



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 July

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: F&H Committee

8 July

Worship Only

15 July

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

22 July

9:30 am: A Discussion over Breakfast: "How Do Quakers Worship?"

29 July

9:30 am: Drawdown Project (p. 2)

5 August

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

12 August

Harvest Lunch hosted by Alex and Javan (then M&C Committee)

19 & 26 August

Worship Only

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Seventh Month & Eighth Month 2018

SIGN THE TREATY PROHIBITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS:

Theme of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance

6-9 August 2018



South Mountain Friends Meeting again has primary responsibility for the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki observance in the Rogue Valley. Under the auspices of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee, the four-day commemoration will begin Monday 6 August, the date when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, and end Thursday 9 August, when the second bomb was dropped.

This year's theme, "Sign the Treaty," references the treaty that was drafted last year under the guidance of the United Nations to prohibit all nuclear weapons. The treaty was approved by the UN General Assembly in July and opened for signatures by the nations in September. The U.S. has not yet signed it.

The opening ceremony will take place at 8 am Monday on the lawn at the entrance to Lithia Park. Orchestrated by Liz Olsen, the ceremony will include a proclamation from the City of Ashland (a nuclear-free zone), Japanese music, a water ceremony, and the sounding of the gong at the moment the bomb exploded over Hiroshima.

The closing ceremony, arranged by Elizabeth Hallett of Peace House, will be situated in the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park at 5 pm Thursday. It's earlier than usual because the Ashland Band plays at 7. Thanks to band member Lisa Nichols, there will be two selections on the program commemorating these tragic events.

In the intervening days, there will be a program in each Medford and Ashland. On Tuesday evening 7 August at the Medford Library, renowned Ashland artistic Betty LaDuke will present a slide show of her recent work in Hiroshima. There will be a Community Conversation at Ashland's Trinity Episcopal Church on living under the threat of nuclear catastrophe and the promise the new treaty offers to end that threat. Dates/times to be determined. All are welcome. --Herb Rothschild

DRAWDOWN PROJECT: Focus on Zero Waste

9:30 am Sunday 29 July 2018

What is Project Drawdown and why is it important? Project Drawdown refers to a book edited by Paul Hawken which presents 100 solutions to bringing carbon out of the air and reducing carbon footprints. Eight South Mountaineers have so far engaged in the four-workshop Drawdown series. Participants are guided to choose solutions for which they feel impassioned, for example, Bob researched walkable cities, Ken explored bamboo, and Karen investigated solar for her own home. I have become the point person for the Woman and Girls sub-sector but also am deeply involved with food waste and recycling solutions. The latter solution will be the focus on our Peace & Social Concerns discussion during First Hour on the Fifth Sunday in July.

As a recycler for decades and a backyard and worm composter for the last 20 plus years, I am committing myself to helping reduce our Meeting's waste stream to zero. I have examined how we're already recycling and what kinds of waste we are generating, the biggest being plastic due to increased recycling restrictions. I recognize that our Meeting has little food waste. But recently, I've been exposed to "Bokashi," an anaerobic process that relies on inoculated bran to decompose kitchen waste, including milk products, meat, and even bones. We will discuss ways that Meeting's small amount of food waste might be incorporated into a home-based Bokashi system (like mine). Wouldn't it be great if we all could go to Zero Waste?!!

--Kathleen Hering

***Drawdown is a program for reversing, not just halting, global warming.
A free introduction to the program will be presented 7-9 pm Thursday 5 July
at Jackson Wellsprings. A 4-session community action course will meet on
Thursday nights, same time, same place, starting 19 July, presented by***

www.southernoregonpachamama.org

--Ken Deveney



**South Mountain Friends
Enjoy Each Other's Company at
Herb & Deborah Rothschild's
Spring 2018 Garden Party**



A Quaker Perspective on Colin Kaepernick and #BlackLivesMatter

By Lucy Duncan, Director of Friends Relations, The American Friends Service Committee
Written in 22 September 2016

Last Saturday I awoke to the news that Terrence Crutcher had been killed by police in Tulsa, OK. His car had broken down, and the footage from a police helicopter video shows him standing next to his car with his hands in the air, his back turned to the police officers. In the footage I saw, you can hear the officers watching the scene say that Terrence Crutcher is “a bad dude, must be on something.” Then officer Betty Shelby shot and killed Crutcher. What’s most chilling to me is that the officers in the helicopter express no alarm that he’s been shot, only concern about securing the area.

On Tuesday Keith Lamont Scott, a Black disabled man was shot and killed by police in Charlotte, NC. His family says he was reading a book while waiting for his son. The police say he was armed and threatened them with a gun. The police were in the vicinity to serve another man an arrest warrant.

Rev. Traci Blackmon has said in response to these recent killings, “It is impossible to be unarmed when my Blackness is the weapon you fear.” Before folks have had time to grieve Terrence Crutcher, another Black man has been killed by police, a casualty of white fear.

It’s that white fear and haze of indifference to the life of an unarmed father standing in the road, dead because his SUV broke down and he happens to be Black, or a Black man who is parked when police come looking for a suspect, that is at the root of the shootings themselves. This is the persistent, deadly indifference that 49ers football player Colin Kaepernick is calling out when he sits or kneels when the national anthem is played.

Kaepernick said, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

He also said, “This stand wasn’t for me. This stand wasn’t because I feel like I’m being put down in any kind of way. This is because I’m seeing things happen to people that don’t have a voice, people that don’t have a platform to talk and have their voices heard, and effect change. So I’m in the position where I can do that, and I’m going to do that for people that can’t.”

He is protesting a country that says it is one thing and acts another way. He is courageously refusing to stand for a national anthem that glorifies the military and includes these lines (not often sung these days): “No refuge could save the hireling and slave, from the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.”

As a Quaker his protest feels right and familiar to me. Many Quakers refuse to stand for the national anthem or for the pledge of allegiance. From our beginnings, we have refused to swear oaths, believing that integrity and truth are crucial religious testimonies, that one should speak the truth continuously and not only on special occasions. We strive to be consistent in word and deed and we refuse to speak words, whether in songs or pledges, that we can’t affirm as true. Quakers strive to live from the deepest truth we know, which we believe comes from God. We honor what we believe to arise from God/Spirit/Light and are suspicious of deference to the state. Lack of integrity, lack of truth telling, separates us from ourselves and from the Light within.

Kaepernick’s stance is one I affirm, as a Quaker and as a woman committed to uprooting racism and piercing the white haze that proves deadly for far too many. My sense of God’s guidance calls me to speak out and to act against a system that indifferently abuses the lives and dreams of so many, that refuses to hold a system of policing accountable so that the killings end, and that is based on a foundational lie – that justice and freedom are only for some, not truly for all.

I won’t be standing for the anthem or the pledge of allegiance any time soon. Many football players are joining Kaepernick in his protest. What if the stadiums were full of those who refused to stand? What if no one stood until no more Black men or women are killed by our current evil system of policing? Will you choose not to stand?

*“Until the killing of Black men, Black mother’s sons
Is as important as the killing of White men, White mother’s sons
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes”*

- Ella’s Song by Sweet Honey in the Rock

Meeting For Worship For Business: 17 June 2018

Present: Anna Monders, Ken Deveney, Alex Reid, Patricia Morrison, Scott Plummer, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild

The clerk read a quote about not fearing truth and the search for it by Elizabeth Fry.

Parking Update: Good news: SOU has decided to be more flexible. Although we have 8 spaces, they won't count, and we can park anywhere in the southeast quadrant, no longer restricted to only parking along Mountain Avenue.

Treasurer: We spent a bit more this month due to the unusual expense of buying the updated *Faith & Practice* books and the second half of our NPYM dues. We have no unusual expenses in June, so the expectation is that we will not exceed our budget.

Warming Shelter: The letter co-created by the Ashland Interfaith Clergy Circle, and co-signed by our clerk, and run as an ad in our local paper has resulted in a subsequent newspaper article and JPR radio interview. This coincided with the City Council's holding a shelter-focused study session in which the City committed to taking responsibility for helping to locate a permanent home for the shelter, now that Pioneer Hall is no longer a viable location. As this issue has been receiving more press, the support for a one-site shelter has been growing, such as a phone call from a real estate agent offering her services in looking for potential buildings that could house a shelter and related services.

Summer Chefs are needed to provide meals at the gazebo near the bandshell at Lithia Park on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons each week this summer and fall. Somewhere between 20 and 50 people come each day. For some, this is their only meal of the day.

Perhaps you would like to pair up with another chef or two and commit to bringing one or more summer suppers. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Vanessa Houk at 541-930-2170. Thank you.

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb mentioned a summit for permanent-affordable housing that is being organized by Rev Richenda to be held in her United Methodist Church on 14 August and co-hosted by the Ashland Interfaith Social Justice Coalition, of which Herb is a member.

2018.6.1: With much enthusiasm, Friends approved So. Mountain Meeting's co-sponsoring this summer's Interfaith Housing and Homelessness Summit.

Herb reports that the planning for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki observance is going well (see p.1)

Finance: The budget for fiscal year 2019 was presented for seasoning in the last business meeting. What are "Off budget" line items? Herb explained that these are finances that we keep track of, but they are not included in our budget. They are for specific events where individual donations cover the costs. We are merely in charge of keeping tracking of them.

2018.6.2: The FY 2019 budget was approved without changes.

Ministry & Counsel: Anna informed us that the new *Faith & Practice* books are in the library. Please sign next to your name when you take your book. Friends are encouraged to especially read the section on the revised and updated advices and queries. M&C plans to facilitate discussions on the new advices and queries, beginning with a discussion that Melody will lead first hour on 24 June.

When closing meeting for the last several months, members of M&C have intermittently experimented

with asking questions to help us get to know each other better. So far, M&C closers have only posed a get-acquainted question when feeling led to do so. Thus, not all worshippers have experienced this trial practice. M&C asked whether this experimental practice should become a more common part of our rise-of-meeting discussion.

2018.6.3: Friends support Ministry & Counsel's continuing their question-based, rise-of-meeting experiment to bring about greater familiarity within our Meeting community.

Nominating Committee (as reported by our Meeting's clerk Patricia Morrison) requests to be held in the light as they begin their work. The clerk noted that our meeting is in an "interesting spot" where folks are extremely involved in community outreach and projects and so Nominating may have difficulties this go around. Furthermore, our meeting has both a number of seasoned members and a number of people new to our Meeting or new to Quakers. Thus, Nominating may be asking some folks to continue or return to tasks they've already done. The clerk announced that Alex Reid and Barbara Arrais have accepted her invitation to join Adam Thompson in serving on Nominating Committee. Clerk Patricia requests that we all be patient with our Nominating Committee members and with each other. She also emphasized that not all roles need to be filled.

Interim Recording Clerk: Business meeting is frequently starting later and still ending early. Should we talk about changing the start time of business meeting? Friends decided to season the request over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Morrison, Clerk
Scott Plummer, Interim Recording Clerk

ADULT EDUCATION:

How Do QUAKERS WORSHIP?

Deepening Meeting for Worship

Facilitated by Gabrielle and Patricia

July Adult Education Discussion *OVER BREAKFAST*

9:30 am Sunday 22

Quakers are unique in their worship practice.

With the exception of the Catholics (who invite/hold that the Presence of God/Spirit is actively experienced by those in worship through the transubstantiation of Christ during Communion), Quakers are the only other religious community that actively seek the intercession of the Divine Presence during worship by seeking to be in the Light.

To learn more about the practice of Quaker worship—both sitting in Silence (which is more than mere meditation) and the process of Vocal Ministry—please join us during first hour on the fourth Sunday in March.

Patricia Morrison and I will co-clerk this Adult Education session devoted to how to prepare, how to approach, and what to hold in our consciousness during “The Sacrament of Silence.”

As well, we will engage a discussion about the discernment process for messages that come from the Silence: “How do I know whether the message is for me or for Thee?”

--Gabrielle Leslie

I pray that Friends continue to understand and act on our prophetic testimony, not as political actors, but as people of faith grounded in the unchanging nature of God's love.

--Diane Randall, executive secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation,
in *Friends Journal*, February 2018.

ADVICES & QUERIES ON CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

We value the part we have in shaping the laws of our country. It is our task to see that these laws speak to and answer that of God, which we believe is in every person. Our aim is the building of a social order which works toward the expression of God's love.

If by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law contrary to divine law, we must proceed with care. Before making a decision, we pray for further divine guidance; we consult with others who might be affected by our decision. When clearness on the decision has been reached, we act with conviction. If our decision involves disobedience to the law, we make the grounds of our action clear to all concerned. If there are penalties, we must suffer them without evasion. We care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

*Are we conscientious in fulfilling obligations to the state and society
while opposing those contrary to our understanding of the leadings of God?*

*What are we doing as individuals and as a Meeting to carry our share of responsibility for the government of
our community, state, and nation, and for the development of needed international organizations?*

How are we working for changes in government when change is needed?

*To what extent are we interested in the schools of our community and concerned to establish practices in
them consistent with the values we cherish as Friends?*

Do we share our convictions in a spirit of loving concern?

SMFM CALENDAR

July 2018

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	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
8 9:30 am No First-Hour Activity	9	10 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	11 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	12 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	13	14 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
15 12:30 pm M&C Committee Meeting (if needed)	16	17	18	19 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	20	21
22 9:30 am A Discussion Over Breakfast: "How Do Quakers Worship?"	23	24	25 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group NPYM AS	26 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends NPYM AS	27 NPYM AS	28 NPYM AS
29 9:30 am Drawdown Project: Focus on Zero Waste NPYM AS	30	31				

NPYM AS = North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session in Tacoma Washington

Annual session's registration deadline extended to 9 July 2018; www.npym.org

Quaker Light Meditation Group

A **biweekly** gathering that invites everyone to attend any or all group sessions. The group meets at the Meeting House 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings and 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.

SMFM CALENDAR

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
			1	2 3:30 pm Free Writing Friends	3	4
5 9:30 am Committee Mtgs 10:30 am Circle of Light	6 8 am Opening Ceremony Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance	7 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance	8 Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance 6:30-8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	9 3:30 pm Free Writing Friends 5 pm Closing Ceremony Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance	10	11 Ashland Food Project Pick Up 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
12 12:30 pm Harvest Lunch hosted by Alex & Javan who bring the core meal; all others are invited to attend and are welcome to bring their own harvest contributions Then, M&C Committee Meeting (if needed)	13	14 4-8:30 pm Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing & Homelessness (Methodist Church) 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	15	16 3:30 pm Free Writing Friends	17	18
19 Worship Only	20 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	21	22 6:30-8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	23 3:30 pm Free Writing Friends	24	25
26 Worship Only	27	28	29	30 3:30 pm Free Writing Friends	31	

Quaker Light Meditation Group

A **biweekly** gathering that invites everyone to attend any or all group sessions. The group meets at the Meeting House 2nd/4th Wednesday evenings and 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) Monday after Business M'ting

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); Alex Reid, Barbara Arrais

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

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520