



SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Summertime 2023

Special Edition

www.ashlandquakers.org * 543 So. Mountain Ave, Ashland OR 97520 * 541-482-0814 * communications@ashlandquakers.org

Remembering Colleen

Colleen Graham died peacefully on 15 April 2023 in Medford, OR, one day before her 95th birthday. She was surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Modesto, CA, Colleen had a happy childhood, even during the Depression and WWII. Her family enjoyed camping in the Sierra Nevada Mountains where she developed a love of rivers, forests, and the outdoors.

Colleen raised her four children on her own. She was an inspiration in hope, gratitude, faith, resourcefulness, persistence, and “a little help from my friends.”



You're Invited To A Celebration of Colleen's Life

Saturday 12 August 2023
The Bellview Grange
1050 Tolman Creek Road, Ashland
1 pm Memorial Service
2:30 pm Refreshments, Fellowship,
Sharing

Please bring a token of nature to honor Colleen's lifelong love of trees, birds, rivers, mountains, flowers, animals (and babies!). These will be gathered to make an altar for her.

DeAnne, Roger, and Pete Butterfield & Family (Questions: text Roger at 541-840-2055)

Colleen had a lifelong interest in early childhood education and community action. She founded South Oakdale Kindergarten. She designed at-home pre-K programs for parents. She was instrumental in developing Bear Creek Greenway, at times stopping bulldozers intent on removing large trees. She helped found Rogue Valley Head Start and the Britt Children's Festival.

Colleen was influenced by the deep spirituality of her second husband, the love of her life. Colleen and Gene had worshipped together at the Unity Church. After Gene's death, Colleen enrolled at the Unity School of Christianity where she was ordained as a Unity minister. For the next 35 years, Colleen provided ministry and pastoral care at a number of Unity churches, and in 1987 founded Unity of Ashland.

After retiring from the ministry, Colleen co-founded Co-creation, a Parenting Education Partnership. Colleen authored three books, contributing to the field of Birth Psychology, the emerging science that babies are conscious and aware and have their own thoughts, feelings, and experiences before, during, and after birth.

Colleen was a devoted friend to people of all ages and circumstances, bringing joy, kindness, wisdom, compassion, and laughter. She was active in Toastmasters, Jacksonville Historical Society, and South Mountain Friends Meeting.

Colleen's Warm Heart

It was moving day and my husband Steve and I were unloading a U-Haul truck of boxes and furniture. Seemingly out of nowhere, a small woman appeared at the end of our driveway and asked if I was the one moving in. "Yes", I replied. "Oh, goodie," she said, smiling broadly and clapping her hands together. "We are going to be great neighbors. Come over for tea when you get unpacked. My door is always open." That began a warm friendship of many years and many a good conversation. Not only was her door always open, but so was her heart. —Crystal Bosbach

CALLED Meeting for Business 4 June 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, Ken Deveney, Andra Hollenbeck, Ariel Love, Wyatt Banks, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Adam Thompson, Fran Curtis, Valeria Breiten, Jean Semrau, Mary Ward, Cathy McDaniel, Rochelle Webster, Pam Johnson

Reflection for the Winnowing Session Which Preceded the Called Meeting for Business:

Through simplicity and stewardship we can positively impact each other's lives and the world. By improving our relationship with money, we improve our spiritual lives. To do this we must live simply, live within our means, be informed consumers, be good stewards, and be generous.

CALLED MEETING FOR BUSINESS:

Ministry & Council:

2023.6.1 Friends approved Ann Gaffney as a member of South Mountain Friends Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends.

Finance Committee: Finance Committee presented the new budget. Friends requested increases to the budgets for Library, Peace & Social Concerns, and Ministry & Counsel. This additional spending will be addressed by increasing the amount for expected donations in the budget.

2023.6.2 Friends approved the new budget for seasoning with aforementioned adjustments.

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb

requested a special allocation of \$500 to Peace & Social Concerns to be contributed to local service, peace, and environmental organizations. Friends also discussed how to move forward with our minute opposing Christian Nationalism, and how best to balance education (for ourselves especially), engagement of other spiritual communities in discussion, and direct action in our community.

2023.6.3 Friends approved a special allocation of \$500 to Peace & Social Concerns for donations to organizations aligned with SMFM's values.

2023.6.4 Friends approved Peace & Social Concerns to wordsmith our minute regarding Christian nationalism and send it out to relevant Quaker organizations (including Quarterly and Yearly Meetings).

Joint Committee: Ariel presented financial reports, drawing particular attention to the outstanding liability SMFM owes to Ashland for water overages and the challenges posed by prior record-keeping practices.

2023.6.5 Friends approved Joint Committee's financial reports with the proviso that Joint Committee improve accounting standards of reports moving forward.

2023.6.6 Friends called for volunteers to help with Library Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk
Wyatt Banks, Recording Clerk

Clerk's Corner

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as clerk of the Meeting. It has been joyful, I have felt supported, and I have grown in my appreciation of our beloved community. Each time an obstacle arose, we trusted in a faithful process, trusted in each other, and came through with decisions that were beautiful and meaningful.

When I first started attending Meeting, I had no idea about what it took to bring us all together and maintain a community. I didn't need to know. I was accepted no matter what; it's with that sense that I share the following:

A community works when each person contributes what they can to support the whole. Our contributions come in talent, time, food, connections, finances, ideas, caring, . . .

With the adopted budget we estimated an approximate individual financial donation of about \$400 per year or \$34 per month. But there are so many other ways that we can contribute. Some can offer more financial support, others their talents, connections, or elbow grease.

In the coming months, through activities, winnowing sessions, and retreats, it may serve us to create a mission or purpose and work to bring our contributions to this purpose.

As we keep these ideas in mind, please hold our community and each other in a Light that will illuminate our way.

—Andra Hollenbeck

Meeting for Business 18 June 2023

'23-'24 SMFM Approved Budget

"We are budgeting in faith according to our leadings and aspirations, trusting that donations will increase accordingly during the year." —Ariel Love

Land Acknowledgement (see page 2)

Friends Present: Herb Rothschild, Fran Curtis, Adam Thompson, Ken Deveney, Bob Morse, Andra Hollenbeck, Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach

Quote & Reflection: "Yes, you must live life beautifully and not allow the spirit of the world that makes gods out of power, riches, and pleasure make you forget that you have been created for greater things: to love and to be loved."
—Mother Teresa

Treasurer's Report: There was a surge in donations in May. It was suggested that the finance committee regularize the practice of sending out a letter encouraging donations.

Finance Committee: The initial proposed budget was amended during seasoning to reflect all requests in discretionary spending, totaling \$2200. Friends discussed abundant financing and acknowledged that financially is only one of many ways to contribute to Meeting.

2023.6.7 Friends approved the revised FY '23-'24 budget.

Peace & Social Concerns: \$50 donations were sent to the following local organizations: The Crest at Willow-Witt Ranch, Rogue Climate, Rogue Riverkeeper, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, Peace House, Resolve, Sexual Assault Response Team, Unite Oregon, Health Care for All Oregon, and the National Alliance for Mental Health. Two former recipients were dropped as they are no longer functioning locally—Ashland Culture of Peace Commission and Vision Quilt

2023.6.8 Friends approved the addition of a sentence on local networking to our minute of concern on Christian Nationalism.

2023.6.9 Friends approved the distribution of our minute on Christian Nationalism and its accompanying letter to such Quaker organizations as North Pacific Yearly Meeting and Willamette Quarterly Meeting.

Friendship and Hospitality: The 13 August Soul Food Sunday will be a brown-bag lunch in the park near the Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk
Bob Morse, Interim Recording Clerk

	'22-'23	'23-'24
Income:		
Donations	14,500	15,900
Investment income		800
Total income	14,500	16,700
Fixed expenses:		
Joint Committee Contribution	8,400	8,400
NPYM Dues	2,160	2,580
Parking Lot	936	936
Quarterly Meeting Dues	216	215
Oregon Registration Fee	50	50
Zoom	150	150
Total fixed expenses	11,912	12,331
Discretionary expenses:		
Adult Education	0	0
Annual Session Abundance	100	0
Children	0	0
Friendship & Hospitality	200	200
Library	100	500
Ministry & Counsel	250	600
Misc/Office Supplies	80	150
Neighbors in Need (OHRA)	500	500
Newsletter	150	150
Peace & Social Concerns	1,100	1,400
Racial/Climate Concerns	600	600
Website	150	280
Total discretionary expenses:	3,230	4,380
Total expenses:	15,142	16,711
Surplus (deficit)	-642	-11



Officers

Presiding Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Wyatt Banks 404-502-9523
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*)

Nominating Committee: Valeria Breiten, Wyatt Banks,
Richard Spencer, Melody Ashworth, Linda Spencer

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

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

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach
930-4222, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel,
Wyatt Banks; ***Greeters:** Jean Semrau, Ariel Love, Wyatt
Banks, Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski

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

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: Bill Ashworth 778-9470
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
***Late Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506

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

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520