



Metamorphosis

July 2009

Meeting for Worship Sundays at 10 AM at Explorations Academy, 1701 Ellis Street, Bellingham
 Phone 360-752-9223 <http://www.geocities.com/bellinghamfriendsmeeting> Mailing Address P.O. Box 30144 Bellingham, 98228-2144
 Co-clerks Janine Bruton & Mimi Freshley
 Ministry and Counsel Members: Doris Fern, Mimi Freshley, Janine Bruton, Dorrie Jordan and Howard Harris

Query for July

Are we charitable with each other? How careful are we of the reputation of others? Do we avoid hurtful criticism and gossip? Do we practice the art of listening to one another, even beyond words?

--from the section entitled Mutual Care, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice, page 43

Schedule for Second Hours and Weekday Events

Saturday, July 25 th		War Toys into Art Project at the Farmers Market	
July 26th		Called Meeting for Josiah Bee – see e-mail for more information (11:30-noon)	
July 26 th	Soup Supper-- The topic is a worship discussion of the Care of Meeting role . It is the culmination of a year-long exploration by M&C on the topic and all are welcome, especially those on M&C and those who have already have or are interested in fulfilling this pastoral role for our community.	6 pm	Janine Bruton's RSVP 738-4950 Soup & beverages provided; salads, breads, desserts are welcome
Wednesday July 27 th	Spirit Group-Pendle Hill Pamphlet on Walt Whitman	7 pm	Janine Bruton's
Wednesday July 29 th	Meeting for Worship for Healing for Annelise Pysanky	5 pm	Explorations Classroom
August 2nd	Meeting for Worship and Potluck Picnic at Whatcom Falls Park		
August 9th	No Meeting for Worship for Business this month		
August 16th	tba		
August 23rd	Celebrating our Children with Singing		
Saturday, August 29 th	Nature Walk with Mimi and Bob at Point Whitehorn, a 1/2 mile woodland trail and about a 3/4 mile shoreline walk (near Cherry Point) – more details to come		
August 30th	Welcome new member Iris Gravelle - Lopez Island Worship Group Visit		
September 20th	Meeting Retreat at Lutherwood, beginning at 9:00 More details to come!		

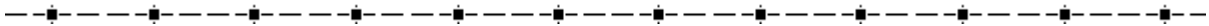
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING - SAVE THE DATES!

July 4 -10, 2010, Bowling Green Ohio. July 3 -9, 2011, Grinnell, Iowa
 Annelise (and many others) say we should all go at least once because it is a rich spiritual experience to worship and study with so many people from all over the country.

Eco Suggestion of the Month: Water-wise Car Washing -The most environmentally friendly way to wash your car is to take it to a car wash. A car wash actually uses less water, some places recycle the water, and it prevents contaminants like brake fluid from getting into the sewer system. If you do wash at home here are some tips: Wash on a permeable surface like grass or gravel to help filter the wash water, use a water saving nozzle to direct the spray - this can save as much as 70 gallons of water; use a biodegradable soap that is chlorine and phosphate free - not dish soap, use gray water to wash, and dump your soap bucket in a sink or toilet.

Speak Truth To Power: If pursued wisely, biofuels, such as corn ethanol, have the potential to play a pivotal role in reducing global warming emissions from vehicles. However, research indicates that conventional biofuels can result in substantial global warming pollution when forests and grasslands are converted to farmlands for fuel crop production. Lobbyists for the conventional biofuels industry are pushing the EPA to ignore these scientific findings when they implement the regulations for biofuels. Please write to the EPA by July 27th to urge the EPA to take into consideration the whole life cycle of a biofuel. When raising crops for biofuels involve deforestation, this can actually increase the fossil fuel emissions directly or indirectly. For more information on this topic, you can go to the Union of Concerned Scientists Action Website.

We said farewell to Seres and Ash and Finn last week, but there is still time to contribute a sentence or two to the journal Adrienne is making. Call her to add your thoughts or sentiments.



**ANNUAL OUTDOOR MEETING FOR
WORSHIP AND PICNIC
Sunday, August 2nd 10 am**



**Whatcom Falls Park (east on Lakeway, left on Kenoyer)
Meeting for Worship in the large shelter for adults
Meeting for Worship for Play in the playground for children
Followed by a potluck picnic
Bring a dish to share and your own place setting
Chairs are recommended
Dress for the weather—it's a little cooler there
Tablecloths and flowers are welcome
For more information call Sharon at 714 6141**

DRAFT Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – July 12, 2009

Clerk: Janine Bruton

Recording Secretary: Betty McMahon

Present: Howard Harris, Dave & Judy Hopkinson, Don Goldstein, Dusty Andersen, Annelise Pysanky, Doris Ferm, Jeanine Hart-Horner, Torrey Moorman, Tom Zylstra, Sheri Kneeskern, Adrienne Row and Sharon Trent.

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

Our History: Howard shared some poetry from a book that was given to him from his grandfather when Howard was 18 years old. The book is entitled Whittier and contains poems that reflect a Quaker point of view. Many of Mr. Whittier's poems have been turned into hymns that appear in many denominations of Christian Churches.

Our Future: One Friend's experience at the FGC gathering in Virginia was so positive that she encouraged all of us to attend next time, saying it would be beneficial for our community.

Our children's program continues to grow. It is filled with many boys, and our children's program coordinator feels lucky to have the opportunity to nurture these young men's sense of non-violence.

The creation of a teen program for our children to grow into would also be an asset to our community.

Agenda Review / Approval: Adjustments were made and the agenda was approved.

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: Last month's reference to Sharon Trent's participation as the third signer of treasury checks should read: Sharon has agreed to be nominated as a trustee, and she'll be the third approved signer on all financial accounts. Sharon's nomination has been accepted.

Item #4 of the M & C report should include Members of M & C will call all members and attenders. These corrections were approved.

Follow Ups: Nominating Committee – The newsletter job description and the finance job description have been approved.

Newsletter Editor, Metmorphosis

Purpose: On a monthly basis provide current information of activities, events, topics of interest and concern to members/attenders of Bellingham Friends Meeting.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- 1 Attend Meeting for Worship with attention to Business to receive and collect relevant information.
- 2 Maintain the calendar of upcoming events, as this information emerges.
- 3 Compile information, making appropriate emphasis of important items.
- 4 Arrange for printing of Newsletter and mailing.
- 5 Purchase appropriate supplies and keep records for reimbursement from treasurer.
- 6 Mail newsletter electronically or by postal service within 10 days of the M 4B.
- 7 Update mailing/email list per the guest book entries.

Bellingham Friends Meeting Finance Committee Description, Policies, Practices and Guidelines

Purpose: Finance Committee provides a structure that supports the life and work of Meeting through right use of the Meeting's financial resources. The Committee oversees responsible use of the Meeting's finances, facilitates the creation of a financial vision for the

Meeting, and implements the Meeting's financial plans. The Committee also encourages Friends to be financially responsible.

Description: The Treasurer is an integral part of the Finance Committee and helps make the work of the committee possible. The Finance Committee consists of two to three people in addition to the Treasurer. The Committee usually meets monthly for one to two hours, with additional consultation and coordination as needed particularly during the annual budget process. Minutes of Committee proceedings are recorded, and monthly and/or quarterly reports are presented to Meeting for Worship for Business, with prior notification to the Meeting's Clerk.

Responsibilities:

- 1 Study, recommend and maintain financial policies, practices and guidelines for the Meeting.
- 2 Develop and recommend the annual budget, with input from committees and interested individuals, and monitor budget status and cash flow throughout the year.
- 3 Raise awareness of the necessary funds to support the life and work of the Meeting, and facilitate contributions.
- 4 Maintain the status of the Meeting as a not-for-profit religious group.
- 5 Support the work of the Treasurer, and act as a backup to the Treasurer when needed.
- 6 Oversee and review all financial accounts, and monitor the inflow and outflow of funds.
- 7 Make recommendations and reports regarding the appropriate and beneficial investment of Meeting funds, and maintain updated information on all investments.
- 8 Monitor and report financial activity toward acquiring a future permanent home for the Meeting.
- 9 Oversee payroll process.

Policies, Practices and Guidelines:

- 1 If a contribution to the Meeting is made and the contributor requests that the contribution be used exclusively as a donation to an organization that is currently in the Meeting's budget, the donation is gratefully accepted and acknowledged. If the designated donation is for an organization not currently supported by the Meeting, the donation is accepted and the matter is referred to Meeting for Business to determine if the donation is appropriate. The donor is then acknowledged or donation is graciously returned.
- 2 Scholarship Funds are distributed by the Treasurer at the request of Ministry and Counsel Committee, or if necessary by Meeting for Business. (May 6, 2007)
- 3 The Finance Committee shall see that a 3-month reserve in the operating budget (25% of the annual budget) is maintained in the combined savings and checking accounts. In an effort to better match income to expenditures, this policy is flexible so that the reserve can be as low as 15%. If the reserve drops below that, discretionary items will be delayed until funds are available. At intervals (usually annually) when the reserve is greater than 25%, representing a surplus, the Committee will propose a transfer of \$500.00 or more, to the Meetinghouse Fund (MHF). This would be in keeping with a past practice of transferring some year-end funds to the MHF.

Calendar

- 1 Monthly: Childcare payroll including report to employees on withholding.
- 2 Monthly: The Treasurer's report is the main substance of the monthly Finance Committee report. Relevant current information is also presented.
- 3 Monthly (as appropriate): When the operating budget reserve is greater than 25%, the Committee will propose to the Meeting a transfer of \$500.00 or more to the MHF.
- 4 Quarterly: Report to Meeting for Business all Meeting House Fund assets.

- 5 Annually (January): The Treasurer reports donation amount to donors exceeding 200.00/yr.
- 6 Annual Budget Process:
 - September Meeting for Business: Begin budget process for following year requesting submissions that include an explanation or rationale for the request.
 - October Meeting for Business: Continue budget process by collecting committee data. Request pledges from Members and attenders for the following year requested to be returned in 2 weeks to Treasurer or any other Finance Committee member.
 - November Meeting for Business: Continue budget process: Report Draft Budget and request feedback.
 - December Meeting for Business: Continue budget process: Report Final Draft Budget and pending year-end data.
 - January Meeting for Business: Approve final seasoned budget.
- 1 Annually and as appropriate: Being mindful of our policy of maintaining a reserve of 25% of the annual operating budget, write, record and mail checks for Donations Out.
- 2 Annually (January): File Form 944 for employees FICA (due January 31st).
- 3 Annually (January): Reallocate Meeting House funds to balance if deemed necessary.
- 4 Annually (February-March): Prepare Finance Committee report for the State of the Society and then forward to Ministry and Counsel.

Follow Ups (continued):

FCNL: Doris will confer with Alice on the matter regarding email addresses to be sent to FCNL.

Iris Graville's transfer for membership has been approved. We will celebrate this on the last Sunday in August (30th) when Lopez Friends visit our Meeting.

If you have an email address and do not currently receive general information but would like to, please let Alice know.

Sharon's position as trustee has been approved.

It has been approved that a purchase of one, individual microphone/amplifier be made, with a cost up to \$50. After volunteers, especially those who use hearing aids, have an opportunity to test this device, we can pursue purchasing more for our Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Ministry & Counsel:

1. Friends for whom we do not have membership records on file are being asked to fill out a form and return it to M & C.
2. Don has information about a different type of sound system for those whose hearing is less acute. The system consists of small portable units, which are much less expensive than an installation. We hope to have one for Friends to try. Friends are reminded to stand when speaking as this enables others to hear you better.
3. Lorina would like feedback on how the "End of Life" group might further serve the Meeting. M & C suggests a special section in the library for pertinent materials.
4. Another fall retreat is being planned, with "membership" as a possible theme. Details will come later. Please contact a member of M & C if you have a suggestion for a topic.
5. As some of you know, though Jessica's children do not and this needs to remain so, Jessica is seeking a permanent home in this area for Josiah, a very bright nine-year-old sibling of Jessie, Julian and Winter. If you know anyone or a couple seeking to love a little boy who needs stability, please talk to Jessica as soon as possible. She feels it is very important for

Josiah to be able to maintain contacts with his brothers and sister. There will be a called Meeting on Sunday, July 26th to seek Light.

Schedule (names in parenthesis will be in care of meeting unless someone else signs up to perform this pastoral function):

July 12 – M4W4B – (Janine)

July 19 – no second hour

July 26 – Myron shares a DVD – (Doris)

August 2 – potluck picnic at Whatcom Falls Park – (Mimi)

August 9 – no business meeting this month – (Janine)

August 16 - tba

August 23 – Celebration of Our Children with Intergenerational Singing

August 30 – Lopez Friends worship sharing

Peace & Social Concerns:

1. Marie Marchand of Whatcom Peace and Justice Center has requested that Bellingham Friends be one of the sponsors for the International Peace Day events on Sept. 23. The event includes speaker John Dear, a priest, who has practiced civil disobedience for numerous peace & justice causes over many years. No monies are being requested, only our support & possible help on the day of the event. Our committee recommends Bellingham Friends agree to be sponsors.
2. The committee is still working out the bugs &/or details of making our monthly letter available to send via e-mail on potluck Sundays.
3. It was approved to sponsor and participate in the International Peace Dave event.
4. Both Holly and Evan are on the board of the W P & J Center and will ask what specific jobs we can do. "Sponsorship" should be meaningful and not just perfunctory.

Earthcare:

Eco Suggestion of the Month: Water-wise Car Washing -The most environmentally friendly way to wash your car is to take it to a car wash. A car wash actually uses less water, some places recycle the water, and it prevents contaminants like brake fluid from getting into the sewer system. If you do wash at home here are some tips: Wash on a permeable surface like grass or gravel to help filter the wash water, use a water saving nozzle to direct the spray - this can save as much as 70 gallons of water; use a biodegradable soap that is chlorine and phosphate free - not dish soap, use gray water to wash, and dump your soap bucket in a sink or toilet.

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Bob and Mimi have agreed to lead a nature walk at Point Whitehorn, out by Cherry Point, on Saturday, August 29th. There is a 1/2 mile woodland trail and about a 3/4 mile shoreline walk. They will put together more information on the walk, and FEC will make sure that it is sent out.

FEC plans to have at least one letter or petition on an environmental topic available each month for people to sign.

We reviewed the FEC job description and approved it without any substantive changes.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, July 29th at 7 pm at Doris' house.

Children's Program:

1. The children had their first opportunity to turn war toys into a peace project on June 27th. It was a very positive experience with toddlers through grandparents working together. Another opportunity will be at the Saturday Bellingham Farmers' Market on July 27th, between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm.
2. The children's committee will be gathering in August to discuss the curriculum for First Day School. Please email Adrienne with your suggestions for topics.
3. The committee also discussed the issue of which volunteers are allowed to be alone with the children. Those who have had background checks will be allowed to do this, however, we welcome any visitors.
4. Adrienne will be the Children's Program Coordinator for Quarterly Meeting in September 25-27. She is requesting teachers who will be able to work with the children for most of Saturday the 26th and part of Sunday the 27th.
5. We will celebrate Seres, Finn and Ash's departure from our Meeting on Sunday July 19th. Suggestions have been decided upon regarding the details of this celebration (omitted intentionally just in case these minutes get in the hands of Seres/Ash beforehand).
6. The new Agape House for woman and children is requesting children's puzzles and children's/women's books. Please bring your donations to Meeting.

Library:

We have a library in our Meeting room. Annelise requested a temporary committee to help decide which books we wish to keep for our library and to propose guidelines for accepting future books. Doris and Janine volunteered to be on this committee.

Member's Concerns:

1. Torrey Moorman has requested a letter of introduction to bring with her to New Mexico.
2. It's been requested that we hold a second hour devoted to Quaker Process. M & C will discuss how to work this into our second hour schedule. There will be some questions regarding this Quaker Process, to read ahead of time, in our August Metamorphosis.
3. Registration packets for our September PNQM are being assembled. Port Townsend Meeting, along with Whidbey Island Worship Group, are the hosts of this year's fall quarterly meeting. The theme for this meeting is Wild Earth. Wild Hearts, Wild Minds. Registration packets will be available towards the end of July.

Clerk's Concern:

The clerk's message is one to encourage those Friends among us who have difficulties or estrangements with one another to first make a special effort to come to worship together and then secondly to consciously appreciate one another for the gifts and strengths that we each bring. Finally, a deliberate decision to lovingly embrace each other's faults or weaknesses on our individual journeys through this lifetime might offer a profound shift in perception opening to the Quaker way. The clerk offers support in whatever way might be helpful in the healing of Friends' relationships.

Process Suggestions:

Ministry and Counsel has begun to consider how we might divide responsibilities (including the planning of second hours) between two committees. We will talk with nominating committee about filling positions for an oversight committee or program committee. We feel M & C has too many tasks.

Our Meeting closed with silent worship and a circle at 1:40 pm.

Over three centuries Friends have approached teaching as an act of faith – of faith in the capacity of man to think for himself and to recognize the truth for himself. Teachers have believed in the ability of the student as a child of God to sense something of the divine purpose of the universe. Without this faith, teaching is a mere training process in which someone is trained to do what someone else has done before him.

--Herbert Hoover, from an address he delivered at Westtown School in 1954



Bellingham Friends meeting

P.O. Box 30144

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