

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

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www.ashlandquakers.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person and
via Zoom (link below)

6 April No First Hour Activity

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

13 April Let Your Life Speak

Nancy Spear will share her spiritual journey up to and including finding and experiencing South Mountain Friends Meeting. All Are Welcome!

20 April ZOOM ONLY

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

27 April How to Quaker: Vocal
Ministry *Details on Page 3*

Breakfast Potluck to Follow
Honoring Ken's 90th Birthday

Details on Page 3

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Both at the Quaker
Meeting House and by Zoom
(link below):

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

Outdoor Worship on the Back
Deck 11-11:45 am Sundays

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING **THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)** **Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon** **Fourth Month 2025**

Earthcare Quaker Visits our Meeting

**6-8 pm Friday 4 April Presentation, Preceded
by 4:30 Potluck Dinner at our Meeting House**

Traveling Friend Mary Ann Percy from Bellingham (Washington) Meeting carries a life-long concern for Earth and all our relations. Mary Ann will be joining us South Mountaineers to listen, share, and discern together how Spirit is asking us—individually and collectively—to act on the on-going and accelerating threats to the Web of Life on Earth. This is truly the fundamental existential spiritual crisis of our times, indeed, thinks Mary Ann, of all the time that humans have lived on Earth. What do Friends say?



With the intention to “meet Friends where they are,” Mary Ann offers practices to connect with Spirit, remain faithful, and help Friends move through a sense of despair to discover what is theirs to do—and find joy while doing it! With a nod to William Penn, Mary Ann challenges us to “then let’s see,” Friends, “what love can do.”



Mary Ann represents our Yearly Meeting at Quaker Earthcare Witness. She's a trained Joanna Macy facilitator in *The Work that Reconnects* and a student of both Thomas Berry and Robin Wall Kimmerer. Mary Ann offers Earthcare programs for Friends and non-Friends alike.

As part of North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Knitting Us Together (KUT) program, Eugene Friend John Etter will be accompanying Mary Ann as her Quaker elder. —Bob Morse

Dinner Potluck

Two soups and salad greens will be provided by our Friendship & Hospitality committee. Friends are invited to contribute salad additions, entrées, bread, cheese, desserts, beverages. One of the soups will honor food sensitivities, the other will be chicken-based. **Please read FOOD SENSITIVITIES on Page 3.**

South Mountain Friends Meeting State of Society Report

March 2025

South Mountain Friends Meeting is a consistent Meeting of approximately 40 local participants and about 25 attending Meeting for Worship each week. We have had one new member transferring here from Pennsylvania, one member who moved to California, and one member passed away this past year. We have arranged several clearness and care committees throughout the year. The vocal ministry has increased significantly.



Our ongoing four neighborhood groups meet monthly and continue to be a gift to our members and attenders. The groups usually include some worship sharing, food, and drinks plus a joy of getting to know each other better. They are frequently mentioned as a favorite part of our Meeting community.

We now have a thriving weekly calendar including Free Writing Friends, Meditation on Peace and Love, and outdoor worship plus a monthly Song Circle, Family Game Night, Circle of Light, Women's group, and Men's group.

Soul Food Sundays, a sharing of food after worship, is now quarterly, honoring each season and bringing our Meeting together in conversation and joy.

Our meeting for worship continues to be hybrid, while we experiment with business meetings only on Zoom. Friends reviewed and felt the hybrid worship is very important for making us accessible to Friends' participation when ill or at a distance. About 25% of our weekly worship attendees are on Zoom.

"How to Quaker" series, a monthly, hour-long class which a local, seasoned Quaker has adapted from Quakerism 101, has been very popular both in attendance and in viewing the recordings available on our website.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to work on legislative concerns and to produce Braver Angels workshops. The committee has guided our Meeting to again this year help send two people to FCNL Spring Lobby Days, supporting young people to learn how to be effective advocates. We have had two discussion sessions since the Presidential election on our reactions to the changes and how we are responding to it.

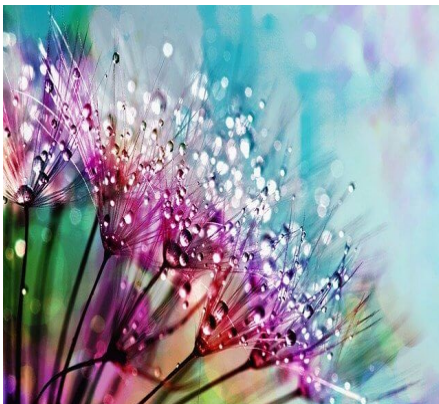
In March 2024, Eugene Quaker Helen Park conducted a well-attended training on nonviolent presence for South Mountain Friends. As a result, scarves and t-shirts were purchased to be able to make us more visible when we are out in the community. The t-shirts say, "Growing in the Light, South Mountain Friends Meeting, AshlandQuakers.org"

During Spring 2024, along with partnering faith communities, we offered two local showings of the movie *God & Country* to provide education and information about Christian Nationalism.

In September 2024, we staffed a Quaker booth at Southern Oregon University and at our regional MultiCultural Fair, making ourselves more visible, especially to students and families. Planning and executing the latter event proved to be a lovely team-building for our Meeting.

During October 2024, we once again marched in the Ashland Gay Pride Parade with our banner and matching t-shirts. We have participated since its inception.

Our Ministry & Counsel initiated a discussion assessing whether our Land Acknowledgement sufficiently helps us understand and support current day Native Americans. This exploration led to our inviting Boulder Quaker Paula Palmer, founder of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, to educate us on Quaker Boarding Schools for Native Americans in March, 2025.



Our Meeting has benefited from a strong, active Ministry and Counsel and the participation of newer and younger participants, bringing a vibrancy to our Meeting that was reduced during the pandemic.

—Valeria Breiten, Clerk, South Mountain Friends Meeting

**South Mountain's Ann Gaffney
Seasoned Educator
Candidate for Ashland School Board**
Please Help Spread Ann's Name Recognition

<https://www.gaffneyforashlandschools.com/>



InterPlay

7-9 pm Thursday 24 April in the Meeting House's Meeting Room



InterPlay is an "active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body."

In January, we had successful gathering exploring—through games, embodied images, and story-telling—how to apply improv to our lives. I am interested in co-discovering how this gathering can be used during the next four years of political theater and planned cruelty to support ourselves and our communities. Ambitious stuff, even while I'm remembering that trust- and community-building take time.

As we prepare for our April InterPlay session, we review our vision: We meet quarterly as an "Applied Improv Open Studio." We explore Theater of the Oppressed, Playback Theatre, and our own ideas. We are influenced by comedy improv, Drama Therapy, PsychoDrama, and sociodrama. We say "yes, and." We celebrate mistakes as we explore the struggles of our lives in story and the art of theater. We explore the forces that keep us from living free, loving, and empowered. We rehearse solutions for the future. We discover that our personal issues are collective concerns and look for inspiration to make change. We recognize that theater can be done without anyone assigned to "only" spectate but can be made together. We have fun! Come join Ká Hering and me as we lead exercises influenced by Ká's experience with InterPlay (interplay.org). All are welcome!

—Rochelle Webster (rochellenp@gmail.com)



Celebrate Ken's Turning 90

**10-11 am Sunday 27 April at the Meeting House
Potluck Breakfast (Right After How to Quaker)**

How to Quaker: Vocal Ministry: Speaking out of the silence to that which is eternal, resonates in the soul, leads to spiritual change

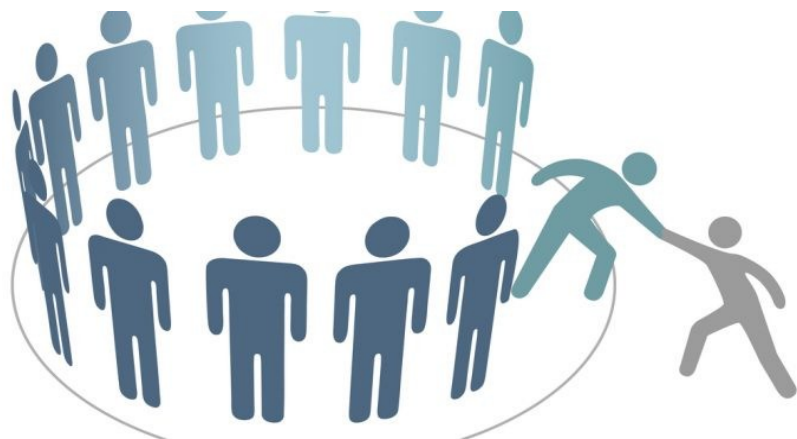
Potluck Breakfast: Breakfast potatoes and a breakfast casserole will be provided by our Friendship & Hospitality committee. Friends are invited to contribute fruit, muffins/baked goods, bagels, spreads. Because Easter spirit will still be in the air, Friends are also welcome to bring deviled eggs or (painted) hard boiled eggs.

Food Sensitivities

Within our Quaker community, there are such food sensitivities and dietary preferences as gluten-free, onions, vinegar, tomatoes, bay leaf, and vegetarian/vegan. Please list ingredients used in your potluck contribution. —Ká Hering, Crystal Bosbach, Bob Morse

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.

“ . . . 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, 2009

*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?

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

Free Writing Friends: every MONDAY afternoon

Song Circle: 6:30 pm 2nd TUESDAYS

Meditation on Peace & Love: 5-6 pm every THURSDAY

Details at [OUR SCHEDULE](#) | [AshlandQuakers](#)



Meeting for Worship for Business 16 March 2025

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Bob Morse, Fernando Gapasin, Althea Godfrey, Ká Hering, Nancy Spear, Andra Hollenbeck, Josephine Olson, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson.

Quote & Reflection: The Quaker method for reaching decisions involves searching for the right corporate decisions and arriving at the “sense of the meeting” or unity. Friends seek divine guidance, are patient with each other, and are concerned for the good of the meeting as a whole. Friends allow adequate time for deliberate and prayerful consideration of the matter in hand. Friends attend meeting for business open to the leadings of the Spirit. During the meeting, Friends speak briefly and to the point, express their own views, avoid refuting statements made by others, and credit purity of motive to all. Before speaking, Friends seek recognition from the clerk. Friends hesitate to speak more than once on an issue.
~ *Faith & Practice* page 128

2025.3.1 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the February Business Meeting.

Treasurer Report: Donations are running quite a bit behind budgeted. Finance Committee is planning on sending out a donation-request letter in the next month or so.

In the past the Meeting has funded travel for individuals to attend Quaker(ly) gatherings. It was removed from the budget because it was routinely not used. Friends request that Finance Committee add travel grants back into the budget for next fiscal year as requesting money at Business Meeting is often a barrier to asking.

2025.3.2 Friends approved \$400 to send Hazel Jordan to the Friends World Committee for

Consultation, Section of the Americas, Gathering.

Children’s Education and Outreach Ad-Hoc Committee: About a year ago, as an outgrowth of the budgeting process, the meeting recognized a hope for more families with children to attend our Meeting. Work was done on organizing and cleaning out space, ensuring curricular materials were available, and doing some initial outreach. Now Friends pondered whether we’re interested in continuing to participate in community events, whether we’re really considering an ad hoc Outreach Committee since the existing committee competed the upgrading for a Children’s Program, how do we bridge an ad hoc committee with the need for staffing events, and what’s our message and does it intersect (or not) with being evangelical.

Overall, friends were interested in being visible in the community. Friends were clear that one of the wonderful things about this Meeting is that we do not try to convert anyone to Quakerism. We shine our light in a variety of ways and, similarly, others are drawn to it in a variety of ways. The following Friends shared an interest in serving on an ad hoc Outreach Committee: Ká Hering and Fernando Gapasin. Others with interest should reach out to Meeting’s clerk.

Friendship & Hospitality (F&H): See Pages 1 and 3 for details on F&H events.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C): Part of having a traveling Friend is that the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting writes a traveling minute to introduce the Traveling Friend. Bob read the current letter aloud.

Ministry & Counsel is wondering how Friends are feeling after our discussion about hopes and fears. Friends’ conversation included gratefulness for the opportunity to share together, indications that some Friends whose views differed

chose to remain silent, and a desire for more conversation. Friends clarified Quaker process, noting the differences between:.

Worship Sharing: All participants are invited to share relative to given queries. The focus is on sharing one’s perspective. Typically, all Friends share once before Friends share again.

Worship Discussion: All present are invited to participate in back-and-forth discussion focused on queries. It is not expected that everyone will speak once before others speak again. The focus is on developing an understanding of different perspectives and listening with love.

Winnowing Sessions: An extension of Business Meeting that takes place at a separate time so as to preserve the Business Meeting time for other work. The goal is to emerge from the Winnowing Session with a recommendation to bring back to Meeting for Business, the only place where Meeting-wide decisions are made.

M&C will hold a called committee meeting to plan movement forward on our hopes and fears, and reminded Friends that the members of M&C open their ears to Friends for support and discussion about concerns and fears at any time.

Presiding Clerk: Valeria read the State of the Society Report. The following people have been appointed to Nominating Committee: Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson, Richard Spencer, Wyatt Banks. Business Meetings will continue to be Zoom only through June (after which we have our summer break).

Other: Melody suggested that we might add “with gratitude we acknowledge the care of the original inhabitants” to our Land Acknowledgement. Respectfully submitted, Valeria Breiten, Clerk Ann Gaffney, Recording Clerk

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney 603-490-7193

Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855 along with Mary Ellen Gordian and Kitty Cable

Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118; Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Bob Morse 482-8849, David Runkel 210-0031, Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, Althea Godfrey 261-5329, Merlin McDaniel 301-6054, Valeria Breiten (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Richard Spencer 707-543-6330, Wyatt Banks, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson

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

***Finance:** Nancy Spear, Ann Gaffney, Adam Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Crystal Bosbach, Cathy McDaniel, JoAnn Sustrick;
Welcomers: Andra Hollenbeck, Tara Jones, Rochelle Webster, Fernando Gapasin, Richard Spencer

*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 301-6054

***Child Education:** Ad Hoc Children's Committee

***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222

***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Friends Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

***Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329

***Library:** A Friend

***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146

***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206

***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449

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

Monthly Neighborhood Gatherings

***Dancing Bears group:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848

***Outliers group:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225

***Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

** = All new and longtime participants welcome*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520