



CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

MAY 2019

❖ ALL ARE WELCOME ❖

Sunday Worship: 10 – 11 am

Wednesday Evening Worship: 7 – 7:45 pm

Clerk

Nina Joy Lawrence

Recording Clerk Team

Laurie Childers, Esther Schiedel

Treasurer

Wendy Robinson

Spiritual Care Committee

Emily Barry

Adult Religious Exploration Committee

Bob Ward

Children and Youth Program

Esther Schiedel

Groundskeeping Coordinators

Kathy Miller, Scott Smith

House & Hospitality Coordinators

Nancy Ewald, Susie Smyth-Tucker

Major House Maintenance

Bob Burton

Meeting House Scheduling

Sid Rosen



Corvallis Meeting:

corvallisfriends.org

facebook.com/CorvallisFriendsMeeting

Willamette Quarterly Meeting:

www.willamettequarterly.org

North Pacific Yearly Meeting:

www.nypm.org

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

SUN 5•5 10:00 am Meeting for Worship
11:40 am **Threshing Session on Options for CFM Community Outreach**

THU 5•9 **Stone Soup** (2nd Thursdays @ St. Mary's)
1-4 Prep/Cook: contact barb@barbaralevine.com
5-7 Serve/Clean: contact rachel.peck1@gmail.com

SUN 5•12 10:00 am Meeting for Worship
11:40 am **Meeting for Worship for Business**

SUN 5•19 10:00 am Meeting for Worship
11:30 am **TBA**

SUN 5•26 10:00 am Meeting for Worship
11:30 am **Potluck & Membership Welcome for Jon and Yalda!**

This newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of the month, and by e-mail a few days earlier. Submissions and delivery requests go to Lisa Yagoda, editor: corvallisfriends@gmail.com. Next deadline: Saturday May 25, 2019.

APRIL 2019 MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

Corvallis Friends Meeting For Worship for Business

April 14, 2019

Acting Clerk: Susan Easton

Recording clerk: Jonathan Stoll

Friends Present: Yalda Asmatey, Nancy Ewald, Esther Schiedel, Judy Hays-Eberts, Susan Easton, Mary Jane Gray, Bob Burton, Ruth McNeill, Wendy Robinson, Roger Weaver, John Selker, Susie Smyth Tucker, Carmen Brummet, Kathy Miller, Jonathan Stoll

Silent preparation

If living were an easy thing to do, there would be no need for mental training. But because life often becomes very hard, we often have to meditate very, very hard. The mind is the only means we have of getting out of this mess. Careful with it. Immorality, selfishness, anger, and chemicals dull this single key.

Additions to the agenda? Children's Report

Approval or amendment of last month's minutes, Meeting approved minutes

Treasurer's report: Wendy Robinson

ACTION: Meeting approved reimbursement to John Selker for the costs he incurred for shipping the urn and chest to Brigid's sister.

Wendy read note from Joan Dolan: "Friends community, thank you for the care of my niece, Brigid Bonner." The note included a donation from Brigid's family of \$50 .

Meeting discussed what to do with this donation, which is understood to be to the general fund. Several Friends want to put another \$100 with it and use it to support some project the children want to do to remember Brigid, maybe a plant to see it bloom and learn about life and death.

Children's report: Esther Schiedel

Children had meeting for business in February. The conversation concerned a memorial for Brigid. Ideas included: Sweets, indoor and/or outdoor plants; dedicate "Brigid's Wall" and shelves in the back room and make a mural there; add to

Meeting collection of games since Brigid liked games, especially cooperative games. Games that involve a lot of noise might be discouraged. A call for Friends to contribute games to meeting house. Other ideas of the kids: water balloon fights; make a film in honor of Brigid. The meeting might consider more than one project.

ACTION: Meeting approved the allocation of an additional \$100 for a project in commemoration of Brigid Bonner. The total project budget is \$150 (\$50 donation plus the \$100 allocation). The Children's Group to provide a proposal to Meeting for the allocation of funds for the project.

ACTION: Meeting approved sending a thank you letter to Joan Dolan for the donation and informing the family of the children's plan to leverage the donation to develop a project commemorating Brigid..

Treasurer's report continued:

About items in the report: one is repair of exit sign and sidewalk, Web design item refers to the maximum allocation of \$300 to compensate Lisa Y. and Pat O for work developing website. Costs include the registration of domain name and labor. The website is almost complete. \$15,000 from brokerage was put into a CD that will mature January 2020. ACTION: Meeting accepts Treasurer's Report

Spiritual Care Committee report: Bob Burton

ACTION: Membership for Yalda Asmatey approved. ACTION: Membership for Jonathan Stoll approved. House and Hospitality will connect with Yalda/Jon for scheduling "party"

John Selker reported Membership Clearness Committee met with Patricia Omidian. The committee and Pat are clear she should be a member. Following Quaker process the meeting will season this for a month and bring it to business in May.

House and Hospitality report: Nancy Ewald

The closet is mostly repository for records of the meeting. What does the Meeting want to do with

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MINUTES, CON'T

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these things? Seeking recommendation from the meeting. Records include: 1 large file cabinet and 8 bankers boxes of notes clerk had received for things, letters of membership, minutes going back to before the beginning of our meeting, newsletters which include our minutes, Treasurers Records, Membership record notebooks.

Meeting discussed the value of this collection to the meeting and gave the guideline to House and Hospitality to be conservative with retention of documents while cleaning out the closet. Wendy volunteered to sift the financial records for things no longer needed.

The question of whether the meeting should add auditing of its finances to the usual annual process was brought up. Auditing and the possibility for an ad-hoc committee to sort documents should go on agenda for next month's Business Meeting.

State of Society Report: Ruth McNeill read the report and invited input. The meeting thanked Ruth for her contribution to drafting the State of

Society Report. Yalda A and John S will work together to revise the State of Society Report, send it to Ruth and Nina Joy, and then submit it to the meeting again through the Wednesday Digest. Meeting decided to have a short called meeting for business on Sunday April 28 to approve State of Society Report before Quarterly Meeting on May 4, when it is due.

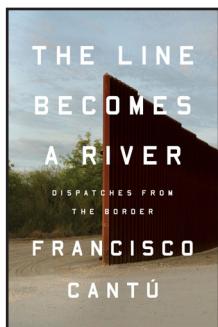
Outreach possibilities: Does the meeting want to set a time to further thresh the many suggestions brought last monthly meeting? Can we look for a time soon while it is still fresh.

Peace, Justice, Environment Committee of the Whole: FCNL training session report. Jon Stoll.
There are four trainings planned with FNCL. The second training is Wed at 4:45p. Location TBD
Called meeting on April 28 2019 for approval of State of Society Report

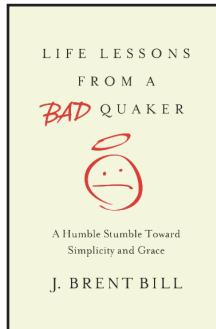
Next Meeting for Worship for Business May 12, 2019



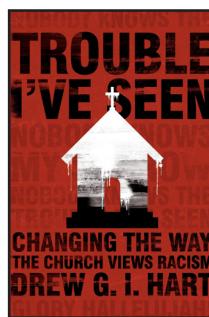
New in the Library



Life Lessons from a Bad Quaker: A Humble Stumble toward Simplicity and Grace, by J. Brent Bill. In a witty and entertaining informal style, the author tells stories about his challenges in



implementing his Quaker values. He addresses issues like settling into silence, living simply and with integrity, and caring for the Earth. His goal is to nurture his spiritual life daily and to base actions on spirituality.



TROUBLE I'VE SEEN: CHANGING THE WAY THE CHURCH VIEWS RACISM by Drew G. I. Hart. The author puts acts familiar of racism in the context of white supremacy. Cutting through platitudes and good intentions, he offers concrete steps for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. He frequently speaks of God and Jesus.

APRIL 2019 STATE OF THE SOCIETY REPORT

We have faced some challenges this year in caring for our community, which has pushed us to search and grow together. One Friend describes the process as “juggling and bumping as we explore” and someone else puts it, “finding our own fresh and friendly way of dealing with challenges.”

Beloved Friend Brigid Bonner died of brain cancer in February. Brigid’s Care Committee lovingly accompanied her in her final months, fulfilling her wish to have a life celebration while she was able to participate. Surrounded on the floor by pillows and her child-friends making art in the worship, music encompassed the gathering between messages from all ages. Friends and the wider community shared appreciations *to* her rather than *about* her. Members of the Care Committee were with her continuously in her last days. The process required a significant investment across the community, drawing us closer as we faced the reality of death among us.

Sunday meetings have been growing in attendance, and sharing has been expanding, which gives a sense of vibrancy. The Spiritual Care Committee has experimented with inviting very brief responses to a common prompt when we share our names (e.g., “You might share a gratitude,” or “Was there a focus in your worship?”). This 10-minute weekly activity has opened a new window on our worship and a foundation for understanding each other better. Many of the people who come for Sunday worship are over 60 years old, making us conscious of the need to care for our aging members (e.g., to serve those who no longer drive we have better organized carpooling, we are working to project our voices for those hard of hearing). Fewer are between 30 and 60 years old, and we enjoy occasional college and high school student visitors.

We are in discussion of how to more effectively let students and the larger Corvallis community know what they would find at the Corvallis Friends

Meeting so that they might benefit from Quaker worship and community. Our meeting continues to create a welcoming space for people of different spiritual backgrounds and faiths—Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, atheist, non-deist, nature-spiritual and probably more. This variety of ways of experiencing the spirit illuminates ever more brightly the many facets reflecting the truth that there is that of God in everyone.

The children’s program is a great blessing that also provides challenges. Seven energetic grade-school and pre-school children are regular attenders, with occasional middle-schoolers and toddlers. The structure is loose enough that they can be themselves and have a good time together, and the business meeting has brought lovely reports/requests from the kids meeting for business. Some parents and other Friends would like to see more structure and content about Quakerism which we see must be carefully balanced with content the children seek.

As a meeting, we are increasingly drawn to addressing issues that the society is working through: racism, white privilege, gender diversity, abuse of power, and sexual assault have been topics of the Adult Religious Exploration program. A Friend writes that “finding our way through even ordinary interpersonal conflict in a compassionate, loving manner is spiritual work, symbolic of larger issues in the world.” We continue to explore how The Meeting should speak truth to the powers in the world. We have urges to do more together, though diversity in our perspectives and callings constrain our collective actions. The members of the Corvallis Friends Meeting continue a myriad of interventions for the betterment of the world, and the Meeting continues to provide fertile soil to give them strength in expressing our commitment to service.

Ways To Make Monetary Donations To The Meeting

There are several ways to donate to the Meeting.

CHECK:

You can write a check and put it in the donation box (presently the ceramic donation jar) in the Meeting Room. You can also mail it to the Treasurer at 2824 NW Garryanna Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330.

CASH:

You can make a cash donation and put it in the donation box in the Meeting Room. There are donation envelopes next to the donation box so that you can be credited for the donation and receive a tax receipt at the end of the year.

STOCK:

You can donate stock to the Meeting. The Meeting has an account with Edward Jones (Tiffany Chona, financial advisor), 410 NW Walnut, Suite B, Corvallis, OR 97330. If you wish to donate stock, please talk to the Treasurer. The advantage of donating stock is that the donor does not need to recognize the capital gain on the stock because it is being donated to a charity while still receiving a full tax credit on the donor's tax return.

BILLPAY:

You can have some financial institutions cut a check to the Meeting on a periodic basis and mail it to the Treasurer.

EFT:

You can arrange with your financial institution to make an electronic transfer of funds (EFT) directly into the Meeting's checking account at Umpqua Bank. The name of the account is Corvallis Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and the account number is 974487787. Please contact the Treasurer and tell her how much the EFT transfer will be and the frequency of the transfer so that she can provide you with a tax receipt at the end of the year.

MORE:

If you have any questions about how to make donations, please contact the Treasurer, Wendy Robinson, directly at robburton@comcast.net. or 541-753-6101.

If you want to receive a reminder that your donation is due, please contact Wendy Robinson, the Treasurer directly.



Some women of CFM enjoying a stroll and the rhodies on campus!

Advices and Queries on Peace

We practice love and peace-making within our families, in our meetings, and in the greater Quaker community. This experience will support our testimony of peace as we are involved in the larger world.

Peace is the state in which we are in accord with the Divine, the earth, others, and ourselves. We know that true, lasting peace among us is attainable through unity in the life of the Spirit.

When a conflict is beginning, we take steps to resolve it quickly and reduce the damage it does. When a conflict has ended, we take steps toward forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. In this way we help break the cycles of violence.

We work to create the conditions of peace, such as freedom, justice, cooperation, and the right sharing of the world's resources.

As we work for peace in the world, we search out the seeds of war in ourselves and in our way of life. We refuse to join in actions which lead to destruction and death. We seek ways to cooperate to save life and strengthen the bonds of unity among all people.

- Do we live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all war?
- Do we refrain from taking part in war as inconsistent with the Spirit of Christ? In what ways do we take part in war indirectly?
- What are we doing to remove the causes of war and to bring about the conditions of peace? Where there is hatred, division, or strife, how are we instruments of reconciliation and love?
- Do we recognize that we are capable of both violence and peace? How do we build bridges that lead us to face and resolve conflict?
- How do we communicate to others an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

~ North Pacific Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, 2017

Corvallis Friends Meeting
3311 NW Polk Ave.
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