



543 South Mountain Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com
www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Fifth Month 2019

HERETIC: The Mary Dyer Story **by Jeanmarie (Simpson) Bishop**

A Review of Bishop's One-Woman Play

In the words of Bishop's dramaturg,
Shannon Cain:

"The Puritans came all the way from the Old World in search of religious tolerance. But once they settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, they began perpetrating such horrific crimes against people of other faiths that it would appear a collective amnesia had descended. A generous interpretation would suggest that the violence they'd suffered at the hands of religious institutions back in England and Holland had become such a way of life that they could not imagine a way forward except through more violence and theocracy."



"Anne Hutchison was among the first condemned as a heretic by the Puritans. Her crime: organizing groups of neighbors to study the Bible without supervision of the clergy. Among other radical notions she also believed every person should—and did—have direct access to God. But worse, Anne Hutchison was a leader, a woman who spoke her mind. The play's heroine, Mary Dyer, introduces us to Anne, her mentor, and spiritual sister."

"In 1650, when Mary Dyer's youngest child was still an infant, she boarded a ship (from New England for Old) England, alone. She stayed for several years, during which time she discovered the Seekers, a sect of free thinkers, and soon thereafter met George Fox and became part of the founding of Fox's Quaker Movement. When she finally returned to the colonies, she came back not to her family in Rhode Island but instead to Boston, where she was immediately arrested as a heretic and a Quaker."

[Bishop's] "fictionalized account based on painstaking historical research" presents Mary in her cell the morning when she will be hanged. Through reflections and memories, Mary acquaints us with her most dedicated and loving husband William. Together they grew miserable by their inability to achieve their goal of moving across the world to experiment with simpler ways and to purify the corrupt Church of England.

Continued on Page 2

1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First Hour & Rise of Meeting:

5 May

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: Fellowship over lunch at the annual Rothschild's Garden Party. All are welcome. (details on page 2)

12 May

9:30 am: Worship Discussion on Actions that lead to Uprooting Racism (details on page 7)

19 May

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

26 May

9:30 am: Adult Ed (details page 2)
Worship Discussion on "What Spiritual Traditions Inspire You?"

**Early NPYM Annual
Session Registration,
see page 6**

HERETIC: The Mary Dyer Story

Continued from Page 1

Mary grew increasingly despondent with each of her eight pregnancies thinking of the wretched world into which her children were born. Mary learned from her Narragansett neighbors that these indigenous women spent their monthly terms in little houses being cared for by sisters and grandmothers. Mary longed for a hiatus from children and husband and neighbors so to be only concerned with praying and resting in quiet.

Through Bishop's short but intimate window, we witness Mary's faith deepening against the backdrop of the Quaker faith's strengthening in its resolve to spread the Truth more widely that everyone carries the divine within and no one has authority over another's piety. Knowing that people were being tortured in Massachusetts for their seeking Truth, Mary was continually drawn back to Boston. Bishop gives Mary voice: "Only by standing up in the face of injustice could we shed light on the darkness and show to the world the pure path to Grace. It was our calling, and we were eager to follow it."

Bishop tours the country enacting the role of Mary. Perhaps some day Jeanmarie Bishop will perform Heretic in the Rogue Valley. Until then, a copy of Bishop's script, a most engaging read, resides in our South Mountain Friends library.

--Bob Morse



Annual Spring Garden Party

1 - 4 pm on Sunday 5 May 2019

722 Hartley Road, Phoenix, OR

A Full Luncheon Will Be Provided

All South Mountain Friends, along with their spouses/partners, are cordially invited to the annual garden party at the home of Deborah and Herb Rothschild.

We welcome you to come tour the gardens, have lunch, and socialize. Hartley Road tees into Hwy 99 about 300 yards on the left after the last stoplight in Talent heading toward Medford. That intersection is called Suncrest on the I-5 side of the highway and Colver on the other side. Turn left onto Hartley and go 0.7 miles. We are on the right. The house is screened from the road by plantings. The last homestead before ours is called the Smith Ranch. There are potholes and a bumpy RR crossing, so drive slowly. --Herb

Questions? 541-531-2848

What Spiritual Traditions Inspire You?

The many traditions of Christian faith—mysticism, "contemplation in action," liberation theology, Christian humanism, and much more—as well as the deep wisdom of such paths as Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Native American spirituality, and earth-based practices of wonder and awe enlighten and move us. Each of us finds or is found by that which speaks to us most powerfully from these many traditions. This is always dynamic, not static. Trying to express or articulate this to others is often difficult but can also be profoundly rewarding for us and those with whom we share.

On Sunday 26 May during first hour (9:30-10:30 am) Adult Education will facilitate a worshipful discussion in which you are invited to share with others the spiritual paths that inspire your life and learn what traditions inspire others. May we each find words to describe the deep and rich faith practices that animate and guide us as we sit together in Meeting and in our daily search for peace and justice.

--Jim Phillips

NEW LIFE EMERGING SILENT RETREAT

Saturday 11 May
St. Rita's Retreat Center

Centering theme: New life emerging in ourselves and in the Meeting community

The address of the retreat center is **10800 Blackwell Road, Gold Hill, OR** (exit 35 off of I-5 traveling north; exit 40 off of I-5 traveling south). Car pools are encouraged as parking is limited. Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. The retreat center will provide coffee, tea and light snacks during the morning. There will be rooms available for elders who may need to rest. A shuttle will be available from Grants Pass.

We will **gather at 9:30 am**. The retreat will start with Meeting for Worship. Then participants are free to use the silence in whatever way they are led. Journaling, walking, art, crafts, meditation, etc. Material and quotes for reflection will be available. The day will close at 4 pm after an hour of Worship Sharing out of the silence.

The cost of the retreat (\$15) will be covered by M&C. If participants wish to cover the cost on their own, please send that amount to South Mountain Friends Meeting, care of Adam Thompson.

If you plan to attend the SILENT RETREAT, please let Maureen or Gabrielle know by Friday 3 May

ABOUT RENAMING "HOLDING IN THE LIGHT" Clerk's Corner by Clerk Melody Ashworth

"Light" is a beautiful phrase for many of us, and a metaphor closely connected to our experience of life. We have lots of dark days, visually, in the rain-blessed Pacific Northwest. So, it is natural to think of Light as a reference to God's love or power to make things whole.

A community group I belong to regularly sends "Light, to heal you, to hold you" to those for whom they have a compassionate concern. And our Meeting has a Circle of Light and has gradually adopted the practice at the rise of Meeting of holding those for whom we are concerned "in the Light" as well.

Nevertheless, "light" is used in other metaphors as well. Those who have been insulted or mistreated for the shade of their skin are well aware that the good guys wear white hats (and skin), while the bad guys look "dark."

The following quote by Douglas Steere shows there is other language we can use to focus our compassion: "I hold up persons before God in intercession, loving them under his eyes—seeing them with him, longing for his healing and redeeming power to course through their lives."

I recently read an article by a person who was embarrassed repeatedly in childhood by bearing the marks of extreme poverty, such as misfit and threadbare clothes and being singled out for *charity*. Now well-educated and prosperous, the writer described the frequent reminders that s/he is indelibly marked by these childhood experiences as "never quite good enough."

We have newcomers enter our Meeting circle, who like the writer, look as if they belong but feel wary of acceptance. Whether they have experienced shunning as *queer*, *poor*, *not-white*, or any other social rejection, they can be hurt by our assumption that the way we speak is fine, because it is not intended to hurt.

So, I ask you to work with me to come up with a new phrase. Let me know how you feel about various phrases as I try them out, offer me suggestions of what resonates with you, or remind me if I forget myself and use "*in the Light*."

ALL ABOUT *WESTERN FRIEND* MAGAZINE

Western Friend board member Sakre Edson spoke at South Mountain Friends Meeting on 14 April as part of FRIEND-raising, a chance to talk about what she loves about the publication. "This is a unique magazine, focused on the West and connecting isolated Friends and Meetings separated by many miles. As the number of Quakers in the US is going down, *Western Friend* keeps our Quaker spirits up. Reading the six editions published each year feeds me spiritually."

The **website** <https://westernfriend.org/magazine> and additional programs such as **workshops** and **speaker events** serve to further the *Western Friend* mission.

Sakre encouraged South Mountaineers to not only read *Western Friend* but also to submit articles or letters to the editor to the magazine, Mary Klein. In advance, Mary chooses themes for each of the editions and lists on the website such topics as these: May/June 2019: On Puzzles; Jul/Aug: On Control; Sep/Oct: On Neighbors; Nov/Dec: On Separation.

"In contrast to the print magazine," Sakre added, "the topics for the online, Zoom-call workshops are responsive to the current ideas and events of the day. Workshop notes are posted at the website. With a study guide in each magazine, *Western Friend* articles are ideal for adult education discussions. 'Pages for all ages' a bit of Quaker History, is well suited for newer Friends." --Bob Morse

THE COURAGE TO WEAR A SCARF

What (recently) happened at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, sent tidal waves of emotions to every continent, most countries, multitudes of cities and billions of homes. Emotions of shock, disbelief, anger, grief, fear, disgust and feelings of the betrayal.

Some evenings in my neighborhood a young mother takes a walk, pushing a stroller. She is accompanied by a young bearded man. She is wearing a headscarf, a khimar. I have never seen her at the playground or pool with the other parents. I have never seen her walking alone.



One emotion superseded all the rest: Courage. Consistent courage displayed by the **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** (pictured here wearing a head scarf out of respect for and solidarity with Muslim women) right down the line. Courage shown by grieving relatives, clergy, emergency response workers, journalists, police, citizens & school children.

The purposes of acts of terror are to destabilize and weaken communities and to insert fear into the lives of people. Terrorists aim to divide people, escalate distrust and confusion, and destroy resolve.

The acts of a terrorist at Christchurch failed to destroy courage. Rather courage burst on the scene to strengthen the will of New Zealanders to continue their egalitarian course toward democracy, justice, rule of law, freedoms of speech, and expressions of faith throughout their homeland.

What the world is seeing now in Christchurch are Friday gatherings where people of all races, ages, and social classes are linking arms during the call for prayer. As one body, people are standing in silent determination so that others can pray without fear.

Bigotry is a fact of life. Religious bigotry shows up when people of different religions distrust and sometimes even hate each other. Generally speaking, bigotry is a result of being ignorant about customs which are different from ours. Sometimes bigotry is passed down to the next generation.

Many countries have laws against religious bigotry including the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, articles. 2, 18 and 19, and the United States 1998 International Religious Freedom Act.

I wonder what the responses would be If I were to put on a Khimar headscarf and go about my day to the dog park, the grocery store, the bank, the library and the quick stop restaurant.

If I were to wear a headscarf in my hometown, would these laws protect me from rude clerks, gaping stares, whispers and crude mumbles?

In my hope of ending religious bigotry, wearing a headscarf is one idea. There are other acts of courage we might take to face up to bigotry. Experts suggest we keep aware of bigotry and make commitments to discourage it. We can model accepting attitudes and behaviors, share what we know about the harms caused by bigotry, listen and understand the feelings of those who are harmed and find ways to help the persecuted.

The next time I see the young couple walking by, I could go out and say, "Hello." --Pamela Allister

Meeting For Worship For Business: 21 April 2019

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Gabrielle Leslie, Bob Morse, Cathy McDaniel, Merlin McDaniel, Alex Reid, Maureen Graham, Adam Thompson, Kathleen Hering

Centering

William O. Bryan's 1978 speech to Illinois Yearly Meeting quote

Treasurer's Report

Contributions have picked up, and we are in good shape for now. Parking fee with SOU needs to be checked on.

Ministry and Counsel

Silent Retreat will be held Saturday, May 11, starting at 9:30, at St. Rita's Retreat Center in Gold Hill. Cost will be covered by the Meeting; donations will be accepted. (Details on page 3)

The committee had a rich discussion regarding worship sharing. More info will be forthcoming. Membership list updating is active. Support for elders in Grants Pass was discussed, including the shuttle and resting facilities at the retreat.

Tim Wohlforth would like to have visitors, and Meeting will contact his caregivers for further information. See weekly bulletin for updates.

State of Society Report

Report continues to be held in the light. Some modifications have been made. It became apparent that some individual responses have not been received by the Clerk so she will contact those people and make any revisions that she deems necessary before it is sent to the Quarterly Meeting by the upcoming deadline.

Discussion arose regarding contact with SOU students, especially Young Friends. M&C will make inquiries there.

Uprooting Racism

Bob Morse reported on activities within our Meeting stemming from the recent worshipful discussions. He is working with the Yearly Meeting for a potential Minute on Uprooting Racism. May 12th is scheduled for further spiritual listening on this topic.

FCNL

Ken Deveney reported information regarding climate change and information available in the fellowship room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melody Ashworth, Clerk
Merlin McDaniel, Acting Recording Clerk

THE WHITE LEARNING SPACE--A COMMUNITY OFFERING FROM THE RACIAL EQUITY COALITION

For folks identifying as white who want to learn and un-learn the patterns of privilege, dominance and fragility, in the company of others on the path of anti-racism work.

The **INTENT:** To provide a trusted container, a brave space, to feel the discomfort, make mistakes, challenge the system that socialized white folks into believing race and whiteness are taboo subjects, all the while maintaining our racist culture. We do this in the company of other white identified folks, not expecting People of Color (POC) to do our educating for us.

GOAL: Come away with actionable items for our own lives, that eventually create a safe and welcoming community for the People of Color in this area.

FACILITATION & FORMAT: Rotating facilitators, who have gone through the Racial Equity Coalition's Race Conversation Tool Kit Training. Format consists of experiential exercises, from the Tool Kit, reflective writing, sharing, and connecting. Attention paid to the whole person, body, mind, heart, spirit.

DATE: Thursday, April 25. Thereafter, 4th Thursday of the month.

TIME: 6-8 pm. Arrive as early as 5:45.

LOCATION: Peace House, Large Room (*our Quaker Meeting Room --ed.*)

For RSVP, logistics, or questions:

Contact Toni Lovaglia at tlovaglia@charter.net

Space limited to 20 people. Waiting list will form for May.

Do forward to friends and colleagues with whom you'd like to share this work, or who may know folks who are so inclined. NOTE: We ask, at this time, that you not share this event on social media. We look forward to having you join us.

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 in many ways: 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. Quaker organizations and service groups offer opportunities for participation in the Religious Society of Friends as a whole.

The life of the meeting depends upon the varied gifts and leadings of all members and attenders. 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. We offer informal advice and counsel to one another, thus gaining skills and experience that enrich our lives outside the Religious Society of Friends.

In addition, the health of the meeting depends upon practical contributions from everyone. Within meetings, the Nominating and Finance Committees point out needs and suggest ways for individuals to participate and contribute. Individual Friends discern what financial contributions we can make and what other support we are led to offer. Financial support is a vital component in the life of the monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings.

*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?

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session

17 - 21 July at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon

Online Registration is Now Open

All the information you need is available on the registration website. You can learn about the programs, schedule, lodging and more at: <https://as.npym.org/>

Early registration is encouraged and will be rewarded with a \$10 coupon to use in the bookstore for each registration completed by **Friday 3 May 2019**.

PLEASE first READ the section "Before you Register" under the tab for "Registration." The form is easy to fill out, but it includes lots of details and choices you need to consider. You can start your registration, then pause and resume it later, if necessary, to allow time to review all the options.

SMFM CALENDAR

May 2019

Sun	M	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	3	4
5 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light <u>Rise of Meeting</u> Fellowship over lunch; fully provided by Herb and Deborah Rothschild's Garden Party. All are welcome (details on page2)	6	7 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting	8 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	9 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	10	11 9:30 am - 4 pm Silent Retreat St Rita's in Gold Hill (see page 3) 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
12 9:30 am Worship Discussion on Discerning Actions to Uproot Racism (details below)	13	14 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	15	16 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	17	18
19 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	20	21 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	22	23 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Discussion on "What Spiritual Traditions Inspire You?" (details on page 2)	27	28	29	30 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	31	

Worship Discussion on Actions Toward Uprooting Racism

9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday 12 May

Our 7 April Uprooting Racism discussion was rich with enthusiasm and potential actions such as visiting other faith communities, listening to people of color (and some people of color who formerly participated in our Meeting), holding a focus group as white people trying to become more conscious and feel and hold the pain of racism (see White Learning Space on page 5), or reading and discussing such anti-racism books as Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*.

All are welcome as we continue this meaningful and timely discussion first hour on May 12th. --Bob Morse

"We walked to demand that those with power enact justice, instead of brutality. May our walk as people of faith be one passage in our collective journey to heal the soul of the nation. This is my prayer. May it be yours as well." —Lucy Duncan

"Why I Got Arrested at the Border," *Friends Journal*, Feb 2019

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, assisted by Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Scott Plummer 301-5840, Adam Thompson, Bill Ashworth; **Website**

Contributors: Bob Morse & Pam Johnson

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940

Archivist: Pam Johnson 535-1940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney (convener) 488-5506, Cathy McDaniel

Winter Shelter Coordinators: Alex Reid 707-499-9146 and Bob Morse 482-8449

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*

Finance Committee: Barbara Arrais, Scott Plummer, Treasurer *ex officio*

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Wells, Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Glenn Allister, Hazel Ward

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Patricia Morrison, Crystal Bosbach, Cathie McDaniel, Kathleen Hering

Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Bob Morse

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild (clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister

Library Elves: Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Heather Starbird, Becky Hale

Adult Education Committee: Lisa Nichols (clerk), Becky Hale, Jim Phillips, Karen Roertgen

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 488-0228, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520