

# Montana Gathering of Friends

Aug 15-18, 2019 at Luccock Park

*From Spirit to Action and Action to Spirit*

*Friends in Residence Linnea Wong and Peter Husby*

Register at <https://collaborativelrng.typeform.com/to/DqiSf5>

## WELCOME TO SUMMER MGOF!

Set aside your busy summer activities, company, gardening, work and travel for a different sort of adventure, an inner journey with others who are also seeking to know their inner hearts.

This is a time apart in addition to time shared with our community. We come together together to listen deeply to Spirit and to help each other hear deeply no matter how subtle or confusing the messages we receive. Quakers believe in leadings and also believe that our community helps ground us in reality and clarity of purpose.

We come together in one of the loveliest places in Montana beneath the three mountains so abruptly lifting above us, to return to center, the center of our being as individuals, and as a community. We worship, we play, we laugh, we explore and regardless of the weather, we all have a great time. Come one! Come all! Newcomers are as welcome as those who have come for 30 years. Join us for this blessed weekend of summer MGOF (the Montana Gathering of Friends).

*Religious mysticism is an attempt to realize the presence of God in the soul. It is grounded in the fact that a direct intercourse between the human soul and God is possible; and its ultimate goal is the attainment of a state in which God shall cease to be an external object and shall become known by experience of the heart...The great mystics who must be our types have learned that every new truth, every new vision, involves a new duty and leads to activity.*

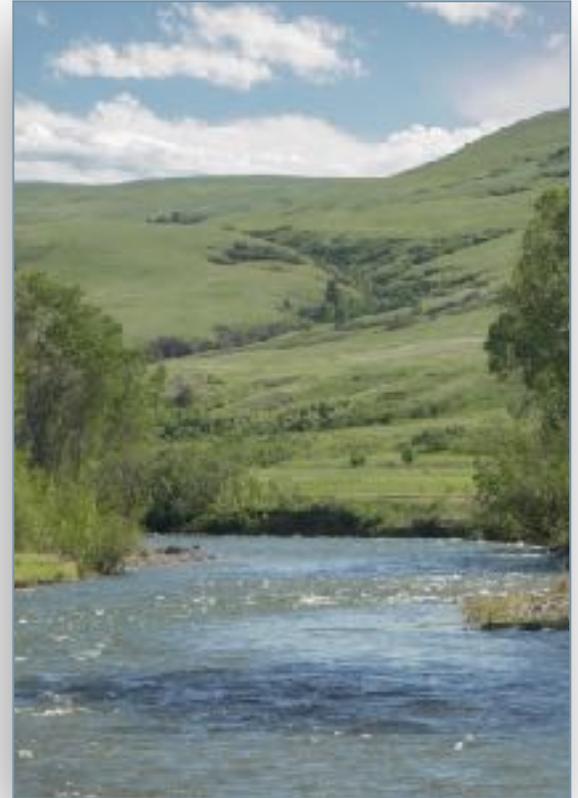
# From Spirit to Action and Action to Spirit

## What We Can Only See In Retrospect—How Spirit Uses Us In Spite Of Ourselves

Peter and Linnea are Friends who feel led to understand and advocate for those who have been called “the least of these,” people who find themselves at the bottom of the economic and social structure. Peter and Linnea will share their own spiritual journeys, how they struggled to find their own voices and live more authentically. Their motivations along the way have ranged from frivolous to the slightly more virtuous. They have been surprised to find themselves in interesting circumstances near and far.

What has their story to do with You? Their searching reached into the depths of their being and continues to compel them to improve the world as they see it. Their experience will ask you to look deeply into your life, seeking how God/Spirit has gifted you, guided you, stretched you. What is guidance? How do you know that it is even real? Can we tell if it really comes from Spirit? What is it?

These are the questions Linnea and Peter will explore. No one can answer or explain the mystery of life, but each of us has rich experience upon which to see at least some glimmer of why we are here. We can also briefly explore the many ways we can be invited to serve the world, from action to contemplation, vision, service and the arts, each of us is called to be our most true selves.



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### STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting April 13, 2019 Boulder Hot Springs, MT

PRESENT: Noorjahan Parwana, Clerk; Kate Weiss, Claire Leonard, Georgia Foster, Judy Visscher, Sandy Boehmler, Julia Childs, Nora Martin, Jasmine Krotkov.

The meeting began with a period of silence, after which Friends introduced themselves and shared a few thoughts.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 22, 2019 Steering Committee were read. The minutes were corrected to reflect Sandy Boehmler's presence at the February meeting.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL: The committee met earlier this morning. A query eliciting Friends' thoughts about the state of MGOF Monthly Meeting was written for this gathering. In a departure from the traditional worship sharing format one person was asked to take notes on the spoken responses so that the State of Society report for MGOF could be written by the M&C Clerk drawing from the thoughts of the wider community. The committee suggested that we continue this worship sharing format at future Spring MGOF Quarterly Gatherings.

The theme for Summer MGOF is “Responding to the Whispers and Stirrings of Spirit with Courageous

Commitment". Linnea Wang will help write the queries for the gathering.

The committee discussed the diversity of faith language and practices in MGOF and the discomfort and even lack of tolerance that has challenged our Monthly and Quarterly Meeting for many years. A statement, to be added to the guidelines read at the beginning of each worship sharing, will be written by the committee for Summer MGOF. In this guideline statement Friends will be reminded to listen with openness and tolerance for the message of a speaker's faith and heart even if the language and practices of the speaker are different and possibly even personally challenging. A member of Ministry and Council will write an article for the newsletter speaking to these issues emphasizing especially the divide between Christian and non-Christian Quakers.

The committee began exploring possible topics for Winter MGOF 2020.

The committee expressed appreciation to Claire Leonard for Clerking the past 2 meetings and to Georgia Foster (who is ending her term on M&C) for her long service on this committee.

Friends were held in the Light during a period of silence.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The Clerk reported for the Finance Committee since no other members were present at this meeting. A donation letter has not been sent out this winter since adequate donations were made at Winter MGOF. We are again able to maintain a \$3000 balance. As of April 11, 2019, the MGOF bank balance was \$5141.18. The treasurer is working with an accountant to develop a balance and profit/loss statement for each gathering.

MGOF does not have 501 C3 status but did at one time have an EIN (Employee Identification Number.) Since no annual reports were submitted, we lost the number. An EIN is necessary for PayPal. Jim Humphrey is working on getting an EIN for MGOF. He will try to get our old number back and get a new one if this does not work. The Treasurer will file the annual reports which can be done on-line.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Tina Visscher is remaining on nominating committee and working with Will McDowell to find a replacement for him. The Youth Coordinator position is currently also vacant. Nick Salmon is our new registrar.

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** The Clerk reminded Steering Committee that all adults who wish to volunteer with the youth at our gatherings must submit a background check through NPYM. It is a quick and easy on-line process.

**SUMMER MGOF PLANNING:** Nora Martin and Claire Leonard will write a description of the Summer MGOF Coordinator job. The Clerk will ask Nick Salmon and Ted Etter to write a job description for the Winter MGOF Coordinator.

**NEWSLETTER:** The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is July 1, 2019.

**NPYM COORDINATING COMMITTEE:** Georgia reported on NPYM Coordinating Committee and her report is attached to these minutes.

**HANDBOOK:** An ad hoc committee is working on updating and revising the MGOF handbook. The committee plans to send material from the handbook to current Clerks and committees for comments on accuracy and update needs.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.

Respectfully submitted, Kate Weiss for Jo Ann Kidder, Recording Clerk

## Christian/non-Christian Divide in Montana Quaker Community

In Ministry and Counsel as we were searching for language for the summer MGOF theme, 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 would 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 Christo-centric. 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



### Early Quaker Class

I participated in an online class called Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers put on by Lancaster University. I have always been hesitant to read much about early Quakerism because of the “thees and thous” and religious language that I couldn’t relate to. This course helped me to find a way in.

Some of my favorite new bits of knowledge concerned the women who were taken by the inward nature of Quaker spirituality, which led them to carry the message outward. When Quakers traveled in the 17th century, they met with a lot of hostility and even violence. Two women, Elizabeth Fletcher, who was just 16 year old and Elizabeth Levens went south to Oxford to preach, and were arrested imprisoned and whipped out of the city by civic authorities.

Mary Fisher, who was a servant from Selby in Yorkshiere traveled first of all to Cambridge, and then to Barbados, to Nevis, to Boston, and to Turkey. She had the intention of meeting the sultan in Adrianople to preach the Quaker word to him. Sultan Mohammed IV met her, listened very courteously, declined to turn to the inward light as she suggested he might. But she wrote of him that he was very noble unto her and and listened to her without contradiction. And in fact, she said that the English people that she met on her journeys through Europe, were, she said, more bad, most of them, than the so-called infidels that she met in Turkey. She finally settled in South Carolina with her second husband in the 1670s.

If you want to learn more, you can sign up for the free course the next time they offer it at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/4/register?return=8rz90gvn>

-Jasmine Krotkov



## Montana Gathering of Friends State of the Meeting report for 2018-2019.

MGOF continues to meet both summer and winter, at Luccock Park and Camp Make a Dream. For several years now, our spring and fall gatherings, which had formerly been meetings of Ministry and Counsel and Steering committees have broadened to include the wider MGOF community. These have taken the form of quarterly gatherings where we meet in worship and worship sharing, get our committee work done, and still have time for plenty of fun in the form of soaking and swimming, hiking, singing and improv goofiness. This has served to gather our far-flung community and has contributed to its richness and depth.

Our larger summer and winter gatherings have followed themes which have raised our sensitivity toward issues of race and privilege.

Summer of 2018, our theme was "Implicit Bias and White Privilege: living our testimony of equality". Laurie Childress was our plenary speaker on that topic.

Winter MGOF 2019 considered the theme of: Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: toward right relationship with native peoples. Reverend Duffy Peet from the Bozeman UU Fellowship led us in an activity called Toward Right Relationship, a project which originated in the Boulder, CO Friends Meeting.

The reflection and worship sharing which was prompted by both of these topics brought us to new individual awareness and intention, as well as bringing us closer as a community.

At MGOF spring quarterly, our worship-sharing focused on defining and clarifying our views of the state of our meeting and its function in our lives.

Friends from meetings and worship groups from across the state expressed how coming to MGOF is a feeling of having come home. At its best, this is a place where we can be our most authentic selves and share deeply as learning, growing, vulnerable humans. We listen to each other and witness each other as models for spiritual practice with its struggles, insights, and growth. We grow to understand our own paths by articulating them in loving community. Worship sharing seems to be at the heart of that experience.

We also identified ways in which we would like to see MGOF develop. We would like to be more welcoming of newcomers. We have very few children recently, as many of the families who started MGOF have seen their children grow up and move on.. Yet we do see new faces among us and feel enriched by their presence. A need was expressed to better define the tasks and terms of service of our committees and clerks. Many have experienced the usefulness of care committees and clearness processes, which bring value to all involved.

We have followed the lead of NPYM in asking Friends to pay what is within their self-perceived ability. This seems to be easing the diversity of financial states within our group, and hasn't thus far emptied our bank account. We will continue the experiment.

MGOF is thriving in many respects and on many levels. We feel sustained by our Quaker practice and community, even as we continue to look for ways for it to meet our varied needs and the needs of this evolving and troubled world..

Respectfully submitted, Judy Visscher, MGOF M&O clerk

## Great Falls Worship Group State of Society 2019

On a snowy day in early May, five of us met during worship sharing to write our State of Society report. It seemed a small group with some regulars gone for the weekend, but we were also mindful of those that had passed this past year. Two dear friends have died in the past year. Their quiet male presence, so regular in attendance, is missed amongst those of us left. We also mourn the absence of five former regular attenders and a member. We find our anxiety rising. Did we not meet their needs in one way or another? Their contributions to our worshipping community were so appreciated. As we have reached out to them, we find that other paths have better met what they were looking for.

Still, we are reminded of the promise that where two or more are gathered, there am I also. The depth of our sharing both in Worship, and Worship Sharing has provided one Friend, who speaks out to the world as a state legislator, a way to speak truth from her heart. She is bearing witness and hears from those around her that her messages have a deep sense of truth. We are reminded that we each can carry seeds from our Centered Worship that will heal our world, both at home, and amongst those in our community.

In addition, there is not only spiritual energy for supporting people who speak to the broader political world, but who also support the structure of our larger Quaker community, who write letters to the editor, who help young people find their voices, who participate with other church groups for the homeless, and who nourish the seeds in each of us of love, simplicity, honesty and integrity.

A recent Quaker visitor to worship remarked in a note back to the group, that she had felt so welcome and at peace with her short time with us. Another attender shared that she always enjoys the welcome she receives on attending. In our second year in the library of New Hope Lutheran Church, our members have volunteered to be part time secretaries for New Hope, to provide for needs of the church and to contribute monetarily to the upkeep of the church structure.

Gratitude came down like Presence and swept around us. Gratitude for each person in attendance this morning, gratitude for those that have gone beyond, gratitude for those that have journeyed with us over the years and left behind their gifts of Spirit. Gratitude for the challenges we live with like a nuclear missile base. Gratitude for those who won't give up. Grateful for this time to stop, and hear one another's hearts.



## Helena Worship Group State of Society, 2019



The Helena Worship Group meets each Sunday at Touchmark Retirement Community for a half hour of Silent Worship and a half hour of community time to share where the Spirit has led us, or what is on our hearts. On the First Sunday of each month, we gather for a full hour of Silent Worship followed by a potluck. Our group is composed of people who are regular attenders, MGOF members, travelling Quakers, and people who regularly attend other Spiritual communities and services but also find a nurturing piece of Spirit in our Worship Group.

As the Worship Group located in Montana's Capitol city, we are a group that provides a welcoming spiritual haven for visiting Quakers, and Seekers to attend while they are away from their home Meetings.

Approved by Attenders/Members.  
Thank you, Kat

## NPYM Proposed Minute on Uprooting Racism

1. We Friends affirm our commitment to live the intertwined testimonies of Integrity, Equality, and Community as we look to the transformative power of love to guide us in uprooting racism.

2. Friends recognize the detrimental impact of racism on all people. Friends cannot ignore the injustice of substantial racial disparities. Under Divine guidance, we are led to explore how the veiled system of white supremacy rewards white people with unearned advantages in tandem with punishing people of color with pervasive disadvantages. We seek a deepening awareness of how these privileges and barriers have manifested in each of our lives. We endeavor to use this awareness to speak out against racial injustice.

3. We acknowledge that white Friends have been unwittingly complicit in perpetuating systemic racism and that there have been barriers to Friends of color inherent in Quaker systems. We seek guidance in how to remedy continued injustices perpetuated by systemic racism, and in the creation of improved alternatives. Such guidance seeking needs to include white people being in support—not leadership— roles, listening directly to people of color to learn of their needs and priorities.

4. We commit to examining traditions of Friends for barriers that exclude people of color and alter traditions accordingly. We are challenged individually and as meetings to take action that dismantles oppressive societal attitudes and institutions, creates equity, and constructs multiracial movements to solve the pressing problems of our times. We aspire to become a beloved community structured by equality of opportunity, respect, and spiritual and economic well-being for all.

March 2019 Draft



### Friday Hike

Arrive on Thursday or Friday morning before 8 to hike to Pine Creek Lake. The hike is about 9 miles round trip, and gains almost 4,000 feet in elevation. Spectacular views, and the full gamut of wildflowers. If you'd like to come, let me know and we'll arrange to meet on Friday morning.

Jasmine  
406-781-5699

# Memorials

## Robert Taylor

Passed in 2018

Part of the Great Falls Worship Group  
Member posthumously of MGoF

Bob Taylor said that he had searched all his life to find a church where he belonged. After worshipping with the Quakers for a year in Great Falls, Montana, he realized that he had finally found his place. He appreciated the Quakers for fulfilling his need to allow him to worship in his own way. As he said, Quakers allowed me to have a real conversation with God without any interference. Bob who attended very regularly came with a wheelchair, his oxygen and his faithful wife. He brought to the Great Falls Worship Group gentle care, support and love. Bob was authentically humble, honest and open and a real inspiration to our Great Falls Worship Group.



## Russ Salisbury

1939-2019

Great Falls Worship Group, Montana

Russ was born in Great Falls and lived most of his life nearby on the banks of the Missouri River. His mother, although not a Quaker, admired and contributed to the American Friends Service Committee. Russ was a regular attender with his wife at our small worship group. Their drive was nearly an hour long, and it involved driving through rain or snow on a “drive way” nearly five miles long. We were not the only attraction for Russ and Elsie, who liked to go to dances after meeting for worship.

As a certified organic farmer and rancher, Russ was a pioneer in the field and a champion of the Earth way before “being green” was cool. Countless individuals and organizations turned to Russ for his progressive thinking, proven techniques, and guidance and generous support. He had the strength to live out the extreme beliefs and ideals that others only talk about. His commitment to his word was his deeds.

He was a master mechanic and collected everything he needed and moved on to his farm. He reused and repurposed or remade everything. He once converted an old school bus into a way to haul cattle down the road. His corral was constructed out of old vehicles.

This was a man who thought deeply and worked hard. As his life came to an end he gave generously to support the love of his life, the Earth.



## Barbara Spring

Barbara was a long time member of the MGoF Community. She brought joy to those who were around her and inspired many of the rest of us to live in the Spirit. She moved to the East Coast to be near her daughter and grandchildren. Not often can it be said that a single person can create significant change, but it is true of Barbara. Her work on death and dying has had significant ripple effects. By her example she demonstrated what she taught about living and dying. She was a champion for racial justice and a fearless model for outreach (an example, traveling to Iran). She was an independent woman who loved her family and was a role model of Quaker peace making.



# Thursday- Friday Retreat

## Pathways to Spiritual Connection

### Daily Mandalas

“Count the stars in the sky; that is how many ways there are to pray.”

Mary Jo Williams

During this pre-MGOF retreat time we will explore together our individual practices of seeking the Light and discerning our paths and leadings. Many of us want to bring deeper connections to God, Spirit, our Muse, or the Divine into our lives but are not quite clear on how or where to begin. Many years ago I began a practice of creating a daily mandala from various art materials and quickly came to know that this is a practice that deeply opens me to the nudges of Spirit in ways very similar to my experience of God’s presence in a gathered Meeting for Worship. Beginning with a potluck dinner on Thursday night and continuing through lunch on Friday we will explore together this mandala practice specifically and share any other practices we have found to be meaningful. The format will include time for silence, worship sharing, creating mandalas, private time outside, journaling and discussion. Any age person who feels called to attend is old/young enough. All gender expressions are welcome.

**Sign up by emailing Kate Weiss (kweiss45@gmail.com).  
Limited to 12 participants.**

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. An unlined art 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.



A Spiritual Journey  
And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles,  
no matter how long,  
but only by a spiritual journey,  
a journey of one inch,  
very arduous and humbling and joyful,  
by which we arrive at the ground at our feet,  
and learn to be at home.

~ Wendell Berry

Register at <https://collaborativebrng.typeform.com/to/DqiSf5>

## Schedule

### THURSDAY TO FRIDAY

PRE MGOFF WORKSHOP—The Spiritual practice of artistic journaling--led by Kate Weiss

**5:00** Gather at Glendive Cabin

### FRIDAY

**1:00-3:30** Ministry and Counsel meeting

**3:00** Registration begins (Lodge)

**4:00-5:30** Steering Committee meeting

**6:00** Dinner

**7:15-7:45** Intergenerational Welcoming

**8:00-9:00** Spiritual Check-in

### SATURDAY

**6:00** Early Morning Worship

**7:30-8:15** Breakfast on your own

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

**10:15-11:45** Worship Sharing

**12:00-1:00** Lunch in Dining Room

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

**2:30-3:15** Reading of Memorial Minutes

**3:30-5:45** Business Meeting

**6:00-7:00** Dinner in Dining Room

**7:30-9:00** Community Night—Lodge Singing

### SUNDAY

**6:30** Early Morning Worship—Lodge

**7:30-8:15** Breakfast on your own

**8:30-10:00** Worship Sharing

**10:30-11:00** Singing

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

**12:00** Lunch

Clean Rooms and Say Good-bye  
Drive Carefully

## How to Get There and What to Bring

- From where ever you are get on I 90 heading toward Livingston Montana.
- At Livingston, take Exit 333 Route 89 south toward Yellowstone National Park
- 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 MGOFF 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.

# Speaking Truth to Power

## A Montana Quaker in the Legislature

by Carol Bellin

**Quakers and women have** left important legacies in the history of Montana's government. Jasmine Krotkov, a Quaker woman committed to continuing this legacy, was elected last fall to serve HD 25 in the Montana House of Representatives.

Originally from Western Massachusetts, Jasmine was influenced by the democratic decision making of New England town hall politics—a natural prelude to her later embrace of Quaker ways. Introduced by Friend Alice Miller to her first Quaker meeting, she not long after requested a clearness committee and joined the Great Falls worship group. One Quaker practice she liked was meditating on queries such as this one from NPYM's Faith and Practice:

***“What are we doing as individuals and as a meeting to carry our share of civic responsibility for our community, state and nation?”***

During her long tenure as Postmaster of Neihart, Montana, Jasmine did legislative advocacy for the postal service and its employees. Once she became a Quaker, she gravitated to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), attending their national meetings and training institutes. She formed an FCNL Advocacy Team in the Great Falls area, which gave her three solid years of community organizing and lobbying experience. Called to do more, Jasmine considered running for elected office. Her first step was to request a clearness committee, which helped her deeply examine her motivations. She emerged certain that her path was to step up to public service as a legislator.

Those of us who know Jasmine's whirlwind energy were not at all surprised that she won her first race and unseated the Republican incumbent. As a new legislator she was assigned to three House committees: Local Government, Transportation, and, most importantly, the House Judiciary Committee. Rep. Laurie Bishop from Livingston, also a member of those committees, was very impressed by Jasmine's clarity: “Jasmine was very intentional about developing relationships across the aisle, recognizing that we can have different approaches and still be civil to each other. She was able to keep a genial operating space and was unafraid to ask for more time and information when the decision was difficult. She had to struggle sometimes to find the right path forward.”

An active listener at hearings, Jasmine maintained her composure during hours of sometimes contentious testimony on challenging issues. She kept a written text of Quaker testimonies at her desk and privately referred to it as a touchstone when discerning and explaining her votes. What most impressed her during her first legislative session was that “people are thirsty to hear the truth spoken out loud, and with kindness.”

After being elected, Jasmine asked a few Friends to serve as her “anchor of support.” She credits this decision, as well as the clearness committee that helped her decide to run for office, as the source of her success in meeting the challenges of political office.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> Jasmine delivered the invocation at the beginning of the full session of the House of Representatives. For guidance, Jasmine turned to her “anchor“ Friends for advice on what a Quaker invocation might look like. Judy Visscher forwarded to her the message that Jasmine delivered as her invocation. The following invocation, “Bullets or Seeds,” is by the former chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Richard C. Halverson.

*“You can offer your ideas to others as bullets or seeds. You can shoot them or sow them; hit people in the head with them, or plant them in their hearts.*

*Ideas used as bullets will kill inspiration and neutralize motivation. Used as seeds, they take root, grow, and become reality in the life in which they are planted.*

*The only risk in the seed approach: Once it grows and becomes part of those in whom it's planted, you probably will get no credit for originating the idea. But if you're willing to do without the credit...you'll reap a rich harvest.”*

The *Great Falls Tribune* was so impressed with Jasmine's choice for the invocation that they printed it in its entirety in the next day's paper, sowing the seeds further afield. Friends, let us all reflect on the Query on Civic Responsibility above and aspire, as Jasmine does, to sow seeds of good and compassionate ideas instead of bullets.