



Metamorphosis

February 2010

Meeting for Worship Sundays at 10 AM at Explorations Academy, 1701 Ellis Street, Bellingham

Phone 360-734-0664 Mailing Address P.O. Box 30144 Bellingham, 98228-2144 Website BellinghamFriends.org

Co-Clerks: Mimi Freshley, (922-0004) and Dorrie Jordan (354-3736), Ministry and Counsel Members: Doris Fern (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

Query for February

"Can you let go of the small me and experience the web of inter-relationships in this world? How do you listen for that which is beyond the smallness of your own concerns? What nurtures your relationship with the Presence that animates this world?"

From Cathy Hyzy's Enlivened by the Mystery, p. 64

Calendar

February 28 th	State of the Meeting Report	
Monday, March 1 st	<i>Spirit Group – <u>Enlivened by the Mystery</u>, last half</i>	<i>7 pm, Sharon Trent's 714-6141</i>
March 7 th	Potluck	Care of Mtg Sharon
March 14 th	Meeting for Worship for Business	Donations for Interfaith Auction Due
Tuesday March 16 th	<i>Book Group – David Benioff's <u>City of Thieves</u></i>	<i>7 pm, Hopkinsons</i>
Saturday, March 20 th	<i>Interfaith Auction</i>	<i>5:30 Silent Auction, 7:30 Dinner, Lakeway Inn, Tickets \$40</i>
March 21 st	Ashley Wilcox and Sarah Peterson will report on the Western Women's Theology Conference	Snack Sharon
March 21 st	End of Life Group begins with a soup supper at Tom and Lorina Hall's home at 5 pm Call 734-8170 for further information or directions	
March 28 th	Spiritual State of the Meeting Report	
April 4 th	Potluck	Care of Mtg Don
April 11 th	Meeting for Worship for Business	Care of Mtg Sharon
April 18 th	Friends Meeting Hosts Prayer Vigil for Peace at Explorations Academy	5:30-6:00

Eco suggestion of the month

Revamp Rooms with Nontoxic Paint

A fresh coat of paint can transform a room and improve your mood. When choosing a color, avoid products with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can aggravate asthma and contribute to smog. Look for the Green Seal to help you identify zero- or low-VOC brands. If you don't have the time or funds to redo your entire home or apartment, try painting just one wall in an energizing, bold color or give a worn piece of furniture a new look with some creative brushstrokes.

Interfaith Coalition

Annual Spring Dinner Auction Saturday, March 20th at the Lakeway Inn & Conference Center in Bellingham. The silent auction begins at 5:30 and a sit-down dinner is served at 7:30, followed by the live auction. This is a fun event, and the funds go to support programs that provide housing to homeless families, health care to all in need, and outreach to isolated seniors. We have been invited to contribute an item or items for the auction or silent auction. We have the promise of some house plants and Pysanky eggs. You may add to those, or bring other things as you wish. Popular items include: hosted activities, such as a special dinner in your home or catered in their home; a loaf of bread or other baked goodie each month; art works, toys, baskets with a theme, such as dog toys and treats or a basket of baby things. Re-gifting is welcome. Use your

imagination. Sharon Trent (our Meeting's representative) will pick up your items or you can bring them to Meeting no later than March 14th. Sharon would enjoy company at this event.

Vancouver Monthly Meeting Friends have invited Bellingham Friends to join them for part of all of an Easter holiday weekend of fun and relaxation, April 2nd-4th at Camp Alexandra near White Rock, BC, just a short distance across the border. Facilities include a Longhouse (24 beds), cabins 6 & 7 (12 beds), an activity room with fireplace, and a kitchen and dining room with fireplace. The camp is a 2 minute walk from Crescent Beach and the ocean. This event is not limited to families, but is definitely a child-centered weekend.

Dinner on Friday is served from 5-6:30. Vancouver Friends will be on site by 4:30 pm, and perhaps earlier. Contact Chris Hitchcock at 604-323-0562 if you want to make arrangements to arrive later or on Saturday.

The full weekend cost is \$115 per adult and teens 13+, \$79.50 per child (4-12), children 3 and under free, including dinner Friday night; brunch, snack and dinner on Saturday; breakfast on Sunday morning; site use; and 2 nights accommodation. The registration materials, available from Don Goldstein (671-1395, dnx57@yahoo.com) contains more information and a cost breakdowns for figuring fees for partial-weekend participation (e.g., just one night, or fewer meals). U.S. checks will be accepted at par to pay fees.

If interested, please register as soon as possible, preferably before March 1, but before March 25 at the very latest.

Draft Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - February 14, 2010

Clerk: Mimi Freshly; co-clerk: Dorrie Jordan

Recording Secretary: Lorina Hall (for Betty McMahon)

Present: John Hatten, Sharon Trent, Alice Robb, Tom Hall, David Hopkinson, Don Goldstein, Annelise, Pysanky, Adrienne Solenberger, Howard Harris, Virginia Herrick, Susan Richardson

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

Address by Clerk: Mimi Freshley

A reminder was given that we all share in the responsibility for the way we conduct our business, and how we move this forward in a concise and clear way, using the Quaker admonition to speak once to an issue. We were asked to breath, take the power available to us to be snow geese, to soar and move.

Agenda Review - **The agenda was adjusted and approved.**

Minutes Approval of the January 24, 2010 called Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The subject of this meeting was the clarification of the relationship between Bellingham Friends Meeting and the site manager (Daniel Kirkpatrick). **These minutes were approved after the following corrections:**

It was noted that Daniel Kirkpatrick's communication to BFM presented at the time was not included. It will be included in its entirety in today's Liaison Report.

There was a request for the inclusion of an expression of concern regarding the relationship between the site manager and the landlord (owner), John Blethen.

Approval of Minutes - **The minutes from the January 10, 2010 Meeting for Business were approved as written.**

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee is in the annual process of developing a new slate of nominees for those positions in the Meeting that will come open this spring. It's a really exciting time, as Friends either renew their commitment to the job they've been doing, or take on something new, or, in a few cases, ask for a well-deserved break. It's a process that has to be flexible at this stage, as sometimes we think we've got the puzzle practically finished, and then it turns out that we weren't quite correct in our discernment that someone was a perfect fit for the position we had in mind! Then, several things may change. So, we aren't trying to be mysterious, but we just really do not know how it's all going to work out yet! Suffice it to say, this is one of the most wonderful jobs in the Meeting, because we get to spend a lot of time contemplating all the wonderful gifts that you all offer to the group! Thank you all for your patience, your willingness and eagerness, and your commitment to the process of discernment.

Announcement: We want to invite anyone who has NOT been contacted by a member of Nominating Committee, but who has a leading to serve the Meeting, to please call us (Virginia, Lorina, and Sharon!) If you're not sure what jobs are open, let us know and we'll be glad to fill you in! In particular, there are two positions that Nominating Committee is considering leaving unfilled. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, have a leading to fill the position of Meetinghouse scout, or Archivist.

Action: Librarian Job Description - With the permission of our librarian, I am asking that it be accepted for seasoning. This is based partly on the old job description, partly on Annelise's report to M4W4B last month, and partly on the good work of the ad hoc library volunteer group. We ask you to accept this draft for seasoning.

Action: Nomination - We are very grateful to be able to bring forward one name for nomination immediately, and that is for Joanne Cowan as a member of Finance Committee. We are hoping (and intending) that by bringing her on board a couple of months early, we can give her and John a chance to work together and that John may, at long last, be released from his historic role as Finance Committee clerk! (Thank you, John!) Joanne brings a wealth of experience from her Meeting in Boulder, and has generously agreed to come onto the committee at this time and share her experience and insights. We ask you to accept her nomination to Finance Committee for Seasoning.

Announcement: Nominating Committee has changed its job description to reflect the responsibility for selecting a Sponsored FGC Attender to receive the generous scholarship that Annelise has established, and which was approved last month. **The deadline for us to nominate someone for this scholarship is March 2010. If anyone is interested in attending FGC and would like to apply for the scholarship, please contact Nominating Committee members!** (This nomination will need to be approved, not accepted for seasoning, next month, to give the scholarship recipient time to register by April 1.)

Margi Fulton has resigned from Nominating Committee and we have asked Ministry and Counsel to nominate another new member to our committee. While we are in full swing for this nomination process, we would like to have four members on the committee as soon as possible, to take on the continuing work of studying Meeting committee structure and collecting revised committee and other job descriptions.

Our State of the Committee Report is not available, due to forgetfulness on the part of our clerk! Among the emails that have been circulating is one regarding the possibility of turning Ministry and Counsel into two committees: one to handle administrative duties and health of the Meeting as a whole; and the other to handle pastoral care responsibilities. One of the responsibilities of Nominating Committee is to discern the needs of the meeting and make recommendations regarding committee structure. At this time, our committee

is thoroughly absorbed in making a slate for the current committee structure. However, we would like to take this suggestion under consideration in May or June, and perhaps hold a second hour, and, hopefully bring a recommendation regarding the idea to M4W4B in the fall.

Librarian: Job Description (revised January 2010)

Description: Bellingham Friends Meeting owns a collection of books, pamphlets, periodicals and audiovisuals, collected and available to meeting members and attenders.

Purpose: To maintain and care for library holdings of BFM and make these available for use by members/attenders.

Responsibilities:

1. Catalogue all holdings and store in an easily accessible way for use by members and attenders.
2. Create and maintain a catalog record of holdings and record the signing in and out of materials.
3. Communicate with landlord and/or Meetinghouse liaison regarding care and storage of materials.
4. Encourage use of materials through various means of communication i.e. book reviews, information through newsletter of available resources, etc.
5. Encourage ways of utilizing resources through newcomer packets, focused reference, materials, etc.

Policies/Practices/Guidelines:

1. Provide a process for decisions re appropriate resources for BFM library.
2. Provide information to meeting members/attenders re books deemed suitable for the BFM library.
3. Accept donations from members/attenders and develop criteria of appropriate resources in terms of currency and timeliness.
4. Develop policies of disposal of outdated materials and/or books.
5. Store pamphlets in an accessible way.

Calendar

Review need for budget allocation annually during meeting budget process.

Ministry and Council

Query for February from *Enlivened by the Mystery*, p. 64, (kindness of Lorina):

"Can you let go of the small *me* and experience the web of inter-relationships in this world? How do you listen for that which is beyond the smallness of your own concerns? What nurtures your relationship with the Presence that animates this world?"

1. Those Friends who met with John Holding (Susan Richardson, Don Goldstein, and Howard Harris) joyfully recommend acceptance of his transfer. John has much experience with wider Quaker organizations and programs, and we encourage Bellingham Friends to become acquainted with him. A Welcoming potluck will be arranged.
2. Judy Meyer has also requested transfer from her former Meeting in Athens, GA. We await the transfer letter from that Meeting. Judy's letter gives an interesting history, and we will make it available on the table so Friends can know her a bit better. Is there someone not on the Oversight Committee who would like to join Susan and John Holding, whom she has requested, on her visiting committee?
3. Dave has the welcome brochure components now to create a new brochure. We also will order several sets of the "Friends and...." fliers from FGC.
4. The state of our committee:

Ministry and counsel Committee has had some heavy issues to deal with this year, but we have struggled lovingly together, if not always successfully. Our Presiding Clerk moved away, and our co-clerk bravely stepped up 8 months early. One dearly loved member died, and 2 new babies were born.

Bellingham Meeting took under its care the Lopez Island Worship Group, now Lopez Preparative Meeting. We have welcomed one new member by transfer and another who had been a long-time attender. Our involvement with yearly Meeting has increased, and we hosted Quarterly Meeting in spring 2009. We held our second successful annual retreat in September.

Our Spirit Study Group and Book Group continue to meet happily.

5. Discussion of the Called M4W4B which considered the Site Liaison's queries pertaining to our relationship to our present meeting space:
That meeting has been followed by a great many emails, all of which has helped us to understand one another better, and has clarified the issues. The site Liaison has agreed to work with us to improve communications, and requests that questions for Site Manager Daniel Kirkpatrick are to be given to him in writing or email. Meeting has expressed appreciation for the use of Explorations Academy and plans to remain there for the time being, and asks the Liaison to communicate those facts. As we face problems and conflicts, we urge Friends to be honest with each other and also to be kind, loving and gentle with one another.
6. Nominating Committee needs an additional member, following a resignation.
7. Several Friends Expressed an interest in the Mar. 5-7 workshop on "Rightly Ordered Financial Management for Friends" to be held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center in California. M&C suggests that instead of sending someone so far, at considerable expense, we invite a knowledgeable Friend with experience in this field from our own Yearly Meeting to come speak or do a workshop with us.
8. Schedule for 2nd Hours - February 21 - Faith & Practice (revision)
February 28 - State of the Meeting
March 7 - Potluck
March 14 - M4W4B
March 21 - Ashley Wilcox, Sarah Peterson will speak on Western Women's Theology Conference
March 28th - open so far
9. Next M&C meeting - March 2, 2010

Meeting House Liaison Report (John Hatten)

Correction to minutes of called meeting: Daniel Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of Explorations Academy, and site manager for BFM delivered a message which was read at our called Meeting for Business, but not mentioned in the minutes. I am including it here.

Dear Friends --

You are welcome users of our space each Sunday (and Wednesdays by arrangement, etc.).

After reviewing the description of this second hour session, and after an extensive conversation with John, I opted not to attend, as it seems my presence might muddy the waters.

My hope is to make it easier for the Meeting to address the larger questions of its overall needs and desires in a site, and possibly clarify its intent regarding staying vs. relocating.

Should the Meeting decide to remain at Explorations Academy, I look forward to working with the appropriate parties in a positive way and toward mutual satisfaction.

Should the Meeting choose to leave, we will work to support a smooth and effective transition to whatever new location is chosen. This is not, however, our preferred option.

It would be our goal to make our site as workable and hospitable as possible for the Meeting, while also striving to ensure that our basic needs for the facility are addressed.

Thank you for your efforts.

--Daniel

Since that meeting, Daniel has asked to extend our agreement with Explorations Academy for another 12 to 16 months. Based on discussion at the called Meeting for Business and further discussion with members of Finance Committee, I believe that his request will need further deliberation. I am therefore proposing that the Meeting form an ad hoc committee (to include Meetinghouse Liaison, Meeting Clerk and and/or Co-clerk and up to one other person) to work on Meetinghouse relationship issues.

Daniel has asked that we update our insurance information. He writes, Looking over my Q site file, it became apparent that the certificate of insurance I have from the meeting is dated 2006. These are typically renewed annually, and I'd like a new one. I'd also like to have the new one name, in addition to Explorations Academy, John Blethen as the building owner. I have forwarded this request to the Meeting Treasurer.

Children's Committee

Appreciation was expressed for the attendance of Meeting Friends, outside of the Children's Committee, for their input and perspective. The committee is looking forward to resolution of the honorarium amount. A Friend in attendance at their meeting commented on the experience of an expanding and exciting time within the children's program. Information is being gathered relating to the history of the Children's Committee and program, including payment arrangements with a view to future discussions at either Meeting for Business or a called Meeting.

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Hopkinson's home. All are welcome.

State of Meeting Report

This report is in progress.

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING
Treasurer's Report

2/2/2010

Page 1

Cash Flow 1/1/2010 through 1/31/2010

Category	Amount
INFLOWS	
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund (Pledged)	635.00
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund (Unpledged)	189.04
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	50.00

Contributions for FCWPP	125.00

TOTAL INFLOWS	999.04
OUTFLOWS	
Administration - Total	-500.00
Rent: Explorations Academy	-500.00
Children's Program Committee - Total	-200.00
Honorarium for January	-200.00
Communications Committee - Total	-14.11
Newsletter printing	-14.11
Donations Out - Total	-125.00
FCWPP	-125.00
Western Friend - Payment for subscriptions	-254.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-1,093.11
=====	
OVERALL TOTAL	-94.07

Finance Committee Report

1. Request for 2009 donation statement for tax purposes (itemized).
2. Treasurer is tracking donations - pledged and unpledged.
3. Data regarding BFM members/attenders for assessment purposes is undertaken by clerk of Meeting, clerk of M & O, and the treasurer.

NB Nominating Committee, please note above for inclusion in relevant job descriptions.

Friends Earthcare Committee

Friends Earthcare Committee met on Wednesday Feb 10 at Doris Ferm's house.

Joyce Jimmerson came to talk with us about the Carbon Masters program, which is a WSU Extensions program that started in 2009. It involves one afternoon a week classes with Saturday field trips. The training focus includes climate change science, community infrastructure, natural resources, green economy, transportation, social justice, energy, and civic engagement. The first cohort included 22 people from a wide variety of professions. Some projects that were started include "Living Lighter" parties, which are neighborhood parties with green theme; working on building a mini anaerobic digester; starting a Blaine Farmers Market. Some examples of field trips were visiting places like the Zero Energy house at Shoreline, the anaerobic digester, a sewer plant, Fourth Corner Nursery, Green Earth Technology. The next program will be in the fall starting on September 2,1 and you can apply online at <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/carbonmasters>.

Eco Suggestion of the Month - Revamp Rooms with Nontoxic Paint

A fresh coat of paint can transform a room and improve your mood. When choosing a color, avoid products with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can aggravate asthma and contribute to smog. Look for the Green Seal to help you identify zero- or low-VOC brands. If you don't have the time or funds to redo your entire home or apartment, try painting just one wall in an energizing, bold color or give a worn piece of furniture a new look with some creative brushstrokes.

Speak Truth To Power - Support is needed to push for protection of Puget Sound from pollution. Each year Puget Sound absorbs 52 million pounds of contaminated runoff, including oil, phthalates and heavy metals. It adds up to a toxic spill of Exxon Valdez size every two years. The pollution kills everything that swims, including orcas, and it is turning the Sound into a dead zone. The EPA has ordered local governments to

reduce the pollution and lawmakers have come up with a plan which would clean up the Sound and create good jobs in the process. As outlined in proposed legislation, S.B. 5518, the effort would be funded through a small fee on petroleum products that contribute to the pollution. The bill was introduced in 2009 but did not get out of committee. It has been re-introduced in 2010. Urge State Senator Kevin Ranker to support this bill at 360-786-7678 or ranker.kevin@leg.wa or write to 402 Legislative Bldg, P.O. Box 40440, Olympia, WA 98504-0440.

Birding trip to Skagit flats was scheduled for Saturday 2/13/10. We had quite a successful trip with 12 people attending, and we observed lots of birds.

State of Committee Report - Friends Earthcare Committee has continued to try to strengthen Friends connection to the natural world by sponsoring quarterly trips such as a birding trip to Lummi Island and a walk at Point Whitehorn. We have also endeavored to engage members of the Meeting in supporting environmental actions with monthly EcoSuggestions, bimonthly Speak Truth To Power suggestions and periodically having letters or petitions at Meeting for people to sign. Six people from BFM attended the annual meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness, which was held in Bellingham in October 2009. We also had a speaker from Whatcom County SMART TRIPS come to one of our meetings to give us information regarding this program.

The date of our next meeting is to be announced later.

Pacific Northwest Continuing Committee Representative (Lorina Hall)

1. QM assessments per adult participant will be increased effective 2010 to 1.50 (from 1.00) and a second increase in the assessment rate to 2.00 will be effective in 2012.
2. Susan Richardson has agreed to accept nomination as Co-Clerk of PNQM and Continuing Committee.
3. Spring QM is April 23-25, 2010.
4. State of Society reports for 2009 are to be sent to Pablo.paz@juno.com by April 1, for inclusion during spring 2010 QM session.
5. Request that each meeting appoint a representative to attend the M&O meeting that occurs during QM session, let the M & O Clerks know who that is and keep information up to date.

Children's Program staff is the responsibility of the previous two planning Meetings, i.e. Bellingham and Port Townsend. These positions have a fee waiver and associated stipend. Please notify Adrienne Solenberger if interested. Total of 10 individuals are needed.

Peace and Social Concerns

Report to follow from Dorrie Jordan

Library Report

No meeting due to illness.

Concerns regarding reduced shelf space and missing books_continues.

Books are now catalogued with library pockets.

We have boxed Pendle Hill pamphlets.

Hospitality Committee (2009 Meeting Attendance versus 2008 Meeting Attendance)

2009 average *total* = 38
Highest number = 49 on May 5.
Lowest number = 26 on Nov. 15.

2008 average *total* = 40.65
Highest number was 57 on November 2.
Lowest number was 26 on August 31.

The average number of *adults* = 25.
Highest number = 34 on Nov. 1.
Lowest number of *adults* = 15 on Nov. 15.

Average number of *adults* = 26.6.
Highest number = 40 on Nov. 2.
Lowest number = 18 on Feb. 24 & May 11.

The average number of *children* = 11.8
Highest number = 17 (four days)
Lowest number = 1 on Sept. 6.

Average number of *children* = 13
Highest number = 19 on Jan. 20, Aug. 3, Nov. 30.
Lowest number = 5 on Aug. 31.

FCNL Report, Tom Hall

A. Obama:

1. Authorizes USA Corporations in U.S. south to build first new nuclear power plants in USA in 30 years. He guarantees U.S. taxpayer money will be used.
2. Authorized 0.5 billion dollars for nuclear weapons in 2010.
3. Authorizes \$5.5 billion over next 5 years' budgets.
4. Authorizes resumption of manufacture of Nuclear Bomb Triggers {PITS} for the first time in years. Now making zero will now make 50-80 per year. This will take rebuilding sites at Los Alamos and Oak Ridge.
5. Plans new sanctions against Iran, misstates their enrichment which is for only medical purposes, to level 19.5, barely enough to make medical isotopes and openly reported to IAEC. This is well within IAEC approved levels. No possibility that any weapons could be made.

B. Prayer Vigils

Now at 167 sites in 31 states, the current emphasis is on humane immigration laws.

C. Ecumenical Large-Scale Demonstrations

Will be held on March 19 - 22, 2010 in Washington, DC; San Francisco; Los Angeles.

D. Ask Congress to Support Native American Trust Settlement Act

The Bureau of Indian Affairs lost / stole / gave Away billions of dollars worth of Indian property. This "settlement" will give Indians a tiny fraction of what is owed, \$1000 per plaintiff. Some senators wish to give back "nothing!"

FCWPP, Doris Ferm

2010 Legislative Priorities: Large and small transit agencies across the state are facing drastic budget shortfalls. We support increased transit funding to replace funding lost. Key Legislation HB 2855 for transit Funding; HB 2911 Complete streets for Healthy committees

Please access Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy web site for details.

Announcement

The End of Life group will reconvene after a two-year hiatus. This will occur at a Sunday Soup Supper on March 21, 2010, at 5 p.m. at Halls'.

Vegan soup will be provided, and salad, bread and desert are welcome.

Please rsvp to the Halls' at 734 8170 or lorinahall@comcast.net.

Previous members and newly interested Friends are all welcome.

Our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed with worshipful silence, a closing circle, and the singing of "Amazing Grace" at 2 p.m.

What Does It Mean To Be a Quaker?

Friends do not bare their heads to kings

nor bow their heads in prayer.

We sit in stillness, listening

for the whispering of God's will

deep in our gathered heart.

DH

Feb 13, 2010