



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:**

**7 April**

**9:30 am:** Worship Sharing on Discerning Actions to Uproot Racism (Description on Page 2)

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

**14 April**

**9:30 am:** Friendly guest Sakre Edson to speak about *Western Friend* magazine to inform and inspire us (Description on Page 1)

**Rise of Meeting:** Fellowship over lunch; core meal organized by Lisa and Beth. All are welcome to bring ancillary dishes or just yourselves

**21 April**

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

**28 April**

**9:30 am:** Adult Education: Worship sharing on indigenous spirituality

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING**  
**THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**  
**(QUAKERS)**

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

**Fourth Month 2019**

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***Western Friend* to Visit**  
**South Mountain Meeting—Twice!**

*Western Friend* is the official publication of Pacific, North Pacific, and Intermountain Yearly Meetings.

**9:30 Sunday 14 April:**

Members of the *Western Friend's* Board of Directors are visiting Monthly Meetings to talk about the magazine—why they personally love it and how it's such an amazing resource for Friends in the West. The Board feels "the need to connect and share their hopes and dreams if Quakers are to survive." Board Clerk **Sakre Edson** will join our **14 April Adult Ed hour** to describe how reading and supporting *Western Friend* connects us as Friends and helps perpetuate our extended faith community.



**The Fourth Weekend in September (20-22 Sep):**

The Board truly enjoys traveling to the various Meetings to be hosted and to worship in their Meetinghouses. The September ***Western Friend* Board meeting** will take place in our Meeting House Friday and Saturday 20 and 21 September. The Board members love learning about the lives of Friends in the various areas of the West and what their concerns are. They hope to be making friends among Friends throughout the vast West that we call home. Over a **Saturday evening potluck** (6-8 pm), we will break bread together and talk about current issues of concern to all of us. Our new and renewed f/Friends will join us for worship on Sunday morning. Numerous South Mountaineers have already stepped forward to offer their homes for overnight hospitality. Others of us can assist by **providing food** for the Board Meeting and by participating in the Saturday evening potluck.

***Western Friend* Magazine:**

The magazine has existed since 1929 before the yearly meetings formed. Originally called *Friends Bulletin*, it was more of a newsletter sharing activities among Friends. In 2008, the magazine took on its current shape with letters to the editor, theme-based articles, younger-Friend-focused "Pages for all Ages," and selected Memorial Minutes. Editor Mary Klein maintains the *Western Friend* website which is an extensive resource for all western Friends. --Bob Morse

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# Discerning Actions to Uproot Racism

9:30 am Sunday 7 April

**We will discuss and discern how we individually and collectively as a Meeting are led to act to become more racially inclusive in our lives, our Meeting, and our community.**

Many Friends were snowed out of our 10 February 2019 winnowing on this topic. As well, our Yearly Meeting committee on Uprooting Racism has recently rewritten our proposed Uprooting Racism minute to make it briefer, clearer, more concise, and more engaging. Here is the revised minute:

1. We Friends affirm our commitment to live the intertwined testimonies of Integrity, Equality, and Community as we look to the transformative power of love to guide us in uprooting racism.
2. Friends recognize the detrimental impact of racism on all people. Friends cannot ignore the injustice of substantial racial disparities. Under Divine guidance, we are led to explore how the veiled system of white supremacy rewards White people with unearned advantages in tandem with punishing People of Color with pervasive disadvantages. We seek a deepening awareness of how these privileges and barriers have manifested in each of our lives. We endeavor to use this awareness to speak out against racial injustice.
3. We acknowledge that White Friends have been unwittingly complicit in perpetuating systemic racism and that there have been barriers to Friends of Color inherent in Quaker systems. We seek guidance in how to remedy continued injustices perpetuated by systemic racism, and in the creation of improved alternatives. Such guidance-seeking needs to include white people being in support—not leadership—roles, listening directly to People of Color to learn of their needs and priorities.
4. We commit to examining traditions of Friends for barriers that exclude People of Color and alter traditions accordingly. We are challenged individually and as meetings to take action that dismantles oppressive societal attitudes and institutions, creates equity, and constructs multiracial movements to solve the pressing problems of our times. We aspire to become a beloved community structured by equality of opportunity, respect, and spiritual and economic well-being for all.

--Bob Morse

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## Our Annual Donations to Area Organizations: A Call for Suggestions

At its May meeting, the Peace & Social Concerns Committee will decide to which organizations we will donate. You are welcome to make suggestions beyond those to which we donated last year (see list below). Be aware that the Meeting has directed the committee to prioritize organizations that focus on social change work as distinguished from social services. Send your suggestions to the committee clerk at [herberttrothschild1d6839@gmail.com](mailto:herberttrothschild1d6839@gmail.com).

--Herb Rothschild

SOCAN	Resolve
Ashland Culture of Peace Commission	Rogue Climate
Health Care for All Oregon	Sexual Assault Response Team
NAMI	Unite Oregon
Peace House	

## Form for Final Instructions

Ministry & Counsel reminds Friends that Meeting has a form available to write down your instructions for what you want to have happen following your death. When completed, this form is kept with your membership file. Copies of the form are available in the M&C folder in their office mailbox. Copies will also be made available at meeting for worship throughout April.

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**Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.**

**--Max Ehrmann**

# The State of the Meeting Report

The State of Society (or State of the Meeting) Report is our Meeting's self-examination of our spiritual strengths. It is meant to be a summary of how our Meeting community is doing in developing personal collective connections with Spirit or Truth, as well as supportive connections in our community. We would like your help in making it reflect the spiritual condition of our Meeting accurately. Below is a **draft report** presented for seasoning at the March business and discernment meeting.

As a vital part of the seasoning process, please **consider the following queries** and **share your responses with** the Meeting Clerk **Melody** ([ashworthmelody@gmail.com](mailto:ashworthmelody@gmail.com)) or 541-324-9824) or co-clerks of Ministry & Counsel **Gabrielle** ([silverbreeeze@gmail.com](mailto:silverbreeeze@gmail.com)) or **Maureen** ([maurgra55@gmail.com](mailto:maurgra55@gmail.com)) **by Sunday 14 April.**

## THE QUERIES:

*Reflecting on the last year, what do you see as the current spiritual strengths of our Meeting?*

*Write about any particular events, activities, experiences which were spiritually alive and/or growth producing for you this past year.*

*How would you like to see the Meeting grow; in our spiritual life, in our connections with one another, and/or in our activities in the larger community?*

## THE REPORT BEING SEASONED:

Meeting for Worship is more frequently deep and gathered and at least one participant reports having experienced moments of personal insight, direction and healing during worship. It was great to have The Oregon Extension students attend during their Fall semester. We have experienced a sense of community and warmth among attenders and members. While the schedule for shared meals is looser than in the past, newcomers are welcomed, and conversations seem to delve deeper than in past years. Between renewed interest in understanding the spiritual basis of Quakerism and the increase in leadings adopted by the Meeting, competition for discussion hours has been lively and attendance at these discussions has increased.

We continue two midweek groups on the Meeting schedule for personal spiritual development. At least one of these groups has a membership which extends beyond those attending on Sundays and is well attended and supports strong bonds of friendship.

Friends are bringing their involvement in important service activities such as the homeless shelter and accompaniment in Honduras to Meeting and finding willing monetary help from the Meeting and willing volunteers to join them for the local efforts. The leadings in the community reported to us by Meeting participants include founding a community group to foster understanding and respect between political factions, husbanding the Meeting's work to understand and uproot our unconscious racism, informing each other of political opportunities to support our values through letter-writing and contributing to a display addressing gun violence. A meeting participant was instrumental in developing a charter school to foster personal well-being and social awareness in children, others volunteer at the homeless shelter and with a monthly laundry event for the homeless, and several are part of community groups to address other issues such as climate change, racism and antisemitism, and nuclear weapons. In general, there is positive encouragement to engage in social action as led without producing guilt in those who do not participate that way.

Looking to the future, we are hoping to create more opportunities for informal sharing on Quaker spirituality in relation to individuals' own experience, better outreach to occasional and few time attenders and stronger connection to larger Quaker bodies and issues that arise there and in Quaker online forums.

--Melody Ashworth

# Your Dinner Guest Makes an Islamophobic Comment. How Do You Respond?

By Mary Zerkel, Coordinator, AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia Project

Let's imagine that a dinner conversation turns to the Muslim ban and someone sitting around your table says: "It's about time America does something to protect us all from terrorists." What do you say in reply? There are a few traps that can sink your response, and most of us have probably fallen into them because they come somewhat naturally. It takes some skill to avoid these pitfalls—and some practice to be able to tell a new story to counteract anti-Muslim racism. These tips can help:

## **Avoid getting stuck**

Try to reply to them outside of the premise of their statement, framing, or language. If your only comeback to "All Muslims are terrorists" is "No they aren't," you won't get far, because you're trapped within their racist assertion with nowhere to go.

## **Ask questions**

Instead of coming right back with a counter-argument, asking questions can give you a chance to think, and also give the person making the statement a chance to really consider what they're saying.

*One of our workshop participants—a canvasser in the last election—said this tactic slows things down so that two people with opposing views can have a real conversation. For instance, you can say, "Can you explain why you think that?"*

## **Avoid personal attacks**

Depending on your personality, this is either easy for you or hard. Either way, calling out the speaker might feel great in the moment, but it won't change the mind of the speaker, or of the other people in the room.

*One of our co-trainers likes to remind people that they are planting seeds of thought for everyone within earshot.*

## **Use key words**

One clever way to move the conversation beyond an anti-Muslim statement is to focus on a key word in the statement and shift the meaning in your response. I like this tip because it's easy to remember in the moment.

*So your holiday dinner guest says: "It's about time America does something to protect us all from terrorists." In response, you can say, "I totally agree, we should protect people from terror, like those who are fleeing violence and war." See, you've shifted the meaning of who needs protection and what the terror is.*

## **Avoid myth-busting**

This one is the hardest for me, because I believe that facts can win! Sadly, study after study has found that facts alone do nothing to persuade, and this will only get you in an unsatisfying and unproductive back and forth.

## **Contrast with shared values**

Tell a story about what the world would look like if values that you and the listener share were shaping the world. AFSC has done some research, and there are a few key messages that help move an audience to action against profiling and surveillance of the Muslim community.

We've found that the value-based frame that appeals to the broadest audience is: "Everyone deserves to live and pray in safety and peace."

Countering Islamophobia in conversations in our everyday lives—especially in social settings—may seem difficult. When we practice these skills in our workshops, everyone talks about how it makes them anxious, how they have to be very focused, and just how hard it is.

But during a training, one of our facilitators, Sofia, who is Muslim, reminded us: "It's not hard, I have to do this every day. I've been doing this since I was 12 years old."

Those of us who aren't targeted by anti-Muslim racism have not had to develop these skills, but let's challenge ourselves to do so, even when it isn't convenient. It's an important step in standing up to racism and working for the future we want to see.

## Meeting For Worship For Business: 17 March 19

Friends Present: Alex Reid, Melody Ashworth (clerk), Bill Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Ken Deveney, Gabrielle Leslie, Anna Monders, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols (recording clerk), Herb Rothschild, Adam Thompson

### Centering

North Pacific Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, page 30, Shirley Ruth Tweed quote Worship

### Treasurer's Report

We are two-thirds of the way through the year, and we have received 53% of our projected donations, and have spent 50% of projected expenses. Herb will call SOU to discern a payment process.

### Joint Committee and Buildings and Grounds

A fire department representative assessed fire hazards on our property. The retaining wall needs work, and two small cedar trees should be removed, one that poses risk to a retaining wall and one on Ashland St. The removal of the tree on Ashland St. raised some concern, which will be followed up on.

### Peace and Social Concerns

FCNL is updating their statement, "The World We Seek," and request input on it by April 26th. Ken is seeking volunteers to read and revise it. The steering committee of the FCNL Advocacy Group will be asked to take it up soon, and Meeting Friends will be invited to attend.

### Ministry and Counsel

The committee is reviewing files and conducting a census of membership. The Grants Pass Shuttle has been impacted by illness, so M&C is not evaluating its efficacy until September. A silent retreat may be held the second weekend in May. Friends approved the membership of Kathleen Hering after a month of seasoning.

### Paul Buckley Visit

Tuesday, March 26th, Quaker author Paul Buckley will be visiting Meeting and leading an evening discussion. Gabrielle will invite local Friends Churches by phone.

### Willamette Quarterly Meeting

Meeting was in Corvallis, in February. Fifty people showed up, all enthusiastic about continuing WQM. The Quarterly Meeting collects the State of Society reports, while the Yearly Meeting collects the census reports. With help, Bob determined that SMFM includes 62 active participants and 36 members and will pay yearly meeting assessment on 40 adults. The next quarterly meeting will be in Portland in May.

### State of Society Report

A draft was distributed, and feedback to Melody, Maureen, or Gabrielle is requested by 14 April. The report was approved for seasoning.

### Outreach to Mosque

Our Meeting will prepare a card to send to Masjid Al-Tawheed in Talent. Worship is on Friday evening; some Friends will attend. A statement by Rabbi David Zaslow was read. Friends present affirmed that all attacks have basis in white supremacy, which demands equal energy by those who choose to affirm.

### Calendaring

Bob will host a discernment session on future Uprooting Racism action on 7 April at 9:30. The first weekend in May will be the garden party. The second weekend in May will be the silent retreat. Beth and Lisa will host lunch for 14 April when Sakre will be visiting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melody Ashworth, Clerk  
Lisa Nichols, Recording Clerk

## The Light In The Darkness

In the dark times, the awakened soul can become the unifying agent for a collective renewal as entering the moment of crisis and living more fully parallels the spiritual passage from ignorance to illumination. Thus, the underlying soul has been called "the light hidden in darkness." It can also be termed the light of the deep self within, as it was in a passage from the Upanishads, one the oldest documents on the nature of humanity. In this ancient manuscript, a wise sage addresses the issues of what to do in the dark times. He is being questioned at the court of a powerful ruler who understands the material world but realizes that at times a deeper knowledge of existence is required.

Beginning with what he knows best, the king asks the sage, "*By what light, do human beings go out, do their work and return?*"

"*By the light of the sun,*" answered the sage.

"*But if the light of the sun is extinguished?*"

"*Then, by the light of the moon, they will go.*"

And so question and answer proceeded, each exchange leading to a darker place: If the moon is extinguished, then by the starlight; if even the stars are cancelled, then by the light of a fire. "*But, what if the fire of life is in danger of being quenched? What then?*" the king finally wants to know. "*By the light of the self,*" is the conclusive reply of the sage.

Moments of true awakening are also times of greater enlightenment. The light that burns within us is also the light that dwells within everything; it is the hidden light at the center of all things.

*"When the inner light of soul awakens us from within, something also comes alive in the world around us. That is how things change, from the inside out; from the soul to the world as the individual soul helps creation to continue."*

--- Michael Meade, *Awakening the Soul*

## Advices & Queries on PRAYER

Prayer is spending intentional time in the presence of the Divine. Regular times of corporate and personal prayer build our relationship with the Living Christ. This enables deeper communion for us as individuals through each day and for the meeting when we gather in worship.

Prayer can take many forms, such as thanksgiving, praise, self-reflection, and asking God's support for others, which many contemporary Friends call "holding in the Light." If we ask for specific outcomes, the Divine Power may not answer as we wish. An alternative is to take the issue or the person(s) in our minds and hearts to the Light and leave them there.

Prayer in the setting of meeting for worship may lead to a "gathered" meeting, where Friends unite in a deep contemplative connection with each other and the Divine.

In prayer, Friends find humility and courage, guidance and strength for our daily lives. Prayer requires attention. Any form of prayer can open our hearts to God. Frequent and regular prayer leads us to become faithful in our lives.

*Do we set aside times of quiet for openness to the Spirit?  
How do we come to know an inward stillness amid the activities of daily life?*

*Do we encourage in ourselves and in others a habit  
of returning to the Source throughout each day?*

*Are we open to new Light, from whatever source it may come?*

*How do we give communal attention to prayer,  
giving voice to joys and needs that Friends feel?*

*How does our personal prayer life enrich meeting for worship?*

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## Barbara Rosen Memorial Minute

Barbara Rosen, born Barbara Cooper in Nelson, England, on April 10, 1929, passed away peacefully at home on December 19, 2018, at the age of 89.

Barbara began her long teaching career at Ackworth School, a Quaker co-educational boarding school in England, in 1952. Still in her 20s, she came on her own to America to teach English at Wisconsin University-Madison, where she met William Rosen, and married him in 1960. She taught English, with a specialty in Shakespeare and Renaissance drama, at the University of Connecticut from 1960 until her retirement in 1999. In 2003, when she and Bill moved to Ashland, OR, to be near their daughters and grandchildren, they began team-teaching adult classes on Shakespeare. After Bill died in 2004, Barbara enjoyed a return to acting; some favorite roles included a dysfunctional fairy in Ashland Children's Theater's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and the wife in Oregon Stage Works' production of Bertolt Brecht's "The Jewish Wife."

Barbara's experience of war as a child marked her deeply and made her a lifelong pacifist and activist for human rights. She rejected the British anti-Semitism of the day to marry a Jewish man. She taught journalism when the English department refused to hire her because of nepotism rules, then actively opposed and defeated those rules. For 43 years she was a very active and deeply valued member of Storrs Friends Meeting, serving as Clerk and on many committees, bettering her community in countless ways. In 2003, Barbara's membership was transferred to South Mountain Friends Meeting, where Barbara was active on numerous committees, attended and helped facilitate sessions on racism and human rights, happily marched in the PRIDE parade as long as her health permitted, and generously shared with us her wit and humor, her poetry, her stories, and her love.

Even as dementia took away some of Barbara's memory and words, her humor and her love—especially for her family—never faltered. Barbara is survived by her daughters Judith Rosen and Susan Moen, her sons-in-law Don Matthews and Paul Moen, and her grandchildren Nick Moen and Willa Moen. Barbara is greatly missed and appreciated by all who knew her.

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# SMFM CALENDAR

## April 2019

Sun Mo Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship Sharing on Discerning Actions to Uproot Racism  10:30 am Circle of Light	8	9 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting  7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	10 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group (Details Below)	11 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	12	13 Ashland Food Project Pick Up  1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
14 9:30 am Sakre Edson to speak about <i>Western Friend</i> Magazine  <u>Rise of Meeting</u> Fellowship over lunch; core meal organized by Lisa and Beth. All are welcome to bring ancillary dishes or just yourselves	15	16	17	18 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	19	20
21 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	22	23 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	24	25 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship Sharing on Indigenous Spirituality (Details Below)	29	30				

**Wednesday evening 10 April** will be the only **Light Meditation Group** this month. The group has decided to just meet monthly--on the 2nd Wednesday evening of the month.

On **Sunday morning 28 April**, Adult Education plans a talk and discussion about the broad topic of **Indigenous Spirituality**. We will begin with information shared from a Native American perspective and follow with questions and discussion.

# 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](mailto:ashlandquakers@gmail.com)*

*Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse ([morse@mind.net](mailto: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, Brent Howell 841-8841, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk/Assistant *ex officio*

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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