



543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com

www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person
and via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

5 February No First-Hour Activity

10:30-11 am: Circle of Light

12 February No First-Hour Activity

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday Details Page 4

19 February

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

26 February

Quaker Education: How to Quaker

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Both at the
Quaker Meeting House
and by Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

Outdoor Meditation

4 pm Every Second Friday/Month
Blue Heron Park, Phoenix, OR
—Ká Hering (541-778-5206)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING **THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)** **Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon** **Second Month 2023**



A Film That Launched An Anti-Hate Movement

During a recent South Mountain Friends discussion on the rise of white supremacy and Christian nationalism, we watched a slide show documenting how a Northwestern town is currently being inundated with such intolerance. We will continue this discussion at 9 am Sunday 29 January, while considering whether our Meeting would like to adopt or create a "minute" or sign onto a letter standing up against such hatred.

Other cities have been riddled with actions based on racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, and misogyny. Often threats, intimidation, and violence create a cloud of fear that inhibits a beneficial response and precludes a positive resolution.

However, when such events took place in Billings, MT, in the early 1990's, the citizens found the courage to come together and not allow such actions to destroy their sense of community. Townspeople of all races and religions found common ground against hate-based attacks against their African American, Native American, and Jewish families and congregations. Religious and community leaders, labor union volunteers, law enforcement, the local newspaper, and concerned residents united in action and spoke loudly against intolerance, proclaiming quite directly "Not In Our Town!"

The Billings, MT, story was told in a PBS special, initially broadcast in December 1995. The film *Not In Our Town* launched a movement across the country and around the world. Through their joining together to stand up to hate, the folks of Billings have inspired innumerable people and communities to create novel and effective responses when neighbors' lives, livelihoods, and beliefs are under siege.

To view a 5-minute excerpt, click here: [Not In Our Town: Billings, Montana | Not in Our Town \(niot.org\)](#)

To watch the complete 25-minute movie, click here: [Not In Our Town: Billings, Montana - YouTube](#)

To peruse a retrospective photo-essay from the Billings newspaper, click here: [Not in Our Town: 20 years later \(billingsgazette.com\)](#)

To grasp how the Billings response and this film have impacted other municipalities, click here: [Not in Our Town | \(niot.org\)](#) —Bob Morse



Conestogas Are More Than Wagons



Many years ago while working as an accountant and software developer in Silicon Valley, I rented an idyllic beach cottage overlooking a brussels sprout field and small beach cove. Unfortunately, the cottage turned out to be riddled with toxic mold, regrettably situated downwind of heavily sprayed conventional crop fields. I developed illnesses that eventually became incapacitating, most devastatingly an extreme sensitization to environmental toxins. I can no longer tolerate normal levels of mold, nor various types of chemicals in my immediate environment, and even a fleeting exposure can trigger a flare-up of my respiratory, autoimmune, and neurological conditions.



There are many Environmentally Injured (EI) people like me in the world, and we all have the challenge of finding a nontoxic, or "less toxic" dwelling. The process of searching for a place to live is dangerous, as we are routinely exposed to the very toxins which our bodies cannot properly process, such as various construction materials, fresh paint, or new carpeting, as well as the all-pervasive water damage and mold. We often face the predicament of having to suddenly vacate a place because the environment has become contaminated, such as after a flood or a surprise pesticide application, and wind up living in a vehicle or tent because we cannot find temporary safe housing, as hotels are often toxic.



Creating a neutral, nontoxic sleep space is essential for EI's. Some of us can settle for access to a less-than-ideal bathroom and kitchen, as long as we don't linger and can take outdoor breathing breaks. But our systems require an environmentally safe sleeping space in order to replenish and heal, a place containing only nontoxic items like natural bedding and supplies, with fresh clean air. Statistically, 60-70% of EI's have had to rely on an outdoor sleeping setup such as being on a deck or in a vehicle. I once lived in a travel trailer that served me well both day and night—until a failed water heater repair caused mold. For me and many like me, housing insecurity can lead to an all-consuming crisis as we search for the "needle in the haystack" eco-friendly dwelling and navigate toxic exposures without the benefit of a healthy place in which to recover. Normal life is put on hold and meaningful work and productivity can become impossible. Conversely, when an environmentally safe solution is found or created, health can improve, life stabilizes, and productivity follows.

Some supportive South Mountain Friends and I built a Conestoga Hut fashioned after similar structures designed and created by Community Supported Shelters in Eugene. It can be my safe sleep space, my settled home, or, placed on a flatbed trailer, my mobile living environment. I'm filled with gratitude.

—Janine Devereaux





MEMORIAL MEETING

Honoring the Life of Lanita Witt

11 am - 1 pm Saturday 25 February

At Our Meeting House * Food to Follow

All South Mountain Participants Welcome

Join other People of Faith in our Region who Care about the Environment and Climate Justice!



Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO's) tenth annual Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit will take place in faith communities all over Oregon with the theme, "Care for Our Common Home: Building Neighborhoods for Climate Resilience."

The first part of the event will be a plenary session on Zoom, with participants watching together from their regional locations across Oregon. Following the plenary, local hosts will facilitate in person sessions focusing on relationship-building and learning with people of faith in your region. Each regional gathering will end with a climate vigil at 5 pm.

WHEN: Sunday, February 5, from 1:30 to 5:30 pm.

WHERE: Hybrid event: Join virtual plenary session at local host hubs, followed by in person session and local vigil.

LOCAL HOST HUB: First Presbyterian Church, 85 South Holly Street, Medford, Oregon

REGISTRATION:

\$20 early registration (register by Jan. 29)

\$25 general (after Jan. 29)

\$10 student rate

Scholarships available

Learn more and register:

<https://emoregon.org/event/earth-summit-2023/>

—Cherice Bock, Creation Justice Advocate, EMO
503-314-7908, cbock@emoregon.org

—Bob Morse, 541-482-8449, morse@mind.net

The How and Why of Quaker Committees

This exposé on a specific committee in a specific Friends Meeting speaks volumes about the role and benefit of all committees at all Quaker Meetings—Ed.

We found unity as a meeting in the big picture rather than in the nitty-gritty. It is difficult for a group as large as a meeting to unite on details, yet meetings often try, and end up getting bogged down, which can delay or foreclose taking action. In my view, details are why we have committees, why we delegate work to committees, and why we need to trust and honor committees and the volunteers who serve on them. For a monthly meeting to micromanage details delegated to a committee devalues committee work and can be demoralizing to volunteers who are both emotionally invested and spread quite thin. I believe we failed to take action earlier on smaller-scale requests from our Reparations Committee because we meeting members fell into the trap of uncertainty and the temptation of micromanagement. It is to the lasting credit of the Reparations Committee and its members that they persisted despite this disappointment.

—Gabriel Ehri, Executive
Director, *Friends Journal*

Soul Food Sunday

Rise of Meeting on the 2nd Sunday Beginning 12 February

Fostering Friendship & Building Community while Feeding the Body and Soul

Sharing Food: We'll supply two different vegan and gluten-free soups as a base for the lunch meal, one of which will be made with people's food sensitivities in mind. You are encouraged to bring a side for yourself or enough to share. **Sharing Ourselves:** Following lunch, we'll engage in an activity to become better acquainted. On 12 February we'll be letting our lives speak through storytelling. Valeria and Becky will offer a prompt for each of us to share an experience that was/is meaningful and has inspired our life. Sharing will be brief in order to accommodate everyone in a worship sharing format. —Crystal Bosbach and Becky Hale

The American Friends Service Committee & The BlackQuaker Project Present: The 2023 Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum

Screening & Discussion
Every Other Saturday

4 February to 8 April 2023
10 Am Pacific Time

A groundbreaking exploration of Black Friends who made a difference throughout both US and world history. This year's festival-forum features themes of importance to African American Quakers and others concerned with truth and justice: abolition, retrospective justice/reparations, freedom, education, Black-White relations, non-violence, and anti-violence in response to systemic violence.

Our festival-forum begins on 4 February, in recognition of Black History Month, continues through Women's History Month in March, and ends on 8 April with a special celebration of the momentous 125th birthday of prolific artist and human rights activist Paul Robeson, a descendant of over 200 years of Quakers.

Our honorees range from 20th century trailblazing Friends of African Descent back to early Quakers of Color who are too often forgotten. Some of their stories will challenge Friends to consider what defines a Quaker, as we examine the lives of extraordinary people of color who were Friends in all but name and ask ourselves what may have prevented or deterred them from joining the Religious Society of Friends.

Screenings will feature post-screening dialogues between invited guest experts, hosted by festival-forum director and curator Dr. Harold D. Weaver. We are honored to have eminent scholar-activists, writers, and historians, some of whom are descendants of our honorees, participating in this year's dialogues, which will conclude with Q & A sessions open to our audience.

Free registration is open for EACH screening on our website here!

Please note that you must register for EACH screening separately. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email, and, 24 hours before the screening, you will receive a Zoom link for the event you chose to attend. You can view our full program schedule at the registration link.



Meeting for Business 15 January 2023

Land Acknowledgement

This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta, and other peoples who have cared for these lands for millennia and continue to do so today. May we honor these original stewards and their rights of self-determination, continue dismantling the systems of oppression that have dispossessed them of their lands, and participate in the care and protection of our shared home.

Friends present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Ken Deveney, Becky Hale, Andra Hollenbeck, Pam Johnson, Ariel Love, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson, Rochelle Webster.

Quote & Reflection: “We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers.” —Bayard Rustin

2023.1.1 Friends approved 18 December 2022 Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer’s Report: Both November and December had more donations than expenses. The checking account is healthy. OHRA will take over the Laundry Love funds by February. The Willamette Quarterly Meeting will be held in May near Mt. Hood. Funds are available for travel. Adam submitted the Joint Committee budget to SMFM for approval. Room rentals are up with a slight surplus.

Ministry and Counsel:

For the sake of community-building, M&C recommends Soul Food Sundays (during which Meeting would provide soups and others bring side dishes for themselves and/or to share) followed by Friends-led activities.

2023.1.2 Friends approved a change in First Hour scheduling. Winnowing on Second Sundays will be flexibly scheduled to accommodate other activities.

Meeting is delighted to hear that Song Circle will soon be rekindled.

2023.1.3 Friends approved a Memorial Meeting for Lanita Witt on Saturday 25 February for SMFM, all are welcome.

Friendship and Hospitality: Soul Food Sunday will commence on Sunday 12 February.

Child Care: Melody and Ken committed to being available for weekly child care. If back-up is still needed, greeter will ask the clerk for guidance.

Peace and Social Concerns will be donating \$250 to the Habitat for Humanity project through Rev Fowler, Ashland Presbyterian, and reports that SOU students will be attending the FCNL lobbying event 25-29 March. On January’s fifth Sunday, we will discern action to take in response to the rise of Christian nationalism.

Loose ends:

Sharing Technology: Friends affirmed that the tech equipment in the meeting room can be used by outside (rental) groups. Friends to provide training and recommend a rental surcharge and moving the router to a more accessible location.

Quaker House: Friends expressed interest in hearing a presentation about North Carolina’s Quaker House in July and referred this to Ministry and Counsel for scheduling.

Coordinating Committee: Bob has contacted the CC clerk to learn whether their zoom meeting is being recorded so that our Meeting can receive the recording to remain apprised of CC’s discussions.

Table in Kitchen: Friends expressed gratitude to Wyatt Banks for repairing the fellowship hall table.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee is seeking to expand Friendship and Hospitality, and Althea Godfrey has agreed to join Building and Grounds

2023.1.4 Friends approved for seasoning Ariel Love to be the Quaker representative to the Joint Committee. Friends expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to Herb Rothschild for his dedication and service to the Joint Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk & Nancy Spear, Recording Clerk

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a seven-day African-American holiday between Christmas and New Year's Day. It was started in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, an activist who wanted to give black Americans something to celebrate during the darkest days of segregation.



I was honored to be invited by BASE (Black Alliance and Social Empowerment) to their 26 December 2022 celebration of Kwanzaa at Ashland's Historic Armory. BASE's AfroScoutz youth group demonstrated their progress in learning drumming (pictured above), dancing, and martial arts. BASE is a Black-led nonprofit community organization that our Quaker Meeting sponsors. BASE provides events, information, connection, support, and resources that work towards the well-being and advancement of Black residents living in Southern Oregon. —Bob Morse

Kwanzaa

it is the light
of candles
that shines brightly
after a long journey
of darkness,
that empowers my soul
and proclaims my place
in the culture of humanity



it is the taste of the pain of
yesterday, with
the flavor of hope for tomorrow
proclaiming here I stand

**Dancer &
drummers,
living in
Seattle,
originally
from
Africa**



it is the sounds that
vibrate
across the earth
with an echo
that whispers and
sings my song

it is the smell of
nameless souls
long gone, that
was cast out
of the family of
man, whose scent
dwells beneath my
skin

it is the
touching
of my
heart
with your
heart
in joyful
celebration
of the sacrifice of our ancestors
—Alfonso Siverls



Advices & Queries on the Meeting and Friends of All Ages



The meeting community is the seedbed of our spiritual lives. Meetings heed the needs of their members and attenders as they move along their life journeys.

Every age group brings its own gifts—and its own challenges—to the meeting community. Children can enlighten adults with their questions; adults can be role models for children. Teenagers often struggle with reaching independence while elders often struggle with giving it up.

As Friends, we place a high value on intergenerational activities to nurture life in the Spirit. Meetings may sponsor intergenerational activities, including worship-sharing, that can help Friends of all ages share their perspectives and respond lovingly. We take care to look for that of God in each person, no matter how young or old they are.

How do we recognize and cherish the contributions that Friends of all ages make to our Quaker community?

How does our meeting stay tender to those who may be discomforted by children?

How do we value each other as children of God without prejudgment based on age?

How does our meeting walk alongside members and attenders at all stages of their lives?

How does living in Quaker community nurture a meaningful life?

“Children have much to teach us. If we cultivated the habit of dialogue and mutual learning, our children could keep us growing, and in a measure could bring us into their future.”

—Elizabeth Watson, 1975



If we can daily face loss as the growing edge in living, we begin to understand that all these small surrenders are a rehearsal for the physical death that each of us must ultimately face. And that physical death will become easier if we consciously accept all of life's small deaths, repeatedly practicing letting go of our self-will. Therefore, to practice the labor of dying as growth towards new horizons, we must live in harmony with the eternal creative process.”

—Lucy McIver, 1998

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Nancy Spear 626-437-8913
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855
Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118;
Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Cathy McDaniel 770-3318,
David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186,
Becky Hale 601-3084, Bob Morse 482-8849, Crystal
Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck (*ex officio*)

***Peace and Social Concerns:** Herb Rothschild
531-2848, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Elizabeth Hallett,
Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe

***Finance:** Fran Curtis 482-1095, Adam Thompson
(*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach
930-4222, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel

Ad Hoc Committee

Nominating: Andra Hollenbeck (*ex officio*), Valeria
Breiten 480-688-7442, Ken Deveney 488-5506, Becky
Hale 601-3084, Pam Johnson 535-1940, Jean Semrau
646-8225

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

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470
***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 770-3318
***Child Care:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Library:** Fran Curtis 482-1095
***Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Tech Support:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Other Contact Persons

Interfaith Ministries: Gizelle Luccio 944-0748
Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449
NPYM Coordinating Committee: POSITION OPEN
(*meetings are quarterly, on Zoom*)
Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Small Local Groups

***Dancing Bears group:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
***Outliers group:** Pam Johnson 535-1940 & Becky Hale
601-3084
***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225
***Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506

** = new and longtime participants welcome*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520