

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

[ashlandquakers@gmail.com](mailto:ashlandquakers@gmail.com)

[www.ashlandquakers.org](http://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**

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

**6 November** (No 1st-Hour Activity)  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS**

### 13 November

Called Meeting for Business (More Nominations) & Winnowing Session on query: What does Meeting want from our Ministry Committee?  
(see **Ministry** on page 6)

### 20 November

Meeting for Business (8:30-10 am)

### 27 November

How to Quaker (see page 3)

## Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlcGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)  
Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon  
**Eleventh Month 2022**

## Quakers March with Pride



After two years of interruption by the pandemic, Southern Oregon Pride resumed its annual festival in Ashland. As it has since the initial festival in 2010, South Mountain Friends Meeting was a sponsor and marched in the parade. This year 15 people walked behind our Quaker banner, the largest number we've ever had.

Despite fewer onlookers than previously, the high energy of those in the parade communicated itself. Festival founder Gina DuQuenne, now on the Ashland City Council, shared her joy that recovery has begun.

In an interview on Jefferson Public Radio, DuQuenne emphasized one reason the festival is so important. "Something that I believe Pride does is it allows young people to know that they're not alone and to see themselves," she said.



"And to normalize it if they've grown up in some kind of homophobic family or area or neighborhood, to know that 'Hey, I'm alright.' We need for people who are out to know that they are safe and that we have allies." —Herb Rothschild

*Lower Photo: By a happy coincidence, Ken Deveney's daughter, Robyn, was visiting and joined us.*

# Tribute to Lanita Witt

More than 100 people recently gathered in the brilliant sunshine above Ashland to celebrate the wit, wisdom, compassion, integrity, perseverance, and other remarkable qualities of Lanita Witt.



Lanita, who has terminal cancer, was there to hear personal tributes from two dozen people, to give away hugs and to share stories of how she and her wife, Suzanne Willow, came to own, preserve and expand a 445-acre ranch off Shale City Road in the high country of Cascades. And, she gave artifacts from her life's collections of rocks and stones, shells and plants and wash cloths she recently made from a blanket she received from her Texas high school many years ago for excellence in debate, music, tennis, track, and basketball.

The tributes came from:

- Former patients who owed their lives to Lanita, a surgeon as well as a farmer.
- Former colleagues in the medical field, including a friend from medical school, who spoke of her devotion to her patients, her skills as a surgeon and even her humor in the operating room.
- Young people whose lives have been deeply influenced by their experiences on the farm.
- A nephew who recalled his aunt's nourishment of his early days.
- Many friends, some of whom had lived and worked on the farm after moving to Ashland.
- Other farmers who recognized her leadership in conservation practices.
- People who walked away from the Willow-Witt stand at the Ashland Farmers Market with a sound piece of advice or a calming comment from Lanita along with the leg of goat, a dozen eggs, or other products they had purchased.
- A woman who recalled a farm-to-table dinner with unbelievable food served on a long table with white linens.
- Local Quakers who recalled her service as “co-boss” of the Building and Grounds Committee, remodeling a house on South Mountain Avenue that was donated to Peace House and South Mountain Friends Meeting by Marjorie Kellogg.
- Relatives of people who have decided that the new natural burial grounds at Willow-Witt will be their family members' final resting spot.

Marty Main recalled interviewing with Lanita and Suzanne more than 30 years ago about their plans for the property, which once was a dairy farm, but had fallen on hard times. The big trees on the land had been taken down by a timber company, the small house was in need of major repairs, the pastures overgrown.

He had not expected the owners to be two women and was unsure of how they would proceed. He was won over, however, after one of them opened a cupboard door and handed him a small piece of paper which had been left behind by the builder of the house in 1920. Written on it was the following:

***Live like you're going to die tomorrow;  
Farm like you're going to live forever.***

Lanita and Suzanne quickly adopted those two lines as the beginning of a business plan and with Marty's assistance transformed an abandoned property into a successful, beautiful place with Farm Stay Accommodations, a summer camp, a herd of goats, a natural burial ground, and much more. They will soon be receiving an award for their conservation efforts. While Lanita's days are numbered, her work will live on.

—David Runkel

*Photo of Suzanne & Lanita cutting their wedding cake at our Quaker Meeting House*

# How To Quaker

First Hour \* 9-10 am \* Fourth Sundays \* Hybrid

Discussions and Worship Sharings (Responding to Queries)

Whether you're a newcomer wanting to learn more about the Society of Friends or are an old-timer wanting to help explain it, your presence and contributions are welcome in these discussions.

The October session focused on the main branches of the Quaker tree, connections between local and regional Quaker Meetings, location of Quakers in the world, and national Quaker organizations which emerged out of Quaker values.

The November session will focus on 17<sup>th</sup> century Quaker origins, roots, and major players, as well as the political, social, religious, and intolerant climate of the day.

Future sessions will focus on Quaker testimonies, vocal ministry, inner experiences of being in the silence, clearness committees, historically prominent Friends, and other topics that Friends which to explore.

Your guides for this voyage, Melody and I, have participated in this Meeting for five decades with Quaker experience preceding our arrival in the Rogue Valley. We've each have many times offered our services as clerks and committee members at both our local and regional Quaker Meetings. We offer this depth of experience to you.

—Bill Ashworth

## Growing Together Spiritually

Friends/friends are invited to participate in a weekly midweek "Let Your Life Speak" circle. We're still in the process of determining the time, day, and location. Your input into these determinations are most welcome.

We will be using time-tested traditions for worship sharing and storytelling so to

- ◆ Strengthen and deepen compassion and the bonds of fellowship,
- ◆ Learn more about each other's gifts,
- ◆ Support and empower each other's spiritual growth,
- ◆ Hold each other's personal struggles in Light and love.

If you find yourself interested in attending, we encourage you to contact one of us collaborators. We are blessed and grateful for this opportunity,

—Becky Hale, Valeria Breiten, Mary Ward



## Free Writing Friends

**Free Writing Friends** is a weekly circle that currently meets 3-5 pm every Monday in the Meeting House kitchen (masks are optional). Everyone is welcome to drop in to experience the Light that comes through this practice.

Participants meditate for 5 minutes, write as inspired from stream of consciousness, and share with the circle (if they so choose). We then share prompts, which anyone present can provide, and write for 20 minutes. Participants, if comfortable, then read what came through their heart and awareness.

There is no critique. If a writer wishes to receive feedback, folks simply reflect on what was moving or meaningful.

This circle has met weekly for over a decade. Although attenders come and go, there is a core group who attend and hold all voices in warm, mutual respect. —Becky Hale

# Called & Scheduled Meetings for Business 9 & 16 Oct 22

**Land Acknowledgement:** This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta and other peoples.

## **CALLED BUS MEETING 10/9/22**

**Friends Present:** Bill & Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Becky Hale, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Pam Johnson, Ariel Love, Karen Maleski, Bob Morse, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Mary Ward

Query 1: Although we can feel sad about losing some of what our meeting used to be, we also feel signs of excitement and life in our Quaker meeting presently. What are some sources of excitement & life that you sense in our meeting?

Query 2: How have our committees, structures, and practices supported the movement of the Spirit among us? How could they change to strengthen the sense of Spirit?

The clerk spoke about transformational times for the Meeting and for the world. The clerk announced the appointment of Becky Hale to the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee and the resignation of Gizelle Luccio from that committee, as she has found herself too busy to fully participate.

**2022.10.1** Friends approved for seasoning the nomination of Adam Thompson to Joint Committee for a 1-year term.

**2022.10.2** Friends approved Adam Thompson's attending the Joint Committee meeting on 13 Oct as a voting member.

**2022.10.3** Friends, having seasoned the nominations presented in September, approved for one-year terms Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk; Adam Thompson, Treasurer; Nancy Spear, Recording Clerk; Jean Semrau, Communications Clerk.

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

## **BUSINESS MEETING 10/16/22**

**Friends Present:** Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Ken Deveney, Becky Hale, Ka Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Pam Johnson, Cathy McDaniel, Merlin McDaniel, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson.

**Quote & Reflection:** "Listen to the inner light; it will guide you. Listen to the inner peace; it will feed you. Listen to the inner love; it will transform you." —Sri Chinmoy

### **Minutes**

**2022.10.4** Friends approved minutes for the 9/18/22 bus meeting & 10/9/22 called bus meeting.

**Treasurer** There was little activity in September; we have a healthy balance in the account. Laundry Love was active in September, preparing for a special fundraising event on October 15.

**2022.10.5** Friends honored Alex Reid, co-founder of Laundry Love and currently in charge, expressing gratitude for the success of Laundry Love and our participation in the community.

### **Report from Winnowing & Called Meeting for Business**

Friends are enjoying the renewal of energy in the Meeting and are grateful for increased social interactions. There was recognition that using the name "committee" is okay. We can increase joy and togetherness by noting that committees are worshipful, social, and fun and can be called "Meeting for Worship with Attention to" (Business, Social Concerns, Finance, etc.) Friends appreciate participation in community events.

### **Ad Hoc Nominating Committee**

**Update:** The committee is moving to establish the Ministry and Counsel Committee. We had some discussion about changing the name again. (suggested name

Ministry Council). The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee is proposing six members and are now reaching out to current members and others. The goal is to take the work of the committee off the shoulders of individuals and have the committee collaborate on concerns and ideas in the Meeting, the culture and health of the Meeting (both individuals and corporate body), pastoral care and community building. This committee would be considered a cornerstone committee to create a foundation and framing for Meeting. Thoughts and ideas on this were invited.

A Friend shared that Ministry and Counsel was recently re-named through a process that we should follow here; *Faith & Practice* is a guide but not a requirement. A Friend shared a vision that this is a new and encompassing wholeness for the whole Meeting. Another suggested name for committee members is Elders.

**Newsletter:** Friends expressed the need for a newsletter that provides community building and a way newcomers and visitors know about our Meeting. Tradition and 'new' needs to be balanced. Meeting sees the need for a Calendar of open and recurring committee meetings. The schedule provides this on the website. People who are restricted to home and new people appreciate hard copies. Two Friends, Herb Rothschild and Ka Herring, volunteered to assist the editor of the newsletter. It was noted that the Meeting will aim to provide support the editor would need.

**2022.10.6** Friends approved continuation of Newsletter with an editor and referred the planning for the newsletter to Communications Clerk and Ad Hoc Nominating Committee for further discernment and nomination. *Continued on Pg 5*

## Business Meeting 16 Oct 22 *Continued*

Friends were asked to provide material for the November newsletter by 21 Oct.

**2022.10.7** Friends honored Newsletter Editor Bob Morse, with gratitude for his writing skills, talents, insights and awareness of our community.

**Meeting Activities:** Becky Hale is developing a Mid-week Meeting for Worship which would include "Let Your Life Speak" and storytelling traditions, so Friends can get to know each other better and further ways to worship together.

**2022.10.8** Friends approved, with appreciation, a First Hour educational series "How To Quaker," facilitated by Bill and Melody Ashworth. It will be on 4th Sundays starting on October 23 and will be presented in a hybrid form.

**Peace & Social Concerns:** 15 Friends marched in the Pride Parade on October 15th. The ongoing support of SMFM Peace and Social Concerns was appreciated. Braver Angels workshop is upcoming. Herb is working on coordination of young people for an FCNL Lobbying event in March 2023.

The Empty Bowls Peace House fundraising event is October 21st. Peace House is also still collecting paper-back books to give to prisoners. This is a lifeline for the incarcerated.

**Newsletter Contributions** The clerk will put a place for noting newsletter contributions into the agenda for Meeting for Business.

### **Announcements/Calendar:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: No first hour

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Winnowing TBD

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: M4B

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: How to Quaker

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Brown Bag lunch after Meeting for Worship, starting 30 Oct

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

## Quakerism

Human connection,  
the dove, the star, the sprout -- all point  
to the more than merely human.

We celebrate the all in one,  
the one in all.

We welcome silent contemplation,  
spoken revelation.

Our gathering of Friends  
bathes us in dry times.  
It bolsters our non-violence,  
encourages simplicity,  
coaches in integrity.  
It offers us community  
when we are most alone.



When we are lost or led astray,  
it gives a vision of acceptance.  
It can be a cool oasis in dry dunes.  
Sum of near four hundred years of seeking,  
it is our ageless, open Way,  
each with our own small place  
in one simple splendid whole.

—Marybeth Webster

*From Marybeth's new book Earth Set. Copies are available in the South Mountain Friends Library and from the author.*

## Fellowship of Reconciliation Prayer

And so we pray in a spirit of Justice, which is a meditation in the spirit of Hope;

That we may be guided, lifted, and embraced to go forth and do all that we have been called to do;

To touch Humanity and feel the enlargement of what we care about;

That we may share the Spirit, Passion, and the Joy with others until we, as one people, united under many different faiths, can change the world;

In all these things we offer our hopes.

Amen, Amen, Amen

—Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler, *Gathering Voices*, Oct 2022

## Advices & Queries on MINISTRY

Ministry is a motion of Love and a response to both internal and external needs. We are all called to ministry, and there are many occasions when we can minister to one another in the Life and Light.

Friends seek to discover the gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making life choices, we consider ways that offer the fullest opportunity to develop our individual abilities and contribute to the wider community while providing for ourselves and our families.

In daily work, we seek to manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, thus giving a living witness to the Truth.

Friends recognize that we are given gifts for the use of the meeting and the world. The meeting seeks to recognize and nurture the use of those gifts.

Remember that our simple presence can be a ministry – at a bedside or at a protest.



*Are we careful to wait for and move under the leading of the Spirit in the exercise of our gifts?*

*How do we minister to each other, offering and receiving advice and support in a spirit of love and humility?*

*Do we hold with tenderness each of the varieties of ministry exercised among us?*

*When our ministry involves social and political action, how does it stay grounded in Truth and Love?*

*How does our meeting nurture and support calls to service?*

**“True ministry is not goal-oriented. True ministry is a state of servanthood, for that is the root meaning of the word to minister: ‘to serve.’ Success or failure in ministry is judged by God, not by human beings, and the basis of God’s judgment is whether we have been faithful in the process of serving God and our fellow human beings, not on what the outcomes of that service have been.”**

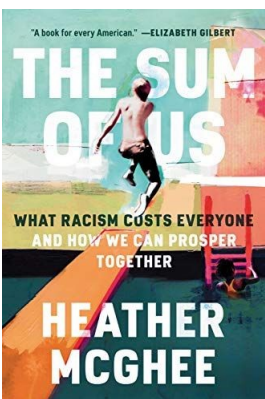
**—Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1996**

# 10 Ways White Supremacy Wounds White People

1. Teaching white children from an early age to disconnect from people of color, distance ourselves, understand ourselves as "better than," thereby distorting and putting out of reach real human connection with most of humanity.
2. Learning to admire colonizers, rapists, slave-owners, misogynists, liars, thieves, and those who committed acts of genocide because history is only taught from the perspective of white supremacy which portrays those acts not only as defensible but also as "necessary evils."
3. Living on this land with no connection or understanding of the land we are on or knowledge of the indigenous peoples it was stolen from.
4. Refusing to acknowledge America's "original sin" of racial, chattel slavery and genocide and a refusal to understand reparations as a spiritual and material necessity for addressing those traumas.
5. Forcing people of European descent to erase our culture in order to conform to whiteness and white, dominant culture.
6. Instructing white people to dissociate from our bodies and revere 'thinking' over feeling, intimacy, or paying attention to the information/wisdom our bodies give to us.
7. Ingraining in white people the values of dominance, greed, and simplistic notions of "winners" and "losers," and rewarding those who display those qualities with ever increasing access to wealth and power and admiring them for their dominance.
8. Fostering a sense that people of color are always interested in vengeance for the harms white people have perpetrated, creating a sublimated, constant anxiety about one's status and an inability to envision a world based on equity and human connection.
9. Distorting white people's perception of truth by portraying white, racist lies as fact and portraying the real, lived experiences of people of color as false or exaggerated.
10. Instilling in white people a scarcity mentality, making such things as neoliberal capitalism, mass incarceration, xenophobia, continued fossil fuel extraction, and the never-ending "War on Terror" appear defensible and even necessary.



—Greg Elliott, Friends Relations Associate for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)



*The above is just a teaser, an outline of Greg's blog which can be read in full at [10 ways white supremacy wounds white people: A tale of mutuality | American Friends Service Committee \(afsc.org\)](https://www.afsc.org/blog/10-ways-white-supremacy-wounds-white-people-a-tale-of-mutuality)*

## On The Same Topic

*Exceptionally well-researched and well-written is Heather McGhee's book *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs All Of Us and How We Can Prosper Together*. I listened to the audio version of this book which was narrated by the author who is equally as articulate and impassioned as a reader, as she is as a writer. —Ed.*

# MEETING OFFICERS

**Clerk:** Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421

**Recording Clerk:** Nancy Spear 626-437-8913

**Communications Clerk:** Jean Semrau 488-6855

**Treasurer:** Adam Thompson 201-8255

**Newsletter Editor:** Bob Morse 482-8449, Sylvie Weaver

**Web Administrator:** Bob Morse 482-8449

**NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact:** OPEN

**Art Hangings:** Becky Hale 601-3084

**Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449

**Homeless Outreach:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146

**Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222

**Library:** Fran Curtis 482-1095

**Joint Committee Representatives:** Herb Rothschild  
531-2848, Adam Thompson 201-8255

*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)) **Friday** after Business Meeting*

# MEETING COMMITTEES

**Ministry & Counsel:** IN TRANSITION; Clerk *ex officio*

**Nominating (ad hoc):** Valeria Breiten, Pam Johnson, Ken Deveney, Jean Semrau, Becky Hale

## OPEN COMMITTEES ANYONE MAY ATTEND/PARTICIPATE:

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

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

**Buildings & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Terri Brain

**Friendship & Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach, Ká Hering, Cathy McDaniel; **Greeters:** Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski, Nancy Spear, George Scholes, Steve Radcliffe

**Peace & Social Concerns:** Herb Rothschild, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Elizabeth Hallett, Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe

**Adult Education:** Ká Hering, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Jim Lobsenz, Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Ken Deveney

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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