

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:

3 June

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: F&H Committee

10 June

9:30 am: No first-hour activity

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

17 June

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

24 June

9:30 am: No first-hour activity



SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Sixth Month 2018

Finding Quakers/Finding Roots

Friend Nancy Rouwhorst for now has returned to her roots. For at least this summer, Nancy is living among extended family in her native Holland, Michigan.

Nancy & her sisters grew up in a (Dutch-pioneered) Reformed Church of America family and community. Nancy, the eldest, responded to a calling to become an RCA missionary. Her life's work became running schools and teaching in the Middle East. Her fondest placement was in Oman.

Last Autumn, Nancy left Ashland in response to an invitation from a dear old British friend from Oman who asked Nancy to come to the family home in London to provide artistic stimulation and accompaniment to his aging mother. In time, Nancy's friend beckoned his mom back to Oman, and, eventually, Nancy returned to her beloved Oman.

Nancy's friend was absorbed with the upcoming birth of twins, but Nancy, as always, found Oman to be filled with friendly, welcoming folks. She would have loved to stay on, but her visa mandated that she leave the country after ninety days.

Meanwhile, a former housemate from the days when Nancy lived in California invited Nancy to come live near him and his family in his native Turkey. It was while Nancy was living in Antalya that she received word of her 91-year-old mom's imminent death. Nancy hurried back to Michigan, arriving in time for a most meaningful memorial.

Nancy's lifetime of teaching, ministering, and traveling had kept her far away from her three Michigan-based sisters. Nieces and nephews and their children grew up in Nancy's absence. Nancy's return to her homeland coincided with her family's being in grief, missing grandma. Now the family elder, Nancy found herself very warmly welcomed. *Continued on page 2*



Finding Quakers Finding Roots

Continued from page 1

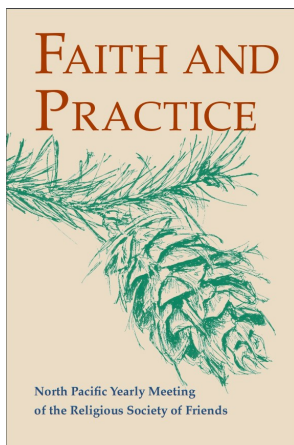
Nancy has settled into a sublet in the center of Holland, a lovely city near the shores of Lake Michigan. She is grateful for the opportunities to attend birthday parties and ballgames to re-acquaint herself with her relatives. As well, Nancy aspires to lead spiritual seminars and plans to use this summer to put this dream into motion.

It was through the Dutch community and Reformed Church that Nancy found her spiritual home. RCA missionaries when on furlough stateside would gather at a retreat center near Philadelphia—Pendle Hill—a quirk of fate that led Nancy to the Quakers. In 1973, as part of doing service during a stay at Pendle Hill, Nancy was helping caretake a dying Howard Brinton. She was blessed to be present when this most famous Quaker author and professor breathed his final breath. Nancy now attends the small but f(F)riendly Quaker worship group in Holland.

--Bob Morse



New *Faith & Practice* Books Arrive



It has been years in the making, and they have finally arrived. Thank you to all who have participated in re-writing and updating the new NPYM *Faith & Practice* books. We encourage all members and regular attenders to stop by the SMFM library to pick up your copy. NPYM sent a free copy to all members, and our monthly Meeting purchased copies to be given to our regular attenders. This book

is a guide to our Quaker *faith*, and it provides suggestions on how we can *practice* it in our daily lives. Also, there are new Advices & Queries to help us explore our Friends' Testimonies. We will all be engaged in discussions on the new A&Q's in the future; so take a look at them. Please pick up a book and sign out your copy so that we know who hasn't yet received one.

???':s: Please see any member of Ministry & Counsel.

One Oregon: Stand Up To Bigotry

The Southern Poverty Law Center released a new report detailing 18 hate groups operating in Oregon, including McMinnville-based Oregonians for Immigration Reform (OFIR). OFIR is collecting signatures for a 2018 ballot measure seeking to repeal Oregon's 30-year-old Sanctuary Law, which was critical in dramatically reducing racial profiling of immigrants and communities of color. OFIR has a misleading name, which suggests it is trying to fix our broken immigration system. To the contrary, OFIR is a hate group targeting people of color in Oregon. The time has come for Oregonians to reject the racism and fear of groups like Oregonians for Immigration Reform.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: 1) Add your voice by going to <http://www.oneoregon.org/take-action> and signing the petition to tell OFIR to stop scapegoating immigrants. 2) Pledge NO on Initiative Petition 22.

--Jean Semrau and Bob Morse

South Mountain Quakers Visit CUBA

Friends, here's a brief overview of my 12 days in Cuba. (*More to be revealed when Fran Curtis and I show our slides and do our best to answer your questions in the Fall.*) I fell in love with the country and the people and found it painful to come back to my own troubled country, especially after hearing more of the shameful history of our CIA actions against Cuba over the years. It made me terribly sad that such overt inhumanity has happened and still happens and that I'm somehow part of it.

Other than that, it was a truly wonderful trip. Our group of 12 was very compatible (10 of us in our 70's), highly educated and interesting folks, and we felt warmly welcomed by Cubans we met, even total strangers. WITNESS FOR PEACE had us scheduled for meetings with different people/organizations, two per morning and one or two every afternoon plus music or art or other events in the evenings. It was worth coming home exhausted to have experienced such a creative, colorful country: Fabulous music, visual art, and dance, and tremendous support for the arts. Not to mention there's incredible support for the larger community—not just for every Cuban person, but for every country's peoples.

Women's rights outstrip those in the US: Equal pay, with salaries public information; the *right* to abortion; more doctors are women than men; more members of the legislature are women; more university students are women; as well as active campaigns to end domestic violence and ensure gender equality and LGBTQ rights; etc., etc. It's amazing to see all they have done with so few resources and so few trade partners.

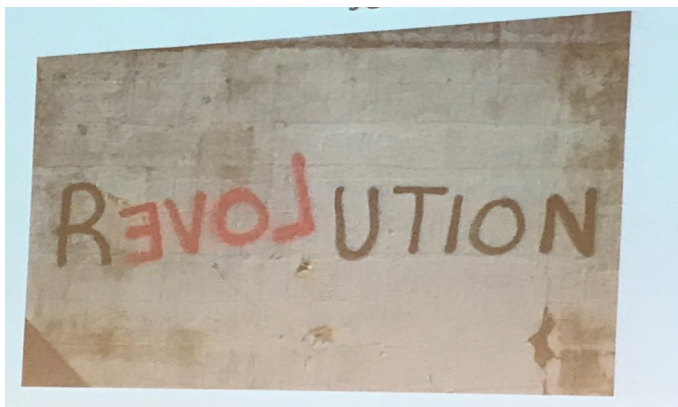
The embargo continues to be a huge problem for Cubans, particularly now that it forbids all US trade partners from trading with Cuba. Cuba's responses over the years have included developing some pharmaceuticals and many herbal remedies; inviting more foreign investment; encouraging tourism; allowing some private businesses, cottage industries and co-operatives; and growing their own food. We visited a beautiful organic farm and ate at two farm-to-table restaurants.

Best of all was the hope and inspiration it gave me to see that a country with relative economic equality, democracy, and peace—and a spirit of happiness and hope—is possible. We were able to go anywhere, talk with anyone, ask any questions, and get honest answers. We heard people say that their young government is still an experiment, and many voices are helping to shape the country's direction. What we saw and heard differs greatly from what our media have told us over the years.

We were particularly impressed with the free healthcare for everyone, free education through university for everyone, highly subsidized food for everyone, and subsidized housing (no one is homeless), the absence of illegal drugs (very important to the country—so important, in fact, that if someone is found even smoking a joint, they can get 7 years in jail, and if anyone is found selling illegal drugs, they can get the death sentence!). There's no gangs and very little crime. I felt totally safe on the streets, even after dark and alone. Somehow greed just doesn't seem to factor into Cuban values or mentality, and sharing seems to be the norm.

¡Viva Cuba y Cubano/as!

--Jean Semrau



Meeting For Worship For Business: 20 May 2018

Present: Ken Deveney, Crystal Bosbach, Adam Thompson, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Scott Plummer, Patricia Morrison, Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Herb Rothschild

Meeting opened with worship. Clerk Patricia Morrison read quotes from Caroline Fox and Peace Pilgrim.

Ministry and Counsel: Crystal Bosbach reported that the M&C is putting together a mutual help form that Friends can fill out to let their wishes be known for times when they need help from the Meeting. The new edition of North Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* has arrived (See page 2 for details on getting your copy).

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild reported that April was a quiet month; there were only two expenses. We are on target for donations, and expenses are below budget. The finance committee has recommended that the Friends Fiduciary funds should be reported at mid-year; because the report won't be available until July, and meetings for business are not normally held in July and August, this report will be made at the September meeting.

Finance: Melody Ashworth reported that there have been a few changes in this year's budget over previous years. The Yearly Meeting has gone to an Abundant Financing for the Annual Session, a method which asks Friends to pay as they are led instead of a set amount: They have asked monthly meetings to donate funds, that in previous years were used to provide scholarships for local Friends to attend Annual Session, to the fund the Yearly Meeting has set up to cover expected shortfalls caused by this method of financing. Our finance committee has chosen to donate \$500, roughly the cost of paying the way for one Friend. The Peace and Social Concerns

committee has asked that the meeting tithe its donations. Other changes to our donation pattern have also occurred, for various reasons. We are now required to pay SOU for parking privileges in the lot we have been allowed to use for free in the past. Our experience is that not all committees spend their allocations; our budget is unbalanced, providing for more expenses than income, but in reality, we seldom end a budget year in the red (see page 6)

2018.5.1: The FY 2019 budget was accepted for seasoning.

Warming shelter: Bob Morse reported that the shelter closed in April. The principal building used by the shelter has been found inappropriate for further use; a committee has been put together to find a different site. The *Tidings* has been publicizing the meetings of this committee. The Shelter Listening Project has evolved into a year-round listening project, with warm-weather listening taking place at the weekly meals for the homeless. A subcommittee is seeking places to allow overnight parking for people living in their cars; Bob has drafted a letter of support from the Meeting for this work.

2018.5.2: The Meeting approved sending a letter to the Ashland City Council over our name supporting permanent overnight parking for people forced to live in their cars.

A Friend noted that Ashland's Interfaith Social Justice Committee has been working on a proposal for a permanent shelter location; our meeting is a member of this committee. Funding may be available from the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Peace and Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild reported that the committee has decided not to recommend preparing a minute on

the North Korea nuclear issue. We are the primary sponsors of the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki observance; the first planning meeting for this will be held this Thursday in the Meeting House. The 5th Sunday of July will be a discussion of the work of the local Drawdown Project.

Fellowship over food: Clerk Patricia Morrison led a discussion of our experience of experimenting with different methods of food fellowship over the last few months. Friends reported positive experiences, especially with the breakfast; it was suggested that perhaps holding these meals as events instead of as ongoing activities contributed to the positive energy present at them. Twelve people attended the breakfast, including two from out of town. Placing snack food on a table in the middle of the room during our regular fellowship, instead of on the counter as in the past, has also seemed to be helpful. Having the core of each shared meal provided by the Meeting instead of counting on potluck contributions has made gatherings seem more relaxed. The clerk asked how many present would be willing to host a breakfast or lunch over the next year; several indicated that they would. A Friends Harvest Festival was suggested for August; Friends could prepare food harvested from their own gardens for sharing with the Meeting.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee will be working over the summer; this is an opportunity to discern where each of us is led to serve the Meeting.

Our June meeting for business will be the last for the summer; an acting recording clerk will be needed for this session.

Meeting closed with worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Morrison, Clerk
Bill Ashworth, Recording Clerk

PLAYING IN THE PARK WHILE BLACK

"I wanted people to know that when you find yourself in *so-called* dark places, there's always a light somewhere in the darkness, and even if that light is inside of you, you can illuminate your own darkness by shedding that light on the world." --Yusef Salaam

Yusef Salaam is one of five black and brown young male teens (The Central Park Five) wrongfully incarcerated in 1989 for raping a white female jogger in New York City. Yusef spent seven years in prison before being exonerated. Yusef was one of many inspirational speakers at the Global White Privilege Conference I recently attended in Toronto. Feel free to borrow my copy of Yusef's poetry written while incarcerated, a form of art and expression that saved his soul during his period of enslavement. --Bob Morse



Book Review

***The Quaker Way: A Rediscovery* by Rex Ambler**

Published by Christian Alternative, Washington, USA

The title hints of revelations of what Quakers have forgotten about Quakerism. I didn't find anything that surprised me. But I was tremendously impressed by the clarity with which Rex Ambler summarized the whole range of contemporary Quaker beliefs and practices, making quite clear what all streams of Quakerism have in common, while not neglecting the variety of beliefs and practices.

In the introduction, Rex Ambler admits we Friends do not have a doctrine and points to the rest of the book to describe what we do have. The clarity stood out for me in the simple way he summarized the connotations of the word "truth," and described Quakerism as a body of practices that help the followers develop an understanding of their personal truth.

His explanations of the practices usually include succinct descriptions of what individuals may experience during worship, while making group decisions, and when trying to put into practice the understanding we gained during worship.

Even after 75 years of experiencing Quakerism first hand, and much reading of our history, I did not find reading this book a waste of time, and I highly recommend this book for Friends who have joined our community recently. I welcome hearing what others think of the book, as well, and discussing any questions that come to mind.

--Melody Ashworth

ADVICES & QUERIES ON WITNESS

We are glad to tell in words as well as deeds the faith that is in us. We seek fellowship with others of our own faith and with all people, realizing the oneness of humanity under God. Our witness is characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others so that differences can be transcended. In discussion, we must not allow the strength of our convictions to betray us into making misleading or contentious statements. The experience of others, especially those in circumstances different than our own, help us to discover what is true for us and may help us sense real kinship. We are constantly reminded that Truth is greater than the knowledge any of us has of it. God did not put all the fruit on one branch.

*How do our lives testify to our convictions
as Friends?*

What are we doing to share our faith?

*How do we practice listening to the Truth which
may be revealed by others?*

*What ways do we find to cooperate with persons
and groups with whom we share
beliefs and concerns?*

*Do we reach out with love and respect
to those with whom we disagree?*

*What are we doing to make the larger community
aware of our Friends Meeting?*

South Mountain Friends proposed BUDGET for FY 18/19

	Actual	Actual, % budget	BUDGETED	PROPOSED
	FY 16/17	75% FY 17/18	FY 17/18	FY 18/19
		(As of Mar 31) (?)		
Donated	12564	10149 85%	12000	12000
Income	21		250	250
Total earnings	12585	10149 83%	12250	12250
Fixed Expenses				
Joint Cmte.	3900	2700 75%	3600	3600
NPYM Dues	2220	1170 50%	2340	2400
WQM	240	234 100%	\$6x39= 234	(\$6x40)=240
Oregon Tax	50	50 100%	50	50
Parking lot rental			new	950
Total Fixed	6410	4154 67%	6224	7240
Discretionary Expenses				
Quaker Magazines	561	469 94%	500	500
Friendship & Hospitality	239	113 23%	500	500
Misc. Ops & Bank Costs,	419	364 91%	400	400
Library	300	75 17%	450	300
M&C	218	697 89%	750	750
Quaker Travel Grants	0	260 52%	500	500
AS Abundance Fund	new		new	500
Children	0	0	100	100
Outreach	488	250 83%	300	300
Peace & SC – Activities	128	116 58%	200	200
P&SC – Donations to Activist Organizations	800	850 106%	800	1200
Adult Education	0	90 30%	300	300
Worship grp. support	0	0 0%	500	200
Future leadings	1540	0 0%	300	300
Warming Shelter	unbudgeted	662 95 %	720	909
Laundry Love	unbudgeted	500 100%	500	0
FCNL		500 100%	500	completed
Update displays			500	500
Total Discretionary	4691		8120	7459
Total Expenses	11103	9099 63%	14344	14699

Additional Items Not In Budget:

SO Pride Parade (annual, but targeted contributions) our goal is \$ 200

Vegetable Money – donated to Christian Peacemaker Teams for Palestine

SMFM CALENDAR

June 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light 12:30 pm F&H Committee	4	5	6	7 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	8	9 Ashland Food Project pickup 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
10 9:30 am No First-Hour Activity 12:30 pm M&C Committee	11	12 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	13 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group	14 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	15 **	16
17 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	18 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	22	23
24 9:30 am No First-Hour Activity	25	26	27 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group	28 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	29	30

**North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session will be 25-29 July at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma; Registration deadline is 15 June; www.npym.org

Quaker Light 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)

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