



# Metamorphosis

December 2009

Meeting for Worship Sundays at 10 AM at Explorations Academy, 1701 Ellis Street, Bellingham  
 Phone 360-734-0664 <http://www.geocities.com/bellinghamfriendsmeeting> Mailing Address P.O. Box 30144 Bellingham, 98228-2144  
 Co-Clerks: Mimi Freshley, (922-0004) and Dorrie Jordan (354-3736), Ministry and Counsel Members: Doris Ferm (756-0621), Mimi Freshley, Alice Robb (366-6005), Dorrie Jordan and Howard Harris (733-9071), Childrens Program Clerk Julie Batten (671-9773)  
 Metamorphosis Editor: Sharon Trent (714-6141) [Sharon\\_trent@comcast.net](mailto:Sharon_trent@comcast.net)

## Query for December

Is there a climate of love and trust in our Meeting which invites and encourages everyone to be open about family and individual lifestyles, including their satisfactions and problems? How does our Meeting support families of all kinds in their attempts to improve communication, family life and the rearing of children in a context of love?  
 NPYM Faith & Practice, p. 44

<i>Calendar</i>		
<b>Dec 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour</b>	<b>Doris Ferm, Care of Mtg</b>
<b>Jan 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Potluck</b>	<b>Alice Robb, Care of Mtg</b>
<b>Jan 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>	<b>Mimi Freshley, Care of Mtg</b>
<i>Monday Jan 11<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Spirit Group meets at the home of Don Goldstein, (671-1395) to discuss Kenneth Boulding's on the sonnets of James Nayler (a Pendle Hill Pamphlet) all are welcome</i>	
<b>Jan 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Quaker Quest-- Don Goldstein &amp; Kiersten</b>	
<i>Tuesday Jan 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Book Group meets at the home of Tom and Lorina Hall (734-8170) to discuss Michael Dorris' <u>A Yellow Raft in Blue Water</u> - all are welcome</i>	
<b>Jan 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Called Meeting for Worship for Business to consider the role of Meeting House Liaison</b>	
<i>Jan 29-31</i>	<i>Silent Retreat at Gold Bar - get further information from Alice Turtle Robb: <a href="mailto:TurtleRobb@comcast.net">TurtleRobb@comcast.net</a></i>	
<b>Jan 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Intergenerational Activity</b>	
<i>Tuesday Feb 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Book Group will discuss <u>Worst Hard Time</u>, place to be announced - all are welcome</i>	

DRAFT Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - November 8, 2009

Clerk: Mimi Freshley

Recording Secretary: Betty McMahon

Present: Judy Hopkinson, Doris Ferm, Dorrie Jordan, Sharon Trent, Susan Richardson, Don Goldstein Howard Harris, Alice Robb, Adrienne Row, Sheri Kneestkern, and John Hatten

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

Our History - Howard Harris

During the 1650's, George Fox organized the early Quakers. Every aspect of the Church was thrown out at this time: music, liturgy, etc. Quakers established morality. There was to be no smoking, no drinking of alcohol, and no going to theatres, for example. How did Quakers get their morality, and how did this develop? After Christianity became the official religion, *morality* meant a conforming to rules. Corruption arrived, monasteries, were organized which focused on

behavior, various groups arose alongside the Church, and many people were killed by armies, organized by the Church. With the invention of the printing press ~ 1450's, it became harder for the Church to be in control. (At this time, only priests could read and *interpret* the bible, otherwise people were punished for this heresy.) Now, with this new spread of information available, the Church was no longer the center of authority; the Bible was. This was followed by The Thirty Years' War, which resulted in the establishment of the Catholic religion (represented by the Church), the Protestant religion (influenced by the Bible), and George Fox's belief that one's *inner light*, and relationship between *it* and oneself, is the basis for our inner morality.

Agenda Review / Approval : The agenda was adjusted and approved.

Approval of Last Month's Minutes : November's Minutes were approved as written.

## **Committee Reports**

**Ministry & Counsel** – The Query for December (from NPYM Faith & Practice p.44):

"Is there a climate of love and trust in our Meeting which invites and encourages everyone to be open about family and individual lifestyles, including their satisfactions and problems? How does our Meeting support families of all kinds in their attempts to improve communication, family life and the rearing of children in a context of love?" [Friends are welcome to respond to the Query.]

1. Don Goldstein was present at our meeting on 11/30 to initiate a discussion about two topics: a) how to respond to the report from Site Liaison John Hatten (see November Metamorphosis) and b) planning for the long-term future of our Meeting.  
To consider the first concern, it was decided to schedule a called M4W4B on January 24. An ad hoc committee, consisting of a Friend from M&C, one from Finance Committee and the Site Liaison, will plan for that second hour. Friends who expect to attend this second hour are encouraged to RSVP to Doris so lunch can be provided. Friends may suggest other queries to Clerk Mimi Freshley to guide the planning. It is hoped that we can consider the second concern at a spring retreat. We expect to discuss the meetinghouse fund and our investments in that connection.
2. The welcome brochure project has been turned over to Dave Hopkinson, who is having a problem finding a way to use the logo, which is unavailable on line. [Dave does have access to the logo.]
3. The new Nominating Committee will consist of:  
Virginia Herrick, clerk (2011)  
Lorina Hall (2011)  
Margi Fulton (2012)  
Sharon Trent (2012)  
Janine Bruton (2011) [This is not workable at the present.]  
**This has been accepted for seasoning.**
4. John Holding of Lopez Island Preparative Meeting has asked to transfer his membership from San Francisco Meeting to Bellingham Meeting. We await a letter of transfer from San Francisco Meeting.
5. In cases of bad weather, we would like to entrust the key person with the decision whether it is practical and safe to open the building for meeting. If meeting is to be cancelled, the key person should then contact Doris, Dorrie, Mimi or Alice who will then phone other Friends, to be sure everyone knows. In case of other emergency, please call a member of M&C directly.

6. A care committee and an advisory finance committee for clearness have been set up at Annelise's request.
7. Schedule: Date **Back-up** Care of Meeting  
 December 13 - M4W4B -Alice/Mimi  
                   20 - Christmas Sharing -Dorrie  
                   27 - No 2nd hour-Doris  
 January 3 - Potluck - Alice  
                   10 - M4W4B - Mimi  
                   17- Quaker Quest – Don and Kierstin  
                   24 - called M4W4B to consider Site Liaison questions  
                   31 - Intergenerational
8. Next meeting, January 4, 7:00 pm at Doris'

### **Earthcare**

Eco Suggestion - The Monterey Bay Aquarium encourages cat owners to dispose of cat litter in landfill rather than flushing it down the toilet. Studies have shown that cat litter is one source of *Toxoplasmosis gondii*, a parasite that survives in sewage treatment plants. It can end up in the ocean and infect sea otters and cause fatalities. Dog feces do not contain *Toxoplasmosis* but there are no comprehensive studies proving it doesn't contain other damaging organisms.

Speak Truth To Power -Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is working on a wolf management plan. Conservation Northwest is asking people to sign a post card, which expresses support for alternative #3 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Postcards can be obtained at Conservation Northwest, and if you return the postcard by December 28, they will mail it for you. FEC will also try to have some postcards at Meeting.

NPYM is revising our Faith and Practice. FEC started a discussion on changes we would like to see regarding "Right Relationship of the Earth." We plan to continue the discussion and possibly send suggestions to the committee working on the revision.

FEC will lead a birding trip to the Skagit flats and Padilla Bay on Saturday February 13. Details will be announced later.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday December 29 at Doris' house.

### **Children's Committee**

Here is a summarized version of what the Children's Committee reported, following the information that was collected from our recent *Threshing Session*:

1. Evan Horner has resigned, for now, from working in the Children's Program due to college demands. We will miss him and thank him for his service.
2. Many of our infants have gotten older, and there is no longer a need to pay for two infant caregivers.
3. The Children's Program Coordinator will no longer be the contact person regarding the needs of Second Hour care giving; this will be up to a volunteer.
4. The Children's Program Coordinator will be focusing on First Day School.
5. The responsibility for communicating any concerns between the site liaison and Meeting (regarding the children) will no longer be a responsibility of the Children's Coordinator.
6. Obtaining childcare during our retreats will no longer be the responsibility of the Children's Program Coordinator.
7. There is a request for the current honorarium of \$200 per month to increase to \$300 per month.

8. The title "Children's Program Coordinator" will be renamed to possibly "Religious Education Coordinator."

The Meeting commended the Children's Program for their creative thinking regarding the matters mentioned in the Children's Report.

Here are some discussion items that were mentioned following the Children's Committee Report: Key People need to be responsible for the clean up after Meeting, once the children are in the care of their parents. (This can be a "check" to see that the building is left the way it was found.) Do the caregivers have a job description? Currently, they straighten up, and the adult volunteer for a particular Sunday needs to assist in this clean up. Parents need to pitch in once the key person and caregivers have done their jobs. If our Meeting cannot fulfill all of our ambitions, perhaps we need to "step back" and offer a less robust program for now. How about the person calling the Second Hour being responsible for setting up necessary childcare during this time? New job descriptions may not be called for right now. We want to simplify the tasks of the Children's Program.

### **Report and Proposal from Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Process for Distributing Grants from Fund to Promote Attendance at FGC Gathering by Bellingham Friends**

In September Annelise Pysanky announced that she was donating \$2,000 to Bellingham Friends Meeting for the purpose of enabling Meeting participants to attend the Friends General Conference Annual Gathering of Friends ("the Gathering") in the future, as she herself had been able to do for the first time earlier this year. She also indicated that she would be very likely to donate additional money for the same purpose in subsequent years. Later in the month Don Goldstein proposed that an ad hoc Committee be set up to develop a process by which recipients of grants for this purpose could be recruited, selected, and awarded funds in order to attend the Gathering. He proposed further that he and Annelise would serve on this ad hoc committee, would recruit a third member to join them, and would report in December with a proposal for discernment and action by the Meeting. Rob Stoops is the third ad hoc committee member, and this is that report and proposal.

We believe that our Meeting is enriched when its participants are able to attend events in the wider Quaker world and are then willing to share their experiences with the rest of us. The Gathering is a particularly enriching experience due to its length (now six full days), the wide variety of opportunities for fellowship, education, and personal growth that it includes, and the large number of other participating Friends from throughout North America and often from other areas as well. Now that funds are available for the purpose, we believe that the Meeting should encourage and support our members and attenders in going to the Gathering at least once, and in sharing with the rest of us the significance of their experiences at the Gathering.

We propose that the opportunity to attend the Gathering as a Friend sponsored by BFM be made known through announcement in Metamorphosis beginning not later than January each year. The maximum value of each year's sponsorship shall be \$1000, and may be used to pay registration and other direct Gathering fees, and/or to pay for transportation to the Gathering site. The person who receives this grant each year shall be selected as an individual, but the expenses to be covered by the grant (up to the \$1000 maximum) may include Gathering fees and transportation costs for family members who accompany the selected Bellingham Friend. The selected Friend and/or family members may also apply for scholarship support from FGC, in order to stretch the effectiveness of funds from BFM, but this is not a requirement.

Friends interested in being selected as the sponsored Gathering attender should contact the clerk of the BFM Nominating Committee not later than the end of February. The Nominating Committee may also on its own initiative contact one or more Friends who have not applied, if they discern that there are other Friends who would serve the Meeting well in this capacity. The Nominating Committee shall give some

preference to Friends who have never attended the Gathering, or who have not done so for a long time, but this is not an absolute criterion. The selected Friend may be either an adult or a high-school-age Friend. The Committee's nominee shall be presented to the Meeting for Business in March and, if there are no concerns on the part of those present, may be approved during that meeting without need for a month's seasoning so that the nominated-and-approved Friend may register for the Gathering early in April when the most options (e.g., workshops) are available.

The Meeting Treasurer shall disburse funds to the selected Friend upon presentation of invoices or receipts for Gathering fees and/or for transportation costs. It is expected that the sponsored Gathering attendee shall be prepared to present a report to the Meeting (at least orally, and preferably in written form for publication in Metamorphosis as well) within four months of the end of the Gathering.

--Don Goldstein, Annelise Pysanky, Rob Stoops

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING  
Treasurer's Report

12/2/2009

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Cash Flow 11/1/2009 through 11/30/2009

Category	Amount
INFLOWS	
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund	1,555.00
Contributions to Meeting: Children's Program	175.00
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	50.00
Contributions for FCWPP	185.00
Contributions for UNHCR (November Cause of Month)	76.00
Western Friend subscriptions	104.00
Faith & Practice	4.00
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TOTAL INFLOWS	2,149.00
OUTFLOWS	
Administration - Total	-1,340.92
Rent: Explorations Academy	-475.00
North Pacific YM - 1st half of assessment	-858.00
Postage for treasurer	-7.92
Children's Program Committee - Total	-273.68
Child care	-50.35
Honorarium for November	-200.00
War Toys Project (reimburse expenses)	-23.33
Communications Committee - Total	-73.58
Newsletter postage	-25.40
Newsletter printing (2 issues)	-48.18
Donations Out - Total	-461.00
FCWPP	-135.00
UNHCR (November Cause of Month)	-76.00
Si a la Vida	-50.00
Western Wash. Fellowship of Reconciliation	-75.00
Wash. Coalition Against the Death Penalty	-50.00
Whatcom Human Rights Task Force	-75.00
Lopez Oversight Committee / Travel	-33.30
Peace & Social Concerns Committee - Expenses	-29.42
Scholarship grant (Emma Ewert)	-175.00
Special events - photocopying for annual retreat	-2.44
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TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-2,389.34
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OVERALL TOTAL -240.34

HONORARIUM FUND

Prior Balance	275.00
Contributions in November	175.00
Transfers from MHF in November*	50.00
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TOTAL	500.00
Honorarium paid in November	-200.00
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BALANCE	500.00

\*Authorized by donor

**Finance Report**

John Hatten presented two minor proposals for Meeting "to keep in mind."

- (1) Donations under \$100 be dropped and let individuals support those organizations (for example, through our one time per month passing of the hat).
- (2) When the Meeting makes out-of-budget requests, Finance Committee asks that the Meeting determine from which budget line item it should come (versus making the Treasurer decide this).

It was decided that Meeting wait until January 2010's Meeting for Worship for Business, when we have *actual 2009 contributions received*, before going through the proposed version of the budget. The budget will, hopefully, be sent out between January 5 (after Finance Committee meets) and January 10 (before our next M 4 B).

***Ad Hoc Committee to DPDGFPA\* at FGC Gathering by Bellingham Friends***

\* (Develop Process for Distributing Grants from Fund to Promote Attendance)

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--Don Goldstein, Annelise Pysanky, Rob Stoops

### **General Concerns**

- Susan Richardson agreed to serve on the January 24, 2010 Ad Hoc Committee regarding site issues (along with Mimi Freshley and John Hatten).
- Sharon Trent will be providing phone numbers/email addresses in *Metamorphosis* so people reading the newsletter will know who to contact regarding certain events/meetings. There was general agreement that we can pay postage if the newsletter goes over one ounce.
- We are holding Friend Annelise Pysanky in the Light as her disease progresses. (Jeanine Hart Horner and Virginia Herrick are the members of the Care Committee).

### **LOPEZ ISLAND PREPARATIVE MEETING MINUTES**

Lopez Island Preparative Meeting (LIPM) is under the care of Bellingham Friends Meeting. In order to help Bellingham Friends get to know more about these Friends, a copy of the LIPM Minutes from their Meeting for Worship for Business on November 15th is available for your perusal on the Friends literature table. Here is an item extracted from those minutes:

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**Silent Retreat** Typically, we have a silent retreat the Sunday before Christmas, from 10 am to 4 pm. This year would be December 20. We are looking for a place to host this year's retreat. If you can offer your home, please contact Jerry Graville. If no place is available for that weekend, we will consider holding it on another weekend. We will highlight the need for a hosting house for the silent retreat in a separate email and hope to make a decision next week at rise of meeting.

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A copy of the LIPM Minutes from their Meeting for Worship for Business on December 13th is also available. Here is an item from those minutes;

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**Emma and Clara Ewert** Nancy said her oldest daughter, Emma, will be at our December 27 meeting and would like to share her recent experience at the FCNL Conference in Washington, D.C. As that Sunday is Meeting for Worship for Singing, Polly suggested and we agreed that Emma share after the silence and before the singing.

Clara reported Junior Friends is going to Jamaica on a service trip next July and wanted to advise us of her plans and tell us how to get more information about Junior Friends and the organizing agency. If we want to contribute money for the trip, it will be gratefully received.

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--From BFM Members of Lopez Oversight Committee: Susan Richardson, Don Goldstein, and Doris Fern

We meet today  
To thank Thee for the era done,  
And Thee for the opening one.

**John Greenleaf Whittier**



*Bellingham Friends meeting*

*P.O. Box 30144*

*Bellingham, WA 98228-2144*