

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

communications@ashlandquakers.org

www.ashlandquakers.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person
and via Zoom (link below)

6 October

No first hour activity

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

13 October

No First-Hour Activity
No Soul Food Sunday

20 October

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

27 October How to Quaker:
“Intro to How to Quaker” &
“Quakerism in Today’s World”

Hot beverages will be on hand for early arriving attenders, and light breakfast will be provided after the session. *Details on Page 3*

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

**Hybrid: Both at the
Quaker Meeting House
and by Zoom (link below):**

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

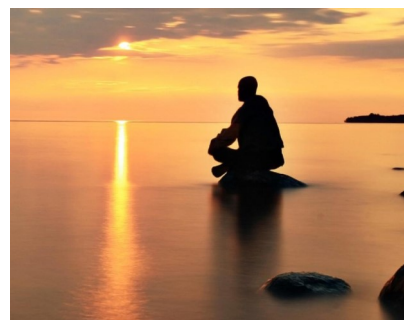
SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Tenth Month 2024

UNIQUE AMIDST OUR ONENESS

An Impersonal Life

Called to the wilderness
provisions contained within
no story, no name, only a
breathing heart wild with a
tempest flame,
igniting true home,
listening deeply to the song
that is mine alone. —Anya Kumara



Belonging

And if it’s true we are alone,
we are alone together,
the way blades of grass
are alone, but exist as a field.
Sometimes I feel it,
the green fuse that ignites us,
the wild thrum that unites us,
an inner hum that reminds us
of our shared humanity.
Just as thirty-five trillion
red blood cells join in one body
to become one blood.
Just as one hundred thirty-six thousand
notes make up one symphony.
Alone as we are, our small voices
weave into the one big conversation.
Our actions are essential
to the one infinite story of what it is
to be alive. When we feel alone,
we belong to the grand communion
of those who sometimes feel alone—
we are the dust, the dust that hopes,
a rising of dust, a thrill of dust,
the dust that dances in the light
with all other dust, the dust
that makes the world.
—Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer



Friends Who Have Left Their Imprint on South Mountain Meeting



Anna Monders (VT)



Lisa Nichols (VT)

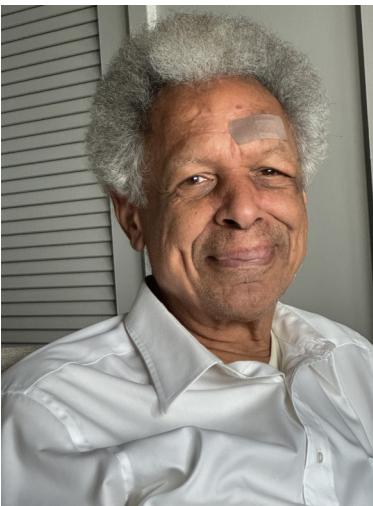


Phyllis and her partner Robyn Deveney (ME)

Photos by Bob Morse



James Juarez (TN)



Ceili Widmann (MI)
(Elisabeth Bear's Daughter)



Collin Boyd (MD)

Leona Morrison & Scott Plummer's twins (ME)



Emlyn



Niamh



How to Quaker: The "Non-Series" Series (Back by Popular Demand)

9 – 10 am FOURTH SUNDAYS beginning 27 October 2024

When we sit down together in Meeting for Worship on Sunday mornings, we are doing more than just spending a companionable hour in silence: We are participating in a rich faith tradition with a history that stretches back nearly four hundred years. You are always welcome to join us simply for the silence, but if you wish to learn more about WHY Quakers worship in silence—what we do and why we do it this way—please consider attending our First Hour sessions on "How to Quaker."

This is not a "series" in the usual sense. There is no book, no course syllabus, and no need to attend each and every session in order to keep from falling behind. Each session has a theme, but—as those who attended the previous round will attest—conversations often stray far from the theme as we explore various aspects of Quaker history, central Quaker concepts, and Quaker customs and lifestyles. Because of this, those who were with us last time around may want to join us again. The themes will repeat, but the sessions are likely to explore new territory along with the old. That's what continuing revelation is all about—and yes, for newcomers, continuing revelation is one of those "central Quaker concepts" that we will be looking at.

This month's session will be focused on what I often refer to as the "Quakersphere," the scope and shape of Quakerism in today's world, as well as the basic concepts that tie together all branches of the Religious Society of Friends despite what sometimes seem to be vast differences in theology and worship style. Future sessions will focus on Quaker history, the Quaker Testimonies, waiting worship, vocal ministry, Quakers at work in the world, historically prominent Friends, Quakerspeak (the language we use to describe what we do), and similar topics. All sessions will be hybrid—in person in the meeting room and virtually via Zoom. All are most welcome to join us.

—Bill Ashworth



And That's Not All

The Friendship & Hospitality committee will add an extra incentive for attending Bill's initial (October) How to Quaker session in person. We will arrive at the Meeting House by 8:30 am to provide Friends with coffee and tea. As well, during the hour after How to Quaker and before worship (10-11 am), we will present a light breakfast. —Ká Hering

Annual Gathering of Greeters with Friendship & Hospitality Committee

For those who **already** greet or serve on the F&H committee

For those **considering** greeting or serving on the F&H committee

2 pm Thu 17 October **OR** 2 pm Fri 18 October

Hybrid: At Meeting House & On Zoom

Why greet? Most Friends recall the specific person who greeted them the first time they ever came to a Quaker Meeting. Greeting is the manifestation of our Meeting's intention of being inclusive and welcoming. Greeting is a simple way to get to know other Friends. Greeting is an important way to serve our Meeting without having to spend lots of time in meetings.

Why serve on Friendship & Hospitality committee? Quaker Meeting is not simply a group of meditators; one of our primary testimonies is COMMUNITY. We experience and deepen community engaging together in fellowship. Breaking bread together sets the stage for fellowship. The F&H committee provides the proverbial "bread" that turns Friends into friends.

Contact Ká Hering (541-778-5206) by MONDAY 14 OCTOBER to inform her which of these two dates would work better for you.

South Mountain Friends to Join PRIDE Parade

Meet on Union Street Above the Boulevard:
Look for our South Mountain Banner

Parade Begins at 10 am Saturday 5 October

All Are Welcome/Strength in Numbers

For info on all the festivities, visit sopriderg.org



Ukrainian Pianist to Headline Weekend of Ukrainian Events

Anima Mundi Productions
in Collaboration with
Uniting for Ukraine Rogue Valley
& Ashland-Sviatohirsk Aid Project

CONCERT: 3 pm Sunday 27 October at the SOU Music Recital Hall

Unbreakable Spirit: Music of Resilience

Dr Nadia Shpanchenko will perform a Ukrainian-themed solo piano recital featuring two world premieres—including *Bomb Shelter Variations* composed by Ethan Gans-Morse—alongside Chopin’s famous *Piano Sonata No. 2*, works by Ukrainian composers past and present, and several other new works written in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Called “a gifted and versatile pianist” by *The San Francisco Chronicle*, Los Angeles-based Ukrainian pianist Nadia Shpachenko has performed at many of the world’s leading venues, including Carnegie Hall in NYC.

CONCERT TICKETS & Details at www.HumanityTickets.com

**UKRAINIAN FALL CULTURAL FAIR: 6:30 pm Friday 25 October
at Ashland’s Unitarian Fellowship Hall**

Besides Dr. Shpanchenko’s brief piano performance, the Cultural Fair will offer performances by celebrated local Ukrainian pianist Iryna Kudielina, the Ukrainian vocal ensemble Kalynonka, and others, as well as a sale of baked goods, textile arts, and paintings by members of our local Ukrainian refugee community. **This event is free, but an RSVP is required:** RSVP at <https://animamundiproductions.com/RSVP> or (541) 833-3066 ext. 4.

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

Free Writing Friends: Every MONDAY 3 – 5 pm: Song Circle: 2nd TUESDAYS 6:30 pm



Details at [OUR SCHEDULE | AshlandQuakers](#)



Advices & Queries on UNITY

Unity is found in God's will. If we are divided, when we listen in the Spirit together, the way forward will become clear.

Unity arises within the gathered meeting. Knowledge of our historic witness and spiritual discipline and mutual love prepare us for our life together. Through unity, the sense of being gathered, we may feel assured of the authenticity of our experience. Different ways of understanding the divine life can arise among us. These differences are not to be ignored for the sake of superficial agreement. They are better recognized and understood, so that a deeper and more vital unity can be reached. Convictions which might divide or disrupt us can, through divine grace, help to make the meeting creative and strong. Friends are encouraged to keep faith and fellowship with each other, waiting in the Light for that unity which draws us together in Truth and Love.



When new witness arises within a meeting, it may occasion a season of disquiet as we discern its nature and meaning. New light can be given to any one among us. We do well to remain open to what the Innermost Word calls forth among us. Revelation is ongoing, providing illumination and guidance to the individual and through individuals to the whole. Through practical and ongoing devotion, we are drawn into an experience of being gathered as a beloved community. Frequent fellowship is vital to maintaining our life together. As we grow in love and knowledge of one another, we are more able to dwell together in singleness, wholeness, and unity.

“Openness to the prospect that God works in multiple and unexpected ways is changing Quaker practice. It also gives hope and encouragement to those who seek to find a unity that reaches beyond words.”

—Margery Post Abbott, 1997

When problems and conflicts arise, how do we work to resolve them in a spirit of love and humility?

How do we let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us to unity?

How do we open ourselves to the diversity of culture, language, and expressions of faith in our meeting and in the world community of Friends?

How do we respect the reputations of others? Do we avoid gossip? Do we protect necessary confidentiality?

How careful are we to avoid manipulating and exploiting one another?



Unity with Nature

Meditation on a beach; I found my spot—really a throne. How fitting: I get to be a queen! Surveying the harbor and the birds and the folks who came with me to be in silence.

This is my Sunday practice to be in silence for an hour, mostly by myself outside our Meeting House. So nature can infuse me with her wisdom. For me sitting in nature has kept me sane in an insane world. Being in silence allows me to absorb wisdom from all that surrounds me.

When I return to the "civilized" world I can take up my space again, sometimes comfortably sometimes not, depending on the demands on my time and my being a human being not a human doing. —Ká Hering

Outdoor Worship on Back Porch: 11 am - 11:45 am Sundays

Meetings for Business September 2024

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.

8 September 24 Called Meeting for Business Focused Specifically on Nominating's Slate

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Althea Godfrey, Ká Herring, Andra Hollenbeck, Karen Maleski, Herb Rothschild, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Richard Spencer.

Nominating Committee (NC): All positions have been filled with the exception of the library and the technology support for communications. A Friend has a leading to help us with the Library. Friends discussed the various aspects of technology support. This position has been difficult to fill for quite a while now; a suggestion was made to create an ad hoc committee. Nancy proposed to act as a coordinator for technology issues. Jean will still be composing the weekly updates (and bulletin), but support is still needed to send out those communications.

The connection and coordination between Friendship and Hospitality (F&H) and the Greeters was discussed. Coordinating the Greeters is part of the job duties of the F&H Hospitality Committee, but the current practice has been for the Greeter communication to happen independent of the F&H.

2024.09.1 Friends accepted the slate of nominations as presented for seasoning.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Ann Gaffney, Recording Clerk

Approved Nominating Slate

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten

Treasurer: Adam Thompson

Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney

Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau, Mary Ellen Gordian

Joint Committee: Ariel Love, Bill Ashworth

Ministry & Counsel: Crystal Bosbach, Bob Morse, Andra Hollenbeck, David Runkel, Althea Godfrey, Merlin McDaniel

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild, Ken Deveney, Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe

Finance Committee: Adam Thompson, Nancy Spear, Ann Gaffney

Library: A Friend

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse

Web Page Administrator: Bob Morse

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale

Adult Education: Bill Ashworth

Children's Ed & Spirituality: Ad Hoc Children's Committee

Friendship & Hospitality: Crystal Bosbach, Ka Hering, Cathy McDaniel

Building & Grounds: Merlin McDaniel

NPYM Coordinating Committee Rep: Bill Ashworth

Neighbors in Need: Alex Reid

Circle of Light: Crystal Bosbach

Men's Group: Ken Deveney

Women's Group: Althea Godfrey

Technology Support for Communications: [OPEN]

15 September 2024 Meeting for Business

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Althea Godfrey, Ká Herring, Andra Hollenbeck, Ariel Love, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Richard Spencer.

Quote & Reflection: "Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace." —Mother Teresa

2024.9.2 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the June 16th Meeting for Worship for Business.

2024.9.3 Friends approved as amended the Minutes from the September 8th called Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer Report: The Meeting finished out June and the year as a whole with slightly more expenditures than donations, but we still have a very healthy balance in the checking account. There has not been a whole lot of financial activity in July and August. We did have some expenditures regarding outreach for tables at upcoming events at SOU and at the Medford Multicultural Fair. **Minutes Continued on Page 7**

15 Sep 24 Business Meeting **Minutes Conitnued from Pg. 6**

Nominating Committee (NC):

Committee clerks to be chosen at committee's first meeting. When committees choose their clerks, inform Bob to update the newsletter directory.

2024.09.4 Friends approved the nominating slate as seasoned.

Technology Support: The tech challenges include: Prepping Zoom for the Sunday meetings; Using MailChimp to send out the weekly bulletin and other communications; Keeping current technology updated and running; Developing a broader, proactive planning of our technology needs

Peter Orozco has been doing our MailChimp for the last year and has our gratitude for this work. He has indicated that he will need a replacement in the near future. Friends noted that sometimes reaching out to others in the community and asking for support provides an opportunity to make others aware of who we are and what we do. Friends cautioned that we want to use technology to enhance the connectedness and work of the Meeting while being mindful of the effects the technology is having on us.

Suggestions for moving forward included the following: Find some support with MailChimp. Reach out to a technology professor at SOU in order to send out the MailChimp communications. Reach out to the ashland.news to see if their person doing MailChimp already would like to take on our MailChimp communications for us as well. Deal with technology updates and repairs to technology already in use. Create an ad hoc committee to determine the needs of our meeting that technology serves and then determine ways to meet those needs. Do some discernment on this question, "How do we as Quakers live in a technological world and still be grounded in our spirituality and simplicity?" Have a

winnowing session to discuss this question together. Reach out to NPYM to communicate more broadly with other meetings and Friends who are also wrestling with these issues, while recognizing that we are often thought of as leaders within this space.

Friends decided to host a winnowing session on this issue on First Sunday in November.

2024.09.5 Friends approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to determine the needs of our meeting that technology serves and then determine ways to meet those needs.

If friends have a leading to participate on this committee they should reach out to Valeria. Friends noted that perhaps Peace House may also have input that is useful for the committee to consider. Concurrently, Valeria will coordinate the outreach to potential MailChimp gurus and coordinate with the committee, the Communications Clerk, and the Treasurer regarding the specifics of moving forward.

Joint Committee (JC): JC shared proposed changes to the Use and Maintenance Agreement that describes the way Peace House and South Mountain Friends Meeting use and care for our shared home. These updates ensure the language of the agreement better matches current practice. Proposed changes include: Rewording the sentence about the purposes of our organizations adding recognition of the regulatory differences between the organizations, not just the tax differences. Changing the role of the Property Manager, who would become an ad hoc member of JC rather than a voting member. The Peace House position on JC formerly designated to the Property Manager will be replaced with another Peace House member. This change is suggested so that the Property Manager would no longer provide oversight to themselves. Changing the structure of the quorum. Under the prior

agreement, both members from each organization had to be present in order to make any decisions (i.e., the quorum was 100%). Under this change, each organization has one vote. If there are multiple members present from each organization, those decisions will be made by consensus within each organization and the vote will be cast based on that consensus. Removing the requirement for a member of JC to serve as treasurer and instead assigning the role of treasurer to the Property Manager who oversees both the finances and the Building and Grounds Committee. Adding the Building and Grounds Clerk as an ad hoc member of JC. Requiring JC to meet not less than quarterly instead of not less than bi-monthly. Clarifying the Property Manager's role and duties. Cleaning up various language to clarify or streamline intent and remove conflicting wording.

2024.09.6 Friends approved the changes as described to the Use and Maintenance Agreement with Peace House and commended the members of Joint Committee from both organizations for their hard work on this matter.

Building & Grounds (B&G): An energy audit was performed this past week. During that visit, it was discovered that the hot water tank was leaking. Merlin and Ká worked last week to replace the hot water heater with a new-to-us hot water heater donated by Ká. Ká will check in and find out if we will get a report from the energy audit.

Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC): SMFM will participate in the Pride Parade The Interfaith Social Justice Coalition is reforming. Herb is participating and will bring our focus on Christian Nationalism to that group. The work on Christian Nationalism continues: The God & Country discussion group meets regularly.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Ann Gaffney, Recording Clerk

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney 603-490-7193
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855 & Mary Ellen Gordian 907-570-8859
Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118; Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Bob Morse 482-8849, David Runkel 210-0031, Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, Althea Godfrey 261-5329, Merlin McDaniel 301-6054, Valeria Breiten (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Richard Spencer, 707-543-6330, Wyatt Banks, Althea Godfrey, Nancy Spear

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

***Finance:** Nancy Spear, Ann Gaffney, Adam Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Ká Hering, 778-5206, Crystal Bosbach, Cathy McDaniel; ***Greeters:** Ariel Love, Wyatt Banks, Rochelle Webster, Andra Hollenbeck

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

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

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470
***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 301-6054
***Child Education:** Ad Hoc Children's Committee
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Friends Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329
***Library:** A Friend
***Mailchimp:** Peter Orozco 201-699-3948
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449

Other Contact Persons

Interfaith Ministries: Gizelle Luccio 944-0748
Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449
NPYM Coordinating Committee: Bill Ashworth 778-9470
Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Monthly Neighborhood Gatherings

***Dancing Bears group:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848
***Outliers group:** Becky Hale 601-3084 & Pam Johnson 535-1940
***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225
***Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

** = All new and longtime participants welcome*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520