

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 March

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

10 March Daylight Savings!

9:30 am: No Activity

11 am: Memorial Meeting for Barbara Rosen during worship

Rise of Meeting: Celebration of Barbara's life with refreshments

17 March

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

24 March

9:30 am: Let Your Art Speak

31 March

9:30 am: Peace & Soc'l Concerns Discussion/ Postcard Writing (P.7)

Quaker Author Paul Buckley to speak: Reviving Quakerism Tuesday evening 26 March (P.6)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Third Month 2019

QUAKER WITNESSING AT THE BORDER AS THE MIGRANT CARAVAN ARRIVES

By Lucy Duncan, American Friends Service Committee



Read by Lucy as part of the interfaith service in San Diego in Dec 2018:
Love Knows No Borders: A Moral Call for Migrant Justice

Standing at the border fence in Tijuana
Construction workers hide their faces while making it higher
The wall is built abutting a shrine and inches from a family's house
Even the trees spread their branches trying to stand in the way
As they build this new wall, a deep tear in the land
The remembrance of those who paid with their lives to reach sanctuary
Is obliterated, erased by this higher wall, this sturdy lie
A steel assertion that we are separate and not connected
That the land belongs only to a few
That fear is a force stronger than love

I remember standing next to the separation wall outside of Bethlehem
On the 30-foot wall graffiti audaciously proclaims, "Love wins"
I walked into the church of the nativity
Saw the place Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, was born
Those walls would have kept Joseph and Mary out
Why does so much obstruct seeking home, staying home?

In southern Mexico thousands walked across the border bridge
An image of passage, of yearning, of possibility
Some couldn't cross over the bridge, they swam across, holding out their hands for one another
They flee violence, they flee poverty
All they long for is to live in dignity and safety
They joined together knowing that they could keep each other safer than if they walked alone
They seek peace, they seek shelter, they seek refuge
They are just people, organized by longing
They want to change Trump's heart
Together they assert their right to migrate, their right to live as they desire

(Continued on Page 2)

QUAKER WITNESSING AT THE BORDER

(Continued from Page 1)

We gather at the borderlands to support their call
We gather knowing that we are all safer together
That we are stronger together than apart
That we can help to reach the hearts of many that can help to knock down this wall
That we the people are co-creators of humanity and of justice

We come here to put our bodies in the way of the lie of separation
We come here to pray with our lives
We come here to knock down all the walls and armor that stand in the way of peace
We come to hallow the earth to which we all belong
We come here to touch those who seek asylum, to put our hands through the wall, to offer blessing
We come here to proclaim that it is our bodies that offer sanctuary for one another
We come here to create the sanctuary that is a refuge for us all

Seeing That of God in Everything

Greetings Friends,

Recently I was reminded how for a while we are on this planet, and then we're not. My dad used to say that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. One of my intentions has been to get in touch with you. So, in order to avoid more paving, here goes. My love to you all.

I would like to share a true story with you. This story came to mind after a recent communication with Bob Morse.

The other day—well, more like the other year—when I was living in Ashland, I went to Lower Table Rock mountain, just north of White City, to have a look-around. The table is rather long, in fact long enough to have an airstrip. There are parts with trees and parts with grass. On the eastern edge there used to be a vertical tunnel that went down for a ways and then went horizontal, a place where Native Americans performed their ceremonies. (Here around **Lake Atitlan, Guatemala--see photo below**, there are many places where the same thing still happens, but the tunnel on Lower Table Rock has been closed off—for safety reasons?). At the southern edge you can look down maybe 800 feet right down to the Rogue River, Kendall Slough, and Bear Creek, and off in the distance, Mt Ashland. What a place!

Looking West to the afternoon sun there were about half a dozen birds on some spires just off the edge of the table. Getting closer I heard their calls, they were red tailed hawks. I pulled out my miniature ocarina and started imitating them. As I got closer, a few flew up and came around me. I added some accompaniment and the next thing we had a concert going on. After a good while, I turned North and walked a few blocks. Three of the hawks kept circling around me at about 8 feet above the ground and thirty feet away when they were in front and about 15 feet above when flying behind me. The concert went on. The harmony and dance of the spheres.

Then I went into some trees and they went back to their observation posts on the spires, maybe to look down and spot dinner.

Well, that's it. That is all that happened. But wait. A transformation happened. A re-connection. An overwhelming sensation of not just our inter-connectedness, but of (as Thich Nhat Hanh would say) our *inter-being*. Oh such joy!

You might consider holding a meeting for worship up there someday. Or maybe a potluck. And please greet that surrounding for me. May we see that of God in everyone and in everything.

--Roberto Collins-Lazo, a member of South Mountain Friends
Meeting living in Guatemala quccumatz@yahoo.com



INTO THE HEART OF HOMELESSNESS: A SERIES

The Power of Motherhood

Brianna Smeltz detailed her descent into angry complacency and down-and-out homelessness. To put a human face on our winter shelter guests, fellow shelter listener Stephanie Stewart and I are chronicling the lives of our unhoused neighbors.

“I had a perfect childhood, never wanting for anything, never cold, never hungry,” recalls Bri, as she likes to be called. “I was blessed to have wonderful parents.” An academic achiever and star athlete, Bri successfully managed a local car rental company for six years beginning at age 20.

But at 17, a car accident had left Bri with severe back pain, minimal medical intervention, and prescriptions for pain medicine. Over time she increased her dosage in tandem with her tolerance for the meds.

Two years into her relationship with her boyfriend Andy, Bri, then 26, became pregnant and reduced her daily intake to two pain pills, which made for a most painful pregnancy. She left her rental-car job to give birth to their daughter Kenley. Just two months post-partum, Andy’s dad died from a staph infection contracted during emergency heart surgery. For Andy, this was like losing his best friend, and he emotionally shut down. Overnight, Bri became the care provider for her two dependent loved ones.

Bri’s pain level now demanded ten Percocet a day, which was an expense she couldn’t afford. Bri turned to a less-expensive solution and began smoking heroine, careful to not do drugs in Kenley’s presence. Then, when Kenley was three, Andy’s mom suddenly died amidst a family gathering, followed two weeks later by Bri’s mom’s being diagnosed with brain cancer.

Overwhelmed by nagging physical pain exacerbated by withdrawal and skyrocketing grief and responsibilities, Bri tried in vain to get herself off drugs. Her typically supportive dad refused to sanction her going to Medford’s methadone clinic; instead he encouraged her to go “cold turkey,” the way he had kicked his alcohol habit thirty-five years earlier. Aware that the drugs were destroying her brain cells and motivated to not let her mom die worrying about her, Bri overrode her dad’s advice, switched to a daily Methadone maintenance program, and remained clean while she took care of her mom for a year.

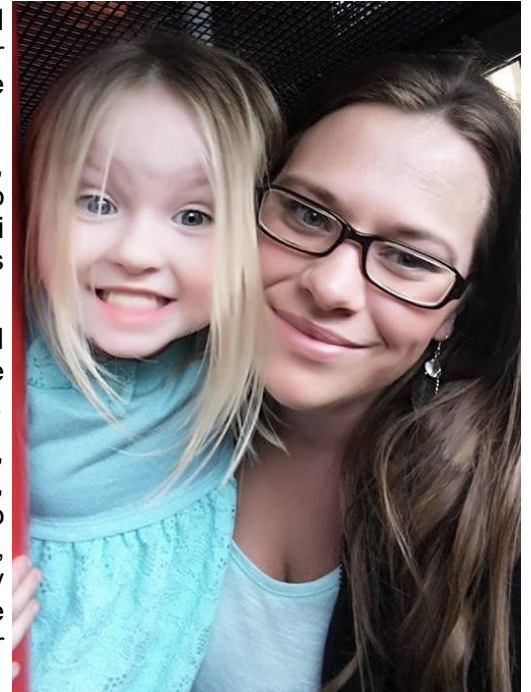
Bri drew sustenance from her inseparable closeness with Kenley, while feeling helpless watching her mom die. Despite Bri’s tenacity and commitment, she was barraged by her mom’s family’s hatred, stemming from times when Bri had stolen money from her mom to satisfy her addiction. The dollar amounts weren’t nearly so large as Bri’s guilt, and her mom had already forgiven her, but her maternal relatives were resolved to be vindictive.

Bri placed her mother in a nursing home to have her cognitive slippage evaluated for hospice-care eligibility. Even though Bri’s brother had power of attorney, the next day Bri’s uncle removed her mom from the care facility and directed mom to sign an amended will. Mom’s substantial savings from her thirty-year Forest Service career would no longer go to Bri and her brother.

While mom’s extended family was already sufficiently well off, Bri had anticipated using her share of the inheritance to start her life over again now that she was clean and sober. Bri was not invited to the memorial and received none of her mom’s ashes. Even more devastating, Kenley’s dad chose this vulnerable moment to file for custody using Bri’s uncle as his principal witness. “The court only heard the messed-up stuff I did when I was using,” Bri remembers. “I was emotionally exhausted, and relapsed, this time on methamphetamines, and I used for two years.”

“I’ve only had one visit with Kenley over this past year. It’s killing me to not see her, and I know she’s wondering where I’m at,” Bri mourned. “Four months ago, I stopped all street drugs so that I could get a place and see my daughter again.” Even though Andy’s number has changed. Bri is hopeful that she can find him and re-establish a shared custodial arrangement.

(Continued on Page 4)



The Power of Motherhood

(Continued from Page 3)

Bri's recent sobriety coincided with meeting her boyfriend Matt—but losing her living situation. Sleeping out in the cold intensified the back pain that now radiates throughout Bri's body. Bri and Matt feel grateful for their gaining entry into the Ashland winter shelter. "I started going to church again, and both Matt and I are motivated to start working," Then Bri lamented, "With no daytime storage for backpacks and only weekly access to showers, it's hard to hide telltale elements of homelessness when going out on a job interview."

"I have always needed to be somewhat in control," said Bri, reflecting on her assets. "That's why I smoked but didn't shoot heroine. I always knew that my word was genuine, even during the worst moments of my addiction."

Bri typically doesn't talk about her mom. "It hurts and makes me vulnerable. Recovery group has taught me that I'm not alone, but I haven't been able to grieve. I just stay mad. I can't forgive my uncle. I need grief counseling."

"I've had an epiphany," Bri mused. "When I was in high school, I never understood why my mom would worry about me. Then my daughter was born, and I began to understand my mom's deep concern for me. My daughter helped improve my relationship with my mom." As much as injury and death has mediated Bri's decline, Kenley has been a source for motivating Bri toward regaining her status as an active member of society.

--Bob Morse, Manager,
Shelter Listening Project

Are You A Quaker Author?

At the Springtime Willamette Quarterly Meeting 3-5 May at Multnomah Friends Meeting House in Portland, there will be displays of books written by Quakers living in our Quarterly region. If you've written a book that you'd like to have included or presented for sale, please let us know by 31 March. --Gail Sanford madreiya@gmail.com, WQM planning committee

ADVICES & QUERIES ON SILENCE

All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the Divine and to find the inward source of our strength.

Amid the busyness of daily living, we seek to return to the stillness which grounds us.

We value silence, not as an end but as a means toward the end, which is communication with the Divine and fellowship with one another.

We must not remain silent when something is wrong, or when we are led to speak out.

Seek to be formed by a practice of silence, as a foundation for a mindful life. *Do we set aside times of quiet for openness to the Spirit?*

How do we bring stillness into our daily lives?

Do we seek to be formed by a living silence?

How are our lives shaped by the practice of stillness?

Do our hearts dwell in the silence beneath everyday busyness?

New Books of Interest in the SMFM Library!

Walk Humbly, Serve Boldly, by Margery Post (Marge) Abbott, is a thoughtful inquiry into how Quakers can live into the reality of being prophetic ministers in the world, with a particular concern for activism in community. At the end of each chapter she provides helpful queries for reflection/discussion.

The Three Abrahamic Testaments: How the Torah, Gospels, and Qur'an Hold the Keys for Healing Our Fears, by Elaz Naqvi, M.D. The Muslim-American author considers Jewish, Christian, and Islamic scriptures, advocating for peace by highlighting the similarities. His greatest emphasis is on the Qur'an because he feels it is widely misunderstood in our culture.

Quaker Midwife mysteries: *Delivering the Truth; Called to Justice; Turning the Tide*, by Edith Maxwell. Taking place in Amesbury, Mass., in the late 1880's, these delightful books deal with Quaker history (John Greenleaf Whittier is one of the characters) and such social issues of the day as woman suffrage.

More Quaker mysteries: *Quaker Silence; Quaker Witness; Quaker Testimony; Quaker Indictment*, by Irene Allen. Each of these novels, too, deals with a different social issue. They take place mostly in Cambridge, Mass., in more recent times.

Not quite so new (2017), but of great interest and timeliness (and wisdom) is Bill Ashworth's *The Monterey List: Growing toward a sustainable future for ourselves and for the planet*. The final chapter: "The human race is not as important as it thinks it is."

--SMFM Librarian Jean Semrau

The 20th Annual White Privilege Conference

20-23 March * Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Friends General Conference pre-registration for the White Privilege Conference is open! **In order to receive the FGC discount**, you must **first** complete the [Friends General Conference pre-registration form](#).

HOWEVER, completing this pre-registration form **does not reserve** you a spot at the conference. Your spot will only be confirmed after going to the White Privilege Conference **website** and completing the [White Privilege Conference registration form](#). Questions: Vanessa Julye at 215-561-1700 x 3066 or vanessaj@fgcquaker.org or Shaina Robinson at 215-561-1700 x 3022 or shainar@fgcquaker.org.

FGC Gathering Welcomes All (& Extends Discount to Youth)

30 June - 6 July * Friends General Conference * Grinnell College, Iowa

This week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community will follow the glorious theme of "Peace in our Hearts; Justice in the World."

This year a generous donation to support family and youth attendance will make possible deep discounts for child and teen attenders. Junior Gathering supports and cares for our children, offering them a spiritual base in their lives. They develop friendships that last a lifetime. The High School Program is a rich time for teens to connect to one another and find connection to the Spirit in their daily lives. This grant also supports Adult Young Friends, who create a community at the Gathering in which they grow, bond, and strengthen their connection to Quakerism.

Early Registration—the best time to apply for financial aid—is open 1-14 April 2019. For more information: www.fgcquaker.org.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting: Call to Annual Session 2019

17-21 July * Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon * *Theme: HOPE? ABYSS FAITH KINSHIP*

Our Friend in Residence, Jay O'Hara, reminds us that the time of hope may be over. The world is in a catastrophic place with all scientific knowledge showing us that Climate Change is here. How then shall we live at the edge of this abyss? Where is the faith we will need to move mountains? Our hope is in the God who made it all, the God that created this earth and all on this beautiful planet. We are of the earth and all of nature is us. How then shall we live?

Welcome all, dear ones all. We need one another. We need all hearts open, all minds full of ideas, all hands on board, all feet ready to dance together. Together in faith we can become clearer about how way will open. People in our Yearly Meeting are doing amazing acts of love and faith. They are repairing little corners of our world. Let us share together.

To challenge us on this journey, we welcome Jay O'Hara as our Friend in Residence. Jay O'Hara is a member of Sandwich Monthly Meeting on Cape Cod, and is a co-founder of the Climate Disobedience Center. Jay was part of the team that in 2016 shut down five pipelines carrying crude oil from Canada's tar-sands. A visionary climate activist, Jay works to deepen the spiritual underpinnings of powerful action in the world. Jay will be accompanied by his elder, Susan Davies, from Maine.

Through Abundant Financing, our Annual Session can continue to be accessible for Friends of all levels of financial means. We need all amongst our big Quaker Community here in the North Pacific to come together. Each has something to give to others. We will continue working to make our place welcoming for Friends of color by following the suggestions made by last year's Friend in Residence, Vanessa Julye. We have invited Vanessa to join us again this year to help us continue to challenge ourselves in relation to racism.

At the heart of our time together is the business meeting. We will consider a minute on undoing racism as we seek new ways to live more fully and with greater integrity. Agenda and written materials will be published ahead of time for preparation by all those in attendance. During this time of worship how will the Spirit call us to act? Strengthened by being together in Quaker community, how will we, individually and together, go forth in faith to witness to the wider world?

Registration information can be found at www.npym.org after 1 April.
Lucretia Humphrey, Presiding Clerk (presiding_clerk@npym.org)

Meeting For Worship For Business: 17 February 2019

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

Centering

North Pacific Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, page 72, Patricia Loring quote

Worship

Treasurer's Report

At this time of year, we would expect \$7,100 in contributions, yet thus far we have \$4,850. Total expenses are running under budget but are still above the contributions so far. Adam invites feedback about the treasurer's report.

Ministry and Counsel

Ministry and Counsel will be completing the annual membership tally for Meeting. It is also considering organizing a silent retreat for Meeting. The membership support committee for Kathleen Hering recommends her for membership in South Mountain Friends Meeting with a month of seasoning.

2019.2.1 Friends approve Kathleen Hering's membership request with month of seasoning.

Meeting for Worship on 10 March will be a Memorial Meeting for Barbara Rosen.

Barbara's family will be present. Cathy McDaniel is organizing food for this day; contact her if you can help. Barbara's memorial minute was read and accepted by Meeting for Business; it will appear in the April newsletter.

Peace and Social Concerns

The committee is preparing to make donations to local groups; if anyone has recipient suggestions, please let them know. The Friends Committee on National Legislation advocacy group is off to a good start. A Clean Energy Jobs bill is active in the state senate. Peace and Social Concerns may become a member of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Interfaith Clergy Circle

Rabbi David Zaslow sent information about an anti-Semitic movement in Ashland. He requests that as allies, other congregations keep an ear to the ground to help ensure local synagogues' safety. On 27 February at 7 pm, there will be an event at the Havurah on the subject of building connections among the Jewish, Muslim, Druze, & Christian communities. A peace and justice Seder may take place in April. Bob suggests holding a Not in Our Town movie night. Peace and Social Concerns will work with Bob to look into Not in Our Town project.

Uprooting Racism

Worship sharing on "Uprooting

Racism: Action Leads" took place on 10 February and submitted a report to Meeting for Business. There will be further worship sharing on this topic.

Adult Education

The committee met and has chosen topics for the remaining fourth Sunday adult education gatherings. The committee will be hosting two adult education sessions this month. Also, Quaker author and historian Paul Buckley will visit Meeting on Tuesday 26 March 7-9 pm. Anna has offered to be a point person for Buckley's visit. Our meeting room is not available that night, and Anna will reach out to Talent Friends Church and Medford Friends Church. One host is still sought for these traveling friends.

Website

The new website is up. The ad hoc committee is still accepting comments and will remain active until next month.

2019.2.2 Meeting for Business is delighted with the new website.

Nominating Committee

Job descriptions are available in the blue folder in the nominating slot in the office. Friends accepted nominating committee's newly revised job descriptions.

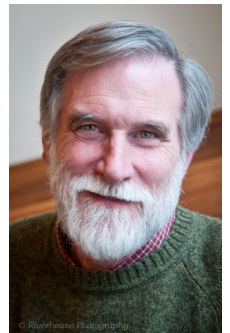
Respectfully submitted,
Melody Ashworth, Clerk
Lisa Nichols, Recording Clerk

Do Friends Need A Revival? Come, Listen, Discuss

Paul Buckley, Quaker historian and theologian, delineates essential principles of Quakerism and considers what they require of us today. He has captured Quaker history, values, principles, and changes in his new book *Primitive Quakerism Revived: Living as Friends in the 21st Century*. Paul Buckley will visit Quakers in Southern Oregon **7 to 9 pm Tuesday evening 26 March**. Location to be determined. Questions? Ask Anna Monders.

He will address such questions as

What would it look like today to revive the Quakerism of early Friends?



SMFM CALENDAR

March 2019

Sun Mo Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting	2
3 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	4	5	6	7 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	8	9 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
10 <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> 9:30 am No Activity 11 am Memorial Meeting for Barbara Rosen during worship Rise of Meeting: Celebration of Barbara's life with refreshments	11	12 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	13 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	14 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	15	16
17 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	18	19 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	20	21 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	22	23
24 9:30 am Let Your Art Speak	25	26 7-9 pm Paul Buckley on Reviving Quakerism (P.6)	27 6:30 to 8:30 pm Light Meditation Group	28 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	29	30
31 9:30 am Discussion & Post Card Writing (details below)						

9:30 am Sunday 31 March

Peace & Social Concerns will update the Meeting on key bills in Salem (e.g. on climate change and Health care reform). Then, there will be postcard writing on repeal of the 2001-02 Authorization for the Use of Military Force, Congress's blank check to the president for unending war

SUNDAY IS THE NIGHT THAT THE QUAKERS COORDINATE AND VOLUNTEER AT THE SHELTER

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

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

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

Contributors: Bob Morse & Pam Johnson

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

Archivist: Pam Johnson 535-1940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

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

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

Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to ashlandquakers@gmail.com

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

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

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

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

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid

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

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

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

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

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

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 488-0228, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, 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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