



SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING
 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
 (QUAKERS)
 Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Ninth Month 2018

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:

2 September

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

9 September

9:30 am: No first-hour activity

16 September

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

23 September

9:30 am: Local Friends will talk about their early-life experiences attending Quaker boarding schools

30 September

9:30 am: Conversation on Nuclear War & Peace, facilitated by Herb, followed by advocacy postcard writing (see page 4 for details)

Former South Mountain Friend Collin Boyd invites fellow Quakers to visit his new home town of Santa Fe
connect@northmoon.org

**Once an Editor,
 Forever a Quaker**



When folks from *Western Friend*, the journal of Hawaii Islands - to - Rocky Mountain Quakers, made a presentation at this summer's annual regional gathering of North Pacific Friends, I was delighted to see that one of our South Mountaineers was once this journal's editor. Back in the day when the publication was called *Friends Bulletin*, Brent Howell was the editor from 1970 to 1973. My curiosity morphed into an interview so that we could all learn the backstory.

In the early fifties, while still in his early twenties, Brent joined the Religious Society of Friends through Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena, CA. At that time, he was a journalist for the *Pasadena Star News*. In 1959, he packed up his family and relocated to Pennsylvania to gain a new perspective. Brent first worked as a clerk-typist for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Later he landed a newspaper job in Allentown, from which, after two years, he was fired for having organized a peace demonstration.

Noticing Brent's journalistic accomplishments, the American Friends Service Committee hired him to edit their *Beyond Deterrence* disarmament-focused pamphlets. After a year, Brent transitioned to copy editing at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Besides sojourning at various Pennsylvania Quaker Meetings, Brent spent time at Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center.

While in Pennsylvania, Brent joined a protest at Ft. Detrick, then the center of the US biological weapons program. "All we did was stand in two lines creating a passageway through which workers had to pass. We didn't yell words, throw items, or hold slogans." Sometime later, Brent heard on the radio that the Pentagon had stopped the germ-warfare program. He was both delighted and amazed. "We never know for sure the connection."

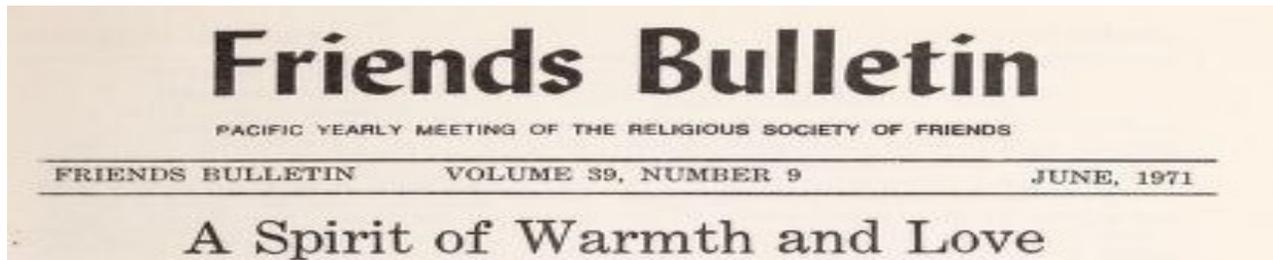
For Brent, the Ft. Detrick experience is indicative of his Quaker foundation. "We had been prepared and disciplined in the Spirit in which the protest should be done."

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Once an Editor, Forever a Quaker continued

It was during the mid-sixties that Brent noticed that as the anti-war movement grew, the contemplative, Quaker-like presence was replaced by marchers jeering and taunting the police, and the demonstrations turned violent. "We had been prepared to get hurt, but not to hurt others. Demonstrations are not to be confrontive, but just to make a statement with respect and love."

A phone call from the *Pasadena Star News* requesting Brent's return brought to a close the Howell family's extended back-east "vacation."



Brent's journalism background was recognized by Pacific Yearly Meeting which nominated him to edit *Friends Bulletin*. During his tenure as editor, two quite different movements occurred. North Pacific Yearly Meeting separated itself from Pacific Yearly Meeting, and there was the blossoming of Women's Liberation. The latter influenced interest groups at Annual Sessions and articles in the *Bulletin*. Brent recalls how committee conveners were referred to as "chairmen" regardless of their gender. Noticing how "chairperson" came to infer female leaders, Brent tried to just use "chair," coined the term "chair'n," and eventually switched to gender-neutral committee "clerk," the term commonly used today.

Brent continued as the *Friends Bulletin* editor until 1973 and at the *Star News* until 1983, all the while freelancing. A divorce, re-marriage, and move to Irvine resulted in Brent's lengthy hiatus from Quaker involvement until his recent re-connection with Quakers through South Mountain Friends Meeting.

Amidst his dry and intermittent joking, Brent shared anecdotes and reflections indicative of his perpetual "Friendly" perspective over the years. As a guest on a talk-radio show in the early sixties, Brent was asked for his reaction to "if his daughter wanted to marry a Negro." After quipping about only having sons, Brent encouraged the caller to be prepared because "in both groups there will be people who don't want the couple to be together."

Brent opined. "I'm 88. I've noticed in all my years with fellow Quakers, there's a tendency for self-doubt and guilt. I'm a bit troubled by this. I try to do what's right, what the Lord wants me to do, without looking for thank yous, without having to know the result. To say the truth and trust that good comes from that."

--Bob Morse

Willow-Witt:

A Ranch of Education

A 27 June 2018 Article by Sarah Lemon in *The Medford Mail Tribune*

<http://mailtribune.com/news/top-stories/willow-witt-a-ranch-of-education>



SILENCE

By David Whyte

SILENCE is frightening, an intimation of the end, the graveyard of fixed identities. Real silence puts any present understanding to shame; orphans us from certainty; leads us beyond the well-known and accepted reality and confronts us with the unknown and previously unacceptable conversation about to break in upon our lives. Silence does not end skepticism but makes it irrelevant. Belief or unbelief or any previously rehearsed story meets the wind in the trees, the distant horn in the busy harbor, or the watching eye and listening ear of a loved one.

In silence, essence speaks to us of essence itself and asks for a kind of unilateral disarmament, our own essential nature slowly emerging as the defended periphery atomizes and falls apart. As the busy edge dissolves, we begin to join the conversation through the portal of a present unknowing, robust vulnerability, revealing in the way we listen, a different ear, a more perceptive eye, an imagination refusing to come too early to a conclusion, and belonging to a different person than the one who first entered the quiet.

Out of the quiet emerges the sheer incarnational presence of the world, a presence that seems to demand a moving internal symmetry in the one breathing and listening equal to its own breathing listening elemental powers. To become deeply silent is not to become still, but to become tidal and seasonal, a coming and going that has its own inimitable, essential character, a story not fully told, like the background of the sea, or the rain falling or the river going on, out of sight, out of our lives. Reality met on its own terms demands absolute presence, and absolute giving away, an ability to live on equal terms with the fleeting and the eternal, the hardly touchable and the fully possible, a full bodily appearance and disappearance, a rested giving in and giving up; another identity braver more generous and more here than the one looking hungrily for the easy, unearned answer.



Briget Boyle Concert at Scott & Patricia's Farm

7-8:30 pm Sunday 9 September

Songwriter, Vocalist, and Guitar Player
Based in Oakland, CA

Concert features acoustic renditions of songs
from her new album, *The Next Line*,
with lush harmonies and intimate storytelling

\$10-20 Suggested donation per adult

Dessert and beverages provided

RSVP for Directions and to Save Your Seat:
patriciamorrisonmusic@gmail.com



North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session

How can I describe the yearly gathering of like-spirited Friends? Described by geography and behavior, it is a gathering of Quakers from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and a corner of Wyoming. Many if not most of those attending seek experiences during the week to foster spiritual and ethical growth and develop deep friendships with a wider group of Friends.

In the words of the NPYM Epistle – a report to the world of Quakers describing how we were nurtured and/or spiritually challenged in the gathering:

We have shared a taste of ... considering our role in the racism that afflicts our society. We are grateful for the ministry of our Friend in Residence: Vanessa Julye, who lovingly rebuked Quakers for upholding white privilege over the centuries up to the present day and called our largely white gathering to undo the powerful silent forces which actively keep other Friends away. There was an enormous range of emotional responses. As Vanessa reminded us, "We live in a world of traumatized people, harmed by the effects of white supremacy"--harm done to people of all colors. We often feel anxious, powerless to respond, and baffled as to how to "do it right."

Junior Friends Yearly Meeting (high school age teens) were most visible in leading a plenary session with a game to highlight the issue of privilege or lack thereof, including race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and dis/abilities. The new pay-as-you-are-led funding brought in more attendance and opened doors for some who otherwise might have been burdened by costs.

--Melody Ashworth

Fifth Sunday Conversation on Nuclear War and Peace

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring a Community Conversation on nuclear war and peace during first hour. It will be followed by our fall advocacy writing, the focus of which will be to urge our President and two U.S. Senators to support the U.S.'s signing and ratifying the recently created UN-sponsored Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons.

The Community Conversations are a project of the Prevent War Working Group of Peace House and are underwritten by a grant from Oregon Humanities. As a member of the working group, I will facilitate. The conversations offer participants a way to speak of their feelings and thoughts living all their lives under the threat of nuclear annihilation. They also offer a way for us to act to end that threat once and for all.

For more about the treaty, visit the website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its role in creating the treaty. <http://www.icanw.org/campaign-news/about-the-treaty-to-prohibit-nuclear-weapons/>

--Herb Rothschild

ADVICES & QUERIES ON STEWARDSHIP

John Woolman's simple statement in *A Word of Remembrance and Caution to the Rich* (1793) may serve as a beginning for all consideration of stewardship: "As Christians, all we possess is the gift of God, and in the distribution of it we act as his stewards; it becomes us therefore to act agreeably to that divine wisdom which he graciously gives to his servants."

The principal of stewardship thus applies to all that we have and are, as individuals, as members of groups, and as inhabitants of the earth. As individuals, we are obliged to use our time, our various abilities, our strength, our money, our material possessions and other resources in a spirit of love, aware that we hold these gifts in trust, and are responsible to use them in the Light. As Friends, and as members of other groups, we seek to apply the same spirit to the use and contribution of our corporate resources. As people, we are obliged to cherish the earth and to protect all its resources in a spirit of humble stewardship, committed to the right sharing of these resources among people everywhere.

"To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives"—this, in the words of Woolman, is the meaning of Quaker stewardship.

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SMFM CALENDAR

September 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light 12:30 pm M&C Committee	3	4	5	6 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	7	8 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
9 9:30 am No First-Hour Activity 7 pm Briget Boyle Concert	10	11 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	12 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	13 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	14	15
16 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	17 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	21	22
23 9:30 am Local Friends will talk about their early-life experiences attending Quaker boarding schools	24	25	26 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	27 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	28	29
30 9:30 am Conversation on Nuclear War & Peace + Postcard Writing						

ADVICES & QUERIES ON STEWARDSHIP continued from page 4

*Do we regard our time, talents, energy, money, material possessions and other resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given?
How do we express this conviction?*

*What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to use and thereby perfect our gifts?
How do we encourage others to use theirs?*

How do we exercise our respect for the balance of nature? Are we careful to avoid poisoning the land, air, and sea and to use the world's resources with care and consideration for future generations and with respect for all life?

In what other ways do we carry out our commitment to stewardship?

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Patricia Morrison 520-390-0674

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Corresponding Clerk: Adam Thompson 215-350-1780, assisted by Alex Reid, Pam Johnson, Sylvie Weaver, Mary Ellen Gordian

Recording Clerk: Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild 531-2848

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

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 303-523-1811

Grants Pass Worship Group: Colombe Leinau (convener) 479-4409; **Liaison:** Melody Ashworth

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940, assisted by Jean Semrau

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

Warming Shelter Committee: Alex Reid (clerk), Liz Olson, Becky Hale, Bob Morse, Steve Wells

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse (morse@mind.net) Monday after Business M'ting

Finance Committee: Melody Ashworth (clerk), Adam Thompson, Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Lanita Witt (clerk), Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Steve Wells, Glenn Allister

Nominating Committee: Adam Thompson (clerk); Alex Reid, Barbara Arrais

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Scott Plummer (clerk), Steve Radcliffe, Crystal Bosbach, Sylvie Weaver, Brent Howell

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

Library Elves: Anna Monders assisted by Steve Wells, Heather Starbird, and Bob Morse

Adult Education Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (clerk), Becky Hale, Colleen Graham

Outreach Committee: Ken Deveney (clerk), Steve Radcliffe

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Crystal Bosbach 930-4222 (clerk), Ken Deveney 488-5506, Melody Ashworth 324-9824, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Brent Howell 841-8841, Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520