



543 South Mountain Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520
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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

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

9 October

Winnowing Session: An in-depth discussion (without any decision-making) of an item that will be brought forth to this month's business meeting. The specific item will be announced in the mid-week bulletin. (9-10 am)

16 October

Meeting for Business (8:30-10 am)

Check the midweek bulletin for further first-hour announcements

To receive midweek bulletin, send request to email address above.

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon
Hybrid: Both at Quaker
Meeting House
and by Zoom at:

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

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Tenth Month 2022

Marybeth's Life Review Through Poetry and Collage

A long-ago-donated textbook on developmental psychology is one of my shaping influences. I remember only one sentence: "The developmental task of the very old is Life Review."

In my late 80's I wrote my memoir, named it *Tasting Awe: My One Life*. After it was self-published in 2019, I kept journaling, writing haiku, and attending or leading SoulCollage® workshops.



The pandemic underscored my decision to stay away from other humans since half of them in my apartment building and in this conservative town in southwestern Oregon denied the plague and wore their required masks under their noses. Writing kept me sane.

Non-rhyming poetry had always interested me. I "heard" whole sentences in my mind that began to take the form of poetry. Sometimes I made a SoulCollage® card to "fit" a poem; other times a poem wrote itself to fit a card. Since 2010 when I discovered Seena Frost's inspired SoulCollage® art therapy model, my effortless daily discipline has been to draw a card and let it speak to me. These journaled quotes turned themselves into poems that were inextricably connected to that card.

I found a book of poems in a free-box that named this pairing "ekphrastic", a delicious word I use lavishly in describing the contents of my second book, *Earth Set*.

No less autobiographical than *Tasting Awe*, my new book *Earth Set* invites you to re-examine your own story and the roles of Quakerism, social activism, art, work, relationships, and all the other "stuff" of life. May *Earth Set* carry you into ever more becoming who you are.

Both of my books are available by free-will donation via contacting me, Marybeth Webster, at marybwebs@gmail.com or 541-707-0946

Advices & Queries on Participation in the Life of the Meeting



Our Religious Society of Friends is enriched when all members and attenders take part to the greatest measure of their gifts. The working of the Spirit in our lives as Friends in community can be seen through prophetic ministry, witness in the world, loving care for each other, conscientious attention to committee work, and the examples provided by lives lived in the Light.

Awareness of the Presence in our lives connects us to each other, and over time we are known by the people with whom we gather. As we worship, work, and socialize together, we form friendships that strengthen our communities

locally and in the wider Quaker world. A meeting grows as it includes new Friends and attenders of many ethnicities, social classes, backgrounds, political beliefs, and theologies.

When meeting for worship holds a central place in our life, regular attendance follows. Friends hold in the Light those who are unable to participate fully in the life of the meeting.

We contribute to the life of the meeting by attending meeting for business, serving on committees, offering and accepting spiritual support, and praying for the spiritual strength and health of the meeting. Contributing our time and resources makes our love visible. Individual Friends discern what financial contributions we can make and what other support we are led to offer.

We encourage attenders to become acquainted with Friends ways and to participate in the meeting community. We encourage attenders to apply for membership when it is evident that the meeting has become their spiritual home.

“The way to call anyone into fellowship with us is not to offer them service, which is likely to arouse the resistance of their pride, but to ask service of them.” —Simeon Shitemi



*Do we each take an active part in the life of our meeting?
In what ways do we grow by participating
in the life of the meeting?*

How has our group grown together through its activities?

Do we bring together groups across generations in a loving community?

*Do we provide youth with responsible opportunities and encouragement
to participate in meeting life and structure?*

Do we express our skills and gifts in service to the meeting and to the Spirit?

Do we recognize and support others in doing so?

Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?

How do we welcome and involve newcomers?

How do we encourage attenders from all ethnicities, backgrounds, and faith perspectives to share in the life of the meeting? Do we urge them to consider membership when they are ready?

How does God speak to each of us through relationship to the meeting?

“ . . . I began to understand that Quakerism is cumulative. The more you enter into the silence and the stillness, the more that you ask to be washed in the Light, the more that you participate, the more you begin to understand that there is ground opening up beneath you that is larger and deeper than you first imagined.”

—John Calvi

Bonding Through Diligence and Laughter

The Renewal of South Mountain Friends Meeting

Following resignations on nominating committee in May 2022, these realizations emerged: Friends had become separated by COVID, fewer people were carrying more responsibilities, the quantity of committees felt burdensome, and joy diminished. June threshing sessions explored which Quaker Meeting elements are, well, elemental, as well as the source of our Meeting's Light—all of which illuminated that renewal and joy- and energy-based leadings toward a new structure was necessary.

Clerk Andra appointed an ad hoc nominating committee (Pam, Nancy, Valeria, Jean, Ken, Gizelle) with a purview broader than a traditional nominating committee—*The Care of the Meeting*. Andra assigned these tasks: 1) Simplify and re-imagine the committee structure to relieve burdens; 2) Encourage Friends to follow their leadings, do what they love, contribute to Meeting from the place where their passion resides; 3) Focus on socializing and reconnecting with others.

Convening seven times over the summer, this ad hoc group met in homes, rotated roles, developed guiding queries, welcomed diverse thoughts, shared laughter, expressed sorrows, and experienced the Light of love. They courageously tossed historic titles, definitions, and structures up in the air, allowing the fundamentals to settle. Delineating several committees as essential, they envisioned all else to arise from leadings and to be carried out in an atmosphere of mutual support. They paired up to host small, fun, get re-acquainted groups to visit, renew, and re-connect.

The ad hoc group suggested that business meeting could function as “a committee of the whole” and connect Friends who share a leading or create



a support group focused on a specific concern. Since Meeting is experiencing a major transformation and all these ideas continue to be works in progress requiring time, the ad hoc group encouraged Friends on committees to maintain their established commitments and responsibilities—possibly through December. Friends who will not be continuing in current posts should inform a member of this ad hoc group so that the group can monitor potential gaps in care and service. In a movement toward self-direction, the ad hoc nominating committee will not be contacting Meeting participants, as has been the role of the nominating committee over the years.

The ad hoc group submitted to the September business meeting for seasoning four core positions: Presiding Clerk—Andra Hollenbeck; Treasurer—Adam Thompson; Recording Clerk—Nancy Spear; Communications Clerk—Jean Semrau (assisted by Valeria Breiten)

Gratitude has been expressed to those Friends who are stepping down after periods of diligent caring for Meeting: Beth Aspedon (corresponding clerk); Jim Phillips and Valeria Breiten (Ministry & Counsel); Alex Reid (Recording Clerk); Valeria Breiten (Joint Committee).

Each Friend is asked to discern their joy, consider their intended contribution to the life of the Meeting, and inform the ad hoc group as to which responsibilities they plan to maintain and which tasks they plan on laying down. The ad hoc group will seek clearness on positions needing to be filled and continue its work until the way of the Meeting becomes clear.

—The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee: Nancy Spear, Jean Semrau, Ken Deveney,
Valeria Breiten, Pam Johnson, and Gizelle Luccio
(compiled by editor)

Remembering Augusta In Her Own Words



Our beloved friend and weekly attender of our Free Writing Friends, Augusta Lucas Andrae, died this summer in her sleep. She has blessed us by sharing her presence and wisdom for eleven years and was less than two weeks from turning 93.

We hold her in the Light with reverence and deep gratitude.

Augusta was very aware and inspirational when she last attended the writers' group, just a week before her passing. During her final writers' gathering, she wrote the following passage about the practice of listening.

—Becky Hale

The Eagle Communion card I received, providing the inspiration for this writing, showed a winged eagle-like messenger coming down from the heavens towards a shaman-like person on Earth and seems to be carrying knowledge and wisdom from the larger universe.

I'd like to think that I am that person, wanting to receive what it has to say.

I'd like to think that I am that person, open to receiving messages from the Greater Beyond, wisdoms, insights, things I need to know and understand in order to be able to carry on with my life here on Earth.

Because I can't think that our lives can be lived on this planet without that communion.

Because now we seem to be living in a world full of lost souls, so many of us seeing life as we know it falling apart, and not understanding why this is happening.

Have we forgotten who we are?

Have we forgotten our true and common origin, the sacredness of our essence, that which can never be lost, but all too often has become disregarded?

True communion seems to tell us that what is required is true listening.

It is in the stillness of listening that real communion can take place, and where we can retrieve so much of what has been lost, communion from the heavens, as well as from those on Earth who have not forgotten.

Listening to the calls of the crows down the street, who have not forgotten.

Listening in close proximity of the trees around us, who haven't forgotten and hold their wisdom silent and sacred.

Listening to the sound of the breeze rustling in leaves, the rushing of water flowing in rivers, the calls of wolves in the night.

Listening in the presence of great mountains and vast oceans.

Listening to all that lives on this planet that has not forgotten and are there to remind us.

If only we could learn to truly listen.

That is the uppermost prayer in my heart.

—Augusta Lucas Andrea

Meeting for Business 18 September 2022

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Andra Hollenbeck, Pamela Johnson, Karen Maleski, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Steve Radcliffe, Herb Rothschild, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Richard Spencer, Adam Thompson, Mary Ward, Mary Beth Webster

Quotation for Reflection “Through the practice of unity, Friends seek a mystical experience in the last place most people would look for one – a business meeting.” Mary Klein, 2008 *Faith and Practice*

Land Acknowledgement This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta and other peoples.

Minutes

2022.9.1 Friends approved the minutes for the June 19 Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer Increased donations in June brought us to within \$500 of budget. Our checking account is now over \$6,000. Friends spent a moment in gratitude for this generosity that preserves our Meeting’s well-being. There were few expenditures in July and August other than for an air purifier, Joint Committee, and BASE. Our financial contributions to BASE do not entitle us to oversight of their operations. Their focus currently is on their concern for children, including their Afro Scouts project, and on celebrations such as MLK Day and Juneteenth.

Peace and Social Concerns

2022.9.2 Friends agreed to sponsor Ashland’s 8 October Pride Parade this year with a \$100 donation from P & SC’s current budget.

2022.9.3 Friends committed to serving as the official sponsor, fundraising with other Oregon Meetings and the Rogue Valley Youth Advocacy Team, to send one or two young Oregonians to the Friends Committee on National Legislation’s Spring Lobby Days in March 2023.

Laundry Love A Benefit Concert for Laundry Love is scheduled for 15 October at Ashland’s Congregational United Church of Christ. Laundry Love continues to grow, with volunteers assisting as many as 12 guests with their laundry on each of its 6 days of service every month. Eight additional volunteers bring coffee, tea, and hot chocolate to those awaiting a shower at OHRA’s shower van twice each week. (See concert poster on page 6.)

The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, composed of Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Pam Johnson, Gizelle

Luccio, Jean Semrau, and Nancy Spear, has met seven times this summer to discuss how we might restructure our Meeting to bring in more joy and less obligation. To comply with State law, Quaker process, and the Meeting’s charter, we are required to fill four leadership positions and maintain essential committees such as Ministry & Counsel and Joint Committee. Nominations for the leadership positions were presented. Appointments to M&C and Joint Committee are in process. Other than that, this ad hoc group is not attempting to “fill slots” or form committees. Instead they are waiting to hear from all attenders about their interests and leadings. They are now organizing small group gatherings in the coming weeks so that attenders can get to know each other better. Meeting attenders recommended keeping Zoom to prevent excluding anyone and spoke for continuing our Care and Support Teams. There were also suggestions about reformatting Meetings for Worship for Business to better address concerns.

2022.9.2 Friends thanked leaders currently stepping down and agreed to season until the October 16 Meeting for Worship for Business the following nominations for one-year terms: Andra Hollenbeck for Presiding Clerk, Adam Thompson for Treasurer, Nancy Spear for Recording Clerk, and Jean Semrau for Communications Clerk.

Ministry and Counsel

2022.9.3 Friends decided to forward to M&C the concept of offering queries at the beginning of Meeting for Worship.

Joint Committee is now running a budget surplus and the number of room rentals is increasing. They still need the \$700/month budgeted for the year by both SMFM and Peace House but do not expect to come back for further monetary requests. The HVAC system was repaired for \$2500, but it is not yet financially feasible to change the system from gas to electric.

Newsletter Friends requested an abbreviated October newsletter with calendar, announcements, and minutes from our Editor Bob Morse who is away assisting his family. Bob and others will be working to coordinate the information that appears on our website with that sent out in the weekly email and included in the monthly newsletter. Attenders expressed deep thanks to Bob for the beauty and inspiration of the newsletter he has created.

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

LISA SPENCER & KAREN WENNLUND
in concert with
THE HOLY MISFITS
and friends



Benefit for LAUNDRY LOVE

Saturday, October 15 - 7:00 p.m.
Ashland Congregational UCC Church
717 Siskiyou Blvd.

Suggested donation \$10 - \$100
Masks Required
Sponsored by Ashland Congregational UCC Church

Might We Be Distracted By Beauty?

Note Then Poem by Catherine Pierce Poet Laureate of Mississippi



Poet's Note

A couple of falls ago, I noticed that the trees were confused—some of them were budding when they should have been readying for winter. But who could blame them? It certainly didn't feel like late November, not most days. And there was something lovely about it, those bright buds against the gray sky, even as it was unsettling. The desert super bloom was a thrill of color, even if it was spurred by extreme weather. Those occasional soft-air days in January, a month that used to be exclusively for car defrostings and the misery of too many layers: a relief, if a guilty one. In writing this poem, I was compelled by the idea that this planet we're steadily destroying is so magnificent that even its deterioration can look, at times, beautiful.

Anthropocene Pastoral

In the beginning, the ending was beautiful.

Early spring everywhere, the trees furred

pink and white, lawns the sharp green
that meant *new*. The sky so blue it looked
manufactured. Robins. We'd heard
the cherry blossoms wouldn't blossom
this year, but what was one epic blooming
when even the desert was an explosion
of verbena? When bobcats slinked through
primroses. When coyotes slept deep in orange
poppies.



One New Year's Day
we woke

to daffodils, wisteria, onion grass wafting
through the open windows. Near the end,
we were eyeletted. We were cottoned.

We were sundressed and barefoot. *At least
it's starting gentle*, we said. An absurd comfort,
we knew, a placebo. But we were built like that.

Built to say *at least*. Built to reach for the heat
of skin on skin even when we were already hot,
built to love the purpling desert in the twilight,
built to marvel over the pink bursting dogwoods,
to hold tight to every pleasure even as we
rocked together toward the graying, even as
we held each other, warmth to warmth,
and said *sorry, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry* while petals
sifted softly to the ground all around us.



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**, Ká Hering, Cathy McDaniel; **Greeters:** Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski, Nancy Spear, George Scholes

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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