

Metamorphosis-March 2009
www.geocities.com/bellinghamfriendsmeeting/
New P.O. Address: P.O. Box 30144
Bellingham 98228-2144

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING
 1701 Ellis Street
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 360-752-9223 (leave message)

Sunday Worship 10-11:00am. First Day School 10:00-11:00am. Childcare: 10:00-11:00am.

Query #31 from the little red book (Advices and Queries of the British Yearly meeting): "We are called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars.' Do you faithfully maintain our testimony that war and the preparation for war are inconsistent with the spirit of Christ? Search out whatever in your way of life may contain the seeds of war. Stand firm in our testimony, even when others commit or prepare to commit acts of violence, yet always remember that they too are children of God."

Save these Dates – Please join us for the weekly vigil for peace in front of the Federal building on Friday, **March 20th**. This marks the seventh year for the war in Iraq. A presence of additional people would send an important message. On **March 28th** at the Lakeway Inn, Interfaith will hold its annual Dinner/Auction. Tickets are \$40.

Potluck Sunday for both April and May will take place on the second Sunday of the month due to Easter (4/14) and Mother’s Day (5/12). Earthcare Committee has suggested that we bring starter plants on these Sundays to share with Friends as a means of welcoming spring.

Friendly Readers’ Book Club - This month’s book is Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why we need a green Revolution and how it can renew America, by Thomas Friedman. We will discuss this on March 24th at the Halls’. This is hard cover but available at Costco for about \$15. It is an important book on climate change that is high on the bestseller lists. It's a pivotal book on climate change and energy that suggests policy changes that are needed to move us towards a green economy. We particularly want to invite Earthcare Friends to join us. It is also a longer book (400 pages) so we suggest you get an early start on it. It will be available for our book group discount at Village books or you can ask someone who is a Costco member to pick up a copy.

Date	Care/Mtg.	Greeter	Snack	Hospitality	2 nd Hour
March15+	Doris	Tom H.	Seres	Margie	
March 22	Tom H.	Annelise	Annelise	Rob D.	
March 29	Margi	Betty			
*April 05	Don				Mtg. 4 W, attn. B
*April 12	Doris	Don	Potluck	Annelise	Easter Potluck

+ **March 15th is Singing Sunday beginning at 9:30am.**

* **1st Sunday Potluck & 2nd Sunday [M4@4B](#) have been switched for the month of March.**

Eco-Suggestion of the Month: Make your own stain remover - 1/4 cup hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda - rub onto blood, mud, sweat stains - let it sit for 15 minutes before rinsing thoroughly.

Speak Truth to Power: State Senator Kevin Ranker is pushing SB 5944, which would clean up Lake Whatcom’s phosphorus. The bill would put the Puget Sound Partnership to work on a pilot project to help clean up Lake Whatcom. Write our state senators to ask them to support this bill or thank them for their support. Senator Dale Brandland is a cosponsor of the bill.

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship for Business, February 11, 2009 - Draft Minutes

Clerking: Janine Bruton

Acting recording secretary: Mimi Freshley

Attending: Doris Ferm, Don Goldstein, Dorrie Jordan, Virginia Herrick, Margi Fulton, Annelise Pysanky, Betty McMahon, Howard Harris, Susan Richardson, and Julie Batton

We began with opening silence.

Our History: Howard shared Quaker History about three American Friends Service Committee members who went to Germany in 1938 and were able to help bring Jewish Germans back to the United States.

Our Future: Friends reflected and shared thoughts on Howard’s message. Janine reflected on the message of courage and taking bold steps. Betty shared some personal family history from that time period and being named

after a relative lost. Doris announced that citizens were going to Congressman Rick Larson's office to discuss the topic of immigration.

Approval of Minutes/Follow-ups

February Minutes were approved with no corrections. Thanks were expressed to Susan Richardson for clerking and Dorrie Jordan for acting as recording secretary last month, and to other members of nominating committee and others for filling in as recording secretaries in the past months.

Committee Reports

Bellingham Friends Meeting Nominating Committee

**Refers to continuation of service – not up for Nomination this year.*

Co Clerks	<i>Janine Bruton 2010*</i> Mimi Freshley 2011
Recording clerk	Betty McMahon 2011
Newsletter	Sharon Trent 2011
Treasurer	<i>Don Goldstein 2010*</i>
Ministry & Counsel	<i>Doris Ferm 2010*</i> Clerk <i>Janine Bruton 2010*</i> Dorrie Jordan 2011 Mimi Freshley 2011 Howard Harris 2011
Finance Comm.	<i>John Hatten 2010*</i> Clerk <i>Rob Stoops 2010*</i> <i>Don Goldstein 2010*</i> Susan Richardson 2011
Nominating Com.	<i>Lorina Hall 2009*</i> Clerk <i>Mimi Freshley 2009*</i> <i>Virginia Herrick 2010*</i>
Children's Comm.	Julie Batten 2011 Clerk <i>Adrienne Solenberger, Coordinator 2010* (extension)</i> <i>Jessica Bee, 2010* (extension)</i> <i>Kate Batten 2010*</i> Kelly Wyckoff f 2011 Seres Kyrie 2011 Sherri Kneeskern 2011
Hospitality	<i>Annelise Pysanky 2010*</i> Clerk Rob Dillard 2010 Dave Hopkinson 2011 Kelly Wyckoff 2011 Key People: <i>Annelise Pysanky 2010*</i> Clerk Dave and Judy Hopkinson 2011 Don Goldstein 2011 Alice Turtle Robb 2011
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	Jeanine Hart Horner 2011* <i>extension</i> , Clerk <i>Betty McMahon 2010*</i> <i>Holly Folk 2010*</i>

*Canaan Folk-Reinke 2010**

Ash Kyrie Woolson 2011

Nathan Row 2011

Friends Earthc.Comm. *Dorrie Jordan 2010** Clerk
Judy Hopkinson 2011
John Horner 2011
Doris Ferm 2011 extension*

Communication *Alice Turtle Robb – 2010** Clerk
Sharon Trent 2011- Newsletter editor
Matthew Liao Troth – website 2010 extension*
Steve VanderStaay – phone 2010 extension*

Meeting House *John Hatten 2010* Site Liaison*
Tom Hall 2010 Meeting house search person*

NPYM Liaison Coord Comm.

Alice Robb 2010 (term is 1.5 years April 2009 until Oct. 2010)

PNQM rep. Lorina Hall 2011
Native Am. Rep. Allan Richardson 2011
FCWPP rep. *Doris Ferm 2010**
Interfaith Coalition Sharon Trent 2011
Archivist Kirsten Ebsen 2011
FCNL *Tom Hall 2010**
FGC *Don Goldstein 2010**
*Quak. Earthc. Wit. Doris Ferm 2010**
Western Friends Lorina Hall 2011

Nominating Committee requests that all committee clerks provide Nominating Committee with reviewed and revised job descriptions in May. (It should be on the agenda of your first meeting with the new committee). Please include date, so we can track when a job description was last updated. Nominating Committee will present the revised job descriptions to upcoming Meetings for Business.

After the slate was presented clarifications were given and questions answered. **The slate of nominations was accepted for seasoning until April's Meeting for Business.**

Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee

The committee met on March 1 with the Lopez Island representatives, Judy Meyer, Nancy Ewert, and Ron Metcalf. The committee discussed the tasks that still need to be filled but since the meeting have found individuals to help with fill those tasks. Queries were discussed and decided upon. The next step is waiting for registration to be complete by mid- April.

Ministry and Counsel Report March 8, 2009

We met March 4, with everyone in attendance. Doris will read Query number 31 this month.

1. The State of Society Report has been drafted by Sharon, looked at by Don, and is being reworked by Janine.
2. Membership - Janine Hart-Horner's committee has recommended membership and we **recommend this** for seasoning today. **ACCEPTED FOR SEASONING at M4W4B.**

We received a request from Iris Graville for transfer of membership from University Meeting, and her committee will be set up.

3. The photography second hour had a small attendance, as many were away. We will check with Series/Ash about the next step.

4. AFSC suggests marking the 7th year in Iraq. We encourage more members to take part in our weekly vigil Mar 20 4 -5pm.

5. Susan will request that communication committee and the webmaster post the Query and Speak Truth to Power on our website each month.

6. Earthcare suggests that someone set up the "notebook" of listings for things we were willing to share with

each other. Listing this on the web may not be appropriate. We encourage Earthcare to consider how best to do this.

7. Doris mentioned that the visit of Bob Schultz is scheduled for the weekend of Sea to Ski. Janine will see if he could come on one of his other dates (May 31). When he does come, we should announce in the Bellingham Herald.

8. Schedule. Note that in both April and May we will reverse the order of potluck and M4B because of holidays. Make sure committees meet enough in advance for earlier M4B. Also we will try singing on both the 3rd and 4th Sundays in March.

9. Daniel reports that 5 teens from Congregational church will visit Mar 15, beginning at 9:30 and he will invite our teens (Liam, Kendra, Tess) to join.

Schedule: Note that both APRIL and MAY have M4B and potluck reversed because of holidays.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Before Meetings</u>	<u>Care of Meeting</u>	<u>Second Hour</u>
March 8		Janine	M4W4B
March 15	9:30 Singing & teen visit	Doris	Simplicity Janine
March 22	9:30 Singing w/ Daniel	Tom	Education values- Daniel
March 29		Margi	Children's intergeneration Sunday
April 05		Don	M4W4B
April 12		Doris	Easter potluck
April 19	9:30 Singing	Susan	Howard on Gospel of John
April 26			Pacific NW Meeting - No second hour
May 03			M4W4B
Mary 10			Mother's Day potluck

The State of the Meeting Report draft was presented. Statistics such as attendance need to be included. Thanks for Sharon Trent, who took notes from the second hour and Don Goldstein who wrote the first draft of the report, Janine Bruton who also worked on the first draft and Virginia Herrick who will complete the final editing. The State of the Meeting Report was read and there will be additions from committees, some minor corrections, and rewordings. The final draft will then be distributed by e-mail community wide for consideration before the next Meeting for Business. Approval is expected at the next Meeting for Business.

Peace and Social Concerns Report

1. The Concern of the Month is the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where Trees, Water and People try to mitigate suffering by providing solar heating systems, which they train local Lakota leaders to build and install in homes.
2. The Statement of Purpose for our Committee was revised slightly and approved.
3. Jeanine will write a letter for Friends to sign on immigration issues.
4. The Committee will meet next on Mar.31, 7:15 pm at Doris'. Incoming members of the Committee are encouraged to attend.
5. A draft letter of support for the Sanctuary City proposed ordinance was accepted for possible approval by Meeting, as follows:

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has for 350 years expressed its faith " that every individual of every race and nation is of supreme worth, that love is the highest law of life, and that evil is to be overcome, not by further evil, but by good...War is a colossal violation of this way of life...we assert that every individual, while owing loyalty to the state, owes a more binding loyalty to...God and Conscience." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends 1934) Upon this faith that there is a higher authority than the state, to which we owe allegiance, we base our conscientious objection to war. It is a stand that is recognized in United States law. We, the members of Bellingham Friends Meeting, do affirm our support for the proposed ordinance upholding the right of conscientious objection of those who have come to realization of this truth after their induction into the military. We ask that our city taxes not be used by the Bellingham Police Department for cooperating with federal prosecution and incarceration of military offenders who have committed no crime under civil law.

Recorded this 8th day of March 2009 during the regular Monthly Meeting for Worship with attention to business.

Signed,

Janine Bruton, co-clerk

Daniel Kirkpatrick, co-clerk

Bellingham Friends Meeting

There was approval and unity on the letter. It will be sent to Sanctuary City, who will bring it to the Bellingham City Council. Howard requested the letter be submitted to the Bellingham Herald and that was agreed upon. Appreciation to Doris Ferm for writing the letter was minuted.

Friends Earth Care Committee Report

Eco - suggestion of the Month: Make your own stain remover - 1/4 cup hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda - rub onto blood, mud, sweat stains - let it sit for 15 minutes before rinsing thoroughly.

Speak Truth To Power - State Senator Kevin Ranker is pushing SB 5944, which would clean up Lake Whatcom's phosphorus. The bill would put the Puget Sound Partnership to work on a pilot project to help clean up Lake Whatcom. Write our state senators to ask them to support this bill or thank them for their support. - Senator Dale Brandland is a cosponsor of the bill.

David Suzuki will be in Bellingham on April 6th at the Mt Baker Theater at 7 pm.

We would like to have a plant starter/seed exchange and are suggesting that people bring plant starts and extra seeds to the next two potlucks to share with other people.

Next FEC meeting will be April 28th at 7 pm at Doris' house.

Treasurer's Report - Bellingham Friends Meeting Cash Flow - Last month 2/1/2009 through 2/28/2009

Category	Amount
INFLOWS	
Contributions to Meeting	1007.17
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	55.00
Contributions to FCWPP	135.00
Contributions for Darfur relief via UNHCR	125.00

TOTAL INFLOWS	1,322.17
OUTFLOWS	
Administration - Total	-475.00
Rent: Explorations Academy	-475.00
Children's Program Committee - Total	-536.52
Childcare	-111.76
Employment taxes for 2008	-218.03
Books (ordered 11/25/08)	-206.73
Communications Committee - Total	-119.97
Newsletter printing	-19.53
P.O. box rental (full year)	-58.00
Other Communications Committee (phone)	-42.44
Donations Out - Total	-260.00
FCWPP	-135.00
Durfur relief, via UNHCR	-125.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-1,391.49
=====	
OVERALL TOTAL	-69.32

Remarks: The two largest expenditures under the Children's Program Committee were both non-routine ones. The \$218.03 paid to the I.R.S. for 2008 employment taxes included amounts previously withheld from the pay of our childcare workers as well as BFM's own contributions, for Social Security and Medicare. The \$206.73 for children's books that had been ordered from Quaker Books of FGC was actually a late-2008 expenditure for which the invoice was not received until February 2009. A purchase of this size will likely not occur more often than once every 2 or 3 years.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee was asked to look at the proposal from Children's Committee to fund a Children's Program Coordinator position at \$200 per month. There is no question that a healthy children's program is good

for the Meeting and that having a coordinator has been indispensable to the current success and vibrancy of the program. Therefore our consideration of the proposal is only from a financial perspective.

As this request from the Children's Committee has come after the approval of the 2009 budget, our committee and the Meeting need to look at how the position would be funded. The best way to fund an unbudgeted expense is for members and attendees of the Meeting to increase contributions.

If the Meeting decides to fund the position, and there is not an increase in income the rest of the budget would be affected. This is not a preferred option as it could involve revisiting all the budget items that were previously approved.

Another option is to reduce the amount paid for the position for this current year and then revisit funding the position when it can be integrated into the 2010 budget.

The Finance Committee job description (policies, guidelines and practices) suggests maintaining a three-month reserve in our operating fund. We currently have over \$3,000 available, so we are in good shape for now. The committee discussed the possibility of using our reserve to fund this position, but given our current projections, the reserve could be depleted before the end of the year even without the additional expense of this position. Funding any expense from reserves is not a sustainable practice, and we therefore do not recommend doing so.

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Last year, our pledged income was \$13,330 and our actual income was \$13,991.24 (\$661.24 more). Our budgeted expenses were \$14,719 and actual expenses were \$13,573.79 (\$1,145.21 less). The pattern of having more income and fewer expenses than budgeted has been a very long pattern, but with zero based budgeting, the differences have been considerably closer. This year, our projected expenses are more than \$4,700 below our pledged income.

A budget is, at best, a good guide for planning. In the past, expenses were projected and income was then projected to be the same (a balanced budget). The last several years we have used the zero based budgeting method to develop our budget. This requires each budget item to be examined in order to best plan for the upcoming year. Our planning for expenses has been done by each committee projecting their financial needs for the upcoming year and putting that into a budget request for the Meeting to act upon. Our planning for income has been based on pledged support.

There have already been increased pledges of donations in order to fund the Children's Committee's request which the Treasurer believes total \$50 per month (this needs to be verified). The Finance Committee recommends that the honorarium payment to the Children's Program Coordinator be started in March at the level of \$100 per month and further pledges be solicited by a Minute approved by the Meeting. The Committee further recommends that the monthly honorarium amount be adjusted in June, either up or down, in order to match the total amount of designated or increased pledges that have been received as of then, and continued at that level for the remainder of 2009.

Our committee now awaits direction from the Meeting.

Following the reading of the report was time for discussion. Susan Richardson stated that she was in support of providing an honorarium because it represents support of a leading that Adrienne Row had. This follows traditions Friends have of honoring and supporting leadings. Susan feels this honorarium should not be tied into a job description or salary. **It was decided that the job description and funding of the honorarium would be separate items for approval.** However, because Children's Committee was unable to meet to consider the report, any final decision will not be made until April, which will allow Children's Committee to meet and have a response. If the proposal is approved, the payment to Adrienne could be retroactive to March.

Liaison Reports:

Interfaith Coalition: Mimi Freshley reported that she has obtained frames for the photographs that will be donated to the Interfaith Coalition Auction so no other help is needed. The Interfaith Auction will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 5:30 at the Best Western Lakeway Inn. Tickets are \$40 for dinner and the auction and

should be ordered ahead of time from the Interfaith Coalition. Appreciation for Mimi's efforts on behalf of BFM to support Interfaith Coalition was minuted.

Member Concerns: On Saturday, April 4th, Vancouver (BC) Meeting will host a Quaker Quest Workshop at its meetinghouse (70th Avenue and Osler Street) from 9 am to 4 p.m.. Bellingham Friends have been invited to send up to three people to the workshop, of which I will be one and can provide transportation for two others. Find out about Quaker Quest, an exciting new program of outreach that has brought seekers to meetings all over Britain and has recently been introduced by Friends General Conference to meetings in North America. It is based on the idea that Quakerism, "a spiritual path for our time," is simple, radical, and contemporary. Whether called to do Quaker Quest in our own meetings or not, workshop participants will learn much about advancement and have an amazing community-building experience. There is no charge for the workshop, and a simple lunch will be provided (contributions of sandwiches, fruit, perhaps a crockpot of hearty soup, etc., are welcome). If interested in attending, please contact me at dnx57@yahoo.com or 360-671-1395 not later than March 31st. --Don Goldstein

Clerk's Moment: Janine acknowledged the tremendous spirit of cooperation within our meeting where whenever a job needs doing or a gap appears one or another of us graciously steps in. It appears seamless and effortless due to the willingness of many. Our Meeting then closed in silence.

The following two boxes contain **Minutes on Climate Change**, from both PYM and NPYM, for you to peruse/compare/contrast.

Harmony with Life on Earth

We are a part, a dependent part, of a living whole. There can be no true health (or "wholeness" - the two words mean the same) in humanity unless, at the same time, we look to the health of the whole Earth family of living creatures.
Marjory Sykes, 1970

We celebrate the mystery of creation and rejoice in the beauty, diversity, and complexity of life on Earth. As the planetary crisis unfolds, we acknowledge the harm that humans are doing to the Earth and the consequent threats to civilization and to life itself.

We embrace the truth that we are but one species among many whose fate is irrevocably linked with all others and with Earth's cycles and processes. We cannot thrive unless the whole web of life thrives. In addition to acknowledging that of God in all people, we hold all life as sacred and extend the circle of our love and kinship beyond the human community to include the whole.

We face the dilemma of living in a society that benefits many, yet causes the environmental destruction we abhor. We acknowledge that the viability of our modern economic system is based on unlimited growth, while Earth itself - the ultimate source of all our wealth - has natural and non-negotiable limits. Much like a household that overspends its budget, humans are overspending Earth's resources with excess consumption and ever increasing population.

Failure to curb our recklessness - whether from ignorance, hubris, or greed - not only undermines peace and the health of human civilization but jeopardizes the very existence of the web of life on Earth. While life lives on other life, right human relationship requires us not to take more from nature than it can give without leaving enough for the whole and its parts to thrive. When we do otherwise, we damage our spirit and deny our humanity.

As we examine our lives, we strive to demonstrate in our daily choices and actions a less destructive, more harmonious way for humans to live. We seek to learn right relationship, moving from stewardship to kinship. We strive to practice simplicity anew, abandoning wasteful habits and destructive technologies, while modeling alternatives.

We seek to understand the complexities of the issues involved. We labor with those who shape public policy to protect the health and resilience of Earth's life support systems. We advocate for collaboration at all levels of global society, and witness for equitable sharing of the burdens that transformation will create. We acknowledge our responsibility to be actively concerned for the greater good. Spirit calls us to use our knowledge and power to enhance rather than destroy the web of life.

Friends seek discernment in these endeavors and to be guided by empathy, generosity and wisdom. We turn to the Light and the wisdom of our tradition to guide us through the profound challenges we face.

Draft minute from PYM August 2008

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." --Psalm 24:1
The psalmist reminds us of the sacredness of the Earth and all its inhabitants. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirms climate change and its devastating impacts to the earth's human and nonhuman inhabitants. Noting that global, climate change is increased by human-produced greenhouse gases, we wish to bear witness against abuse of the earth and our environment.

Global climate change is an urgent moral and spiritual issue affecting all species on our planet. The rate and severity of climate change are the only unknowns. With its resulting weather extremes, habitat destruction, species extinction and human dislocation, we see the havoc climate change will wreck on the health and survival of present and future generations. Competition for resources aggravates the conditions that lead to war. We recognize that military production, research and development, training exercises and wars are major contributors to global warming. We will continue to work in practical ways to put an end to militarism and war. Our sense of urgency about global climate change is fueled by awareness that the impoverished and international levels, advocate measures to protect earth's resources.

Through personal participation and public policy, work to promote environmental justice and assist the most impoverished will suffer the greatest hardships, and that the affluent are emitting the vast majority of greenhouse gases. It is not enough for Friends to care. Our Quaker testimonies call us to become patterns and examples to our communities, illustrating by our actions our spiritual commitment to our earth and its threatened, limited resources. We are called as Friends to make this a standing priority and corporate witness in our Meetings and communities in the coming year. We urge Friends and others to take all possible measures to slow down climate change through reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, seeking sustainable levels of human population, and more carefully stewarding earth's finite resources.

We ask that the newly formed Peace and Social Concerns Committee of NPYM act as a resource and communication conduit for Meetings and Worship Groups in acting on this concern, encouraging faithfulness and accountability, and reporting back to Annual Session in 2009. Our challenge is to educate ourselves, and move beyond denial and inaction. We ask that each Meeting and Worship Group, as well as the Yearly Meeting as a whole, commit to take specific action in the coming year. The queries from 1998 with a new emphasis on global climate change may be used to begin seasoning appropriate responses to this concern in our Worship Groups. The following are suggested steps¹, which may mitigate the devastation of global climate change and move us toward more sustainable lifestyles:

- *Engage in collective discernment in our Meetings to understand and adjust to climate change, allowing the Spirit to work among us.
- *Reduce personal greenhouse gases in the coming year through decreased driving, flying, and home energy use, and through using efficient alternatives.
- *Make conscious selections of food and water use that require fewer resources to produce, package and transport.
- *Become a resource—encouraging and learning from others ways to reduce fossil-fuel consumption.
- *Discern our personal responsibility for mitigating the negative effects of human over-population and over-consumption and be aware of their link to the inequitable sharing of earth's resources.
- *Labor with those shaping public opinion and policy to support care of the earth. From local to state, national, and vulnerable, including the creation of green jobs.

This minute was approved at NPYM's annual session in July 2008.



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