

MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS



Welcome to Summer MGOF 2016

The Theme for this summer's MGOF gathering is: 'Finding the Divine in Our Mountains, Fueling Hope with our Practice'

With great joy, we gather together this summer to celebrate nature, to find our place in the creation, and to listen for what life is calling us to do under the circumstances of this particular time and place. As always we love Luccock Park, the mountains, the trees, the flowing grass, and the song of the stream. We see the awesome energy of fire and wind, and we renew our commitment to community.

We are excited to welcome David Schaad, a Quaker, who comes well recommended by Missoula Monthly Meeting. He writes:

Howdy! My name is David Schaad and I am a 29-year-old Quaker and naturalized Montanan. I was born and raised in the forested suburbs of Portland, Oregon and more broadly in the Pacific Northwest. These lush and verdant landscapes nourished me throughout my youth, and afforded me an intimate connection with the natural world from a very early age. In the majestic rainforests of Western Oregon and on the rugged, cliff-bordered shoreline of the Pacific Ocean on the Northern Oregon Coast, I first knowingly experienced the transcendent wonder of pure being in direct connection to Spirit/The Universe/God/The Divine. From the very beginning of my spiritual journey as a Quaker, the sacred stillness, boundless wisdom, and nurturing beauty of the natural world has been central to my faith and essential to my spiritual wellbeing, as I am certain it is also for a great many Montana Quakers. In essence, I feel most at home in the wild.

**"Only after the last tree
has been cut down,
only after the last river
has been poisoned,
only after the last fish
has been caught, only
then will you find that
money cannot be
eaten." – Cree
prophesy**

I spent my college years in Missoula, Montana, where I double majored in Environmental Studies and Spanish, and minored in Climate Change Studies, International Development Studies, and Latin American Studies. Never having ventured beyond the United States and British Columbia hitherto, my undergraduate years also blessed me with opportunities to study abroad thrice on two continents, and each trip broadened my worldview, deepened my awareness of our interdependence with our natural world, and challenged our culturally dominant notion that happiness is dependent on our mass-scale consumption of resources.

Thee Lift me & I'll lift thee & we'll ascend together

Since graduating two years ago, I am currently employed by the United States Forest Service out of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where I serve as a member of the trails crew and as a wildland firefighter during the hottest, driest part of the summer. My childhood dream has come true, and I have landed that dream job in which I am able to earn a living by working in the woods. I am eager to bring my perspectives on the interrelationships between my Quaker faith and sustainability in a globally connected world to my first-ever visit to the Montana Gathering of Friends in August. I look forward to sharing our insights, perspectives, thoughts, and inspiration, and to engaging in meaningful conversation surrounding our roles as Quakers as we help steward our nation and our world into a more harmonious and sustainable future.

Yours In the Light,

David Schaad



Sustainability - A Retreat

Inward Preparation for Outer Life Change

Thursday August 18, 2016

In every age when people faced obstacles that seemed insurmountable, they sought guidance from the Gods, from Spirit, from the inner Light. Here we are faced with rising temperatures, global instability and a culture of distrust.

In this 18 hour retreat we will explore the lessons of biological adaptation and change, seek clarity as to what we individually find truly nourishes us and seek within for the qualities which will most help us to adapt and even thrive in the changing conditions of the future.

The format will include silence, readings, worship sharing, private time outside, journaling and discussion. Any age person who feels called to attend is old/young enough. All gender expressions are welcome.

Bring sleeping bags and personal care items as well as potluck dinner dishes to share, breakfast for yourself and something to contribute to a simple shared lunch. We will have access to a refrigerator, stove and microwave. Wear comfortable clothing in layers, preparing for all possible variations of Montana weather. A journal is helpful but not necessary.

Plan to arrive between 5 and 5:30 pm to get settled. We will eat promptly at 6pm on Thursday evening the 18th and will begin the retreat at 7:00pm at the Glendive Cabin at Luccock Park. We will close by noon on Friday, sharing leftovers for lunch. The afternoon will be free for folks to attend meetings, spend quiet time outdoors, hike or do whatever calls them.

There is no additional charge for the building use at Luccock Park, however, a modest donation of \$10 per person will help defray costs.

Sign up by emailing Linnea Wang at linneamontana@yahoo.com.

Limited to 12 participants.



We are once again invited to bring garden produce to Luccock Park for use in our meals. Please let me know what you plan to bring, and I will let the camp staff know what we are bringing. They would like to know at least two weeks in advance, so that they can plan their meals and shopping. Bon Appetit!

linneamontana@yahoo.com

MGOF Spring 2016

Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened with 30 Minutes of Silent Worship:

- Worship Sharing 30 min: Query: As a Quaker Community, how are our values reflected in our stewardship of the resources given to us? These gifts may include talents, time, energy, and love, as well as money and property.

Minutes from MGOF Fall 2015 read and approved

Registrar's Report: Carol Bellin

- No Bill for this gathering, yet. Camp Make a Dream charges \$350 for rental, and the Health Center. The rest is directly paid.
- Snacks, materials etc: \$170
- Total Cost Estimate: \$5,855.
- Total received: \$4,866 for direct expenses plus program fee.
- The early registration discount came out of the program fee.
- \$183 in fees were waived
- \$512 was received in donations, and those donations will be sent a letter of receipt
- \$720 granted in scholarships
- \$938 in child expenses
- 41 Adults, 28 early registrations, 12 people did not receive early discount, 17 meals and 8 beds remain unused.
- Note: Early registration waiver does not effect numbers
- Treasurer's Report: Kate Weiss for Cathy Weber
- MGOF has paid NPYM assessment fees
- \$294 short on this gathering
- Urseline was paid \$200 compensation
- \$5003.00 in our MGOF account
- Fall Steering: MGOF will include 15% gratuity will be added by treasurer to the end bill, taken from the program fee
- The 15% gratuity is not, as of yet, specifically designated,
- Unknown what part of the bill the 15% is based on.
- Nominating Committee: Noor Jahan and Will?
- Recording Clerk: Kat Northup currently volunteering, nominated for 2016-2018
- Minute: "We happily accept the nomination of Kat Northup as recording clerk for a two year term ending winter MGOF 2018."
- Minute: "We are committed to financially supporting clerkship training for new clerks."
- Summer MGOF: 2 new summer coordinators needed urgently
- Children's Program: In need of committee clerk
- MAC Rep: In need of new rep
- NPYM Coordinating Committee Rep: Georgia Foster Volunteered - APPROVED
- NPYM Nominating Committee Rep:
- Winter MGOF: 1 new coordinator needed: Nick volunteered – APPROVED
- Webpage: Geoff Poole
- With the help of Jasmine, we have a simple, functional page
- Content needed: MGOF identity, local meeting info, and a page of Quaker links
- Requests from Worship Groups present for information on their local gathering
- Approved to go ahead with the very basic web page
- Support of Jack's Ministry: Presented by Missoula Friends
- Many Missoula Friends spoke on behalf of visiting Friend, Jack
- Request made on behalf of Jack, who is currently attending Earlham's School of Religion in order to become a Chaplain in order to do Hospice work.
- Stated: Jack has done much service in the community of Missoula, but forgone financial compensation for his time and efforts.
- Unity reached to form a Fund on behalf of Jack, seeded with \$1000 from MGOF's funds.
- Communications: Disussion led by Bev

- Electronic communications are cumbersome because of the chain of command
- Need a better way to get "Requests for Light" out to the communities faster
- Concern that not everyone wants emails
- There is a system already in place for general announcements but it has not been effectively utilized
- Friend: Each clerk should be responsible for their own Worship Group or Meeting's electronic communications
- A 6 month trial was approved for allowing direct committee requests for emails to be sent out.
- Request to remind groups about updating contact information
- Minute: "Clerks of MGOF Committees will directly communicate with the webmaster to send out emails"
- FCNL: Candida Quinn
- Information requested from Worship Groups around Montana about priorities they wish to be held up for FCNL -April 15th deadline
- MGOF cannot respond as a whole because Steering will not meet again until after April 15th
- Issue raised: reimbursement procedure: appointments and travel etc, would help with fulfilling duties on behalf of MGOF.
- Spring Quarterly MGOF meeting:
 - Do we want to meet at Luccock on May 14th?
 1. Point: When we first began the work day at Luccock, it was because they were in need.
 2. We could make Luccock's work day a need-based service
 3. Boulder Hot Springs was put forth as location
 4. Luccock is not expecting us this spring, yet.
 5. Boulder Hot Springs was temporarily approved for MGOF Quarterly's spring meeting

Summer MGOF is August 19-21st

Meeting was concluded with a final silence.

MGOF QUARTERLY STEERING COMMITTEE BOULDER HOT SPRINGS 4-2-16



The Meeting began with a moment of worship.

Present: Peter Walker-Keleher, Judy Visscher, Sandy Boehmler, Kate Weiss (Clerk), Kat Northrup, Lucretia Humphrey, Will McDowell, Julia Childs

The Minutes from 2/16 were read and approved.

MGOF Finances were reviewed starting with 2010.

*We were considering a Financial committee, but believe Steering can function as Finance Committee.

*We specifically send NPYM exactly what they ask for.

*The Community requests that we look at where donations go, to MGOF Monthly or MGOF Quarterly. At this point, we are still running our budget as a Quarterly Meeting budget with all our expenses being towards Quarterly, not Monthly concerns. Registration fees for MGOF gatherings are the only funds that Missoula sends. Digitizing MGOF Records was the only Monthly meeting direct expense. Announcements in Friends Journal and Junior Friends Trip expenses benefit everyone statewide. The easiest solution would be to provide an extra column to be checked "monthly or quarterly."

*Requests for scholarship, Annual session and otherwise, must go through Monthly Meetings (Missoula and Billings, MGOF Monthly) before being put before MGOF Quarterly. Requests will be funded permitting available funds. Decisions will be based on keeping \$3000 balance in the account.

*It was suggested that the registration may need to say we need a check upon registration not upon arrival explaining the costs incurred by MGOF for each registrant.

Minute: The coordinator of each gathering will find out what the tipping policy at that particular facility is so we can respond appropriately.

Minute: Cathy Weber and Kate Weiss were charged with creating a clear report for Business Meeting that outlines what has happened financially since Heartland and MGOF merged. Cathy will continue to track this in the records. This report will introduce a discussion on this topic in Business Meeting.

Ministry and Counsel Committee - Lucretia Humphrey

Summer MGOF

* Theme: "Finding the divine in our mountains, fueling hope with our practice." (Global change, how we relate to the earth, opening ourselves to up it.)"

*Speakers: Two names were put forth. Lucretia will pursue asking one or both.

* Do we want to start with a Thursday-Friday retreat before the full Gathering? We could check in with our meetings to see if someone wants to lead one. A announcement should go in the newsletter. That deadline is June 1 to get it to Jasmine Krotkov.

• Winter MGOF

• *Themes are being discussed

• *Meetings are invited to see what is percolating in our own worship groups, what interests might spark action. How do we move from contemplation to activism and keep the spirit alive? Is there a need to learn how to be active, how to heal our nation? Could we include issues around racism, refugees, etc.? Could we draw on our wonderful FCNL?

•

*State of Society Reports: Lucretia will write one for our quarterly drawing on responses from Worship Groups and the Monthly Meetings, with the guidance of the query: "What has been really meaningful to our meeting for you this year?"

Children's Program - Peter Walker-Keleher

**Winter MGOF 2016: Peter reported that six or seven adults volunteered to help with the children's program. Two adults were assigned to each session. There was clarity around kids having fun in a Quakerly context with plenty of free time, but grounded in Quaker values. Each session began and ended with a group check-in providing time for group process and modeling of Quaker principles. Time was taken to clean up. It was a good formula.

Minute: There is deep appreciation from the group for Peter's work.

Nominating Committee - Will McDowell

Needs:

*Summer MGOF Coordinators: two coordinators for terms of two years each. The terms should be staggered so they overlap allowing continuity through time. A number of names were put forth.

*Children's Committee Clerk

• *Representative to MAC

• *Representative to NPYM

• *Clerk for MGOF

• *Ministry and Counsel Clerk is coming up at August 2017.

Request for Mentoring opportunity:

*Mentoring might be a way to connect adults who might be interested in maintaining a relationship with the kids, to kids.

*Having the Children's committee meeting at MGOF was difficult because there was so much going on. Having it before hand would be better.

Minute: Kate Weiss and Lucretia Humphrey will write a letter on behalf of Carol Bellin for the NPYM position Carol is interested in.

STATE OF THE SOCIETY
BILLINGS MONTHLY MEETING
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT
MAY 30, 2016



We are happy to report that the Billings Monthly Meeting is indeed healthy and active. We still meet every Sunday morning – except in the month of August – at Angelia's Piazza, 420 Grand Ave. Attendance has picked up. Instead of averaging 3 or 4 each Sunday, we now average 6 – 8 regular attenders every Sunday. In addition we have been holding Meetings for Learning about once every month. We then have 10-12 attendees. Recently we have been reviewing the Quaker Testimonies starting out with the material on each Testimony in Philip Guley's Book, *Living the Quaker Way*, as well as the material in North Pacific Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*. It has been very helpful for both those who have been attending Quaker Meetings for many years as well as those who are just recently commenced meeting with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Towe, Co-Clerk

STATE OF THE SOCIETY
BOZEMAN WORSHIP GROUP
MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS QUARTERLY MEETING
April 10, 2016

Bozeman Friends Worship Group is composed of members and attendees ranging in age from 15 to 89. At any weekly Meeting as many as 12 or as few as 2 may be gathered.

In addition to weekly Meeting we have come together twice for food and worship. The potluck in December was the best ever with over 20 people and 7 kids present! At that evening we were enriched by deep worship sharing and a wonderful visit from Joe Snyder. In March we gathered for a potluck prior to responding to the FCNL request for our priorities for their 2017 work. This was an important step in deepening our worship group because we took action as a group.

On April 10, 2016 we gathered for worship sharing in order to respond to a query about the state of our Meeting. The query was: What has this Meeting meant to you spiritually this past year? What is the spiritual state of our Worship Group as you have experienced it?

Individual responses to the query included:

- Gratitude for the presence of this group and for the opportunity for spiritual growth.
- Gratitude for this community as it also leads into the larger community of MGOF.
- Gratitude for the support to live life and do work from Quaker values.
- Gratitude for the sense of love and safety experienced in this community.

As a group, responses to the query included:

- Friends referred to the deep pool, the well, from which percolates insight and direction each time we come to worship together.
- Friends spoke of the wonderful additions that new attenders bring to us.
- The children bring great joy to us all.

There were also yearnings expressed:

- A wish for more connection to the larger Faith community of Bozeman.
- A wish for opportunities to explore our faith more deeply.
- A wish for support for living our faith and testimonies throughout the week.
- A concern for the Refugee crisis and a wish to discern how we could respond.
- A wish for community deepening through breaking bread together more often.
- A deep wish for singing together.

In sum, joy in community, intimate spiritual sharing, taking of group action, and articulation of yearnings for change have been important features of the state of the Bozeman Worship Group for the past year.

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT GREAT FALLS WORSHIP GROUP 2016

Great Falls Worship Group gathered in worship sharing to examine how Spirit had moved in our group this past year. How have we been connected to Spirit?

We are pleased that the number of our regular members and attenders has grown and stayed steady over the past year. Our count was 13 on the Sunday we gathered for this report. We also see strength in our spiritual core. A year ago we felt that we were within a seed casing ready to break open, ready for new growth, ready to move outward but anticipating sharp edges with this growth, but that never really materialized. Instead there was more cheer, joy, and delight amongst the membership and attenders. Our Worship Group is also engaged in significant outreach to the wider community, participating in Family Promise (an ecumenical program to feed and shelter homeless families in church buildings). Several members have started and FCNL Action Team. Our group also contributes to the substance of the wider Montana Quaker community and beyond to North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Within our community and our worship, we have had a greater awareness of life and we feel more ready to face it honestly. Our group speaks to the good side of life, but also tries to face our shadow side in our search for wholeness. We realize that we are like a body, a real corporate body. In this body there is support for those led to social action, a support that comes from the presence of all of us. We can create our own “weather” for peace and justice, and strengthen one another. We are not alone: We are in a corporate body---every part, everyone is important.

In our group there is no fixing, and no bearing of doctrine. This creates a sense of acceptance of each person as they are and where they are. We get to experience being who we were truly created to be with each of us adding our own unique light. We hold space open for those that are not Quakers, who want to pause with us at this time and place.

With these strengths we have felt called to become more organized and have begun regular monthly business meetings. We pass around the job of clerk, learning together how to clerk and participate. At our business meetings we have found the queries for the following week’s worship sharing, we have discussed our participation in Family Promise and supported a diverse involvement of folks in the community.

We were saddened by the passing of one of our new attenders. His quiet, deep spirit will be missed.

As one member said, our Great Falls Worship Group is like a grandmother to us. We just come, we are fed, and we go on our way. Or perhaps we are like a kind of Underground Railroad here in our community on the High Plains with a nuclear missile base nearby.

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT HELENA WORSHIP GROUP 2016

The Helena Worship Group is comprised of many individuals who, throughout this year have followed many wonderful Leadings. Attenders have journeyed nationally and internationally to NPYM, AFSC, FCNL, MAC, MGOF and other Interfaith Gatherings. We have, as a Worship Group, hosted visitors from other Worship Groups, hoping to encourage a deeper sense of community. We worked with Carroll College to host a Quaker Faith art show with multiple artists from at least 5 different states. The Helena Worship Group has published articles on the Quaker Faith. We are studying Quaker literature. We have reorganized our Worship structure to double the time of Silent Worship on the first Sunday of every month. The Helena Worship Group gathers each Sunday with up to 15 attenders, and continues to support each other and welcome all seekers

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT

Missoula Friends Meeting 2016

To Friends everywhere:

We have many reasons for being thankful and hopeful. Meeting for Worship remains our focus. In addition, our small group continues with activities that have enriched our Meeting for many years. On second and fourth Sundays, we offer Quaker Education topics. On the third (and fifth when it occurs) Sunday, a Friend has initiated a study group on Quaker history that has continued for many months.

We look for ways to be present in our community. While we're pondering how to revive service to the Poverello Homeless Shelter following changes in their food preparation rules, we have remained active in the Family Promise family shelter program by preparing meals and having Quaker volunteers spend nights at a host church as chaperones. We're opening our Meeting House up this summer to host a summer meal program for our neighborhood school that is being rebuilt. On the last Saturday in April, six of us—three adults and three children—participated in a riverbank cleanup along the Clark Fork River.

One of our members, Jack Rowan, has undertaken a Masters in Divinity program through Earlham School of Religion with the intent of becoming a hospice chaplain. He shared material from one of his subject areas, entitled "Prayer without Ceasing," at one of our Quaker Education sessions this winter. We bestowed "released Friend" status upon Jack to reduce his commitments to the Meeting while he continues his studies.

We have a healthy budget for a Meeting our size; it enables us to maintain our building, support local and international programs, and support our attenders' participation in regional Quaker gatherings. Some of our income is from the rent of the house that came with our purchase of our Meeting House 23 years ago; we have had the same renters for 20 years and have a good relationship with them. We devoted a portion of a Saturday in May to caring for our facilities and grounds, ten years after the major improvements we completed to make our facility fully accessible.

We have been blessed by visits from traveling Friends from time to time. Last year, we were visited by Julie Harlow and gathered with her around a potluck dinner to learn about Friends House Moscow. We were very impressed with the work done there under difficult conditions and decided to add it to our list of funded organizations this year.

Our Quaker Education hours generally draw a significant number of attenders. The subject that draws the most attenders is usually when a Friend shares her or his spiritual journey. Other topics have ranged from peaceful efforts to remove Montana's nuclear missiles, an informative talk by speakers from the National Alliance for Mental Illness, to racism. Our group reading of Ben Pink Dandelion's book on Quaker history has given us a great appreciation for the experiences and efforts that led to the founding of Friends of the Truth and the gradual changes in practice that have led to our current state of Quakerism.

There are several activities that we undertake to strengthen and maintain our community. During the non-summer months, we follow meeting for worship with fellowship over soup; we invite newcomers to stay and get acquainted and fed. During the summer months, we host midweek potlucks in Friends' homes. And for the Christmas season, we give gift baskets and plants to Friends who occupy our thoughts.

We keep in touch with a monthly (except for summer) newsletter and a weekly email announcement of coming events.

These offerings speak well for our small Meeting, but we must nevertheless acknowledge our shrinking attendance. We feel we share this experience with other churches, and that there is a general decline in the participation of young people. The college students who find us and join us in worship for a few years graduate and find employment elsewhere. Others with seasonal employment on farms or in the surrounding forests join us until the changing seasons and jobs take them elsewhere. In addition, fewer numbers can be attributed to attenders traveling frequently following retirement. Others are caring for family members or relatives and have less energy for participating in Meeting activities. One family moved to the Philippines for work. Sadly, we lost two of our members who are now silent beyond worship:

Bob Lucas of Missoula died on February 21, 2016.

Kerwin Werner of Ronan and the Mission Valley Worship Group died on November 22, 2015.

On an encouraging note, we have a few new attenders who are permanent Missoula residents and who are many years away from greying hair. In addition, we have a faithful core group, some of whom have been with us since the 1980s or before.

We have lost the attendance of some families because of our struggles to sustain a program for children. We do have three children who join us frequently, and we host intergenerational activities that help us all get to know each other better. One is our annual gingerbread house construction and pizza night in December; the gingerbread house creations by children and adults alike are on display until after the Christmas holidays in spite of the temptation to nibble on them. We were inspired by a presentation by our children to follow up their 2015 bicycle trip in Yellowstone National Park with an intergenerational bicycle trip on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene this June. We also have a decades-old tradition which draws upon the creativity of our members. We make dinner plates with hand-drawn art and now have quite a collection that we use during our weekly soup lunches. These plates bless us with thoughts of those (both children and adults) who have attended our Meeting during the past 20+ years.

The Eureka worship group continues with a small core of committed Quakers meeting twice each month in Friends' homes.

We are fortunate to have the committed and dedicated members and attenders that continue to create a warm and loving Quaker community in Missoula. We seek to enhance our outreach efforts so that more community members may become aware of Friends' spiritual tradition and the ways in which Quaker testimonies are reflected in the programs we offer and our activities in the Missoula community and beyond.

Thee Lift me & I'll lift thee & we'll ascend together

Schedule for Summer MGOF August 19-21 2016

Friday

3:00-4:20 Ministry and Counsel Meeting

4:00 REGISTRATION BEGINS (Lodge)

4:30-5:50 Steering Committee Meeting

6:00-7:00 Dinner – Dining Room

7:15-7:45 Gathering in Lodge for Intergenerational Welcoming Activity

****8:00-9:00 Introduction to Weekend Program and Spiritual Check-In (Lodge)**

Saturday

6:30 Early Morning Worship in Lodge

7:30-8:15 Breakfast – Dining Room

****8:30-10:00 Plenary in the Lodge**

****10:15 – 11:45 Worship Sharing**

12:00-1:00 Lunch – Dining Room

1:15-2:15 Interest Groups (or free time)

2:15-3:15 Interest Groups (or free time)

****4:15-5:45 Meeting for Worship for Business – Lodge**

6:00-7:00 Dinner – Dining Room

7:30-9:00 Community Night – Lodge

Singing-Lodge (starts at 9:00 pm)

Sunday

6:30 Early Morning Worship in Lodge

7:30-8:15 Breakfast – Dining Room

****8:45-10:15 Worship Sharing**

10:30-11:00 Singing

****11:00-12:00 Meeting for Worship**

12:00-12:45 Lunch

Clean Rooms and Say Goodbye

DRIVE SAFELY!

**** Indicates when we will be having the Children's Program**



Thee Lift me & I'll lift thee & we'll ascend together



Spiritual Friendship at
the Quaker Women's
Retreat in May

**For Friday night,
at Summer
MGOF, bring
something from
nature that is
meaningful to
you - adults,
children, all!**



Summer MGOF

What You'll Need and How to Get There

- From where ever you are get on I 90 heading toward Livingston Montana.
- There are two Livingston exits, take the eastern one.
- At the bottom of the exit ramp, at the light, turn left (south) on US 89.
- Drive South toward Gardener and Yellowstone Park for 4.7 Miles.
- Turn left on East River Road. (If you miss East River Rd you can go down to Pine Creek Rd)
- Drive 7.7 miles you will pass the Pine Creek in and the little white Methodist church.
- Turn left at the entrance road that will lead you to Pine Creek Campground and the Luccock Church camp.
- Wind up the hill, about 2 miles, and then into the forest until the road forks between the church camp entrance and the campground.
- Go to the left, down into the Church camp

Here is the google map link: <https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/Livingston,+Mt,+USA/Luccock+Park+Assembly+Grounds,+Livingston,+Mt+59047,+United+States/@45.5988282,110.5531017,11z/am=t/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x534513be27a04723:0x459632265a848c4c!2m2!1d110.5599556!2d45.6614105!1m5!1m1!1s0x534f88b146018f31:0x66696e9d66b591a7!2m2!1d-110.528526!2d45.499637!3e0>

Summer MGOF attenders will need on Friday, Saturday and Sunday:

- * Bedding of your choice
- * Towels and Personal Wash Gear (soap, toothbrush,shave,etc)
- * Clothes for both warm and chilly (it can go either way)
- * Flashlight
- * If you are going to visit Chico, hike, or do a river float, bring the needed gear."



Jasmine will lead a **hike to Pine Creek Lake** on Friday. This hike begins at the Pine Creek campground, and rises some 4,000 feet over four miles. It is a steep trek, but bountiful in ecozones, wildflowers, views and rarified air! Plan to leave at about 8 a.m. on Friday, and bring your camera. Connect with Jasmine at buffalogirlfarms@gmail.com or



Cathy Weber will lead an Interest Group on **Biological artifacts and the creative process.**

"I am a professional studio artist. Most of my work has images of natural, biological objects. I will share images of my work and talk about the importance and the impact of the natural world on my creative practice."

Peter Husby will lead an Interest Group on **Native Plants in the area** with respect to identification and to the relationship between humans and plants (and "nature" in general). How did pre-settlement folks use these plants, animals and the landscape in general? Is modern human land-use "unnatural?" What is our role in "nature?" Is the current environmental paradigm consistent with reality? Does "nature" really only exist in the absence of human activity? That's somewhat wide open but I'd like to facilitate a discussion and let it go where it may.



Weather is what she has to say

by Lynn Martin

Everywhere the earth is speaking.
In L.A. it opens and drags down whole buildings.
Here, in Vermont, the woods resound
with the crack of trees under ice. No one is safe:
cars have been sliding off the road on broken bridges,
on slick roads black with cold.

Where do we hold on?

All day a nuthatch has huddled on my deck.
She flies to the birdfeeder, extracts a seed,
descends to a railing and husks it in seconds.
Orange bellied, she grows fatter
under the gray sky threatening even more snow,
oblivious to anything but need.

I envy her concentration, the ability
to shut out all but a kernel of nourishment.

Like those trees whose branches are brought to the ground,
I long to just give in and believe spring will liberate,
some good will come with its warm breath.

Just last year I believed in the robin
the most common of birds
who flew into a high tree
turned his breast to the sun and sang my heart afire.

His song still echoes.
It's not that I've lost faith in the earth.
Weather is what she has to say.
The trouble is, are we listening?

