



Welcome to Winter MGOF

Of the interest of the public in our estates: Hardly any thing is given us for our selves, but the public may claim a share with us. But of all we call ours, we are most accountable to God and the public for our estates: In this we are but stewards, and to hoard up all to ourselves is great injustice as well as ingratitude.

-John Woolman, 1720

This year our theme will be: “Why is it easier to talk about sex than money... even at MGOF?” This Winter tucked away in Camp Make-a-Dream we will provide an opportunity for our community to again look at money. Is it hard to talk about money? Why should it be easier to talk about at MGOF?

What happens when we come together to talk about money? How do those who feel financially insecure and those that feel financially secure relate as equals?

Tom Head, Professor of Economics at George Fox University, wrote in a recent issue of Western Friend that the “gift economy” or “love economy” is not regarded as part of the “real” economy. In the real economy goods are exchanged or extorted, whereas the gift or love economy is altruistic: children are fed, and charities are supported. Do we feel that the love economy is “real” and deserving of regard outside our private lives and exchanges?

Right relationship to wealth is integral to Friends’ testimony on equality, social justice, and peace. What do you wish we could do more of for one another within our community to reflect these values? What outreach beyond our community could we do to reflect these values?

So many questions and queries. We will have the opportunity to hear the reflections on these questions and much more from a panel of our own MGOF folks, followed by our usual time for reflection and sharing in Worship Sharing.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Schedule Winter MGoF Feb 19-21 2016

FRIDAY Feb 19

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

SATURDAY Feb 20

- 7:00 Early Morning Worship in the lodge
- Breakfast on your own
- **8:30-10:00 Plenary Session in the lodge
- 10:30- 11:30 Brunch
- **11:45-1:15 Worship Sharing
- 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 21

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

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

Montana Interfaith Connections FAQs (Friendly Answers to Queries)

By Candida Quinn



As many of you know, MGOF appoints a representative to the Montana Association of Christians (MAC). Following is an attempt to answer some questions about our relationship with that organization and with other faiths in general.

Q: What is MAC?

A: MAC is a group of churches united to advocate for social justice in Montana. The organization has been around for over 40 years. In 2014, it changed its name from the Montana Association of Churches, in an effort to reclaim the label “Christian” from extremists.

Q: What does MAC do?

A: MAC’s focus is advocacy for compassionate state laws. It lobbies to the Montana legislature on issues identified by MAC’s members. At the moment, those issues are mainly abolition of the state’s death penalty, re-integration of ex-offenders into society, and the welfare of children and families.

The organization rewrote its bylaws last year to try to become more flexible in how it meets social needs around the state. Although MAC is not now involved in direct service provision, that is conceivable in the future.

Q: Who’s involved?

A: At this point, it’s mostly “mainstream” Protestant churches involved. The Catholic church dropped its membership last year, to the disappointment of the remaining congregations.

Historically, members have been asked to subscribe to an explicitly Christian creed. Because of this, the Jewish and Quaker communities have chosen to affiliate with MAC as observers only. In a nutshell, this means a voice but no vote.

That may change. MAC is studying a potential rewording of the bylaws to permit wider participation, essentially by expanding the membership to include supporters of the MAC mission. And they eventually see themselves as members of a larger Montana interfaith collaboration, not just Christians.

Q: Why are Quakers involved?

A: I guess I’d ask “why not?” As Quakers, we seek peace and unity (as opposed to uniformity). We try to recognize that of God within each person, barring none. If we want to put these concepts into practice, building relationships with other churches and faiths seems natural. Some Friends have had unsatisfactory experiences with other faiths, and we’ve got to acknowledge that, just as we try to acknowledge and remedy problems we encounter within our own religious community. I think the question is what we do next. Do we get stuck, or do we try as best we can to identify and take the good from our past experience and move forward?

Sometimes we have to use our imagination a bit, and we can be transformed. To cite one tiny example, I was not exposed to music at meeting as a young First Day schooler. It just wasn’t done, wasn’t considered “Quaker.” Here at MGOF, music has become a pleasant addition to worship for me, as it is for people of several Christian denominations.

With respect to MAC in particular, not all of us in MGOF would call ourselves Christian. (Although some do.) But perhaps a relationship with MAC is one way to recognize our Christian heritage as Quakers.

As I see it, there’s also a compelling practical reason for us to seek interfaith relationships. MGOF doesn’t have a peace and justice or social action committee at the moment. And we’re relatively small in number. So why not collaborate for social advocacy, to make it easier for us to make an impact? If MAC happens to be doing the work, let’s go with it.

Q: Do you worry that interfaith collaboration dilutes our Quaker identity?

A: I don’t see it that way. Obviously, we need to understand the core of what makes us Quakers, and I am occasionally asked at MAC meetings about Quaker beliefs and practices. I am also reminded of how the other churches seek what we Quakers do: peace, community, equality, good stewardship. Our approaches to these

Our approaches to these testimonies and to worship differ, but we're able to work together on the MAC mission. We have to know how to discuss issues and to disagree if needed, but constructive dialogue is always a good thing to my mind.

Q: How can interested Friends become involved?

A: As the current MGOF representative to MAC, I am grateful for the support I've gotten from the meeting as a whole and from individual Friends who've stepped forward to help lobby state legislators, attend MAC gatherings, fill in for me at meetings when I couldn't go. I'm also grateful to my predecessors in this position for giving me a good head start. And prayer and well-wishes are important supports.

My two-year term ends in February 2016. Friends interested in this work might want to speak with MGOF's nominating committee about it. I'd actually like to see the position evolve into "MGOF interfaith liaison," so that we're ready to do broader interfaith work as the way opens.

At present, the job involves attending and participating (but not voting) in council (board) meetings. The council meets about six times a year, and the dates are announced well in advance. Meetings typically take place in Helena, though this may change, and some are by phone. They're held on weekdays.

I'm also on MAC's legislative committee, which monitors state legislative activity between sessions in an effort to prepare for the next legislative session. For example, I was able to testify this past spring to an interim committee of the Montana legislature on the topic of Quaker involvement in housing and offender re-entry. The MAC legislative committee role wasn't in my original job description, but it seemed like a good way to advance Friends' views.

These tasks take time, but there are distinct benefits. Although MAC seeks more lay involvement on its council, most current council members are professional clergy. As such, they know a lot about religion and have strong organizational and leadership skills. So it's been a great learning opportunity. (They're also nice people.)

Q: How can Friends get more information?

A: MAC has a website at www.macmt.org. And people can feel free to contact me at ckcquinn@msn.com or (406) 495-0374.

Report from the Friends Committee on National Legislation

By Jasmine Krotkov

You may not know it gentle reader, but this year you gifted me two opportunities to meet with the world as a Quaker. I attended both the Montana Association of Christians' MAC Connect event in Great Falls and the Friends Committee on National Legislation's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting in Washington DC as a representative of Montana's and the North Pacific's Quaker communities. Thank you. It was transformative for me to feel your gathered light and support at my back as I made testimonies to the value of peace and social justice in our world. In my little pocket of rural red-state-ness, I've felt uncertain about voicing my conviction that military answers to questions of security won't work, and that every one of us shines an



irreplaceable, valuable light into the world, which must be held up in both private life and in public policy. I bore witness to those beliefs out loud, to some audiences who may not have agreed with them, and I was transformed.

The Montana Association of Christians used to be called the Montana Association of Churches, until they decided to reclaim the word "Christian" from pedants and demagogues. On their website at macmt.org, they say, "Since 1973, the Montana Association of Christians has been an integral part of the ecumenical movement in Montana. MAC members come together to advocate for justice and healing in Montana's broken places." Candida Quinn is an observer on their board. She helps

She helps us to join with MAC on their lobby days. In October Candida, Donna Williams and I attended the MAC Connect event in Great Falls. I learned more about the ecumenical perspective on social justice and saw how its grounding in Christianity can both help and hinder action. I'd be delighted to talk to you at more depth about this at MGOF, or any other time!

Most of you know that FCNL is a Quaker Lobby in the public interest, comprised of a staff of about 40, located on Capitol Hill. The staff is guided by the General Committee, which is composed of representatives from Yearly Meetings from around the country. The North Pacific Yearly Meeting has six appointed representatives, of which Candida Quinn and I are two. FCNL is the oldest religious lobbying organization on the Hill and has a remarkable reputation for being principled, smart and effective. Other lobbying groups are jealous of our active and committed teams of advocates around the country. FCNL is housed in the greenest building on Capitol Hill, in an award-winning, LEED certified building which "stands as testimony to the possibility of an earth restored". It has a tiny carbon footprint, and together we have a huge, hopeful footprint on national policies. Indeed, FCNL was instrumental in getting the Iran deal passed.

In November I met with Senator Tester's staff in Washington, and they reported that the Senator, whose vote was critical for passing the Iran deal, was teetering between a yea and nay vote until the very last minute. In the end it was the voices of his constituents - your calls

and letters, some of which came from the FCNL action network - that convinced him to do the right thing. It was a huge win for FCNL, for us and for peace. My visit to Senator Tester's, Senator Daines' and Congressman Zinke's offices was not about the Iran deal, however. It was to urge them to speak out publicly for, or co-sponsor Senator Ben Cardin's bill giving permanent authorization to the Atrocities Prevention Board. On this issue, I was received by all three offices warmly. None of the staff members had heard of the APB (nor had I before this, and nor had most of you, until just this minute!), and were interested in an opportunity to get behind legislation that is pretty non-partisan, and if not sexy, at least not objectionable. Who doesn't want to take a position against atrocities? Well, hmmm... maybe you shouldn't answer that.

In any case, I came back from my five-day foray into all things wonkish all fired up to form an Advocacy Team in Great Falls to keep on the lobbying work, and to empower you to start your own Advocacy Teams around Montana. I'll tell you all about how it works during an interest group at winter MGOF. I would also be delighted to visit you at your worship groups to give you more information and answer your questions.

Jasmine Krotkov
406-236-5480
buffalogirlfarms@gmail.com

MGOF Steering Committee Minutes

October 17, 2015

Friends gathered at the Boulder Hot Springs Resort on a gorgeous Fall day. A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by all. Prior to beginning the meeting, there was some discussion of trying to determine the whereabouts of hard copies from earlier meetings of MGOF.

Clerk, Kate Weiss opened the meeting with a period of silent reflection at 2:08 pm at Boulder Hot Springs Resort. Attending were Kate Weiss, Julia Child, Jasmine Krotkov, Claire Leonard, Georgia Foster, Kat Northrup, Noorjahan Parwana, Nora Martin.

Friends shared about what they most cherished about the MGOF community.

The clerk read the agenda :

Check-in

Approval of the minutes

Winter MGOF

Registration form modifications

Committee reports as available

Interfaith action on Syrian refugees

The minutes of the meeting of August 15, 2015 were read by Julia Child and approved.

Winter MGOF.

The winter MGOF theme will be "Why is it easier to talk about sex than money...even in MGOF?" The intention is to facilitate a conversation about how to structure the Quarterly and Monthly Meeting to allow us all--those with wealth and those living on the edge--to talk openly and comfortably with one another about financial issues.

One Friend described a workshop she attended with a panel consisting 3 people from different financial backgrounds. The panel presentation was followed by groups of three sharing together. A YouTube video called "Human" has been viewed by some Friends and is suggested as something we could show to all.

Telling our personal story about money might allow Friends to relate things they might not otherwise share. One question is about our MGOF finances and another is about how we as individuals view money in our families, and how we as Americans deal with our wealth compared with the rest of the world. Fear and faith are often diametrically opposed in how we choose to use or spend our money. The idea of a panel was attractive to all.

Minute: The winter MGOF session will include a panel discussion. The queries to be asked of the panel are "How do fear and faith inform your idea of 'Abundance?'" What are your fears, faith and judgements about money?

We want members of the panel to be members of our community and to ask them to share their personal stories. Possible Friends for the panel were discussed. It is important to include people from all income groups. We have a tentative list of people to ask. The session will be one and a half hours in length. The Clerk will moderate the panel discussion. Kate will take initial responsibility for approaching suggested individuals. We will schedule a two hour business meeting at the winter gathering to allow further discussion springing from the theme.

Nominating Committee Report

Recording Clerk/Rising Clerk is an open position and there are several people who have indicated a willingness to serve. The committee is continuing to work on this. A co-Coordinator (with Kat) for summer MGOF is needed. A Winter Children's Program Coordinator is needed critically. A Representative to NPYM Coordinating Committee is needed.

Ministry & Council

(Lucretia was unable to attend so Kate gave the Ministry and Council report)
M+C discussed the possibility of coed retreats

Finance Committee

It has been suggested that MGOF pay a 15% gratuity for staff for venues where we have our gatherings as part of our payment rather than asking each of us to give individually.

Minute: MGOF will include a 15% gratuity for the staff of any venue where we gather. The gratuity will be added to the bill by the treasurer and come from program fee.

It was suggested that acknowledging donations become a regular practice.

Minute: Donations to MGOF will be acknowledged through the joint efforts of the Registrar and the Treasurer.

The Quaker Art Show at Carroll College

Update and discussion about sources for Quaker Art and for getting the word out to Quaker Artists.

A letter regarding Syrian refugees was read. It will be passed on to Candida Quinn to bring to Montana Association of Christians.

Newsletter

Winter MGOF will be February 19-21. Registration is due February 1, and early registrations will be up to January 15. The newsletter will be sent December 15. Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is December 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Claire Leonard, Acting Recording Clerk Truth will not lose ground by being tried.

Meeting for Worship and Business, August 16, 2015

The meeting was opened with silence.

1. The Minutes were read and approved.
2. Winter Site: Bev Young

The costs were similar at all places considered: Ursuline Center, Lubrecht Forest, Missoula, Camp Make A Dream, Cambridge West. The Steering Committee has decided to try Camp Make A Dream for the winter of 2016. The cost of rooms is higher. So to balance the costs, it was decided to have just two meals: a robust brunch and dinner. People can bring their own breakfasts. There are kitchens in each cabin. There are no private rooms.

3. Ministry and Counsel: Lucretia Humphreys

a. Alan Oines has had a stroke and is at Community Hospital Rehab in Missoula. He would like cards and visitors. Please call Leigh first.

b. The winter theme is "Climate change and despair." How do Quakers respond. The other two suggestions were death and dying, growing older with Barbara Springer as a suggested presenter, and a film of a talk Parker Palmer gave at FGC on how conflict is a an opportunity.

4. Montana Association of Churches: Candida Quinn

This is an ecumenical Christian organization on local social justice issues similar to our FCNL. Candida handed out a report "Deep listening for Collaborative Service."

5. Nominating Committee: Will McDowell

Charged with returning to the model of the Recording Clerk being in training to be the next Clerk, the committee will be looking for a pair to step in for Summer MGOF 2016.

6. Registrar: Summer MGOF 2015: We have paid out \$5208, given about \$700 in scholarships, leaving us with a surplus of about \$700. Most checks have come in.

7. Treasurer: We are in good shape but haven't always been. There is about \$4400 in the account after the 2015 expense have been paid.

Minute: *We will keep \$3000 reserve in the account at all times.*

8. Finance Committee: Kate Weiss, Julia Childs, Nick Salmon

a. Separating the MGOF Quarterly from the MGOF Monthly was discussed. It is not done yet. This committee will bring a proposal back to this meeting as soon as it is done.

b. Clarification: The assessment letter goes to members and active attenders. In order to do this, we need accurate records of membership and attendance. Geoff Poole will send out a request to update contact information in order to collect this information.

9. Registration Form:

Minute: *The late fee on the registration form is to be replaced with a \$30 discount for early registration (2 weeks before the registration due date). The program fee of \$50 will stay. This is to be tried for one year then re-assessed.*

10. Web presence: Geoff Poole

Our goals are to build community, connect with each other, be able to be found by newcomers. "Quaker Cloud" costs Missoula \$120 a month.

- a. A host has been chosen that is free for starters.

1. \$8 a month would buy us our own address, site stats, a domain name which would be Mt.Friends.org
2. \$12 a month would enable us to be password protected.
3. \$25 a month would give us a business package that would allow us to sell things.

Minute: *That we accept the recommendation to start with the \$8 a month package with the simple url and site stats.*

- b. Problem: Newsletters and registration emails are ending up in people's spam. Everyone's spam filters are

different. Because of this, email communication is not dependable. One suggestion is that these communications be sent out using a printing/ mailing service. Another suggestion is that the link to these documents be emailed out. Because that is a simpler communication, it is less likely to end up in spam. Geoff would like feedback.

11. Donna Williams brought a concern to M&C that is being brought here for a wider discussion. Her concern was triggered by the proposed letter to people who register then withdraw at the last minute without paying. Upon consideration in M&C a greater question has come forth about our deeper relationship with money and not just the language on the registration form. In our discussion, the following separate issues were teased out.

- a. When people drop out at the last minute, are we being faithful in our pastoral care by checking in to see that they are OK?
- b. How do we need to keep our community responsible in practical matters? When non-payment is neglectful, do we need to call it out?
- c. Other churches up the registration fee to cover no-shows if they need the funds.
- d. This is multi-faceted issue with some aspects of it emotionally charged. By not avoiding the conflict, we deepen our community.

Minute: In the spirit of pastoral care, calls will be made to people who register and don't show.

Minute: The discussion about integrity, authenticity, and conflict avoidance around money, and how our spiritual lives inform and drive these issues will be considered by Ministry and Counsel as a theme for winter MGOF. The environmental theme is better suited for summer MGOF as we have the whole out of doors to draw on.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Childs, Acting Recording Clerk for Nora Martin

