



543 South Mountain Avenue
 Ashland, Oregon 97520
 (541) 482-0814
ashlandquakers@gmail.com
www.ashlandquakers.org
 (Near Southern Oregon University)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

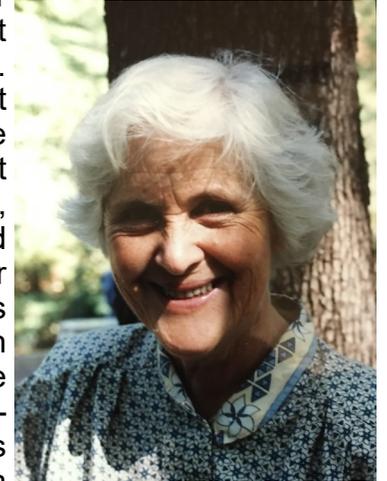
THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

(QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Twelfth Month 2019

Remembering Marjorie Kellogg

Marjorie Kellogg gave our Quaker Meeting and Peace House a gift that through the years has kept on giving. She bequeathed the building that Friends Meeting and Peace House have jointly owned over the past couple of decades. In the tumultuous, war-torn 1960's, Marjorie helped found the Quaker worship group that later grew to be South Mountain Friends Meeting. She likewise helped nourish efforts to create a permanent peace center in Ashland initiated by anti-nuclear activists' successful endeavors to get Ashland to declare itself a Nuclear-Free Zone.



1st HOUR: Discussions & Meetings

2nd HOUR: Worship

Meeting for Worship:

11 am Sundays

Childcare During Worship

First Hour & Rise of Meeting:

1 December

9:30 am: Committee Meetings

10:30 am: Circle of Light

8 December

9:30 am: Spiritual Listening on Membership Designation in the South Mountain Friends Directory

15 December

8:30-10:30 am: Business Meeting

22 December

9:30 am: Songs of the Season Sing-along

29 December

9:30 am: End-of-Year Worship Sharing

When Peace House was born in 1982, it's newsletter was called "Nuclear Reactions." A decade later Peace House had greatly expanded its mission and outgrown its anti-nuclear origins. It was Marjorie who noticed that the newsletter's new name was right before everyone's eyes: Clear Actions. Marjorie knew that within each dilemma is the seed of the solution.

In its early days, the Quaker worship group met in one another's homes. Fond memories still linger of Quaker retreats at Marjorie and Ogden Kellogg's Hillside Farm near Gold Hill, Oregon. As the Meeting grew, Quakers convened in the Gold Hill Library. After meeting for worship in the library, Jean Semrau recalls, Marjorie had a thoughtful query that she asked each person to address. "It was a perfect way for us to become more deeply acquainted."

Merlin and Cathy McDaniel's dearest memory of Marjorie was how she initially greeted their family. Her welcome included their 6- and 2-year-old children; the notion that their girls were not only welcome but also appreciated kept them coming back. Marjorie's wisdom about children still resonates with the McDaniels. "Children," Marjorie said, "are the future of our Meeting. We need to demonstrate the basis of our worship to them so they can appreciate its value in their lives. If the children are only in the Meeting while it is settling, they are not likely to hear any vocal ministry and thus will have a distorted view of our faith and practice. Bringing them in near the end of Meeting creates a better chance that they will experience vocal ministry. Marjorie admitted to resisting the urge to share a message until the children came into the Meeting for just that reason." (see page 2)



Remembering Marjorie Kellogg

(Continued from Page 1)

Children were so important to Marjorie and Og that they started a farm school at their home for students who did not thrive in a regular classroom setting. Becky Hale noted that the Kelloggs mentored young people with love and trusted in their worth, truly seeing that of God in everyone. Also at her farmhouse, Becky added, "Marjorie often hosted the women of Meeting and would pass around scarves of different colors and encourage us to move spontaneously to music in nature." Not surprisingly, Marjorie was often led to break the silence of worship through song.

In time the Meeting shifted its location and rented space at the Newman Center in Ashland. In Becky Hale's words, "Marjorie always mothered our Meeting and gave all she had, holding a vision of a permanent home and influence for Friends here in the Rogue Valley." Marjorie enlisted her f/Friend Pat Scuitto, a real estate agent, and together they discovered 543 South Mountain. "Marjorie purchased the house because of its location to what's now Southern Oregon University," Pat remembers. Marjorie always was mindful of connecting with youth.

Bob Morse most admires the consciousness with which Marjorie lived her life. She once participated in a six-mile march from Rogue River to Grants Pass to demonstrate in front of Litton Industries against the missile parts they were manufacturing for the military-industrial complex. Marjorie purposefully wore high heels and carried a parasol to show that there were "little old ladies for peace" amidst the hippies and peaceniks.

Andra Hollenbeck simply remembers Marjorie when she would speak with her. "Marjorie's eyes, focused and tender, seemed to reach into my soul. Her love and compassion encompassed each question she asked and each response she gave. Her passion for spreading peace showed as she carefully and kindly guided our two organizations, Peace House and South Mountain Friends, into an agreement and working structure that would endure and work toward spreading peace into the future. When she gifted her home to this purpose, it showed her optimism, benevolence, and charity. She was a woman of love and enduring hope."

--Article compiled by Bob Morse; Photos supplied by Collin Boyd and Ken Deveney

From Kathryn Roether's Daughter:

As you may remember, Mom loved poetry. She kept a book of poems that she said shaped her life, and this was one of them that seems fitting for this time. It is noted as, simply, "Anthem, sung in the 1930s." Mom enjoyed knowing you all and appreciated the Friends Meeting community. All the best, Evelyn Roether

Glad that I live am I
That the sky is blue
Glad for the country lanes
And the fall of dew.
After the sun, the rain.
After the rain, the sun.

This is the way of life
Til the work be done.
All that we need to do,
Be it low or high
Is to see that we grow
Nearer the sky.

Kathryn Roether

Memorial Minute



Kathryn Roether, born Kathryn Loretta Wolfe on May 12, 1928, in Cleveland, Ohio, passed away at home in Williams, Oregon, on October 28, 2019, at the age of 91.

As a teenager attending a Presbyterian church, Kathryn recognized that the moment of silence just before the minister offered a prayer was her favorite part of the service. When she went to Swarthmore College, she attended weekly worship in the meetinghouse on campus. She enjoyed teaching preschool children in First Day School. During her senior year at Swarthmore, Kathryn met Hermann Roether in a poetry class. They both became involved in leading Quaker weekend work camps with the American Friends Service Committee. Hermann went to graduate school at the University of Chicago, and at Christmas time they became engaged. They were married in 1951. During their five years in Chicago, they continued their close involvement with the AFSC's peace program and summer projects.

When the Roethers moved back to Philadelphia, Kathryn continued to volunteer with AFSC until she had her son Gordon and dedicated herself to motherhood and caring for a child with special needs. Hermann began working for an agency that served the developmentally disabled population, and Kathryn developed a newsletter on, as it was then called, retardation. Over time she worked with some neighboring towns creating summer recreation programs that included mentally challenged people. She assisted community mental health programs and churches in becoming more inclusive of people with special needs. Kathryn also volunteered at a local women's center, where for twelve years she ran workshops to help women re-enter the work force. The Roethers were very active in Abington Friends Meeting for 40 years, serving on many committees and starting Quakerism 101 classes.

The Roethers' daughter Evelyn, born three years after Gordon, had made her home in Williams, Oregon. In 1987 Kathryn and Hermann purchased some land next to Evelyn and Spencer's home, and they fixed up a cabin there for their annual summer visits. After Hermann's death in 1999, Kathryn and Gordon decided they wanted to be closer to Evelyn and Spencer; they moved to Williams in 2002. Living over an hour from the nearest Friends meeting, Kathryn found warm community in Williams. She participated happily in a meditation circle and in three different book groups, all of which met at her home when she was no longer able to drive.

Kathryn and Gordon came at least once a month to South Mountain Friends Meeting (they loved pot-luck Sundays). After Gordon's death in 2014, Kathryn came to meeting whenever she was able, and she was very supportive to the fledgling Grants Pass Worship Group. She particularly enjoyed being present for conversations about peace and justice. For many years she corresponded regularly with a man who was in the Oregon State prison, and she continued to be a great support to him after he was released. From her home she held various F/friends in the Light and kept in touch by letter-writing and telephone calls. She always welcomed visitors and deeply appreciated her community of friends and family.

Evelyn and several friends, along with hospice, cared for Kathryn during her final months. As her body was failing, her mind remained alert, and her strong interests in politics, music, ideas, friends, and family never diminished. Although she was sometimes frustrated by her failing eyesight and speech, she retained her remarkable ability to find humor even in difficult times. Kathryn took herself lightly.

Kathryn is survived by her daughter Evelyn Roether and son-in-law Spencer Lennard, her sister Ruth Seeliger, and six nieces and nephews and their families. She is deeply missed by her family, her Williams community, and friends in both Abington and South Mountain Friends Meetings.

CLERK'S CORNER: Beyond Being EMBARRASSED

Dear Friends,

It is a great joy serving as Clerk to such a caring Meeting. I am very moved by the way our community creates a safe space for profound work to be conducted at Meeting for Business. Thank you all for sharing your guidance with us.

It strikes me that part of what allows our community to do the work we do is that we have trusting relationships with one another. We have developed strong connections over time, and while things are not always easy, we eventually reach the other side of challenges we face. Our solutions are always better than they would have been without the dissenting voices that helped to polish our work.

Recently, I had the opportunity to work with someone outside the Meeting community, with whom I didn't yet have such a connection. Somehow the conversation turned awkward, and I was asked a number of probing questions about my family life that left me wide-eyed and red-faced. That afternoon, I created this acrostic.

Early Moments Being A Recent Acquaintance: So Soon Everyone's Dear

Indeed, my relationship to this person has weathered that EMBARRASSment, and is continuing to develop in a positive way. I share this here because as we welcome new friends, get to know the homeless community better, and continue our work with Uprooting Racism, we may find ourselves on the giving or receiving end of such a conversation. When these moments arise, I invite us to remain vulnerable, honest, and compassionate, grounded by what we have experienced in Meeting.

Thank you so much for your inspiring tenderness to one another.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Meeting for Business: 17 November 2019

Friends Present: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Ken Deveney, Gabrielle Leslie, Anna Monders, Lisa Nichols, Alex Reid, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson

Centering

"Love is God's name. Love is God's nature. Love is God's life."
Sarah Blackborow 1658

Peace & Social Concerns

is sending out this quarter's annual donations to Quaker-based organizations.

Building & Grounds held a successful work party that focused on fire abatement.

Library Committee is culling books that Friends may take home. Books by Marcelle Martin are now available.

Winter Shelter & Laundry Love

Friends provided wisdom and support for recruiting Sunday night hosts at the Winter Shelter. While

she will help in other ways, K (Kathleen) felt led to step down as Sunday night shelter coordinator.

2019.11.1 Meeting approves reinstating Winter Shelter/ Laundry Love Committee

Friendship & Hospitality welcome feedback on the Simple Meal provided today.

Uprooting Racism

2019.11.2 Friends approve supporting our goal to transform into an active, inclusive faith community. SMFM will ask when making decisions whether our actions arise out of or perpetuate white privilege.

Ministry & Counsel

A spiritual listening on membership designation in the directory will be held 8 December. A membership information spreadsheet is being developed. Meeting approved a 9 February spiritual listening on membership. The Meeting gave

input to a draft form for the member assistance fund and a new welcome statement for first-time attenders. There will be a 4 and 5 April (Saturday/Sunday) Retreat with Marcelle Martin and a June retreat at Willow-Witt Ranch.

2019.11.3 Friends approve the Memorial Minute for Kathryn Roether

2019.11.4 Friends approve this new language: "As worship comes to a close, if there is anything on your heart you would like to have held in love, please speak it now."

Treasurer's Report

The Meeting spent very little this month. Donations to the member assistance fund would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Nichols, Clerk
Alex Reid, Recording Clerk

Ways to Serve our Unhoused Neighbors (Besides Overnighting at the Shelter)

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Now that our guests have a secure bed in one location for the winter, they are able to leave their heavy belongings at the shelter each morning. New this year is a secure, locked storage room which allows our unhoused neighbors to attend job interviews and medical appointments without toting a burdensome and stigmatizing backpack. Thus, a new volunteer opportunity has arisen. Each night (7-9 pm) and morning (6:30-8 am) someone needs to oversee the storage room and help guests check in or out their items.

NEW PAID POSITIONS: The shelter van circulates Ashland to pick up pre-screened shelter guests at pre-arranged locations each night to protect guests from walking the shelter's dark and shoulder-less stretch of East Main Street, then deposits guests back safely into the community the next morning. Drivers are paid \$12.50/hour and are urgently needed on Sundays and Mondays 6:45-8:45 am and 6:45-8:45 pm. This job does not require a special driver's license, and OHRA provides insurance. Also needed are people to provide firewatch patrol when the regular firewatchers are ill. Both regular and back-up firewatchers are paid positions. The Fire Department requires the presence of a person who stays awake all night and patrols inside the shelter and outside on the grounds, making sure that everyone is safe from potential fires.

Interested? Please contact: Pam Lott, Administrator at OHRA, paml@helpingashland.org or 541-631-2235 (9 am to 2 pm) or Cass Sinclair, Winter Shelter Director, shelterdirector@gmail.com or 541-708-6434.

Advices & Queries on Stewardship of the Self

Taking care of our physical, mental, and emotional health, as we are able, is a form of stewardship. Living the most balanced and healthy life we can brings us wholeness and promotes our spiritual well-being. How we use and treat our bodies can help us to find a new self in partnership with the Creator. Just as we seek timely medical help for our physical bodies, we attend appropriately to our mental and emotional health needs.

Our testimonies of simplicity, integrity, and stewardship encourage us to choose ways of living that rest and strengthen the body, and that refresh and enrich the mind and spirit. We choose recreations in keeping with our values around the right use of money. We consider how we use the time and energy that have been given to us. We make considered choices about the food we eat. We also think about the effects that our choices have on the welfare of others and of the Earth as a whole as well as on our own lives.

Some activities can become obsessions, leading to lives inconsistent with integrity and simplicity and creating barriers between individuals and their families and communities. Although we are now less concerned about mild forms of gambling such as raffles and door prizes, traditionally Friends have opposed all forms of gambling as distractions from our connection to God that could also lead to family ruin. As Friends, we recognize that the incautious use of alcohol and drugs can be a spiritual danger as well as a threat to our physical, emotional, and social selves. Any activity taken to an extreme can divide us from God.

Physical Activity as a Spiritual Discipline. Many forms of recreation or physical activity can be used as spiritual disciplines. Intentional immersion in re-creative activity can enable us, as George Fox advised, to be still awhile from our own thoughts and to be stayed in the principle of God. We can find focus in rhythmic physical activity or in the regular activities of preparing food, washing dishes, or caring for each other. Changes in our physical ability need not shut us off from the opportunities to experience the Spirit through recreation. Our attitude matters more than proficiency or the nature of the activity performed.

Along the way to singleness of focus, the activities of play and rhythmic exertion offer pleasure. Social relationships in a class, play group, or team can ease the tasks of preparation and warmup. Playing in a group is a way to follow Jesus' instruction to become like children, in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven (see Matthew 18:3).

Do we choose recreations which strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual lives and avoid those which may prove harmful to ourselves and others and to the world around us?

How do we make time in our lives for healthy play?

How do our food choices reflect our values as Friends?

Do we recognize all our own addictions and compulsive behaviors?

How do our relationships with the Spirit and with our meeting communities help us deal with them?

Gossip, Friends, and friends

*To put it in the language of Friends, community happens as that of God in you responds to that of God in me.
--Parker Palmer*

Parker Palmer's affirmation is easy to visualize. But what can we do to foster community? With the presence of the Spirit, one's testimonies create community. Still, our communities are not perfect. One can encounter gossip. Perhaps in rare cases, gossip is a message from the Spirit. Most often it is self-led rather than Spirit-led. It separates people and weakens the relationships that are central to a thriving community.

The end result of gossip is the spreading of rumors—sometimes trivial, often unsubstantiated. But the "whys" of gossip are meaningful in their own right. Gossip is fueled by a variety of desires. One may want to fit in and feel included. One may enjoy collecting information about others. One may want to demean someone. One may have the misguided belief that two people become closer when they share private information about another. Quakers are not exempt from any of these actions.

Our communities are weakened by the often persistent residue of gossip. Gossip creates cells of people with exclusive knowledge. It creates separations and pushes people away. We begin to feel safe with certain people and move tentatively around others. Gossip results in a loss of the enthusiasm needed to provide service for our communities.

Gossip can corrupt nascent friendships. After Meeting for Worship, Friends turn to each other, shake hands and say hello. We can repeat this for months and never know more than the name and face of an individual. Participation in a Friends meeting does not predict that a mutually caring friendship will develop. Our cultivated *friendships* within *Friendship* are the foundation of a caring testimony. The strengthening of these friendships is central to a caring Friends community.

Here are some queries to help one contemplate gossip, our relationships and our community.:

SIMPLICITY: Do I strive for a simplicity in my relationships that makes gossip unwanted and unnecessary? Do I acknowledge the patience and sincerity needed to nurture relationships? Do I avoid the "quick fix" of gossip.

PEACE: Do I reach out peacefully to those who instill fear and insecurity in me? Am I an instrument of peace when I gossip?

INTEGRITY: Do I avoid sharing information about a person that I would not share if they were present? Do I avoid speaking about a person in ways that I would not want them to speak about me?

COMMUNITY: A community is only as strong as the individual relationships that create and maintain it. Do I acknowledge the disagreements and tensions that arise between myself and others? How does gossip affect the healing of my relationships?

EQUALITY: How does gossip affect the equity needed to discover the unique gifts that a person can offer? How does gossip affect my perception of someone? How does my perception of someone affect my ability to experience the Spirit that is gifted to me through them?

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is much more than caring for the earth. It includes stewardship of our children and our resources. How does gossip affect my ability to be a steward of my self and my meeting?

Avoidance of gossip can be a testimony for any Friend. Our challenge is to ensure that this testimony and all our testimonies permeate into our personal relationships. Dear Friend, let us add the avoidance of gossip to our personal testimonies and embrace the challenge of creating a community of friends among Friends.

– Collin Boyd

Collin is a member of Santa Fe Friends Meeting and a former long-time member of South Mountain Friends Meeting. Before retiring, his civic work included GED instruction for juvenile offenders and runaways. He has worshiped with Quakers in Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, Rwanda and Kenya.

SMFM CALENDAR

December 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 9:30 am Committee Meetings 10:30 am Circle of Light	2	3	4	5 2:30-4:30 pm Free Writing Friends	6	7 9:30-11:30 am M&C Meeting
8 9:30 am Spiritual Listening on Membership Designation in the So. Mountain Friends Directory	9	10 7-9 pm Ashland Song Circle	11 6:30 to 8 pm Light Meditation	12 2:30-4:30 pm Free Writing Friends	13	14 Ashland Food Project Pick-up
15 8:30 -10:30 am Business Meeting	16	17 SMFM Newsletter Deadline	18	19 2:30-4:30 pm Free Writing Friends	20	21
22 9:30 am Singing Songs of the Season	23	24	25 No "Inquiry-based Meditation" Merry Xmas	26 2:30-4:30 pm Free Writing Friends	27	28
29 9:30 am End-of-Year Worship Sharing	30	31				

God Weeps

God weeps, and so do I

for our Earth home, going up in flames
for our country, smoked with messages of hate and exclusion
for the millions of refugees, wanting only peace -- less violence, not more --
for the birds and animals, losing habitat every minute
for the dying trees and plants that have given us breath and life
for the rulers, the wealthy white men whose greed for even more power
fuels poverty, fear, and violence around our world.

We weep for the evil all around us and re-commit ourselves to love. *Written by Jean Semrau in August 2019*

Let Your YEAR Speak: 9:30 am Sunday 29 December

George Fox exhorted early Friends to "let your lives speak"--to be "patterns and examples" of what a life lived in the Spirit looks like. At South Mountain Friends Meeting, we have a tradition of gathering at the New Year to "let our year speak"--to share how Spirit may have moved in our lives over the past twelve months. This year's gathering will take place on December's fifth Sunday. I will clerk a worship sharing based around two queries: (1) How has Spirit fared with you over the past year? And (2) What do you expect from Spirit during the coming year? Please join us for what has proved in the past to be a very rich community experience.

--Bill Ashworth

MEETING OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Clerk: Lisa Nichols 488-5577

Assistant Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855

Recording Clerk: Alex Reid 707-499-9146

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Weekly e-Bulletin Editor: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, assisted by Pam Johnson and Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Bob Morse 482-8449

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney (convener) 488-5506, Cathy McDaniel

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild, Steve Wells

Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to ashlandquakers@gmail.com

*Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse (morse@mind.net) **Tuesday** after Business Meeting*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Finance Committee: Scott Plummer, Beth Aspedon, Bill Ashworth, Treasurer *ex officio*

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Wells, Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Hazel Ward

Nominating Committee: Beth Aspedon, Alex Reid, Anna Monders

Friendship & Hospitality Committee: Crystal Bosbach, Cathie McDaniel, Kathleen Hering, Valeria Breiten, **Greeters:** Steve Radcliffe, Sylvie Weaver, Alex Reid, Javan Reid, Valeria Breiten, Karen Maleski, Terri Brain (sub)

Peace & Social Concerns Committee: Herb Rothschild (clerk), Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Pam Allister, Andra Hollenbeck

Library Elves: Melody Ashworth, Jean Semrau, Steve Wells, Fran Curtis

Adult Education Committee: Becky Hale, Jim Lobsenz, Terri Brain, Melody Ashworth, Kathleen Hering

Ministry & Counsel Committee: Gabrielle Leslie (co-clerk) 897-4458, Maureen Graham (co-clerk) 326-9609, Rochelle Webster 201-8255, Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, Jim Phillips 482-2388, Clerk or Assistant Clerk *ex officio*

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520