

**Called MfWfB 3-8-15
minutes, Approved**

Present: Joan Ofteness, Jenny Davidow, Mark Hersh, Lorina Hall, Sharon Trent, Don Reinke, Margie Fulton, Mimi Freshley, Rob Dillard, Katherine Spinner of UMM, Jay Thatcher of Corvallis MM, Marcus Cooleridge, Carole Teshima, Harry Finks, Kathy Finks, Wendy Beach, Don Goldstein, Mary Ann Percy, Susan Richardson

1. Meeting gave final approval after seasoning for taking the marriage of Don Goldstein and Wendy Beach under our care on 4-11-15.
2. Meeting approved having Lorina, Mark and Carole to serve on an arrangement committees for this marriage.

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
Approved Minutes
March 15, 2015**

Present: Lorina Hall, Mary Ann Percy, Rob Dillard, Nan Macy, Wendy Courtemanche, Virginia Herrick, Betty McMahon, Don Goldstein, Mimi Freshley, Mark Hersh, Dorrie Jordan, Dusty Andersen, Carole Teshima, Larry Thompson, Joanne Cowan, Susan Richardson (clerk), Judy Hopkinson (recording clerk)

2015.03.01 - Retreat planning group report (attached) read by Don G.

2015.03.01.1 - Venue and related issues

2015.03.01.1.1 Discussion:

- Friends suggested giving non-Bellingham Friends as much warning as possible.
- Another Friend expressed concern that the June date conflicted with summer vacations.
- Don G. explained that the date was changed because Lutherwood was not available on the planned date for Quaker Cove (a site rejected as indicated in the report).
- Another Friend asked for feedback regarding the best date for a retreat. Sept 12 and 13 were good for most Friends.
- A Friend expressed a desire to strongly encourage attendees to stay overnight at the retreat.
- Another Friend asked whether there were alternative places. She also expressed a strong desire to include other meetings.
- Don G. indicated that alternative venues have been explored and no other suitable venues were identified.

2015.03.01.1.2 - Friends approved the change in venue.

2015.03.01.2 Dates proposed -

2013.03.01.2.1 discussion: Friends expressed a preference for Aug or Sept rather than June. Dates that appeared to be better were Sept 12-13 or possibly Oct 10-11.

2015.03.01.2.2 Friends asked the planning committee to choose a date based on the above preferences, the availability of Lutherwood, and responses of the community to a doodle poll which they set up and distribute to Bham Friends.

2015.03.01.3 Funding- discussion only:

- A friend suggested that the meeting cover the expenses and let Friends know the true cost, and ask Friends to pay what they can - more or less.
- Another option is to ask other meetings who send participants to contribute as they are led.
- Another Friend suggested that the meeting cover the cost for all participants.
- **After a moment of silence, the meeting agreed to let this decision wait until later.**

2015.03.02 - **Mary's Joy Play** - member concern (attached) read by Don G.

2015.03.02.1 Discussion on proposal to sponsor the play in Bellingham on Sat, Oct 3d at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship

2015.03.02.1.1 Friends agreed to sponsor the presentation of Mary's Joy with the condition that expenses be subtracted from proceeds and then half the net go to BUF and the remainder to Jean Marie.

2015.03.02.1.2 Friends expressed appreciation to Don G. for the work he is doing to bring this play to the Northwest.

2015.03.03 - **Ministry and Counsel - Virginia H. read the attached report**

- Ministry and Counsel plans to offer a series of second-hour programs rooted in sections of the *NPYM Faith and Practice* chapters on "Discernment" and "The Monthly Meeting." **Friends are encouraged to contact Virginia with suggestions or if they have an interest in facilitating or assisting with one or more of these sessions.**
- Second Hours:
 - March 22 - QEI - Testimonies (Susan)
 - March 29 - Unistoten Clan's camp and effort to block oil pipeline through their ancestral land in B.C. (Eden Libby and James Leder.)
 - April 5 - Potluck- Easter
 - April 12 - MfWfB - John or Dorrie
 - April 19 - QEI - Friends History (Allen Stockbridge)
 - April 26 - Quarterly Meeting

2015.03.03.1 Friends approved authorizing Virginia Herrick to sign the wedding certificate for Don G. and Wendy B. in the anticipated absence of both the Clerk and Co-Clerk.

2015.03.04 Friends the State of Society Report as edited. (Report attached)

2015.03.05 - Nominating Committee - Mimi F. read the attached report

2015.03.05.1 A few changes were made and are reflected in the attached version
Dusty Andersen - OWG 2017
John Hatten will remain on Ministry and Counsel until 2017.

2015.03.05.2 The nominating slate was accepted for seasoning.

2015.03.05.3 Nan Macy's nomination as sponsored attender for FGC received final approval

2015.03.05.4 Friends minuted their appreciation to Nominating Committee for the excellent work preparing this year's slate.

2015.03.06 Social and Environmental Concerns

2015.03.06.1 The SEC presented an informal report, and requested input for guidelines for groups selected for cause of the month. The following comments were raised.

1. One member suggested that guidelines may be looser than if donation comes directly from the meeting (vs individuals).
2. A preference was voiced for emphasizing local groups as small amounts go further in a local/small group and that it increases connections in our community, though recognizing this is not an exclusive rule.
3. We should give priority to Quaker organizations.
4. Sense that organizations are vetted so that they are financially efficient in that most of the funds go toward the intended purpose (vs fundraising or administration).
5. Encourage Friends to contact committee with suggestions for organizations.
6. The cause of the month is well suited to address timely/emergent issues.

2015.03.06 - 2 A Friend asked whether SEC would be organizing Quaker support of Gay Pride week. Virginia H. shared that she has contacted the group and volunteered to work with SEC to coordinate a Quaker contingent in the Bellingham Gay Pride parade. SEC will put this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

2015.03.07 - Proposed guidelines for decision making . Virginia H. presented a revised draft of the suggested guidelines which were well received.

2015.03.07 - Discussion.

- Friends noted that we will be holding a series of second hours on this topic, and that it might be best to allow those sessions to inform our discernment on this issue by continuing the seasoning process until those sessions have occurred.
- Friends noted that Faith and practice is being revised and they may benefit from our ideas on this topic. Another Friend noted that our representative on the F&P committee is looking for input on this topic.
- A Friend offered two comments: 1) The use of the word "corporate" seems disturbing, and 2) the use of the term "seasoning" for items that have not been held over to another MfWfB is not in keeping with our traditional use of the term.
- Other Friends shared that the word "corporate" in this context has historical roots within Quakerism.
- A Friend shared that she would rather not be rushed into finalizing this guidelines.

2015.03.07 - Sense of the Meeting:

- Friends agreed to continue seasoning the proposed guidelines and to utilize the upcoming series of second hours on discernment as an opportunity to inform

- discernment on the wording of these guidelines.
- Friends would like to ask individuals in the meeting to read the proposed guidelines and send feedback to Virginia H.
 - Friends would like Virginia H. to send a copy of this to members of the committee working on revisions to Faith and practice, explaining that this is a draft we are considering and which we expect to finalize after further discernment including consideration of any input they have to offer us.

2015.03.08 The Clerk shared that this will be the last MfWfB she will be clerking this term since she will be away in April.

2015.03.09 The Meeting minuted it's deep appreciation to the Clerk for her excellent service during her term.

2015.03.08 Minutes from the Feb MfWfB were approved as edited.

The meeting adjourned after a brief period of silent worship

Ministry & Counsel Report
Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship With Attention To Business, March 15, 2015

1. (Information/Discussion.) **Friends decision-making.** In response to enthusiastic interest in the QEI session on discernment, and a Friend's proposal that we study our own Meeting's process for decision-making, Ministry and Counsel plans to offer a series of second-hour programs rooted in sections of the *NPYM Faith and Practice* chapters on "Discernment" and "The Monthly Meeting." We propose that these sessions follow the monthly sessions on Quakerism: Experience It!, which will conclude in July. Please contact Virginia with suggestions or if you have an interest in facilitating or assisting with one or more of these sessions, or ideas for topics that would be fruitful to discuss.
2. (Information.) **Second Hours.**
March 22 - QEI - Testimonies (Susan)
March 29 - Unistoten Clan's camp and effort to block oil pipeline through their ancestral land in Alaska (Eden Libby and James Leder.)
April 5 - Potluck- Easter
April 12 - MfWfB - John or Dorrie
April 19 - QEI - Friends History (Allen Stockbridge)
April 26 - Quarterly Meeting
3. (Action.) **Memorial Minutes** for Tom Hall and Howard Harris. Ministry and Counsel asks the Meeting for acceptance and approval of these memorial minutes so that they can be sent to Quaker publications, and the Yearly Meeting.
4. (Action.) **Wedding Arrangements Committee and Care of Meeting.** Ministry and Counsel brings forward for approval (and thanks!) the names of Lorina Hall, Mark Hersh and Carole Teshima as members of the arrangements committee and Virginia Herrick as Care of Meeting and signer of the marriage license for the state, for the Meeting for Worship for Marriage of Don Goldstein and Wendy Beach on April 11, 2015, at 1 p.m. at The First Congregational Church on Cornwall Ave.
5. (Information.) **Membership:** Letter to BFM from Jessica Bee. Virginia Herrick, Susan Richardson and Rob Dillard have joyfully agreed to serve on the clearness committee for membership.
6. (Information.) **Advices and Queries.** - #27 in the Little Red Book - "Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God's guidance and offering counsel to one another?"
7. (Information.) Ministry and Counsel's **next meeting** is slated for 7 p.m. March 31. Please contact Virginia or Dorrie if you have a concern or would like to attend the meeting.

Bellingham Friends Meeting
State of Society Report for 2014

Bellingham Friends enjoyed a deepening sense of community in 2014, manifested as vocal ministry; social justice activism; greater participation in events such as second-hour programs and annual retreat; mutual support in times of loss; and, last but not least, increased attendance.

Social actions in 2014 included:

- *Co-sponsorship of short plays on prison reform and electoral process reform, as well as the Human Rights Film Festival;

- *Support for inspection of rental housing in Bellingham;

- *Gathering funds for and maintaining awareness of the work of the Friends New Underground Railroad, a project of Olympia Friends Meeting; and

- *Raising funds for a “Concern of the Month” to support organizations that share Friends' values.

Bellingham Friends last year worked on empowering ourselves to recognize and honor leadings, both collective and individual. This is reflected in our new Social and Environmental Concerns Committee job description, and in the second-hour programs it sponsored on recognizing and following leadings. Simultaneously, we supported each other in such leadings and increased our awareness of opportunities that might speak to them. Friends appreciate this emphasis on social action arising from spiritual callings, and it appears that more Friends are making commitments to individual leadings. Donations to our “Concern of the Month” increased as well.

Two of our eldest active Friends, Tom Hall and Howard Harris, passed away in the latter half of 2014. These losses, combined with the death of Doris Ferm in 2013, left us feeling both a loss of spiritual wisdom and a renewed sense of mutual support and an awareness of the need to carry on their legacies of leadership. We were comforted by opportunities to support family members of these departed Friends and others whose close relatives who died or were gravely ill.

Despite – perhaps partly because of – our recent losses, we feel a renewed sense of energy toward the goal of finding our own meetinghouse. Several of us attended the meetinghouse-warming in Port Townsend during November and were inspired by the way their transition excited new life for that Meeting.

We celebrate an increase in our average attendance, with the mean number of adults attending weekly going from about 20 in 2013 to almost 24.5 in 2014. Several of our relatively new attenders stepped up to make significant contributions to the life of the Meeting. Our children's program is still small but vital, and blessed by the addition of a newborn to our community last fall. To enrich our growing community, we began a series of adult education programs using the curriculum “Quakerism – Experience It!” developed by Elaine Craudereuff and adapted by Steven Smith.

Our connection with Quaker and other organizations that share our values enhances our sense of community. We continued oversight of Lopez Island Preparative Meeting and enjoyed visits with Lopez Friends. We also again sponsored a Friend to attend the Friends General Conference Gathering, and assisted others to attend NPYM last summer. We also made connections with other organizations and programs that share our values, including Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, Restorative Community Coalition, League of Women Voters, Center for Spiritual Living, Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival, Death Café, *Western Friend*, Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy, and the Alternatives to Violence Project. We hope to continue and deepen these associations.

As our relationships with the wider community deepened, so did the vocal ministry offered during meetings for worship and business, coming from a deeply spiritual and centered place. The same tendency was also evident during our enriching annual Meeting Retreat in November, on the theme of “Building Connections.” Ministry and Counsel committee has sponsored second-hour programs and developed guidelines for vocal ministering, in order to nurture that aspect of our Meeting.

Bellingham Friends look to the future with renewed hope, enthusiasm and love for our Beloved Community, even as we continue to ponder the need for our own meeting space and the perennial challenge of finding enough willing and able hands to do all the work the Spirit leads us to do.

Report of 2015 BFM Retreat Planning Committee, 3/15/15

Carole Teshima visited Quaker Cove in mid-February and found that the sleeping cabins and bathrooms were generally moldy and more rustic than she believed would be comfortable for Friends coming for an overnight retreat. She also found that the Chapel, the primary location for the adult program, was in poor condition as well, and she recommended that the Planning Committee seek an alternate site for our planned overnight retreat this summer.

After some online searching for possible alternatives, Stephanie Manzo and I visited Camp Lutherwood on February 26th and we were both impressed with the quality of their two "lodge" buildings which include kitchens, breakout-appropriate (or children's program-appropriate) meeting spaces, and gorgeous lake views. The cost, per bed, is more than for Quaker Cove, but not enormously more. Capacity would depend on how many couples there might be sharing double bunks. There are two small bungalows plus tenting grounds to provide some extra capacity for overnight, but with the location so close to Bellingham we assume that some local Friends might prefer to stay at home overnight and just commute to the retreat. The Upper Chapel, which BFM has used before for the main adult program space, should again be sufficient. There is a lakeside amphitheater with fire pit that would work well for the Saturday evening program or part of it, weather permitting.

The Retreat Planning Committee has agreed to change our venue to Camp Lutherwood, pending Meeting approval, for either June 13-14 or August 22-23 as the Meeting chooses. The latter might work better since June 14th would normally be a Meeting for Business day. Given the location change and the more restricted capacity, we also decided that Lopez Friends would be invited to join us but that no effort (other than informing them about the cancellation of the June 6-7 Quaker Cove retreat) would be made with respect to inviting other Meetings this time. Another factor in this decision, for some of us, was the possibility of having a portion of the program concern Spiritual Deepening at the Meeting level as opposed to the individual level.

Rental of the two lodges, Lakeview Lodge and Spirit Lodge, for one night would cost a total of \$350 and would provide 21 beds, some of them doubles, along with kitchens and eating/socializing/breakout-group areas. Rental of the Upper Chapel would cost another \$50 and each bungalow, if needed, would add \$40 (one of them has four beds and the other, two beds). Thus the maximum cost, if both bungalows are needed, would be \$480 plus \$20 per tenting site for an overnight retreat. We propose that a commitment be made today to book the facility (minus the bungalows and tenting sites, for now) for one of the available weekends so that the committee can proceed with program planning and publicity without losing further time or momentum. We further propose that the Meeting cover the entire cost rather than trying to recoup expenses by means of charging a fee, in order to facilitate wide participation and simplify the registration process.

Assuming that the venue and date changes are approved today, then in April (if the retreat will be in June) or in June (if it will be in August) we will formally invite other BFM and Lopez Friends to suggest other program components that they would be willing to facilitate. The full program would subsequently be finalized about one month prior to the retreat dates.

--Don Goldstein, Clerk

Other committee members are Carole Teshima, Mary Ann Percy, Wendy Beach, and Stephanie Manzo

Bellingham Friends Meeting Positions and Terms, April 2015

(**Bold** indicates new nomination or continuing for another year or term)

Non-Committee Positions:

Clerk	Dorrie Jordan	2016
Co-Clerk	John Hatten	2016
Recording Clerk	Judy Hopkinson	2016
Treasurer	Joanne Cowan	2016
Children's Program Coordinator		
	Sharon Trent	2016
Interfaith Coalition	Sharon Trent	2016
Librarian	Carole Teshima	2016
	Sebastian Bee	2016
Archivist	Kristen McLewin	2017
Meetinghouse liaison	Judy Hopkinson	2017
Meetinghouse Scout	Allen Stockbridge	2017
Meetinghouse Scout	Sharon Trent	2017
NPYM Coord. Comm.	Allen Stockbridge	Sept. 2016
PNQM Con. Comm.	Don Goldstein	July 2016
FCNL rep.	Karen Steen	2017
FGC rep.	Don Goldstein	2016
FCWPP		
Native American		
QEW		
Western Friend	Lorina Hall	2017
Web master	John Hatten	2016
Newsletter editor	Betty McMahon	2016
Email list distributor	Judy Hopkinson	2017
Phone messages	Don Goldstein	2017
Directory editor	Don Goldstein	2016
Mail collector	Joanne Cowan	2017

Committees:

Ministry and Counsel

Virginia Herrick, clerk	2016
Dorrie Jordan, clerk of meeting	2016
John Hatten, co-clerk of meeting	2017
Rob Dillard	2016
Mary Ann Percy	2017

a) Outreach and Welcoming Group (subcommittee)

Don Goldstein, clerk 2017
Jenny Davidow 2016
Dusty Andersen 2017

4.

Finance

Allan Richardson, Clerk 2016
Joanne Cowan, Treasurer 2016
Larry Thompson 2016
Jessica Bee 2017

Nominating

Mimi Freshley, clerk Dec. 2015
Kirsten McLewin Dec. 2017
Lorina Hall Dec. 2016

Hospitality

Clerk: Carole Teshima 2016
Kitchen Responsibilities
Mark Hersh 2017
Jeanine Hart-Horner 2016
Laura Howery 2017
Don Reinke 2017

Key Responsibilities

Don Goldstein 2017
Wendy Beach 2017
Lorina Hall 2017
Margaret Hashmi 2016

Social and Environmental Concern

Wendy Courtemanche, clerk 2016

Judy Hopkinson	2016
Joan Oftness	2016
Stephanie Manzo	2017

Lopez Worship Group Oversight

Don Goldstein, clerk	2017
Dusty Anderson	2016
Harry Finks	2017
Kathy Finks	2017

**Presented at February's Meeting for Business and accepted for seasoning.
Asking for final approval:**

FGC Gathering Sponsored Attender 2015: Nan Macy

Member Concern: Proposal for BFM to cosponsor presentation of Jeanmarie Simpson's play "Mary's Joy"

Jeanmarie Simpson is a Quaker playwright and actress, a member of Pima Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, who has written a beautiful and moving one-person play about the life and death of Mary Dyer, an early Quaker who was executed by hanging in Boston in 1660 for refusing to stop preaching her faith and leave Massachusetts Bay Colony. I had an opportunity to witness Jeanmarie present her play during the 2012 FGC Gathering in Rhode Island, and found it very inspiring as well as educational with regard to Mary Dyer's complex life and personality and the situation of Quakers in early colonial times.

Jeanmarie would like to present "Mary's Joy" this fall in various communities around the Pacific Northwest, and I have agreed to act as her local facilitator, at least with regard to Friends Meetings in western Washington and nearby British Columbia. Vancouver Monthly Meeting has already agreed to sponsor a presentation in Vancouver on Friday, October 2nd. Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship's Social and Environmental Justice Committee has agreed to host and co-sponsor a presentation in Bellingham, with the specific date to be determined, and I am today asking the Bellingham Friends Meeting agree to co-sponsor with them. I have also spoken with Friends in Agate Passage, Port Townsend, Whidbey Island, Victoria, and Lopez Meetings who are willing to bring a similar proposal to their Meetings in the near future, and I expect that some sort of presentation will be made during the fall session of Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting in late September. I intend to contact Meetings in Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma, Olympia, and Marysville soon with a similar proposal.

Jeanmarie will be headquartered in Seattle from about mid-September until late October. She does not request a specific honorarium for her work, but does expect at least reimbursement of local travel expenses and overnight hospitality in the communities visited. The sponsoring committee at BUF has requested that BUF retain one-half of the proceeds from the presentation there, but the rest should be available to reimburse Jeanmarie's expenses and offer her a modest honorarium. I expect that BFM's only out-of-pocket expenses would be for publicity and that would likely be under \$75. People attending the presentation would be asked for a donation with a suggested amount of perhaps \$10. The event would also be an opportunity for public outreach about our Meeting and about Quaker concerns and work in our community and the world.

In order to minimize travel expenses, I propose that the Bellingham presentation be on Saturday evening, October 3rd, dependent on the availability of BUF's building for that evening and the agreement of their Social and Environmental Justice Committee.

--Don Goldstein

Memorial Minute Howard Leroy Harris

Lifelong Friend and peacemaker Howard Leroy Harris passed away at home in Bellingham, with loving family members around him, on November 6, 2014. He was 97. An ecumenical memorial service on December 13 was hosted by the family and the Bellingham Friends Meeting, of which Howard had been an active attender for more than 40 years, and a member since June 2006. The memorial service was held at the First Congregational Church in Bellingham.

Howard was born October 9, 1917, to Leroy and Leona (Miller) Harris in Hereford, Texas, where his Quaker parents and grandparents were pioneering wheat farmers in the Texas panhandle. When he was two years old they moved back to Iowa. There he grew up on the farm that had been bought by his grandparents in 1887.

In addition to the Center Friends Church his family attended near Newton, Iowa, throughout his childhood, Howard was a member or attender at numerous Friends Meetings, including: Springdale Meeting at Scattergood Friends School in Iowa; Hartford Friends Meeting in Connecticut; University Friends Meeting in Wichita, KS; Xenia Friends Church in Xenia, OH; South Glens Falls Adirondack Friends Meeting in Glens Falls, NY; Detroit and Ann Arbor Friends Meetings in Michigan; and San Fernando Friends Meeting in Sylmar, CA.

An able student, Howard acquired degrees from the University of Iowa, the University of Missouri, and Hartford Theological Seminary. As a lifelong Quaker, he was a conscientious objector in World War II.

Howard met Rosemary Crist in 1943 when they were both working at the American Friends Service Committee work camp at Flanner House in Indianapolis, Indiana. They were married there in May of that year. During the summer of 1943 they took a 600-mile honeymoon bicycle trip through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

Peacemaking and war resistance informed and activated Howard's entire life. Childrearing without punishment and education that enhances natural creativity and curiosity also became major concerns, growing out of both anthropological research and the Quaker experience of spiritual growth.

Howard taught botany at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, for three years, spent five years in the pastoral ministry in Congregational and Friends churches, and six years counseling at Whitman Junior High school in Livonia, Michigan. He taught anthropology for three years at San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University at Northridge), and in 1966 became Associate Professor of Anthropology at Western Washington State College (now Western Washington University). He continued in this position until his gradual retirement 1986-1992. He continued to teach correspondence courses in anthropology until the summer of 2014. Teaching anthropology gave him great satisfaction. He often said that he was fortunate to get paid for doing what he

loved to do anyway. During his long quasi-retirement, Howard penned several self-published books about his philosophy, life experiences, and cross-cultural research on childrearing practices.

In December of 1966, he and Rosemary, along with a friend, started the weekly peace vigil in downtown Bellingham, which still continues today. In 2005 he was the first recipient of the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center's Howard Harris Lifetime Peacemaker Award, named in his honor.

Also a lifelong conservationist, Howard took joy in hiking and backpacking, especially in mountainous terrain. In a pamphlet on the meaning of love in Quaker thought, Howard wrote: "The love of a neighbor and the love of the natural world are not separable. To seek the good life is to love mountain vistas, the rich soil and vegetation of the gardens and fields that feed us, and the women and men ... who are not just our neighbors but our sisters and brothers."

Howard was preceded in death by Rosemary, on January 1, 2009. Their granddaughter, Anna Rosemary Harris, died April 2, 2013. Howard is survived by his sister, Fern Glass of Tallassee, Alabama; his six children: David; Heather (Andrew) Ezrre; Holly; Timothy (Ellen), and Stanley (Karen) all of Bellingham; and Stephen (Margaret) of Newton, Iowa; grandchildren Sophia and Emily Harris; Geoffrey (Jennifer), Nicholas, Althea, Thomas, Alexander and Violet Harris, all of Bellingham; and Elizabeth, Katharine, Benjamin (Roslyn) and Mary (David) of Iowa; and eight great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, P.O. Box 2444, Bellingham, WA 98227; The American Friends Service Committee 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102; or The Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Memorial Minute
Thomas S. Hall

Longtime Friend and passionate peace advocate Tom Hall, 93, passed away in August 2014 in Bellingham, Washington, with family and friends around him, loving and supporting him. He was an active member of Bellingham Friends Meeting for more than twenty years and previously had been a member of Summit Monthly Meeting in New Jersey and Honolulu Friends Meeting in Hawaii.

Tom habitually wore an FCNL button that said, "War Is Not the Answer." He generally also had a few in his pocket, and he would give one to anyone who promised to wear it. He was an active member of the Peace and Social Concerns committee in Bellingham for many years, and was often found at the Saturday public market, staffing the Bellingham Friends Meeting table with petitions supporting peace and social justice issues available for signing. Tom also was a active supporter of AFSC, FCNL, and Friends Committee on Washington Public Policy.

Tom was born in New York City, and grew up during the Depression. Despite the loss of his mother to diptheria when he was quite young, and having to change schools many times before graduation, he excelled academically (as did his brother Bill, with whom he shared a close relationship). Shortly after high school, Tom attended college and medical school at Harvard, graduating with an M.D. magna cum laude in 1949.

One of the founders of American Medical Oncology, Tom's long career included medical research, teaching positions at many institutions (including fifteen years at Harvard Medical School), guest lectures, oncological practice and the founding/directing of cancer care centers around the country and in Vancouver, B.C. In his lifetime, he wrote over two hundred scientific articles, forty-three chapters in medical books, and eight medical textbooks and monographs.

A Quaker, Tom was a passionate lifelong advocate of peace and justice. In this he learned early on from a Methodist family who walked their talk, or, as Tom would say, "demonstrated the behavioral equivalent of consciousness." In WWII, he was a conscientious objector and served an 18-month prison sentence in a federal prison. There he was punished with solitary confinement for refusing racial segregation in the food line.

After having lived on the East Coast, the West Coast, and in Hawaii, Tom enjoyed life in Bellingham starting in 1992. There, he initiated the local Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial, was medical director for several years at Whatcom Hospice, and was a dedicated member of the Bellingham Friends Meeting.

He and his wife Lorina traveled regularly all over the US and Canada visiting family and friends, as well as abroad. One recent awe-inspiring trips was to Kenya and Tanzania. There they visited with a Canadian friend working in Kenya, and came to love the animals, birds, vastness and colors of the Serengeti.

Tom loved classical music concerts and the opera, and on his weekly calendar

for many years was a lecture/discussion with the Bellingham ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out).

Tom is survived by his wife Lorina; children Chrissy, Tam, Seth, Amity (Chris), Bronwen, Nate, Jinny and Nicholas; grandchildren Jacob (Maya), Monty, Jerusha, April (Steve), Ian, Khepri (Bobbie), Jake (Heather), and Nate Jr. (Michelle); and great-grandchildren Adam, Thane, Theia, Aksil, Elijah, Mary Sophia, Greyson, and Penny.

In his memory, donations are welcome at Hospice House Foundation, 2901 Squalicum Pkwy, Bellingham, WA 98225; and the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Bellingham Monthly Meeting's decision-making process/draft

March 15, 2016

Bellingham Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends of Truth recognizes that our Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business* is central to the spiritual connectedness and functioning of our worshipping community. "The Quaker method for reaching decisions involves searching for the right corporate decisions and arriving at the 'sense of the Meeting' or unity," according to the ***North Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice***. "The commitment to search for unity depends upon mutual trust, [and] implies a willingness to labor and to submit to the leadings of the Spirit. ... Friends seek divine guidance, are patient with each other, and are concerned for the good of the meeting as a whole. Friends allow adequate time for deliberate and prayerful consideration of the matter at hand. Friends attend meetings for business open to the leadings of the Spirit." Friends wait upon the spirit to move forward; without unity, Friends may choose to hold over an issue, have a second hour or threshing session, worship sharing, or clearness process as they wait for clarity to emerge.**

Also crucial to the proper functioning of our Meeting is the connection between the monthly Meeting for Worship for Business and our committees, which help carry out our corporate leadings. Committees also use the Friendly discernment process, above, to carry out the work of the Spirit. Sometimes committees reach unity and bring proposals to meetings for business for approval. Other times committees are unable to reach unity and bring questions and requests for guidance to the Monthly Meeting. Final decisions involving the full Meeting's endorsement of action or public positions are always brought to the Monthly Meeting for final approval. Neither committees or individual Friends speak for the whole Meeting without bringing their concern to the Meeting for discernment.

Friends appointed to committees are given latitude to discern the inner workings of their committee, but significant changes in committee job descriptions, the formation of subcommittees, or other substantial changes to or actions by committees should come to the Monthly Meeting for approval.

To welcome Friends old and new to join in our discernment practices, and to enhance the smooth functioning of our committees and our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, we offer the following guidelines for communication between committees and the monthly meeting, and within committees:

1. Friends begin and end Meetings for Worship for Business with a period of silent worship. Committees are encouraged to use a similar process at their meetings, and reminded to "mind the Light" as they go about the work of the Meeting.
2. Be kind, joyful, patient and loving with one another in all decision-making. Humor, trust and compassion are essential.
3. If a Friend has a grievance or concern, they may bring it to the relevant committee by approaching the committee clerk and asking to be placed on the agenda of the next committee meeting. Or they may bring the concern directly to Meeting for Worship for Business.
4. Members bringing a concern directly to meeting for business are encouraged to contact the clerk of meeting in advance and give a brief description of their concern so that it can be placed on the agenda.

5. Committee meetings are open to all Meeting attenders wishing to contribute to the work of the committee. If there is business of a confidential nature to be discussed by the committee, committee clerks are encouraged to explain to guests that they may need to leave while those matters are discussed.
6. Friends wishing to attend any committee meeting are encouraged to contact the clerk of the committee and let the clerk know if they have anything to be added to the agenda, and also to contact the host of the committee meeting. Clerks are encouraged to arrange the agenda considerately to accommodate the guest's agenda item (ie., during the portion of the meeting mutually convenient to committee and guest.)
7. Friends may ask a committee to consider their concern, even if they are not able to attend the committee meeting themselves. They may submit the concern in writing.
 - a. The Friend who brought the concern to the committee can expect to be informed if the matter was discussed and the discernment, if any, that was reached.
 - b. If the committee decides to lay down the concern, the Friend can expect to be informed of that decision, and may then take their concern to a different committee or to monthly meeting for business.
 - c. If the concern was carried over for lack of clearness or time, the Friend with the concern can expect to be informed of that.
 - d. Committees are encouraged to minute their meetings – including recommendations or issues the committee was unable to reach clearness about and referred to another committee or to meeting for business – so that all members of the committee are aware of such concerns.
8. If committees have a matter of an urgent nature to bring to meeting for business, they are encouraged to try to address such matters in a timely fashion so that they can come to the regularly scheduled Monthly Meeting. If that is not possible, committee clerks and/or individual Friends may ask the clerk of Meeting or clerk of Ministry and Counsel to facilitate holding a called meeting for worship for business on the next possible Sunday.
9. Some important decisions, such as membership, nominations, and annual budgets, are generally held over for a month of seasoning. Whenever possible, weighty decisions should likewise be allowed to season for a month – or more if there is a lack of clearness. If the issue is urgent and there is a strong sense of the meeting, it may be possible to season it within the meeting for business: for instance, by proposing it early on the agenda, and giving final approval at the end of the meeting. If the issue concerns changing a long-standing practice of the Meeting, the prior practice will be continued until a decision is made to change it, or to have a trial period.
10. Committees and individuals engaged in carrying out the work of the Meeting are expected to report on their work periodically to the Monthly Meeting. All financial donations and endorsements of organizations and individuals are approved and minuted at Meeting for Worship for Business.

* The monthly decision-making meetings of Bellingham Friends Meeting are usually referred to as “Meeting for Worship for Business” or “Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.” However, in the interests of clarity and brevity, they are sometimes referred to in this document as “Monthly Meeting,” “business meeting” or “meeting for business.” These terms are used interchangeably.

** For additional guidance on Friends' practices for handling controversial or intransigent issues, please refer to the **NPYM Faith and Practice** section of **Chapter 5 The Monthly Meeting: “Friends Method of Reaching Decisions,”** with special attention to sections on “*Sense of the Meeting,*” “*Unity,*” “*Threshing Sessions,*” and “*Serious Differences of Opinion.*”

Member Concern: Proposal for BFM to cosponsor presentation of Jeanmarie Simpson's play "Mary's Joy"

Jeanmarie Simpson is a Quaker playwright and actress, a member of Pima Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, who has written a beautiful and moving one-person play about the life and death of Mary Dyer, an early Quaker who was executed by hanging in Boston in 1660 for refusing to stop preaching her faith and leave Massachusetts Bay Colony. I had an opportunity to witness Jeanmarie present her play during the 2012 FGC Gathering in Rhode Island, and found it very inspiring as well as educational with regard to Mary Dyer's complex life and personality and the situation of Quakers in early colonial times.

Jeanmarie would like to present "Mary's Joy" this fall in various communities around the Pacific Northwest, and I have agreed to act as her local facilitator, at least with regard to Friends Meetings in western Washington and nearby British Columbia. Vancouver Monthly Meeting has already agreed to sponsor a presentation in Vancouver on Friday, October 2nd. Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship's Social and Environmental Justice Committee has agreed to host and co-sponsor a presentation in Bellingham, with the specific date to be determined, and I am today asking the Bellingham Friends Meeting agree to co-sponsor with them. I have also spoken with Friends in Agate Passage, Port Townsend, Whidbey Island, Victoria, and Lopez Meetings who are willing to bring a similar proposal to their Meetings in the near future, and I expect that some sort of presentation will be made during the fall session of Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting in late September. I intend to contact Meetings in Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma, Olympia, and Marysville soon with a similar proposal.

Jeanmarie will be headquartered in Seattle from about mid-September until late October. She does not request a specific honorarium for her work, but does expect at least reimbursement of local travel expenses and overnight hospitality in the communities visited. The sponsoring committee at BUF has requested that BUF retain one-half of the proceeds from the presentation there, but the rest should be available to reimburse Jeanmarie's expenses and offer her a modest honorarium. I expect that BFM's only out-of-pocket expenses would be for publicity and that would likely be under \$75. People attending the presentation would be asked for a donation with a suggested amount of perhaps \$10. The event would also be an opportunity for public outreach about our Meeting and about Quaker concerns and work in our community and the world.

In order to minimize travel expenses, I propose that the Bellingham presentation be on Saturday evening, October 3rd, dependent on the availability of BUF's building for that evening and the agreement of their Social and Environmental Justice Committee.

--Don Goldstein