



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

1 April

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: F&H Committee

8 April

9:30 am: Getting to Know Your Friends (details on page 6)

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

15 April

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

22 April

9:30 am: No first hour activity

29 April

9:30 am: "Voices of the Valley" local climate documentary made by SOCAN members including Liz Olson; plus postcard writing to Gov. Kate Brown on the Jordan Cove Pipeline (details on page 2)

*If I knew you and you knew me,
 And each of us could clearly see
 By that inner light divine
 The meaning of your heart and mine;
 I'm sure that we would differ less
 And clasp our hands in friendliness,
 If you knew me and I knew you.*

--Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*



Who Was Howard Thurman?

Bob Morse came across this meditation by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman in the South Mountain Friends Library book *Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights*. Bob

asked me to acquaint Friends with this amazing theologian, religious leader, Civil Rights luminary, prolific writer, and profound mystic.

My connection to Thurman is through The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples—founded in 1944 during World War II in San Francisco as our country's first interracial and interfaith church. Thurman, a celebrated African-American minister, and Rev. Dr. Alfred Fisk, a Caucasian Presbyterian minister, were the co-founders who led this vision for a place where people could come together regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, (and now we add gender preference) and find "common ground" in sharing worship and spiritual growth together. I found home with Fellowship Church in 2009 while I was attending seminary. I was ordained there in 2013 and given the title of Associate Minister-at-Large. I still travel to the Bay Area periodically to participate in the services and continue to serve on the Board of Trustees.

(Liz Olson's essay on Howard Thurman continues of page 3)

Building & Grounds Work Party

9 am to noon Saturday April 7 * All Welcome * Details on page 7

Climate Documentary “Voices of the Valley” & Postcards to our Governor

At first hour on 29 April, the fifth Sunday of the month, Peace & Social Concerns will screen a shortened version of the documentary “Voices of the Valley.” SMFM’s Liz Olson had a major hand in the production, which was sponsored by Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN). In conjunction with the film, there will be our Spring advocacy writing on a closely related issue—the proposed Jordan Cove natural gas pipeline and the plant in Coos Bay that will turn it into Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and export it to the Far East.

The film features interviews with people from our area speaking about the various impacts of climate change, including those on agriculture, commerce and health. Among those interviewed are a plant nursery owner, two young activists, Oregon Shakespeare Festival representatives, the medical director of Jackson County Health and Human Services—and Friends Suzanne Willow and Lanita Witt (pictured here in the process of being filmed).



We will be writing to Gov. Kate Brown, urging her to take a stand against the pipeline. She has not yet done that. But she has tried to position herself and Oregon as a leader in the struggle against global warming, so it is completely inconsistent of her to remain silent about a project that will, if put into operation, become the largest single emitter of greenhouse gases in the state.

There will be writing materials, a brief statement of the issue, and a sample letter/postcard in the fellowship room after first hour and after worship. P&SC urges everyone to take five-to-ten minutes to write. It’s the least we can do for our children and grandchildren.

--Herb Rothschild

Meeting House Walls Feature Art Depicting Homelessness

Aaron Burgess’s ARTIST’S STATEMENT:

I have never been homeless. But I’ve lived in big cities with little money. I’ve seen a lot of sadness on the streets, under bridges, on freeway ramps, in doorways: the mentally ill, veterans of our immoral wars who seek drugs/alcohol to treat their demons, runaways, abused kids who never had a chance. People who just had a run of bad luck. Battered women. And I’ve seen the bankers driving past in their \$100,000 cars with their beautiful wives and their hideous arrogance to their fancy restaurants.

I wanted to convey in my Homeless Series of paintings and drawings a feeling of utter outrage. Fury at the injustice of poverty and homelessness here in the richest and most powerful country in the world. Americans are always speaking of the United States as a Christian nation. But it is not. On numerous fronts. Just look at our rich, gangster current president! How can there be such disparity of wealth and such callous disregard for the poor when it is so completely unnecessary? It’s not complicated. It is simple greed.

Bertrand Russell once said, “Remember your humanity and forget the rest.” Tolstoy once said, “One cannot be a rich man and a good man. For a rich man, if he were good, would not be for long because he would give his money away.” Christ once said, “... it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Dr. Rev. Howard Thurman (Continued from page 1)

Howard Washington Thurman (1899-1981) was raised Baptist and became an ordained minister at the age of 26. In addition to his nine years at Fellowship Church, he served as Dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University and also at Marsh Chapel at Boston University. Thurman's life-long connection with Quakers began in 1929, when he undertook a semester of special study at Haverford College with Rufus Jones, a noted Quaker philosopher and mystic.

One of the most powerful events in Thurman's life was a trip to meet Mahatma Gandhi. Two significant events happened on this trip. One was a discussion with an (unidentified) Indian academic who unnerved Thurman with the question as to how could the "Negro people" (terminology used then) adopt the Christian religion of their oppressors, especially when the religion itself used the Biblical scriptures to validate the abomination of slavery.

Thurman wrestled deeply with this challenging question and ended up writing his book *Jesus and the Disinherited* as a response. Thurman's thesis was that Jesus, like the Negro, "had his back against the wall" as an oppressed minority under the empire of Rome. "The religion of Jesus" reveals to the Black person a way to restore dignity to their lives despite life-crippling fear, hatred, and deception (the "Hounds of Hell") and to see themselves equally as children of God. Thurman was a spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. (and many in the early Civil Rights movement), and King was said to have carried *Jesus and the Disinherited* with him in his briefcase. Thurman also taught Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, one of the founders of the Jewish Renewal movement and an innovator in ecumenical dialogue; Reb Zalman cited Thurman as among the teachers who first compelled him to explore the mystical trends beyond Judaism.

The other related outcome of Thurman's journey to India was that Gandhi described his work of nonviolent social transformation and asked Thurman to share it with the communities in the United States as a tool for their own movements against oppression. Gandhi accurately predicted that *"It may be through the Negroes that the unadulterated message of nonviolence will be delivered to the world."*

At Fellowship Church we still use the same liturgical structure for the service that the founders created and, as an interfaith community, there is no one dogma or text. However, we could be guilty of respecting Thurman's writings as sacred scripture, and we manage to refer to them in nearly every service in one way or another.

According to *Black Fire*, Thurman's essays were often republished in *Friends Journal*, and "Thurman is most relevant to Friends for his careful and probing analysis of the nature of Light and of 'centering down.' In his profound insight into our interior spiritual lives, he continued the tradition of Rufus Jones as meaningfully as did Thomas Kelly and Douglas Steere."

Although Thurman's writings are not widely known outside the theological realm, some of his words have made it into popular culture and can be found even on Pinterest posters. I share with you a few of his classic quotes:

"Keep fresh before me the moment of my High Resolve, that in fair weather or foul, in good times or in tempests, in the days when the darkness and the foe are nameless or familiar, I may not forget that to which my life is committed."

"If you cannot hear the sound of the genuine in you, you will all your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls."

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

--Liz Olson

Meeting For Worship For Business: 18 March 2018

Present: Ken Deveney, Crystal Bosbach, Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth (recording clerk), Anna Monders, Patricia Morrison (clerk), Scott Plummer, Bob Morse, Jim Phillips, Herb Rothschild, Lanita Witt.

Meeting opened with worship. Clerk Patricia Morrison read a quote from Martha Paxon Grundy.

Finance Committee: Melody Ashworth reminded us that the Finance Committee will be forming the budget during the next month. They would like to receive requests from committees and individual Friends who feel that their leadings will need financial support.

Library: see page 6.

Peace and Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild passed out a sheet listing the committee's FY2018 donations. Three local organizations that focus on climate work have been added; two local peace and justice groups have been dropped. The committee has added an extra \$50 to their donations budget, taking it from their activities budget. A Friend reminded us that our budget line items are a best guess, not an allocation which we must stay within. Next year's budget request for donations will be \$1200, up from \$800 this year. The committee has considered a communication from another NPYM meeting concerning fear as a driver of social disruption; they do not feel currently led to work on this issue. Two Friends remarked that work on this issue is moving forward in the Meeting through other channels.

Ministry & Counsel: Crystal Bosbach reported that M&C is looking at ways to help us get to know each other better. (See Adult Ed on page 6.) M&C would like to add one or two words to the stating of our names during the round of introductions at the rise of meeting; these would respond to a question

from the person closing Meeting, such as "Where were you born?" or "What is your current occupation?" A Friend reminded us that we have dropped our "Let your life speak" series, which had helped us learn about each other. The clerk asked *Friends to make suggestions to M&C as to what additional information might be requested.* Friends **agreed** to have this process added to our rise of meeting routine for the next two months, as an experiment.

M&C is looking again at our *child safety guidelines.* There are some updates that need to be made. An *ad hoc committee* was requested; *please contact Crystal if you are willing to serve.*

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild reported that the meeting has received 74% of our budgeted income for the year and has spent just 57%. We have a total of \$25,695.59 in four accounts. We provide \$90 a month for the community warming shelter, which Friends staff on Sunday nights. The Treasurer urged Friends to spend money on leadings; we have plenty.

Parking: Jim Phillips reported that he and Bill Ashworth went to see SOU Parking Supervisor Fred Creek regarding the unfolding situation with the campus parking lot. We require the use of 8 spaces in this lot to maintain our City of Ashland Conditional Use Permit. SOU's new policy: All parking for all purposes will be charged. The campus wants to accommodate our needs insofar as possible. We can continue to use our current eight slots in the parking lot free for the immediate future. Fred Creek proposed an annual fee of \$936 for the Meeting's parking. The campus has already bent their rules in several ways to lower our annual cost from \$2012 to \$936. SOU's parking department must be self-supporting; they have no budget beyond what

they can raise in parking fees. Spending part of our budget surplus to help the university in this manner may be a good leading for the Meeting to follow, as it can increase our visibility on campus and because we want to be good neighbors. The number of parking spaces needs to be clarified, and also the potential use of our Meeting House by the university, which is specified as a tradeoff for parking in our original parking agreement, and which has some financial value. Our draft budget for next year will include \$936 for this purpose; we can adjust this later, if necessary. Jim and Bill will be returning to Fred for further discussion.

Warming shelter: Patricia Morrison reported that our contract with the city now requires the Meeting to accept all liability for the work of our volunteers at the shelter. We don't have liability coverage for activities outside of this building: We are covered only by Peace House's insurance for activities inside the building. We have two choices: We can get our own insurance policy, including a rider supporting outside activity, or we can remove our name from sponsorship of the shelter and allow our volunteers to operate under the insurance policy of the UCC, our Sunday night partner. If we ride on the UCC's insurance, we should compensate them for a portion of their costs. We want to be visible in the community, so riding on UCC's insurance and taking our name off the warming shelter would be distasteful to many. Two Friends with a history on Joint Committee believe that the insurance for the building is actually in our name. The UCC is carrying Laundry Love; we are principally carrying Sunday night at the shelter, so it may be inappropriate to ask them for this additional burden. It was **decided** that if the insurance

To be continued on page 5

Local Quaker Runs for County Commissioner

A good physician listens carefully, considers all options, and helps patients make the best decisions; I am running for County Commissioner because these are the same skills our public servants should have. I believe my experience gives me a unique ability to serve the various needs of Jackson County residents.

As owners of Willow-Witt Ranch, my family and I have developed a robust small farm business including the raising of livestock, vegetable farming, farm-stay accommodations and educational programs. I know the value of our county's farmland and how to support small businesses.



After 30 years of ranching and forest management for timber production and fire resilience, I know the value of our resources. As County Commissioner I will address:

LAND, FORESTS, and WATER: Protect farmlands, support our local agricultural economy, promote forest health, and manage water resources.

ECONOMIC SECURITY: Focus on issues that address education, poverty, hunger, and homelessness so we can achieve a strong local economy.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Increase mental health care, substance abuse and addiction treatment, and address our county jail system's revolving door. --Lanita Witt, M.D.

PERENNIAL SWAP

Morriplum Farm has created 10 more gardens, and now we need to fill them! We would appreciate receiving donations of perennials from Friends. If you would like to divide, clean up, or update your garden and have flowers to spare, we would gladly give them a home here. Also, we have some that we can give to you. We are interested in outdoor plants; deer resistance is not necessary. Contact Scott to arrange pickup and drop off. (morriplumfarmsanctuary@gmail.com), Our website: www.morriplumfarmsanctuary.com.

Meeting for Business

(continued from page 4)

is in Peace House's name, Joint Committee will see about adding our name. The sense of the meeting is that we would like to find a way to continue to have our name connected to the warming shelter work. (NOTE: it was discovered following Business Meeting that the building's insurance policy is actually in our name. A liability rider will be sought.)

Announcements: Clerk Patricia Morrison reported that the new Cascade-Sierra Yearly Meeting will have their first annual session May 18-20 and are inviting other Friends' organizations to send visitors. This is the new Yearly Meeting of programmed Friends churches that are open and affirming. *Friends interested in attending should contact Patricia.* Patricia announced the upcoming folk concert by Bill Ashworth at Morriplum Farm on March 24 and a planned snowshoe trip to Crater Lake on March 31; *contact Patricia and Scott if you are interested in attending either of these events.* Fourth Sunday will have a *non-potluck* lunch for which Alex and Javan Reid will prepare the main course; *Friends may bring extra items for themselves or to share.* First Hour on the fourth Sunday in April is currently open. The local March for Life, a national effort by teens for control of gun violence, will be held in Medford from 11 to 1 this coming Saturday.

Meeting closed with worship. Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Morrison, Clerk
Bill Ashworth, Recording Clerk

ADVICES & QUERIES ON PEACE

Peace is the state in which we are in accord with God, the earth, others, and ourselves. We know that true, lasting peace among us can finally be attained only through unity in the life of the spirit. We work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation, and the right sharing of the world's resources.

As we work for peace in the world, we search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. We refuse to join in actions which lead to destruction and death. We seek ways to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people.

Do we live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all war?

Do we refrain from taking part in war as inconsistent with the spirit of Christ?

What are we doing to remove the causes of war and to bring about the conditions of peace? Where there are hatred, division, and strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?

How do we communicate to others an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

As we work for peace in the world, are we nourished by peace within ourselves?

ADULT EDUCATION:

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FRIENDS

9:30 am Sunday 8 April 2018

Rochelle will lead us in games and exercises that will help us learn about ourselves and each other in both superficial and in meaningful ways. Expect to walk around the room a little. We will practice listening deeply and find commonalities that we didn't know were there. There will be time to hold the experience in the Light.

Help Expand Our South Mountain Library Collection

Your South Mountain Friends Library elves request your suggestions (by 30 April) for new books for us to purchase to expand our book collection. Currently, our books fall into the following categories: Quaker classics/journals, Quaker biographies, twenty-first century Quaker writers, local Quaker authors, and books supportive of our Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace/nonviolence, integrity, equality, and stewardship/sustainability. We welcome copies of books you've written (regardless of their genre) and recommendations for books that fit our categories. We'd like to develop mini library sections that reflect the leadings of our Meeting or of individual Friends. Such topics include climate change and drawdown, racial justice and equity, homelessness and alternative housing, witnessing for peace and Honduras. Other leadings? Other recommendations? --Elf Anna, Elf Steve, Elf Heather, & Elf Bob

ON RESPONDING TO OUR CALLINGS:

THE PATH OF THE SOUL

A certain kind of courage is required to follow what truly calls to us; why else would so many choose to live within false certainties and pretensions of security? If genuine treasures were easy to find this world would be a different place. If the path of dreams were easy to walk or predictable to follow many more would go that route. The truth is that most prefer the safer paths in life even if they know that their souls are called another way.

What truly calls to us is beyond what we know or can measure. It uses the language of hidden treasures and distant cities to awaken something sleeping within us. The soul knows that we must be drawn out of ourselves in order to truly become ourselves. Call it a dream or "the treasure hard to attain;" call it a vocation or the awakening of one's innate genius. Call it what you will, upon hearing the call we must follow or else lose the true thread of our lives. *A true vocation requires shedding anything that would impede or obscure the call. A true pilgrimage requires letting go of the very things most people try to hold onto. In seeking after what the soul desires, we become pilgrims with no home but the path the soul would have us follow.*

As the old proverb says, "Before you begin the journey, you own the journey. Once you have begun, the journey owns you." After all, what good is a dream that doesn't test the mettle of the dreamer? What good is a path that doesn't carry us to the edge of our capacity and then beyond that place? A true calling involves a great exposure before it can become a genuine refuge.

In the soul's adventure we become a self unknown, a self unexpected, and in that way we find the greater self within us. Answering the call gives primacy to unknown places and foreign lands; it requires that we seek farther in the world than we would choose on our own. We enter our essential "creatureliness" and learn to sniff at the world again. We learn to read the wind and find our way by sensing and intuiting, by imagining and by dreaming on. Eventually, the dream of the soul becomes the only hope; it becomes a prayer and a map as well. In allowing the journey to "have us" we become lost; we lose our usual selves in order to find our original self again. Lost souls are the only ones who ever get found.

--Excerpted from Michael Meade's *Fate and Destiny*

Michael Meade, is a renowned storyteller, author, and scholar of mythology, anthropology, and psychology.

SMFM CALENDAR

April 2018

Sun Mo Tue Wed Thu Fr Sat

1 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light 12:30 pm F&H Committee	2	3	4	5 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	6	7 9 am to noon All-Hands- Welcome Buildings & Grounds Work Party
8 9:30 am Getting to Know Your Friends (led by Rochelle) 12:30 pm M&C Committee	9	10 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	11 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group	12 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	13	14 Ashland Food Project pickup 1-4 pm Laundry Love
15 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business SMFM Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	20	21
22 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	23	24	25 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group	26 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	27	28
29 9:30 am Film "Voices of the Valley" (Climate Change) + Postcard Writing to Gov. Brown about proposed Jordan Cove pipeline	30					

Building & Grounds All-Hands-Welcome Work Party

9 am to noon Saturday April 7

Rake leaves, Trim plants, Reinforce retaining wall, Clean outdoor drain, Fix sign,
Mud and tape library ceiling, Remove needles and leaves from roof.

Light Group: A biweekly gathering that invites everyone to attend any or all group sessions. The group explores Quaker spirituality as practiced by the early Friends and as described by Rex Ambler in his book, *Light to Live By*. For further information, please contact Alex Reid, convener, at 707-499-9146 or ralexandrareid@gmail.com.

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: Jean Semrau 488-6855, assisted by Sylvie Weaver

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) Business Meeting day

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)

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

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Ashland, Oregon 97520