



Metamorphosis

April 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 April

We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Do we show loving consideration for all creatures and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world? Do we work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly and with reverence for life? Do we rejoice in the splendor of God's continuing creation?

Schedule

April 23-25 North Pacific Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, April 25th No second hour

Monday, April 26th End of Life Group at Annelise Pysanky's (734-0664)

Sunday, May 2nd Meeting for Worship for Business

Friday, May 7th Clerks' Potluck

Sunday, May 9th Mothers' Day Potluck

Monday, May 10th Spirit Group - Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography by John D. Crossan at Don Goldstein's (671-1395)

Sunday, May 16th Birding after 2nd hour

Tuesday, May 18th Book Group – The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery at Sharon Trent's (714-6141) for a library copy contact Susan Richardson (733-5477)

Sunday, June 6th Meeting Retreat at the Roeder Home

July 4-10 Annual Gathering of Friends General Conference in Bowling Green, OH

Eco suggestion of the month

Protecting bees - Insects are the little creatures that run the world. Bees pollinate many of our crops, yet they continue to be threatened by pesticides and other toxic chemicals. Remember when you are tempted to spray your yard or plants to look for nontoxic alternatives and follow instructions for concentration and application carefully.

LOPEZ ISLAND PREPARATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Lopez Island Preparative Meeting 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 March 21st is available for your perusal on the Friends literature table. Here is an

item extracted from those minutes:

Restorative Justice Jerry reported that Steve Horn has contacted Paul McCold and Beth Rodman about their coming to Lopez to do a presentation for the community, perhaps in concert with the school. Steve's planned trip to Bosnia precludes him from being involved in any event this spring. The Restorative Justice program wouldn't necessarily focus on the tragic car accident last summer but could look at our judicial system and how justice is viewed from a holistic, human standpoint.

During discussion that followed, we agreed it would be good to find out: 1) if the school is interested in being involved; and 2) if so, would fall be a good time. Polly agreed to talk with Paul and Beth to see what they've done with schools and Nancy will email background material to John. John will raise the question during a lunch he has planned with school superintendent Linda Martin. When Steve returns from his travels, this group will meet to decide if and how to proceed.

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

Speak Truth To Power

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not yet safe from drilling. There is a bill in the House and in the Senate which would add the refuge's coastal plain to the National Wilderness Preservation System, which would prevent any drilling. Please write Rep. Rick Larsen and ask him to co-sponsor H.R. 39. Write to Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell asking them to co-sponsor S. 231.

Interfaith Coalition

Friendly Visitors seeks volunteers for senior outreach program

Seniors throughout Whatcom County who have little social contact with friends or family are waiting to be matched with compassionate volunteers who will visit them weekly at home through Interfaith Coalition's Friendly Visitors program. Individuals interested in working one-on-one with seniors in need of caring human connection are invited to participate in one of the following monthly orientation and training sessions:

- Tuesday, May 18 from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 16 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 6 from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Please call **756-5179** for more information or to reserve a space.

Auction raises \$133,000 for homeless housing and health care

Interfaith Coalition raised an all-time high of \$133,000 through the unwavering generosity of friends and supporters at its March 20 spring auction. Proceeds will support the coalition's programs, which provide housing to homeless families and health care to families and individuals without insurance or the means to pay for care.

Our congregational gifts of Pysanky eggs contributed to the success of Interfaith's biggest fundraising event of the year. In total, our gifts and the gifts from other participating Interfaith Coalition member congregations raised \$8,200 in the auction.

“In a year when we wondered how the economy would affect donations to our auction,” said Lori Polevoi, Interfaith’s communications and development director, “your congregation’s generosity, along with the generosity of other donors, demonstrated to us that, even as individuals and congregations may be feeling the pinch, compassion for people in need does not wax or wane with the state of the economy.

Draft Minutes for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business – April 11, 2010

Clerk: Mimi Freshley; Co-clerk: Dorrie Jordan

Recording Clerk: Betty McMahon

Present: Howard Harris, Joanne Cowan, Don Goldstein, Annelise Pysanky, Judy Hopkinson; Dave Hopkinson, Virginia Herrick, Sharon Trent, Doris Ferm, Susan Richardson, John Hatten, Larry Thompson

Our Meeting for Business began with opening silence.

Our History – Howard Harris shared some recent history with us. Raymond Wilson was someone whom Howard found to be very inspirational. Both men grew up on an Iowa farm and shared similar early experiences. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Raymond Wilson worked toward keeping Europe out of war. Friends Committee on National Legislation was started to accomplish this. The one project that Raymond Wilson is known to have won was to prevent the universal military training of Americans after World War II. FCNL is known as the organization where congressional members can go to get accurate information. Though he didn’t become a Quaker until 1936, Raymond Wilson accomplished more than anyone else did in making Quakers known in government circles.

Our Future – It would be nice to have a Quaker school and share it with a school similar in philosophy to Explorations Academy. Fine Quakers need not be born Quakers...they are *transformative* Quakers.

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

Minutes Approval – In last month’s minutes, page 10, section labeled “State of Meeting Report,” there wasn’t anything mentioned about the state of the meeting. This section described the upcoming, June 6 Retreat, therefore, the section needs to be relabeled as “Retreat.” Next, regarding the State of the Meeting, there was discussion, specific suggestions were made, and Virginia was asked to assist with editing the next draft. Also, in regard to the Meetinghouse / lease, it should read: Friends were in agreement that we would be willing to sign a year lease IF it included a clause to allow termination with 3 months notice. Allen Stockbridge has worked in commercial real estate and agreed to propose appropriate wording for such a clause. Finally, John Holding’s last name was misspelled in the M & C Report, and the pronouns in the Hospitality Report referred to Annelise Pysanky.

Committee Reports

Meetinghouse – John Hatten

I am pleased to report that the feelings that arose over the last month have been defused, and we are on a better footing with Daniel Kirkpatrick. The insurance certificates that he requested are now in hand after considerable effort on both Daniel’s part and my own. Apparently, State Farm Insurance has policies that make adding a second insurer at the same address somehow problematic. Given that our relationship with the school is affected by keeping this paperwork current, we will need to annually request that State Farm issue

certificates naming both Explorations Academy and the building owner, John Blethen. This is something that both the Treasurer (who pays the insurance premium) and the Meetinghouse Liaison need to track so that Explorations Academy has the most up-to-date certificates. Following last month's Meeting for Business that I was unable to attend, I found that the minutes included my report, but decisions were missing. I was able to get information from Dorrie Jordan and others, and was then able to forward to Daniel the sense of the Meeting that: We wish to continue our relationship with the school into the foreseeable future. We are uncomfortable with changing the current month-to-month arrangement to a yearlong lease while there are unresolved issues or concerns. We want to work with Daniel to resolve these issues and concerns. We are willing to extend our financial commitment from the current month-to-month agreement to a commitment to provide three months notice, while reiterating our desire to remain at the school for the foreseeable future, and at least for the next year. We are willing and happy to revisit the lease issue as other issues become less problematic. Daniel has expressed appreciation at our efforts toward resolution of problems and has shared with us upcoming plans for changes that may affect the Meeting. These include: Replacing the East Classroom carpet; replacing all fluorescent lights with efficient electronic ones; renovating our kitchen to add a three-tub sink, a better fridge, and a stove. In his email, Daniel says that these projects are planned to be completed this spring and shares his expectation of how the Meeting will be affected. Carpet - likely one Sunday of disruption. We will try to get the project done on a Friday and Saturday, but projects on occasion take longer than planned; also, we are volunteer-dependent on our progress. The library will have to be moved out and back in again, and the last time we did this we caught a lot of crossfire and blame for apparently missing items. So when the carpet dates are known, I will let you know, and the Meeting will have the option of evacuating the library out of the building for a week or two instead of having us move it and be targeted for anything that happens to it. After the project, the Meeting space will probably smell new-carpety for a while, and we will have to ask extra care during potlucks and such, but the aesthetics of that room will be vastly improved.

Lighting — most likely very little disruption if any to the Meeting. Unlike the carpet, we can pick away at the lights a room at a time if need be (though we hope to do it in a day, as a swat team event, rather like the carpet). At worst there might be some fixtures or tools piled in a corner some Sunday. After the project, the buzz will be gone from the lights, and there will be a modicum of aesthetic improvement in the Library and Commons.

Kitchen — pretty major disruption. No way around it. Probably for two or three Sundays the kitchen will be in disarray and marginally usable. (see above regarding projects taking longer than planned...) We may have to ask you to set up coffee, etc. at the other side of the room, or in another room, and wash up in the men's bathroom. I might ask you, John, as the most competent electrician I know, if you could help us figure out how to add circuit capacity at that time since we'll have a lot of it torn up anyway. After the project, the kitchen will end up looking more industrial and less homey (aesthetic impact) but will be more functional with more fridge capacity, the three part sink, more water heater capacity, stove, vent hood, etc. Daniel has also given a tentative go ahead for limited use of the TV and DVD player. Since increased use decreases the life expectancy of the equipment, we are asked to minimize the occasions that we use the equipment, or to negotiate with the school if we would like more frequent use. We could certainly bring in our own equipment, but storage becomes an issue. I would like to remind us that our agreement is to use the Meetinghouse Liaison for ALL SITE RELATED COMMUNICATION with Daniel and the school. I would further remind us that part of where we lost our way was in forgetting that everyone coming to Meeting deserves respect, kindness and a care. If we see ANYONE who is struggling, it is EACH OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND our COLLECTIVE responsibility to help that person (or persons) find a path toward peace. Whether Daniel chooses to return to Meeting or not, there was a powerful lesson for us that I hope is not soon forgotten. There continues to be a dream of having a Meetinghouse of our own some day. A retreat is being planned for June to discuss the future of the Meeting in general and about having our own Meetinghouse. I want to encourage as many of us as possible to attend as we plan for our long-range future. At the end of the month, Dorrie will become the new Meetinghouse Liaison. I believe things are likely to be on a good track as she takes over this responsibility. Dorrie, Mimi and I will continue on the ad hoc Meetinghouse Liaison Committee through the process of completing the work with Daniel to extend our agreements with each other into the future. I have immense appreciation for the many people who have contributed to the betterment of relations between the Meeting and Explorations Academy. Thank you!

Decision: The ad hoc committee (Meetinghouse) will get more information regarding these repairs, and our Meeting hopes to be of service to the school.

Communications – Dave Hopkinson

If you haven't yet gone to our website at <http://www.bellinghamfriends.org>, please do so. For those who haven't yet gone to the site, there are seven "sliders" at the top of the page that, when clicked go to various local web pages and some external links.

In order to login to the non-public parts of the website, a username and password are required. Many people in the Meeting have received an email with this information. If anyone else would like to have access, or to reset your login information, send email to register@bellinghamfriends.org or call John Hatten at 360-671-7012 or Dave Hopkinson at 713-724-1201.

The website is a work in progress, and we welcome content, input and feedback. There are questions we would like the Meeting to answer about what should be public and what should be private:

- Metamorphosis, our newsletter, contains the minutes to our Meeting for Business. Is this a public record? We don't have to put it on the public side of the website, but do we want to?

- Metamorphosis also sometimes contains personal information including personal phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses. Should this remain private?

- Right now, the only non-public "slider" is Metamorphosis. If Metamorphosis becomes public, then it flows better, but if it remains private, then we might want to take it off the slider.

- Publishing pictures of young children with their names is considered by some to be an unsafe practice because of the unlikely chance that someone might use the picture and name to try to lure a child into harm's way. Do we want pictures of adults and older children (10+) to be public and the younger kids to be private? Do we want all our pictures be private or public?

- The Meeting directory contains lots of personal information and should be private. Do we want committee information or anything else from the directory to be public?

- There have been various problems we have noticed since the website went live. For example, the ability to have a new password sent by email isn't working. The site will be moving in the next couple weeks. The change will probably be completely seamless and mostly invisible but will make the site easier to work with and more functional.

- Once the website has been built, it's fairly easy to maintain, but it's nice if everyone could keep an eye out and let John or Dave know if there are problems.

- What else haven't we thought of? How can the website be more functional or useful to the Meeting?

Please send your comments by email. In order to keep Meeting for Business moving along, we would like a very brief opportunity to hear feedback and then we can report back next month with a more detailed plan that can get more time for discussion if needed.

Ministry & Counsel – Doris Ferm

1. Query for April (Earth Month): We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Do we show loving consideration for all creatures and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world? Do

we work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly and with reverence for life? Do we rejoice in the splendor of God's continuing creation?

2. The ad hoc committee (Mimi Freshley, Dorrie Jordan and John Hatten) met with our site manager and reports that Daniel is concerned about: 1) windows left open and computer safety; 2) insurance information has not come through from the insurance agent; 3) the proposed lease has not been signed. The committee will meet again.

3. There has been correspondence between Bill Shoder-Ehri, clerk of the FWCC Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, which will be headquartered at Quaker Cove near Anacortes July 18-25. Bill hopes Bellingham Friends might join in worship and potluck with the youth on July 25, their last day. He would also be happy to have help with transportation from Quaker Cove to Deception Pass or another destination on the 24th. They would like to have an elder of a local tribe to participate in their opening ceremony and give permission for them to carry out their pilgrimage on land sacred to Native Americans. Mimi will consult with Alan Richardson. We will suggest that they ask Seattle Friends to help with transportation to and from Sea-Tac airport.

4. We have received a letter of transfer from Athens, GA Meeting for Judy Meyer. Susan Richardson, John Holding and Alice Robb will be on her visiting committee and will arrange a time for he visit.

5. Plans for our Meeting Retreat, June 6, are in the hands of Susan Richardson, Virginia Herrick, Joanne Cowan and Mimi Freshley, with Alice Robb as backup while Mimi is away.

6. It was decided to plan the session on financial management for the entire Meeting after the retreat, probably in the fall.

7. The clerks' supper will be held Friday, May 7 at Mimi and Bob's, 6 pm. All past and incoming (and future) clerks are invited to attend and bring a dish to share.

8. Schedule:

April 11 M4W4B

18 Howard will lead 2nd hour on spoken ministry

25 Quarterly Meeting - no second hour

May 2 M4W4B

9 Mothers' Day Potluck

9. M&C meets next on Tues. April 27, 6 pm at Howard's yellow house.

Nominating Committee – Virginia Herrick

The nominating slate has seasoned for one month and is up for final approval. Virginia expressed appreciation for all those who have accepted committee positions. **The slate of nominations was approved.**

Finance Report – Joanne Cowan

The finances are going "at pace." The inflows are greater than the outflows. Quarterly interest has been received.

Treasurer's Report – Don Goldstein

Donations out haven't gone out yet; therefore, there is a surplus that is temporary. Financial assets have been explained more clearly.

BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING

Treasurer's Report

4/7/2010

Page 1

Cash Flow 3/1/2010 through 3/31/2010

Category

Amount

INFLOWS

Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund(Pledged)	1075.00
Contributions to Meeting: Operating Fund(Unpledged)	138.50
Contributions to Meeting House Fund	50.00
Contributions for FCWPP	125.00
Contributions for Lydia Place(March Cause of Month)	85.00
Interest income (all WECU accounts combined)	114.28
Interest income (all Whidbey Is. Bank CDs combined)	103.46

TOTAL INFLOWS	1,691.24

OUTFLOWS

Administration - Total	-515.84
Rent: Explorations Academy	-500.00
Postage	-15.84
Children's Program Committee - Total	-305.28
Child care	-105.28
Honorarium for March	-200.00
Communications Committee - Total	-16.67
Newsletter printing	-16.67
Donations Out - Total	-210.00
FCWPP	-125.00
Lydia Place(March Cause of Month)	-85.00
Hospitality Committee - supplies	-18.90
Ministry & Counsel Committee - Total	-121.67
Printing of new greeting brochures	-49.91
Books/pamphlets	-67.00
Supplies	-4.75

TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-1,188.36

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OVERALL TOTAL 502.88

Account balances at end of First Quarter, 2010:

WECU - TOTAL	17,618.67
General Checking	1,581.73
General Savings	2,931.06
Meeting House Fund Savings	2,318.41
Scholarship/FGC Gathering Fund	2,230.47 (FGC=2010.03)
Meeting House Fund CD, matures in October 2012	8,557.00
Whidbey Island Bank - TOTAL	11,029.42
24-month CD, matures July 2010	3,725.90
24-month CD, matures September 2010	3,724.62
24-month CD, matures April 2011	3,578.90
Scottrade - TOTAL	37,848.18
Ariel Fund	11,773.44
Calvert Social Investment Bond Fund	11,646.54
Parnassus Equity Income Fund	14,428.20
GRAND TOTAL	66,496.27

	3/31/10	12/31/09	Gain(loss) for Quarter
Operating funds	4,512.79	4,218.10	294.69
Scholarship/			
FGC Gathering funds	2,230.47	2,226.78	3.69
Meeting House funds	59,753.01	57,647.54	2,105.47

State of Society – Don Goldstein

Thank you was expressed to Don Goldstein for his efforts in preparing the report, along with the help of others.

Meeting approved the State of Society Report.

2009 State of Society Report from Bellingham Friends Meeting

2009 was a year of challenges for Bellingham Friends Meeting (BFM) and for its members. Within 12 short months we took a worship group under our care; hosted a Quarterly Meeting session; said farewell to a beloved clerk; grappled with a new financial challenge; began to face problems associated with our meeting site; and received news of a member's terminal illness; all on top of the ongoing challenges of fostering spiritual nourishment for each other and sustaining a welcoming program for children.

In January we approved a request from Lopez Island Worship Group to take them under our care, understanding that they would soon request recognition as a preparative meeting. Since the Lopez group includes several very seasoned Friends, we also agreed to form a Joint Oversight Committee including Friends from both meetings, and began a series of visitations--both ways--to deepen our connections. Lopez officially became a preparative meeting in October. Meanwhile, several Lopez Friends assisted ably in planning and support of the spring 2009 session of Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting, for which we were the host monthly Meeting.

Late in the spring we received word that our gifted clerk, Janine Bruton, would need to leave our area soon. Janine's openness about her own feelings had made Meeting for Worship for Business, under her guidance, a time of family-like mutual care and love. In late September we bade fond farewell to Janine and Brad during our annual Meeting Retreat at Camp Lutherwood. Mimi Freshley has since assumed the role of clerk with grace and distinction, and our business meetings continue to promote loving discernment and rich mutual support.

In February our Children's Program Committee requested that we begin paying our gifted Children's Program Coordinator. All agreed that our Coordinator puts in time and effort far beyond that expected of volunteers, and is following a leading in fostering the quality and consistency of our well-attended program. Some Friends expressed discomfort in establishing a paid ministry and/or a precedent we might be unable to sustain. Our budget for 2009 already envisioned a big deficit, so money was also an issue. Finance Committee responded by proposing an honorarium for the Coordinator--rather than a salaried position--to be funded for 2009 by requesting restricted new donations. This was approved and the resulting income was enough to fund the requested amount starting in May. In October the Children's Program Committee submitted its 2010 budget request, including an increased monthly amount and again proposing a salaried position. A threshing session in November had resulted in a series of open meetings, through which we are beginning to discern a way forward on this important issue.

The children's program curriculum in 2009 completed a cycle of discussions about other religions and then focused on the Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship. There were also lessons on Quaker history, including contributions of Quakers during the times of slavery and World War II. Many of our youth participated in "War Toys into Peace Art," a community action project that involved constructing a large peace dove out of war-related toys. The children took the project to the local farmer's market on several occasions to allow people to witness the transformation. Upon completion, the peace dove will be given to the Society for Peace Education of British Columbia.

Our Meeting rents space from Explorations Academy, an independent secondary school, which itself leases space in a former industrial building. Our contact person with the school, the Site Manager, is the director of the school and a member of the Meeting. The relationship between the Meeting and the school has generally been good, but some recent issues have increased our awareness of the need for improved communication. An ad hoc committee has been formed to address these issues.

Challenges faced by individual members were important in our Meeting's life during 2009. A long-time member, Annelise Pysanky, was diagnosed in the spring with a terminal illness. Realizing the importance of

making best use of her remaining time, Annelise took early retirement and began to travel, which her job had made difficult. Urged by other Friends, she attended the Friends General Conference Gathering of Friends in June/July and subsequently shared her enthusiasm for the Gathering with us both by report and by establishing a fund for the purpose of sponsoring Gathering attendance by one BFM Friend or family each year. Annelise also requested Meeting support in health and financial discernment, and has been open about her situation in a way that sets an inspiring example for the rest of us.

BFM also worked this year on helping to find a family for Josiah, the brother and nephew of members of the Bee-Wiese family. After careful discussion, the search was brought to other meetings in the Quarter, and later expanded to include the Whatcom County interfaith community. There is no resolution yet, but we continue to hold Josiah and the family in the Light.

In 2009 we welcomed three new members, Don Goldstein and Iris Graville (a Lopez P.M. attender and former Bellingham Friend) by transfer, and long-time attender Jeanine Hart-Horner by conviction. We also welcomed two babies, Annelisa Crosetti in April and Soren Wyckoff in July. There was one death, that of long-time member Rosemary Harris. Her memorial service was well attended by Friends and many others and was a rich experience for all, whether they had known her personally or not.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has continued to provide us with letters to sign on topical issues, and to collect donations monthly toward a timely concern. The committee used a soup supper gathering to seek feedback from the meeting at large on issues that Friends would like it to address. It also queried our legislators on the most effective way to communicate with them. A candlelight peace vigil was held on Veterans Day, as in the past. In September and October BFM Friends provided financial and material support to our nearest neighbor monthly meeting, in Vancouver BC, in assisting the resettlement of a Palestinian refugee family.

Friends Earthcare Committee has continued to strengthen our connection to the natural world by sponsoring quarterly nature trips such as birding on Lummi Island and a walk at Point Whitehorn. It has also engaged BFM Friends in supporting environmental actions with monthly EcoSuggestions and bimonthly Speak Truth to Power ideas. Six BFM Friends attended the annual gathering of Quaker Earthcare Witness, held in Bellingham in October. We also brought a speaker from Whatcom County SMART TRIPS to one of our meetings to present information on this program.

Our average Sunday attendance during 2009 was down slightly from 2008. Adult attendance averaged 25, ranging from 15 to 34. Attendance by children averaged 11.8, ranging from 1 to 17. We are beginning to consider possibilities for outreach, developing a new website as a first step. Bellingham Friends were kept "in the loop" as Vancouver Friends discerned and then prepared to offer public Quaker Quest sessions (a major new outreach effort), and we continue to stay in touch so that we might benefit from their experience. Meanwhile our Spirit and Book Groups continue to provide forums for meeting in reach, while we also consider other possibilities for building and strengthening our community.

Retreat – Susan Richardson

Visioning the Future of Bellingham Friends Meeting

The ad hoc retreat committee (Susan Richardson, Virginia Herrick, Mimi Freshley and Joanne Cowan) met to begin planning our annual retreat for June 6. We hope that you will save the date.

Location: We checked out availability and costs. Roeder house is available for \$300, which includes the main floor and the second floor conference room that we could use for children, assuming that they will also spend time outdoors. The other possibility is Fairhaven Library, which would be approximately \$350 for the auditorium (\$25/hr) and the fireplace room (\$18.75/hr); this would have more room for the children indoors, but less outdoor area, and lack a full kitchen. Lutherwood dining room is not available.

We encourage all to attend this community building retreat. This will be an opportunity to share our vision for our future, how we worship, work together, and care for one another, and what we want most in our worship and community. We will work together with the children's program to provide childcare during this time. We envision an enjoyable day to become better acquainted and share with one another our visions for our Meeting's future in order to create a more vibrant Meeting.

More details will be forthcoming, and we encourage all, and especially those with children, to register ahead (no cost) so that we plan for children's activities and our program. We plan to hold our usual potluck.

We seek meetings approval to reserve one of these spaces and continue planning this event.

Meeting approved for the ad hoc committee to pursue renting the Roeder Home.

Friends Earthcare Committee

Eco Suggestion of the Month - Protecting bees - Insects are the little creatures that run the world. Bees pollinate many of our crops, yet they continue to be threatened by pesticides and other toxic chemicals. Remember when you are tempted to spray your yard or plants to look for nontoxic alternatives and follow instructions for concentration and application carefully.

Speak Truth To Power: The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not yet safe from drilling. There is a bill in the House and in the Senate which would add the refuge's coastal plain to the National Wilderness Preservation System, which would prevent any drilling. Please write Rep. Rick Larsen and ask him to co-sponsor H.R. 39. Write to Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell asking them to co-sponsor S. 231.

The committee reviewed the letter to the committee working on the Faith and Practice review and agreed to leave out the phrase "embeddedness within the intricate interrelationships" and replace it with interdependence so it would read as follows:

"Dear Friends:

As a substitute for, or possibly an addition to the section in the current Faith and Practice on Stewardship, we suggest something along these lines:

Friends today are moving beyond the concept of stewardship to an understanding of our interdependence with Earth's life forms and systems. While we do see it as our sacred duty to nurture and care for this planet which has birthed and nurtured us, we also recognize a testimony which Jack Phillips ("The Spiritual Dimension- Why we Care for the Earth" -QEW pamphlet) has worded as " a profound recognition that humankind and the earth share a common lifeblood, a common pulse and a common destiny."

In implementing this concern, those of us in the overdeveloped parts of the world, such as the United States, need to realize our responsibility to lower our consumption of Earth's resources."

John Horner will be leading an Audubon walk May 8. The group will meet at 7:30 AM to go to Point Whitehorn, and it will be a half-day trip.

FEC will sponsor a short birding trip to look at nesting herons here in Bellingham after Meeting and Second Hour on May 16th. More information will be forthcoming.

Check the website www.healthystuff.org - This is a database for every day products, including toys and pet items and you can get a toxicity ranking on six chemicals which are tracked.

Next meeting will be on May 27 at Doris' house at 7 pm - Doris will take over as clerk.

Peace & Social Concerns – Judy Hopkinson (omitted from the previous month's business meeting)

After checking with our state legislators, we found that their preferred way to receive our thoughts and requests is via e-mail. (This isn't to say that letters are discouraged.) The committee is considering putting our letters of the month onto our web page. The details of this will be worked out at further committee meetings.

The committee again talked of the idea of hosting a soup supper(s) to discuss social issues that are of concern or at stake. These issues might be addressed in a book or article(s) that interested members of the Meeting would read.

Our next committee meeting will be Monday, March 29 at 7 p.m. (Judy's house)

Closing Thoughts / Comments

The visitation committee will work with John Holding to decide upon a date and time to discuss SPICES and welcome John's membership.

"Thanks" was expressed from Mimi to all clerks of committees.

Our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business closed at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Betty McMahon, recording clerk.