



# Metamorphosis

October 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

Clerk: Mimi Freshley, Co-Clerk Dorrie Jordan

Ministry and Counsel Members: Doris Ferm, Mimi Freshley, Dorrie Jordan and Howard Harris

## Query

"When problems and conflicts arise, do we make timely endeavors to resolve them in a spirit of love and humility? How do we use our diversity for the spiritual growth of our Meeting? Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us into unity? NPYM Faith & Practice

Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour (or weekday activity)		Facilitator
October 18	Experiences accompanying Peace Community folks in Colombia to minimize harassment by the Army, para-military and guerrillas.		Sara Koopman <i>Care of Mtg Doris, Greeter Kelly, Key Don, Snack &amp; kitchen?</i>
October 25	Worship Sharing on Quaker Process (see queries in this newsletter)	Dusty Andersen and Howard Harris <i>Care of Mtg Tom, Greeter Doris, Key &amp; Kitchen Annelise, , Snack Sharon</i>	
Tuesday Oct 27th	Book Group <u>Don't Lets Go to the Dogs Tonight</u> by Alexandra Fuller		7 pm Richardsons'
November 1	Potluck and Report on Pacific NW Women's Theology Conference	Ashley Wilcox and Sarah Peterson, co clerks of that organization	
Tuesday Nov 3rd	Spirit Group	<u>Plain Living</u> by Catherine Whitmire	7 pm Doris Ferm's
November 8	Meeting for Worship for Business	Clerk and Everyone	
November 15	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour – There will be Meeting for Worship in Bellingham and at Lopez Island (see below*)		

## Speaking Truth to Power -- Strengthen Climate Legislation

Too many elected leaders are more willing to tolerate global warming than heat from their campaign contributors. Under fire from various industry lobbies, the House significantly weakened historic climate legislation. It removed the EPA's authority to regulate CO2 as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, and one lawmaker inserted special language that exempted 43 unfinished coal power plants from CO2 standards. It's now up to the Senate to fix climate legislation and take meaningful action against global warming.

Urge Senator Patty Murray, at 202-224-2621, to strengthen climate legislation by restoring the EPA's authority to regulate CO2 and removing the exemption for coal plants planned but not yet built.

## Warm Coats, Mittens, Gloves and Scarves Needed

The Interfaith Coalition is having its annual Coat Drive. Please give any serviceable, clean winter outerwear to Sharon Trent no later than October 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*Bellingham members of the Lopez Oversight Committee (Susan, Doris, and Don) will be visiting Lopez Island Preparative Meeting on Sunday, November 15th, and we invite other Bellingham Friends to visit along with us and get to know Friends in that group better. We will drive to Anacortes in time to walk aboard the 8:50 am ferry to Lopez Island, and will be picked up at the dock there. Meeting for Worship will be followed by their Meeting for Business for November and either a potluck or snacks (to be determined). Our return ferry from Lopez leaves there at 1:35 pm, but others may wish to stay on the island until the 4:55 pm ferry. Our car to/from Anacortes is full, so others wanting to go should arrange carpooling among themselves. We can help with reduced-cost ferry tickets. There is a fee to park at the Anacortes dock.

## **DRAFT Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – October 4, 2009**

Clerk: Mimi Freshley

Recording Secretary: Betty McMahon

Present: Dave & Judy Hopkinson, Rob Stoops, Alice Robb, Tom and Lorina Hall, Virginia Herrick, Annelise Pysanky, Doris Ferm, Julie Batten, Jessica Bee, Kelly Wyckoff, Jeanine Hart-Horner, Joanne Cowan, Dorrie Jordan, and Sharon Trent.

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

Our History was postponed in honor of Howard Harris' 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. "Howard, we missed you at our meeting, hope you're day was memorable, and wish you a happy birthday."

Our Future: We would like to see our mid-week activities attended by our children, including some childcare to make participation more possible. We hope to make our Meeting meaningful enough to our children so they will want to stay with us. So many people from our directory don't attend our Meeting. We hope this Meeting can be responsive to their needs so as to bring them into a more participating circle. We are *one* family. The Earth is *our* land. We hope our country will become more informed, more rapidly.

Agenda Review / Approval: **The agenda was approved.**

Approval of Last Month's Minutes: The following sentence should say Don Goldstein not Alice Robb: *Alice Robb sent out a letter to clerks of all the Meetings and Worship Groups in Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting (PNQM) asking for help in finding a home for Jessica's nephew Josiah.* Kenneth "Boulding" is the correct spelling pertaining to the *Our History* section  
Potluck is not at The Firs. It's at our Meeting location (Explorations Academy).

**The minutes were approved as corrected.**

Committee Reports:

### **Ministry & Counsel:**

1. Quotes were selected for the welcome brochure and arrangements are being made for a mock-up, to be reviewed later.
2. The letter asking for a home for Jessica's nephew Josiah is being revised to go out to local ministers and churches.
3. The query for October is from North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Faith and Practice, p.43, under Unity. "When problems and conflicts arise, do we make timely endeavors to resolve them in a spirit of love and humility? How do we use our diversity for the spiritual growth of our Meeting? Are we prepared to let go of our individual desires and let the Holy Spirit lead us into unity?"
4. Plans were made for finding a suitable bookcase for our library.
5. Schedule:
  - October 04: M4W4B
  - October 11: Potluck or QEW at *The Firs*.
  - October 18: Sara Koopman speaking on her experiences accompanying Peace Community folks in Colombia to minimize harassments by the Army, Para-military and guerrillas.

October 25: Worship sharing on Quaker Process, led by Dusty Anderson and Howard Harris.

November 1: Potluck, with presentation by Ashley Wilcox and Sarah Peterson, co-clerks of the 2010 Pacific Northwest Women's Theology Conference

November 8: M4W4B

November 15: Bellingham Friends are invited to Lopez Island to worship with the Preparative Meeting that is under our care. There will be worship in Bellingham as well but no second hour.

6. Nancy Ewart's daughter, Emma, of Lopez Preparative meeting, has asked for help to attend the FCNL Annual Meeting in DC in November. Are scholarship funds available for members of a Meeting under our care? M&C has suggested \$150-175 for Emma Ewart. Doris will ask Lopez Preparatory Meeting to present a written request. **The Meeting approved to use budgeted scholarship funds for this request.**

### **Peace & Social Concerns:**

Three items of note for Meeting for Business for Worship are as follows:

- 1) Confirmation of the meeting to join with Vancouver Friends and the Unitarian Church in supporting the Palestinian family that recently moved to Vancouver. Bellingham Friends will donate \$100.00 coming from Peace and Social Concerns budget.
- 2) Our committee will present A Minute on Torture for approval by Bellingham Friends (see attached).
- 3) In response to our committee's request for feedback on how we can best serve Bellingham Friends, we have planned a soup supper for any Friends who want to discuss this issue with us. The exact date is yet to be decided but will probably be either the 8<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of November. This event will be held at the Hart-Horner household.
- 4) **The Meeting approved a letter written to our state representatives regarding the condemnation of torture of any individual.** It states that Bellingham Friends believe that the 12-point Program for the Prevention of Torture by Agents of the State provides a roadmap to accomplish this goal.

### **Earthcare:**

Eco suggestion of the Month

We know, we know: It's better to take public transit, or to walk or bike, than to drive. But for those times when driving simply can't be avoided, recall this week's tips about ways to minimize your vehicle's impact on the planet.

Tip: Shed Pounds. A free, easy way to reduce fuel use and cost is to make sure your car's not carrying any extra weight. Haven't cleared out that trunk or back seat in a while? It's time: Carting around an extra 100 pounds can reduce MPG by 2 percent. If you've got a roof rack, consider removing it or storing gear in the car instead to reduce drag. Keep tires well inflated. Keep car engines tuned up.

Budget request - FEC requests a budget of \$15 to cover postage and photocopying for letters to bring to Meeting for signatures. We also request the annual donations to the Fair Trade Alliance, Whatcom Land Trust and Quaker Earthcare Witness be continued at the same level as in 2009 budget which would be \$30 for the first two organizations and \$125 for QEW.

We will be looking at local candidates in the upcoming election and trying to highlight their positions on preserving the Lake Whatcom watershed, which we feel is a primary environmental issue for our area. Initiative 1033 limits monies, and all environmental groups are opposing it.

### **Children's Committee:**

In an e-letter written in 2008 from the Pacific Yearly Meeting Religious education for Children Committee, these challenges and concerns from a survey were shared:

- Outreach – people in the meeting are concerned with attracting and retaining new families with children

- Staffing – meetings of all sizes report difficulty in recruiting and retaining people to work with the children
- Attendance – Irregular attendance is often a problem
- Teens – “When they turn 12, we lose them.” How can a meeting stay engaged with its teens?
- Other concerns – often the curriculum is not user friendly or consistent

One interviewer summed up a common theme by those surveyed: “While so many meetings struggle with the same difficulties, a single common thread runs through the interviews with those people who express enthusiasm and a feeling of success in their efforts with the meeting’s children – building community. The program can be large or small, but in the robust program you will usually see “the meeting in the children’s program and the children’s program in the meeting.”

#### Children’s Committee Budget Proposal for 2010

- \$7200 Childcare Coordinator becomes a paid position @ \$20 per hour-30 hours per month in planning, researching, coordinating, supervising program volunteers, and teaching
- \$2700 Two Childcare Providers Positions @ \$10 per hour per person for approximately 2.5 hours per week
- \$100 for supplies and materials

Total: \$10.000

We believe that the transition from volunteer to paid coordinator is vital to the continued growth of the Bellingham Friend’s Meeting.

We believe that our children deserve a rich, varied, and continuous curriculum along with a consistent devoted presence (to be familiar with the children, their personalities and their special needs) as well as the diverse offerings that volunteer member bring to our children.

We believe that the position of Childcare Coordinator/First Day Teacher (these are often separate positions) requires high levels of commitment, responsibility, energy, skill and knowledge of Quaker beliefs. If we as a Meeting are expecting to have someone who meets all these requirements, we should not expect that this could be done on a volunteer basis.

Friends expressed their feedback regarding the budget request for our Children’s Program. Why not focus our attention more on the Children’s Program rather than a meetinghouse? Supporting our teens is a weak link within our Meeting. A structured, second hour may be appropriate to continue this discussion. Please email your feedback to Julie Batten. [letyourlifespeak@q.com](mailto:letyourlifespeak@q.com)

**Finance:**

The inflows for the previous month just about match the outflows. Overall, we’re pretty much paying our way. Contributions and expenses are pretty much in balance. Clerks, please send in your budget requests.

**Treasurer:** See attached reports.

**Nominating:**

The following positions have seasoned since September Meeting for Business: Mimi Freshley - our Meeting’s clerk until Spring 2011 and Dorrie Jordan – our Meeting’s co-clerk until Spring 2010, and David Hopkinson - Member of Children’s Committee until 2011

1. Clarification of the “Meeting House Committee”.
2. The two functions described are “to provide appropriate space for Meeting for Worship, children’s program and other Meeting activities” and “ to maintain contact with BFM committees to anticipate their space needs.”

3. The responsibilities are “to act as a liaison for communication between the Meeting and the landlord, and “to provide continuing Meeting House information gathering for future consideration.”

Two individuals have agreed to fulfill the above two functions: John Hatten as liaison and Tom Hall as Meeting House search. These are listed in the Directory as Non-Committee Jobs, which seems at this time to be a better description of **what is**.

1. Nominating Committee asks the Meeting to approve the above and leave a broader perspective to some future time.

If we have agreement on the above, it may be helpful for Nominating Committee to take another look at what these noncommittee jobs include.

2. The previous nominee for Archivist is unable to fulfill this role, so we are looking for any interested individual(s) to contact Nominating Committee.

### **Lopez Oversight:**

Lopez Worship Group’s request to become a Preparatory Meeting was brought forth and seasoned last month. **It has been approved**, and Susan will let them know this.

### **Member’s Concerns:**

1. A letter from Boulder, CO Meeting was read officially introducing Joanne Cowan to our Meeting.
2. Regarding outdoor space needed for our children, how about looking for a Meeting place to better serve our needs? This will be brought up at a later date due to time constraints.
3. *Western Friend* – The renewal rate for groups is less than for individuals. Is anyone interested?
4. Please get your donated coats, mittens, hats and scarves to Sharon by the end of October. This drive is intended for both children and adults.
5. Doris requested a report from Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting. Lorina (representative) will speak about this at next month’s Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.
6. Alice may need our support while she move, along with her mother, between now and our next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

**FCWPP:** Individuals recently released from prison can no vote without first having to pay back any debts encountered in prison.

### **FCNL:**

A. There were NO FCNL Announcements in August.

B. E-news for August:

1. Calls for health care to Senators, both of who support the Public Option (albeit weakly), especially to Representative Rick Larsen who is against it.
2. FCNL Quick Guide for Friends on Health Care Reform:
  1. Should include coverage for Native Americans
  2. Should include coverage for Immigrants.
  3. Should state that Health Care is A Fundamental Human Right.
  4. Must expand and improve existing programs, also close loopholes and abuses, e.g. no refusals for 'Preexisting conditions.'
    - a. Close loopholes and abuses in Medicare
    - b. Must expand Medicaid and SCHIP.
  5. Must be affordable for all.
  6. Must include a Public Insurance Option.
  7. No Exclusions based on age, gender, preexisting conditions.
  8. No Income Tax on the values/benefits of employment insurance payments.
  9. No termination of Insurance coverage for any reason.
3. Do not pass HR 2194 [Increase in Oil/Gas Sanctions against IRAN]. These will increase Ahmedinejad's power and hurt ordinary Iranians.

4. Congratulate U S State Dept. for agreeing to talks with Iran.
5. TCH's: Publicize that Supreme Leader Khomeini has issued a FATWAH prohibiting Iranian Government from developing any Nuclear Instrument of Destruction on Religious Grounds.
6. Publicize report by Liberal Israel newspaper Ha'aretz, that *Israel Intelligence, "Mossad" has reported that Iran cannot possibly have any kind of weakest Nuclear Weapon before 2014.*

**Quaker Youth Pilgrimage**

**Clerk's Concern:**

1. There will be a youth gathering, next year, held in Anacortes. Mimi will fill us in as necessary.
2. North Pacific Yearly Meeting's Committee on Faith & Practice is asking for input while it redoes the handbook. Mimi will bring a notebook for our perusal or address it at a soup supper. Please see the website for more information. [NPYM.org](http://NPYM.org)

**Process Suggestions:**

Please use the same color of ink for our agenda!  
 Thank you, Mimi, for your excellent job as our new Clerk.

Our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with silence and joined hands.

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING  
 Treasurer's Report

10/1/2009

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Cash Flow 9/1/2009 through 9/30/2009

Category	Amount
<b>INFLOWS</b>	
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund	630.00
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	50.00
Contributions for FCWPP	85.00
Contributions for AFSC/Gazo (Sept Cause of Month)	70.00
Interest income (all WECU accounts combined)	123.52
Interest income (all Whidbey Is. Bank CDs combined)	101.59
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TOTAL INFLOWS	1,060.11
<b>OUTFLOWS</b>	
Administration - Total	-475.00
Rent: Explorations Academy	-475.00
Children's Program Committee - Total	-112.50
Child care	-112.50
Donations Out - Total	-305.00
FCWPP	-135.00
AFSC/Gaza (Sept. Cause of Month)	-70.00
Vancouver MM (to support Palestinians)	-100.00
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TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-892.50
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OVERALL TOTAL	167.61
<b>HONORARIUM FUND</b>	
Prior Balance	350.00
Contributions in September	0.00
Transfers from MHF in September*	50.00
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TOTAL	400.00
Honorarium paid in September**	-0.00
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BALANCE

400.00

\*Authorized by donor

\*\*The honorarium amount for September was pre-paid during Augusts

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING  
Treasurer's Report

10/1/2009

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**Account balances** at end of Third Quarter, 2009:

WECU - TOTAL	17,543.91
General Checking	1,872.10
General Savings	4,718.98*
Meeting House Fund Savings	2,207.45
Scholarship Fund	394.09
Meeting House Fund CD, matures in October 2012	8,351.29
Whidbey Island Bank - TOTAL	10,823.13
24-month CD, matures July 2010	3,648.61
24-month CD, matures September 2010	3,648.60
24-month CD, matures April 2011	3,525.92
Scottrade - TOTAL	33,424.69
Ariel Fund	9,684.96
Calvert Social Investment Bond Fund	11,314.48
Parnassus Equity Income Fund	12,425.25
GRAND TOTAL	61,791.73
TOTAL on 6/30/09	55,497.62
NET GAIN (LOSS) for QUARTER	6,294.11

\*General Savings (WECU) balance includes \$2000 donation to start FGC Gathering Scholarship Fund. This amount will be transferred to the Scholarship Fund account on 10/1/09, but its balance will be tracked separately in the future.

**Queries for Consideration at the Worship Sharing on Process, Second Hour, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Quaker decision-making process is generally recognized as being central to the spiritual connectedness and functioning of our monthly meetings. Since this is not taught, there have been many questions about it within Bellingham Friends Meeting over the years. The following questions each have a place in recent BFM history. My sense is that they have never been resolved in unity. I have witnessed at least two points of view on each question, and I believe the schism is only growing larger. For that reason, I requested a second hour so Bellingham Friends will be able to openly discuss them. It has been scheduled for October 25. I am requesting all thoughts of each question to be heard in a safe and respectful way. I am requesting each Friend to speak their mind without thought of challenge or cross talk. Of course, any additional questions about our decision making process are welcome. The questions are:

If meeting for worship for business charges a committee to work on an issue to save business meeting time, how do we expect the committee to bring their work back to business meeting? Do we want to allow or even encourage further discussion about it, or do we expect our committees to make the final decisions for the meeting?

When BFM committees report to business meeting, are they seeking approval and unity of the meeting on their report, or is it simply a report to be recorded without question or comment?

If a Friend has a concern about the meeting, is it ok for them to bring the concern to meeting? If so, would it be better to call it a grievance?

Are Bellingham Friends Meeting committee meetings open? Can anyone not on the committee attend? If a Friend has a concern about a committee function, is it ok to bring their concern to the committee? Do they need to let the committee know ahead of time they have a concern, so the committee can meet and discuss the subject before the person is allowed to bring the matter to the committee? If a Friend brings a concern in writing to a committee should the committee put the concern on the agenda of a committee meeting? Is it ok for a committee to designate an individual member of the committee to communicate with the person who has a concern? If so, should the committee see and/or approve communications written by the representative? Should the committee be informed of the communications? Is the person with the concern expected to communicate with the committee only through the representative?

If a committee or individual is representing Bellingham Friends Meeting in the greater community, should BFM be informed of the representation at business meeting? Are our committees independent entities of the meeting?

If a Friend has an item for business meeting that is time sensitive and they would like to circulate it before the next business meeting, does it need to be approved and/or edited and/or rewritten by a clerk or by a committee before it is circulated?

When do we allow matters to season? For example, if a resolution to a difference of opinion is offered at business meeting, should we allow that resolution to season until the next business meeting so all Friends have an opportunity to think about it and respond at the following business meeting?

What is "Quaker Process"? What does it mean to seek a "sense of the meeting" or "unity"? Does each monthly meeting have its own individual process? What is the decision-making process Bellingham Friends Meeting uses? Does Bellingham Friends Meeting want to encourage revelation of God's truth in our business meetings? Are we willing to wait upon God as long as may be necessary for the emergence of a decision which clearly recommends itself as the right one?

If a matter requires a decision and is of an urgent nature, should we dismiss our agreed upon process in the interest of reaching a timely decision? Should we allow our interest in expediency and expected time limits to guide our process at business meetings?