North Pacific Yearly Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee  
December 2014 Report

Compiled by Cims Gillespie, Kate Hunter, Rose Lewis, Steve Willis, and Ruth Yarrow.

AGATE PASSAGE FRIENDS MEETING.  WA
PSCC Contact: Judy Brown  (email jubrown7@gmail.com; phone 206-842-3772)

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has dissolved; they are working to regather and regroup!
We have many concerns and have contacted our congressman and have had two sit down meetings.
This is very energizing and builds support with congressional representative.

BELLINGHAM MEETING.  WA
PSCC Contact: Judy Hopkinson  (email jd.hopkinson@gmail.com; phone 360-920-1728)

This past year, Social and Environmental Concerns of Bellingham Friends has designated a
"concern of the month" and collected funds for several organizations including: Friendly Water for the
World, Community to Community, Jobs with Justice, Opportunity Council Homeless Services Center,
Women for Women International, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Citizens Climate Lobby, Gaza
Humanitarian Fundraiser, Bellingham Books to Prisoners, and Forest Ethics.  In addition we have:
• Helped the meeting to gather funds for and maintain awareness of the work of the Friends New
Underground Railroad (a project of Olympia Friends Meeting)
• Partnered with other area non-profits to produce the play "Go Granny D!" with Barbara Bates Smith
and Jeff Stebens as a fundraiser for the Democracy Ministry of the Bellingham Unitarian Church and
the League of Women Voters
• Prepared a Bellingham Meeting banner which is now used in Peace and Environmental
demonstrations throughout the area.
• Arranged a nature walk at Artist Point for Friends led by Steve Glenn, an Alpine naturalist
• Prepared a minute supporting proactive inspection of rental housing which was seasoned and
approved at business meeting and sent to our local city council and mayor.
• Successfully advocated that Bellingham Friends instruct our investment portfolio managers to divest
all Bellingham Meetings funds from industries that profit from fossil fuel extraction.
• Generally made Friends aware of opportunities to be involved in social action in our community and
beyond.
• Sponsored a second hour on homelessness in Whatcom County.
• Provided two 2nd hours on the nature of Leadings and how Friends recognize and respond to them.
• Partnered with other committees to bring "Elizabeth Fry" to Bellingham and to bring other speakers
representing local social efforts to our meeting.

BOISE VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING.  ID
Clerk Lee Godschalk  (email: leelieg@gmail.com; phone 208-949-6508)
PSCC Contact: Lou Landry  email: loulandry@cableone.net; phone 208-980-0886

Ann Dusseau is doing Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) at the prison, 3 sessions so far. Jim
Williams is doing AVP workshops training locally.  Lou Landry was creating a minute on torture.
A minute on lesbian and gay rights was presented to legislators at the Statehouse in Boise.

BRIDGE CITY FRIENDS MEETING.  OR
PSCC Contact: Pat Shields  (email: fps97035@gmail.com; phone 971-344-5784)
Every month Bridge City Meeting is participating in a community-feeding program where people receive a hot dinner. About half the beneficiaries have no income. Another project is holding a food drive for Oregon Food Bank. They have made contributions to a transitional housing agency in the neighborhood.

The Meeting is very supportive of Pat Shields' traveling ministry for FCNL. She speaks about the mission and successes of the organization, and advises how Friends can build relationships with our Members of Congress. Steve Schreiner is attending the Organizing in the BioCommons classes, which seeks to raise leaders for climate change issues.

BUCKLEY WORSHIP GROUP. WA
PSCC Contact: Laverne Harris (email friendlaverne@friendlyhorseacres.com; phone 360-825-3628)

Several Friends are heavily involved with Friendly Horse Acres a Quaker charitable organization for mentally disabled children and adults, a heavily Quaker influenced institution. We have many strong concerns for environmental and social justice. Friends at Buckley feel the call of actions and limitations of membership. They maintain no active committee.

CENTRAL OREGON WORSHIP GROUP. OR
PSCC Contacts: Bob Marvos (email rmmarvos@gmail.com phone 541-330-3937) and Barbara Belzer (email barbarabelzer@yahoo.com phone 541-330-3937)

As Central Oregon Worship Group is a member of Interfaith Network of Central Oregon, we volunteered our time and talents to the following INCO-sponsored events:

Project Connect: an annual day at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds during which the area’s professionals donate free services to thousands of our homeless and struggling populations. Available are medical and dental care, legal advice, job and housing advisors, meals on site, food to take, library books, clothing, veterinary care, buses to carry clients from outlying communities, etc.

We continue to make monthly donations to support the work of local nonprofits: Bethlehem Inn homeless shelter, Bend’s Community Center (meals, showers, etc.), and Habitat For Humanity.

Individuals among our worship group are also involved in Peace and Social Concerns: One volunteers weekly at both the Bend and the Sisters Habitat ReStore locations. One has been fashioning purses of all types from donated fabrics and notions, selling them at Arts and Crafts Fairs, and donating all the proceeds to both a local daycare center for preschool at-risk children, and an orphanage in Tanzania where she’d spent two weeks caring for the children.

Two are also involved in the immigration rights movement. Two participated in “Occupy Wall Street”: camping on site, donating food and supplies, attending the general assemblies, taking part in rallies, visiting the offices of our government representatives, and maintaining contact with some of the members.

CHELAN-METHOW WORSHIP GROUP. WA
PSCC Contacts: Jerry and Betty Keefer (email jandbkeefer@cablespeed.com; phone 509-682-5259)

Chelan-Methow Worship Group is small, usually five to seven Friends attending. They work locally with people in need.

CORVALLIS MEETING OR
PSCC Contact: Kathy Miller (email fogmil@hotmail.com; phone 541-204-7304)

The Corvallis Friends Meeting will be providing a meal and overnight support at the Corvallis Men's Cold Weather Shelter again this winter in February 2015.
We continue to provide South Corvallis Food Bank with toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss, as these can not be purchased with food stamps. Our annual "Giving Tree" at the Corvallis Friends Meetinghouse is being built of toilet paper rolls and diapers because we know this is another need of the clients served by the South Corvallis Food Bank.

We are seeking the Meeting's endorsement of an open mic reading from Poets of Conscience to bring attention to the fact that President Obama has not shut down Guantanamo as promised 5 yrs ago. This event will happen February 6, 2015 near Oregon State University campus.

There are many other diverse actions individual Friends are taking as they are led, and financial support is helping many in our community and the wider world.

DILLON WORSHIP GROUP.  MT
PSCC Contact:  Cathy Weber  (email: cw@cathyweber.net; phone 406-683-5493)

Several members report to Meeting about current FCNL issues and action requests. Pat Carrick is with Doctors Without Borders, has been in Sierra Leone setting up a clinic, has returned and is in routine isolation.

EASTSIDE FRIENDS MEETING.  WA
PSCC Contact:  Lynn Fitz-Hugh  (email lynn.fitzhugh@earthlink.net; phone 206-417-0422)

Eastside’s Peace and Social Concerns committee is named Faith Reaching Out. Eastside continues to serve meals to tent city and to be represented at the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission meetings. In addition they have produced a report on gun violence and video that shows that it is actually suicide which is the biggest result of gun violence! We held a celebration of international day of Peace at our Meetinghouse with a focus on how to stop violence that was open to the community at large. Several members of the Meeting are quite active in FCWPP. The clerk of the committee is also the local leader of the Seattle chapter of 350 Seattle.

ELLENSBURG WORSHIP GROUP.  WA
PSCC Contact: Alix Williams  (email drakeg@cwu.edu; phone 509-933-3117)

This is a small group, often only four people. Some attend a silent protest against war at the Post Office, the one federal building in their area, every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00.

EUGENE MEETING.  OR
PSCC Contact: John Alcott  (email jallcott@applegatemedical.com phone 541-342-7351)

Eugene does not have a Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Nevertheless, individual Friends are actively involved in the community. Homeless issues, peace and justice, safe schools, SOA Watch, and aspects of the Occupy Movement (mediation, legal, housing, medical) are some of the areas into which Friends bring our testimonies.

In the spring a delegation of several Junior Friends took part in meetings arranged by FCNL in Washington DC. They met with Representative Peter DeFazio, and presented their concern to him about repealing the Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

During the summer three Junior Friends took part in the Friends service trip to Guatemala, with enthusiastic support from the Meeting.

The Meeting endorsed the NPYM Minute on AUMF, and sent it to Representative DeFazio.

Each year the Meeting sets aside a certain amount in the budget to support various organizations and concerns. In addition to AFSC, FCNL and FWCC, support is given to some 15-18 local projects, such as a homeless shelter, and supporting a welcoming congregation.

Several members are involved in a new proposal that was considered at Fall Quarterly Meeting, to set up something like a Friends Committee on Oregon Legislation. Some 12 Friends are interested
so far, and two conference call meetings have been held, with another scheduled for December 14. They are reaching out to Friends in Northwest Yearly Meeting, and have found interest in West Hills and Reedwood Friends Churches. The intention is to ask each person to look at "What interests you?", from which a list of issues can be drawn up. A variety of concerns have been mentioned, including homelessness, racism, police violence, gun control, domestic violence and labor justice.

We have recognized that the lack of a Peace and Social Concerns committee has interfered with the ability of the Meeting to season and act upon political and social concerns. A group of Friends is meeting to explore the possibilities of rebooting Eugene's PSCC.

FANNO CREEK WORSHIP GROUP.  OR
PSCC Contact: Debbie Averill (debbie2007@edaverill.com)

We are a very small group under the care of Multnomah Monthly Meeting (MMM), meeting twice per month with typical attendance of about 5 to 9 individuals. For a number of years we have been working with a program of the Beaverton School District that helped to support homeless youth in the District. Over the summer months this year, the District ended that program because of budgetary constraints.

Prior to finding out that the homeless youth program no longer existed, FCWG received a matching grant from the Special Funds Trustees at MMM to match the $500 that had accumulated in the FCWG treasury, with the intention of using the $1000 to help the program.

We have located another program in Beaverton, the Assistance League, which helps children in Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah Counties who are in need of material help to succeed in school. The Special Projects Fund Trustees have approved our using the matching grant with this program instead of the one initially proposed.

We are in the process of working with the Assistance League to determine which of their several programs would be most appropriate for our donation.

FLORENCE WORSHIP GROUP.  OR
PSCC Contact: Jeanne Kimball (email skdwr@oregonfirst.net; phone 541-997-4237)

We had a joint meeting for worship with the Umpqua Valley Worship Group on November 16th in Coos Bay. Pat Shields talked to us about FCNL and handed out information. It was a good talk with time for questions.

Individuals in our group work with various groups in Florence—Florence Food Share, Siuslaw Outreach Services, the Free Lunch Program and others. We have been part of the Free Lunch Program for many years. They provide a soup lunch every Tuesday and Thursday. We don’t have enough to take a day each month, but I help the Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church as a cook when they need extra help. I also do the buying for supplies for the soups. This is an ecumenical group along with the Kiwanis Club.

GREAT FALLS WORSHIP GROUP.  MT
PSCC Contact: Jasmine Krotkov (email buffalogirlfarms@gmail.com; phone 406-236-5480)

No ongoing projects.

HELENA WORSHIP GROUP.  MT
PSCC Contact: Katherine Northrup (email shadowfyres@gmail.com; phone 406-475-0869)

This year, the Helena Worship Group has made a concerted effort to make our group more accessible. Through fliers, internet ads, newspaper ads, and a potluck meet and greet, we attempted to reach out to anyone who might be interested in learning about Quakers. We also attempted to welcome back anyone who might have felt previously alienated from our worship group. The Helena Worship
Group has had three transfers of Membership to the Montana Gathering of Friends, building community. We are supporting and reaching out in the Montana Association of Churches, through the efforts of one of the new transfer/long time Quakers.

**LOPEZ PREPARATORY MEETING.  WA**
PSCC Contact: Nancy Ewert  (email nancyewert@gmail.com; phone 360 468 2682) and Karen Gilbert (karengilbert@rockisland.com)

Lopez has no PSCC, but they have a mix of active informal actions and meeting sponsored projects. One member is active in a prison ministry, supported by the meeting. Another member is supported, participating in the Quaker Voluntary Service Project. They mostly respond to community needs as they occur – maintaining a public peace vigil, work parties for people in need including improving housing, and helping support meeting members and community members. The meeting maintained a Bosnian support effort, created a photo journey/return, fundraisers for relief efforts. They have held fundraisers for service work in El Salvador, and Nicaragua, working with high school students, and they host people coming from the service communities. The Meeting funded a movie showing around violence against women in schools. The Meeting donates to a family relief shelter and also builds awareness around environmental justice in opposition to the coal and oil export terminal. “We follow the leadings of our people.”

**LOWER COLUMBIA WORSHIP GROUP.  OR (under care of Multnomah Meeting)**
PSCC Contact and Co-clerk: Barbara Norcross-Renner (email lowercolumbiaquakers@gmail.com; phone 360-665-1263).

Lower Columbia Worship Group social action priorities focus on local concerns related to poverty and to the environment. The worship group makes quarterly cash donations to two local food banks as well as a cash donation to Peninsula Poverty Response to support its annual Project Homeless Connect event. We also participate in the Long Beach Peninsula Garbage Gang beach cleanup effort three times each year cleaning a portion of the beach "adopted" by our worship group.

**MARYSVILLE WORSHIP GROUP.  WA**
PSCC Contact: Cynthia Pruitt  (email cm_pruitt@comcast.net)

This is a small worship group with many shared concerns of peace and powerful messages of worship.

**MISSION VALLEY WORSHIP GROUP.  MT**
PSCC Contact: Carol Werner  (email jkw@ronan.net phone:  406-676-8988)

This is a small new meeting about 5 people now, ages 60-80. Most are interested in PSC work. All are very motivated to work for progress including working with a human rights group, writing letters to the local newspaper, helping the food pantry and the local soup kitchen, and helping Earth Justice co-ops promoting alternative energy. One member is a Hospice volunteer. Kirwin Werner is on the board of the environmental group in Helena MT.

**MISSOULA MONTHLY MEETING.  MT**
PSCC Contact: Suzanne Aboulfadl,  (email saboulfadl@gmail.com; phone 406-549-055) and Sandie Bolles, co-clerk,  (email sandie.bolles@gmail.com; phone 406-825-3158)

**MONTANA GATHERING OF FRIENDS MONTHLY MEETING.  MT**

Dillon, Helena and Great Falls Worship Groups are under care of MGOF Monthly Meeting which serves dispersed Friends.
MOUNfAIN VIEW WORSHIP GROUP. OR
PSCC Contact: Jeff Hunter (email jeffhunter1859@gmail.com; phone 541-490-6006)

Mountain View Worship Group has a list-serve of approximately 14 individuals and couples. We meet on the first and third Sundays of each month. There were six people at our last meeting. We have had as many as twelve. Like many Quaker groups we are now an older group, mostly retired. We do have two new attenders we hope will stick with us.

Our core group has weathered many changes both personally, as families and as a group. Most of us have volunteer work we each carry on usually related to our expertise when we were active professionals. We feel unity as a group.

"Peace and Social Concerns" is, fortunately, a wide topic. I can say that each of us is active in some area where that individual feels a calling. Most of us write letters to our congressmen. We are a conscious group that works to act within and not beyond the light given each of us.

MULTNOMAH FRIENDS MEETING. OR
PSCC Contact: Deborah Averill, PSC Clerk (debbie2007@edaverill.com)

It has been an interesting year for Peace and Social Concerns at Multnomah Meeting. Earlier this year several members of Peace and Social Concerns Committee had stopped attending our monthly committee meetings despite being regularly reminded. This was brought to the attention of the Nominating Committee with a request to find more Friends interested in working with this committee. Instead, the Nominating Committee recommended to the Meeting for Worship for Business that the PSCC be laid down temporarily and a “Peace and Social Concerns Coordinator” be appointed.

The Meeting for Worship for Business was not comfortable with this recommendation and a threshing was held on October 12th. The recommendations of that threshing session were reported to the Meeting on October 19th, and a decision was made to appoint an ad hoc committee to develop an updated job description for the work of Peace and Social Concerns. That group has met once, and an initial draft has been generated. We will meet again on November 24th to complete the proposed draft, which will then be considered by the Meeting in December. We are hopeful that with the new job description the Nominating Committee will be better able to find active members for the committee.

Despite these difficulties, several PSCC-related activities have taken place.

Peace-related activities:
1. From October 2013 until April 2014, there was a program of worship sharing to consider the joint projects of AFSC and FCNL around “shared security.” A number of regular attendees of the group continued discussion for several months thereafter.
2. On February 28, 2014, we sponsored a “GI Coffeehouse” program here at the Meetinghouse. Marion Ward arranged this event with help from Josh Von Kuster and others.
3. Multnomah Meeting was once again a co-sponsor of the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration put on by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Climate change related activities:
1. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to sponsor ongoing meetings of 350PDX, the local chapter of international environmental action group 350.org. Several meetings of the group have been held at the Meetinghouse, and some members of this Meeting have been attending.
2. An “environmental education group” has started in an effort to bring Friends current information on climate issues. In early November we held our first public meeting to ascertain interest and talk about possible events. Frank Granshaw, who has professional experience as an educator on climate issues, is arranging a series of sessions on “Climate Science 101.” Other topics are also under consideration.
3. Under the leadership of Anna Barnett, recently of New England Yearly Meeting, Friends were involved in a “Portland People's Climate March” in conjunction with the People's Climate March in
New York City on September 21, 2014. Prior to this event, a number of Friends helped build two giant “Peace Dove Puppets” to carry during the march to emphasize the connection between climate issues and world peace. The Environmental Education Group co-sponsored the march, which was organized by 350pdx.org.

4. Several Friends from Multnomah Meeting, Bridge City Meeting, West Hills Friends Church, and Hillsboro Friends Church attended a ten-week training on “Organizing in the Biocommons” sponsored by Ecofaith Recovery, a local faith-based climate program started by local Lutherans. The Quaker team is under the care of Worship and Ministry at MMM and intends to continue to work together, across yearly meeting lines (both NPYM and NWYM) to develop more Quaker climate education and action.

Other activities:

1. The Meeting approved a contribution of $1000 ($500 each from the Peace and Social Concerns budget and the Undesignated Concerns budget) as support for the “New Quaker Underground Railroad” project of Olympia Meeting, helping LGBTQ individuals in Uganda to leave the country.

2. The Meeting accepted as a gift from several members of MMM a sponsorship of a student through the PROGRESA Quaker Guatemala Scholarship Program, putting the sponsorship in the name of the Meeting so that members will receive regular updates on the program.

OLYMPIA FRIENDS MEETING. WA

PSCC Contact: Gabi Clayton (email gabi@gabiclayton.com; phone 360-628-8412)

We are in the early planning stages of doing a workshop or soup and seminar on white privilege, institutional racism and oppression.

We have talked about doing a screening and discussion on "Teen Files: The Truth About Hate" in collaboration with Central Friends and the Children's Committee. (It is a film I am in.)

Friendly Water for the World continues to expand. We are now in Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, DRC-Congo, India, Afghanistan, Honduras, and Guatemala. Our budget is growing, and we have sent more teams abroad, with the work then taken up by local groups and coordinators. There were three training program in India, with participants from 25 of India's 28 states. The most recent one was held at the Friends Rural Centre in Rasulia, in central India. Out of this, some 35 new groups have formed. We held our first trainings in the DRC-Congo, in the city of Goma, where they have been almost 2,000 cholera deaths in the past year, and started a program in the Mugunga Refugee Camp, where there are 900,000 people, and no clean water. Many of those making the BioSand Filters are women who are survivors of rape during the war, who are part of the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities program of the African Great Lakes Initiative.

We have done much work with people with HIV in Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya. Clean water by itself can extend the life of a person living with HIV by 5-8 years. Anti-retroviral drugs are readily available, but many people have no clean water to take them with, which reduces their efficacy by up to 80%. We have had a special program for children with HIV who have been taken in by other families, ensuring their clean water supply, and trained an entire community of people impacted by HIV in BioSand Filter fabrication. We have also expanded our work into the village fabrication of rainwater catchment systems. We held a training at Quaker Cove Camp in Anacortes in August.

http://www.friendlywater.net.

Olympia Monthly Meeting has been called to create a “New Underground Railroad” project to aid LGBTQ Ugandans who are fleeing their homeland for their lives and safety. We have been given an opportunity to provide direct assistance that will save lives. In the first few weeks of this effort we helped 17 LGBTQ Ugandans get to safety and freedom [see the FAQs page for current numbers and other important information]. Many others remain at risk, and are trying to escape.

We passed the following Minute on the Friends New Underground Railroad: Regarding Uganda’s Passage of A Law Targeting Its LGBTQ Population (Minute approved on April 13, 2014).
Olympia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends [Quakers] has noted with deep concern the Ugandan Government’s passage of a law targeting the LGBTQ population. This law has created a climate where the life, health, and freedom of all LGBTQ Ugandans and those who help them are at immediate risk. We are appalled at hearing about those who have already been kicked out of their homes, denied basic rights, abandoned, beaten, imprisoned, or killed, or who live in constant fear.

We call on all Friends, individually and in their Meetings, Friends’ organizations, and all people of good will, to help us in this effort. As of 11/03/2014 FNUR has supported Ugandan conductors to help 661 individuals to escape from Uganda: 646 LGBTQ adults, 6 straight allies, and 8 children. Of these, we can confirm at least 281 folks in countries of final destination including in part: 149 in Rwanda, 51 in South Africa, 30 in Sweden, 6 in the Netherlands, 4 in Norway, 16 in Ontario Canada, 5 in Denmark, 8 in France, 3 in Germany, 1 in Turkey (on a working visa not refugee), 4 in Dubai (on a working visa and in closet), 2 in Tanzania, 1 in Southern Sudan, 1 on a visitor’s visa in Australia and 1 decided to go back to Uganda and changed town. The rest are being processed in interim countries for asylum status in new home countries around the world. One of the activists in Uganda working with these passengers wrote: “I wish to also note that the US Embassy hasn’t been so helpful in this cause.” Thirty-three adults that the conductors have assisted identify as transgender. Roughly an equal number of men and women make up the rest of the passengers. The Ugandan conductors have 27 on their waiting lists.

**PORT TOWNSEND MONTHLY MEETING.**  WA
PSCC Contact: Clint Weimeister  (email clintw327@gmail.com;  phone 360-379-5376)

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has temporarily disbanded, but the meeting maintains the spirit of justice work.

**PULLMAN-MOSCOW MONTHLY MEETING.**  WA/ID
PSCC Contact: Florence Satterthwait,  (email: fsfurville@hotmail.com;  phone 208-892-0110)

Meeting financially supports “Right Sharing of World Resources” through an ongoing voluntary program of a “fine” or tax on personal gasoline usage to fund the donations. Florence has ongoing personal interest in restorative justice. Small meeting, not active as a whole.

**SALEM FRIENDS MEETING.**  OR
PSCC Contact: Rose Lewis (email lewisrr@xpressdata.net; phone 503-792-3238).

During the past year Salem Friends Meeting has taken action on several issues in response to urgings from Quaker organizations, including FCNL, AFSC and North Pacific Yearly Meeting. These include: Repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force, Torture, and Drones. In each case we sent a letter of concern to our Members of Congress, and encouraged Friends to take action as individuals such as sending letters, writing Guest Opinions, etc. We got a response back from one of our representatives, and our letter about Drones was published in the local paper.

Locally we have had a special concern for people without housing, and have revived an earlier project of providing a meal for the families in the Interfaith Hospitality Network during the week when the Unitarian Universalists provide sleeping space and meals for them. The IHN is a program where local churches take turns providing overnight hospitality and meals for families who are homeless - usually about 15 or so people at one time. Our Meetinghouse doesn't meet the requirements for such overnight stays, so we partner with the UUs. This is done on a rotating basis, one week at a time, which means that we help them three times a year. Our Children's Program is joining with Freedom Friends Church in a project to collect personal care items, to be put into ziploc bags and distributed to homeless people before the holidays.
The Meeting invited a local homeless activist to make a presentation for our Adult Program on Homelessness in Salem. She shared useful and deeply troubling information, including that the average age of a homeless person in the Salem area is 9 years. Other topics during the year included: Peaceful Developments in Latin America, Oregon Prison Project, and Permaculture.

Our Children’s Program is continuing with its Creek Project, going to the same section of Mill Creek once each month to do cleanup, make observations, take photos and check on the health of the creek.

The Peace and Social Concerns committee has explored ways to be supportive of a project of AME Zion Church. Each Tuesday church volunteers prepare boxes of food supplied by Marion-Polk Food Share, for distribution to thousands of families in their neighborhood. Another project we are exploring is ways to be involved with a new shelter for homeless veterans being developed by Partnership for Veterans at Risk at the former Salem Outreach Shelter location. We are also in touch with local Veterans for Peace members, to explore possible joint work such as CO counseling for veterans and offering sanctuary for service members who refuse to serve.

Other issues we are considering are promoting immigration reform; the $15 minimum wage idea; gun control laws; recruiting volunteer mentors for children in foster care, and setting up a small discussion group to raise awareness about racism.

The Meeting is supportive of the monthly Peace Vigil in downtown Salem, the small monthly Friends Worship Group at Oregon State Penitentiary, and the home Meeting for Worship with a parolee each month. We provide meeting space each week for a small Occupy discussion group. Members are active in Alternatives to Violence Project workshops at the penitentiary, Salem Fellowship of Reconciliation and other local peace and justice groups.

In addition to AFSC, FCNL and FWCC, the Meeting gives financial support to local projects including: Salem Peace Lecture, Martin Luther King Celebration, Salem Speaks Up!, Marion-Polk Food Share, Women’s Crisis Center, Farm Worker Ministries and Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

**SALMON BAY FRIENDS MEETING.** WA

**PSCC Contact: Barbara Luetke (email bluetke@ymail.com; phone 972-943-8572)**

Salmon Bay had a presence at FCWPP’s Quaker lobby Day this year, including two new Friends. Some Salmon Bay Friends are very active in prison efforts, working with the Freedom Project, restorative circles and mindful meditation, as often as weekly. The Meeting thanked the Governor for his moratorium on the death penalty.

**SAN JUAN WORSHIP GROUP.** WA

**PSCC Contact: Jan Gray (email janetgray@gmail.com; phone 360-378-2762)**

San Juan Worship Group, many members share a strong concern for peace and social concerns. Individuals have contacted legislators, signed petitions, and made donations.

**SANDPOINT FRIENDS MEETING.** ID

**PSCC Contact: Steve Willey (email steve@wolley.com; phone 208-263-4788)**

Several individuals in Sandpoint Friends Meeting are following the coal and oil train public hearings, testifying for local safety interests. We follow FCNL action requests, making weekly handouts of background and action information. Also one member is on the board of Idaho Conservation League. Others are helping Sandpoint Vegetarian group working with ACLU and others to oppose the “Ag Gag Bill” that criminalizes those reporting illegal animal abuse at Idaho factory farms.

Sandpoint Friends meeting was invited to do a one-night talk on Quakerism in a series of community presentations about various religions dealing with peace, at the local Presbyterian Church.
We gave the history and summary of unprogrammed Quakerism, and then emphasized specifics of our testimony of peace, conscientious objection to war, war prevention and diplomacy.

SHERIDAN WORSHIP GROUP. WY
PSCC Contact: Georgia Foster (email murfos@wavecom.net; phone 307-672-6779)

This small meeting of 10 people is focusing on supporting each other. Lynn Fitz-Hugh brought an AFSC program about making the community more vital, doing the work that means the most, which speaks to our hearts. There are not organized meeting projects as a whole, but some individuals are dedicated to work in a soup kitchen, some in suicide prevention, and some in “bridges to poverty”.

SKY VALLEY WORSHIP GROUP. WA
PSCC Contacts: Jean Roberts (phone 360-793-0240) and Steve Warner (email srwarner@aol.com)

Their justice work comes in the form of talking to others in the community about peace and social justice. They met with Tom Ewell, and Congressman Pierceman talking about prisons. Some do ministry support work in the jail. All of us donate to FCNL, and some are active in other groups. We live what we believe and try to have conversations with other people. One is a chair of a resident committee in a housing facility and applies peace processes. We also recently attended our city council with attention to the dangers of nationalism.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN MEETING. OR
PSCC Co-Clerks: Herb Rothschild (email herbertrothschild@hotmail.com; phone 541-531-3730), and Rebecca Cecil (email beccacecil@cybermesa.com)

In 2014 we hosted four sessions of educational presentations with postcard writing centered on the national issues of mass incarceration and other prison issues, the Keystone XL Pipeline, bees, including the Save Our Pollinators Act and pesticides as a focal point for a host of environmental concerns, and the Authorization for the Use of Military Force. Our committee learned from our FCNL visitors that letters sent in envelopes must be screened for substances and so do not reach our legislators in a timely way. We now write postcards with concise messages and have had an increase in our messages to Congress (usually over 20 cards for each session) with many replies sent so that we know our messages reached them.

We hosted 3 visitors from FCNL with shared meals and discussion: Pat Shields- our regional representative; Kate Gould- Middle East lobbyist in DC, and DeAnne Butterfield- clerk of the FCNL general committee. All gave inspiring, informative, positive news about FCNL’s activities and how we can support the efforts while grounded in Spirit.

On-going groups which our members support, sponsor, or join are: Permanent Sponsor of Southern Oregon Pride Parade, Ashland Food Project, Ashland Recycling Plastics Roundup, HCAO (single-payer Health Care for All Oregon) and Our Family Farms for GMO-free Jackson County.

On behalf of the Meeting we make donations to social causes. We gave half to the National Quaker Organizations AFSC, FCNL, Right Sharing of World Resources, and Friends Peace Teams. The other half is sent to various Local Social Change Organizations supported and recommended by Meeting members. This past year we gave to Oregon Action, Peace House, Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice, Citizens for Peace and Justice, Mediation Works, and Sexual Assault Response Team.

We began a new endeavor to promote and share the ideas of the Shared Security document by AFSC and FCNL together. We held introductory sessions for our meeting, and then ordered copies to offer with a cover letter to our local action groups and faith communities who share our concerns for global Peace and Justice. We will offer facilitation for using the document to those interested.
South Mountain Friends are grateful for our association with the Ashland Peace House with whom we share our building. Peace House shares with us its rich access to networking individuals and groups who share a commitment to building peace and justice in our community.

**SOUTH SEATTLE FRIENDS MEETING.** WA

PSCC Contact: Jerry Evergreen (email djevergreen@cablespeed.com; phone 206-709-9787)

South Seattle’s Peace and Social Concerns is called Faith in Action Committee. The Meeting continues to work consistently to reduce gun violence. Friends write post cards monthly on business meeting Sunday to their representatives and other people who have influence on the issue of gun violence. They have launched a Meeting book group on Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*. An Adult Education session inspired a discussion on what life would be like without fossil fuels, what the Meeting could do about the issue of climate change, and encouraged Friends to volunteer ideas on how to travel to Meeting with a smaller carbon footprint.

**TACOMA FRIENDS MEETING.** WA

PSCC Contact: Angelia Alexander (email Alexander.angelia0618@gmail.com; phone 253-531-3747)

Since at Tacoma Friends Meeting we still have such a small core group, we are remaining active as individuals in social action areas. We have and will be holding discussions of issues that FCNL suggests. We have not sensed a leading that would bring us together as a group to work on a single issue or problem.

**UMPQUA VALLEY WORSHIP GROUP.** OR

PSCC Contact: Elee Hadley (email eleehadley@mulberryorchard.com; phone 541-679-8889)

This small Worship Group does not have committees, and we have no regular PSC activity that the WG does together. We do things as a "committee of the whole" when needs arise. Individually we are involved in many activities -- Neal Hadley for over ten years has been on the board of the Global Warming Coalition for Douglas County. Friends donate and volunteer with groups that assist the homeless. Many are interested in environmental causes; we support efforts for clean water worldwide and for Native American self-sufficiency. We met recently (third year in a row) for our annual Meeting and potluck with Florence WG in Coos Bay, where this year, NPYM FCNL representative Pat Shields spoke. Some of us have supported FCNL for years.

**UNIVERSITY FRIENDS MEETING.** WA

PSCC Contacts: Jonathan Betz-Zall (email jbetzzall@gmail.com; 206-782-9305) and Ruth Yarrow (email rmyarrow@gmail.com; phone 206-722-1669)

UFM has been hosting the SHARE shelter continually since 2007, up to 20 self-governing homeless men and women who sleep on the carpet in our worship room every night. We're a basic sleeping shelter with no showers, laundry or cooking facilities. SHARE screens its shelter participants; many work and/or attend school, and several have moved on to better jobs and/or more permanent housing situations. It costs UFM about 25 cents per person per night for the additional utility usage and bathroom supplies, all of which is reimbursed by SHARE on a quarterly basis. SHARE stores their sleeping mats and blankets in one indoor closet and one outdoor shed. Fundraisers by Meeting members for this effort have been successful not only in raising money but creating community as Meeting and shelter members danced, sang and ate together. Once a month University Friends contribute around $75 for canned goods that we take to Tent City Three.

For a decade Peace and Social Concerns has been successful in encouraging many Meeting members to attend Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy’s Quaker Lobby Day, which helps
acquaint Meeting members with their representatives, and builds some community during shared rides to Olympia.

P&SC has recruited speakers for a month each year of Adult Education sessions from 9:30-10:30 on Sundays. Periodically the Committee brings information (often FCNL priorities) and letter-writing materials for Friends to write to their representatives during lunch. We are beginning to encourage more Minutes on critical peace and justice issues from the whole Meeting.

VASHON ISLAND WORSHIP GROUP. WA
PSCC Contact: Jim Hauser (email jameswhauser1943@gmail.com; phone 206-463-5117)

The Worship Group has a list of around three dozen causes to which it gives donations on a schedule of about three per month. Marcy Summers, a member of the group, launched an ecology/development project called Tompotika in Indonesia, and the group cares deeply about this effort. Some members have participated in the Women in Black vigil every Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm for the past Three years, where they encourage people to send postcards to their representatives as a “Do it yourself petition.” Vashon Friends work with the Interfaith Council on Homelessness cooking dinner once a month, one of many groups providing dinners seven days a week on the Island.

WALLA WALLA FRIENDS MEETING. WA
PSCC Contact: Dan Clark (email clarkdn@charter.net; phone 509-522-0399)

Walla Walla Meeting has been working closely with the STAR Project (Successful Transition and Reentry) for prisoners returning to the community, both with volunteer time and funding. They are concerned with decreasing our dependence on coal and resisting efforts to mine, use or export coal. Walla Walla Friends have been volunteering for their local Walla Walla Diversity Coalition’s activities, including the September 2013 Freedom from Discrimination Month in the Walla Walla Valley, focusing on gender and sexual identity respect and equality and other concerns.

WHIDBEY ISLAND FRIENDS MEETING. WA
PSCC Contact Thomas Ewell (email tewell@whidbey.com)

In terms of community outreach and involvement, we have recently joined the regional Greening Congregation program sponsored by the statewide Earth Ministries organization as part of our Peace and Social Concerns ministry. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee also has been active recently in sponsoring a book signing presentation by David Hartsough. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is now planning a rather ambitious program to rally our community to oppose the further escalation of the military offenses in Iraq and Syria. We are planning a newspaper ad, a sign-on petition to our Congressional representatives, and a community forum on the war-making to follow, that would include a presentation by Matt Southworth, a veteran of the Iraq war who now works with FCNL. Matt will be out west from January 7-14. He will be speaking here on Whidbey on the 10th, but we are hoping other meetings will also plan to invite Matt to keynote a program dealing with ISIS and the present military situation. We will be doing a mailing to regional meetings encouraging them to consider such a gathering.

A special event for our meeting this fall was to share a dedication program with our UU host meeting of establishing a peace pole on the UU grounds. The pole was donated by one of our members who had established the pole at her home in commemoration of 9/11 because she was present there and had friends die in the Twin Towers. She had had it at her home, but when her home was sold she donated the peace pole to the meeting.

Two members of our meeting were the leaders of the plenary program at the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting in September on the theme of weaving our spiritual lives and social action together.