by borders or walls, but abundant, and that caring for one another and those most violated by systemic oppression and U.S. policy is the pathway toward liberation for us all? What if we, as people of conscience and faith, greeted the migrants at the border as our brothers, sisters, and kin, opened our homes and communities to them, and greeted them as resourceful contributors to figuring out the planetary threats we currently face together?

I visited a migrant refugee shelter in Tijuana in early October and then, with others, visited the border wall. We stopped first at the site of Trump's wall prototypes, eight wall sections built as demonstrations for the longer wall or fence. Each one cost about \$500,000 to build, a total of \$4 million. Evidently each of them was flawed, all of them could be scaled and breeched. Beyond the new border wall built with haste and focus by this administration is the last border wall, with patches everywhere: It was paper thin and was easy to create holes to crawl through. Now the looming fence is much taller, dangerous, and daunting.

On the new fence is an old sign: an image of a man drowning. But at that spot in the wall, there was no water for miles, and I could feel the hate demonstrated by that wall, a colossal flood which is drowning too many. There were power lines from Tijuana crossing the border, a metaphor: Goods, resources, and power can cross the border freely, just not people.

We visited a site where they were building the replacement wall. We were greeted by two women. One said the house that was on the site of the border had been saved due to intervention and that their house would not be knocked down, and the old wall would be left standing near their house. The other said that their father was grateful that the border patrol would not knock down the shrine he had built that was next to the site of the new wall. We visited the house and the shrine. Workers were adding wall segments near the shrine, which stood sturdily resisting the encroachment. There was an opening in the wall they were beginning to fill, and there was a tree spreading its branches in the gap in the wall. I thought even the trees try to stand in the way of the wall. But they get violated, just as people do, as the wall goes up, violently separating people and the land.

Our last site visit was to the portion of the wall near the sea. *Friendship Park* is there, a bi-national park offering resistance to the existence of the wall. There is a bi-national garden tended by folks on both sides of the fence. There are paintings of butterflies, and folks scaling the wall. [I was told] that as this new wall is built, portions of the wall that remembered those who died trying to cross have been knocked down. Even remembrance of the victims of the border wall is being demolished in its current iteration.

It was moving to stand next to the wall and feel the spirit of people coming there year after year to see their relatives, to reach across the chasm being built to find unity and resist the hate the wall represents. As a Quaker, the wall stands against all that I believe: I believe there is that of God in every person; systems of separation and disconnection are evil and deny a fundamental truth that casting others out or denying them welcome stands in the way of apprehending God.

I believe that we hallow the earth by recognizing humanity as one body and that communion rests with this recognition. What if instead of a wall and a flood of exclusion and hate, we met our migrant kin with a flood of empathy and love? What if we knew they were like Elijah coming for dinner, offering wisdom when we offer them a seat at the table? I envision a flood of such love greeting the migrant caravan, these asylum seekers, ready to knock down these walls, and co-create human community in the wreckage of walls and systemic oppression.

What kind of gathering might we have at the border, if we understand that now we have a moment in which to enact a vision of society beyond walls and borders, beyond white supremacy and hate? Like migrants taking one another's hand through the border fence, let us hold each other and stand for such a vision. Let us open our hearts and break huge doors in these walls. Let us pray with our lives to make it so.

--Lucy Duncan (who serves as Director of Friends Relations for the American Friends Service Committee)

Meeting For Worship For Business: 18 November 2018

Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Andra Hollenbeck, Kathy McDaniel, Patricia Morrison, Pat Scuitto, Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Scott Plummer, Sylvie Weaver, Karen Roertgen, Becky Hale.

Meeting opened with worship. Clerk Melody Ashworth read an excerpt from Thomas H. Jeavons: "The light is often discerned by many rather than by one."

Sylvie Weaver summarized North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Coordinating Committee's Report. highlighting that NPYM has changed the name of Ministry & Oversight because of the association of overseer with slavery. The theme of the 2018 annual session, "uprooting racism" is increasingly being explored in monthly meetings. The full report and racism-related resources are listed at www.npym.org.

NPYM needs to move our next annual session to another locale and are also seeking ideas for creating a permanent location for Annual Session. NPYM is urgently in need of someone to coordinate this event and is looking to possibly hire an event planner. All of these plans found support from South Mountaineers.

Council of Elders reported that Brighter Angels agreed to be fiscal sponsor for their first event. The ad hoc committee outlining a fiscal responsibility agreement between the Council and SMFM has been hard at work.

Joint Committee: Herb Rothschild reported that the committee endorsed the request to post signage for people to avoid scented We have about \$500 for products—most probably in the bathroom. Ministry & Counsel will take on the task of sign-creation.

Building & Grounds expressed interest in permaculture landscaping at the cost of nearly \$2000. Joint Committee rejected this idea as such an expense would drain Joint Committee's account to the extent that it would need to increase monthly financial contributions from Peace House and Friends. There is an increasing need to reduce the fire risk around our building. Meeting requests Building & Grounds to arrange with the City of Ashland to provide a fire risk assessment of our property.

Minute on War in Yemen: The minute on the war in Yemen will be given to Clerk Melody who will work with Herb to submit to our congressional representatives online a letter with the minute on the war in Yemen.

Winter Shelter: The Winter Shelter opened 11 November, providing respite from cold seven nights per week and case management services. Pre-screening all guests, greater interfaith collaboration, and the consistency derived from knowing that each guest has a place for the season has resulted in issue of Western Friend. an ambiance of serenity.

Request: The size of the homeless population is greater than those in the shelter. Those who cannot or do not feel safe in the shelter need warm sleeping bags.

2018.11.1 Meeting approves spending \$200 from the Winter Shelter Budget for reimbursing Trinity Episcopal Church for our share of the cost of sleeping bags which they've purchased.

Treasurer's Report: Herb commented that our income is running a bit below expectations for being one-third of the way through our fiscal year. The Chloe Wood Memorial fund has been generous. emergency loans to Friends in need.

Herb's readiness for Adam to take over the treasurer's post resurfaced the concern of no one's having felt called to free up Adam

from the responsibilities of being corresponding clerk, even after nominating committee amended the job description.

2018.11.2 The meeting approves an ad hoc committee to further discern a workable way in which one or several people can easily carry out the tasks of meeting's correspondence. Bob will convene the group including Alex, Bill, Andra, and Adam.

Treasurer's report corrections were noted and Herb will correct. Report accepted.

Ministry & Counsel: No report at this time.

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb reported that the committee would like to hear of other f/Friendly organizations that Meeting would like to support: 1) Friendly Water for the World, and 2) Medical costs for orphans in a Ugandan community being assisted by a local Friends Meeting, described in the current

Interfaith Social Justice Coalition is bringing a pledge form of active resistance to the pipeline in Oregon. Intention: Deliver enough signatures to Governor Brown to garner her support in blocking the pipeline. The pledge considers civil disobedience; Herb asked that we consider carefully before signing.

NPYM Peace & Social Concerns Sub-Committee on Uprooting Racism: Bob reported that the reading aloud of a collaboratively crafted uprooting-racism minute at annual session was followed by a deep and focused worship with much vocal ministry offering alterations to the proposed minute. The resulting amended minute is now being circulated among monthly meetings. Bob is requesting a first-hour worship sharing to discern how spirit moves us as we sit together and hear each of the parts of this minute read into the silence. Continued on Page 6

Business Meeting

Continued from Page 5

Adult Education Committee: Becky's Free Writing Friends group would love to engage our Meeting in a spiritual writing opportunity that, hopefully, fills us all with the inspiration that they have been feeling throughout the seven years of their now-weekly gatherings. The writers' great flexibility and willingness to save their presentation until the fourth Sunday in January allows the uprooting-racism discussion to take place on the second Sunday in December.

Becky Hale expressed concerns that as a Meeting we need to put forward our spiritual, not just business, priorities.

Announcements: Meeting wishes that our communal meals continue to emerge from joyful and generous spirit, not out of obligation. We hold in the Light our waiting for additional Friends to feel led to share a main dish suitable for all dietary needs around which others can provide supplemental dishes.

On the occasion that children accompany their parents to meeting, we are in need of another volunteer to be with children during worship. This would be intermittent.

Meeting closed in silence.

Respectfully submitted, Melody Ashworth, Clerk Andra Hollenbeck, Interim Recording Clk

Let Your YEAR Speak

9:30 am Sunday 30 December

George Fox exhorted early Friends to "let your lives speak"--to be "patterns and examples" of what a life lived in the Spirit looks like. At South Mountain Friends Meeting, we have a tradition of gathering at the New Year to "let our years speak" --to share how Spirit may have moved in our lives over the past twelve months. This year's gathering will take place on December's fifth Sunday. I will clerk a worship-sharing based around two queries: (1) How has Spirit fared with you over the past year? And (2) What do you expect from Spirit during the coming year? Please join us for what has proved in the past to be a very rich community experience.

--Bill Ashworth

Advices & Queries on BUSINESS MEETING

Friends' way of conducting business is of central importance to the very existence of the Meeting. It is the Quaker way of living and working together; it is the way that can create and preserve a sense of fellowship in the Meeting community. The right conduct of Business Meetings, even in matters of routine, is a vital part of the worship experience. The process of individuals' submitting themselves to the corporate revelation of God's truth forms the basis of Friends' approach to unity.

All members are encouraged to attend Business Meetings and be faithful in the service of the Meeting's affairs. Appointments of officers and committee members should be made with careful consideration of the qualifications of those named and of the opportunities for growth that may be afforded. Friends should not accept any service to which they are nominated without an accompanying sense of leading and a capacity for the task, nor should they lightly refuse such service.

Proceed in the peaceable spirit of the light of Truth, with forbearance and warm affection for each other.

Be willing to wait upon God as long as may be necessary for the emergence of a decision which clearly recommends itself as the right one.

Feel free to express views, but refrain from pressing them unduly.

Guard against contentiousness, obstinacy, and love of power. Admit the possibility of being in error.

In Meeting for Business, and in all duties connected to them, seek the leadings of the Light.

Are our Meetings for Business held in the spirit of a Meeting for Worship in which we seek divine guidance for our actions in love and mutual forbearance?

How well do our Meetings for Business lead to a corporate search for and revelation of God's truth?

How effectively do members of the Meeting participate in the tempering and strengthening of the leading of individuals?

As difficult problems arise, are we careful to meet them in a spirit of love and humility with minds open for creative solutions?

Do we avoid pressure of time, neither unnecessarily prolonging nor unduly curtailing full discussion?

Are we aware that we speak through inaction as well as action?

Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity?

Do we recognize that the search for unity may require us to accept with good grace a decision of the Meeting with which we are not entirely in agreement?

In what ways do we each take our share of responsibility in the service of the Meeting? Are younger Friends, new members, and attenders given appropriate responsibility in the Meeting?

SMFM CALENDAR December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	3	4	5	6 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	7	Ashland Food Project Pick-Up I-4 pm Laundry Love 2-6 pm M&C Meeting
9:30 am Worship Sharing on Uprooting Racism 10:30-11 am Sing along with Lisa Rise of Meeting: Fellowship Over Food; Contribute Pot-luckily or Just Bring Your Presence; All are Welcome	10	11 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	12 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	13 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	14	15
16 8:30-10:30 am Business Meeting	17 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	21	22
23 9:30 am Holiday Singing	24	25	26 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	27 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	28	29
30 9:30 am Let Your Year Speak: 2018 Reflections; 2019 Callings	31					

"Friends' aversion to proselytizing has led to a fear of being open and excited about Quakerism with others, which creates a culture of reticence that prevents genuine connections and outreach. There is a difference between forcing your views on strangers and sharing your thoughts and experiences of spirituality with others in your life.

By opening up about our personal faith journeys in all their complexity, we acknowledge the radical pluralism of Quaker spiritual feeling."

—Jessica Hubbard Bailey in Friends Journal August 2018 (submitted by Ken Deveney)

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Corresponding Clerk: Adam Thompson 215-350-1780.

assisted by Alex Reid

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577
Treasurer: Herb Rothschild 531-2848

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, assisted by

Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 301-5840, Adam Thompson, Bill Ashworth; **Web Page Contributors:** Bob Morse & Pam Johnson

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie

Weaver 717-475-6940

Archivist: Pam Johnson 535-1940

Art/Music Coordinators: Becky Hale 601-3084; Lisa

Nichols 488-5577, respectively

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney

(convener) 488-5506, Cathy McDaniel

Warming Shelter Committee: Alex Reid (clerk), Bob Morse, Steve Wells, Beth Aspedon, Heather Starbird,

Denny Caraher

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

South Mountain Friends Meeting 543 South Mountain Avenue Ashland, Oregon 97520 **Finance Committee:** Adam Thompson, Barbara Arias, Scott Plummer, Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representitives: Herb Rothschild, Steve

Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Wells, Merlin McDaniel,

Raymond Scully, Glenn Allister, Hazel Ward

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Adam Thompson,

Alex Reid, Barbara Arrais, Jean Semrau

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Patricia Morrison, Crystal Bosbach, Cathie McDaniel, Kathleen Hering

Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan

Reid, Bob Morse

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild

(clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister

Library Elves: Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Heather Starbird,

Becky Hale

Adult Education Committee: Lisa Nichols (clerk), Becky

Hale, Jim Phillips, Karen Roertgen

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Brent Howell 841-8841, Gabrielle Leslie 488-0228, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk/Assistant *ex officio*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted