



SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Third Month 2022

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

Discussions via Zoom

First-Hour Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099502775?pwd=VmgxVFFzVkhYUkhRYkpNYmJ6TGZUdz09>

6 March Uprooting Racism: Video clip on US treatment of Indian children; then discuss proposed minute in support of indigenous People. (Details on Pages 1 and 2)

13 March Daylight Savings Time
 Faith-Based Climate Action:
 Lorrie Kaplan from Ashland Climate Collaborative will describe local opportunities for climate interventions. (Description on Pg. 5)

13 March: Rise of Meeting
 Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch
Outdoors (dress warmly, weather permitting, hot beverages served)

20 March New Time
 Meeting for Business (8:30-10 am)

27 March Adult Education: Herb Rothschild will Let His Life Speak

Meeting for Worship 11 am to Noon

At The Quaker Meeting House
 or by Zoom at:

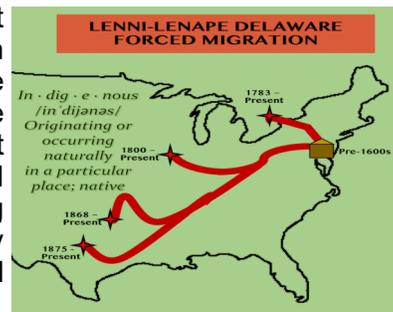
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhIbGRmUWpOYz09>

Quaker Impact on Indigenous Communities



History books report that William Penn practiced the Quaker principles of equality, respect, and honor in his relationship with the Lenape people, the original inhabitants of NJ and parts of NY, PA, and DE. Believing that there's that of God in everyone, Penn treated the Lenape as brothers and sisters. Even though King Charles II had granted him the land holdings, Penn "purchased" the land by trading the Lenape guns, clothing, pipes, tobacco, tools, glasses, needles, blankets, and bells.

It is less frequently cited, however, that some fifty years later, after Penn's death in 1718, peaceful relations between the European settlers and the Lenape disintegrated as Penn's sons did not share their father's beliefs. Additional Lenape land was apprehended, forcing the Indigenous people to continually move westward until they were corralled in reservations in the Oklahoma Territory.



When most American Indians had been pushed onto reservations, many Christian denominations cooperated with the US government to remove Indigenous children from their families and educate them in boarding schools. True to the Peace Testimony, our Quaker ancestors wouldn't kill any Indians, but they did their best to "civilize" the "shiftless savage" out of them. A synopsis of Quaker complicity in operating Indian boarding schools and becoming Indian agents appeared in our South Mountain newsletter a year and a half ago. To review the article: click on this link [OUR NEWSLETTERS | AshlandQuakers](#) and then click on the pdf icon for June 2020.

Minute of Support for Indigenous People

Uprooting Racism Discussion: 9 am Sunday 6 March

A minute in support of Indigenous People has been drafted by North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Anti-Racism Work Group (ARWG). Monthly Meetings such as South Mountain are requested to review the minute in preparation for its being brought forth to this summer's Annual Session.

We'll begin by watching a 13-minute video "How the US Stole 1000s of Native American Children," a resource recommended by ARWG. The Work Group requests resource suggestions as well as edits/questions/concerns/ideas on the whole document. Toward that end, we will be discussing the minute itself and the suggested actions (printed on page 2 of this newsletter). It would be beneficial if Friends familiarized themselves with this proposal prior to our discussion. Key concepts in the minute are elucidated and relevant resources are listed along with the minute and recommendations here: [Minute of Support for Indigenous People](#). —Bob Morse

Minute of Support for Indigenous People

Draft for Consideration at Yearly Meeting's Annual Session 2022

The Actual Minute:

The North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends repudiates the Doctrines of Discovery. We acknowledge and regret Friends' role in the ensuing land theft, and in the forced assimilation and genocide conducted at residential schools for children indigenous to Turtle Island ('North America'). We affirm the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We commit individually and as meetings to courageously and compassionately face the learning required. We will take thoughtful, grounded actions to comprehend and oppose past and present colonialism, and the ongoing systematic dehumanization and material oppression of the original peoples of the land on which we live and worship.

Recommended Actions:



1-Each Meeting will self-educate about the history of Indigenous life, the arrival of settler colonial peoples, and the current effects of colonization specific to their land and region. We encourage Friends to pay for Native speakers, and to learn how to interrupt anti-Indigenous behavior and language, e.g. mascots, cultural appropriation, costumes, idioms, touching people's jewelry, etc.

2-Each Meeting will self-educate about Quaker involvement in the kidnapping of Native children for compulsory 'residential schools,' where language, religious, and cultural assimilation were violently enforced, and torture and preventable child death were common. Each Meeting will provide space for collective lamentation.

3-Friends will look for ways to uphold the self-determination and sovereignty of Native nations. Friends acknowledge that it is not the place of European Americans to define or decide the priorities or realities of Indigenous people, and that 'right relationship' requires respect for Indigenous people's autonomy.

4-Each Meeting will find ways to invest in the reinvigoration of local Indigenous cultural knowledge and wisdom. For example: language restoration; land, air, and water stewardship; food and medicine; wildfire management techniques; spirituality; mental and physical healthcare.

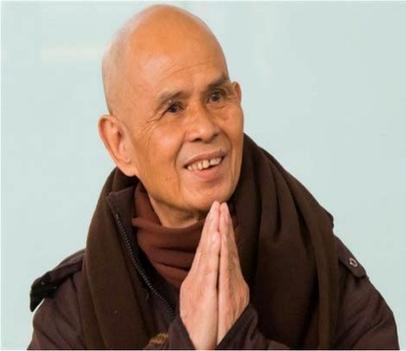
5-Each Meeting will either 1) give back the land the Meeting House sits upon, or its equal value in nearby land, to the descendants of the Indigenous people who lived there at the time of European contact; or 2) pay fair rent for its use, either to those from whom the land was taken, or to a Native-led project supporting Indigenous rights, health, or autonomy. Example projects include efforts to protect missing and murdered Indigenous relatives; ecological protection movements (e.g. Standing Rock, blocking coal trains); or any Spirit-led project that upholds Indigenous autonomy.

6-Each Meeting will submit an annual report about their efforts to support Indigenous peoples to the NPYM's Anti-Racism Working Group. ARWG will offer support to individual Meetings as Way allows, and report collective findings to annual session.



Remembering Two Masters of Wisdom, Compassion, and Faith

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh died in January 2022 at the age of 95.



Thich Nhat Hanh was a global spiritual leader, poet, and peace activist, renowned for his powerful teachings and bestselling writings on mindfulness and peace. A gentle, humble monk, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called him “an Apostle of peace and nonviolence” when nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize. Exiled from his native Vietnam for almost four decades, Thich Nhat Hanh became a pioneer, bringing Buddhism and mindfulness to the West and establishing an engaged Buddhist community for the 21st Century.

Quotes from Thay, as Thich Nhat Hanh was affectionately called:

Compassionate listening is to help the other side suffer less. If we realize that other people are the same people as we are, we are no longer angry at them.

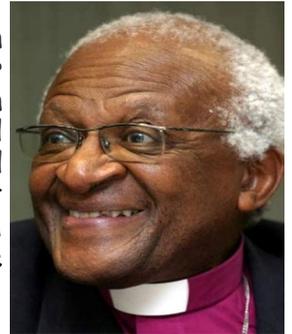
When we recognize the virtues, the talent, the beauty of Mother Earth, something is born in us, some kind of connection, love is born.

We need enlightenment, not just individually but collectively, to save the planet. We need to awaken ourselves. We need to practice mindfulness if we want to have a future, if we want to save ourselves and the planet.

Enlightenment is always there. Small enlightenment will bring great enlightenment. If you breathe in and are aware that you are alive—that you can touch the miracle of being alive—then that is a kind of enlightenment.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize-winning Anglican cleric, died in January 2021 at the age of 90.

For six decades, Desmond Tutu was a primary voice in pressuring the South African government to end the country's official policy of racial segregation. After apartheid ended, he was named chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. His advocacy ranged widely: campaigning for gender equality and against homophobia, child marriage, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and oppression in nations around the world. Tutu was fierce, never hesitating to call out injustice, and was fair, always willing to engage with and even learn from those with whom he disagreed. Not by design but by nature, he was hilarious. Tutu radiated the belief that love can, does, and will conquer hate.



Quotes from The Arch, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu was affectionally called:

In God's family, there are no outsiders, no enemies.
Be nice to whites; they need you to rediscover their humanity.

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.

Exclusion is never the way forward on our shared paths to freedom and justice.

If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

—Bob Morse

Making Connections Through Photos

South Mountain's Friendship and Hospitality Committee Requests A Picture of YOU



For an Album of our Meeting that will Live in our Fellowship Hall for Friends to Peruse

Send Photos as a JPEG to Ká Hering at Kathleen4bees@gmail.com

Along with a brief bio blurb:

- Where you live
- When/where you first attended Friends Meeting
- The length of time affiliated with South Mountain Meeting
- Ways your Quaker connection informs your life
- Activities & community engagements that nourish your soul

Staying Connected Through FRIENDLY Words

As I write these words, the continuing onslaught of COVID-19 has pushed my worship community out of the meetinghouse and back into virtual worship, and on Sundays I see the pixelated faces of my Friends in the comfort of their own homes, perhaps under a blanket and with a mug of hot coffee or tea. It's as good a time as any to think about how I—and the Friends around me—can retool and reposition ourselves for the next stage of our lives, in our homes and in our communities.

How can I help meet the needs of the younger adults and families in my meeting or those who might visit us?

What are working young adults feeling in a society whose economic landscape seems almost alien to that in which older generations of Quakers established themselves?

How can we reckon with the acts of our Quaker ancestors who held human beings in bondage?

What do I do with all this grief?

What skills can I cultivate so that my experience of attending and participating in my Quaker meeting's business sessions is more fulfilling?

If these are questions that pique your interest, then this issue of

Friends Journal

is for you. This edition includes such articles as **At Home in the World: The Dignity of Living Faith in Action** and **Grieving as a Spiritual Practice** and **Business Meeting as Rehearsal**.

Download the PDF version of the full issue here: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/private/FJ-2022-02.PDF>

Read the issue online: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2022/february-2022/>

Yours in peace,
Gabriel Ehri, *Executive Director, Friends Publishing Corporation*



PS: This past year has been a difficult year for Friends Publishing. The effects of the pandemic, supply change issues, and other circumstances out of our control have seen our costs significantly increase.

I need your help so we can overcome these financial challenges and continue producing quality publications like *Friends Journal* and *Quaker-speak*. [Click here to donate.](#)

Contributed by Fran Curtis, South Mountain Friends Librarian

Meeting for Business 20 February 2022

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson

Quotation for Reflection “Given the right inward state, right action is inevitable.” —Howard Brinton

Minutes

2022.2.1 Friends approved minutes for the 16 January 2022 Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer Donations slightly exceeded expenses in February; we are still behind for the year. UCC has transferred the Laundry Love fund to the Meeting.

Winnowing Report

2022.2.2 Friends approved temporarily changing the time for Meeting for Business from 9-10:30 to 8:30-10 on 3rd Sundays. This decision will be revisited no later than September 2022.

Joint Committee

2022.2.3 Friends agreed to clean the upstairs of the Meeting House each month rather than hire out this job to reduce building costs. Valeria Breiten offered to set up the system and schedule.

2022.2.4 Friends agreed to contribute an additional \$325 to the \$350 budgeted for Joint Committee until the end of this fiscal year, June 31.

2022.2.5 Friends agreed to establish a Meeting House Financial Sustainability ad hoc committee

to create a process for the Meeting to address the current lack of room rental income. Herb Rothschild will serve as clerk and Bob Morse and Ká Hering have agreed to serve as committee members. The process will include all committee clerks exploring with their committees how the issues explored will affect their work. The process will also include one or more threshing sessions at the appropriate time by the Meeting at large.

Peace & Social Concerns

Friends sent eleven postcards to Senators Merkley and Wyden encouraging support for a congressional bill addressing both climate justice and racism. The committee will find out if either or both senators support the legislation. P&SC also encouraged Friends to urge the White House to help maintain peace by pledging not to expand NATO into Ukraine.

Climate Change Friends expressed willingness to invite the Climate Collaborative to speak to the Meeting during first hour March 13. (See below).

Uprooting Racism The Anti Racism Work Group is seeking input regarding a proposed NPYM minute about Indigenous People. (See Pages 1 and 2).

Friendship & Hospitality has scheduled the next Brown Bag Lunch for March 13.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk
Alex Reid, Recording Clerk

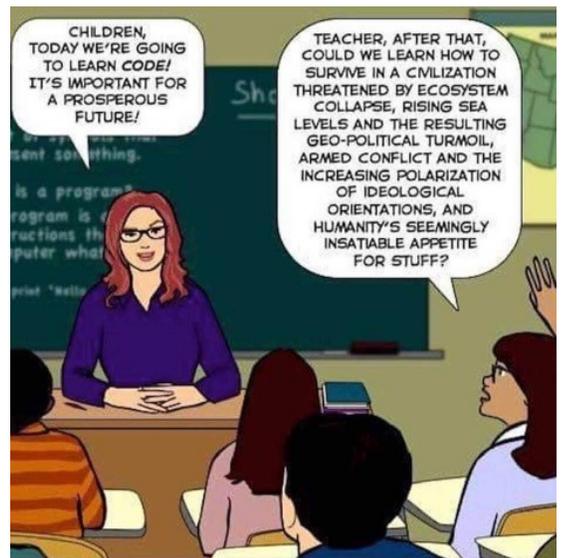
Ashland Climate Collaborative

The Ashland Climate Collaborative was formed in 2021 to foster collaboration across our community in local solutions that reduce our climate footprint and build a resilient Ashland.

We believe that Ashland residents want be part of the solution. Everyone is welcome to participate: members of the community, city staff, public commissioners, other local climate and environmental organizations, businesses, and institutions.

We aim to achieve net greenhouse gas emission neutrality in the community by 2050 and to prepare Ashland communities, systems, and resources to be more resilient to climate change impacts.

*Reprinted from [Ashland Climate Collaborative](#)
– Working together for a resilient future*



Cartoon Contributed by Becky Hale

Advices & Queries on EQUALITY



Equality

You declare you see me dimly through a glass which will not shine, though I stand before you boldly, trim in rank and marking time.

You do own to hear me faintly as a whisper out of range, while my drums beat out the message and the rhythms never change.

Equality, and I will be free. Equality, and I will be free.

You announce my ways are wanton, that I fly from man to man, but if I'm just a shadow to you, could you ever understand?



We have lived a painful history, we know the shameful past, but I keep on marching forward, and you keep on coming last.

Equality, and I will be free. Equality, and I will be free.

Take the blinders from your vision, take the padding from your ears, and confess

you've heard me crying, and admit you've seen my tears.

Hear the tempo so compelling, hear the blood throb in my veins. Yes, my drums are beating nightly, and the rhythms never change.

Equality, and I will be free. Equality, and I will be free.

—Maya Angelou

Every person has the capacity to experience the Inner Light.

As Friends, we share a vision of a social order based on the testimony of equality—it embraces and seeks to transform all of human society. This vision, and the inner transformation that enables us to see it and live it, enhances our spiritual connectedness and can transcend our differences.

We treat every person with respect and love, based on our belief in the fundamental equality of all of humankind.

We examine ourselves as individuals and in our Meeting communities to be sure that we are practicing the testimony of equality in reality and not just paying lip service to it.

We cherish those parts of the history of the Religious Society of Friends that show us opposing slavery and refusing to doff our hats to superiors. We also acknowledge that the history of Friends practice of the testimony of equality is not without flaw. We acknowledge that Friends who are white, or from other entitled groups, may benefit from privilege and may exhibit prejudice and discrimination, even unintentionally. Friends are not perfect in treating all human beings with equal respect, and there is work yet to do, both among Friends and in the world, to achieve the vision of a social order based on the testimony of equality.

Do we regularly examine ourselves for evidence of privilege and prejudice?

What are we, as individuals and as a Meeting community, doing to overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

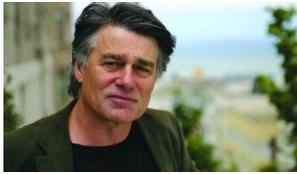


How do we avoid being drawn into violent reactions against those who are destructive of human dignity? Do we reach out to the violator as well as the violated with courage and love?

How do we make our Meeting open to all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and identity, or class?

Is our Meeting place physically accessible and welcoming to all?

The House of Belonging



I awoke
this morning
in the gold light
turning this way
and that

thinking for
a moment
it was one
day
like any other.

But
the veil had gone
from my
darkened heart
and
I thought

it must have been
the quiet
candlelight
that filled my room,

it must have been
the first
easy rhythm
with which I
breathed
myself to sleep,

it must have been
the prayer I said
speaking to the
otherness
of the night.

And
I thought
this is the good day
you could
meet your love,

this is the gray day
someone close
to you could die.

This is the day
you realize
how easily the
thread
is broken
between this world
and the next

and I found myself
sitting up
in the quiet pathway
of light,

the tawny
close grained cedar
burning round
me like fire
and all the angels of
this housely
heaven ascending
through the first
roof of light
the sun has made.

This is the bright
home
in which I live,
this is where
I ask
my friends
to come,
this is where I want
to love all the things
it has taken me so
long
to learn to love.

This is the temple
of my adult
aloneness
and I belong
to that aloneness
as I belong to my
life.

There is no house
like the house of
belonging.

—David Whyte

Contributed by Anya Kumara

Dignity

And what, in fact, is dignity? In those
Who have it pure, it is the soul's repose,
The base of character—no mere reserve
That springs from pride, or want of
mental nerve.

The dignity that wealth, or station, breeds,
Or in the breast on base emotion feeds,
Is easy weighed, and easy to be sized—A
bastard virtue, much to be despised.

True dignity is like a summer tree.
Beneath whose shade both beast, and bird, and
bee,
When by the heated skies oppressed, may come,
And feel, in its magnificence, at home;
Or rather like a mountain which forgets
Itself in its own greatness, and so lets
Vast armies fuss and fight upon its sides,
While high in clouds its peaceful summit hides,
And from the voiceless crest of glistening snow,
Pours trickling fatness on the fields below;
Repellant force, that daunts obtrusive wrong,
And woos the timid steps of right along;
And hence a garb which magistrates prepare,
When called to judge, and really seem to wear.
In framing character on whate'er plan,
'Tis always needed to complete the man,
The job quite done, and Dignity without,
Is like an apple pie, the fruit left out.

—Too-qua-stee

Too-qua-stee, also known as DeWitt Clinton Duncan, was born in the Cherokee Nation in Georgia in 1829. He worked as an attorney for the Cherokee Nation, as well as an author, poet, and teacher of Latin, English, & Greek. He died in 1909.



MEETING OFFICERS

Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Recording Clerk: Alex Reid 707-499-9146
Corresponding Clerk: Beth Aspedon 778-1564
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, Sylvie Weaver
Web Administrator: Bob Morse 482-8449
NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940
Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084
Uprooting Racism Coordinator: Bob Morse 482-8449
Experiment with Light: Gizelle Luccio 897-4458
Circle of Light: Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

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*

MEETING COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel: **Valeria Breiten** 480-688-7442, Jim Phillips 482-2388, Steve Radcliffe 479-3487, Melody Ashworth 324-9824, Ken Deveney 488-5506, Clerk *ex officio*

Children's Education & Spirituality: **Ken Deveney**, Cathy McDaniel, Melody Ashworth

Finance: **Jean Semrau**, Fran Curtis, Treasurer *ex officio*

Buildings & Grounds: **Merlin McDaniel**, Raymond Scully, Terri Brain

Nominating: **Maureen Graham**, Valeria Breiten, Terri Brain

Friendship & Hospitality: **Crystal Bosbach**, K Hering, Cathy McDaniel

Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski

Peace & Social Concerns: **Herb Rothschild**, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Elizabeth Hallett, Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe

Library: **Fran Curtis**, Linda Spencer

Adult Education: **Ká Hering**, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Jim Lobsenz, Melody Ashworth

Homeless Outreach: **Alex Reid**, Bob Morse, Becky Hale

*Names in **bold** indicate committee convener or clerk*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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Ashland, Oregon 97520