

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

[communications@ashlandquakers.org](mailto:communications@ashlandquakers.org)

[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 (link below)**

7 April *No First-Hour Activity*

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

14 April *No First-Hour Activity*

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday:

Let Your Art Speak *Details Page 3*

21 April

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

28 April **How to Quaker:** Clerking:  
clerking Meeting & committees  
differs from "chairing the meeting"

**Meeting House Work Party**  
**Saturday 13 April *Details Pg 5***

### 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=SW1sd3pTZjhIbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

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

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

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

## Seeking Salvation

I heard the Earth whisper  
we like you more and more,  
the way you stopped on your walk  
through the Redwood Grove  
and listened to the Great Northern Owl,  
that you feel compassion  
for the grasses, as they stiffen  
from green to palest yellow hay husks,  
that you carefully prune rose trees,  
leave some delicate leaf tips for the browsing deer,  
that you appreciate the seasons and  
give your attention to the moon's phases,



linger at sunset's golden moments,  
and say as Earth does  
we can never have too many.  
You, my friend, have what it takes  
to love a world,  
each broken part held in your heart  
without flinching, without moving away.  
No, you are something special.  
You are not an angel, but where you are



is the intersection of Time and Eternity.  
Here is a stream and a forest spiraling around  
the flowing water. Around the stream,  
and the Kali dancing forest, is the sea,  
waves pulsing, while  
above, is the cloud roaming  
befriending sky,  
the mysterious nests of worlds  
of light and shadow,

all this is salvation  
from the moment of  
holy longing  
that made it all.

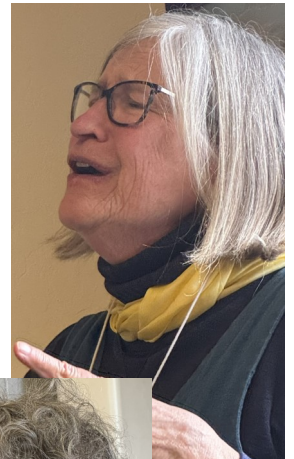
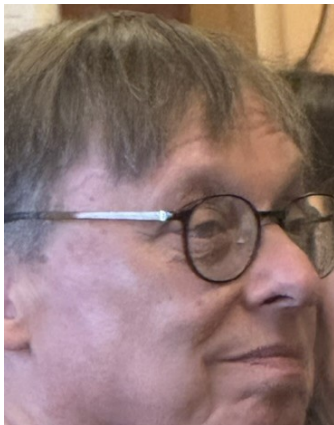
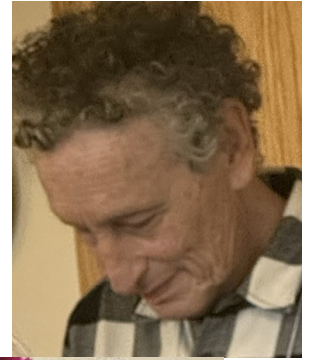
—Gail Onion

Submitted by  
Anya Kumara





# Wishing James Well as He Moves onto His Life's Next Chapter in Nashville



I overlooked photographing Andra as she was sitting behind me. Sorry, Bob Morse





## Soul Food Sunday: Rise of Meeting on Sunday 14 April 2024

**Sharing Food:** Our community meal will again be a **good ol' fashioned potluck**. You are invited to contribute whatever part of the meal you're led to bring—anything from soup to nuts—or just your presence!

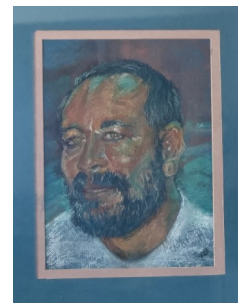


**Sharing Ourselves: Honoring our Quaker Artist Elders:  
Marybeth Webster & Colombe Leinau**



**Letting Their  
Artistic Selves  
Speak To Us**

*Marybeth's &  
Colombe's Art  
Currently Adorn  
Our Meeting  
House Walls*



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## Reflections on Quaker Silence & Friendly Words

*"At 16, I came to my first Quaker meeting and fell in love with the deep, extended quiet and stillness. ... I felt at home at last." —John Calvi, Quaker healer and author, Putney (VT) Friends Meeting*

In Bill Ashworth's recent (25 February) "How To Quaker" discussion focused on vocal ministry, he asserted that silence and words unite in serving the purpose of worship—deepening into inner *stillness*. He explained that something lies beyond the usual self-test for vocal ministry. Typically, we discern whether the words rising within us during worship are meant for more than just me by a strong sense that I cannot *not* stand and speak. Bill maintains that it's not our urgency to speak but our assessment that the words emerging from our personal experience move beyond a simple reporting on our lives. Instead the words have a meaning, a lesson, an inspiration responsive to conditions within our Meeting, within our world.

I recall the power I experienced during my first tenure as our Meeting's presiding clerk when I switched from inviting Friends into the silence to inviting Friends into worship. Bill's recent talk elucidated this change. Silence is a tool toward intensifying and expanding worship. It's the finger pointing to the moon, not the moon itself. In my mind, silence can be defined by time: *Let's take a moment of silence*. Worship is undefinable space: *Friends let's enter into/return to worship*, implying that we would benefit from greater clarity, depth, patience, reverence, or tranquility.

I've always been impressed by the adage that if the business meeting agenda looks to be long and arduous, then instead of shortening opening worship (to provide more time to discuss business), it is wise to expand the duration of worship, allowing for each and all present to deepen into stillness. In this greater collective stillness, Friends are more in touch with Spirit, and it is Spirit that guides business meeting.

Vocal ministry, Bill reminded us, involves words, thoughts, and feelings which come together during worship, not a commentary that we carried into worship with us. It's been our tradition to allow this one exception: The Meeting's clerk brings to business meeting words of inspirational that are typically guided by the clerk's being in a position to sense what words would speak to our Meeting's condition. I've come to believe that the blessing of being the Meeting's clerk is to feel the Spirit of business meeting throughout the month as part of the clerk's ongoing holding the Meeting in the Light. Thus, the inspirational message spoken by the clerk during opening worship arrives while the Meeting is in the process of deepening and serves to further the deepening. I sense that the fuller the worship at the beginning of business meeting, the easier it is for Friends to intermittently revisit worship during business meeting, which helps us stay in touch with Spirit's guidance.

—Bob Morse

# Meeting for Business 17 March 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.*

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**Friends Present:** Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, John Etter (a visiting Friend from Eugene), Ann Gaffney, Ariel Love, Cathy McDaniel, Merlin McDaniel, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Adam Thompson.

**Quote & Reflection:** “War has no cause except the intention of governments to resort to it.” —Ira De Augustine Reid, 1901-1968

**2024.3.1 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the February 18th Meeting for Worship for Business.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was little financial activity in February. Contributions were not so high as a regular month, so we had a bit of a deficit, but year-to-date we are still ahead. Spending has been restrained in typical So. Mountain Friends Meeting fashion. We still have plenty of money in our checking account.

**Ministry & Counsel (M&C):** The artwork that Becky has put up on display in the Meetinghouse is by our Grants Pass, female, Quaker, artistic Elders, Marybeth Webster and Colombe Leinau. This upcoming Soul Food Sunday, we will celebrate these artists. Colombe will attend in person and Marybeth will join via Zoom. Both will speak with us about their art.

**Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):** Our two hosted attendees, Connor Babbitt and Rook Smith, to Friends Committee on National Legislation’s (FCNL)

Lobby Days are at Lobby Days right now! The total expense this year is \$1,720. Some of the cost was also paid by the FCNL Advocacy Team. Our partners in our work educating about Christian Nationalism, Medford Friends Church, First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, and Medford’s United Church of Christ (UCC), are very interested in hosting two showings of the movie God and Country, one in Medford and one in Ashland, upon its release.

**Nominating Committee for 2024:** The following persons have been appointed to the Nominating Committee: Wyatt Banks, Althea Godfrey, Nancy Spear, & Richard Spencer. The committee will be contacting Friends about ways to serve the Meeting, or Friends can contact the committee.

**Joint Committee (JC):** JC incurred a debt during COVID because the rentals dried up, but all the back bills as a result of that time have now been paid off, including the loan from one of our members. Rentals have stabilized with a core group of recurring rentals. The committee, at the Meeting’s request, has hired Nicole Brady to clean the building twice a month. She will arrange for carpet and window cleaning as well. JC is also well on its way to maintaining a \$10,000 minimum balance for when big unexpected things happen (e.g., water heater fails). The committee is cognizant of the Meeting’s desire to get off natural gas and hopes to be able to do so within the next few years.

**Technology:** Friends suggested improving partnerships such that the person who is clerking an event (e.g., First Hour) is supported by another person who can set up the virtual meeting system and run the tech aspects of the meeting. Perhaps we need an official contact person in charge of maintaining the technology.

**2024.03.2 South Mountain Friends Meeting appreciates Mary Ward for her work in helping the Meeting set up and continue to operate our hybrid meeting capabilities. We have found the system continues to work well and helps our Meeting remain connected even from afar.**

**Announcements:** Knitting us Together is a project of North Pacific Yearly Meeting to connect Friends. Friends from the region will be visiting Meetings. We look forward to welcoming them here when their schedule permits.

The Willamette Quarterly Meeting is happening on Friday 17 May after dinner through Sunday the 19th at noon at Mt Hood Kiwanis Camp near Rhododendron, OR. There are cabins and also electric hookups for RVs. The Quarterly Meeting recognizes it is often a long drive for Friends from SMFM but extends a warm welcome and encourages Friends to attend and take advantage of the pay-as-you-can nature of the event.

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

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## Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

Free Writing Friends: 2:30 – 4:30 pm every MONDAY & Song Circle: 6:30 pm 2nd TUESDAYS

Details at [OUR SCHEDULE](#) | [AshlandQuakers](#)

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# Advices & Queries on Harmony with Creation

Rejoice in the majesty of nature. Pray that the Presence will lead us to our rightful place in the creation.

We are each part of the intricate web of life; each choice to act or not to act can have profound consequences. We live in such a complex world that we can do considerable damage without knowing it. Choices that are beneficial in one direction may be harmful in another.

We take care to conserve and protect the whole of life. Both scientific inquiry and spiritual reflection lead us to deeper understanding of the interconnected, constantly changing systems in which we live.



The essence of the Divine Light can be found in our connection to the natural world. Our collective experience of this deep interconnectedness with all nature helps us understand the connection between ecological and cultural diversity, know the Earth as teacher, and value inspiration from a range of faith traditions.

We face the difficult challenge to change our manner of living to come into harmony with creation. As we support each other's efforts to use no more than our fair share, we guard against waste and resist the temptations of convenience and the inertia of the status quo. We help each other look for ways to counter attitudes of human arrogance, domination, and greed which threaten Earth's equilibrium.

*In what ways do we seek harmony with Creation?  
How does science help us live within It respectfully?*

*In what ways do we honor all living things?  
Do we seek the holiness inherent in the order of nature, the wildness of wilderness,  
and the richness of the world?*

*How do our daily habits and choices reflect our respect for the web of life?*

*What will the impact of our current choices be on the lives  
of future generations?*

*How do we educate ourselves and others  
about living in harmony with the earth?*

*What can we do to make the community of life whole?*

**"It would go a great way to caution and direct people in their use of the world, that they were better studied and knowing in the Creation of it. For how [could they] find the confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the Face, in all and every part thereof?"  
—William Penn, 1693**



## **Putting Harmony with Creation into Practice Meeting House Yardwork Party Raking, Mowing, and More Raking**

**9 am – Noon Saturday 13 April**

**If Rained Out, then 9 am – Noon Saturday 20 April**

**Bring Gloves/Rakes Provided/Fancy Boots Optional**

## **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  
**Joint Committee Delegates:** Ariel Love 925-212-2118;  
Bill Ashworth 778-9470

## **Standing Committees**

**Ministry and Counsel:** Bob Morse 482-8849, clerk, David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186, Becky Hale 601-3084, Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, Valeria Breiten (*ex officio*)

**Nominating Committee:** Althea Godfrey, Wyatt Banks, Richard Spencer, Nancy Spear

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

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

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

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

*Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse ([morse@mind.net](mailto: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 770-3318  
**\*Child Care:** Ken Deveney 482-2173  
**\*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:** Tara Jones 817-471-5120  
**\*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:** Pam Johnson 535-1940 & Becky Hale 601-3084  
**\*Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225  
**\*Late Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

*\* = All new and longtime participants welcome*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520