

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:

6 October

9:30 am: Uprooting Racism Focus Group--All Are Welcome (see p. 3)

10:30 am: Circle of Light

13 October

9:30 am: Spiritual Listening on How We Close Meeting and When We Share Joys & Concerns (see p. 3)

20 October

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

27 October

9:30 am: Adult Education: Money, Spirit, and Power

**FALL BACK
Daylight Savings Time
Ends Sunday
3 November 2019**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

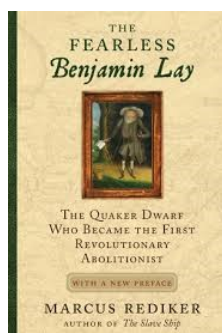
THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Tenth Month 2019

Speaking Truth to Power

The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist



Historian Marcus Rediker chronicles the transatlantic life and times of Benjamin Lay (1682-1759), a Quaker dwarf who demanded the total, unconditional emancipation of all enslaved Africans around the world. Mocked by his contemporaries, Lay was a visionary who practiced the ideals of democracy and equality an astonishing 300 years ago. Insisting that human bondage violated the principles of Christianity, Lay often performed colorful guerrilla theater to shame slave masters. His revolutionary life embodied the proclamation "no justice, no peace."

Rediker dispels the notion that the second generation of Quakers were as anti-establishment as the faith's founders. There's an often-mentioned adage that Friends came to Pennsylvania to "do good" and in turn "did well"—very well indeed—to judge by the power and wealth they amassed. Lay was agitated by the "men of renown," as he called those who were simultaneously the clerks of Philadelphia Monthly and Yearly Meeting, members of the City Council, leaders of the Pennsylvania Assembly, and overseers of the Philadelphia Quaker press, as well as wealthy slave traders and slave owners. The men of renown followed Fox's advice to slave owners—simply treat their slaves better—guidance that Lay could never endorse. Thus, the weightiest Quakers upheld a slave-infused status quo and responded to Lay's acting out against "Quakers' breaking of the Golden Rule" by disowning him and refusing to publish his books.

It would be several decades before Quakers began disowning members because they were slave owners. Such growing anti-slavery attitudes among rank-and-file Quakers in the 1750's were a direct result of the behind-the-scenes abolitionists of the 1730's such as Lay. Whereas historians have exalted the "peaceful" anti-slavery work of John Woolman, Lay, a generation older than Woolman, was marginalized and ridiculed for being so fiery and zealous.

The great nineteenth century militant abolitionist Frederick Douglass understood the necessity and power of agitation. He explained: "*Those who profess to favor freedom and yet depreciate agitation, are people who want crops without ploughing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. The struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it maybe both. But it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.*"

Rediker brings Benjamin Lay to life at a time when we need such role models to guide us toward being steadfast, courageous, and creative in wresting power from the current enslaving and dispassionate bearers of the status-quo. --Bob Morse

(Rediker's book is in our South Mountain library.)

Quakers to Walk with PRIDE

11:30 am Saturday 12 October

The 2019 Southern Oregon Pride Festival in Ashland is scheduled for the second weekend in October.. South Mountain Friends Meeting is entered in the parade, which kicks off on **Saturday 12 October** at noon (an hour later than usual) from the assembly area on Union Street off Siskiyou Blvd across from the Stratford Inn. Please plan to walk with our group. **Gather about 11:30 am on parade day. Walk up Union and look for the SMFM banner.**

Every year since the inception of the festival in 2010, SMFM has participated. We've supported it financially and, more importantly, walked in the parade carrying our banner to let the public know that Quakers affirm the dignity of all our sisters and brothers. It's very important to LGBT people to witness that affirmation from religious people, because they so frequently experience condemnation from that quarter. It's also a way to testify to everyone that love is central to authentic spirituality.

It's been 50 years since the Stonewall riots inaugurated a bold and increasingly self-confident assertion by LGBT people of a right to legal equality. Mindful of that anniversary, the theme of the 2019 SOPride Festival is "Honor the History/Forge the Future." The Grand Marshal will be Nataki Garrett, incoming Artistic Director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Last year's Grand Marshal was Jamie McLeod-Skinner, a Quaker who has intermittently worshipped with South Mountain Friends. In 2018, Jamie was the Democratic candidate for the US District 2 Congressional seat. Pictured here are Jamie and her wife Cass with Jim and me. Note: Jamie is currently running in the 2020 election to become Oregon's Secretary of State.

The parade route is short—just down Siskiyou and into Lithia Park—and it's almost all downhill. And it's okay to bring your dogs.

--Herb Rothschild



Ashland Winter Shelter Volunteer Orientation

6:30-8:30 pm Thursday 10 October 2019

Ashland's Methodist Church's Wesley Hall

"Somewhere along the way, we must learn that there is nothing greater than to do something for others." --Martin Luther King Jr.

Our homeless shelter has secured a single location for the next three years. Funding channeled through the local non-profit OHRA (Options for Housing for Residents of Ashland) provides a shelter director, a case manager, insurance, and maintenance. Faith-based and community organizations, as well as interested individuals, continue to be needed as overnight hosts, food preparers/servers, and listeners. Help is also needed for setting up in the evenings and cleaning up in the mornings. The orientation will feature folks experienced in each of these roles explaining the delight and logistics of such heart-felt giving. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Michelle Arellano at OHRA: ExecutiveDirector@HelpingAshland.org.

Uprooting Racism Focus Group

9:30 am Sunday 6 October 2019: All Are Welcome

A quarter of a year has passed since South Mountaineers last gathered to examine how we are uprooting racism in our lives, our Meeting, and our community. Previously, we allowed time for Friends to check in with each other, sharing what we've been reading, pondering, or doing. I hope that our focus group remains open to hearing from all present who wish to share.

I highlight three events that have occurred in these three months: 1) On the morning we last convened our focus group, Sunday 7 July, our local Baha'i group offered a public showing of a film that profiled an unspoken part of US history: Cross-racial communities, movements, friendships, and support; 2) on Wednesday 17 July a *New York Times Magazine* article examined white privilege; and 3) on Sunday 28 July, our Yearly Meeting united in approving an uprooting racism minute, not unrelated to some word and concept changes offered by South Mountaineers over the past year.

I invite Friends to watch the trailer for the above-referenced movie, *An American Story: Race Amity* at <http://raceamityfilm.org/>. I have access to the Baha'i's copy of the film. Should we watch it together as a Meeting? As a community?

Beth Aspedon read the *New York Times Magazine* article titled, "I Wanted to Know What White Men Thought About Their Privilege. So I Asked." I invite Friends to read the article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/17/magazine/white-men-privilege.html?searchResultPosition=1>.

Lots of food for thought for our 6 October Focus Group. --Bob Morse

Holding Joys & Concerns in the Light Spiritual Listening on How We Close Meeting

9:30 am Sunday 13 October 2019

Ministry & Counsel entered into a discernment process in April 2019 regarding *holding in the Light*. This came out of a leading to explore both HOW we as a Community *hold others in the Light* and WHAT does it mean for us individually and collectively to *hold someone in the Light*. As a Meeting we engage in this process in two ways: a) through the Circle of Light, and b) by inviting folks to express *joys & concerns* at the end of meeting for worship (with the intention to hold these issues or individuals in the Light).

Our discernment process led us to the timing, the intention, and the underlying spiritual need desiring to be met. We recognized the value of our community's coming together to support each other and to bear witness to life's *joys & concerns* and sought to discover a way to effectively integrate this into the flow of coming out of the silence of meeting for worship.

As a result, the co-clerks of M&C met with the clerk of our Meeting to discuss the possibility of slightly changing HOW we shared our *joys & concerns*. M&C's proposal was to transition from meeting for worship to *joys & concerns* right at the noon hour. This would support those present to easily drop back into the silence (into the Light) as a natural extension from worship. Once *joys & concerns* had been expressed, then we could move on to introductions and announcements—a more social interaction.

During our meeting with the clerk we crafted a transition statement that would be spoken by the person closing the meeting for worship: "*We are now coming to the end of our worship, and this is the time when we invite you to share any joys or concerns you may have so we can hold each other in the Light.*"

We've been practicing this new process for about 2 months and would like to have feedback from members/attenders about your experience. We've already noted that an adjustment for those meeting with and bringing the children in at the end of worship needs tweaking. By having them come in about 5 minutes before Noon, they wouldn't run the risk of entering during the expression of *joys & concerns* (or missing out all together). **We have set aside first hour on second Sunday in October to discuss all our thoughts and feelings about how we close meeting.** As well, Friends can share their concerns with Maureen Graham or me directly.

--Gabrielle Leslie

CLERK'S CORNER: Shining Light on our Meeting's Grace

As the nominating process has unfolded, I have savored the words of Benedictine nun Joan Chittister, in her book *The Radical Christian Life*: "This age needs to rethink work. Work in our time has either become something that defines us or something that oppresses us. We do it to make money, money, money or we decry it as an obstacle to life."

The more I have served on committees at South Mountain Friends Meeting, the more I have realized that work in our community is thoroughly satisfying. It is almost always an opportunity to connect deeply with wonderful people. It helps me know myself better and presents interesting challenges to season together. Yes, the work is unpaid. Yet, perhaps it would be better to describe it as a free ticket for a front row seat in an interactive performance featuring God's remarkable grace in a community of imperfect humans.

Chittister continues, "This age needs to rethink holy leisure, as well. Play and holy leisure are not the same things. Leisure is the Benedictine gift of regular reflection and continual consciousness of the presence of God. It is the gift of contemplation in a world of action... (a world that is) high on technology, short on time, starved for reflection."

Although the first thing that came to mind when I read that passage was meeting for worship, it also rings true in our family life. For nearly twelve years, as much as possible, Anna and I have kept our Saturdays unplugged and unscheduled. We usually have our computers off from Friday to Sunday. The day gives us time to rest, reconnect, hike and reflect. Many important shifts have happened for us in this space. This long holy leisure makes the week bearable, our relationship possible, and scrubs the crud off our connection to God.

Once again Chittister: "The purpose of Sabbath is to reflect on life, to determine whether what we're doing and who we are is what we should be doing and who we want to be. Sabbath is meant to bring wisdom and action together. It provides the space to begin again."

I hope that as we begin a new year as a Meeting, you feel refreshed. Thank you so much for being a part of South Mountain Friends Meeting. Whether you are very involved or holding us in the Light from afar, your presence allows our Meeting to be the improbably grace-filled place that it is.

--Lisa Nichols, Incoming Clerk

2019-20 Slate of South Mountain Officers and Committees

Individuals

Presiding Clerk: Lisa Nichols; *Assistant Clerk*: Jean Semrau; *Recording Clerk*: Alex Reid; *Corresponding Clerk*: Position set aside and tasks distributed; *Treasurer*: Adam Thompson; *Newsletter Editor*: Bob Morse along with Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver; *Weekly e-Bulletin Editor*: Adam Thompson; *Web Administrator*: Bob Morse; *Joint Committee Representatives*: Steve Wells and Herb Rothschild; *NPYM Coordinating Committee Representative*: Sylvie Weaver; *Art Coordinator*: Becky Hale

Standing Committees

Finance: **Scott Plummer****, Beth Aspedon, Bill Ashworth, Treasurer ex officio

Peace & Social Concerns: **Herb Rothschild**, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister, Andra Hollenbeck

Friendship & Hospitality: **Crystal Bosbach**, Cathy McDaniel, Kathleen Hering, Valeria Breiten

F & H Greeters: Sylvie Weaver, Steve Radcliffe, Javan & **Alex Reid**, Valeria Breiten, Karen Maleski, Terri Brain (sub)

Building & Grounds: **Merlin McDaniel**, Steve Wells, Raymond Scully, Hazel Ward

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

Adult Education: **Becky Hale**, Jim Lobsenz, Terri Brain, Melody Ashworth, Kathleen Hering

Library: **Melody Ashworth**, Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Fran Curtis

Special Committees

Ministry & Counsel: (*Open to just the committee members*): ***Maureen Graham, Gabrielle Leslie** (21),

Rochelle Webster, Cathy McDaniel (21), Jim Phillips (22), Clerk/Assistant ex officio

Nominating (*appointed by clerk of Meeting*): **Beth Aspedon** (21), Anna Monders (22), Alex Reid

****Bold type** indicates the designated convener of the new committee's first meeting at which time the committee selects its clerk.

Called Meeting for Business: 1 September 2019

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Crystal Bosbach, Ken Deveney, Anna Monders, Lisa Nichols, Alex Reid, Valeria, Karen Maleski

Nominating Committee distributed the proposed slate for 2019-2020.

2019.9.1 Friends approved the proposed slate for seasoning until Meeting for Business on 15 Sep 19

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

Meeting for Business: 15 September 2019

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, K(athleen) Hering, Anna Monders, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols, Herb Rothschild, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid

Centering

"We listen to and respect one another and seek what the Spirit is saying through each voice in the room. We seek to find the way forward that is right for the whole body."

--Margery Post Abbott

Treasurer's Report

For FY 2019, both donations and expenses were low. We closed the year with only a \$300 deficit. Little has been spent in the first two months of FY 2020.

Nominating

Slate as seasoned was presented; it includes a few changes. The committee has yet to review Corresponding Clerk tasks and will also do a final review of job descriptions and distribute them to clerks. Ministry and Counsel is a closed committee, Nominating is an appointed committee, and other committees may be joined without seasoning. Library Committee has been reclassified as a standing committee.

2019.9.2 Meeting approves the seasoned slate, including changes that were made as part of the seasoning process.

Peace and Social Concerns

The committee has chosen Herb Rothschild as clerk. On 30 September, the committee will offer an update of state and federal climate change legislation by guest presenters Alan Journet (co-chair of SOCAN) and David Morse (of Citizen's Climate Lobby). The Southern Oregon Pride Parade is 12 October (details on p. 2). The committee wrote a letter from Meeting to Rep. Marsh and Sen. Golden regarding S.B. 1013, which addresses the Death Penalty.

2019.9.3 Friends approve Peace and Concerns sending the letter as drafted to Sen. Golden and Rep. Marsh and also sending an appropriately revised version to other Jackson and Josephine county state legislators.

Coordinating Committee

Due to difficulties with finding sites that fulfill all needs of Annual Meeting, perhaps a single site will be used for the next five years. South Mountain Friends Meeting will ask that North/South geographical constraints be considered. Two new paid positions are being considered: annual session registrar and general arrangements/physical arrangements clerk. Queries to Meetings from Coordinating Committee will be considered next month.

Ministry and Counsel

Advices and Queries from the new *Faith & Practice* are being reviewed. A fall retreat with a guest speaker is planned for 7-8 Dec at the Meetinghouse. An experimental change in the close of worship has been tried, allowing joys and concerns to be shared as part of worship. An explanation of these changes and request for feedback are on p 3. Some Friends wished to discuss this immediately; one Friend suggested changing the language to "hold in the Light," however no decisions were ready to be made. Friends agreed to continue the practice unchanged for the time being, despite lack of initial seasoning. Meeting for business has requested a spiritual listening on this topic, as well as a future session about "holding on the Light."

Adult Education

The topic for 27 October will be Money, Spirit, and Power.

Calendaring

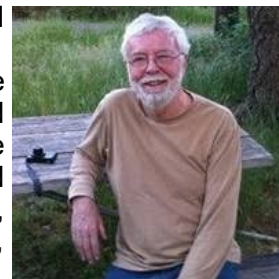
Uprooting Racism discussion will continue on 6 October. A Spiritual Listening on the close-of-Meeting practices will be held 13 October. Wednesday 17 October K(athleen) Hering will host a new meditation based on inquiry. SOU Community Outreach tabling will be 30 September.

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

Timothy Andrew Wohlforth: MEMORIAL MINUTE

Timothy Wohlforth, born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on May 15, 1933, passed away peacefully at home on August 23, 2019, at the age of 86.

Tim boarded at Oakwood Friends School from 8th through 11th grades, and he kept in touch with friends from Oakwood throughout the rest of his life. He graduated from Oberlin College, where he actively promoted the ideals and activities of the Democratic Socialists of America. He continued to support social democracy and workers' rights, both in beliefs and in actions. He worked as a lithographer, an editor, and a writer. He wrote ten books, most of which are mysteries in noir mood. Recently, his book *Harry* was adapted for the stage.



When he moved to Ashland 12 years ago, he continued to write and founded a mystery writers' group, the *Monday Mayhem Writers*. He taught a variety of classes at OLLI, including *The Dangers of Cults*, *Utopia*, and others with political themes. For the past seven years, he and friends hosted a weekly film group which views and discusses films of varied genres. He was also happy to be part of the Friday Night Poker Boys, men who became close friends and supported him and Patricia through Tim's final months.

Tim loved natural beauty, the mountains, the redwoods. He was adventurous, an independent thinker who didn't "suffer fools gladly" but who forgave easily and wanted to "keep the peace." He had a generous nature, never hesitating to help out or to support an important cause. He maintained many strong connections with friends and family, and he deeply appreciated the people who cared for him. His family and loved ones were very important to him.

Tim began attending South Mountain Friends Meeting as soon as he arrived in Ashland and was faithful about showing up for Sunday morning worship. He was a warm member of our community, always asking how we were. We were delighted by his big smile and hugs – and by his willingness to take on responsibilities on behalf of the meeting. He served on the Peace and Social Concerns committee, as a Meetinghouse Opener, on Hospitality Committee and on the Joint Committee with Peace House. He was moved by and grateful for Friends' holding him in Light during his final months. He was an intelligent, committed, kind, caring man.

Tim is survived by his dearly-loved partner Patricia, his son Bill, his brother Eric, his grandsons Owen and Charlie, his granddaughter Carla, and his daughter-in-law Teresa. We all miss him.

Advices & Queries on Community

"Let your life speak" is traditional advice for Friends. The life of a Quaker meeting also speaks: by giving practical support for members and attenders in need; cherishing the children and young people finding their spiritual paths; encouraging, guiding, and eldering Friends with love in discernment or in following leadings; welcoming new seekers; and stepping forth in Spirit-led witness in the wider world.

Being part of a community requires us to practice compassion and patience. As members of a community, we pay attention to each other and rely on each other; we consciously nurture our interdependence. It's not always easy. It's nevertheless vital to our shared spiritual journey.

The spirit of a Friends community might be described as "the testimonies made visible" through the interactions and mutual care of its members. Creating a community of love, trust, compassion, and forbearance, where differences are respected and every voice is valued, is important to our witness to the world. The Friends community inspires, nurtures, and supports our concerns for peace, social justice, and environmental action; it is the seedbed from which our actions grow.

- *How do we foster love, truth, and harmony within our meeting community?*
 - *Is our community a shelter where we can grow in the Spirit? How can our community provide the best combination of safety and challenge to encourage spiritual growth?*
 - *How do we as individuals share our gifts with the meeting? How do we as a community help individual Friends find their own gifts and share them with others?*
 - *How do we as individuals support the spiritual health of the meeting? How do we as a community support the spiritual health of individual members and attenders?*
 - *How do we make our meeting a beloved community and a living testimony—for all members and attenders, wherever they are in their own spiritual journeys?*
 - *How do we create a radically inclusive culture in our Quaker community?*
 - *How does our meeting community reflect the Spirit and Truth at the center of our lives?*
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SMFM CALENDAR

October 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting	2	3 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	4	5
6 9:30 am Uprooting Racism Focus Group 10:30 am Circle of Light	7	8 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle Meeting	9 6:30 to 8 pm Light Meditation Group	10 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing 6:30-8:30 pm Shelter Volunteer Orientation	11	12 Ashland Food Project Pickup 11:30 Pride Parade 1-4 pm Laundry Love
13 9:30 am Spiritual Listening: How We Close Meeting and Share Joys and Concerns	14	15	16 Inquiry-based Meditation	17 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	18	19
20 8:30 -10:30 am Business Meeting	21	22 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	23	24 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	25	26
27 9:30 am Adult Education: Money, Spirit, and Power	28	29	30	31 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing		

Are other South Mountain Friends currently war tax resisters?

If so, I'd like to talk with you. Please contact me (jeanashland@gmail.com or 541-488-6855).

Thank you! --Jean Semrau

Reflections on Membership

from the 8 September Spiritual Listening

Those present shared their journeys with membership and/or choosing not to be members. It was moving to hear the varied paths we all have taken and how they change over the years. Although many of us value the idea of membership, there was concern that the process of seeking membership may need to be changed to make sure that it is inclusive and experienced as a supportive, even loving, process. Similarly, individuals who are not called to become members are so valued that we question any practice that precludes seasoned attenders from serving the Meeting in certain roles. As a Meeting, we will continue to listen to each other and search for any changes we can make to our practice to reflect our ongoing discernment.

--Rochelle Webster, Maureen Graham, and Gabrielle Leslie

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Assistant Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855

Recording Clerk: Alex Reid 707-499-9146

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Weekly e-Bulletin Editor: Adam Thompson 201-8255

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

Web Administrator: Bob Morse 482-8449

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

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

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

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

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*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Finance Committee: Scott Plummer, Beth Aspedon, Bill Ashworth, Treasurer *ex officio*

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

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid, Anna Monders

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Crystal Bosbach, Cathie McDaniel, Kathleen Hering, Valeria Breiten,
Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Valeria Breiten, Karen Maleski, Terri Brain (sub)

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild (clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister, Andra Hollenbeck

Library Elves: Melody Ashworth, Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Fran Curtis

Adult Education Committee: Becky Hale, Jim Lobsenz, Terri Brain, Melody Ashworth, Kathleen Hering

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 897-4458, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Jim Phillips 482-2388, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520