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

**2 February** No 1st Hour Activity

10:15-11 am: **Circle of Light**

**9 February Let Your Life Speak:**  
Nancy Spear will share her spiritual journey up to and including finding and experiencing South Mountain Friends Meeting. All Are Welcome!

**16 February ZOOM ONLY**

8:30-10 am: **Business Meeting**

**23 February How to Quaker:**  
What in the world is a "Beanite"?  
Details on Page 3

*A Light Breakfast to Follow*

### 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=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGZRMmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

**Outdoor Worship** on the Back Deck 11-11:45 am Sundays (weather permitting)

# SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

### Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

## Second Month 2025



## Ode to a Black Quaker

Paul Robeson was born to an ex-slave father and a Quaker mother. With an astounding voice, he was the first African American to play Othello on Broadway. A graduate of NY's Columbia Law School, Robeson immediately discovered that racism blocked his path toward practicing law. So, he instead became an internationally acclaimed actor who experienced a level of respect in Europe

that neither he nor other Blacks experienced in Jim Crow America. An advocate for peace, racial equality, and unionized labor, Robeson became increasingly known as a political radical, and even his songs became politicized. In 1952, the State Dept prevented Robeson from leaving the US to speak and sing at a union convention in Vancouver, BC. In response, the union arranged four concerts in which Robeson sang to Canadians at the US border's Peace Arch in Blaine, WA.

Naomi Shihab Nye was born to a Palestinian father and an American mother, living part of her childhood in the West Bank, at that time part of Jordan. Half a century after Robeson's stateside "domestic house arrest," courageous and prolific poet Nye captured Robeson's border moments in this poem:

## Cross That Line

Paul Robeson stood on the northern border of the USA and sang into Canada where a vast audience sat on folding chairs waiting to hear him.

He sang into Canada.  
His voice left the USA  
when his body was not allowed to cross that line.

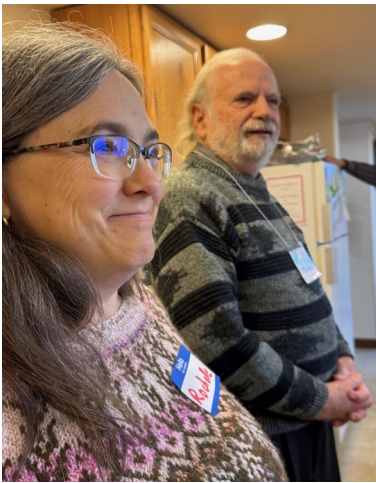


Remind us again, brave friend!  
What countries may we sing into?  
What lines should we all be crossing?  
What songs travel toward us  
from far away  
to deepen our days?





# Some of the Many Faces & Voices at our South Mountain Solstice Breakfast & Singalong



Merlin

Rochelle



Crystal, Karen, Elizabeth, Fernando



JoAnn, Ka



Elizabeth Sr, Pat, Ceili



Bill, Melody

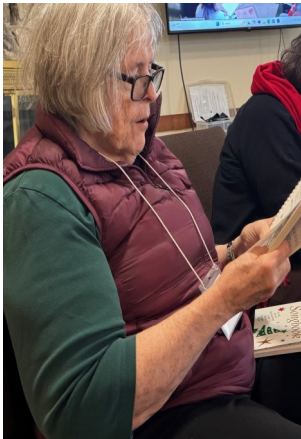


Phyllis

Photos by Bob



Josephine



Nancy



Matt, Ann, Ken

*Local Nonprofit Anima Mundi Productions  
continues this season's series of concerts  
featuring musicians from regions suffering from violent conflict*

## **World-Renowned Israeli Cellist Amit Peled with Spanish Pianist Daniel del Pino**

A concert of spiritual introspection in the Jewish tradition,  
including musical treasures by Bruch, Bloch, Bach, and Grieg



**3 pm Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> \* SOU Music Recital Hall, 450 S Mtn Ave, Ashland**

Tickets and information at [www.HumanityTickets.com](http://www.HumanityTickets.com)  
by calling (541) 833-3066 (ext. 1) or writing to [info@animamundiproductions.com](mailto:info@animamundiproductions.com)

## **Monthly Family Game Night**

**6-9 pm Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday (such as 18 Jan, 15 Feb, 15 Mar, etc.)**

All are welcome: "Family" loosely defined; Age doesn't matter—young at heart or young in body. Pizza & non-alcoholic beverages provided. Bring your favorite board games, and other games will be on hand (Scrabble, UNO, cards). Feel free to ask me questions. —Ká Hering (541-778-5206)

## **Hicksites, Guernevites, Wilburites: And What in the World is a "Beanite"?**

**How to Quaker: 9 am Sunday 23 February**

February's "How to Quaker" will bring our brief survey of Quaker history up to the present, beginning with the "Great Separation" of the 1820s and concluding with the birth of South Mountain Friends in 1967. Together we'll discover why South Mountain Friends Meeting as well as the Medford and Talent Friends Churches can all legitimately call ourselves Quakers, despite the major differences in our practice, theology, and (usually) politics. —Bill Ashworth

## **Special South Mountain Events: in March and April**

*Details to follow in the March and April Newsletters*

### **Quakers & Native Peoples: Acknowledging our Past/Forging a Future**

**NEW TIME (due to a schedule conflict):  
9-10 am on SUNDAY 9 March ZOOM ONLY**

Friend Paula Palmer of Boulder Meeting will share her extensive research and experience of Quaker-run Indian Boarding Schools, as well as current Quaker efforts to support healing in Native communities. Paula's presentations are worshipful and informative and include time for discussion.

### **Living Faithfully in Right Relationship with God's Creation**

**4:30 pm POTLUCK DINNER & 6-8 pm PROGRAM Friday 4 April (Meeting House)**

Traveling Friend Mary Ann Percy of Bellingham Meeting will listen, share, and discern together how spirit is guiding us to respond to threats to the web of life—and offer practices for connecting with spirit.  
—Bob Morse





**Black Alliance and  
Social Empowerment**

# **Art Showcase by Local Black Artists INCLUDING YOUTH ARTISTS**

**Open Gallery Night: Meet the Artists**

**5-8 pm Friday 21 February**

**Rogue Gallery & Art Center, 40 S Bartlett, Medford**  
(South Mountain Friends Meeting is a Financial Sponsor of BASE)

## **Advices & Queries on Civic Responsibility**

We value the part we have in shaping the laws of our country. It is our task to see that these laws speak to and answer that of God, which we believe is in every person. Our aim is the building of a social order that works toward the expression of divine love. Our first allegiance remains with God.

Friends' responsibility toward civic authority requires integrity and discernment. The state commands respect and cooperation when it acts to maintain an orderly society with justice under law for all and to meet human needs. On the other hand, when government acts as a coercive agency, especially when resorting to violence, it may violate Quaker principles.

If, by divine leading, our attention is focused on a law contrary to divine law, we must proceed with care. Friends take prayerful counsel to find the right way forward. This involves testing our resistance to the state through discernment in the meeting community, possibly through a clearness or support committee. When the decision is to refuse obedience, we act openly and make the reasons for our actions clear. If the decision involves incurring legal penalties, Friends generally have suffered willingly and fearlessly for the sake of their convictions. If we are not personally involved in an action of civil disobedience, we strengthen the meeting community by supporting our fellow members with spiritual encouragement and, when necessary, with material aid. We care for those who suffer for conscience's sake.

**“Civic responsibility means active participation in the public life of a community in an informed, committed, and constructive manner, with a focus on the common good.”  
—Gottlieb & Robinson, 2006**



*What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to carry our share of civic responsibility for our community, state, and nation?*

*How are we working for change in government when change is needed?*

*How do we discern between meeting our obligations to the state and society and opposing those contrary to Quaker principles?*

*What are we doing to uphold those acting under a concern aligned with Quaker belief?*

*Do we share our convictions in a spirit of loving concern?*

*In what ways do we care for those who are vulnerable or are in poverty in our communities?*

## **Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community**

**Free Writing Friends: every MONDAY afternoon**

**Song Circle: 6:30 pm 2nd TUESDAYS**

**Meditation on Peace & Love: 5-6 pm every THURSDAY**

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



# Meeting for Business 19 January 2025

**Friends Present:** Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Althea Godfrey, Ká Hering, Bob Morse, Andra Hollenbeck, Ariel Love, Herb Rothschild, Josephine Olson, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson

**Land Acknowledgement:** *This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta, and other peoples. We honor these original stewards and are exploring how to make reparations to the people harmed by the Quakers in this region.*

**Quote & Reflection:** “Friends, meet together and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was.”  
~ George Fox, 1657

**2025.1.1 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the December Business Meeting.**

**Treasurer Report:** Donations to the national groups went out in early January so will appear on next month’s statement. The balance in our checking account is healthy, we have over \$9,000 not counting Andrew Yavelow’s (Yav’s) bequeathed gift. Finance still has not met to consider what to do with Yav’s offering. Our donations are behind our budgeted. We have received ~1/3 of what we expected for this year and we are half way through the year. Typically donations come in bunches, particularly around the time that the finance committee send out letters.

A few months ago Meeting for Business approved hiring someone to administer Mailchimp and send out the Weekly Bulletin. Kitty Cable has been doing a fantastic job. We have been paying them \$100 per month for this work and are asking Friends to approve this spending.

**2025.1.2 Friends approved a rate of \$100 per month for administering Mailchimp for the Meeting.**

Bob shared that a few years ago, Meeting began sponsoring a local Black-led organization, BASE (Black Alliance and Social Empowerment), as reparations. During COVID that monthly donation dropped to \$50 per month. There was discussion about raising this donation amount now when the need is great.

**2025.1.3 Friends approved a one time donation of \$300 to BASE and an increase of our monthly donation back to our pre-pandemic amount of \$100/mo.**

**Ministry & Counsel (M&C):** When discussing our Land Acknowledgement, Friends asked M&C to arrange education regarding the history of our Quaker relationship with Native Peoples, prior to further winnowing. M&C reviewed Friend Paula Palmer’s recorded presentation on this topic and believes she would be a great person to support our learning via an informal, participatory presentation. *See details on page 3.*

Through our Yearly Meeting’s Knitting Us Together program, a traveling Friend will be visiting OR Meetings in April. On Friday, 4 April, she will be at our meeting house speaking about “How are we as Friends called to live more faithfully in Right Relationship with the Living World/God’s Creation?” M&C proposed a 4:30 pm potluck followed by a 6-8 pm program. *See details on page 3.*

During first hour on even-numbered months, we will be resuming Let Your Life Speak. February will be featuring Nancy Spear. *See details on page 1.*

**Friendship & Hospitality (F&H):** At the first Family Game Night, there were 3 new attenders, and a great time was had by all. *See details on page 3.*

**Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):** Connor Babbit is helping to identify students to send to Friends Committee on National

Legislation’s (FCNL’s) Spring Lobby Days. If Friends would like to participate in the interviews of potential candidates, please email Herb Rothschild to participate. This year’s focal topic is food security and healthcare.

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) has been attempting to bring together various organizations working on the topic of Christian Nationalism with a particular focus on education and legislation. Herb has been in communication with them and will continue to be in touch. Ecumenical Ministers of Oregon (EMO) might be the right organization to coordinate with on this front in OR, particularly with regard to keeping tabs on actions within the state legislature since many states are passing laws embedding Christianity in state governments, particularly in schools. A good resource is [www.ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org](http://www.ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org).

With the new Presidential administration taking office, there is an increase in the threat of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids for deporting individuals. Indivisible OR D2 is hosting an organizational meeting on protecting vulnerable individuals. Herb hopes to share with Friends an overview of what is happening locally with regard to resistance, including civil disobedience and roles supporting civil disobedience, and support for vulnerable persons.

**Other:** Bill Ashworth shared a story about his uncle who worked at a school for Native Peoples as a teacher and later in life met weekly for lunch with one of his former Native students from that school. Bill shared that to remind us that, although we have much to make right, moments of Light can come from overall moments of darkness.

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 along with Mary Ellen Gordian and Kitty Cable

**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; **Welcomers:** Andra Hollenbeck, Rochelle Webster, Richard Spencer, & YOU

*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 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 482-2173

**\*Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329

**\*Library:** A Friend

**\*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

**\*Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225

**\*Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

*\* = All new and longtime participants welcome*

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520