



543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

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www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity 9 to 10 am

Discussions via Zoom

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

1 May Hybrid Winnowing Session: Reshaping our Meeting to increase joy and lighten the load (See M&C Report on Page 5)

**Rise of Meeting:
Brown Bag Pot Luck**

8 May Video/Discussion: Becky Hale: Finding inner peace during outer adversity (See Page 2)

15 May New Time
Meeting for Business (8:30-10 am)

22 May Adult Ed: Jamie McLeod-Skinner: How her Quaker faith informs her life of service

29 May Peace & Social Concerns: Steve Radcliffe: Better Angels: Bridging the partisan divide

Meeting for Worship 11 am to Noon

At The Quaker Meeting House
or by Zoom at:

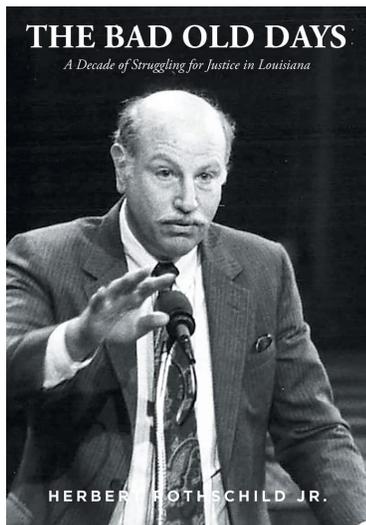
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Fifth Month 2022

Struggling for Justice: "War Stories" Recounted



I grew up in New Orleans in the 40s and 50s. Nothing prompted me to question its prevailing culture, the salient component of which was the thorough-going subordination and exploitation of Black people. It was the Civil Rights Movement that stirred my conscience, beginning with the desegregation of New Orleans schools. Footage of the white crowd cursing and threatening six-year-old Ruby Bridges as she walked so bravely into the Frantz school was shocking.

My conversion was completed when James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Mississippi in 1964. My wife and I agreed that we'd return South after I finished my graduate work. In fall 1965, I joined the LSU English Department and awaited my call. It came the following spring when two volunteers with the ACLU of Louisiana came up from New Orleans seeking someone to form a Baton Rouge chapter.

In the fall I organized the chapter, served as its president for four years, became state president for three and then state legislative director until 1977. Because the defense of Constitutional rights is so encompassing, my volunteer work for the ACLU involved me in all the movements of those years. In some, such as the Civil Rights and the Women's movements, I played a supportive role. In others, such as protection of First Amendment exercise, reform of criminal justice, and the rights of the mentally ill, I was more prominent.

I recount my experiences in a series of "war stories" in *The Bad Old Days: A Decade of Struggling for Justice in Louisiana*. During those years, the South became much like the rest of the country. While the world I depict is still recognizable, readers wondering whether there has been any real change in our country will find encouragement in these pages.

—Herb Rothschild

*** Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Day (See Page 2) ***

What Happens When Quakers Sit in Silent Worship?

During a recent first-hour discussion, the question arose as to how best describe the inner experience of Quaker worship. Here is one of countless possible responses. If you are moved to craft your own response, I will gratefully print it in an upcoming newsletter—your choice, either signed or anonymously. —Editor Bob (morse@mind.net)

"Sitting in the energetic field of openness, we open our hearts to listen to whatever comes, calling the source of this information by many different names—be it "God's speaking" or "the energy of the universe that knows all" or not naming it at all. What we are primarily doing is listening. If an incoming message keeps nudging us, then we check and ask if this information is just for us, personally. If the nudging continues, we stand and speak, knowing that we're in a safe space to share. At other times during worship, other Friends may stand and offer vocal ministry. Regardless of our comfort or discomfort with their words, their ministry offers us the opportunity for further inner searching."

—Crystal Bosbach



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

8 am to 4:30 pm

Saturday 7 May 2022

Rogue Transfer & Recycling
Transfer Station

8001 Table Rock Road, White City

ABSOLUTELY FREE



Details? Click & scroll down:
[Free Toxic Waste Recycle Opportunity.pdf](#)

(Contributed by Herb Rothschild)



A Cloud Never Dies

Finding Inner Peace During Outer Adversity

Letting Thich Nhat Hanh's Life Speak

9 am Sunday 8 May on Zoom

Discussion After Watching the film *A Cloud Never Dies*

A new biographical documentary of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh narrated by actor Peter Coyote, *A Cloud Never Dies* weaves together original film and photographic archives, telling the story of a humble young Vietnamese monk and poet whose wisdom and compassion were forged in the suffering of war. In the face of violence, fear, and discrimination, Thich Nhat Hanh's courageous path of engaged action reveals how insight, community, and a deep aspiration to serve the world can offer hope, peace, and a way forward for millions.

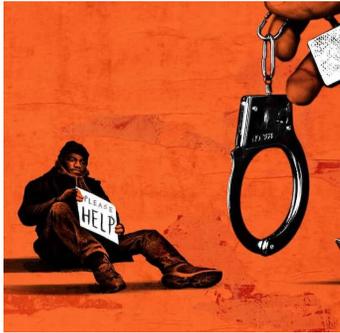


We Have The Power To Rewrite The Ending To History's Stories

The Oregon Remembrance Project (ORP) was started in 2018 to help communities in Oregon unearth stories of injustice and engage in the necessary truth telling and repair required to reconcile instances of historical harm. ORP connects historical racism to its present-day legacies in order to inspire contemporary racial justice action. This work began in Coos Bay, Oregon, with the question, "How do you reconcile a lynching?"

The Equal Justice Initiative has documented nearly 6,500 lynchings of African Americans between the 1865-1950. At least one lynching of an African American occurred in Oregon. His name was Alonzo Tucker, and he was lynched in Coos Bay in 1902 in front of a crowd of 300.

How Do You Reconcile a Lynching?



It starts with remembrance, then it moves to repair. The era of lynching may be behind us, but its legacy remains in front of us. At the same time lynchings in the United States were going down, state-sanctioned executions were going up. During the 1930's two-thirds of all executions in the United States were of African Americans. Between 1910-1950, despite making up only 22% of the South's population, African Americans accounted for 75% of all those executed in this region. Today African Americans make up 13% of the population but 41% of those who are on death row. We are too busy asking ourselves the question "Does this person deserve to die for their crimes?" that we haven't asked ourselves

the question "Do we deserve to kill?" In order to truly find reconciliation for lynching, we must repair the fundamental question of who our society believes deserves death because the answer continues to be disproportionately African American.

—Taylor Stewart of the Oregon Remembrance Project

**Our Friends at Bellingham Meeting,
our North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and
the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force**

**Invite us all to
Taylor Stewart's
Free Zoom webinar
With historical (at times graphic)
Photo presentation
Followed by Q&A**

**Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/
webinar/register/
WN_47A8uZIIISFKoVEoyWh4fQA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_47A8uZIIISFKoVEoyWh4fQA)**

A promotional poster for a webinar. The top half features a photo of Taylor Stewart speaking at a podium. To the right of the photo, the text reads "Finding Justice for Historical Injustice" in large, bold letters, followed by "Taylor Stewart of Oregon Remembrance Project". Below the photo, the text says "Webinar on Zoom, Friday, May 6, 2022" and "7:00 pm Pacific = 8:00 pm Mountain". At the bottom, a quote from Maya Angelou is displayed: "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but, if faced with courage, need not be lived again. - Maya Angelou". The background of the poster is green and red.

**Finding Justice for Historical Injustice shows how the harmful legacy
of our white supremacist history continues today.**

**Facing our region's racist history lays a foundation for the future we seek,
for inclusive and just communities that celebrate diversity.**

Reflections Emerging from our 3 April Worship Sharing on Racist Narratives



Bree Newsome Bass

Discussion was preceded by two brief videos:

[Bree Newsome Bass: Why The Revolution in America Isn't Over - YouTube](#)

[Ibram X. Kendi Explains Why White Supremacy Is the Ultimate Diversion - YouTube](#)

Some of us grew up in racially integrated households or communities, rendering a sense of comfort with people of color and even, in some cases, greater fear of certain white people due to their size or station in life. From this "integrated" vantage point, some Friends reported on Black on Black violence. Others of us grew up in a segregated, mostly white world such that our memories are more aligned with the common US narrative that Black people are dangerous and need to be feared--and that white people are safe to be around.

Current events have exposed another divisive racial narrative. In response to the Russian war against Ukraine, the US has opened its borders to white Ukrainian refugees. In contrast, our borders remain relatively closed to non-white refugees escaping wars and climate-driven disasters in Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Poor white people are susceptible to the well-perpetuated myth of the Black welfare queen as the icon of the group of Americans that has most benefitted from government handouts. In actuality, however, poor whites receiving governmental financial assistance outnumber Blacks. Such myth-laden conversations rarely mention the extent that American farmers are subsidized, even as such subsidies more often reach white than Black farmers.

Poverty has proven to be a strong connector between race and violence. Poverty has been exacerbated by such actions as clustering people of color in public housing, leading to ghettoization and the economic evisceration of BIPOC communities. These observations expose the structural aspects of racism and the overlap between economic equality and racial justice.

In light of the perpetuation of these narratives, there appears to be a need to legislate morality.

Fear that gets transferred generationally can lie dormant, extracting our energy, unconsciously causing trauma responses. "Fear is the worst kind of violence" —Gandhi.

Familiarity promotes understanding, so we benefit from finding ways to engage with our non-familiars. As a Meeting, we could mitigate racist narratives by inviting BIPOC speakers to join our first-hour discussions or by our going as a group to such BIPOC events as Juneteenth celebrations.

—Bob Morse



Ibram X. Kendi

Meeting for Business 17 April 2022

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Andra Hollenbeck, Karen Maleski, Anna Monders, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, George Scholes, Adam Thompson

Quotation for Reflection “No clear impressions, either from above or from without, can be received by a mind turbid with excitement and agitated by a crowd of distractions. The stillness needed for the clear shining of light within is incompatible with hurry.” —Caroline Stephen, 1834-1909

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

Minutes

2022.4.1 Friends approved minutes for the 20 March 2022 Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer Contributions were generous in March, helping to cover increased costs for Joint Committee. We are now slightly ahead for the year to date and have a healthy checking account balance.

State of Society Report

2022.4.2 Friends approved sending our seasoned State of Society Report to Yearly Meeting.

The SMFM Directory has been updated and is available upon request to Beth Aspedon, Corresponding Clerk, at ashlandquakers@gmail.com. The Corresponding Clerk asked about new signage at the entrance to our Worship area. It was recommended that it be removed but retained until it could be discussed at Joint Committee.

Friendship & Hospitality is planning a Brown Bag Lunch scheduled for May 1 after Worship.

2022.4.3 Snacks and beverages will now be available in the kitchen area for participants to enjoy there or to take outside for social time with others after Worship.

Ministry & Counsel reported that *membership in many SMFM committees has dwindled so that some committees are now comprised of only 1 or 2 members. There are concerns about staffing committee positions for the next fiscal year. Meeting for Business participants saw this as an opportunity to recreate and revitalize ourselves as a Meeting, starting with a hybrid winnowing session during first hour on the first Sunday of May to “increase joy and lighten the load.”* When the weather has warmed, we will follow up with a festive outdoor gathering to welcome back all Meeting participants.

Peace & Social Concerns has made its annual donations in a reduced amount to the 11 local organizations it supported last year, letting them know we share in their values. The organizations are Ashland Culture of Peace Commission, Health Care for All Oregon, NAMI Southern Oregon, Peace House, Resolve, Rogue Climate, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sexual Assault Response Team, SOCAN, Unite Oregon and Vision Quilt. P&SC has welcomed newest member Steve Radcliffe and his participation in Braver Angels, an organization that convenes “conversations across the divide.” P&SC is considering giving a scholarship to a local SOU student to join the Friends Committee on National Legislation for the next lobbying day in Washington D.C. **P&SC Climate Subcommittee** is working to develop an interfaith climate team. There are now representatives from five faith communities participating and two more faith communities considering joining. The Climate Team’s current focus is on presenting climate education.

Joint Committee reports the Peace House has a new temporary House Manager. There are no financials from the last month; there may be some rental income. We will need to keep the financial increase for Joint Committee throughout the next fiscal year. We will need new cleaning teams in the new FY as well.

Building & Grounds Meeting for Business participants joined B&G in expressing appreciation to Nancy Spear for bringing her own air purifier to Meeting.

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

"Learning to listen to each other in families can help to make us better listeners to others and to the Inner Guide." —Dorothy Steere, 1984



Advices & Queries on Home & Family

Live in the assurance that all are children of God.

Hospitality in the home is a vital force for spiritual nurture; it helps all family members learn to respond to that of God in everyone.

Know that a family may be made of single adults, of differing combinations of adults, or of adults and children, sharing a bond of love. Meeting provides an essential sense of family for those without families, including those made single after years of marriage or other life commitment.

We give home and family priority in our lives.

The meeting can support, yet cannot replace, the family in the care of children. At the same time, every member of meeting is responsible in some measure for the care of families, including children.

Stay aware of the many ways the meeting can act as a family – and the ways it cannot.

Be both bold and tender in offering assistance to families that may be experiencing discord or domestic abuse.



How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace, and renewal, where Spirit is real for those who live there and those who visit?

How do we maintain a climate of love and trust in our meeting which invites families to be open about their satisfactions and challenges?

How do we keep commitments outside the home from encroaching on the time and loving attention the family needs for its health and well-being?

Does our home life support our need for both a sense of personal identity and shared living?

What supports do we offer to the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and members of families affected by disruption or trauma?

How does the meeting assist families to improve communication, family life, and the rearing of children in a context of love?

**"Love makes a family."
—Bonnie Tinker, 2002**



Friends Journal

Download the PDF version of the full issue here:

<https://www.friendsjournal.org/private/FJ-2022-04.PDF>

Read the issue online: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2022/april-2022/>

"What makes any relationship, any action, right is caring – caring for the other person, for things, for the earth, and for oneself." —Elizabeth Watson, 1977

BRIAN BILSTON POETRY

Refugees



Art Installation by Michael Murphy;

America is a Gun

England is a cup of tea.
France, a wheel of ripened brie.
Greece, a short, squat olive tree.
America is a gun.

Brazil is a football on the sand.
Argentina, Maradona's hand.
Germany, an oompah band.
America is a gun.

Holland is a wooden shoe.
Hungary, a goulash stew.
Australia, a kangaroo.
America is a gun.

Japan is a thermal spring.
Scotland is a highland fling.
Oh, better to be anything
than America as a gun.



*The same installation by Michael
Murphy from another angle*

*Trust me: Read this poem in its entirety. It's worth it.
If needed, please remember to breathe. –Editor Bob*

They have no need of our help

So do not tell me

These haggard faces could belong to you or me

Should life have dealt a different hand

We need to see them for who they really are

Chancers and scroungers

Layabouts and loungers

With bombs up their sleeves

Cut-throats and thieves

They are not

Welcome here

We should make them

Go back to where they came from

They cannot

Share our food

Share our homes

Share our countries

Instead let us

Build a wall to keep them out

It is not okay to say

These are people just like us

A place should only belong to those who are born there

Do not be so stupid to think that

The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

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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