



543 South Mountain Avenue  
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[www.ashlandquakers.org](http://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:**

**3 November: Daylight Savings Ends Today**

**9:30 am:** Committee Meetings

**10:30 am:** Circle of Light

**10 November**

**9:30 am:** Winnowing Session on how our Meeting fosters Holding "matters of the heart" In Light and Love

**17 November**

**8:30-10:30 am:** Business Meeting

**12:30 pm:** Simple Meal (See P.7)

**24 November**

**9:30 am:** Adult Education: "The Integrity of The Inner Life" based on the writings of Howard Thurman; discussion facilitated by Liz Olson and Becky Hale

**Love Your Enemy?  
See Page 4**

# **SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING**

## **THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon  
**Eleventh Month 2019**

**The INTEGRITY  
of The Inner Life**  
**9:30 Sunday 24 November 2019**

**Exploring *Mysticism and the Experience of Love***

**Adult Ed Discussion on Pendle Hill Pamphlet #115**



The late African-American mystic, theologian, scholar, and author Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman gave the 1961 Rufus Jones lecture sponsored by the Religious Education Committee of the Friend General Conference at the Baltimore Friends School and revised that address for this publication. Excerpted pages of the pamphlet will be available to read; there's also a copy in our library.

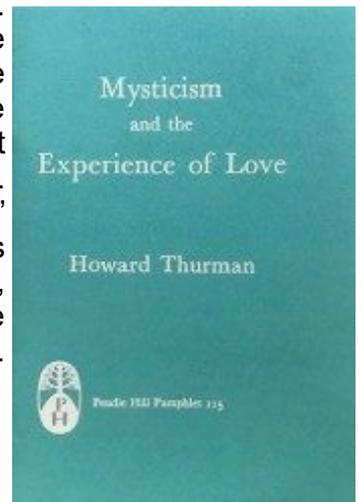
Thurman is recognized as a mystic in his own time. He was deeply influenced by his exposure to Rufus Jones and the Society of Friends. On page 6 of the pamphlet, Thurman writes:

*"For our purpose then, Mysticism is defined as the response of the individual to a personal encounter with God within his (/her) own spirit." Thurman continues: "It is within the religious experience of the Society of Friends that the witness in the world is an outward expression of the inner experience ... To keep the relationship between the social concern and the experience of the inner light from becoming separate or separated from each other remains as a part of the constant struggle within Society itself."*

Liz Olson will join us for the discussion. She continues to serve as an Associate Minister-at-Large for The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, which is the historic interfaith-interracial church that Thurman co-founded in 1944. Fellowship Church's own "Adult Ed" group (called "Engaged Spirituality") is also currently studying this pamphlet, and she will share with us the highlights from their group's discussion.

--Becky Hale and Liz Olson

*More about Howard Thurman  
on Page 3*



**16 Quakers  
(& several dogs)  
walked in the  
12 October 2019  
Southern  
Oregon  
PRIDE Parade**



**One Quaker,  
Jamie  
McLeod-Skinner,  
is running for  
Oregon's  
Secretary of  
State (pictured  
here is Jamie's  
wife Cass) in the  
PRIDE Parade**



## **Gender-Neutral Dolls**

(Adapted from a Recent *Time* Magazine Article)

In the past two years, Nike launched a campaign starring Colin Kaepernick after the NFL dropped him from the league for kneeling during the national anthem to protest racism. Airbnb offered free housing to people displaced in the face of President Trump's travel ban. Dick's Sporting Goods stopped selling assault-style weapons after the Parkland

shooting. All of these companies have reported eventual sales increases after entering the cultural-political arena. And now Mattel is doing the same, with gender-neutral dolls. Their slogan: "A doll line designed to keep labels out and invite everyone in." --Jean Semrau

Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was born in Daytona Beach, Florida. His teachers needed to make special arrangements for him to attend eighth grade in order to qualify for high school (back then Negroes were not allowed to normally go to high school.) He then had to leave home and board in Jacksonville in order to attend high school. In spite of the privations associated with living away from home, he graduated as the class valedictorian and enrolled at Morehouse University. He studied at Colgate-Rochester Seminary between 1923 and 1926. While working as an assistant pastor during this period, Howard Thurman recognized his calling as a minister. After graduating first in his class in 1926, he went to Oberlin, Ohio, where he ministered to a Baptist congregation. Almost immediately after graduating from Colgate, Thurman married Kate Kelly. They had one child before Kate's death in 1930.

In 1929, Thurman left Oberlin for Haverford College, where he studied with Rufus Jones, whose work on ethical mysticism provided inspiration. During his work at Haverford, Thurman was offered a position as director of religious life at Morehouse and Spellman Colleges in Atlanta. At Morehouse, he began to use his pulpit to speak out for social justice. He also wrote *Deep River*, which talked about the role of the African American religious tradition in maintaining human dignity in the face of racism.

In 1932, Thurman accepted a position as the dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University and taught in the Theological school there. The teachings of Gandhi influenced Thurman's belief in social justice, and he had a historic meeting with Gandhi in India in 1935 during which they discussed the possible value of non-violent resistance for the budding civil rights movement. He remained at Howard until 1944, when he became a co-founding pastor at San Francisco's newly founded Church of the Fellowship of All Peoples. This church fulfilled Thurman's ideal of a church, which ministered to everyone, regardless of race or class.

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## **Advices & Queries on INTEGRITY**

Living with integrity presents the daily challenge of keeping our lives congruent with the Light—in essence, living in Truth. Our choices in how we use our time, spend our money, and form relationships are consistent with what we believe. Our conversation in public and private is a seamless whole. On those infrequent occasions when we are required to swear an oath, we can advance the cause of truth by simple affirmation. The greater discipline is to continually exercise care in speech, making statements that convey truth without exaggeration or omission of essential fact.

Conduct is integrity made visible. We cannot learn or think our way into faithfulness; it requires that belief and action be aligned. We are called to perform our daily tasks with measured care so that our work is sound. We behave honestly with individuals and toward organizations. Willingness to bear the consequences of our convictions leads to taking our lives seriously. A capacity for self-examination enables us to work toward integrity. The words and witness of Friends provide encouragement towards a life lived whole.

The Light in our hearts leads us into ways we can meet the challenges of living a life of integrity. We strive to maintain integrity in word and deed. We recognize the temptations to grow rich at the expense of others and how apparently harmless indulgence can lead to wrongdoing.

Avoid pretense in clothing, manners, and speech, realizing that false impressions may be conveyed by action and appearance, no less than by words. In all the settings you find yourself, practice keeping a single and open manner of relating to others. Avoid using different characters in each role you fill.

We live our best lives as Friends when we focus on what Truth and Love require of us, not on our own comfort or contentment.

*How do we use the resources and strength we are given to meet the challenges  
of living a whole and honest life?*

*How do we keep to a single standard of truth in daily life?  
Do we avoid taking judicial and other oaths?*

*How do we fulfill the promises we make?*

*Are we responsible about incurring and repaying debts?  
Are we just and honorable in all our dealings?*

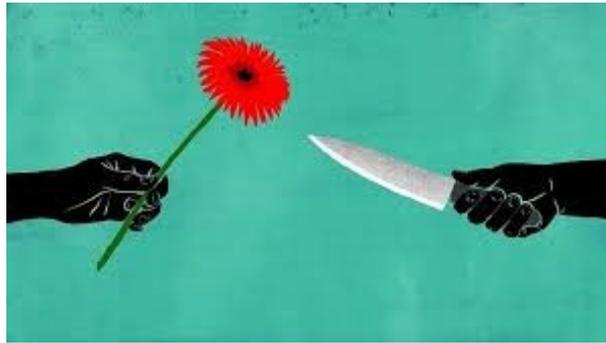
*How do we take care that our spiritual growth is not sacrificed to busyness?*

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# What do Quakers Say About “Loving Your Enemy”? What Might You, Friend, Say About “Loving Your Enemy”?

In the poem “War,” Witter Bynner says:

Fools, fools, fools,  
Your blood is hot to-day.  
It cools  
When you are clay.  
It joins the very clod  
Wherein you look at God,  
Wherein at last you see  
The living God  
The loving God,  
Which was your enemy.



**This year the theme of the Ashland Interfaith Celebration of Thanksgiving poses the question: Love Your Enemy?** The organizers explain: “The enemy is the ultimate other, and for many of us, the ultimate test of our spirituality. It’s much easier for us to love a friend or even a theoretical enemy than it is to love an actual enemy who means us harm.

“Many faith traditions have faced persecution throughout their history from one enemy or another, and this is a topic that must be addressed again and again.

“This year we have asked our presenters to speak about what their tradition offers in the face of hostile opposition. What constitutes an enemy? What measures are justified in relation to the enemy? If so, when? If not, what does your tradition offer in its place?”

Over the three-and-a-half decades that an **Interfaith Celebration of Thanksgiving** has taken place in Ashland, a number of **Friends have represented the Quaker faith** in making one of the **three-minute presentations** that constitutes this community gathering. Presenters can speak, sing, and/or invite the audience into silence.

**Anyone who participates in South Mountain Friends Meeting may represent us.  
Support, assistance, and mentorship from past presenters await you.**

**Are you feeling drawn to the event and the topic but not exactly sure what you might say?**

Melody has located a **relevant article** in the Sep/Oct 2019 edition of *Sojourners Magazine* that may stimulate ideas. Writing about “How To Love Your Enemy,” Melissa Florer-Bixler writes:

“In the gospel, enemies are . . . on the far side of . . . justice . . . If we are serious about making our enemies into friends, committed to loving them, our churches will begin to mobilize to help people leave their jobs with ICE. For decades peace churches such as the Quakers and Mennonites organized efforts to help people leave or avoid military careers. If the church is serious about loving our enemies, we’ll apply this same form of organizing to people recruited for the jobs of kidnapping and deportation for ICE . . . “

**Ashland Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration:  
10 to 11 am on Thursday 28 November 2019  
Wesley Hall, Behind the Methodist Church, Ashland**

**Intrigued? Curious? Feeling Led? Please contact me before the end of October. Thanks!**

--Bob Morse, [morse@mind.net](mailto:morse@mind.net)

Poem submitted by Sylvie Weaver

# CLERK'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Lately, I have revisited the Nag Hammadi Library, which is a collection of texts that were discovered in Upper Egypt in 1945. I love the story of these texts. They were buried in earthenware jars in the fourth century. We can only imagine that their burial was an act of resistance, and an act of faith. At the time, it may have seemed like an act of futility. The improbability of these documents' survival and discovery fifteen hundred years later fills me with awe.

What acts of resistance and faith are we called to today, no matter how little their impact may seem?

Accepting the role of Clerk was an act of faith for me, as I doubted my skills were sufficient for the task. However, in my first month of service, I have found the things I thought would be difficult strangely easy. I attribute this to being lovingly held in silence by friends.

Our community stepped forward in faith at Meeting for Business yesterday, agreeing to continue our care of the homeless in Ashland, despite the considerable commitment we were making. I hold us all in Light as we serve our community with love, while remaining grounded in the silence that sustains us.

I leave you with some of those improbable words that made it though the centuries to be read by us. Although not actually from the Nag Hammadi Library, they are from the related gnostic Gospel of Mary Magdalene. "Be in harmony... ' If you are out of balance, take inspiration from manifestations of your true nature."

In faith, Lisa

## Meeting for Business: 20 October 2019

**Friends Present:** Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, K(athleen) Hering, Anna Monders, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols, Jim Phillips, Alex Reid, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson, Sylvie Weaver

Laundry Love's service model has changed from providing one service day each month for all guests to providing 8 service days each month with 1 or 2 volunteers serving 5 guests each time. LL needs additional volunteers.

M&C put forth a motion to remove the membership notation from the directory.

**Friends accepted for seasoning the suggestion to remove the membership notation from the directory.**

### Centering

"They are waiting," the Chief explained. "They cannot move farther until their souls have caught up with their bodies." – Indigenous Peoples of the Upper Amazon

Sandwich making volunteers are also needed to provide daily meals for all in Ashland who are hungry.

### Adult Education

Adult Education has plans for presentations through February and is open to more suggestions.

### Treasurer's Report

Expenses slightly exceeded income in Sep. The Member Assistance Fund has been moved to a second checking account.

### Friendship & Hospitality

Crystal and K are co-clerks. F&H is planning quarterly meals beginning with a Simple Meal (see P 7)

### Joint Committee

The anonymous person injured when our ceiling fell is still in contact with the Joint Comm. Joint Comm's budget was presented.

### SMFM & Shelter & Laundry Love

The winter shelter will be open Nov – Mar. Sponsoring organizations are responsible for staffing the shelter one night weekly. K will be the SMFM Sunday Night Coordinator; she, Alex, and Bob will recruit hosts, cooks, and listeners. The Story Church may help us with staffing.

### Ministry & Counsel

Meeting retreat will take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April with the Quaker writer Marcelle Martin as presenter. M&C may hold a Spiritual Listening on SMFM membership in Dec.

**20.19.3 Meeting approves the Joint Committee's request for increase of \$50/month from SMFM to balance the Joint Committee Budget.**

**2019.10.1 Meeting approves sponsoring the winter shelter for one night each week during the coming season.**

**2019.10.2: Friends approve Tim Wohlforth's memorial minute.**

M&C requested direction on how to proceed after hosting a Spiritual listening on "Closing the Meeting." Meeting agreed to continue the discussion as a winnowing session and then discuss the topic again at next Meeting for Business. Until then, Lisa is invited to end Worship at Meetings as she is guided.

Meeting requests that Finance Comm inform us how as to how this affects our current budget.

### Nominating Committee

All are welcome to review current clerk and committee job descriptions and give Beth and Anna feedback.

(Continued on Page 6)

# Meeting for Business: 20 October 2019

(Continued from Page 5)

Two tasks remain undelegated: collecting and distributing mail and phone messages. The directory will be sent out in early Dec. Inform Sylvie if you want your address omitted.

## Traveling Minute

Bob shared a traveling minute from Collin Boyd, former SMFM member.

## Peace & Social Concerns

Friends' tabling at SOU's Welcome Day was successful.

## Calendar

Sylvie is attending NPYM Coordinating Committee in Salem this weekend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Nichols, Clerk  
Alex Reid, Recording Clerk

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## STORIES BEYOND BORDERS: THE QUESTION IS "WHAT WILL WE DO?"

I've seen documentaries completely change people. From vowing to never go to SeaWorld again to forming organizations dedicated to cleaning up coal ash--there's something about spending an hour or two in a dark room that completely transforms someone when the lights turn on. I've been at [Working Films](#) for about 8 years. The organization is dedicated to using documentaries to advance social justice, and I've seen the power these films can have on galvanizing audiences and changing the conversation. It brings stories up close and personal in a way that directly confronts the notion that these issues are just political.

With constant attacks on immigrant communities, documentaries are now more important than ever. Many people are moved by the family separations happening at the border, but there is a need to tell a fuller story of immigration and the harms perpetuated by ICE that extends throughout the United States. A lot of attention is focused on the border, meanwhile, we have county jails, now serving as detention facilities and families being separated across the country. Documentaries can help expose these injustices and demonstrate that if what is happening at the border is immoral, then the same can be said for wherever these xenophobic attacks are taking place.

We're launching a new project aiming to do just that, called [Stories Beyond Borders](#). Curated with our partners at [NAKASEC](#), [the National Domestic Workers Alliance](#), [the UndocuBlack Network](#), and [United We Dream](#), [Stories Beyond Borders](#) is an organizing initiative that uses documentary films to show a more complete picture of the attacks on immigrant families and communities. Beyond building empathy, these five short films lift up real stories of resilience and strength, while illustrating some of the ways people can give their time, energy, and resources to support immigrant-led efforts for justice.

One of the films in the collection, [Santuario](#), highlights a powerful example of collective action. The film follows Juana Luz Tobar Ortega, a woman living in sanctuary at St. Barnabas Episcopal in Greensboro, North Carolina. Juana came to the United States as an asylum seeker from Guatemala, and for the past 6 years, had annual check ins with ICE and received a stay of deportation. In April 2017, however, she was told she needed to leave the country or face deportation. The AFSC reached out to Rev. Randall Keeney of St. Barnabas Episcopal and asked if they were considering offering sanctuary if there were anyone who needed it. After hearing about Juana's story Rev. Keeney and the St. Barnabas congregation agreed to welcome her into sanctuary.

[Santuario](#) follows Juana over the course of her first 7 months living at St. Barnabas Episcopal. Confined to the church grounds, Juana is forced to live 50 miles from her family, with little to do except wait for an update on her case. The film shows the severe emotional toll this separation has on her and her family. While far from an appeal for sanctuary as the solution to these attacks, the film does show one of the things people of faith can do. There are people like Juana throughout the US, and [Santuario](#) shows what showing up for them looks like.

[Santuario](#) and the other films in [Stories Beyond Borders](#) exists to spark action. We often romanticize how allies hid people in Nazi Germany, but there is very little amplification of how people are being subversive and taking action today. We hope [Stories Beyond Borders](#) plants these seeds and shows that there are things we can do to protect people today.

I now invite you to take part in this collective action. [Stories Beyond Borders](#) is being shown throughout the US and is available for free for congregations and activist organizations to host your own screening and bring this conversation to your local community. You just need to fill out a [screening request form](#) to get started. There is also a [do-it-yourself screening guide](#) to assist in event planning. I hope you'll bring these films to your community and galvanize action wherever you're located. As Rev. Kennery says in "[Santuario](#)," "The question is what will we do? And I'd prefer If I'm going to err, to err on the side of doing something and refusing to sit by and watch families be torn apart." I hope you'll do as Rev. Kennery and the AFSC did and refuse to sit this one out.

--Andy Myers, Acting in Faith, American Friends Service Committee

# SMFM CALENDAR

## November 2019

Sun                  Mon      Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday 3 November <b>FALL BACK</b>					1	2
3 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	4	5 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting	6	7 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	8	9
10 9:30 am Winnowing Session on how our Meeting fosters Holding "matters of the heart" in Light and Love	11	12 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	13 6:30 to 8 pm Light Meditation	14 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	15	16
17 8:30 -10:30 am Business Meeting 12:30 pm Simple Meal	18	19 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	20	21 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	22	23
24 9:30 am Adult Education: "The Integrity of The Inner Life" based on the writings of Howard Thurman; discussion facilitated by Liz Olsen and Becky Hale	25	26	27 6:30 to 8 pm Inquiry-based Meditation	28 10-11 am Interfaith Celebration of Thanksgiving Wesley Hall Ashland Methodist	29	30

### It's a Gift to Eat Simply

Friendship and Hospitality committee now has five members (Crystal, K, Marlene, Cathy, and Valeria). At the first meeting of the new year, Crystal and K began co-clerking. In the works, there are (approximately) **quarterly simple meals**. The first simple meal will be Sunday 17 November. This will NOT be a potluck but instead a simple meal of beans, rice, tortillas, and salad fixings. Your contribution will be any salsa that you can eat. There will be toppings provided, but Friends can bring their own favorite, if they chose. --K(athleen)

### Two Meditations Each Month

From 6:30 to 8 pm on **Second Wednesdays** in the Meeting House, there will be a guided Quaker Meditation called **Light Meditation**. It is a way to hold a life issue in your heart and receive messages. Participants gain clarity and sometimes new insights into issues that arise during the meditation.

From 6:30 to 8 pm on **Fourth Wednesdays** in the Blue Heron Room (downstairs in the Meeting House), there will be a **Guided Inquiry meditation**. An article from one of many Quaker writings will be read by the group and then followed by questions that will be answered after deep silent meditation.

All are invited. Questions? Text (or call) me at 541-778-5206. --K(athleen)

# MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

**Clerk:** Lisa Nichols 488-5577

**Assistant Clerk:** Jean Semrau 488-6855

**Recording Clerk:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146

**Treasurer:** Adam Thompson 201-8255

**Weekly e-Bulletin Editor:** Adam Thompson 201-8255

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

**Web Administrator:** Bob Morse 482-8449

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

**Art Coordinator:** Becky Hale 601-3084

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

**Joint Committee Representatives:** Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

*Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to [ashlandquakers@gmail.com](mailto:ashlandquakers@gmail.com)*

*Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse ([morse@mind.net](mailto:morse@mind.net)) **Tuesday** after Business Meeting*

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

**Finance Committee:** Scott Plummer, Beth Aspedon, Bill Ashworth, Treasurer *ex officio*

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

**Nominating Committee:** Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid, Anna Monders

**Friendship & Hospitality Committee:** Crystal Bosbach and Kathleen Hering (co-clerks), Valeria Breiten, Cathy McDaniel  
**Greeters:** Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Valeria Breiten, Karen Maleski, Terri Brain (sub)

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

**Library Elves:** Melody Ashworth, Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Fran Curtis

**Adult Education Committee:** Becky Hale (clerk), Jim Lobsenz, Terri Brain, Melody Ashworth, Kathleen Hering

**Ministry & Counsel Committee:** Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 897-4458, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Jim Phillips 482-2388, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520