



# Montana Gathering of Friends

Winter Gathering at Camp Mak-aDream Feb 23-25

Theme: Exploring Our Responses to Violence

Dear Friends Far and Near,

We on the MGOF planning committee are hoping that you will consider coming to our winter gathering this year at Camp Mak-a-Dream on the weekend of February 23rd through 25th. It has proven to be a wonderful place to gather for fellowship, fun, music, reflection and retreat time to gather our blessed community. Our tradition of bringing our community together in mid-winter has been enriched by the move to this location, which offers opportunities such as moonlight frosty hot-tubbing, sledding, or XC skiing if the weather cooperates.

Do come join us for what promises to be a memorable time together.

Our theme this year is :  
Exploring Our Responses to Violence

From early in our history, Quakers have taken a clear stand for peace and our Peace Testimony is well known and widely accepted. In part, North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice states;

"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."

As Friends we are challenged not only to oppose the violence we witness in the world today but also to build avenues of hope and empowerment. Jack Rowan, currently from Spokane (and Missoula), will lead us in an exploration of alternatives to violence and the leadings of our faith.

After Jack's presentation we will explore our responses more deeply in small worship sharing groups. Interest groups will be meeting on Saturday afternoon. Please consider leading a group if you have a topic of interest.

As always, the weekend will provide many chances for both deep connection and joy-filled times. As always, there will be childcare and fun with children, music-making and worship together.

We hope you'll join us!



## *How to Get There and What to Bring*

When you arrive at the Gold Creek exit #166 on I-90,

head south across the **Clark Fork River** and continue approximately 1/2 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.

1. NO PETS!

2. Bring ALL bedding including pillows, blankets, sheets, pillowcases and towels.

3. They will have towels available JUST for the hot tub.

4. They will have tea and coffee in the lodge, but the cabins also have the equipment for making tea and coffee. We bring the supplies.

5. We will use cabins separate from the main lodge. Each has two dorm rooms housing 7 persons each (lower bunks), two bathrooms and one single room with two twins. All facilities are accessible.

6. Bring skis, sleds, snow shoes and boots.

7. There is an activity room with ping pong, foosball, TV and pool tables.

8. Bring your own breakfast foods.

9. Bring things for Community Night

10. Bring bathing suits for the hot tub.

Winter 2017-1018

## Schedule Winter MGoF February 23-25, 2018

### *Friday, Feb 23rd*

3-4:20	Ministry and Council Meeting 4:00 Registration Begins
4:30-5:50	Steering Committee Meeting
6-7	Potluck Dinner
7-8:30	Gathering in the Lodge Check-in and Fellowship for all folks, young and old.

### *SATURDAY Feb 24*

7:00	Early Morning Worship in the lodge Breakfast on your own
**8:30-10:00	Plenary Session in the lodge
**10:30-12	Worship Sharing
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:30-2:45	Interest Groups

### *Free Time with snacks available*

**3:30-5:30	Meeting for Worship for Business 6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:30-9:00	Community Night
9:00	Singing!!

### *SUNDAY Feb 25*

7:00	Early Morning Worship in the lodge Breakfast on your own
**8:30-10	Worship Sharing
10:15-11:15	Singing!!
**11:30-12	Silent Worship
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00	Clean Rooms and Say Goodbye!

# Montana Gathering of Friends Summer Gathering Steering Committee Meeting

## August 16, 2017

**In Attendance:** Kate Weiss (Clerk), Kat Northup, Sandy Boehmler, Judy Visscher, Jasmine Krotkov, Georgia Foster, Lucretia Humphrey, Claire Leonard, Geoff Poole, Will McDowell. Steering Committee Meeting began with a moment of silence, followed by spiritual check-ins. The Minutes from April 2017 were read and approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Ministry & Council:** Judy Visscher

- M&C discussed possible themes for the Fall Quarterly gathering at Boulder Hot Springs. Quaker Clerking is of particular interest.
- The theme for Winter MGOF is Faith & Practice: Nurturing & Being Nurtured by our Faith.
- Ministry & Council continues to be in need of new members.

#### **Newsletter:** Jasmine Krotkov

- The job descriptions were left out of the newsletter, but posted on a display board instead.
- Submission Deadlines for the winter newsletter: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- The newsletter will be available on our basic web page & clerks can print it off if necessary.
- Newsletter editor suggests printing summaries of the positions that Nominating Committee is looking to fill in next newsletter.

#### **Registrar's Report:** (Carol Bellin was not in attendance. Report by Clerk.)

- \* Nominating Committee is looking for a Rising Registrar.
- MGOF may be considering a new "pay as you are led" structure (modeled by New England Yearly Meeting and adopted this summer by North Pacific Yearly Meeting.)
- Continuation of the \$20 carrot for early registration was approved by Steering Committee.

#### **Treasurer's Report:** (Cathy Weber is not in attendance. Report by Clerk.)

- MGOF is comfortable fiscally with a current balance is: \$3672.78. This balance does not reflect Summer 2017 MGOF figures.

#### **NPYM Coordinating Committee:** Georgia Foster

- The Minute on Inclusivity was reviewed, accepted and approved, with the understanding that work on inclusivity must continue in all our Meeting communities.
- Revised Faith and Practice is completed. A copy of the new Revised Faith & Practice will be sent to members in January.
- Western Friend is offering a free subscription to any new subscribers: Goal is to reach Friends in isolation.
- Meetings are asked by NPYM to consider focusing on racism in the coming year.
- Peace & Social Concerns: NPYM's Peace & Social Concerns Committee requests that any Meeting doing loving action send a report.
- For NPYM updates, contact Claire Leonard or Kate Weiss.

#### **Nominating Committee:** Will McDowell

- Clerk's term formally ends: Summer 2018.



- Recording Clerk: term ends Winter 2018.
- Summer Coordinator 2018 : Tina Visscher & Claire Leonard.
- Junior Friends Coordinator is needed.
- Rising Registrar: is needed.
- Winter Coordinators 2018: Ted Etter & Nick Salmon.
- Address List & Database Manager: Geoff Poole's term is ending.
- Rising Clerk: This position will be separated from that of Recording Clerk.

*Minute: We wish to offer the opportunity to Friends who feel led into Clerkship, to take on the learning role of Rising Clerk. Rising Clerk will be a separate position from Recording Clerk. If a Friend who is already experienced in clerkship wishes to step up into the role of Clerk, they can bypass the Rising Clerk position.*

**Web: Geoff Poole**

- A basic web page for MGOF has been created. The address is montanafriends.org
- Geoff request the support of small ad hoc committee to decide content, and what will be made public on the page.
- MGOF needs a second person trained to send emails out to the entire MGOF list.

**Summer MGOF needs?\_**

- \* Luccock's long term contract should be edited to say, "We may or may not do breakfast"
- \* Consider trying a "Pay as you are led" model for MGOF. In this model the costs of the gathering are printed in the registration materials and each individual or family is encouraged to pay as they feel led. This removes the need to request a scholarship which is a barrier for some Friends. Other Quaker groups who have changed to this model have found that it has worked financially and that attendance at gatherings rose.

**Items for Business Meeting:**

1. Liability insurance
2. 'Pay as you are' led model
3. Interfaith Liaison position
4. Minute on Fear & Healing: dispersal check-in

*Steering Committee Meeting was concluded with a moment of Silence. Minutes respectfully submitted by Kat Northrup, Recording Clerk*

## Montana Gathering of Friends Summer Gathering Meeting for Business August 17, 2017

Meeting for Business began with a moment of silence, followed by a welcoming statement, and Meeting for Business Guidelines written by Tom Rawlins (Former NPYM Clerk) Minutes from Winter MGOF, February 22, 2017 were read and

approved. Minutes from Spring MGOF April 15, 2017 were read and approved. Sojourning Friend John March's letter from Durham Friends Meeting was read.

## 1. Scholarships, sliding scales, and other ways of paying for attendance at Quaker gatherings:

- \* Steering Committee proposes the "Pay as you are led" finance model for the next MGOF
  - Creates more financial equality for each attendee
  - Northwest Quarterly Meeting, New England Yearly, and other named Meetings have been using this system successfully. North Pacific Yearly Meeting will be implementing a "Pay as you are led" model in 2018
  - Scholarship funds held by Worship Groups and other Monthly Meetings will be contributed to North Pacific Yearly Meeting to help cover those who wish to attend.

*Minute: In order to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment, MGOF will continue our practice of paying as you are led for Winter MGOF 2018 and beyond. Steering Committee will continue to work with details and language in the Fall Quarterly gathering. Steering Committee will also revisit our practice of paying as you are led at the following Summer MGOF.*

## 2. Liability Insurance: (Nick Salmon)

- Christian Dietrich has referred us to another lawyer.
- Financial allocation can be raised to \$1000.00 (for what?)
- Camp Make-A-Dream has a temporary policy for \$250
- Concern: We are participating in institutional fear
- Liability insurance is important to protect our Clerk and Steering Committee from being individually liable.
- Nick Salmon will approach Laura Hoehn to clarify MGOF's legal status and to get more information for our options for liability insurance.

## 3. Check-in on the Minute on Fear & Healing:

- Great Falls will publish the Minute using a paid advertisement
- Missoula: Editor refused to publish the Minute because it would be a repeat publication
- Bozeman High School will publish the Minute on Fear & Healing
- Helena: The Minute disappeared between the newspaper editor and the religion section editor

## 4. Winter MGOF 2018

- Faith & Practice: Nurturing & Being Nurtured by our Faith (*is this the theme?*)
- Fall MGOF will address the theme that is in progress ○

## 5..Registrar: (Carol Bellin)

- 49 Adults registered, 44 adults attended
- 7 young Friends registered, 6 young Friends attended
- Rough estimates: 25 attendees received the early registration discount, resulting in \$500 less in program fees
- Cost of Friend in Residence and Coordinator for Young Friends under 18: \$1,690
- \$470 were gifted in scholarships and waivers
- \$520 were received in donation

**6. Website/Email:** (Geoff Poole)

- \* Friends should contact Geoff if they know they are not receiving emails MGOF's basic web page: *montanafriends.org*
- \* The Clerk will act as a "back up e-mailer"
- \* Registrar will update the email list based on registration form information

**7. NPYM:** (Georgia Foster)

- \* If Friends want updates from NPYM, contact Georgia Foster or Kate Weiss NPYM strongly encourages
- \* Worship Groups/Monthly Meetings to consider focus on racism in the coming year
- \* Friend in Residence for NPYM 2018: Vanessa Jobai, a staffer of Friends General Conference, and author of "Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship"
- \* Peace and Social Concerns Committee calls for reports on loving action, so that it can be supportive of those actions
- \* Steering Committee's financial report line for scholarships allocated for NPYM attendance will be sent to NPYM's scholarship fund
- \* Request that one person from each Worship Group be a contact person for NPYM, for updates, etc

**8. Discussion on the drafting of a Minute** regarding the times we are living in by a small committee

- Do we wish to create a Minute about where we are as a community at this time?
- Do Minutes affect the world outside our circle?
- Sending Minutes to Quaker organizations can be useful to open internal discussions, gain support, and spread our Leadings
- We are called to look at how we witness our own and other's faith.
- How do we support those who are called to action? Could we be considering action?
- Friends are reminded that Clearness Committees and Anchor Committees are available as supports
- We are not clear about where we are at this time, and will continue to season where we are

**Committee Reports**

1. Financial Report: details to come
2. Nominating Committee: (Will McDowell is not present)
  - Seeking Rising Registrar
  - Seeking Rising Clerk
  - Job descriptions are posted on a display board

**Announcements**

1. Friend Pat Carrick was elected to the National Board of Directors of Doctors without Borders

*Meeting for Business was concluded with a moment of Silence*

*Respectfully submitted;*

*Kat Northrup, Recording Clerk*

# Meeting For Worship for Business MGOF Steering Committee

Saturday November 4, 2017

**Present:** Kate Weiss, Clerk, Kat Northrup, Recording Clerk, Nora Martin, Norjahan Parawana, Nick Salmon, Julia Childs, Judy Visscher, Geoff Poole, Clair Leonard, Carol Bellum, Sandy Boehmler,

## **Agenda:**

### **Discussion agenda items:**

Winter MGOF needs?  
“Pay as You Are Led” Develop language for the registration form.  
Liability Insurance for MGOF gatherings and MGOF nonprofit status.  
Spring MGOF date and location  
Interfaith Liaison position

### **Brief Reports:**

Ministry and Council  
Registrar's report  
Treasurer's Report  
Nominating Committee  
MGOF email process/ web page

1. The meeting opened with silent worship and brief spiritual check-ins.
2. The minutes from Summer MGOF were read and accepted.
3. Winter MGOF
  - The theme from the canceled Fall MGOF: *Our Response to Violence*, with Friend in Residence Jack Rowan, will be moved to Winter. The planned winter Theme will be considered for a future gathering.
  - We will request that Camp Make A Dream serve Vegan/Vegetarian meals. Friends are requested to supply any extra's or variations that they may want on their own.
4. “Pay as you are led”
  - Carol Bellin, Nick Salmon, and Ted Etter will update the registration form to reflect a clear language on *Pay As You Feel Led*.
5. Liability Insurance
  - Nick Salmon reported on his work (with Laura Hoehn) on this issue.
  - MGOF has an EIN #81-0447306, but we are not incorporated
  - We are considered an unincorporated Quarterly (and Monthly) meeting under the care of NPYM. We can be insured for events under the NPYM Policy. We should refer to MGOF as a Quarterly and Monthly Meeting under the care of NPYM in all contracts with third parties.
  - If we chose to become incorporated, we could develop bylaws similar to those of NPYM.
  - If we become incorporated, we would then be responsible for our own insurance (when required by Camp Make a Dream or other settings). We would be responsible for following our bylaws and policies, particularly around adults working with children.
  - If in the future we need to be insured, we should speak with Christopher of GIIG ([406.541.4449](tel:406.541.4449)) who insures Missoula Monthly Meeting through Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company.
  - Nick outlined the following options

### **Option B (Business As Usual)**

Remain unincorporated  
Continue with our practices described in the handbook  
Adopt and follow the protocols for youth activities identified by NPYM



### **Option L (Liability Insurance)**

- Remain unincorporated
- Continue with our practices described in the handbook
- Adopt and follow the protocols for youth activities identified by NPYM
- Cover liability insurance requirement by Camp Make a Dream under NPYM rider

### **Option Q (Questionable)**

- Incorporate the Montana Gathering of Friends Quarterly & Monthly Meeting
- Adopt Bylaws (similar to NPYM)
- Adopt protocols for youth activities (similar to NPYM)
- Cover liability insurance requirement by Camp Make a Dream under NPYM rider

### **Option N (NPYM Alignment)**

- Incorporate the Montana Gathering of Friends Quarterly & Monthly Meeting
- Adopt Bylaws (similar to NPYM)
- Adopt protocols for youth activities (similar to NPYM)
- Be responsible for our own liability insurance for events

**Minute:** *We will stay unincorporated, adopt & follow additional protocols, as well as our own handbook, continuing to use NPYM's insurance. At this time, there is no great value in becoming incorporated. We will review NPYM's bylaws before agreeing to follow them.*

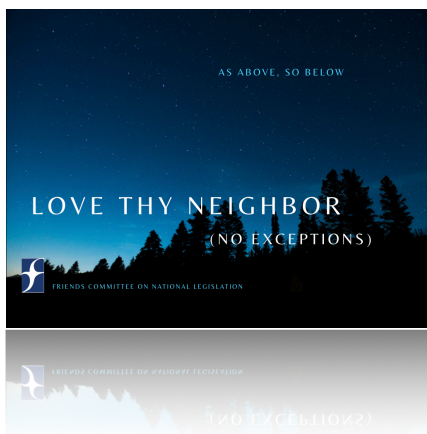
6. Spring Quarterly Gathering
  - In April 2018 Missoula Friends will be celebrating 25 years of owning their Meeting House. We will hold the Spring MGOF Quarterly in Missoula, and join Missoula Monthly for this celebration. Missoula Monthly will coordinate the Spring Quarterly gathering. Dates: April 20-22nd
7. Nora Martin will coordinate Fall 2018 and Spring 2019.
8. Nominating Committee
  - The committee will engage the support from past position holders to advise on seeking people to fill the following positions: Clerk, Registrar, Recording Clerk
9. Webpage
  - Our webpage [www.montanafriends.org](http://www.montanafriends.org) is up! Thank you Geoff Poole.
  - Electronic options for registration may become available in upcoming gatherings. This discussion will be brought to business meeting in Winter.
  - Issues to be seasoned: Ways to protect contact information and Password options.
10. Ministry and Counsel
  - Fall theme, *Our Response to Violence*, will be moved to Winter 2018.
  - Winter's theme, *Faith and Practice: Nurturing and Being Nurtured by our Faith Community*, will move to Summer 2018.
  - A committee of Elders will be approached to assist with nominating committee work.
11. Treasurer's Report
  - We are in good shape with a balance of \$4,393.30
12. Registrar's Report
  - Registrar needs assistance in welcoming Friends, to help orient them to housing etc at gatherings

*The meeting ended with silence.*

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Kat Northrup (with help from Nora Martin)*

## A New Year's Resolution: Set 2018 Legislative Priorities



The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is again asking Friends across the country to help choose legislative priorities for the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020). Which policy issues does your meeting or worship group think are most important? This is your chance to be part of the discernment process!

Each of MGOF's meetings and worship groups should soon receive details about how to participate in the priorities process, and responses are needed at FCNL by April 13, 2018. The MGOF winter gathering (February 23-25) is a good time to learn more about getting your voice heard, and each clerk will receive a phone call to follow up. In the meantime, please feel free to call Candida Quinn with any questions (406-461-5473).

## Invitation to NPYM End of July, 2018 in Tacoma, WA

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to the annual session of our yearly meeting, to be held the last weekend of July, 2018. As we work to listen to spirit to support one another in these times, we need all of us.

Last year we passed a minute on inclusiveness of all genders including transgender. This year we will explore how we are led by spirit to uproot racism. Through all of this, we are experimenting with "abundant financing" so that we can support all who want to attend North Pacific Yearly Meeting to be able to do so. Those of us with enough can contribute more for others. It is exciting to listen to spirit!

I look forward to seeing many of you journeying to Tacoma this summer.

Lucretia,

Presiding Clerk of NPYM

November 12, 2017

Dear Friends,



This letter is being sent to you, a clerk or treasurer of a NPYM Monthly Meeting or Worship Group. Your Planning Committee for ANNUAL SESSION (AS) 2018 and the Abundant Finance Committee are already in the beginning stages of bringing you another wonderful AS. As many of you know, the Yearly Meeting has initiated a plan of faith for financing the AS with what we are calling ABUNDANT FINANCING. This plan will make it possible for all those in our YM who want to attend AS to attend. Here is how it will work. The AS registration form will state the actual cost per person to attend AS, this cost having been calculated by the budget committee for AS. In registering for AS, each person will faithfully discern the most generous personal payment their household finances permit. In addition to the actual cost, some of us will be led to add an additional donation (tax-deductible) to offset those that cannot pay the entire cost per person. This is where we are stepping out in faith. How can our YM share with one another so that AS is something everyone in our YM may participate in? In these times, we need everyone.

Also, very important are the contributions that Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups make. Since your local meeting will no longer need to directly assist its own members in attending AS, we hope that your meeting will support the Abundant Financing plan by allocating money commensurate with what was given for AS financial assistance in previous years or even more. Please send your meeting contribution to the NPYM treasurer, making sure that you indicate that it is for Abundant Financing for AS. Thank you for considering this budgetary item. We cannot tell you how exciting it is to be working from a place of abundance and faith.

If you have questions please be in touch with any of the following people on the ad hoc Abundant Finance Cm.--Margaret Coahran, David Ek, Laura Arcidianconco, or Lucretia Humphrey

Early in the new year, please expect a phone call asking how this process is working for you.

In faith,

Lucretia Humphrey  
Presiding Clerk, North Pacific Yearly Meeting