



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

(Near Southern Oregon University)

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

### First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Discussions via Zoom

First-Hour Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099502775?pwd=VmgxVFFzVkhYUkhRYkpNYmJ6TGZUdz09>

**5 September** [zoom/meetinghouse](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099502775?pwd=VmgxVFFzVkhYUkhRYkpNYmJ6TGZUdz09)  
Spiritual Listening: Sharing feelings about fragmentation within or our separation from Meeting (See p. 3)

**12 September** [zoom/meetinghouse](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099502775?pwd=VmgxVFFzVkhYUkhRYkpNYmJ6TGZUdz09)  
Worship Sharing: Sharing ideas for moving beyond fragmentation and separation (See p. 3)

**19 September**  
Meeting for Business (9-10:30 am)

**26 September**

Adult Ed: Tax Resistance (See p. 3)

### Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

1) At Quaker Meeting House **OR**

2) In Glenwood Park behind the Meeting House **OR**

3) By Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

### **Land Acknowledgment**

**Friend Hazel Ward to  
Speak on Zoom on  
10 Steps to Localization  
7-9 pm Wednesday  
22 September**  
See page 5

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

### Ninth Month 2021

## Pondering Early Quakers

### Have You Ever Wondered:

How the religious mandates, the economic strife, the social formalities, the educational limitations, and the commoners' fears in the northwestern part of mid-17<sup>th</sup>-century England landed harder on women than on men?



How the looser grip of Presbyterianism in the countryside than in the cities and the deep woes of poor, landless farmers opened the way for many to be moved by hearing about an inwardly-directed religious path that didn't rely on unjust tithing and uncaring ministers?

What might be the sound of George Fox's words which lightened the load of his listeners and lighted the hearts of his followers?

Who were the Valiant Sixty—the initial Seekers who became convinced by George Fox to have faith in the way of Friends and then to travel in ministry with Fox and/or in the manner of Fox?

Whether the Valiant Sixty included those who were other than male and other than adult?

How English constables, upholding the mandatory allegiance to the established Church, treated early Quaker women differently than early Quaker men?

Who were the members in the family of Margaret Fell (the “Mother of Quakerism”) besides herself and her husband, Judge Thomas Fell?

How young women found the courage to stand up in public and offer “tellings,” describing the way of Friends, at a time when females were not accepted as preachers and were shunned if traveling unaccompanied?

Whether early Friends ever struggled to sustain the Light and continue seeing the goodness in all people?

How deep were the sacrifices suffered by early Friends so that the Quaker faith would endure?

All such ponderings are addressed in *The Kendal Sparrow: A Novel of Elizabeth Fletcher* by Barbara Schell Luetke, a copy of which is in our South Mountain Friends library. —Bob Morse



**Friends Gather for a Memorial Meeting  
Celebrating the Life of Curt Jones  
11 July 21**





# Advices & Queries on "Be Not Afraid"

Courage is a fundamental act of faith.

As Friends we examine our fears and have the courage to release those that prevent us from growing in the Spirit and following our Guide. As we continue letting go of our fears and following the motions of love, we are led into a new, more abundant, and joy-filled life. Although this life is not always free of pain, it is graced with a courage that will endure any adversity.

We ask those in authority to employ their power to reconcile and unify us, rather than to exploit fear to divide us.

It takes courage to reach out to those who are creating fear and to those who are controlled by fear. We work to restore harmony through peacemaking and reconciliation based in mutual love. Disharmony is a manifestation of fear; it results in separation from God, from ourselves, from our fellow human beings, and from all of creation.

*How does fear influence our lives? Are our decisions based on fear, or do we trust the Spirit's urging toward love and reconciliation?*

*How do we let go of our fears, trusting the Spirit, so that we can restore peace in our Meetings and communities?*

*Do we encourage each other through love to act in faithful witness?  
How do we identify and confront fears that deceive, enslave, and stop us from living faithfully?*

*In times of trial and terror, how can we open our hearts, return to God's love, and move forward with courage?*

*What would we do, as individuals and as a community, if we were not afraid?*

**Living in a time of fear can corrode our ability to listen and respond to the Spirit.**  
—No Pacific Yearly Meeting  
*Faith & Practice, 2017*



**We cannot avoid our fears by attempting to control people to make things turn out the way we want.**

—NPYM *Faith & Practice, 2017*

**The problem is that when we follow our fears, we never get clear and our fears confine us in a box made of worry and defensiveness. When we follow where the Light leads, the fears of self and for self drop away, and we can act to make love manifest in the world. The Light always requires us to risk loving, and in risking love we find true peace.**

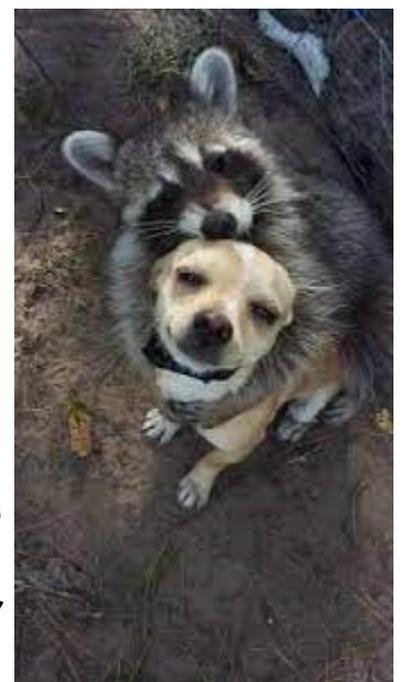
—Robert Griswold, 2010



**We live in times when it is very important to distinguish between fear and courage. Fear is sending the world toward war.**

**Maintaining peace takes courage. Fear drives people apart. It takes courage to come together with respect while recognizing our differences. This is what diversity and community and love are all about.**

—Bonnie Tinker, 2002



# Land Acknowledgment

In July, I posted a draft of a land acknowledgment in the South Mountain mid-week bulletin, proposing that an edited and business-meeting approved version may be an appropriate addition to our Meeting's website. Several Friends helpfully added or altered words. To read about the importance and creation of a land acknowledgment, click here: [A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment - Native Governance Center](#).

Hazel Ward reached out offering both suggestions and an invitation. Before moving forward with word-smithing the draft, I welcome Friends' joining me at Hazel's upcoming presentation. I sense that it will deepen both our knowledge and our appreciation of the land on which we live. —Bob Morse

Through *Siskiyou Permaculture*, Hazel Ward will be speaking on **Ten Steps to Localization** from 7 to 9 pm on **Wednesday 22 September**

Hazel will be sharing visionary ideas of how to become a people of place. **Hazel invites South Mountain Meeting members and attenders to watch on Zoom.**

There's a sliding fee request for Hazel's presentation.

**Click here to register** for Hazel's talk: [10 Steps to Localization](#).

## Decoding The Quaker Alphabet Soup

This list correlates some common Quaker initials with the words for which they stand along with descriptions of the related organizations. This list also appears under the "LINKS" tab at our South Mountain website ([www.ashlandquakers.org](http://www.ashlandquakers.org)). If you know of other initials or acronyms that belong on this list, please inform me. —Bob Morse



North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM) is a regional organization consisting of individual congregations, called monthly meetings (because they hold meetings for the conduct of business once a month). NPYM is called a yearly meeting because it holds an annual session where Friends from throughout the Pacific Northwest gather to worship and conduct business together.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker-founded organization working for peace and social justice in the United States and around the world.



Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a lobbying organization in the public interest founded by Quakers. FCNL works for social and economic justice, peace, stewardship of the environment, and good government in the United States.

Quaker Center is a retreat center in Ben Lomond (near Santa Cruz), California, which presents workshops on topics of interest to Friends.

Pendle Hill is a Quaker center in Pennsylvania, for spiritual growth, study, and service.

Friends General Conference (FGC) is a national organization of "unprogrammed" Friends meetings. Unprogrammed Friends gather in the silence without the services of a designated pastor or minister. A number of yearly meetings are affiliated with FGC, and many individual Friends participate in FGC activities.

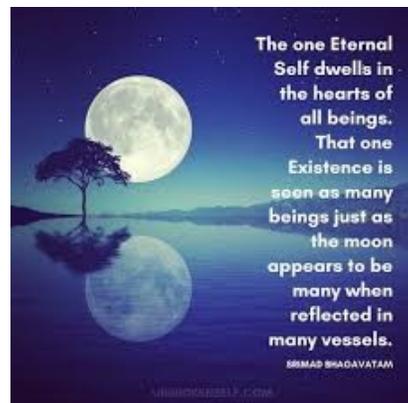


Friends World Committee For Consultation (FWCC) is an organization that works to communicate between all parts of Quakerism worldwide.

Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference gathers women from Friends Meetings and churches throughout the Pacific Northwest.

# Only Stillness Can Change Us

Your real self, your true nature is what is closest to you: It is yourself. Each step taken to reach it moves you further away from there. Attention is not inside nor outside, so you can never go to meditation. When you try to meditate, you create a state; you have a goal you are trying to achieve. Meditation is not a reduction, not a kind of interiorization. So that when there is still even the slightest anticipation of going somewhere, or achieving something, you go away—because meditation is your natural state; presence IS. The mind can be still from time to time, but the nature of the mind is activity, is function. Your body can be empty, relaxed from time to time, but your body is also function. It is therefore a violence against nature to attempt to stop the mind or body functions.



The mind must come to a state of silence, completely empty of fear, longing, and all images. This cannot be brought about by suppression, but by observing every feeling and thought without qualification, condemnation, judgement, or comparison. If unmotivated alertness is to operate, the censor must disappear. There must simply be a quiet looking at what composes the mind. In discovering the facts just as they are, agitation is eliminated, the movement of thoughts becomes slow, and we can watch each thought, its cause and content as it occurs. We

become aware of every thought in its completeness, and in this totality there can be no conflict. Then only alertness remains, only silence in which there is neither observer nor observed. So do not force your mind. Just watch its various movements as you would look at flying birds. In this uncluttered looking all your experiences surface and unfold. For unmotivated seeing not only generates tremendous energy but frees all tension, all the various layers of inhibitions. You see the whole of yourself. Observing everything with full attention becomes a way of life, a return to your original and natural meditative being.

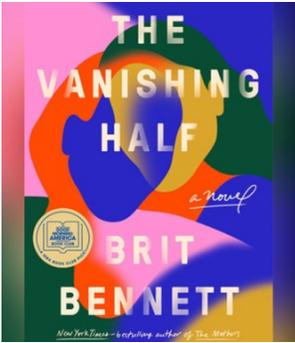
It is only through silent awareness that our physical and mental nature can change. This change is completely spontaneous. If we make an effort to change, we do no more than shift our attention from one level, from one thing, to another. We remain in a vicious circle. This only transfers energy from one point to another. It still leaves us oscillating between suffering and pleasure, each leading inevitably back to the other. Only living stillness, stillness without someone trying to be still, is capable of undoing the conditioning our biological, emotional, and psychological nature has undergone. There is no controller, no selector, no personality making choices. In choiceless living the situation is given the freedom to unfold. You do not grasp one aspect over another for there is nobody to grasp. When you understand something and live it without being stuck to the formulation, what you have understood dissolves in your openness. In this silence, change takes place of its own accord, the problem is resolved, and duality ends.



Excerpted from "I Am" by [Jean Klein](#), who was a French author and philosopher of Advaita Vedanta—a Sanskrit term meaning "non-duality"

(Contributed by Becky Hale)

# Shaped by Our Past



## Brit Bennett's 2020 Novel *The Vanishing Half* Highlights the Struggles to Be Ourselves in a Racist Society

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults; it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to

escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

—Reported by Bob Morse

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## Experiment in Light Group

To Meet in Person in the Meeting House, Convened by Gizelle Luccio

The Final Monday of the Month from 2:30 to 4 pm (Beginning Monday 30 August)

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## Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat

1116 North Riverside, Medford, Oregon

Monday – Saturday 10 am – 6 pm

Shopping at the Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat helps change lives. All proceeds from the Thrift Shop support the Homeless Supportive Housing/Shelter programs of Rogue Retreat. The Thrift Shop also acts as a job training program for Rogue Retreat participants that are in need of developing meaningful work experience. Thrift Shop by Rogue Retreat offers a variety of items at discounted prices for the community and accepts gently-used donations to resell to the community to provide funds for homeless services.

To learn more about Rogue Retreat, click:  
<https://www.rogueretreat.com>.

—Becky Hale for the Homeless Outreach Committee

## "Quaker Problems" Designed by 4 Earlham Students Additional Quaker Problems at

[Quaker Problems \(tumblr.com\)](https://www.tumblr.com/quakerproblems)



Contributed by Becky Hale

## MEETING OFFICERS

**Co-Clerk:** Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421  
**Co-Clerk:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470  
**Recording Clerk:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146  
**Corresponding Clerk:** Beth Aspedon 778-1564  
**Treasurer:** Adam Thompson 201-8255  
**Weekly e-Bulletin Editor:** Adam Thompson 201-8255  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bob Morse 482-8449, Sylvie Weaver  
**Web Administrator:** Bob Morse 482-8449  
**NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact:** Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940  
**Art Coordinator:** Becky Hale 601-3084  
**Uprooting Racism Coordinator:** Bob Morse 482-8449  
**Joint Committee Representatives:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

*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*

South Mountain Friends Meeting  
543 South Mountain Avenue  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

## MEETING COMMITTEES

**Ministry & Counsel:** **Gizelle Luccio** 897-4458, Jim Phillips 482-2388, Steve Radcliffe 479-3487, Melody Ashworth 324-9824, Ken Deveney 488-5506, Co-Clerk *ex officio*

**Children's Education & Spirituality:** **Ken Deveney**, Cathy McDaniel

**Finance:** **Jean Semrau**, Fran Curtis, Treasurer *ex officio*

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

**Nominating:** **Valeria Breiten**, Beth Aspedon, Maureen Graham, Terri Brain

**Friendship & Hospitality:** **Crystal Bosbach**, K Hering, Cathy McDaniel

**Greeters:** Steve Radcliffe, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski, Terri Brain

**Peace & Social Concerns:** **Herb Rothschild**, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister, Elizabeth Hallett

**Library:** **Fran Curtis**, Melody Ashworth, Steve Wells

**Adult Education:** **Jim Lobsenz**, **K Hering**, Melody Ashworth

**Homeless Outreach:** **Bob Morse**, Alex Reid, Becky Hale, Terri Brain

*Names in **bold** indicate committee clerk or co-clerks*