

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com

www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person
and via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

5 March No First-Hour Activity

10:30-11 am: Circle of Light

12 March Daylight Savings starts

(No 1st Hour) **Rise-of-Meeting:**
Soul Food Sunday Details Page 3

19 March

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

26 March

Quaker Education: How to Quaker

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Both at the
Quaker Meeting House
and by Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

Outdoor Meditation

4 pm Every Second Friday/Month
Blue Heron Park, Phoenix, OR
—Ká Hering (541-778-5206)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

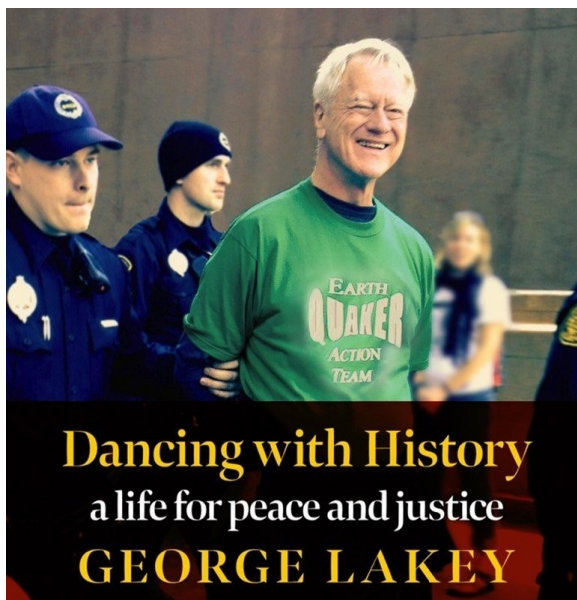
Third Month 2023

Quaker Activist & Master Storyteller

George Lakey

To Speak in Ashland 7 March

2 pm at Peace House & 7 pm at Ashland UCC



From his first arrest in the Civil Rights era to his most recent during a climate justice march at the age of 83, George Lakey has committed his life to a mission of building a better world through movements for justice. Lakey is touring having recently written *Dancing with History: A Life for Peace and Justice*, a memoir on his involvement in the struggles for peace, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, labor justice, and the environment.

Lakey draws audiences into the center of history-making events, telling often serious stories with playfulness and intimacy. In his memoir, he describes the personal, political, and theoretical—coming out as bisexual to his Quaker community while known as a church leader and family man, protesting against the war in Vietnam by delivering medical supplies through the naval blockade in the South China Sea, and applying his academic study of nonviolent resistance to creative tactics in direct action campaigns.

From strategies he learned as a young man facing violence in the streets to risking his life as an unarmed bodyguard for Sri Lankan human rights lawyers, Lakey recounts his experience living out the tension between commitment to family and mission. Drawing strength from his community to fight cancer, survive painful parenting struggles, and create networks to help prevent activist burnout, Lakey guides listeners toward finding hope in even the darkest times through strategic, joyful activism.

Here's a link to an 8-minute trailer to an upcoming documentary on Lakey's life: [George Lakey - Meeting Our Challenges Tour — Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service](#) —Bob Morse

Friends in Monteverde: Then and Now



In 1949, four members of the Friends Meeting of Fairhope, Alabama, were sentenced to a year in prison for refusing to register for the draft. The four men were released after serving a portion of their sentence. Along with other members of their Meeting, they decided to emigrate to a foreign country. They chose Costa Rica as it was an ideal place to continue their practice of being dairy farmers and because it was a country without armed forces.

Jim Lobsenz's Coastal Stop En Route to Monteverde

Costa Rica's lack of army dates back to 1948. Jose Figueres had been the leader of the National Liberation Army that had squelched a communist-led revolt. Subsequent to this civil war, Figueres agreed to serve as interim president. In this role, Figueres abolished the army stating that "militarism is as grave a danger as communism. The permanent abolition of armed forces was inserted into the Costa Rican constitution.

About 100 Fairhope Friends settled in a hamlet called Monteverde. They operated a creamery and sold farm-fresh ice cream. They built a beautiful Meeting House without any nails—held together solely by pegs. The school house they erected contains about a hundred students today—grades K through 12. Most students are locals, the remaining are internationals from various counties, including the US.

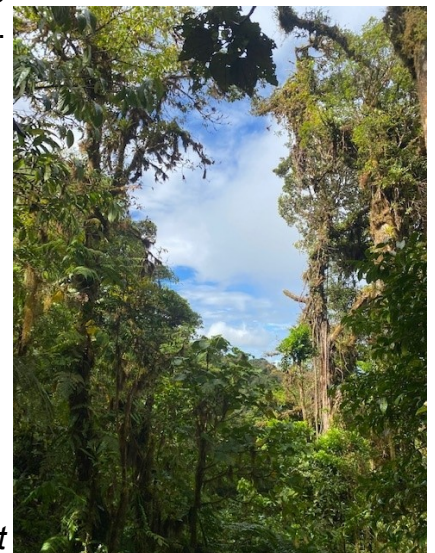


View from Barry and Lesley Laing's residence

Jim Lobsenz, who straddles both South Seattle and South Mountain Friends Meetings, recently visited his daughter and her family who are now living in Costa Rica. When Jim visited Monteverde, he connected with former South Mountain Quakers, Barry and Lesley Laing. At the rise of worship, Jim was happily surprised to be approached by a young man who used to attend South Seattle Meeting. He's now the Monteverde Friends School science teacher. Jim was delighted to engage with folks from both of his US Meetings.

Barry introduced Jim to the director of the school. Upon receiving a tour, Jim was impressed with this educational center and resolved to do what he could to support it. To that end, Jim has provided this link if others are also led to sponsor the school: www.mfus.org.

—Jim Lobsenz, reporter, Bob Morse, writer



Monteverde Cloud Forest

SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023: A DOUBLE HEADER AFTERNOON

Soul Food Sunday

Rise of Meeting on 12 March and Subsequent 2nd Sundays

Sharing Food: We'll supply two different vegan and gluten-free soups as a base for the lunch meal, one of which will be made with people's food sensitivities in mind. You are encouraged to bring a side for yourself or enough to share.

Sharing Ourselves: Following lunch, we'll engage in an activity called **PLAYBACK THEATRE**

Playback Theatre is an interactive form of improvisational theatre in which audience members tell stories from their lives and watch them enacted on the spot. "Playback is dedicated to building a socially just community," says Rochelle Webster, who with such other women as Dana Knoke, Bobbi Kidder, Jane Sterling, Jesse Hodgdon, and Janna Mitchell will be performing.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS TODAY

Anima Mundi Productions Presents



IN MULIERIBUS in Concert 3 pm Sunday 12 March SOU Musical Recital Hall, Ashland

In *Mulieribus* (Latin for *Among Women*) is a Portland-based, all-female professional vocal ensemble. Oregon ArtsWatch has stated that "the women of In Mulieribus do more than sing choral works; they bring them to life." The group is dedicated to strengthening community through the art of music, often focusing on repertoire by female composers and for women's voices. This special program features over 1,000 years of music written by women, starting in the 9th century with Greek

composer Kassiani and culminating in the world premiere of a new work featuring poetry by Rogue Valley poet Tiziana DellaRovere. In *Mulieribus* will be joined by popular Ashland pianist Jodi French.

Each season of Anima Mundi's Heart of Humanity concert series addresses a particular societal challenge. The 2023 season, called *Among Sisters*, focuses on the experiences of women composers, poets, and performers. Tiziana reminds us that "for centuries, women's voices have been silenced, have gone unheard, or have been hidden under male pseudonyms. As a result, all of us have suffered a collective wound." In the spirit of healing this wound and restoring our humanity, this season is dedicated to celebrating remarkable women creators and performers."

Here's a brief sample video of In Mulieribus: <https://vimeo.com/165063952>

TICKETS: www.HumanityTickets.com or tickets@animamundiproductions.com or 541-833-3066. Special reduced ticket pricing is available at the door for students under 25 and Oregon Trail cardholders. Please arrive 30 minutes early to purchase discounted tickets.

—Ethan Gans-Morse is the Executive Director of Anima Mundi Productions (and my son —Ed.)

Meeting for Business 19 February 2023

Land Acknowledgement

This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta, and other peoples who have cared for these lands for millennia and continue to do so today. May we honor these original stewards and their rights of self-determination, continue dismantling the systems of oppression that have dispossessed them of their lands, and participate in the care and protection of our shared home.

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Ken Deveney, Becky Hale, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Ariel Love, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, David Runkel, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson, Rochelle Webster.

Quote & Reflection: “As human beings, we each have a responsibility to care for humanity. Expressing concern for others brings inner strength and deep satisfaction. As social animals, human beings need friendship, but friendship doesn’t come from wealth and power, but from showing compassion and concern for others.” —The Dalai Lama

2023.2.1 Friends approved 15 January 2023 Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business, with a correction to Minute 2023.1.4, which should read: “Friends approved for seasoning Ariel Love as one of the two SMFM representatives to the Joint Committee.”

Treasurer’s Report: There were more donations than expenses in January. \$500 was transferred to the Laundry Love fund; Laundry Love funds will be transferred to

OHRA when they’re ready.

Communications:
2023.2.2 Friends approved the purchase of a printer which will copy and print, for \$200.

Joint Committee:
2023.2.3 Friends approved the Joint Committee Budget for July 2022-June 2023.

Ministry and Counsel:
Friends accepted the Minute for Lanita’s Memorial Meeting on 25 February, with additions related to her medical career. See pg. 8. Soul Food Sundays will continue on 2nd Sundays. Friends expressed joy after last week’s event. March activity will be led by Rochelle.

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb gave an update on FCNL Lobby Day on March 25-28. Interested SOU students whom we are sponsoring, are visiting our Meeting. We are open for contributions. Please make checks out to SMFM with “Spring Lobby Day” in the memo line.

2023.2.4 Friends approved our co-sponsoring George Lakey’s presentation on 7 March for

\$250. Brief bio sketch of Lakey and times and places of his talk are on page 1.

Christian Nationalism
2023.2.5 Friends approved support for the Statement from Christians Against Christian Nationalism, and will sign it. This is printed on page 3 of the January newsletter.

2023.2.6 Friends approved for seasoning, the Minute of Concern on Christian Nationalism proposed by our Peace and Social Concerns committee, with intention for wider Quaker and public distribution. See minute on pg. 5.

Willamette Quarterly Meeting is 19-21 May 2023; the theme is *Reemergence*. Organizers are seeking help. *Details on pg. 5.*

Announcements:
Friendship & Hospitality needs help with setting up before, and cleaning up after, Meetings for Worship. Presiding clerk will be out-of-town March 20 to early April.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk
Nancy Spear, Recording Clerk

2 free Live Online Workshops from *Western Friend*

Quaker Leadership in the Future

1 - 3 pm Sunday 5 March

An interactive working session among Friends from multiple generations in several yearly meetings and Quaker organizations paving the way for Quaker leaders of the future, examining old habits and imagining new ways, and inviting new growth

Link to Join Zoom: [Quaker Leadership of the Future | Western Friend](#)

Quaker Records and Archives

2 – 3:30 pm Sunday 19 March

A discussion among recording clerks, archivists, historians, etc. about ways to manage our meetings’ documents

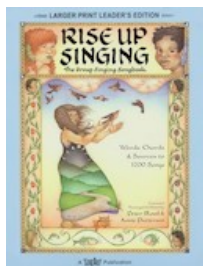
Link to Join Zoom: [Quaker Records and Archives | Western Friend](#)

(Submitted by Nancy Spear)

Song Circle Returns

Song Circle is coming back to the Meeting Room after a pandemic hiatus!

6:30 pm Second Tuesdays Beginning 14 March



We take turns choosing a song to sing together in a circle, usually from "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" songbooks by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, although folks are welcome to bring and teach other songs. Guitars and other acoustic instruments are appreciated for accompaniment. It may remind you of times gone by around the campfire. A peace song is always sung. All are welcome. Organizers include Rochelle Webster, James Hetland, Carol Lee Rogers, and Ann Magill. We will be storing Ann's songbooks in the Meeting House.

—Rochelle Webster

2023 Willamette Quarterly Meeting

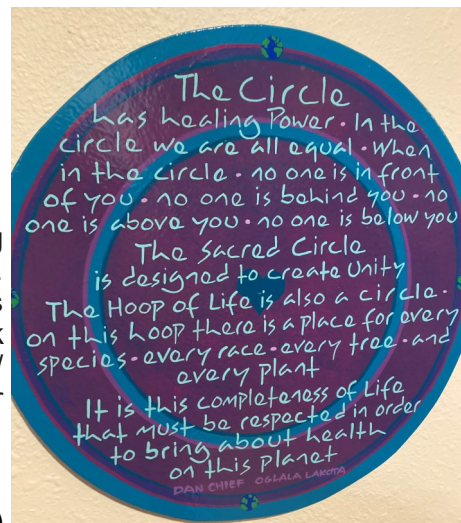
Camp Arrah Wanna near Welches, Oregon

In Person: 19-21 May

Theme: **Reemergence**. The camp occupies a beautiful forested site along the Salmon River. The registration period is expected to begin on 7 April. The camp provides all meals. The Eugene Friends Meeting is the host this year and seeks help for youth programs. Contact Cynthia Black (cynblack55@gmail.com) by Monday 1 May if you can help with leading/supervising Juniors Friends, Central Friends, or Elementary Friends. For financial support for transportation/attendance, contact Adam Thompson.

—John Etter, Eugene Friends Meeting

"The Circle" hanging at Cathy and Merlin's home (submitted by Becky)



Minute of Concern on Christian Nationalism

The following minute, written by our Peace & Social Concerns committee, was approved for seasoning at the 19 February business meeting. Please send wordsmithing suggestions or ideas for action and distribution to Herb (herbertrothschild6839@gmail.com). —Ed.

As Quakers, we believe that everyone possesses the light of the Spirit, which is how we express what Jews and Christians traditionally meant by asserting that everyone is created in God's image. We also believe that everyone possesses some portion of the truth and that no one possesses total understanding. Still, if a widely held opinion that we regard as mostly erroneous threatens grave harm, we feel called upon to address and oppose it. Such is the case of a cluster of opinions that go under the common name Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities. It asserts that the United States was founded as a specifically Christian nation; that it is necessary to be a Christian to be a true American; and that Christianity should be favored and actively supported by the state. A frequent corollary of this ideology is that the United States has been chosen to impose its will on other nations in God's name. Additionally, it often overlaps with, and provides cover for, white supremacy and racial subjugation at home as well as abroad.

We reject all these tenets and implications of Christian nationalism. It distorts both the spirit of our country and of Christianity itself. To be an American does not require adherence to any one religion or to any religion at all. And to adhere to Christianity or any other world religion does not require residence in any one country. People are bound to their countries by their citizenship and to their religions by their faith.

We therefore encourage Friends to inform themselves about the nature and the dangers of Christian nationalism. We further ask that this Meeting, all Quakers, and all citizens make clear to their government representatives—by phone, text, email, letter and in the voting booth—our rejection of this assault on equality and dignity of all peoples.



The Vocabulary of Freedom

Slave. Master. Among the many rocks we can turn over to see the dark side of our country's racist past and present, the very words we use to tell the story of our history are ones that are hiding in plain sight. Language holds power, and our beliefs and prejudices are embedded in it; we must look more closely at the words used to describe the institution of slavery in America.

We talk about the institution of slavery with a set of words that have been used to identify the parts and the whole of the institution, and these words still carry the vestiges of white supremacy and power. Words such as "slavery," "master," "slave," "fugitive," and "plantation" are used with complacency. They've become innocuous and no longer fully demonstrate the scope and tragic impact of our history.

In identifying the system as a whole, "slavery" is the word that is still used today. The word lacks specificity; it fails to show the roots and the extent of the institution as something intentionally designed by specific people, and fails to acknowledge the social, economic, and political supports that allowed the system to thrive and flourish. In replacing "slavery" with "the institution of slavery," we actively acknowledge that slavery was a system with far-reaching roots.

Also important to reevaluate is the use of "master" and "slave" in our lexicon. With the word "slave," we deny the humanity of the enslaved person; with "enslaved person," we recognize their enslaved state as imposed on them and not intrinsic to their identity as a human being. With the word "master," we assume the power of the enslaver as intrinsic, without acknowledging the enslaver's complicity and active participation in upholding and perpetuating the violent oppression of fellow human beings.

Even the language of describing an enslaved person seeking freedom – "fugitive" – is deeply problematic. The word "fugitive" reinforces the stereotype of Black criminality and takes autonomy away from the enslaved person, without acknowledging the agency of the individual and the immorality of the legal structure that supported enslavement. Additionally, it completely ignores the bravery of the enslaved individual who, in choosing to seek freedom, risked everything. In changing our use of 'fugitive' to 'freedom seeker,' we recognize the agency of the individual and the bravery of their decision to seek freedom.

Traditionally, we have referred to the sites where enslaved people labored as "plantations." This word, benign and neutral, ignores the reality that these sites were in truth enforced labor camps.

Continued on page 7



The Vocabulary of Freedom

Continued from page 6

From Rochelle Webster: Improv

Both before and after the Civil War, many southerners used the word to conjure up the institution of slavery as a benign, even beneficial institution. The reality is that on plantations, enslaved people endured horrific working conditions and savage violence. Enslavers frequently treated those they had enslaved as capital, even investments, to be bought and sold at will.

As we know from the many testimonies left by enslaved people, enslavers constantly broke up families and other deep personal relationships in order to maximize their profit and establish generational wealth through inheritance packages with no regard for the welfare of those they enslaved.

The vocabulary that has been used to identify and describe the institution of slavery in the United States does not paint a full and just picture of the institution. The same words that were used to describe the institution

when it was still functioning are used today, but it is time to change a vocabulary that obfuscates the reality of this brutal system of terrorism and is detrimental to the legacy of the enslaved people who suffered under it. The Vocabulary of Freedom, in ensuring that the institution of slavery is seen clearly for what it was and holds oppressors accountable, is a path forward toward a more perfect democracy, greater acceptance, love, and an anti-racist community.

The Vocabulary of Freedom - Underground Railroad Education Center
(undergroundrailroadhistory.org)





Lanita Witt: Memorial Minute

Lanita Witt, M.D., born Lanita Carol Witt on August 26, 1950 in Panhandle, Texas, died peacefully at home at Willow-Witt Ranch in Ashland, Oregon, on December 15, 2022, at the age of 72.

Lanita received her undergraduate degree at Texas Woman's University, earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA Hospitals and Clinics. Following her medical training, she took a course in carpentry and house building.

In 1979, Lanita met and fell in love with Suzanne Willow, her life partner for 43 years. Suzanne and Lanita had their first marriage ceremony in 1984, were married under the care of South Mountain Friends Meeting in 2005, and were finally able to be legally married in 2013.

Lanita and Suzanne were living and working in Napa, California, in 1985 when they found and purchased 440 poorly-cared-for acres in the mountains above Ashland; they moved onto the land in 1986. Thanks to their careful love and stewardship, the land, Willow-Witt Ranch, has become a model of sustainable farming, animal husbandry, outdoor education, and forestry. They have created a lovely campground, guest accommodations, and a retreat facility. Most recently they developed The Forest Conservation Burial Ground, Oregon's first newly-created "green" burial ground. Both women have been gifted visionaries, hard-working, enthusiastic advocates for the land and for sustainability. One of their favorite sayings (found inside a kitchen cupboard of their 1920's house) was "Live as if you're going to die tomorrow; farm as if you're going to live forever." In their 38 years on this land, they have created and nurtured stunning beauty, sustainability and harmony which will continue to provide inspiration for many generations to come.

Dr. Witt practiced medicine for 35 years in the Rogue Valley. At the OB-GYN Clinic she had a full obstetrics and surgical practice. Joining the Providence Medford Medical Group in 2005, she established the Urogynecology Clinic. A skilled and compassionate surgeon, she passed the first national board exam in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at age 65.

Lanita was an active participant with South Mountain Friends Meeting for many years prior to becoming a member in 2008. Her service on behalf of the Meeting was far-reaching and her expertise on Building and Grounds Committee is still deeply appreciated and missed. She also served ably and with refreshing humor on the Joint Committee which oversees the building and property we share with Peace House.

Two months before Lanita's death, Willow-Witt Ranch hosted an outdoor celebration of her remarkable life. In the spirit of "potlatch," Lanita chose to give away many things she had made and collected over the years. Among the almost 200 who attended the celebration were Lanita's former patients, medical colleagues, other farmers and foresters, relatives of people buried in The Forest Conservation Burial Ground, parents of children who attended summer day camps at the Ranch, young people whose lives have been deeply influenced by their experiences on the farm, long-time friends, family, Quakers – a wonderfully diverse gathering of people who love Lanita. Their moving tributes attested to Lanita's vision, warmth, humor, patient teaching, kindness, perseverance, and commitment to the health of the earth and the community.

Lanita is survived by her wife Suzanne, her daughter Brooke, and granddaughter Ella, her nephew Ralph and his family, her niece Cynthia and her family, and her many, many friends. Lanita is greatly loved and greatly missed. Hers was a life lived fully, in Trust and Love and Light.

Clearing

***Do not try to save
the whole world
or do anything grandiose.
Instead, create
a clearing
in the dense forest
of your life
and wait there
patiently,
until the song
that is your life
falls into your own cupped
hands
and you recognize and greet it.
Only then will you know
how to give yourself to this world
so worthy of rescue.***

***—Martha Postlethwaite
(submitted by Anya Kumara)***

Advices & Queries on Peace



We practice love and peace-making within our families, in our meetings, and in the greater Quaker community. This experience will support our testimony of peace as we are involved in the larger world.

Peace is the state in which we are in accord with the Divine, the earth, others, and ourselves. We know that true, lasting peace among us is attainable through unity in the life of the Spirit.

Friends turn to the weapons of the spirit – love, honesty, good will, imagination, compassion, humor – which allow God to reach out through us to those with whom we are in conflict.

When a conflict is beginning, we take steps to resolve it quickly and reduce the damage it does. When a conflict has ended, we take steps toward forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. In this way we help break the cycles of violence.

We work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation, and the right sharing of the world's resources.

George Fox declared that he lived “in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all war.” As we work for peace in the world, we search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. We refuse to join in actions which lead to destruction and death. We seek ways to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people.

Do we live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all war?

Do we refrain from taking part in war as inconsistent with the Spirit of Christ?

In what ways do we take part in war indirectly?

What are we doing to remove the causes of war and to bring about the conditions of peace? Where there is hatred, division, or strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?

Do we recognize that we are capable of both violence and peace?

How do we build bridges that lead us to face and resolve conflict?

How do we communicate to others an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

As we work for peace in the world, how are we nourished by peace within ourselves, our families, and our meetings?

“The peace testimony is not about hiding conflict, but about engaging it openly, creatively, and with love for the other.” —Margery Post Abbott, 2009

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Nancy Spear 626-437-8913
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855
Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118;
Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Cathy McDaniel 770-3318,
David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186,
Becky Hale 601-3084, Bob Morse 482-8849, Crystal
Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck (*ex officio*)

***Peace and Social Concerns:** Herb Rothschild
531-2848, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Jim Lobsenz,
Steve Radcliffe

***Finance:** Fran Curtis 482-1095, Adam Thompson
(*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach
930-4222, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel

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

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted
* = new and longtime participants welcome*

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470
***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 770-3318
***Child Care:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Library:** Fran Curtis 482-1095
***Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Tech Support:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Other Contact Persons

Interfaith Ministries: Gizelle Luccio 944-0748
Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449
NPYM Coordinating Committee: POSITION OPEN
(*meetings are quarterly, on Zoom*)
Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Small Local Groups

***Dancing Bears group:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
***Outliers group:** Pam Johnson 535-1940 & Becky Hale
601-3084
***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225
***Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520