

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

communications@ashlandquakers.org

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)

4 February Winoing Session
on Christian Nationalism

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

11 February Nothing First Hour

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday and

Movie Watching *Details: Page 3*

18 February

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

25 February How to Quaker:

Let's Talk About Vocal Ministry

Friends Women's Circle

Details: Page 5

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09)

[j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbG](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09)

[RmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09)

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

Second Month 2024

The Only Sermon



if we dug a huge grave miles wide, miles deep

and buried every rifle, pistol, knife, bullet, bomb, bayonet

if we jumped upon fleets of tanks and fighter jets

with tool boxes, torches

unwelded them dismantled them turned them into scrap metal

if every light-skinned man in a silk tie said to every dark-skinned man in a turban

I vow not to kill your children

and heard the same vow in return

if every elected leader agreed to stop lying

if every child was fed as well as racehorses bred to win derbies

if every person with a second home gave it to a person with no home

if every mother buried her parents not her sons and daughters

if every person who has enough said out loud I have enough

if every person violent in the name of God were to find God

we would grow silent, still for a moment, a lifetime

we would hear infants nursing at the breast

hummingbirds hovering in flight

we would touch a canyon wall and feel the earth vibrate

we would hear two lovers sigh across the ocean

we would watch old wounds grow new flesh and jagged scars disappear

as time was layered upon time

we would slowly be ready to begin

—Andrea Ayvazian

associate pastor, war-tax resister,
nonviolence trainer, anti-racism educator,
creator of the Sojourner Truth School for
Social Change Leadership



Black Alliance & Social Empowerment

**BASE
Celebrates
Kwanzaa
26 Dec 2023**



Afroscoutz (BASE Youth Group) Showcase Their Drumming and Their Dancing,



Recite Their Empowerment Pledge,



and Teach the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa.

- Unity**
- Self-Determination**
- Collective Work & Responsibility**
- Cooperative Economics**
- Purpose**
- Creativity**
- Faith**



As a means of reparation, our Friends Meeting financially sponsors BASE.

Photos by Bob Morse

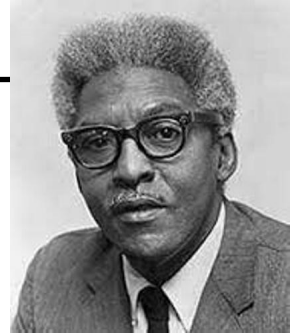
Soul Food Sunday: Rise of Meeting on Sunday 11 February 2024

Sharing Food: We will each bring our own **brown bag lunch**. We're emphasizing *simple* to allow time for our **post-lunch movie-watching activity**. If you forget, some finger food will be available.

Sharing Together: In honor of Black History Month, we'll be showing the newly released Netflix biopic **RUSTIN** which highlights the life of Black Quaker Bayard Rustin. The film runs 100 minutes. —Ministry and Counsel Committee

Who Was Bayard Rustin?

The movie **RUSTIN** honors Bayard Rustin's major life achievements: It was Bayard who taught Gandhian nonviolence to Martin Luther King at the time when the latter owned guns for self-protection; it was Bayard who organized the 1963 March on Washington where MLK proclaimed, "I Have A Dream."



QUAKER ROOTS: Bayard Rustin was born in 1912 in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and was raised by his grandparents. A nurse, Quaker, and founding member of a local NAACP chapter, Grandma Julia instilled in Bayard many of the beliefs that would define his adult life, including a steadfast dedication to civic, nonviolent activism and a lifelong commitment to securing citizenship rights for Black Americans. "Ma Rustin," as Bayard called her, impressed upon him that it was too tiresome to hate and that it was his duty to treat each person as a complete human being.

NONVIOLENT VALUES: After studying music in college, Bayard moved to Harlem in 1937, joined the 15th Street Friends Meeting, and began his career as an organizer. A year later, he officially joined the Young Communist League but promptly left the party when it shifted its focus from racial equity and changed its pacifist stance on World War II. During his first few years in Harlem, Bayard formed connections with A.J. Muste of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, a Black labor union. Along with James Farmer, Bayard traveled the country for FOR, expounding the virtues of nonviolence. While at FOR, Bayard was instrumental in founding the Congress of Racial Equality. In 1944, Bayard was sent to prison for draft evasion after informing his draft board that he was following "the will of God" by not supporting the war cause. Bayard helped devise the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation to test the Supreme Court's recent ruling banning segregated seating on interstate travel. Threatened, attacked, and arrested in North Carolina, Bayard ending up spending 30 days on a chain gang. Bayard's serialized journal published in major newspapers led to the dismantling of the chain gang and inspiring Rosa Park's subsequent nonviolent bus protest.

GAY IDENTITY: When Bayard told Ma Rustin that he'd rather dance with men than woman, she was and remained fully supportive of his gayness. Throughout his years of organizing, Bayard was out, dating men within the various justice movements. The makers of the **RUSTIN** film inserted two fictional characters so to not retroactively out Bayard's actual lovers. In 1953, Bayard was arrested in Pasadena for engaging in sexual activity with a man in a parked car, possibly a sting operation to impede Bayard's further civil rights organizing. Beyond jail time, Bayard was required to register as a sex offender.

SKILLED ORGANIZER: Several affiliations were severed, but in 1955, Bayard joined MLK as his tactical advisor in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Together they created the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Due to Bayard's being gay, having been convicted, and having associated with the American Communist Party, he was considered a liability and limited to backseat roles. However, when in 1963 Randolph resurrected his aborted 1941 plans for a March on Washington, he pulled Bayard out of the shadows, knowing that only he could organize the entire nation. —Bob Morse

Sauntering Toward Enlightenment

More than six months ago, I left Oregon to become properly enlightened at the Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I am happy to report that goal has been achieved. It happened quite unexpectedly and in much less time than I had anticipated.



For the first month I was here, I was not allowed to wander from the few acres we occupy and spent almost all of my time in silence sitting in the temple (we call it “The Zendo,” though like a lot of things here, I don’t understand why. But I do have to admit I rather like the term and how easily it will fit in with my dreams of creating a comic book series around the adventures of “The Zendo”, which will be sort of the Bat Cave of a superhero monk (luckily, the wandering-about restriction only applied to my physical self)).

Anyhow, on my first morning where I could consort (as all of you must imagine, a month without consorting is an achievement in itself) with civilians in the marketplace, I sauntered (I do that now) along the Santa Fe River (it is about two feet wide and six inches deep, so “river?”—but I have let go of all judgment so “river” it remains). Then it happened. On The Plaza in Santa Fe, my face turned to the early morning soft light, a light warm breeze on my newly-shaved head, and suddenly all ego, and all suffering, slipped away. I was no longer of this world. And then the donut was gone. . . But I’m kidding, of course. I didn’t shave my head. Although it’s a requirement if I become a Zen priest. Or a marine. The likelihood of either is about the same.

After the Donut is Gone and Other Songs of Enlightenment. My next record. Actually, I have thought there is more than enough material here for a musical. But when would I ever have time to write it? Being a resident here leaves little time for anything but meditating and working. I have had many jobs here, but mostly I have worked in the kitchen, preparing meals for fellow residents and our many guests.

And while I have written many songs while here, they would make sense only to the 10 to 15 people who live here and for when residents depart, which happens with regularity. There is a consistent body of a few teachers and residents who have been here for years, but most people come for four months to a year. The former four-month commitment has been relaxed; now no time commitment is required. It’s probably a good thing. I mean who, in their right mind, would commit for a half a year of waking at five, in a stark jail-sized room, and don a monk uniform of black and sweep a temple that has never seen dirt?

My commitment here has now been met, and yet I’m not ready to leave. I know it sounds trite and corny, but here’s the truth: I’m finding out who I am here. It’s not exactly pretty. But along with all of the darkness and bottomless shallowness of which I have become keenly aware, there is the recognition of the undeniable beauty of who I am and have always been. And an appreciation for the grace and richness of my life and everyone else in this profoundly f___ up world.

Buddhism sets forth a pretty high standard: heal the world. And although that will never happen, of course, there is something so inspiring about living in a community which has been created to attempt just that. And so everyone who lives here, or attends our retreats, comes with the purpose of doing their part to make the world a better place. It’s ridiculously audacious and an antidote to the despair and passivity that often grips so many of us.

It seems everyone here is actively engaged in climate change initiatives or hospice work or immigration issues or bringing change to those who are incarcerated. It’s easy to compare. What have I done? What will I do? (These are questions I regularly ask of myself; applying them to my life is daunting; I prefer not to be daunted). I don’t know what’s next. And for now, that seems enough: to not know where I go from here.

I often think that those who effect big changes are on a different and almost superhuman level: Gandhi, MLK, Thich Nhat Hanh. But maybe it’s simply enough to be kind or to love someone who is difficult to love. For me, it’s a really good start to just become aware of how broken I am; that we all suffer in various ways and degrees. And with that awareness comes a desire to end it.

There have been many great teachers in my life who have no idea of how they have changed me. For instance: you. You who read and listen and encourage. And I have continued to find that here at Upaya. Any pressure to do more or to be more comes solely from me. It’s also easy for me to underestimate the impact I can have on others.

—Zen Den (Denizen of The Zendo) *Denny Caraher intermittently attends South Mountain Friends Meeting.*



Friends Women's Circle

Women who would like to gather regularly are invited to join us.

Our initial gathering will take place from 2 to 4 pm on Friday 2 February at our Meeting House.

All who identify as female or non-binary are welcome.

Together we will share ideas of how to co-create caring connection and mutual support. We can decide on a schedule—how often and where we'd like to meet.

If you're not able to attend the 2 February Circle, we encourage you to share your preferences ahead of time by contacting us, Althea or Becky, as we'll be facilitating the first gathering.

—Althea Godfrey (541-261-5329); Becky Hale (541-601-3084)

The Meaning of Love: A Music Recital

Love As A Mystical, Spiritual, Environmental, Humanitarian Force For Good And Healing

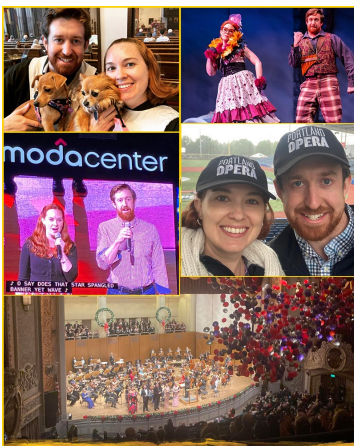
3 pm Sunday 18 February * SOU Music Recital Hall * Ashland

Join all-star vocalists and real-life married couple Jocelyn Claire Thomas and Zachary Lenox for a feast of sumptuous songs accompanied by local pianist Jodi French.

This unique Valentine's concert is a journey from romantic melodies to songs of love for the earth, humanity, and the divine.

The program ranges from Broadway show tunes to classical art song to opera—and features new world premieres by local creators Ethan Gans-Morse, Tiziana DellaRovere, and Michael Silversher.

Zachary Lenox, highlighted as "the star of the night," and Jocelyn Claire Thomas, praised as "staggeringly brilliant," have sung together with Portland Opera, the Oregon Symphony, Eugene Opera, Opera Bend, Harmonia Seattle, Symphony Tacoma, and the National Anthem three times for televised Portland Trail Blazers NBA games.



This heartwarming Valentine's concert is part of the Heart of Humanity Concert Series, proudly presented by local nonprofit Anima Mundi Productions.

Tickets and information at <http://humanitytickets.com>

or by contacting Anima Mundi Productions

tickets@animamundiproductions.com | (541) 833-3066

—Ethan Gans-Morse

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

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

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

Meeting for Business 21 January 2024

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Jim Lobsenz, Ariel Love, Cathy McDaniel, Merlin McDaniel, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Adam Thompson.

Quote & Reflection: “Life is meant to be lived from a Center, a divine Center—a life of unhurried peace and power. It is simple. It is serene. It takes no time, but it occupies all our time.” —Thomas Kelly, 1941

2024.1.1 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the 17 December Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer’s Report: We have recently changed our practice such that we receive our dividends from the Friends Fiduciary investment as cash rather than reinvesting them. The principal in this fund is kept as a “rainy day” fund. That change is represented in this month’s report. We paid half of our assessment to the North Pacific Yearly Meeting this month. We are running a bit of a deficit this month and for the fiscal year thus far. Adam suggests sending out a letter in the spring to folks regarding financial support. Friends asked that the financial reports be printed for those who are attending business meeting in person.

Amicus Brief Request: Jim Lobsenz presented information on *Johnson v. Grants Pass*, a case out of Grants Pass regarding a law criminalizing sleeping in public places when there are no shelters available. The crux of the issue in *Johnson v. Grants Pass* surrounds the eighth amendment’s provision against cruel and unusual punishment. Current law says that there are certain things that it would be cruel and unusual to criminally punish one for, because one cannot help but to do them--such as sleeping. There is agreement under current law that *judges*

cannot impose cruel and unusual punishments, but this case concerns whether *legislators* can pass laws that would impose cruel and unusual punishments.

Jim is asking the Meeting to sign on to an amicus brief he is writing. Amicus briefs, or amicus curiae briefs (literally “friends-of-the-court” briefs), are written by individuals or groups to share their insight on cases where they are not a party to the case, but have some interest in the case. Lawyers involved in *Johnson v. Grants Pass* agree that faith organizations’ participation in amicus briefs, particularly faith organizations with ties to Oregon and Grants Pass, are likely to have an impact on this case. It is not unusual for faith organizations to sign onto amicus briefs. To do so would mean that the Meeting is stating that they agree with the argument outlined in the brief. Jim’s argument is essentially that banning sleeping in public spaces when no alternative is available is, indeed, cruel and unusual punishment. All amicus briefs must be filed no later than late March or early April. The case will be argued in the Supreme Court during the week of 23 April. The Supreme Court will issue a decision in June that will affect cruel and unusual punishment law nationwide. There is no necessary cost for the Meeting to sign onto the brief, but there will be a \$3,000 - \$8,000 cost overall to print and file it. The Meeting would not need to cover any portion of that cost but may choose to make some sort of donation to help defray this cost.

2024.1.2 Friends authorized the Meeting’s participation as an amicus in the *Johnson v. Grants Pass* case and authorized Jim Lobsenz to move forward with writing the amicus brief on our behalf.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C): M&C reported that Anna Monders and Lisa Nichols, two members married under the care of the

Meeting, shared with sadness that they have recently finalized their divorce. They ask that “Meeting release the marriage as lovingly as it held it under its care.” M&C responded to Anna and Lisa that we will continue to carry each of them under the Meeting’s care. The next Soul Food Sunday will be 11 February and the activity will be to watch and discuss the movie *Rustin* about the life of Quaker and civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. Please bring a brown bag lunch to eat before we watch the film. *Details: Page 3*

Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC):

Herb is continuing to meet with folks at SOU about the possibility of sending students to FCNL’s Lobby Days. Time is short, but things may still work out. We received only two responses from the letters we sent out regarding Christian Nationalism, from Medford Friends Church and First Presbyterian Church in Ashland. Friends are wanting to winnow on what the Meeting would like to do moving forward. Herb will call those folks who responded to see where they are at and report back. P&SC will host the winnowing session on 4 February.

Friendship & Hospitality (F&H):

F&H is continuing to provide snacks and is focusing on more protein and less sugar. They are open to suggestions. Ká attended Multnomah Friends Meeting’s mental health presentation on how to talk to those in an alternate reality or suicidal and found it well worth it. Watch the Bulletin for more information about similar upcoming opportunities.

Clerk’s Report: Valeria noted that she will be setting up a Nominating Committee for the various roles in the Meeting. Please contact her if you are interested in serving.

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

Advices & Queries on Sexuality

Our physical and spiritual selves are an integrated whole. Our sexuality shapes how we understand ourselves and how we understand and relate to others.

Our sexual nature can be both a blessing and a source of vulnerability. Understanding our own sexuality is a journey.



We do well to look past the outward appearances of orientation and identity to see the quality of all individuals and relationships in our meetings. Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We remain tender toward all relationships founded on integrity, mutual respect, commitment, and love.

When dealing with issues of sexuality and sexual behavior, we strive for an appropriate balance between open, honest discussion and protection of privacy and confidentiality for individual members and attenders.

We take care to avoid sexual behavior based on license, exploitation, oppression, and violence in our personal lives and to witness against such behavior in our meetings and communities.

Parents support their children's healthy sexuality by providing good examples, constructively supporting each child's natural interest, and answering questions lovingly.

Friends are encouraged to maintain accurate resources on issues of sexuality, sexual behavior, and gender identity and to answer questions, especially from children, honestly and appropriately.

While the meeting can and should be a source of abiding love and support to members and attenders, we acknowledge that some situations may require professional intervention and others may require notification of law-enforcement authorities.



*Do we accept and appreciate our sexuality as part of our humanity and as a gift from God?
How do we integrate our sexuality and our spirituality?*

How can we help each other be faithful in expressing our sexuality?

Do we support members and attenders with love and care relating to their sexuality and gender identity?

How safe is our meeting?

How do we create an environment appropriate for discussion of deeply personal issues?

How willing are we to talk openly and listen carefully when others' ideas and behavior are different from our own? How do we respond to that of God in them while acknowledging our own discomfort or disagreement?

As individuals and as a meeting community, do we avoid stereotyping and judging people based on their relationships, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

*How do we love and respond to those who have been harmed by sexual discrimination, abuse, or violence?
How do we love and respond to those who have committed the discrimination, abuse, or violence?*

We are open to grace and we seek knowledge, understanding, and tenderness toward each other. We recognize that sexual orientation is a full spectrum and that gender identity may be fluid. We affirm that all are children of God and valuable members of the beloved community, however they identify themselves.

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: Valeria Breiten, Wyatt Banks, Richard Spencer, Melody Ashworth, Linda Spencer

***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:** Jean Semrau, Karen Maleski, 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 770-3318
***Child Care:** Ken Deveney 482-2173
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Library:** Tara Jones 817-471-5120
***Mailchimp:** Peter Orozco 201-699-3948
***Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329

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