



Photo credit: Caylin Poole

MGOF Winter Feb 21-23 2020

Listening to Where the Words Come From

Some Friends feel that their beliefs have been questioned by others in the Monthly Meeting. Some find certain words painful or off-putting. Many of us don't even share our personal beliefs for fear that others may criticize them, try to change our minds or even ridicule them. Our individual spiritual experiences may be difficult to put into words.

The North Pacific Faith and Practice reminds us that “The many words and phrases Friends use for the Divine life and power at the heart of the universe reflect the diversity of beliefs and variety of experiences among us. What one Friend may understand as the Inward Christ, another Friend may understand as the Ground of Being. Over the centuries, Friends have used many such words and phrases: God, the Eternal, the Truth, the Holy Spirit, the Divine Principle, the Light Within, the Inward (or Inner) Light, the Seed, the Light of Christ, Christ Within, the Living God, Lord, the Word, and others. All such terms are weak attempts to express the inexpressible—that which is beyond words (Faith and Practice 2018).”

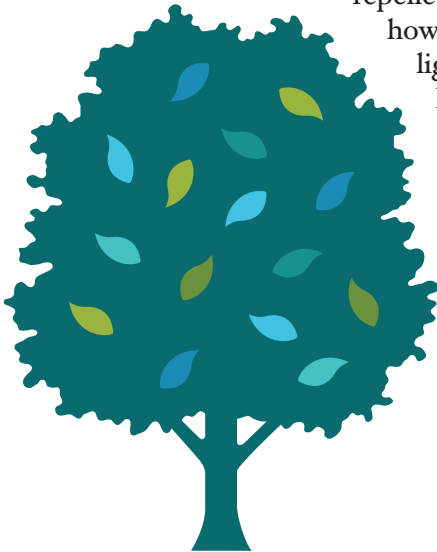
We may think of this as a modern problem, but as John Woolman said in 1762, “There is a principle that is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath different names; it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from anywhere. The heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation so ever, they become brethren.”

Inexplicably, perhaps the greatest difference between F/friends is the role of Christ in how they understand and express their relationship to the Divine. For some it is a matter of language while for others it is the basis of their faith and their self-understanding. For them it may be impossible to imagine goodness without the guiding hand of the living Christ. As Ministry and Counsel struggled with the concerns of some in MGOF, “...we again ran into the

Christian/non-Christian divide in our Montana Quaker community. We want all voices to be welcome at the table: Jews, Muslims, Native Americans, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. In aspiring to be all inclusive we are blind to the most painful divide of all where we have the most work to do. Someone commented that while we welcome say, a Muslim rising in a meeting for worship with an offering from the Koran, we would often squirm if a Christian were to read from the Bible. Some of us stay away if the language is too Christocentric. Others of us feel restricted and censored about using that same language which is the language of our deepest spiritual experiences and the life of our hearts. In both cases we want to be authentic, to be heard, to be sensitive. We want to be able to speak from our own hearts in our own language and hope that those listening will be able to listen to our hearts even if they stumble over the language. "Compassionate, active listening is truly a challenge when our own triggers and wounds are touched (Julia Childs, 2019)"

At winter MGOF 2020, we hope to speak and to listen to one another, sharing our experiences and how we have interpreted them. Friends may want to try to put their belief into words that others can understand or be open to sharing out of the silence without preparing in advance. For some this will be easy. For some, intimidating, and for others a struggle that requires deep searching. Our "experience" may be a classical mystical one, teachings from our youth, a formulation based on extensive study, mentoring from a friend or teacher, reaction to a special event, many of these together, or other such occurrences.

"Rejection of a creed is not inconsistent with being possessed by a living belief... if our so-called facts are changing shadows, they are shadows cast by the light of constant truth. So too in religion we are repelled by that confident theological doctrine which has settled for all generations just how the spiritual world is worked; but we need not turn aside from the measure of light that comes into our experience showing us a Way through the unseen world. Religion for the conscientious seeker is not all a matter of doubt and self-questioning. There is a kind of sureness which is very different from cocksureness (Arthur S. Eddington, 1929)."



We hope you will be attending MGOF and will joyfully share and listen that we may together develop a stronger community through understanding.

In Peace,
Committee on Ministry and Counsel



Practicing Inclusion - Community Standards

MGOF endeavors to host an event that is inclusive and welcoming regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs, disability, and/or life experience. In keeping with Friends' historic concerns for equality and justice, we strive to ensure that each attendee is heard, valued and respected.

Memorial Minute for Elsie P. Tuss

July 10, 1932–October 2, 2019

Elsie Tuss, 87, died on October 2, 2019 at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, Montana. Her sister, Annette, was beside her as she died in the very early hours. She had been fighting cancer for the past 6 months. Even to the last day she was making sure that others carried on her many commitments to organizations she had supported.



She was born in Lewistown, Montana to Anna and Anton Tuss on July 10, 1932. She was in the older half of a large Catholic family. Living out in the country was made for Elsie, who thrived in the outdoors. She attended elementary school, and graduated from St. Leo's Catholic High School in Lewistown in May, 1949 and entered Sisters of Humility of Mary Convent in September of that year. For 32 years she was a teacher and administrator in elementary schools. Her love of children is reflected in the way she would always reach out and plan for any child that might come to our Quaker Worship Group.

In June of 1984, Elsie began 13 years as the rehab unit secretary at Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls. About this time she felt led by an inner conviction to be released from her vows as a sister of Humility of Mary. She was dispensed from her religious vows in October 1987 after 38 years as a sister.

In April 1994, she met Russ Salisbury, a farmer from Floweree, Montana. They met dancing and continued to dance at least weekly until the last year of their lives. In July 1997, Elsie retired as rehab secretary and moved to the Salisbury organic farm. She loved all that the farm could offer her from gardening to picking wild asparagus, to watching the animals, and welcoming the visitors that would come to the farm. She and Russ, who married on August 12, 2014, shared much in common. They both loved the care of the earth, the simple way to live life, and a generosity of spirit to all from hunters to those that made their straw bale house. Together they supported many of the same organizations like Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), Missouri River Citizens, MT Wilderness Association, Organic Farm Certification Chapter OCIA, and Farmers' Union. They traveled to India to visit an ashram that Russ' parents had supported.

As a couple they sought out a spiritual fellowship they could both support. After participating with several other churches in the area, Russ suggested the Quaker Worship Group in Great Falls. He remembered his mother supporting the American Friends Service Committee in his youth. They were both very loyal to this small Quaker worship group and attended regularly, frequently in rain or snow traveling over an hour from their home. Elsie took on many of the tasks of the Great Falls Quaker group. After worship, they were off to dance at the local Elk's Club.

Russ died at home from cancer, and as he was dying, Elsie decided that she wanted to be a member of the Religious Society of Friends. In her letter requesting membership she wrote, "I am particularly struck by the basic Friends' principle of 'living a spiritual life by following one's inner leadings and adhering to practices to which one is committed'." She was accepted warmly into membership of the Society of Religious Friends in the Monthly Meeting of Montana Gathering of Friends (MGOF). Elsie attended several MGOF meetings and North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions. She said that she was impressed by the consistency of the Quaker focus and practice at Annual Session.

Elsie was always one ready for a new adventure, ready to follow her spirit, to speak her truth without apologies and to do whatever was needed. She was instantly there. She made others comfortable and was warm and welcoming. She gave generously of her material resources to those who had need or cause. Sometime in the last year, Elsie had a dream that she shared with a number of us in the Great Falls worship group. There was a brilliant yellow light. The Quakers were in the circle of this brilliant light. In the center of each person in the circle was a multicolored pillar. This pillar and lights were each one's personal inner gifts. All were bonded together by the brilliant yellow light as each one stood centered in their multicolored pillar of inner gifts. Elsie will be deeply missed by her large family, many, many friends, and our small Quaker worship group of which she was a large part.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH A CONCERN FOR BUSINESS

AUGUST 17, 2019 LUCCOCK PARK, MONTANA

Clerk Noorjahan Parwana began the meeting with a reading on Peacemaking written by Rufus Jones (Faith and Practice page 94).

The agenda was reviewed.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Elsie Tuss has requested membership in the MGOF Monthly Meeting and she met with a clearness committee in Great Falls this past spring. Ministry and Counsel recommends that her request be granted. The Recording Clerk will send Elsie a letter documenting her membership and the membership forms.

MINUTE: Elsie Tuss's is joyfully accepted as a member of the MGOF Monthly Meeting.

REMEMBERING: Friends held the following individuals in the Light during a period of silence: Russ Salisbury, Robert Taylor, Barbara Spring, and Elsie Tuss.

MINUTES: Minutes from the February 23, 2019 meeting for business were read and corrected to indicate Mim Lily's full name is Mim Lily Coleman.

YOUTH POLICY: The Steering Committee discussed at what time interval should Youth Coordinators and volunteers



Photo credit: Caylin Poole

working with youth complete background checks. NPYM pays for these checks at \$10 each. A Friend advocates that checks be done before each gathering to insure nothing has changed since an individual's last check. A careful reading of the policy seems to indicate that while 2 adults must be present when working with youth, it is acceptable if only one of the adults has a current background check.

MINUTE: All adults who volunteer to work with our youth should have a background check prior to each gathering that they plan to act as a volunteer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee recommends MGOF change our accounting tool from an Excel spreadsheet to Quick Books. The Steering Committee concurs.

MINUTE: MGOF will change our accounting method to Quick Books as soon as a new Treasurer is on board.

MINUTE: Friends want to recognize the many years that Cathy Weber has served as our faithful Treasurer. It is with great gratitude we recognize all of her work.

REGISTRAR: Nick Salmon reports 45 people registered and attended this gathering, including 5 youth. 9 individuals paid with Pay Pal. Under the abundant giving model, our income was greater than our costs. Nick and Geoff Pool plan to simplify the registration process. A Friend noted that when designing the registration form, other members on the planning team should be consulted to ensure that information important for them to complete their job is included. Friends who gave donations will receive letters documenting their donations. The Registrar reported that it makes no difference from his perspective if fees are paid via Pay Pal or check; it is important to address checks to MGOF, not the Registrar. With abundant giving in mind, Friends can support the MGOF community by donating funds for the gatherings even if they do not plan to attend.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Report attached. The committee currently has one member and two members is considered a minimum. There are many positions waiting to be filled.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: The committee met yesterday. The request by Elsie Tuss to become a member was discussed and accepted. The proceedings of the spring gathering were reviewed, including the State of the Meeting report.

M&C asks that we ask ourselves how we feel supported by MGOF and what are our gifts. We should look into our hearts to see how we might be helpful to the community. Sometimes just being here is all we can do and that is enough.

There continues to be a question as to whether or not Friends who identify as Christian are made to feel welcome within MGOF. A written reminder to be open and tolerant of language different from your own was included in worship sharing instructions this summer. Because of our desire to make everyone in our community feel loved and welcome and having the time available, those present decided to form a query and speak to it out of the silence.

QUERY: How can we as a loving community begin a conversation celebrating the diversity and inclusivity of our religious beliefs?

NEWSLETTER: With the approval of Steering Committee, we will try an experiment with the newsletter in an effort to increase our readership. For the next couple gatherings, the newsletter will be printed and mailed. An on-line copy will also be available and, if desired, Friends can opt out of receiving a printed copy. Usually the deadline for submissions to the winter newsletter is January 1, but with this new plan, the deadline may be moved up.

CALENDAR: Oct. 19-20 Fall Gathering in Bozeman
Feb. 21-23 Winter Gathering at Camp-Mak-A-Dream
April ?? Spring Gathering, hopefully at Boulder Hot Springs
August 14-16 Summer Gathering at Luccock Park

A Friend noted she missed hearing reports from AFSC and FCNL. The meeting ended with a period of silence.



Respect physical and emotional boundaries

Ask for and receive explicit consent before touching another person. Everyone has the right and ability to say when they feel hurt or disrespected in an interaction and to speak with a designated listener if they need support to work out next steps.

Take care of yourself

If necessary, step away from the meeting to meet your physical and emotional needs so that you can fully re-engage



STEERING COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 19, 2019

BOZEMAN, MONTANA

PRESENT: Noorjahan Parwana, Clerk; Tina Visscher, Geoff Poole, Jasmine Krotkov, Jim Humphrey, Larry Leonard, Claire Leonard, Lucretia Humphrey, Julia Childs, Jo Ann Kidder

The meeting began with a period of silence, followed by a review of the agenda.
The minutes of the August 16, 2019 were read and corrected by replacing someone's name with "a Friend".

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: The committee met this morning and with consultation of Faith and Practice, reviewed several procedures, including accepting and terminating memberships, and M&C's role of recommending (or not) a Friend's request for membership to Meeting for Business where the request is accepted or rejected. During clearness committees for membership, it is important that the applicant understand their obligation to pay an annual assessment to NPYM and to be an active participant in the life of the meeting. The committee plans to write templates of a letter to welcome new members and a letter to potentially terminate a membership.



Elsie Tuss, a long standing Friend from the Great Falls Worship Group, died 10/2/2019. Her memorial minute was read aloud to those present.

The theme for winter MGOF will be a query: "How can we, as a loving community, begin a conversation celebrating the diversity and inclusivity of our religious beliefs?"

M&C recognizes that several members have served on the committee for many years and it is desirable to have new people serve. The MGOF handbook suggests M&C be composed of representatives from monthly meetings and worship groups. A request will be sent out to meetings and worship groups requesting they identify reps to serve on M&C.

M&C plans to review the membership list of MGOF Monthly Meeting for accuracy.

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATION: Geoff Poole reports some people are not receiving legitimate emails because they go into spam. Individuals can solve this problem by creating a white list; advice on creating a white list will be shared on the website and in the newsletter to do this. The idea outsourcing emails to professionals was considered but this raises privacy issues.

Geoff, alone, currently sends out emails and it is goal to share this task. The Clerk will learn how to do this.

Friends are advised to review their contact information on the MGOF website and update it as needed. Friends requested that current hard copies of the MGOF directory be made available. Geoff will print some to distribute at the winter MGOF gathering. NPYM also maintains a directory for our yearly meeting. It is the responsibility of each meeting to see that their portion of the directory is kept current. Jim and Lucretia will educate us on how to do this and meeting need to be reminded of this task.

NEWSLETTER: Paper and electronic editions of the coming year's newsletter will be distributed in an effort to increase readership. All Friends will receive newsletters in both forms as it is too much work for someone to honor individual preferences. Several people will make mailing of the paper copy newsletter fun by meeting at Boulder Hot Springs to share the work. The standard deadlines for submission of information for the newsletter was changed to December 15 and July 15.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Steering Committee is supposed to select members of the Nomination Committee. Two problems standing in the way of this is the lack of a master phone list and lack of job descriptions. At this time there is one member on the committee; it is desirable to have two or three members. Names of possible candidates were offered. Lucretia, whose name was offered, accepted a position on the committee on the spot. We would like to see young people and Friends from different areas in the quarterly represented on the committee. Judy Visscher will contact two of the people who were suggested to see if they are willing to serve.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: A budget for the 2020 year was presented and described as being very close to the 2019 budget. It was suggested that MGOF monthly meeting give \$600 to NPYM to support abundant giving. Friends did not unite behind this proposal. Also, Friends did not unite in accepting the budget as proposed. It was felt that proper procedure was not followed in drafting this document; not all members the Finance Committee had been involved and sufficient time to season the budget had not been given.

ACTION: The Finance Committee will propose a procedure and draft a letter to go to members and attenders suggesting donations be made to NPYM for abundant giving and a draft letter to members asking for assessment payments.

The Clerk raised a concern that there is not clarity among members of the Finance Committee about the preferred method of bookkeeping of MGOF finances and the continued service of the Treasurer. A Friend shared that there are legal requirements for financial records of churches, including balance sheets, quarterly reports, and documentation of donations. In order to ensure everyone's viewpoint is heard, the Finance Committee and 2 or 3 additional Friends will meet face-to-face before the winter gathering.

CHILD SAFETY POLICY: Nick Salmon sent out a revised child safety policy. As Friends have not had time to consider this and the meeting is running late, we will follow the current version of the policy at the winter gathering and discuss the proposed changes at that time.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT ON SUMMER MGOF: This report will be given at the winter meeting of the Steering Committee.

TIMELINE OF MGOF MEMBERSHIP: Jo Ann Kidder reviewed historical records from Heartland Meeting and MGOF Monthly Meeting and began chronological documentation of member's admissions and continued or terminated membership. The information is not yet complete.

MGOF HANDBOOK: The committee to revise the handbook met in September to continue their work. When information is present in NPYM's Faith and Practice, it is referenced in the MGOF handbook rather than repeated. Some sections remain to be written. The committee tried to get input from MGOF people who are currently serving in positions or on committees to ensure current practices are recorded, but the response rate was low. This has left the committee with numerous unanswered questions. It was suggested that sections of the hand book be made available to Friends for review, much like the many year process followed by NPYM. Friends voiced a preference to produce an updated handbook in less time. **ACTION:** The committee will develop a list of questions, the answers which should make it possible to complete the handbook in a timely manner.

It was noted that the current handbook was updated in 2011, the same time Heartland meeting became MGOF Monthly Meeting. Thus that edition of the handbook was somewhat based on plans rather than experience. The entity of MGOF Quarterly and MGOF Monthly Meeting is unique and has been in existence for 8 years. A suggestion was made that it might be of use to discuss how this arrangement is working for us.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence.
Minutes submitted by Jo Ann Kidder, Recording Clerk

Allow for autonomy

Avoid making assumptions about a person's background, beliefs or identity based on their appearance, manner of speaking, political affiliation or other characteristics. Do not speak for others' experiences.



Lucretia Humphrey

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to thee.”

This year's Annual Session's planning committee began without a General Arrangements Clerk, or a place for us to meet. Thanks to his gift of time and skill, John Etter, again stepped forward to be General Arrangements Clerk. He brought our planning committee together, worked well with Linfield College, and kept us all on task as we met monthly planning the Annual Session. As co-clerks of the planning committee it worked well for the two of us to take turns at setting the Agenda for these meetings, as well as sharing the clerking. The committee moved smoothly throughout the year with different members finding people to fill vacant jobs and responsibilities.

My heart is full of gratitude at having had the opportunity to serve as presiding clerk. It was an exciting Annual Session if not a bit crowded with much to do. It was a treat to have Vanessa Julye, our previous Friend in Residence, returning as a representative of Friends General Conference and as a support for our Friends of Color. It was important to hear from her and others about how we as NPYM Quakers can move forward to be a more welcoming and empowering community of all.

Our Friend in Residence, Jay O'Hara, brought passion and excitement to our Annual Session as he asked us to meet these times of climate crisis with renewed connection to Spirit. Connection with our Guide reenergizes us to have courage to do what we are being led to do. I understand that his message and engagement met a great deal to many, but there were others that found his presentation hard to discern.

It was a positive experience to have the co-clerks of worship sharing on most of our planning committee meetings. They were in touch with our FIR, and helped articulate the theme. The theme for some was obscure. Perhaps better communication would have helped in this area.

This clerk finds that the business meeting is an important part of our gathering. The challenge is for the clerk to open the way making the business relevant and Spirit-Led. There is always room for more education for those attending on the worship of business. The business meetings opened with worship. Past presiding clerks were asked to share why they found business meeting so important. Their contributions enriched the process and education of us all. The traditional auditorium with a high stage area was not conducive to a sense of community and equality. A facing bench was used, but without the facing table centered, some felt preference was given to one side. Some thought that the first business session on Thursday morning was too long. The clerk was aware of this, but could not find a better alternative. This clerk felt that important business was approved during the course of the four days of plenaries. This included a fund within in our budget to support anti-racist work. We also approved a minute to work to eliminate racism amongst ourselves in NPYM.

It has been exciting to see Abundant Financing working well. Again, there is enough for all of us.

In closing, I so appreciated all the work of planning committee. How very good it is to have all people on board doing their best. I love the loving sharing and prayer amongst all of us. I recommend that all who are part of AS, volunteer for a job. It is a wonderful part of being community.

As a presiding clerk, I would not have been able to do my part without a support committee. This committee met faithfully with me nearly every month for over three years. I also appreciated the work done by those that held me and the business sessions in the Light. It is not an easy task.



Be aware of who is contributing and whose voices are listened to

If you often speak up, challenge yourself to listen more deeply. If you often remain silent, challenge yourself to offer your unique perspective. Be open to insights from every speaker.

The testimony of simplicity calls us to reap the spiritual rewards of giving and receiving freely. The testimony of equality calls us to listen to the truth that each one of us has to offer. Let us pay attention to the opportunity we have now to contribute our gifts to this gathering, and let our lives speak.

It costs \$150 per person to use this venue for MGOFF. Please contribute to that cost as you are led, remembering our desire to welcome everyone who wishes to come. Register Here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kaGaYz98HFF6HVasmbubSYhDBR_VYrGVFd27at0VFZs/viewform?edit_requested=true

Spring Quarterly Meeting 2020

will be April 11 and 12 at Boulder Hot Springs. Saturday plan on Potluck lunch and Dinner.. **Friends are responsible for making their own room reservations more than two weeks prior to the meeting dates.** Boulder is reserving a group of rooms for us so be sure to tell them that you are with the Quakers. (Two weeks before Boulder will release reserved rooms to the general public.)

Boulder is located in the beautiful Peace Valley.

There is hiking and fishing besides soaking and swimming.

Camping on the premise is also available. Hope to see you there.



MGOFF Communications

To receive MGOFF email communications, update your MGOFF email preferences, or unsubscribe from MGOFF email, please go to: <http://montanafriends.org>

and click on the "email list" tab at the top of the page.

If you have signed up, but still don't receive the email, or if you just want to be sure the email always gets through to your inbox, please go to the same link and read the instructions on how to "whitelist" MGOFF email communications.

This year we are experimenting with sending physical copies of the newsletter to them. See how you like it, and people who do not want to receive the newsletter physically can update their preference at

<http://montanafriends.org>



Acknowledge the difference between intent and impact

No matter your intentions, take responsibility for the impact of your words and actions. If someone tells you that your behavior has injured them, apologize without protest. Recognize the opportunities for learning and growth in your mistakes.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute

The Annual Session and Quaker Public Policy Institute of the Friends Committee on National Legislation took place from Nov 14-17 in Washington, DC.

The highlight for me was the grounding of worship sharing with Friends from around the country. Our sometimes complementary and other times disparate concerns and perspectives met and mingled and threshed into unity. The General Committee labored lovingly with updates to our policy guiding document: The World We Seek. That this rich, nuanced and explicit testimony finds unity with all 180 Friends is prophetic. Every time I read it, I learn more ways to make our lives speak through public policy.



Diana Ohlbaum [brought down the house](#), reminding us that, "together we have the power to change the world, to heal the world, and to achieve the culture of peace that is our highest calling." And Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) joined members of FCNL's Advocacy Teams to [announce her new War Powers Reform Resolution](#).

I met with staff from all three of our Montana delegation to Congress, asking them to support repealing the 2002 Authorization to use Military Force in Iraq. Leaving this outdated and unneeded authorization in place creates a potential for abuse. It was interesting to hear from staff at Senator Daines' and Gianforte's offices that they viewed the call to repeal both the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs as political stunts aimed at making the president look bad. I was pleased to explain that Quakers have been against these blank checks for war when they were in Obama's hands as well, and that the right-leaning Heritage Foundation also called for repeal.

If we are going to ask our service members to go into conflict, Congress has to have the courage to define the mission, to show that the mission is achievable by military means. Service members as well as public servants take an oath to uphold the constitution, not any one president, and the constitution requires that Congress deliberate before asking soldiers to risk their lives for us. The FCNL tradition of being flexible on politics, but never on principle provides a surety to the work of advocacy during confusing, tumultuous times.

One of the most hopeful aspects of FCNL's work is the way it includes young adults. There are four programs specifically for introducing young people to advocacy, and nurturing their growth into public policy work. This year at Winter MGOF we will be highlighting the Spring Lobby Weekend, and encouraging Montana Friends to sponsor attendees. The March 28-31, 2020 [event](#) will focus on climate change advocacy.

March 28-31, 2020
Washington, DC

SCHEDULE

Saturday March 28
Briefing on the climate crisis

Sunday March 29
Understand U.S. policy & opportunities for progress

Monday March 30
How the Hill works – with congressional staff

Tuesday March 31
Lobby Congress

LOBBY FOR CHANGE IN WASHINGTON, DC
Spring Lobby Weekend 2020

At Spring Lobby Weekend 2020, hundreds of students, recent grads, and young adults will come to Washington, DC to learn how to be effective changemakers. Our main focus for Spring Lobby Weekend will be climate change.

Participants will:

- Hear from policy experts, high-profile speakers, and other grassroots advocates on solutions to address our climate crisis.
- Lobby 3 members of Congress and/or their staff.
- Workshop advocacy techniques from writing effective letters to the editor to grassroots organizing.

Approximate costs per person:

- Travel to Washington, DC: Varies depending on method & distance
- Housing: \$50/night x 3 or 4 nights at Hosteling International
- Food: Breakfast and lunch provided by FCNL. Dinner on your own.
- Estimated transportation in Washington, DC: \$40
- Registration: \$50 (Reduced rate available)

More information:

For general questions, contact Sergio Mata-Gianeros, smata@fcnl.org or visit fcnl.org/slw

For information about financial aid, contact Annie Chiorazzi, annie@fcnl.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation
A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

fcnl.org/slw
@fcnl @quaker_lobby facebook.com/quakerlobby

Children's Program

As always, there will be a lively children's program as a part of winter MGOF. The program accommodates children of all ages, is driven based on the leadings of the children, and will be active during all programmed sessions throughout the weekend. Last year winter activities included snowshoeing, sledding and cross-country skiing as well as art projects, singing and creating plays. Two adults are present at all times to ensure safety and to provide a seasoned Quakerly presence. Registration at MGOF for those under age 18 is free, a gesture on behalf of MGOF that children are treasured in the community. Will McDowell serves as Children's Program Coordinator and is currently recruiting a helper for the weekend to meet the special needs of particularly young children. Adults are encouraged to participate in the Children's Program and we hope you will. Our Youth Safety Policy requires adult volunteers to have a quick and easy background check done before they arrive at Camp-Mak-A-Dream. People bringing children will need to fill out and sign emergency contact forms. Information on how to do both will be available on the registration form

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 things for Community Night
9. Bring bathing suits for the hot tub.

Welcome and respect all

Introduce yourself to people you don't yet know and help grow your MGOF community.. When recognized to speak, begin by stating your name and where you are from. Give speakers your full attention, especially if their perspective differs from yours..



Schedule Winter MGoF February 21-23, 2020

Friday, Feb 21

- 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 22

- 7:00 Early Morning Worship in the lodge
- **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 23

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



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