



Montana Gathering of Friends

Our theme this winter is **Moving From Contemplation to Action.**

Feb 24-26 2017



Winter MGOF 2017 is just around the corner. Please consider joining us at Camp Mak-a-Dream in Gold Creek Montana for a weekend of fellowship with new friends and old, Spiritual nurturance and inspiration and play. Our theme this year is "From Contemplation to Action" and our Friend in Residence is Ruth Flower a consultant to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). We are very lucky that Ruth has time in her schedule to spend with us!

If you are new to MGOF you may notice 'Community Night' on Saturday night and group singing on Friday. Bring your instrument if you play one and songs to share if you like. Community Night is a favorite time for old and young alike. It is a time for sharing talent and laughter (no talent?) with each other. Come with a plan or join a spontaneous skit!

PLEASE BELIEVE US when we say that scholarship funds are available! Over the years many of us have been able to come to MGOF because we have asked for and accepted the financial help we needed to attend. Pay what you can and come! It always works out.

I look forward to seeing you soon at Camp Mak-a-Dream!

In Friendship,
Kate Weiss,
MGOF Clerk



Ruth Flower, Friend in Residence



Ruth Flower will be with us to lead in some musings about “Moving from Contemplation to Action.” Ruth sees this motion as a continuously interwoven journey. Attention to contemplation builds and forms foundations and discernment for action. Action brings wider and deeper insights that lead to and enrich contemplation. “How could we do one without the other?” she asks. Our morning session will engage us in exploring concepts such as centering and ceremony, listening and discernment, hope and knowing, letting go of answers and embracing solutions, and seeing with eyes wide open. Come with an open and generous mind, ready to share your wisdom and take in the wisdom of all of us.

Ruth has also offered to lead a workshop/discussion on current Native American issues. She hopes to hear from us about our involvement in these issues in Montana (and thereabouts) and will invite us to connect with the national policy scene, as we are led.

Ruth has (sort of) retired after 25 years with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, where she served for the last 10 years as legislative director, and earlier (from 1981 to 1996) as a lobbyist on domestic issues. Ruth is learning that “retired Quaker” is perhaps an oxymoron; she will continue a focus on Native American issues for another year or so.

Ruth Flower on Lobbying - May, 2013

Ruth Flower came to Quakerism and lobbying at virtually the same time because of a sense of justice and respect for people. She began lobbying as a volunteer with the Friends Committee on Legislation in California and came to Washington in the early 1980s to advocate for military spending cuts and investment in domestic programs.

She says, “Starting to lobby was a way to work for change that fed my soul rather than tearing it up. It was engaging with people about how they see the world, how they would like to see it and how we can get there.” Ruth continues to bring this grounded, relationship-based approach to her work, whether helping to guide FCNL staff, meeting with coalition partners, or lobbying in a congressional office. Program Assistant for Strategic Advocacy Annie Boggess talked to Ruth about her work.

What’s your favorite thing to do in a day?

Lobbying—I love lobbying, especially with people that we don’t necessarily agree with. A lot of people are nervous about disagreeing with somebody, but that is the spiritual core of what we do as far as I’m concerned. You’re talking to that of God in the other person and holding them in that space. When you do that, you can really listen for where they’re coming from and seek a connection.

How do you approach talking to people who disagree with FCNL?

I have an easier time lobbying with people I think we disagree with. That means there is space for us each to talk

about where we come from. It’s a person-to-person thing as opposed to party politics or something less satisfying.

Framing a visit in that way makes me less nervous, because I’m meeting a person. In order to do it and do it well you have to be more vulnerable to the person, because you’re also bringing your personhood forward. But that vulnerability often helps you get to the heart of the matter.

What’s one particularly rewarding or challenging moment you have experienced?

One example happened when we were working for the re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act. We wanted the Senate version of the bill to pass. That version included provisions that would reach women in Native American communities, as well as immigrant and gay and lesbian victims, that the House had omitted. The bill had passed the Senate and was stuck in the House. What to do? How to move it forward?

We met with staff of a very conservative House member—Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma—knowing that he was quite supportive of Native American issues. They told us that Rep. Cole strongly supported the Senate version. As momentum on the bill began to pick up, we continued to talk to the staff and learned the representative was talking with other members and that he was planning to speak out in favor of the bill when it came up in the Rules Committee the

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American Friends Service Committee's Centennial

By Kat Northrup

From its inception in 1917, to its 100th year, in 2017, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) remains committed to equality, diversity, and “lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action.”

This coming year is the American Friends Service Committee's Centennial celebration, to be held on April 20th-23rd in Philadelphia, PA, under the title “All of Us United: AFSC's Summit for Peace and Justice.” This celebration will include an academic symposium on peace and justice movements, a traveling exhibit called “Waging Peace: 100 Years of Action,” workshops for activists, and many more activities.

The American Friends Service Committee was founded in Philadelphia in objection to military service in WWI, and in an effort to find alternative ways to serve the country. The American Friends Service Committee created a program to help feed the children of Germany and Austria soon after the war.

Everyone knows bits and pieces about the work that AFSC does, but what is truly amazing, is how many lives that the organization has touched. The communities aided by AFSC, to many people in today's Quaker community have lent a hand, in one way or another. At the 2016 North Pacific Yearly Meeting, during an AFSC panel, Friends in attendance were asked to stand if they had personally worked with AFSC. A handful of Friends rose to their feet. Friends were then asked to remain standing, then those who's families, then those who's close friends had worked with AFSC were asked to stand. Over half the room was standing at the end. We are spread out, but we are a closely connected community of Friends and friends.

In honor of the American Friends Service Committee's Centennial, a program called “Acting in Faith” is collecting Friends stories and memories about AFSC. (To share your story, please visit peaceworks.afsc.org)

Today, as in the past, AFSC's commitment to equality, peace and Spirit led action remains firm. These values are expressed through creating programs to train activists, provide service opportunities for Young Friends in the Guatemala program, working with Black Lives Matter, and the tribes at Standing Rock. AFSC has programs in Zimbabwe, Burundi, Somalia and Kenya that are working to create and heal communities torn by political, war, and colonial divisions. There are programs in the rural South East US working towards economic equality, through aiding in access to health care and education. AFSC also has programs in Palestine and Israel working towards a brighter future of equality and justice.

In celebration of the American Friend's Service Committee, we would like to welcome you to share your story, join us at the centennial celebration, or even just stop by the website to learn more!



Progressive Clergy Network

On December 6 a group of self identified Progressive Clergy from around Montana gathered in Helena for a day long workshop. In attendance were Quakers Heather Jackson and Jasmine Krotkov. The goal of the gathering was to consider creating a formal organization to provide collegial support for Progressive Clergy, especially those in remote areas, and to create a platform for clergy to speak out about current social justice issues. For example, one vision statement idea addressed topics such as naming injustice, acting in the power of love, witnessing to the dignity of all people and to the interrelatedness of all creation. Some specific issues mentioned included women's issues, climate change, health care, Pride, refugees, and economic inequality. The day concluded with the formation of an appointed leadership team to draft a mission statement, set a vision, and determine the structure for the Progressive Clergy Network of Montana. The Network is open to the participation of interested congregations of all faith traditions. If your Meeting or Worship Group is interested in more information you can contact progressiveclergyntnetworkmt@gmail.com.

MGOF Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 8/20/16

Agenda:

1. Minutes from Winter MGOF
2. Consent Agenda
3. Finance Report/Registrar's Report
4. Luccock Report
5. Committee Updates
6. Discussions Agenda Items:
 - a) MGOF Outreach
 - b) Nominating Committee challenges
7. Minutes to Season:
 - a) Criminal Justice written Montana FCNL Advocacy Team
 - b) Welcoming/Inclusivity Written by Multnomah Monthly Meeting



The All Important BINDER is handed from one M&C Clerk to the next.

MGOF's members and attenders gathered, and sat in expectant silence for a moment, before the Meeting for Business began.

1. Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (Winter 2016) were read and accepted with corrections and the addition of the final financial figures from Winter MGOF 2016.

2. Consent Agenda (below) was approved.

- i) Continue the early registration for MGOF discount but reduce it from \$30 taken off the cost off the gathering to \$20 taken off the cost of the gathering.
- ii) At our Business Meeting in February 2016 a minute was recorded stating that we would have a 6 month trial of a new policy. "Clerks of committees will directly communicate with the web master to send out emails. Make this change permanent.
- iii) Refund Policy adopted as follows.
"We can not guarantee a refund of MGOF fees if cancelation is less than 2 weeks prior to any gathering as financial commitments for food and lodging have already been made. Refunds may be available based on the financial health of MGOF after all expenses related to the gathering have been made."
- iv) MGOF Scholarship Policy adopted as follows.
Individuals in need of financial assistance to attend North Pacific Yearly Meeting Annual Session or other Quaker events should bring their stated need first to their local Worship Group or Meeting. If there is still financial need after this group has considered the request and responded the individual should next bring their request to the Quarterly Meeting (MGOF) by forwarding the request to the Clerk of MGOF. In consultation with the Ministry & Council Clerk and the Treasurer the Clerk will allocate funds based on financial availability and number of requests. Isolated Friends should approach the Quarterly Meeting directly. All Friends are reminded of the necessity of requesting funds well ahead of deadlines as this process can not be speedy!

3. Financial Report: MGOF is in good shape financially. (financial specifics attached to this agenda)

3a. An ongoing concern about how finances are handled within MGOF's unique role as both a Monthly and a Quarterly Meeting was discussed. The only item that the MGOF treasurer for the Monthly Meeting is collecting assessments annually and writing a check for the amount sent in by members to North Pacific Yearly Meeting. Often Friends include donations to MGOF with their annual assessment check and these go into the Quarterly Meeting budget.

Minute: We will continue to do what we have done for the last 5 years and consider MGOF Monthly and MGOF Quarterly Meetings as the same financial entity.

3b. Registrar's Report: See Attached

4. Luccock Report/Discussion: We were lucky to reserve our place. Due to a management turn-over, the camp copies of MGOF agreement records were lost. Kate had a copy of our agreement, and MGOF was able to take place. Nancy, the Luccock contact, Recommends a long term contract in order to lock in rates, and dates.

Concerns included:

- * Whether or not a fixed rate would continue to provide for Luccock and our own needs as a group.
- * Camp availability due to unforeseen circumstances like wildfires and payment arrangements if we lost the camp due to circumstances beyond our control.
- * Food/Timing: potential solution: Individuals bring their own breakfast foods, while the camp provides coffee/tea, as we did at the MGOF 2016 in February at Camp Make a Dream.

5. Committee Reports:

- MAC: Candida continues as MGOF rep to MAC, though welcomes anyone who is interested. See Attached Report
- Nominating Committee: Discussion topic to follow
- Ministry & Counsel: Potential themes for Winter MGOF are being seasoned. The theme in seasoning is: "Going from our contemplative heart to activism." potential speakers from Quaker Organizations are being considered. The M&C Clerk position is being considered by Nominating Committee. M&C Clerk Lucretia Humphrey is leaving M&C to Clerk NPYM. We celebrate and thank her for her service!
- WEB: The simple web page that was approved has not happened yet. There is no current call for additional support at this time.

A moment of silence/settling was taken before moving into Discussion Items.

Discussion Items:

1. Growing MGOF: How can we encourage Growth?

- Suggestion: Social Media, encourage visitation among different varieties of Quakers, make attendance more financially welcoming to college students/young families through possible scholarships to Quaker Orgs. Or MGOF, use music as a welcoming tool
- Note: Language used to talk about Quakerism: An expression of frustration from young folks about defining Quakerism in the negative, rather than the positive. Friends Testimonies could help.
- Suggestion: Grow Worship Groups to grow MGOF.
- * Presented issue: The language on the registration form has returned to the shaming language about children's attendance being free. This needs to be corrected.
- * Suggestion: Sponsor young people to go to FCNL Spring Advocacy Workshop.
- * Nominating concern: We need/could use a Coordinator for Young Friends.

A moment of silence/settling was taken before moving into Discussion 2

2. Nominating:

Consider, What is it that makes saying "yes" hard?

- We don't talk about job descriptions
- Nominations should be done in a welcoming way• M&C is nominated by their Worship Group
- Think about nominations: Task/Burden vs Joy/Gratitude
- Request: Can we consider 2 Summer Coordinators for next summer MGOF
- If no one is called to a position the position will remain open
- Elders have offered to mentor new leaders.

Minutes to Season:

- ♦ "Criminal Justice" from MGOF Quarterly, to be offered to NPYM Yearly. Presented by Jasmine
- ♦ "Welcoming Gender Inclusivity" minute, presented by Judy Visscher. Written by Multnomah
- ♦ Monthly Meeting, approved by NPYM, dispersed to Quarterly/Monthly Meetings.
- ♦ *Both Minutes are posted for viewing on: MontanaQuakers.wordpress.com
- ♦ Coordinating Committee Report: Report will be available in the newsletter
- ♦ Meeting for Business was concluded with a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted by
Kat Northrup
MGOF Recording Clerk



Boulder Hotsprings

Attendance: Kate Weiss, Peter Walker-Kelleher, Janet Grinde, Nora Martin, Judy Visscher, Nick Salmon, Jasmine Krotkov, Lucretia Humphrey, Georgia Foster, Katherine Northup
The Meeting began with a moment of Silence.

1. Minutes from Summer Steering Committee Meeting (August 2016)

Read and accepted

2. Winter MGOF: Nick Salmon and Ted Etter

Location: Camp Make-a-Dream: costs were raised slightly Scheduling food:

- Brunch was disruptive
- Suggestion: We can bring our own breakfast, tea/coffee provided, with a few bulk items will be available
- Potluck Friday will make food costs slightly more reasonable
- Yes to coffee/tea Saturday & Sunday
- Finances for Camp-Make-A-Dream:
- Per Cabin/night = about \$600 (2 cabins)
- Lodge Weekend: \$250
- Health Center Use: \$100
- Adult Cost: \$165/person roughly
- There are 8 single rooms total at Camp Mak-A-Dream (in each of the 2 cabins plus 6 in a separate building.)
- We are in unity with subsidizing single rooms as we did last year. We will remind people that these rooms are more expensive and ask them to donate the difference if they can.
- Sound System:
- Steering Committee considered purchasing a portable sound system for MGOF due to our awareness that many Friends have hearing difficulties.
- Portable sound system would stay with the clerk
- \$200 for purchase (by the Clerk) of a portable sound system before Winter MGOF was approved. Clerk Letter: A letter will be written by Kate Weiss, for the Winter MGOF Newsletter, in which she will speak to food allergies, and financial issues

3. Children's Program: Peter Walker Kelleher

Summer MGOF: Wanted the children to be children and play. Adults are windows to Quakerism, but the program's goal is not to be Quaker Education. Peter Walker Kelleher will not be present at the next Winter MGOF. Peter will seek another person to oversee the Children's Program at our winter gathering this year.

4. Nominating Committee: No one present to report Positions to be filled:

- Second Summer Coordinator
- MAC representative – side note: potential to change human right's groups
- Steering Committee Clerk

5. Ministry and Counsel: Lucretia Humphrey

- Reminder: Clearness Committees are available as support
- Next Winter MGOF: "From Contemplation to Action" - FCNL representative will possibly be the Friend in Residence at Winter MGOF.
- M&C's new clerk is Judy Visscher, Lucretia Humphrey has stepped down, so she can step into the Clerkship for NPYM!
- Minute: We are grateful to Lucretia Humphrey for all her dedication and hard work! ○

6. Newsletter: Jasmine Krotkov

Deadline for submissions is Monday December 19 Newsletter release is January 1
Registration for Winter MGOF: End of Early Registration is Friday February 10

7. Luccock's Long Term Contract:

MGOF received a very loose template. Steering Committee will have a long term contract to bring to Business Meeting at Winter MGOF. Steering Committee brainstormed questions for the Clerk to discuss with Luccock Park.

- Can we negotiate prices should there be natural disasters?
- If we do not ask Luccock to prepare breakfasts will there be a price break?
- Can we have use of both bathrooms & common spaces?

8. Gratuity Issue:

- Discussion of the gratuity issue continues as we seek wisdom on how to proceed.
- Nick Salmon will look into tipping at Camp-Mak-A-Dream in February.
- Friends pointed out that cash is more useful than a check, and can be more easily divided up among the entire staff.
- We will bring a "Thank You" card, and create wording that is inclusive for everyone.
- If Steering Committee gains clarity at our winter meeting the Clerk will add this issue to the Consent Agenda at the Winter Meeting for Business.

8. Clerking Workshops:

- Pendle Hill offers one twice a year with Arthur Larrabee
- Kate Weiss will speak with Ann Stever and Dorsey Green about the possibility of a Clerking workshop in Montana
- A Friend suggested that we have an interest group about Quaker Clerking at MGOF given by present and past Clerks.
- Friends wondered about Quaker Clerking as a theme for a future MGOF.

9. NPYM: Georgia Foster

Discipline Committee: Requests line drawings to include in the new Faith & Practice Visitation Committees are being formed on the Howard Brinton Model

- Friends will travel together and present multiple topics
- Traveling Friend Pablo Stanfield visited the Southern Oregon Meetings with positive responses
- Elee Hadley is the MGOF contact for NPYM's Traveling Friends
- NPYM will be held in Tacoma WA at the University of Puget Sound, July 26-31, 2017
- Minute circulated to Monthly Meetings: Gender and Inclusivity
- Faith & Practice: January 1, 2017 for the first copies sent out
-

10. Putting off until MGOF 2017 Business Meeting:

Considering sending motivated youth, 18-30 to FCNL's "Spring Lobby Weekend," March 18 to the 21. Jasmine Krotkov is the contact person. Youth do not necessarily need to be Quaker.

11. Announcements:

- 2 Minutes to Season: posted on MontanaQuakers.wordpress.com
- Request for MGOF Topics, what does our Quaker Community need?
- Western Friend wants Group Descriptions: Bring to Winter MGOF

Reminder!! MGOF Contacts and Email List

If someone you know would like to be on the MGOF email list, please have them visit the web page at <http://www.montanafriends.org>. There, folks can sign up for one or all of our various email lists as well as choose if and how their contact information is shared among members of MGOF and with members of the North Pacific Annual Meeting.

Remember, too, if you are on the email list, there is a link at the bottom of each email you receive that will allow you to update your contact information, subscribe/unsubscribe from our various email lists, and control your privacy preferences.

Next time you get an email from the MGOF list, please click the link at the bottom and be sure your contact information and email settings are up to date!

Meeting was Concluded with a moment of Silence

Ruth Flower, continued from page 2

following week. We were stunned and very pleased. We let our colleagues know that the bill would be moving almost immediately. And true to his word, Rep. Cole spoke eloquently in favor of the Native American provisions in the bill in the Rules Committee. The Senate version of the bill went on to pass the House by a large majority. What about meeting with people who don't seem open to listening to your point of view?

You can usually tell within the first couple of minutes of a meeting and position yourself to deal with it most effectively. Once I met with a staffer who showed up late and began our conversation with, "Okay, let's get this over with." As we talked about supporting a child care program for mothers trying to get off of welfare, she said angrily, "I don't see why these people need free child care — why should they have it handed to them when I have to spend time and money finding care for my kids?" I said that

I completely understood. I was a working mother then myself, and I simply said, "You're right, it shouldn't be this hard for you, or for me, or for anyone. We need to step back and see what the bigger problem is here. If we don't enable people to work, they're going to be dependent on government programs forever." I found a way to connect with her, genuinely identifying with her as a mother.

How do you see FCNL's work relating to Quakers' history of action?

It seems like we've always been good talkers, even going back to George Fox and the letters he wrote to judges in England. We've always tried to engage with decision makers. We've done everything from running alternative schools to facing up with local enforcers or enabling the victims to escape with their lives as in the case of slavery in the United States. Always within those movements there's the concept of engaging with the decision makers, holding up in front of somebody the reality of what they're doing even if they don't want to see it.



Friends Committee on National Legislation Annual Session

November 2016

Hundreds of Friends came together from across the country for worship, listening, advocacy and community, as we confronted what it means to love all of our neighbors now. Montana Friends Candida Quinn, Sandra Schwartz, Claire Leonard and Jasmine Krotkov all attended. We spent Thursday lobbying Ryan Zinke, Steve Daines and Jon Tester, to bring sentencing reform to a vote in the Lame Duck Session. We met with the legislative aides for all our Members of Congress, as it was two days after the election, and the Members were back in Montana. Our meeting with Senator Zinke's aide was disturbed by the arrival of President Elect Trump to the Canon House building, where he was meeting with Paul Ryan. We declined a photo opportunity. Our meeting with Senator Daines' aide was frank, with him telling us that they planned to re-write the sentencing reform bills in the next session. We learned that Senator Tester had a brand new Judiciary aide coming on board, whose particular interests lie in the realm of sentencing reform, so there is hope for next year.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday were times for worship and community. FCNL's governors met to approve members of our General Committee, set the budget, discern Legislative Priorities and lay out plans for advocacy work in the next year.



Legislative Priorities for 2017-18

The Friends Committee on National Legislation seeks to bring spiritual values and Friends' testimonies to bear on public policy decisions. FCNL solicited the views and concerns of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to help discern the following priorities for our lobbying and public education work during the 115th Congress (2017-2018).

- Promote peacebuilding, diplomacy and the peaceful prevention and resolution of violent conflict with an emphasis on the Middle East.
- Reduce military spending and armed interventions.
- Promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Advance equitable criminal justice systems that eliminate mass incarceration and support law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized.
- Pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants.
- Promote equitable access for all citizens to participation in the political process.
- Promote policies that reduce economic inequality and poverty; encourage fair compensation for workers and health care for all.
- Work to end gun violence.
- Witness and advocate on Native American concerns.
- Advocate for sustainable solutions to climate disruption and its consequences.

In each priority FCNL and Friends are called on to identify, expose and work to eliminate institutional racism in order to promote genuine equality of opportunity and communities in which everyone can safely live, learn, work, worship, and love. FCNL seeks to collaborate across the political spectrum to advance these priorities. FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunities, specific expertise, leadings, and available resources. In addition, The World We Seek (FCNL's Policy Statement) gives FCNL the flexibility to respond to crises and to other important legislative opportunities, as Way opens.

The FCNL General Committee approved these priorities on November 13, 2016.

by Jenn Kirby, Director, Montana Abolition Coalition

Montana Gathering of Friends is a Member of the Abolition Coalition

The death penalty is dying. Last year, Montana District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock ruled that the State's execution protocol did not meet state statute. Montana law stipulates that one of the drugs in its lethal injection mix must be an "ultra fast-acting barbiturate" and the current drug intended to play that role, pentobarbital, does not meet that criteria. This ruling effectively put Montana into a death penalty moratorium. For the foreseeable future, the state is not executing anyone.

And Montana is not alone. In August, the Delaware Supreme Court held that the state's capital sentencing procedures were unconstitutional and struck down Delaware's death penalty statute.

Governors in Oregon, Washington, Pennsylvania and Colorado have all declared an official death penalty moratorium. Legal challenges in California, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Arkansas have put all executions on hold in their states.

Ohio is putting off executions until at least 2019 as the Department of Corrections struggles to obtain supplies of lethal injection drugs. Ohio has run out of supplies of its previous drugs and has unsuccessfully sought new amounts, including so-far failed attempts to import chemicals from overseas. Execution dates set for 2016 and early 2017 have been moved to 2019. Lack of supply of execution drugs means Ohio is delaying capital punishment in their state for a full two years.

For the first time in two decades, Oklahoma will go at least two years without an execution after a horrible drug mix up showed that the state had used potassium acetate (a food preservative) instead of potassium chloride in previous executions. As part of an agreement in a federal lawsuit brought by the state's death row prisoners, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt has said the state will not request execution dates until Oklahoma adopts a new execution protocol.

In Texas, executions dropped to the lowest level in 20 years and only two new death sentences have been handed down in the state this year. For a state that leads the nation by a wide margin in executions and typically averages more than 10 sentences a year— this is huge progress!

But beyond the states, we're hearing more and more voices calling for the end of the death penalty. United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer said "it is time to reconsider the constitutionality of the death penalty" and "I believe it highly likely that the death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment."

During his visit to the United States, Pope Francis told Congress to abolish the death penalty; saying "My brother bishops here in the United States renewed their call for the abolition of the death penalty. Not only do I support them, but I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation."

And increasingly law enforcement personnel and corrections officers are sharing their doubts about the practice. "As I read the New Testament, I don't see anywhere in there that killing bad people is a very high calling for Christians. I see an awful lot about redemption and forgiveness." James W.L. Park, former execution officer, San Quentin, California.

Conservatives are also raising their voices to express concern about capital punishment, with people like Ron Paul saying "I believe that support for the death penalty is inconsistent with libertarianism and traditional conservatism;" and Richard Viguerie telling us "Conservatives have every reason to believe the death penalty system is no different from any politicized, costly, inefficient, bureaucratic, government-run operation, which we conservatives know are rife with injustice."

This all bodes well for our campaign to end the death penalty in the United States. However, the fight is just beginning again in Montana and we need your help. Our work to abolish the death penalty is more than one case in District Court. We must work diligently during the 2017 legislative session to advocate for the end of capital punishment.

The Montana Abolition Coalition is a collaboration of organizations and individuals that value justice and are committed to repealing Montana's death penalty. The Coalition supports policies that protect our citizens and ensure they have a safe place to live. We promote healing in the aftermath of violence for the victims, offenders, and our communities. We seek to hold offenders accountable for their crimes in a humane and fair manner. We work toward a society that treats all people fairly, both within the legal system and within our broader communities. We advocate spending community resources wisely - eradicating wasteful systems like the death penalty and utilizing resources to garner the most benefit for Montanans. The Coalition works to educate the public about the failings of the death penalty and to make policy changes through the state legislature and the judicial system. And in 2017, we are promoting a bill to repeal Montana's death penalty and replace it with life without possibility of parole.

We hope that you will join us. Please add your name to the growing list of Montanans who want the death penalty officially abolished in Montana. Visit the Montana Abolition Coalition today at www.mtabolitionco.org and get involved.

The world is changing and the death penalty is a thing of the past. With your help, soon it will be history.

Jennifer Kirby
Director, Montana Abolition Coalition
[406-461-8176](tel:406-461-8176)
JenK@mtabolitionco.org

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY! YOUR PRESENCE, YOUR VOICE MATTER

MAC DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE CITIZEN LOBBYING AND LUNCHEON

WHEN: JANUARY 23, 2017

**WHERE: CAPITOL ROTUNDA
HELENA, MT**

JOIN US ON A BUS AND HEAD TO THE STATE CAPITOL

Buses will be departing from Great Falls, Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula.

The Montana Association of Christians (MAC) and YOU will meet with our senators and representatives on important social justice issues this 2017 Legislative Session.



- Hospitality toward vetted and documented immigrants and humane treatment for all
 - Children & Strengthening Families
 - Prisoner Reintegration
 - Abolition of the Death Penalty

BRINGING TOGETHER CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES & INDIVIDUALS TO EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF MONTANANS.

For detailed information and to register, please visit our website:

MACMT.ORG



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 Twitter @MT_Christians

SCHEDULE FOR WINTER MGOF 2017**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24**

3:00-4:20 Ministry & Council Meeting

4:00 Registration Begins

4:30-5:50 Steering Committee Meeting

6:00-7:00 Potluck Dinner

7:00-8:30 Gathering in the Lodge Check-in & Fellowship for all Friends, young and old

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25

7:00 Early Morning Worship in the Lodge

Breakfast on your own****8:30-10:00** Plenary Session in the Lodge****10:15-11:45** Worship Sharing Groups**12:00-1:00** Lunch in the Lodge

1:30-3:00 Interest Groups

Free time with snacks available

****3:45-5:30** Meeting for Worship with a concern for business**6:00-7:00** Dinner in Lodge

7:30-9:00 Community Night

9:00 Singing!!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26

7:00 Early Morning Worship in the Lodge

Breakfast on your own****8:30-10:15** Worship Sharing Groups

10:30-11:00 Singing!!

****11:00-12:00** Meeting For Worship**12:00-1:00** Lunch in the Lodge

1:00 Clean up rooms and common areas, goodbyes

****** indicates when we will be having a Children's Program

Camp Make A Dream will provide lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday (see menu for the lunch and dinners we selected, next page). We will have a potluck dinner on Friday night. Please bring your own breakfast for both Saturday and Sunday.

We are offering three sleeping options:

1. Six single rooms with a shared bathroom between pairs of rooms.
2. The women's, men's and family each have a counselors room for two. The bathroom is located in the dormitory area of the cabin.
3. The same cabins have two dormitory-style sleeping rooms with bunk beds (each cabin accommodates up to 12-24 people comfortably) handicapped-accessible bathrooms, each with two stalls and two showers.

All costs (meals, rooms or program fee) are per person. The **lowest possible cost** for the entire weekend would be to stay in a \$40 bed (\$80 for weekend), \$50 program fee and bring your own meals. MINUS \$20 early discount. **\$110 per person for weekend.** **Highest cost** would be \$50 for single room (\$100 for weekend), all 3 meals (\$33.50), \$50 program fee, MINUS \$20 early discount, or **\$163.50 per person**

We have made every effort to make the gathering as affordable as possible for everyone, but please do not hesitate to ask for financial help if you need it. Nearly every one of us has asked for help at some point in time, received a discount for service work, or in other ways been able to attend regardless of resources available.



Some important dates:

Register by Tuesday January 31, 2017 and receive a \$20 discount per adult.

Register between Wednesday February 1 and Tuesday February 14, 2017 and pay full price. This is the day we must tell Camp Mak-A-Dream how many people will be staying overnight, and how many meals to prepare. There is plenty of room for additional participants, but there may not be adequate food available if you register after February 14, 2017.

Don't forget to bring:

- A. **Bedding**/sleeping bags, pillows (None of the beds have sheets, blankets or pillows, you will need to bring everything you need).
- B. **Sleep masks and ear plugs** if you are a sensitive sleeper
- C. **Breakfast food and drink**
- D. **Warm clothes** for outdoor fun. **Swimming suits** for the hot tub.

Saturday Lunch: Taco/Nacho Bar
Taco meat, refried beans, Spanish rice, hard and soft taco shells, nacho chips, nacho cheese sauce, sour cream, salsa, shredded cheese, diced tomato, shredded lettuce

Saturday Dinner : Asian Buffet

Choice of Sweet and Sour Chicken, Teriyaki Chicken, or Stir Fry beef, Stir-fry vegetables, and choice of white rice or Asian noodles, plus choice of standard dessert

Sunday Lunch: Soup and Salad

Upgraded to Full Salad bar, bread sticks, and choice of two soups, choose from; creamy tomato, broccoli cheese, loaded potato, Tuscan white bean, or carrot ginger

You can choose to bring your own food and not pay for any of the meals if you indicate that choice on the registration form.

Driving Directions:

When you arrive at the Gold Creek exit #166 on I-90, head south across the Clark Fork River and continue approximately ½ mile until you see the **small white church** on your right. **Turn right at the church, pass under the 6C Ranches sign**, then turn left and drive up the hill, passing under the Camp Mak-A-Dream sign.

At the top of the hill you will see our parking lot on your left. **Please park vehicles in the parking lot and walk across the wooden foot bridge** where you will find the Main Lodge and all other buildings.

