



543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

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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 June

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

9 June

9:30 am: Winnowing Session on our Proposed Budget (Queries & Budget on page 3)

16 June

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

23 June

9:30 am: Adult Ed
Worship Discussion on Quakers' Connection to the Earth

30 June

9:30 am: Peace and Social Concerns Discussion on Prisoners' Access to Books and Online Courses. Postcard writing to follow (Details on page 4)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Sixth Month 2019

Reflections on Native American and Quaker Spirituality



David West began his overview of Native American spirituality by emphasizing the significance of "preparing for coming to spiritual practice." A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of the Great Lakes region, West is a longtime Oregonian, a community psychologist, and the former director of SOU's Native American Studies Program.

Nearly two-dozen South Mountain Friends gathered Sunday 28 April to hear West's gentle wisdom and rhythmic storytelling. Throughout his talk, I reflected upon parallels with Quaker traditions. West's opening comments reminded me of the words of Quaker author and philosopher Douglas Steere: "Come (to worship) with heart and mind prepared."

West acknowledged the diversity among native spiritual practices. His own tradition teaches to not ask questions. Instead, he explained, "Be quiet, watch and listen, perceive and especially tune into what you feel." Similarly, Quakers seek silence to quiet our minds and hear the small still voice within.

In the ways of the Potawatomi, children regardless of gender stay with the females until age 8. Then boys move into the sphere of the tribal men. Uncles become their disciplinarians; grandpas, their teachers. Girls when they come into their moon time and boys at 12 or 13 undergo their vision quest, searching for their role. In solitude, in nature, they enter into a period of contemplation. In silence, they watch and listen, tuning into their perceptions and feelings, awaiting answers from Spirit. They meet and commune with their totem from the animal realm, acquiring guidance and direction.

These ways of Native Americans are ancient. "The essence of the rituals," says West, "is that everyone participates—young people along with elders—no one is left out." Humans of all hues—red, yellow, black, and white—are included. Some tasks are modified so that physically and mentally challenged people can partake. Such inclusivity is expressed by Quakers as *there is that of God in everyone*.

Continued on Page 2

Reflections on Native American and Quaker Spirituality

Continued from Page 1

In the creation myth engagingly articulated by West, we learned that all life comes from the one Tree of Life. "All life is interconnected and interdependent. Out of the truth of inclusion flows thankfulness and respect as natural parts of all relationships. Women, bearers of life, hold a deep connection with mother earth, reminding us that all humans are earth stewards. Men in their roles as takers of the heavy game demonstrate respect for all life. A continual thankfulness underlies their hunting, and they are guided by gratitude for that form of life which has given itself so that all may eat and live."

In his years among the indigenous people of Alaska, West and his colleagues concluded that the one word that captured the core of their existence was respect. "The respect for the individual leads to the respect for the family, which leads to the respect for the community, which in turn leads to the respect for the nation and the tribe, the planet and the universe. The universe is comprised of individuals, which brings us full circle. Everything in Native culture and spirituality is a circle. There is no beginning; there is no end.

Circling back to the Quakers, West informed us that of all the Indian boarding schools in Alaska, the most respectful were those run by Quakers. West added, "Friends didn't stand aside but instead integrated themselves into the community." Everyone participated.

--Bob Morse

Blue Sky Event at Meeting House

Some of you are aware and some may not be. On Saturday 11 May, the ceiling in the Meeting Room at our Meeting House collapsed. Our FRIENDly retired engineer, Merlin McDaniel, says this is called a "Blue Sky Event." About three-fourths of the ceiling cracked inexplicably and caved into the room, covering everything with chunks of drywall and insulation. The initial crack served as a warning to those in the room, and they vacated immediately. All but one person had vacated the room when the ceiling caved in. That person experienced some minor injuries—nothing was broken and, thankfully, she is healing.

We have met with the insurance claims adjuster and received an initial check toward the cost of repairing the ceiling. Merlin has been working to oversee both the agreements with our insurance and the bids with potential contractors. A contractor has now been hired to both clear the debris and repair the damages. It's anticipated that the job will be completed over the next three to four weeks.

The ceiling in that room and the library were not renovated at the time of our remodel at the beginning of this millennium. Structurally, the rest of the house is sound and safe for meetings. There was a similar problem with the library ceiling about a year ago that Merlin fixed very professionally. This time, we will need a contractor who specializes in damage and restoration work.

Quaker worship and first-hour meetings and discussions are taking place in the fellowship hall (kitchen). Some of our renters are able to utilize either the kitchen or one of the downstairs rooms. Others need a large space and will need to find other places to meet.

Merlin deserves big kudos for his work to bring in a drywall lift that held up hanging portions of the ceiling. He then neatly secured the remaining portion with temporary screws along the hanging edge. We are fortunate to have his expertise, as well as his knowledge in how to negotiate a fair bid.



--Elizabeth V. Hallett, Director, Peace House

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

South Mountain Friends will hold a winnowing session at 9:30 am Sunday 9 June as part of our seasoning this proposed budget. We will sit with these queries:

What is a budget for? How much do we trust Spirit to cover the budget we create? How can our account structures best support our purposes?

Committee	Expenses		
	2018-19 Budget	2019-20 Requested	2019-20 Tentative
Adult Education	300	100	100
Annual Session Abundance	500		250
Children	100		100
Friendship & Hospitality	500	150	150
Grant's Pass Worship Group	1000		0
Homeless Support	909	800	800
Journal Subscriptions	500		0
Leadings Support	300		500
Library	300	0-300	200
Member Assistance	0		600
Ministry & Council	750	750	500
Miscellaneous	500		350
Newsletter	0		150
Outreach	300		350
Peace & Social Concerns	1400	1400	1800
Travel Grants	500		0
Update Displays	500		0
Joint Committee Contribution	3600	3600	3600
Quarterly Meeting Dues	240	240	250
NYPM Dues	2400	2400	2250
State of Oregon Tax	50	50	50
Parking Lot	950	950	950
Total	\$15,599		\$12,950

In past years, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year was based on the donations from the current fiscal year. We have done that this year as well.

Last year, one major donor decreased their donation sizably. Hence, I expected a large budget shortfall, but interestingly, spending was also sizably decreased and donations came in after my appeal; so, we should be just fine.

The finance committee developed a budget for 2019-20, based on both the level of donations and the actual spending from 2018-19.

The budget is divided into fixed (55%) and discretionary (45%) expenses and then alphabetized. The fixed expenses to Quarterly meeting and NPYM are based on total number of members. The remainder are necessary to function as an organization, i.e. to meet state and local requirements.

Discretionary expense budget	\$5,850	45%
per Adam, these are fixed expenses	\$7,100	55%

New this year:

New Categories:

- Newsletter was broken out from the miscellaneous category, so that miscellaneous is now just miscellaneous
- Member assistance was broken out from the M&C budget and is now a separate checking account, so that it is more readily trackable by our treasurer. Loan repayments and earmarked donations can be made directly to this account. The amount in this account will be reported quarterly or yearly, but not reported monthly

Reshuffled:

- The former off-budget items were put under the P&SC committee
- Travel grants were folded into leadings support
- We were informed that the displays were not going to be updated this year, so they were not funded
- The GP worship group hasn't used their funding for a while and didn't use much of their approved funding to begin with. (These funds relate to the shuttle which brings Grants Pass Friends to Meeting --Ed.)
- Journal subscriptions, although nice, seemed the least important, so the money was used elsewhere

A Letter from Cherice

I wanted to write and let you know that my family, which had been attending South Mountain with students from the Oregon Extension, decided to leave the OE and move back to the Portland area. We ended up not being able to attend meeting in February or March because of the weather several times, and I was traveling a lot to other Quaker meetings (Klamath Falls, as well as Berkeley Friends and up to the Portland area for Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting business, and to an FWCC gathering in Kansas City, MO, etc.), and then we decided to move in April rather than wait until school was out for our kids, so we didn't get a chance to say goodbye. I'm sorry about that!



You all were a bright light (Light) in our time in the Ashland area. I was so grateful for the welcome you showed to our students, and they were forever changed by their encounter with Friends. Several of them have visited Friends meetings in the college towns they returned to. Thank you for the beautiful community you are making in Ashland.

Please (accept) our greetings and goodbyes. And please hold Sierra-Cascades YM in the Light on Memorial Day weekend, when we will be gathering for our annual sessions in Canby, OR. I'm the co-clerk, so I will be bearing a weight of responsibility for that gathered time and trying to get through a lot of weighty business regarding with whom we want to affiliate formally.

I hope that our paths cross again!

~Cherice Bock (pictured here with her husband Joel, one of their sons, and some of the OE students)

Prisoners' Access to Books & Courses

Peace & Social Concerns Discussion & Postcard Writing

9:30 am Sunday 30 June

On the fifth Sunday of June, the focus of first hour will be the challenges prisoners face in receiving reading materials and pursuing formal educational opportunities. Someone associated with the Prisoners Liberation Library, housed downstairs in the Meeting House, will speak from first-hand knowledge. Also, a member of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee will explain the bill currently in Congress to restore eligibility for Pell Grants to prisoners who wish to enroll in on-line college-level programs. Before and after the worship hour, people will be encouraged to send messages urging passage of the bills (HR 2168/S 1074) to accomplish that restoration.

--Herb

The New Day Network

The New Day Network was formed in January 2011 after discussions by a number of people, including Herb and Deborah Rothschild, about how to create more cohesion and collaboration among peace and justice activists in the Rogue Valley. The group decided to hold monthly potluck breakfasts at which people could learn about political and social challenges and how area organizations are responding to them. The breakfasts have been held ever since on the third Friday of each month except for July, August, and December. Herb, Ken, and Kathleen are regular attenders from SMFM. All are welcome. To receive notices of upcoming breakfasts, send a request to Michael Niemann at michael@niemann.com.

--Ken and Herb

Laundry Love

In 2002 some people in Ventura CA asked a gentleman on the streets called T-Bone what they might do to support him in his life journey. T-Bone replied, "Well, I think if I had clean clothes, others might treat me more like a human being."

Since then a few hundred LL programs have popped up across the country, one right here at **Henry's Laundromat** in the Ashland Shopping Center. We meet there **2nd Saturdays every month from 1 to 4 pm**.

You are cordially invited to come by next time (**Sat 8 June**) and meet some of our 40 or so guests who are glad to be there, washing, drying and folding their belongings. Many of them would be pleased to visit with you.

Perhaps you'd like to join our crew of volunteers, helping for an hour and a half monthly, or to substitute now and then. --Alex

Meeting For Worship For Business: 19 May 19

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, Kathleen Hering, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols, Adam Thompson, Scott Plummer, Merlin McDaniel

Centering

"No one member is more valuable to the fellowship than any other member. We are all experts because of our experience, and we are all beginners because our lives are in a constant state of growth and change. Newcomers are as likely as longtime members to utter words that inspire and inform."
--Twelve Step source

Treasurer's Report

Meeting was reimbursed for some shelter expenses by a group called Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, which in turn received Federal funding. This is shown as a "negative expense."

Finance Committee

Our Meeting's donations have decreased, yet our expenses this year have also been lower than in the past. The finance committee has created a budget to reflect this decreased income, which includes recommendations that certain items be eliminated. The finance committee has also suggested restructuring some of our accounts. **The budget was accepted for seasoning**, with gratitude for the Finance Committee's work. In support of this seasoning, and to

address specific questions about the changes, a winnowing session has been scheduled for June. Our queries will be, What is a budget for? How much do we trust Spirit to cover the budget we create? How can our account structures best support our purposes?

Ministry and Counsel

Eleven friends attended the Silent Retreat, and all that attended felt supported by the beautiful day. Ministry and Counsel plans to repeat the retreat again next year, the Saturday before Mother's Day. The following minute was accepted for seasoning:

2019.5.1 Nominating Committee shall consider all members and seasoned attenders for service on the Ministry & Counsel Committee. In selecting members, Nominating Committee should ensure that there is adequate representation from those seasoned in Friend's *Faith and Practice*.

Uprooting Racism (details on p. 6) A worshipful discussion took place on 12 May 2019, as part of an open-to-all, ad hoc focus group that continues to meet intermittently. Meeting for Business accepted the following minute for seasoning.

2019.5.2 To support our goal to transform into an actively inclusive faith community, South Mountain Friends Meeting will ask when making decisions

whether our actions arise out of and/or perpetuate white privilege.

Buildings and Grounds

Merlin is actively accepting bids for repairs to the Meeting Room. He blocked the vents to and from the Meeting Room to prevent dust and debris from being circulated throughout the building and relocated the thermostat to the office. It is possible that the building temperature will be slightly less comfortable during the repairs. Our insurance has a \$1,000 deductible, which will be paid out of the Joint Committee budget. As a result, the damage will not cause a budget disruption for Meeting.

Event Sponsorship

Kathleen Hering would like to host practice sessions for people enrolled in the Thom Bond Compassion Course and requested Meeting sponsorship for free use of the space twice a month. A donation box will be available for attenders to contribute to Joint Committee if desired. **Friends approved this use** (details on p.6).

Calendaring

Uprooting Racism Focus Group will have its next Meeting Sunday 7 July at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Melody Ashworth, Clerk,
Lisa Nichols, Recording Clerk

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session

17 - 21 July at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon

Online Registration is Now Open

All the information you need is available on the registration website. You can learn about the programs, schedule, lodging and more at: <https://as.npym.org/>.

PLEASE first READ the section "Before you Register" under the tab for "Registration." The form is easy to fill out, but it includes lots of details and choices you need to consider. You can start your registration, then pause and resume it later, if necessary, to allow time to review all the options.

Advices & Queries on MINISTRY

Ministry is a motion of Love and a response to both internal and external needs. We are all called to ministry, and there are many occasions when we can minister to one another in the Life and Light.

Friends seek to discover the gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making life choices, we consider ways that offer the fullest opportunity to develop our individual abilities and contribute to the wider community while providing for ourselves and our families. In daily work, we seek to manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, thus giving a living witness to the Truth.

Friends recognize that we are given gifts for the use of the meeting and the world. The meeting seeks to recognize and nurture the use of those gifts. Remember that our simple presence can be a ministry – at a bedside or at a protest.

*Are we careful to wait for
and move under the leading
of the Spirit in the exercise
of our gifts?*

*How do we minister to each
other, offering and receiving
advice and support in a spirit
of love and humility?*

*Do we hold with tenderness
each of the varieties
of ministry exercised
among us?*

*When our ministry involves
social and political action,
how does it stay grounded
in Truth and Love?*

*How does our meeting
nurture and support
calls to service?*

Actions Toward Uprooting Racism

We have become an open-to-all, open-ended, ad hoc focus group in which we sit with each other, recognizing that those present in the group (and most in our Friends Meeting) have been racialized as white and endeavoring to become more conscious of and to feel and hold the pain of racism. We will continue to meet intermittently.

We discuss books that Friends have been reading about white fragility and white supremacy, about the experience of living as a person of color in the United States, and about how to engage in conversations about racism. Such book talk might evolve into a book group separate from the focus group or might lead to topic-specific talks, articles in our newsletter, or simply continued book-enthused ideas coming forth into our focus-group discussions.

We recognize that, through our readings and other explorations, our discussions about the experiences of people of color can become disproportionately about African Americans to the extent that we're not acknowledging or examining the experiences of Native Americans, Asians, Latinx, and others. We simultaneously recognize the unique transgenerational emotional scars of slavery, Jim Crow, redlining, the War on Drugs, and implicit bias that continue to leave African Americans uniquely disenfranchised.

We acknowledge our cultural conditioning to fear the "other" and the wisdom in reaching out and developing relationships with people and groups that look, think, and act in unfamiliar ways. We share with each other such callings as to reach out to our local Muslim Community, to attend student-led activities at SOU (Jim to keep us informed), to attend OSF's annual Juneteenth celebration (details on page 7), and to reach out to people of color who have been part of our Meeting. We endeavor to seek out other avenues for becoming allies. We ponder displaying signage with inclusive language at the Meeting House.

We proposed a minute that business meeting accepted (details on page 5).

**Our Actions Toward Uprooting Racism Focus Group
will next meet at 9:30 am Sunday 7 July --Bob Morse**

The Compassion Course Online

I invite and encourage Friends and friends of Friends to sign up for The (online) Compassion Course which I have found to be powerful and transformative. It is for anyone who is inspired to have more compassion, understanding, and harmony in their lives and in our world. The course runs from 19 June 2019 through June 2020.

Through weekly email messages, monthly online conferences, and community support, the course shares concepts, stories, and practices that empower us to naturally become more compassionate. The messages explain and demonstrate new ways of thinking, speaking, and acting that allow us to get through conflict without hurting or hating.

Upon hearing from a half-dozen or so local people who have signed up for the course, I'll arrange to hold local compassion practice sessions at our Meeting House.

To learn more about The Compassion Course: www.compassioncourse.org

To register for The Compassion Course:
<https://nycnvc.wufoo.com/forms/ri6mv250endk2g>

To inform me that you have registered for The Compassion Course:
kathleen4bees@gmail.com --Kathleen Hering

SMFM CALENDAR

June 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	3	4 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting	5	6 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	7	8 Ashland Food Project Pickup 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
9 9:30 am Winnowing Session on our Proposed Budget (Queries and Budget on page 3)	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 Meeting for Business	17 Noon Juneteenth (See Below)	18 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	19	20 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	21	22
23 9:30 am Adult Ed Worship Discussion on Quakers' Connection to the Earth	24	25	26	27 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship Discussion on Prisoners' Access to Books & Courses (Postcard Writing to Follow)						

Juneteenth Celebration on OSF's Red Brick Square

Juneteenth celebrates the day in 1865 when slaves in Galveston, Texas, were told that slavery had ended. President Abraham Lincoln had actually ended slavery two and a half years prior. On June 19, 1865, the people of Texas were informed that *"All slaves are free: This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."*

This year's Juneteenth theme will be "Jubilee: Celebrate the Shift" and will highlight the emergence of the Harlem Renaissance 100 years ago, one of the greatest artistic, intellectual and social shifts this country has seen. This celebration will also welcome Nataki Garrett as OSF's first black Artistic Director. All are welcome.

Noon Monday 17 June 2019

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

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

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 301-5840, Adam Thompson, Bill Ashworth; **Website**

Contributors: Bob Morse & Pam Johnson

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940

Archivist: Pam Johnson 535-1940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

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

Winter Shelter Coordinators: Alex Reid 707-499-9146 and Bob Morse 482-8449

Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to ashlandquakers@gmail.com

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

Finance Committee: Barbara Arrais, Scott Plummer (clerk), Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Wells, Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Glenn Allister, Hazel Ward

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid

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: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 897-4458, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520