



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

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Seventh Month & Eighth Month 2019

543 South Mountain Avenue

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(Near Southern Oregon University)

South Mountain Meeting to Reflect on Membership

Sunday 8 September

1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First Hour & Rise of Meeting:

7 July

9:30 am: Uprooting Racism Focus Group (All Are Welcome) (Details on page 3)

10:30 am: Circle of Light

14, 21, & 28 July

9:30 am: No first-hour activity

4 August

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

11, 18, & 25 August

9:30 am: No first-hour activity

8 September

9:30 am: Spiritual Listening on Meeting Membership (Details on page 1)

Ministry and Counsel has been reflecting about the nature of membership in our Meeting and on what it means to be a member of the Religious Society of Friends as a whole. During the May Business Meeting, it was proposed that we hold a spiritual listening session on the topic of membership so that participants can share their thoughts and feelings on this subject.

Many of us feel it is important to be inclusive and include all participants in the Meeting as an equal part the Meeting community. We have felt uncomfortable with the distinction between Members and Attenders. Many of us also value our membership in the Religious Society of Friends and find it to be an important part of our individual spiritual lives as well as conveying a particular commitment and responsibility to the Meeting.

The following queries may help us reflect about membership and South Mountain Friends Meeting over the summer in preparation for the spiritual listening session.

What makes you want to be a participant of the Meeting? How does one become a part of the SMFM Community?

What does it, or would it, mean to you to be a Member of SMFM or Religious Society of Friends as a whole?

Are there particular commitments and responsibilities to the Meeting that membership requires?

Does making a distinction between Members and Attenders lead to a sense of exclusion and hierarchy? Does not using these terms foster a sense of inclusion?

Is there a value in making a distinction between Members and Attenders? How does it affect our Meeting Community and the ability of all to participate in the Life of the Meeting?

--Maureen Graham

MEETING ROOM REPAIRED AND REVITALIZED

On 11 May 2019,
the ceiling
collapsed in our
Meeting House's
Meeting Room.

Due to the
diligence and
dedication of
Meeting's Merlin
McDaniel and
Peace House's
Elizabeth Hallett,
within a matter
of weeks, the
room was safely
and
beautifully
restored.



Divesting from the Mass Incarceration & Detention Business

As you know, prisons and detention centers are very profitable these days, whether for the builders of buildings or for the companies that provide goods, services and staff to these huge populations. And, so long as the business is profitable, it is unlikely that the numbers of people being detained will be lowered at all.

The good news is that recently both Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase banks have divested from the Geo Group, one of the largest profiteers. Sadly, several other banks have not (yet) done so.

If you have any IRAs, CDs, stocks or other holdings, you might want to check to see if any of the big profit-makers from mass incarceration are in your portfolios. Currently, the most notable 10 corporations are these:

Avalon Correctional Services

Bank of America Corp

Core Civic

Ferrovial

G4S

Geo Group

Mitie Group

Providence Service Corp

Serco Group

Sodexo



We can make an impact when we all divest even relatively small amounts from the most heavily-invested banks and corporations. More information is available at <http://investigate.afsc.org>. Thank you for considering divestment.

--Jean Semrau

Actions Toward Uprooting Racism Focus Group

Meets at 9:30 am Sunday 7 July * All are welcome!

Our Meeting has developed an open-to-all, open-ended, ad hoc focus group in which we sit with each other, recognizing that those so far present in the group (and most in our Friends Meeting) have been racialized as white and endeavoring to become more conscious of and to feel and hold the pain of racism. We meet intermittently.

We've discussed books that Friends have been reading about white fragility and white supremacy, about the experience of living as a person of color in the United States, and about how to engage in conversations about racism. Such book talk might evolve into a book group separate from the focus group or might lead to topic-specific talks, articles in our newsletter, or simply continued book-enthused ideas coming forth into our focus-group discussions.

We've recognized that, through our readings and other explorations, our discussions about the experiences of people of color can become disproportionately about African Americans to the extent that we're not acknowledging or examining the experiences of Native Americans, Asians, Latinx, and others. We've simultaneously recognized the unique transgenerational emotional scars of slavery, Jim Crow, redlining, the War on Drugs, and implicit bias that continue to leave African Americans uniquely disenfranchised.

We continue to acknowledge our cultural conditioning to fear the "other" and the wisdom in reaching out and developing relationships with people and groups that look, think, and act in unfamiliar ways.

The shadow of racism has an historic and systemic presence in our lives, our Meeting, and our Society. We welcome all voices as we search for a Spirit-led path toward greater inclusivity, respect, equality, and justice.

--Bob Morse

Advices & Queries on EXPECTANT WORSHIP, VOCAL MINISTRY

We prepare ourselves for meeting for worship in many ways – for example, through regular study, meditation and prayer – so that we come into meeting with open, expectant spirits seeking after Truth.

Search within yourself before rising to give vocal ministry – be aware of the physical and spiritual promptings that underlie true vocal ministry.

If prompted by the Spirit to give vocal ministry, we speak audibly, clearly, simply, and as briefly as possible.

Listen to the ministry of others as if it is the voice of the Divine; seek the thoughts behind the words and hold the speaker in love.

After a message is given, Friends take time to ponder its meaning and to give space before rising to speak if we are so led.

Prepare the children of meeting to understand and experience the power of Quaker worship and vocal ministry.

How do we prepare our hearts and minds for meeting for worship?

Do we worship together in a way that honors and respects other Friends' beliefs?

How do we listen to ministry that seems wrong or misguided?

Do we meet for worship in expectant waiting for the promptings of the Divine Spirit?

How do we carry this inspiration into our daily living?

How do we take care that our vocal ministry is not lightly given?

Do we offer vocal ministry under the leading of the Spirit, in the simplicity and sincerity of truth?

As we listen, or as we speak, are we guided by the inward Light and sensitive to one another's needs?

Are we careful not to speak at undue length or beyond our call?

If you witness public instances of racist, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, or any other form of oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment, use these tips on how to intervene while considering the safety of everyone involved. (from www.afsc.org)

BUSINESS MEETING 16 June '19

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, Gabrielle Leslie, Anna Monders, Patricia Morrison, Bob Morse, Lisa Nichols, Scott Plummer, Adam Thompson, Sylvie Weaver

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION DO'S AND DON'TS

DO make your presence as a witness known.

If possible, make eye contact with the person being harassed and ask them if they want support.

Move yourself near the person being harassed. If possible and you feel you can risk doing so, create distance or a barrier between the person being harassed and the attacker.

If it's safe to do so, and the person being harassed consents—film or record the incident.

DO take cues from the individual being harassed.

Is the person engaging with the harasser or not? You can make suggestions, "Would you like to walk with me over here? Move to another train car? For him to leave you alone?," and then follow their lead.

Notice if the person being harassed is resisting in their own way, and honor that. (Especially white folks, don't police tone of the person being harassed).

Follow up with the individual being harassed after the incident is over, see if they need anything else.

DO keep both of you safe.

Assess your surroundings—are there others nearby you can pull in to support? Working in a team is a good idea, if it is possible.

Can you and the person being harassed move to a safer space/place?

DON'T call the police.

For many communities experiencing harassment right now (including Arab and Muslim communities, Black people, queer and trans folks, and immigrants) the police can cause a greater danger for the person being harassed.

DON'T escalate the situation.

The goal is to get the person being harassed to safety, not to incite further violence from the attacker.

DON'T do nothing.

Silence is dangerous—it communicates approval and leaves the victim high and dry. If you find yourself too nervous or afraid to speak out, move closer to the person being harassed to communicate your support with your body.

Centering

"In the gift of this new day, in the gift of the present moment, in the gift of time and eternity intertwined, let us be grateful, let us be attentive, let us be open to what has never happened before, in the gift of this new day, in the gift of the present moment, in the gift of time and eternity intertwined." --John Philip Newell

Treasurer's Report

We had some big expenses this month; NPYM dues and SOU parking lot fees. So although our expenses outstrip our budget this month, we are ending the year roughly within budget.

Finance Committee

The month of seasoning for our 2019-2020 budget is over. Friends had a handful of concerns. Is Meeting comfortable with off-budget items being moved on to the budget, at the request of the current treasurer? After some discussion, yes, we were easy with that. Another former concern was solved in the month of seasoning; Steve Radcliffe has graciously offered to provide shuttle service for our Grants Pass elders, using his Art Center car when necessary. He will invoice Meeting to preserve his non-profit's legal status, and will donate an amount to cover the cost of the invoices. In the end, one concern remained: one committee felt it needed more than the budgeted amount in order to fulfill its duties. After an impasse, Friends agreed to the following minute:

2019.6.1 Friends approve the proposed budget, with the understanding that the budget does not preclude Ministry and Counsel from holding both a spring and fall retreat.

Ministry and Counsel

The welcome potluck picnic will be on 30 June to welcome Kathleen Hering to Meeting as a new member. A winnowing session about the nature of membership will take place on 8 September.

Peace and Social Concerns

The committee has distributed its donations, including new donations to Rogue River Keepers and Vision Quilt. The committee reported its anticipated spending for 2019-2020 and announced upcoming events.

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

Shutting Down Homestead Child Detention Center: A Quaker Perspective

As I stood across the street from the Homestead detention center for immigrant children, I tried to imagine what it must be like for the Central American teenagers incarcerated in this “temporary” shelter on federal land near Miami. Very few visitors have been allowed inside, and fewer still have been able to talk directly with the children, ages 13 to 17. The private corporation that runs the detention center, the for-profit Caliburn International says it must protect the children’s right to privacy. But what about their right to be reunited with their families?

Caliburn has allowed a few members of Congress in after much persistence on their part. A few reporters have been allowed a “tour,” but none has been able to interview the children in detention. They are shown the rows of bunk beds, the lunch lines, the “classes,” and the soccer games outdoors, which give the impression of a highly controlled summer camp. Except these kids can’t go home. They don’t even know where home is anymore.

Some have been held for six months, waiting to be reconnected with their families. Those of us on the outside can only speculate about what they are experiencing, the traumas they must be dealing with, the anxiety of not knowing whether they will ever see their parents again, the fear of being sent on to prison when they turn 18, the feelings of unworthiness associated with being behind bars, of wondering why they are prisoners.

What did they do wrong? They fled systemic violence and terror in their home countries. Some made the treacherous journey alone, on foot, by bus and rail through Mexico. Others came with relatives but were separated from them at the US-Mexican border and were sent to centers where they are classified as “unaccompanied minors,” because the adults who came with them were not their actual parents. Maybe the person they came with was an uncle, an older cousin, a grandparent. But to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), that didn’t matter.

Taking children from their parents at the border crossings was intended to dissuade refugees from coming. The victims of that policy live on in Caliburn’s for-profit Homestead facility, which is making \$730 dollars a day per child. Business is so good, they are increasing their capacity by another 1,000 beds, enabling Caliburn to house 2,600 children.

Instead of being released to family members or other sponsors, many are spending weeks or months in inhumane detention. And because Homestead is an “emergency influx center,” children are not protected by agreements that ordinarily ensure licensing and other standards are met.

Basically, the federal government doesn’t know what to do with these children. If they haven’t been deported, or released to sponsors, they languish in the camp. There are people--often extended family members--who want to sponsor the children. But many are undocumented themselves. To step forward and undergo background checks in order to become sponsors, they would risk almost certain arrest by ICE and deportation, losing all they have worked for to make a secure life for their families in the U.S.

The rules regarding the release of children even to close relatives with legal residency are strict. An aunt was told her niece was ready to be released to her custody. She flew down from Baltimore but returned without her niece because she didn’t have a set of fingerprints from her husband. She had not been advised in advance that she would need them. But the officials said they had to have his fingerprints on file since he would be living in the same house as the girl. Not only was she turned away, she could only see her niece through thick glass. No hugs, no wiping away the tears from her face, no holding of hands. She was only able to shout through the glass and assure her hysterical niece that she would be back to get her out.

As a Quaker, I try to be guided by an inner Light that tells me that keeping refugee children in jail is an affront to the entire human race. And for immense profit. The American Friends Service Committee accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947 on behalf of Quakers worldwide for coming to the aid of refugees after the devastation of World War II. Once again, AFSC is taking up the cause of tens of thousands of Central American refugee families fleeing the terror of violence, brutality, and hunger, amassing in encampments on the US-Mexican border, waiting to enter legally and to exercise their international right to seek asylum. Miami Quakers stand with AFSC . . . calling for the shutdown of this prison for refugee children. Until it is closed and the children have been reunited with family, we will continue to raise our combined voices.

--Kathy Hersh, writer, filmmaker, and member of Miami Friends Meeting

SMFM CALENDAR

July 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 Uprooting Racism Focus Group--All Are Welcome 10:30 am Circle of Light	8	9 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	10	11 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	12	13 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
14 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	15	16	17 North Pacific Yearly Meeting: Annual Session 17-21 July (See Below)	18 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	19	20
21 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	22	23	24	25 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	26	27
28 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	29	30 4:30-6:30 pm M&C Meeting (only if needed)	31			

North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Session

*Theme: Hope? * Abyss * Faith * Kinship*

17 - 21 July at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon

Register Online (Registration Deadline is 1 July)

All the information you need is available on the registration website. You can learn about the programs, schedule, lodging and more at: <https://as.npym.org/>.

PLEASE first READ the section "Before you Register" under the tab for "Registration." The form is easy to fill out, but it includes lots of details and choices you need to consider. You can start your registration, then pause and resume it later, if necessary, to allow time to review all the options.

SMFM CALENDAR

August 2019

Sun Mo Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	2	3
4 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	5	6 Hiroshima & Nagasaki Observance 6-9 August (See Below)	7	8 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	9	10 Ashland Food Project Pickup 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
11 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	12	13 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	14	15 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	16	17
18 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	19	20 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	21	22 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	23	24
25 9:30 am No First Hour Activity	26	27	28	29 3:30-5:30 pm Free Writing Friends	30	31

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Observance 6-9 August

Ashland's Annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil will be held in Lithia Park beginning at 8 am Tuesday 6 August and ending at 5 pm Friday 9 August with programming on Wednesday the 7th and Thursday the 8th. These events are free, and all are welcome.

If smoke prevails the ceremonies may be held at Pioneer Hall.

If you are interested in assisting as a volunteer or sponsor, please contact Elizabeth Hallett at Peace House: 542-482-9625

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Melody Ashworth 324-9824

Assistant Clerk: Anna Monders 488-5577

Recording Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

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

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Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

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

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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 (clerk), 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) 897-4458, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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