

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)

2 June Winnowing Session:

Reaping the Fruits of our Nonviolent Presence Retreat *Details Pg 4*

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

9 June No First-Hour Activity

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday:

Celebrating Summer *Details Pg 4*

16 June

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

23 June How to Quaker:

Quakers Out In The World with Bill Ashworth

30 June Peace/Social Concerns:

Intro to Braver Angels with Steve Radcliffe

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)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Sixth Month 2024

Finding Home in Ourselves

I believe some of the most powerful places on earth are the rocking chairs on front porches, the benches nestled around dinner tables, the stones set up around firepits, and the rug at the base of a child's bed. They are the places where we tell stories, where we examine what it means to be human and decide how much kindness we will show ourselves and one another.



Those are the places where we learn who God is and who God isn't, where we are taught what kind of lives to live, where we learn about how the children and the elders are connected and find the Sacred in their everyday experiences because they are leaning in and listening with their whole beings.

May we always return to the places where the stories begin, to challenge them, to accept and honor them, and to whisper to ourselves and one another that *we are always, always arriving.*

—Kaitlin Curtice, author and poet

Don't forget,

my love,

to live.

Don't forget

to bury

your toes in sand

and leave the car keys

and laugh at oddities.

Don't forget to marvel

and feel despair,

to sense danger

and run from it.

Don't forget

to take chances,

to climb mountains

that no one believed

you could climb.

Don't forget

to love yourself,

all of you,

from every season

and every place,

because you never know

when they will

come knocking for

a cup of coffee

and an overdue hug.

Don't forget

that you are alive

right now

until you won't be,

and even then,

don't forget

how beautiful

it was to

call yourself Home.

Advices & Queries on Home & Family

Live in the assurance that all are children of God. Hospitality in the home is a vital force for spiritual nurture; it helps all family members learn to respond to that of God in everyone.



Know that a family may be made of single adults, of differing combinations of adults, or of adults and children, sharing a bond of love. Meeting provides an essential sense of family for those without families, including those made single after years of marriage or other life commitment.

We give home and family priority in our lives.

The meeting can support, yet cannot replace, the family in the care of children. At the same time, every member of meeting is responsible in some measure for the care of families, including children. Stay aware of the many ways the meeting can act as a family – and the ways it cannot. Be both bold and tender in offering assistance to families that may be experiencing discord or domestic abuse.

"Learning to listen to each other in families can help to make us better listeners to others and to the Inner Guide." —Dorothy Steere, 1984

How do we make our homes places of friendliness, peace, and renewal, where Spirit is real for those who live there and those who visit? Does our home life support our need for both a sense of personal identity and shared living?

How do we maintain a climate of love and trust in our meeting which invites families to be open about their satisfactions and challenges? How does the meeting assist families to improve communication, family life, and the rearing of children in a context of love?

How do we keep commitments outside the home from encroaching on the time and loving attention the family needs for its health and well-being?

What supports do we offer to the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and members of families affected by disruption or trauma?

"God & Country"

A Rob Reiner, Dan Partland film documenting the rise of Christian Nationalism as a political movement in the US



Public Screening
6:30-8:30 pm Friday 31 May
Doors Open at 6:15 pm

Center for Spiritual Living
540 North Holly, Medford (in the Unity Church Building)
*** only street parking available ***

Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTQKmR6a9fw>

Co-Sponsored by Medford UCC's Justice & Peace Team, Center for Spiritual Living Rogue Valley, &
South Mountain Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Questions: Bob Morse (morse@mind.net)

See related news on page 6

Our Meeting's Three Wishes

Year's ago, South Mountain Friends Meeting engaged in a revitalization workshop called Quaker Quest. We explored who we were and compared it with who we wanted to be. We then set about to expand and extend our welcome and inclusivity, becoming more conscious of how we greet, message, and speak.

Fast forward to March 2024, when we gathered to discuss our collective priorities so to inform our budgeting process. Toward the end of the discussion, a voice rose to express a value that resonated: How might we conduct ourselves so to attract more families with young children? Soon after, in the midst of a brainstorming session among the members of the Ministry & Counsel committee exploring how to improve our outreach, there was an "aha" moment: Might we need to prepare our house before inviting kids to join us?

An ad hoc committee met in April in the Meeting House's downstairs children's room to share memories of successful Quaker First Day School experiences and then to imagine into being the Children's Program that best fit twenty-first century South Mountain Meeting. Of course, they busied themselves sorting, culling, and categorizing games, books, blocks, stuffed animals, and art supplies until the room looked and felt, well, inviting. But perhaps more importantly for this telling, these Friends realized that memorable childhood Quaker moments often included engaging in an activity which produced something that each child created that they could then show to their parents at the end of worship. Thus was birthed the idea of setting up a Quaker canopy at local community fairs in which children (and their parents) could be creative while learning about Quakers and our Meeting.

When the ad hoc group reconvened in May, they narrowed their focus onto the Greater Medford Multicultural Fair—whose mission is "We promote, value, and honor a diverse community through increased knowledge and acknowledgments of our history and awareness and inclusion of others"—scheduled to take place at Pear Blossom Park on Saturday 28 September. Thus, outreaching in Medford honors our intention to expand into **more families, more children, and more diversity—our Meeting's three wishes!** Our booth's theme might be "Quakers: Both Peace and Quiet." **This would be outreach for our whole Meeting**, not only to expand our children's presence.



Our booth would provide activities to engage both kids and adults. Out of the ad hoc's imagining arose such simple projects as pinwheels for kids to create out of South Mountain Friends-engraved pencils and squares of papers with a testimony written in each section, and for adults puzzle pieces each with a word describing Quakers for them to assemble. Honoring that seekers often come to Quaker Meetings for spiritual enlightenment, cool post-it notes could be on hand for capturing responses to the query "Where do you find inner peace?" resulting in a post-it-note collage. Perhaps a South Mountain favorite, making soul boxes, could also be included, an action to amplify the victims of gun violence, demonstrating Quaker's commitment to social activism. For levity and sweetness, oatmeal cookies could be served along with a sign, "We're more than oats." A Spanglish bi-lingual person's presence would help invite a more diverse group of guests.

The ad hoc committee discovered a plethora of curricula material that had been collected over the years. They plan to soon peruse these printed ideas and pull out a dozen or so to be made readily available so that pairs of adults on any given first day could easily step in and be prepared. Hopefully, conducting the kids' program could become so simple that Friends would be inclined to periodically take their turn, allowing all kids and adults to become acquainted.

—Bob Morse

If you've ideas on re-imagining our children's program or on outreach or if you'd be interested in helping staff our booth or in taking a turn conducting children's program or have access to a canopy, please reach out to us. —Karen, Ann, Andra, Ken, Bob

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

Reaping the Fruits of our Nonviolent Presence Retreat

Winnowing Session: 9 am Sunday 2 June



In March, Helen Park from Eugene Meeting led us in a Nonviolence Presence retreat encouraged by our interest in greater participation in issues of interest in our Valley. What will be the fruit of that afternoon? To discover that, a winnowing session will be held first hour on the first Sunday in June for a Meeting-wide discussion, both retreat attenders and non-attenders are welcome. We will seek to gather thoughts of how we now move from commitment to action.

Queries to consider:

How has the retreat impacted you? How do we implement our leadings? How can we learn about activities being organized by others on subjects which we share? Are their activities we wish to sponsor and seek the support of other like-minded people?

—David Runkel

Soul Food Sunday: Rise of Meeting on Sunday 9 June 2024

Celebrating Summer Through Salads, Stories, & Songs

Sharing Food: We will provide three different types of summer salads, two of which will be a fruit salad and a Waldorf salad (cabbage, walnuts, apples yogurt dressing with cut-up chicken on the side). Beverages will also be available. Please bring dishes that will complement the salads— or not, your presence is more desired than your presents.



Sharing Ourselves: The downstairs outdoor courtyard will be set up for eating. Then chairs will be re-arranged as needed to create a story-sharing circle. The theme of our sharing will be summertime memories—and maybe a few summertime songs!



Picnicking: *Life on Earth may not be a picnic these days, yet our Soul Food Sunday will be a true picnic. Please consider bringing your own light-weight, reusable picnic plates and perhaps your own utensils. Light weight makes light work! (Backup plates and utensils will, of course, be waiting in the wings.)*

Resusables: *Just as eating on plastic or Corelle instead of paper plates saves trees, foregoing single-use picnicware and eating instead with bamboo utensils saves plastic from ending up in our landfills. Bamboo flatware can be found in such local stores as Shop n Kart and the Food Coops. Also in these shops are treeless bamboo napkins, toilet paper, and paper towels.*

—Friendship & Hospitality Committee

Braver Angels Presents ONLINE Debate

On Oregon's "insurmountable" Rural/Urban Divide

7-9 pm PDT Wednesday 12 June

Given differences in rural and urban Oregonians' relationships to the land—and their lifestyles, values, and political representation—is it possible today for each side to accommodate the other's cultural, economic, and political interests and priorities? This is an opportunity to weigh in on an issue of critical importance to all Oregonians and to hear what others have to say. Can we find solutions to this vexing problem?

This debate is presented by Braver Angels, www.braverangels.org, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing political partisanship and strengthening our democratic republic.

Register with [this link](#). For more information, contact Steve Radcliffe (steveradcliffe@peak.org)

Meetings for Business: 12(called) & 19 May 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.

12 May Called Meeting for Business

Friends Present:

Josephine Olson, Althea Godfrey, Gizelle Luccio, Raymond Scully, Andra Hollenbeck, Cathy McDaniel, Becky Hale, Mary Ward, Carol Stella, Bob Morse, Crystal Bosbach, David Runkel, Kathleen Hering, Ariel Love, Wyatt Banks, Herb Rothschild, Merlin McDaniel, Valeria Breiten

2024.5.1 Friends approved the State of the Society Report after Valeria read it aloud.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Wyatt Banks, Interim Recording Clerk

19 May Meeting for Business

Friends Present: Valeria Breiten, Fran Curtis, Adam Thompson, Bob Morse, Ken Deveney, Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Jean Semrau, Ka Hering, Ariel Love, Crystal Bosbach

Quote & Reflection: “May we all learn that pain is not the end of the journey, and neither is delight. We can hold them both - indeed hold it all - at the same time, remembering that everything in these quixotic, unpredictable, unsettled and unsettling, exhilarating and heart-stopping times is a doorway to awakening in sacred world.” —Pema Chodron

2024.5.2 Friends approved minutes from 21 April 24 Meeting for Business.

Treasurer’s Report The treasurer’s report showed that all of our accounts are in good standing.

Joint Committee

Joint Committee requests that someone interested in “greening” the building research and create a proposal. Additionally, JC feels that Joint Committee ought to be restructured to better serve the interests of SMFM and Peace House.

Ká volunteered to get an energy audit from the city and provide a subsequent write-up.

2024.5.3 Friends approved Joint Committee’s beginning a process of restructuring itself.

Finance Committee

2024.5.4 Friends accepted the budget proposal for

seasoning (*Details on page 6*).

Clerk: Willamette Quarterly Meeting Report: Valeria reported that WQM is looking for facilities in which to meet that would be central to all Western Oregonians.

Ministry & Counsel:

The Reimagining Children’s Program & Outreach Ad Hoc Committee provided details of their plans to have a booth at the Greater Medford Multicultural Fair 28 September. It’s goal is Quaker outreach with anticipated side-effect of attracting diverse families with young children (*Details on page 3*).

Bob provided an update on the project to engage the community in discussions on Christian nationalism and its impact in our valley & at large (*Pages 2 & 6*).

Peace & Social Concerns:

Herb relayed the organizations to which P&SC is currently making donations: Healthcare for all Oregon, NAMI, Peace House, Resolve, Rogue Climate, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sexual Assault Response Team, SOCAN, Unite Oregon, The Crest (Lanita Witt Memorial Scholarship Fund).

Friendship & Hospitality: June Soul Food Sunday:

Ká explained that F&H would be arranging the upcoming June Soul Food Sunday and provided coming attractions regarding food and activities (*Details on page 4*).

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Wyatt Banks, Interim Recording Clerk

2024-25 SMFM Proposed Budget		
	'23-'24	'24-'25
Income:		
Donations	15,900	16,700
Investment income	800	800
Total income	16,700	17,500
Fixed expenses:		
Joint Committee Contribution	8,400	8,400
NPYM Dues	2,580	2,100
Parking Lot	936	963
Quarterly Meeting Dues	215	175
Oregon Registration Fee	50	50
Communications (Zoom)	150	160
Total fixed expenses	12,331	11,848
Discretionary expenses:		
Adult Education	0	0
Children	0	0
Equipment Maintenance		100
FCNL Lobby Day Spons		1,750
Friendship & Hospitality	200	450
Library	500	200
Ministry & Counsel	600	600
Misc/Office Supplies	150	150
Neighbors in Need (OHRA)	500	250
Newsletter	150	150
Peace & Social Concerns	1,400	1,400
Racial/Climate Concerns	600	600
Website	280	280
Total discretionary expenses:	4,380	5,930
Total expenses:	16,711	17,778
Surplus (deficit)	(11)	(278)

Late Breaking News:

Ashland UCC will host a free public showing at their church of the film

"God & Country"

6 pm Sunday 23 June * 717 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland

This movie is described on page 2. Event info: Paula Sohl (paulasohl@gmail.com)

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

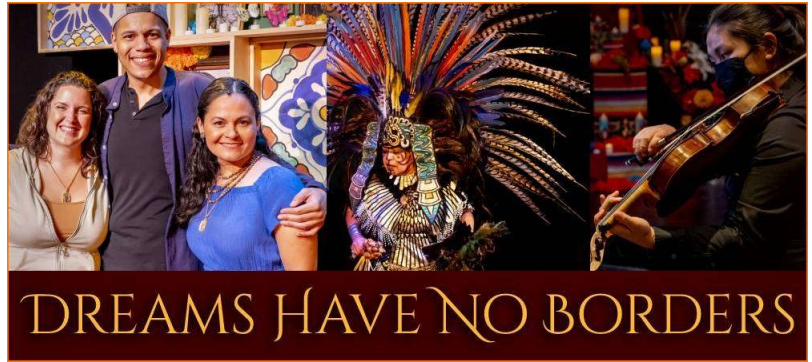
Free Writing Friends: Every MONDAY 3-5 pm; Song Circle: 2nd TUESDAYS 6:30 pm



Details at [OUR SCHEDULE | AshlandQuakers](#)



Anima Mundi Productions Presents
Dreams Have No Borders
An Operatic Film
Premiering at Ashland's
Varsity Theater
7:30 pm Saturday 22 June &
3 pm Sunday 23 June



Dreams Have No Borders (Los sueños no tienen fronteras)

weaves together film, music, and theatrical performance to bring to life a composite of stories shared by our local Latino community. Through the storyline crafted by writer Tiziana DellaRovere and the music by composer Ethan Gans-Morse, it takes us into the harrowing world of Marisol, a young mother forced to flee her home in Mexico to save herself and her baby. During the pandemic, this piece transformed into an operatic film by Emmy Award-winning director Jan Thompson with stage direction by Valerie Rachele (Oregon Cabaret Theatre). It is sung in English and Spanish with subtitles.

Click here to see the trailer and for general and ticketing information/purchase
Student and Oregon Trails tickets available:

Tickets | Anima Mundi Productions

Or call 541-833-3066 to obtain tickets by phone
Please do *NOT* call the Varsity Theatre.

In addition to the film, the producers are also offering
two free events the same weekend:

6 pm Friday 21 June

El Tapatío Mexican Restaurant, 1633 Highway 99
(Behind the Ashland Motor Car dealership near exit 19)

Conversation with the film's creators and Latino community leaders

FREE but RSVP required at <https://animamundiproductions.com/RSVP> or 541-833-3066 (X4)

Free food provided!

5-6:30 pm (right after the Sunday film screening) 23 June

Art & Soul Ashland Gallery (247 East Main Street—almost across from the Varsity Theater)
Anima Mundi Productions and Unite Oregon have partnered with the gallery to exhibit artwork painted by Latino teens in the Forward Youth program created especially for this event under the mentorship of Medford artist Adrian Chavez.

FREE Opening Reception to meet the artists and enjoy complimentary refreshments

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: Richard Spencer, 707-543-6330, Wyatt Banks, Althea Godfrey, 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) 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:** 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