



543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

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www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Zoom link below

JUNE

4 June 8:30-10 am

Winnowing: Meeting's Aspirations &
Called Business Meeting (See P.5)

10:30-11 am: Circle of Light

11 June No First-Hour Activity

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday (See P. 3)

18 June 8:30-10 am

Business Meeting

25 June 9-10 am

How to Quaker

SUMMERTIME

First Sundays

10:30-11 am: Circle of Light

Second Sundays

12:15-2 pm: Soul Food Sunday

Fourth Sundays

9-10 am: How to Quaker

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZhIbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING **THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)** **Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon** **Summertime 2023**

Shape of Silence

The silence is profound this morning. It is not portentous; there seems to be nothing in the waiting. It is a gentle silence, liquid and pastel, a shimmer on still waters.

It is good to listen to the silence that surrounds each day. In the same way that music is made alive by the silence that surrounds the notes, a day comes alive by the silence that surrounds our actions. And the dawn is the time when silence reveals herself most clearly.

I once met a man who was raised on the Canadian prairies. We got to talking about the open space, and how it had shaped his spirit. "When the wind stops," he said, "it is so loud that everyone pauses to listen."

The thought intrigued me. How could the end of a sound be loud?

But when I traveled to those prairies, I began to understand. For the people in the great prairies, the sound they hear, the music that underlies their lives, is the constant and ever-present howl of the wind. To them it is no sound at all. When it is removed, the silence takes a different shape, and all are aware of it; all pause to hear.

We need to pay heed to the many silences in our lives. An empty room is alive with a different silence than a room where someone is hiding. The silence of a happy house echoes less darkly than the silence of a house of brooding anger. The silence of a winter morning is sharper than the silence of a summer dawn. The silence of a mountain pass is larger than the silence of a forest glen.

These are not fantasies; they are subtle discriminations of the senses. Though all are the absence of sound, each silence has a character of its own.

No meditation better clears the mind than to listen to the shape of the silence that surrounds us. It focuses us on the thin line between what is there and what is not there. It opens our heart to the unseen, and reminds us that the world is larger than the events that fill our days.

Into this morning's silence comes the first call of a bird. I listen carefully. It cuts through the silence like a rainbow through the dawn.

—Kent Nerburn
Contributed by Ká Hering



Quaker-Hosted Events Open to the Greater Community All are Welcome

Every **MONDAY** 3 – 5 pm

Free Writing Friends (Location: In the Meeting House Kitchen)

Everyone is welcome to drop in to experience the Light that comes through this practice. Participants meditate for 5 minutes, write as inspired from stream of consciousness, and share with the circle (if they so choose). We then share prompts, which anyone present can provide, and write for 20 minutes. Participants, if comfortable, then read what came through their heart and awareness. There is no critique. If a writer wishes to receive feedback, folks simply reflect on what was moving or meaningful. This circle has met weekly for over a decade. Although attenders come and go, there is a core group who hold all voices in warm mutual respect. —Becky Hale (bec.hale4@gmail.com)

Second TUESDAYS 6:30 pm
Song Circle (Location: In the Meeting House Meeting Room)



We take turns choosing a song to sing together in a circle, usually from *"Rise Up Singing"* and *Rise Again* songbooks by Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, although folks are welcome to bring and teach other songs. Guitars and other acoustic instruments are appreciated for accompaniment. It may remind you of times gone by around the campfire. A peace song is always sung.

—Rochelle Webster (rochellenp@gmail.com)



*Song Circle Photos
Contributed by Rochelle Webster*

Second FRIDAYS 4 pm

Outdoor Meditation (Location: In Blue Heron Park, Phoenix, OR)

We meet adjacent to the Children's Play Area. If it's raining, we meet in the picnic shelter.

—Ká Hering (541-778-5206)

Soul Food Sunday

Rise of Meeting on 2nd Sundays

Sharing Food: Everyone's invited to create their own lunch from an organic salad bar. We welcome any and all potluck contributions of a summer salad (like coleslaw, tabouli, potato, egg, or tuna salad), as well fresh vegetables, bread/crackers and cheese, fruits, deserts, etc. It's helpful to list ingredients for those with food sensitivities. No contributions? No worries; there's always plenty!

Sharing Ourselves: Following lunch, we'll gather for a get-better-acquainted, community-building activity.



11 June Sharing Ourselves Activity: Song Circle

A special meeting of Song Circle is coming to Soul Food Sunday! Song Circle is a group singalong where we take turns choosing a song to sing together in a circle.

Guitars and other acoustic instruments are welcome.

—Rochelle Webster

*Song Circle Photos
Contributed by
Rochelle Webster*



9 July Sharing Ourselves Activity: Quaker House

Wayne Finegar, the executive director of Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, requested the opportunity to worship with us and engage us in conversation about Quaker House. After attending the Friends General Conference Gathering in Monmouth, Oregon, 2-8 July, Wayne, a seasoned Friend, will be visiting an Ashland friend and, thus, available to visit with us.

Unlike our more proximal Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, California, a retreat and conference center, Quaker House was founded in 1969 by North Carolina Friends and active members of the military at Fort Bragg, also, in Fayetteville. Today the work of Quaker House encompasses a counseling program for those suffering from the effects of participation in the military; supports the nationwide GI Rights Hotline, and educates members of the military, their families, and the public about military issues while advocating for a more peaceful world. "Yes to the troops; no to the wars!"

The work at Quaker House has unearthed a cousin to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder called Moral Injury. When one uses force to do to other people things one knows inwardly are wrong, the self-injury is hidden but real. Moral Injury is being observed in contexts different from and broader than that of warfare.

On 9 July, Wayne will briefly introduce us to Quaker House and to their work with Moral Injury. Then he'll lead a discussion based on the query *What can Quakers point to in the Quaker testimonies to address Moral Injury?*

Synchronistically, our May and June "How to Quaker" sessions will be focusing on the testimonies. Quaker testimony means the public witness to an inward faith. Testimonies relate to the "practice" part of faith and practice and are remembered by SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship/sustainability). *More about witnessing on page 4.*

—Bob Morse

Soul Food Sunday Activities in Aug & Sep will be Announced in the Mid-Week Bulletin

Advices & Queries on Witness

True godliness doesn't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavors to mend it; not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick.

—William Penn, 1682

Witness calls us into action.

We follow the witness that we are called to, with a whole heart, understanding that no one person can carry the weight of the whole world.

While we seek affinity with others who share the same concerns, we also seek opportunities to find common ground with those who have differing points of view.

Speak Truth to power with love.

Quaker witness results from our practice of integrity. When we speak Truth through both our words and our lives, we provide an example, or witness, to the world about what we believe that Truth to be.

We are glad to tell in words as well as deeds about the Truth and Faith that are in us. We seek fellowship with others of our own faith and with all people, realizing the oneness of humanity under God. Our witness is characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others. We are constantly reminded that Truth is greater than the knowledge any one of us has of it. God did not put all the fruit on one branch.

Throughout our history Friends have testified that our lives are not meant to conform to the ways of the world but that we are meant to contribute to the transformation of the world through the Light of Truth.

We remain open to new leadings of Spirit, while taking care not to outrun our Guide.



*How do our lives testify to our convictions as Friends?
What are we doing to share our faith?*

How do we speak Truth tenderly, so that others may hear it?

*What ways do we find to cooperate with people and groups with whom we share beliefs and concerns?
Do we listen with love and respect to those with whom we disagree?*

How do we respect and encourage the witness that arises out of our meetings?

Are we faithful in witnessing to Truth in our community and to the world?

Let all nations hear the sound by word or writing. Spare no place, spare no tongue nor pen, but be obedient to the Lord God; go through the world and be valiant for the truth upon earth; tread and trample all that is contrary under.... Be patterns, be



examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.

—George Fox, 1656

Meeting for Business 21 May 2023

Land Acknowledgement

This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta, and other peoples who have cared for these lands for millennia and continue to do so today. May we honor these original stewards and their rights of self-determination, continue dismantling the systems of oppression that have dispossessed them of their lands, and participate in the care and protection of our shared home.

Friends Present: Ariel Love, Andra Hollenbeck, Wyatt Banks, Fran Curtis, Adam Thompson, Ann Gaffney, Melody Ashworth, Bob Morse, Cathy McDaniel, Herb Rothschild, Crystal Bosbach, Alexandra Reid, Bill Ashworth

Quote & Reflection: “Since we are all responsible for the society we live in, we must examine the nature of that society. How far does it encourage love, compassion, justice, simplicity, peacefulness and truth? Do wealth, success and power lead to true happiness and fulfillment? And do we recognize in the natural world something which is precious in its own right? We cannot ignore the effects of our actions, however indirect, on other people and on nature in our shrinking world.” (Produced by Testimonies Committee of Quaker Peace & Social Witness)

2023.5.1 Friends approved 16 April 2023 Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business with correction that Ann Gaffney was also present.

Treasurer’s Report: On behalf of Finance Committee, Adam

proposed that Meeting adopt the following minute to reflect our financial policy: “SMFM does not accept donations that are made with the intent to support a specific person, group, or organization.” Most Friends supported this proposal, while some Friends worried that it unduly restricted Friends’ ability to support Spirit-led peace and social concerns. During extensive discussion, the following caveat was added to the end: “unless approved by Meeting for Business to further our tax-exempt purposes.” The intended purpose of this proposal is to preserve financial integrity while maintaining flexibility to act as led by Spirit and agreed upon during Meeting for Business.

2023.5.2 Friends approved the following minute: “SMFM does not accept donations that are made with the intent to support a specific person, group, or organization unless approved by Meeting for Business to further our tax-exempt purposes.”

After discussing the minute, Friends determined a need for

further worship and discernment on our Meeting’s approach to budgeting. How much do we take into account past donations or do we budget based on Meeting’s aspirations? Meeting decided to hold a winnowing session for our budget leadings on 4 June. Because there was additional business, Meeting decided to hold a called business meeting following the winnowing on budget.

Friends expressed gratitude toward Finance Committee for their work on the proposed budget and their recent letter regarding donations, and acknowledged that they prepared the budget in the manner asked. *Budget printed on page 7.*

2023.5.3 Friends accepted the budget proposed by Finance Committee for seasoning.

2023.5.4 Friends approved pausing current Meeting for Business until we reconvene on 4 June 2023 at 8:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk
Wyatt Banks, Recording Clerk

Winnowing on Meeting’s Aspirations Followed by a Called Meeting for Business

8:30 – 10 am Sunday 4 June



Discussing our Meeting’s proposed ’23-’24 budget brought about the suggestion that our Meeting first discuss our aspirations and priorities and then endeavor to budget funding aligned with such values and intentions. Thus, we will begin this session winnowing on our aspirations.

We will then move into a called Meeting for Business to potentially bring our insights from winnowing into the decision-making process. As well, since our financial conversations lasted throughout the duration of our 21 May business meeting, the remainder of the May agenda will also come forth to the June called meeting for business.

All are welcome. —Bob Morse

April 4, 2023

ANN M. GAFFNEY

Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk
South Mountain Friends Meeting
543 South Mountain Avenue
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Andra and South Mountain Friends Meeting Members,

I am writing today to formally express my desire to pursue membership in South Mountain Friends Meeting. Although I consider myself Quaker and have for almost as long as I can remember, I have never been an official member of a Meeting. I grew up in a Quaker family. My mother is a birthright Quaker and my grandparents were founding members of Wellesley Friends Meeting in Wellesley, Massachusetts. My father is a devout Catholic. It was important to my dad that I be a member of his church and, even after my parents' divorce when I was four, my dad brought me to Sunday School at his church when I was with him over the weekend. As I grew older, I was with my dad less and less and was attending Meeting with my mom more and more. By the time I was in junior high I would not miss a First Day at Meeting because all of my closest F/friends were those in my First Day School group at Cambridge Friends Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I loved attending Friends Camp, New England Yearly Meeting's summer camp, and my family routinely attended the Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions. As a young pre-teen I asked my mother if I could become a Junior Member of the Meeting. She told me I would need to get permission from my dad. I knew how much my dad wanted me to be Catholic, and I didn't want to break his heart. I did not pursue membership.



I remained an active attender at Cambridge Meeting throughout junior high and high school, attending Quaker camps and weekend youth retreats at New York Yearly Meeting's Powell House. Some of my favorite childhood memories are with my Quaker F/friends engaging in youth ministry activities. During college I sometimes visited Wellesley Meeting which was a short walk from my college campus, sometimes meeting my grandmother there, but college life made my attendance sporadic at best. As an adult, I moved to New Hampshire where the nearest full-time meeting was more than half an hour away – and that meeting only met monthly. The demands of work, parenting, and life meant that it was too difficult to remain engaged in a meeting and build those relationships that are an important part of Meeting. Still, when asked about my religious beliefs, I always answered that I am Quaker. My children have both attended New England Yearly Meeting's Friends Camp in Maine, and my son Reid will attend for the fifth time this summer.

I am delighted that Ashland has a Meeting that is an open and friendly unprogrammed meeting and that I have felt so welcomed and valued already. I would like to formalize my relationship with Quakerism and take on the responsibilities associated with being a member of a Meeting rather than simply benefit from the fellowship and openness of one. I look forward to discussing this further with my Clearness Committee should the Meeting choose to move forward with my membership.

Sincerely yours,
Ann M. Gaffney

| 2023-24 SMFM Proposed Budget | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | '22-'23 | '23-'24 |
| Income: | | |
| Donations | 14,500 | 14,900 |
| Investment income | | 800 |
| Total income | 14,500 | 15,700 |
| Fixed expenses: | | |
| Joint Committee Contribution | 8,400 | 8,400 |
| NPYM Dues | 2,160 | 2,580 |
| Parking Lot | 936 | 936 |
| Quarterly Meeting Dues | 216 | 215 |
| Oregon Registration Fee | 50 | 50 |
| Zoom | 150 | 150 |
| Total fixed expenses | 11,912 | 12,331 |
| Discretionary expenses: | | |
| Adult Education | 0 | 0 |
| Annual Session Abundance | 100 | 0 |
| Children | 0 | 0 |
| Friendship & Hospitality | 200 | 400 |
| Library | 100 | 150 |
| Ministry & Counsel | 250 | 250 |
| Misc/Office Supplies | 80 | 150 |
| Neighbors in Need (OHRA) | 500 | 500 |
| Newsletter | 150 | 150 |
| Peace & Social Concerns | 600 | 900 |
| Racial/Climate Concerns | 600 | 600 |
| Website | 150 | 280 |
| Total discretionary expenses: | 2,730 | 3,380 |
| Total expenses: | 14,642 | 15,711 |
| Surplus (deficit) | -142 | -11 |

"Hope is holding a creative tension between what is and what could and should be, each day doing something to narrow the distance between the two." —Parker Palmer

Quote Contributed by Becky Hale



Javan Recommends Articles Exposing Christian Nationalism & Rising Fascism

In response to our recent discussions on Christian Nationalism, Javan Reid recommends the following three readings about rising fascism. I found the fourth article which is co-authored by sociology professors who have extensively studied and researched Christian Nationalism. —Bob Morse

Fascism as a Misguided "Expression" of Democracy (brief): <https://theconversation.com/why-some-people-think-fascism-is-the-greatest-expression-of-democracy-ever-invented-188967>

The Growing Presence of Fascism in the US (mid-length): <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-04-02/trump-qanon-andrew-tate-fascism-mussolini-nazis-white-men>

Secession in Current-Day US (brief): <https://theconversationus.cmail20.com/t/r-e-ttldije-bcirdjhld-r/>

When "Christian" Means Power not Religion (mid-length)
[Christian Nationalism Talks Religion, But Walks Fascism – Religion in Public](#)

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Wyatt Banks 404-502-9523
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855
Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118;
Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Cathy McDaniel 770-3318,
David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186,
Becky Hale 601-3084, Bob Morse 482-8849, Crystal
Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Valeria Breiten, Wyatt Banks,
Richard Spencer, Melody Ashworth, Linda Spencer

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

***Finance:** Fran Curtis 482-1095, Jean Semrau, Adam
Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach
930-4222, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel,
Wyatt Banks; ***Greeters:** Jean Semrau, Ariel Love, Wyatt
Banks, Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski

*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 770-3318
***Child Care:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Library:** Fran Curtis 482-1095
***Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Tech Support:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

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

Small Local Groups

***Dancing Bears group:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
***Outliers group:** Pam Johnson 535-1940 & Becky Hale
601-3084
***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225
***Late Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506

** = new and longtime participants welcome
All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520