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(Near Southern Oregon University)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Second Month 2018

BILL ASHWORTH

WRITES AGAIN

William Ashworth



Growing toward a sustainable future for ourselves and for the planet

Over the past 40 years, South Mountain Friend Bill Ashworth has written thirteen books on the environment. In his newest work, *The Monterey List*, Bill informs us that the focus should shift from preservation to sustainability.

1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First-Hour & Rise of Meeting:

4 February

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

Rise of Meeting: F&H Committee

11 February

9:30 am: Breakfast Together at Meeting House; Hosted by Herb

Rise of Meeting: M&C Committee

18 February

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

25 February

9:30 am: A Quaker Approach to Sustainability; Bill Ashworth to Convene the Discussion

Join Local Quaker Author Bill Ashworth in Discussing "A Quaker Approach to Sustainability" at 9:30 am Sunday 25 February

"It's about the greatest good, for the greatest number over the longest period, while understanding that we're part of nature, not standing outside of it," Bill says. "Everything that happens to nature happens to us. We may think we are manipulating nature," he continues, "but it's manipulating us—and if we blow it, it will take us out of the picture. We will disappear, and life will go on."

The title of Bill's latest book comes from a list of 110 provocative, often enigmatic aphorisms that attempt to reframe how people see nature and live in it. He scratched them down in a hotel room in Monterey, California, a couple decades ago, and he's been refining them ever since. Here are some:

"The natural environment does not pay attention to human rules."

"If we don't control our numbers, nature will."

"Populations are healthier when they are being culled."

"There is no such thing as wilderness anymore."

"Life can survive the disruptions caused by humans; humans may not."

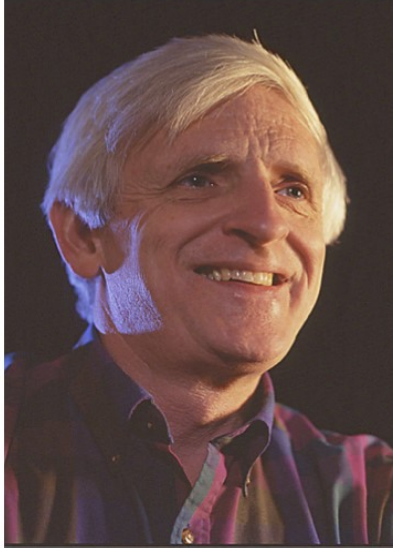
"Unplanned effects may be more important than planned ones."

The whole point of the book, Bill notes, is that "If we create a sustainable model of living and control population now, then we can go on indefinitely. But we're not immune to natural law. Nature bats last."

The above excerpts were taken from John Darling's 9 January 2018 *Ashland Daily Tidings* article: <http://www.dailytidings.com/news/20180109/author-says-we-must-shift-focus-if-humanity-is-to-survive>.

The book's full title is *The Monterey List: Growing Toward a Sustainable Future for Ourselves and for the Planet*. Bill's website is www.williamashworth.net/disc.htm. It's on Kindle digitally for \$12.99.

R.E.D. Red Earth Descendants, Havurah Synagogue, Kagyu Sukha Chöling,
Trinity Episcopal Church, Unity in Ashland, First Congreg. United Church of Christ,
and RVM Department of Spiritual Care and Wellbeing
present an interfaith event



Ecology & Deep Ecumenism:

In the Image of G-d,
The Cosmic Christ,
& Buddha Nature

with

Rev. Matthew Fox

March 9-10, 2018

Friday eve, 7 PM; Sat. morning, 10 AM; Sat. Eve, 7:30 PM
at the Havurah Synagogue in Ashland

The Earth and all living species are in dire straits. How can we draw on the best of our religious traditions to assist us waking up to what is happening to our planet. The religious archetype for the sacredness of creation can be found in the “Image of G-d” tradition in Judaism, the “Cosmic Christ” tradition of Christianity; the “Buddha Nature” teachings in Buddhism, and the creation wisdom of Native American traditions. We will work with these stories and archetypes and learn how a spirit of deep ecumenism between our faiths can help us in our sacred task.

Early registration discount: \$85 for the weekend by Feb 5th
\$95 after Feb. 5th includes Fri. eve snacks and Sat. luncheon

Online registration at <https://bpt.me/3233117>

Phone registration 1-800-838-3006

Call 541-488-7716 for general info or for partial work trades

The weekend will culminate on Saturday evening with a special ecumenical panel highlighting the wisdom of local spiritual leaders: Dan Wahpepah from Red Earth Descendants, Rev. Norma Burton of Unity, Rev. Fr. Tony Hutchinson from Trinity Episcopal, Rabbi David Zaslow from the Havurah, Lama Yeshe Parke from the KSC Buddhist Center, Rev. Christina Kukuk of the United Church of Christ, & Fr. Joel S. Garavaglia-Maiorano from the Rogue Valley Manor.

Winter '18 Willamette Quarterly Meeting

A Wonderful Opportunity to Acquire a Concise Overview of Clerking Meetings and Committees

Saturday 3 February 2018

At the Corvallis Friends Meetinghouse, 3311 NW Polk Avenue, Corvallis OR 97330. Please join us for worship, business, fellowship, and an afternoon clerking workshop.

Schedule:

8:30---9:45 Arrive, Gather, Coffee, Tea, Snacks
10:00-11:45 Meeting for Worship followed by Business
12:00---1:15 Lunch and Singing
1:30----3:30 Clerking Workshop, led by Helen Park and David Zeiss
3:30 Clean up and farewells

About the Clerking Workshop:

Helen Park and David Zeiss will lead a workshop on serving as clerk in Quaker organizations. Helen and David are co-clerks of Eugene Friends Meeting. They come to that role from very different backgrounds, including years of experience as leaders in both secular and religious organizations.

What is a clerk? How does a clerk do their work? How do Friends find unity?

How does Quaker process differ from secular consensus decision-making?

How does clerking a small committee differ from clerking a bigger meeting for business?

This workshop will include theoretical discussions as well as fun experiential activities. We'll have a special focus on Friends who are new to the role of clerk. More experienced clerks are also welcome to participate.

Children's Program

Families and children welcome. Children's program coordinated by Jay Thatcher.

Overnight Hospitality (Overnight Friday with Friends)

Please contact Susan Easton by text/phone at 541-602-5747 or email seaston@99west.org

No cost, no need to register. Lunch provided!

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE: A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Yesterday the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was included on a list of 20 organizations whose staff may be denied entry to Israel because of their support for the Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement.

Motivated by Quaker belief in the worth and dignity of all people, AFSC has supported and joined in nonviolent resistance for over 100 years. We answered the call for divestment from apartheid in South Africa, and we have done the same with the call for BDS from Palestinians who have faced decades of human rights violations.

Throughout our history, we have stood with communities facing oppression and violence around the world. In 1947 we were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in part for our support for Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust. We will continue our legacy of speaking truth to power and standing for peace and justice without exception in Israel, occupied Palestine, and around the world.

All people, including Palestinians, have a right to live in safety and peace and have their human rights respected. For 51 years, Israel has denied Palestinians in the occupied territories their fundamental human rights, in defiance of international law. While Israeli Jews enjoy full civil and political rights, prosperity, and relative security, Palestinians under Israeli control enjoy few or none of those rights or privileges.

The Palestinian BDS call aims at changing this situation, asking the international community to use proven nonviolent social change tactics until equality, freedom from occupation, and recognition of refugees' right to return are realized. AFSC's [Principles for a Just and Lasting Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) affirm each of these rights. Thus, we have joined others around the world in responding to the Palestinian-led BDS call. As Palestinians seek to realize their rights and end Israeli oppression, what are the alternatives left to them if we deny them such options?

Quakers pioneered the use of boycotts when they helped lead the "Free Produce Movement," a boycott of goods produced using slave labor during the 1800s. AFSC has a long history of supporting economic activism, which we view as an appeal to conscience, aimed at raising awareness among those complicit in harmful practices, and as an effective tactic for removing structural support for oppression.

The 17th century Quaker abolitionist John Woolman spoke to the spiritual foundation of this work when he said, "May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions."

The ban on entry to Israel for activists who support the Palestinian-led BDS movement is part of a larger effort by the Israeli government to silence and constrain human rights and anti-occupation activists. In recent months, more Palestinian activists have faced arrest, death threats, and imprisonment without charge or trial in response to nonviolent activism for human rights. In addition, organizations inside Israel have been denied funding and access to event venues and have faced threats of trial and imprisonment.

At a time when the Israeli government is moving to expand settlements, redefine Jerusalem, and annex portions of the West Bank, support for nonviolent activism that seeks freedom, equality, and justice is critical.

Therefore, as long as these and other human rights violations persist, we will continue to support Palestinian-led boycott, divestment, and sanctions efforts as effective nonviolent tools for realizing political and social change. We hope one day to see Israelis and Palestinians live together in peace. This will only happen when the human rights of all are recognized and respected.

In solidarity,
Joyce Ajlouny (8 January 2018)

Meeting For Worship For Business: 21 January 2018

Present: Melody Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Anna Monders, Patricia Morrison, Bill Ashworth, Liz Olson, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Javan Reid, Bob Morse, Kathleen Hering

Meeting opened with worship. Clerk Patricia Morrison read a quote from Anne Hosking.

Invitation to host: Joe Snyder is traveling among Friends for North Pacific Yearly Meeting. This is a process that helps knit the Yearly Meeting together. Friends were asked if we wanted to host Joe. Several offered hospitality. Melody Ashworth stated that she will be talking to a member of the *Western Friend* governing board re the state of our meeting, also for reasons involving knitting Friends together. (*Western Friend* is a publication serving Friends in the three unprogrammed western Yearly Meetings.) The clerk asked those who offered hospitality to correspond with Joe and set a schedule.

Treasurer: Herb Rothschild reported that there was very little movement in the Meeting's accounts last month. Our Friends Fiduciary account has increased significantly; return on this account is averaging 7%. We have money to do the things we think are appropriate for us to do. Friends are encouraged to think deeply about what our Meeting can do to serve our values in the community. The Finance Committee will be meeting in April to discern next year's budget; Friends should be in touch with them about budget concerns and suggestions.

Warming Shelter: Alex Reid reported that things regarding the shelter are positive overall. There are some blank spots for hosting. The presence of listeners is deeply appreciated. There may be some additional expenses; the shelter coordinators meet monthly and will be discussing expenses. Alex, Kathleen Hering, and Bob Morse attend these meetings.

Friends Committee on National Legislation: Ken Deveney reported that FCNL is asking Meetings to discern where FCNL's priorities should be; this discussion is held biannually. They need feedback by April. Our discernment session is scheduled for 2nd Sunday in March.

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild passed out a proposed minute supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Multnomah Meeting has passed a minute, and has asked other meetings to do the same; the minute presented to us is a modification of Multnomah's. Peace House is leading a project to educate Oregonians about this treaty; Herb offered to be a liaison between Peace House and the Meeting.

2018.01.02. South Mountain Friends Meeting enthusiastically supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on July 7, 2017 and opened for signing by the world's nations on September 20. We want the government of our own nation, one of nine countries that possess nuclear weapons and one of two with the largest stockpiles of them, to become a party to the treaty. We urge our fellow Quakers and all our fellow Americans to engage in sustained advocacy until that goal is achieved. Approved.

Peace & Social Concerns will discern what their role might be to encourage the Meeting to work toward carrying out the intent of the minute. It was pointed out that the Meeting has been involved in this work, through such things as sponsoring the Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigil, for a long time. *There is currently no Meeting participant on the Peace House board; Friends were asked if they might have a personal leading to become that Friend.*

The committee is embarking on the second round of its annual

donations--donations to local/area organizations. They would like suggestions for organizations to donate to. We traditionally donate to social change organizations rather than social service organizations. The committee's discernment on this will be at their February meeting.

Ministry & Counsel: Anna Monders reported that Ministry & Counsel wants to remind Friends that the committee has a fund for confidential assistance to Friends with small financial emergencies; the fund is there to be used, and also to be donated to. It is kept separate from the rest of the Meeting budget, and the terms of its existence are that it will die when it runs out of funds. Friends are urged to help keep this fund alive, and also to use it. There will be a clerking workshop associated with Willamette Quarterly Meeting on February 3 in Corvallis; Friends are encouraged to attend. The Meeting has funds that can help with transportation costs. The Grants Pass Worship Group has been temporarily laid down. This status will be reconsidered in a few months.

Fellowship over food: the 2nd Sunday discussion on this topic was well attended. Several themes have emerged. Friends like the idea of having Meeting-provided food form the center of the meal, rather than continuing with a potluck. Breakfast and lunch are both options. Friends generally will commit to coming quarterly rather than monthly. Friends liked having smaller tables rather than one large table. Special occasion gatherings might be better attended than regular gatherings. Spontaneous gatherings were encouraged; hosting things in homes, getting together in small groups for lunch after meeting, etc. A Friend spoke in favor of quarterly gatherings; these could have seasonal themes and seasonal food.

(Continued on page 6)

ADVICES & QUERIES ON FAMILY

Meeting for Business (cont'd)

A Friend reminded us that Friends might come to about four a year, but these would not necessarily be quarterly; to get Friends present, monthly gatherings might be necessary. Several Friends offered to bring a pot of something; bread and cheese should be present as well. The Meeting can reimburse those Friends who bring the major contributions. A minute was proposed: As Quakers we deeply value community over food; we also deeply value nature; we commit to quarterly gatherings over food, outside as the weather allows; we also commit to monthly gatherings. A Friend stated that she was more likely to show up quarterly. A major quarterly event with smaller gatherings was suggested, perhaps every Sunday, with somewhat more food than we currently have at fellowship but less than a full meal. Friendship and Hospitality should have a bigger budget so Friends can bring catered food.

2018.1.2. The Meeting commits to sharing food together on a regular basis where the Meeting provides the core of the meal. Approved.

A Friend suggested that First Sundays will work for breakfast. Another Friend pointed out that a problem with first Sunday gatherings is that committee members who meet at that time won't be able to mingle with others. The Clerk called for silence. Following the silence, the Clerk described a sense of unity on lunch gathering once per quarter, and on more food provided weekly following meeting. There is excitement over breakfast but not unity. Friends **agreed** with the Clerk's sense of the Meeting. *Alex and Javan Reid offered to provide the core of the meal for fourth Sunday in March. Enhanced snacks will begin next week. Herb offered to facilitate a breakfast on Second Sunday in February. A list of food needs will be created by the Clerk.*

Meeting closed with worship.

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

It is important to live in the sense of assurance that all are children of God. In the eyes of our children, in the loving expression among adults, in the concern we have for the well-being of all in the Meeting family, we feel God's love at work on earth.

Ideally, family is an expression of deep emotional and spiritual unity. Whatever its composition, it is a precious and sometimes tenuous bonding of people, and may bring anguish as well as joy.

We usually think of family as including parents and children. But family may also include aging parents in increasing need of care, persons not related by blood who are intimately connected with one's household, and persons joined together to satisfy a common need. Families also include single parents and their children, couples without children, and couples, heterosexual or homosexual, living in committed relationships. For those without families, including those made single after years of marriage or other life commitment, the Meeting may provide a sense of family. The Meeting may also be a source of love and care for all those associated with it.

The Meeting can support, yet does not replace, the family in the care of children. At the same time, every member of the Meeting is responsible in some measure for the care of families and their members, including children. Given this sense of common concern, our families may gain a sense of belonging and commitment to the expanded family of Quakers, and to our heritage.

Do we take care that commitments outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention the family needs for its health and well-being?

Does our home life support our need both for a sense of personal identity and fully shared living?

How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace and renewal, where God is real for those who live there and those who visit?

Is there a climate of love and trust in our Meeting which invites and encourages everyone to be open about individual and family lifestyles, including their satisfactions and problems?

How does the Meeting support families of all kinds in their attempts to improve communication, family life, and the rearing of children in the context of love?

*Do we accept and support Friends in their efforts to have stable, loving relationships, whether heterosexual or homosexual?
Do we acknowledge and support all relationships based on love?*

How do we offer strength and support to the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others in families that have been affected by disruption of some kind?

How do we help the Meeting give a sense of spiritual kinship to those who participate in it?

SMFM CALENDAR

February 2018

Sun M Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 2-4 pm Free Writing Friends	2	3 Willamette Quarterly Meeting Corvallis
4 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light 12:30 pm F&H Committee	5	6	7	8 2-4 pm Free Writing Friends	9	10 Ashland Food Project Pickup 1-4 pm Laundry Love Henry's Laundromat
11 9:30 am Breakfast Together at Meeting House; Host = Herb** 12:30 pm M&C Committee	12	13 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	14 6:30 to 8:30 pm Quaker Light Group***	15 2-4 pm Free Writing Friends	16	17
18 8:30-10:30 am Meeting for Business	19	20	21 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	22 2-4 pm Free Writing Friends	23	24
25 9:30 am: A Quaker Approach to Sustainability (Discussion to be led by Bill Ashworth)	26	27	28			

**Fellowshipping Over Food: Exploring Creative Alternatives

Current exploration: Meeting or its designee provides the core meal; others are welcome to bring a side dish or just show up; 11 Feb host = Herb/breakfast/9:30 am; 25 Mar hosts = Alex/Javan/lunch

***Light Group to be Kindled

6:30 – 8:30 pm on Second Wednesday Evenings

A **monthly** gathering called the "Light Group" will initially meet on Wednesday evening 14 February 2018. The group will explore Quaker spirituality as practiced by the early Friends and as described by Rex Ambler in his book, *Light to Live By*. All are welcome. 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 231-1475

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) Wed. after Business Meeting

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 & Jean Semrau (co-clerks)

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 Colombe Leinau, Steve Wells, 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

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Ashland, Oregon 97520