

Regular Bellingham Friends Meeting Activities and How to Learn More About Them

Bellingham Friends Meeting gathers each Sunday for unprogrammed worship beginning at 10 am, normally at Explorations Academy in the Creekside Building, 1701 Ellis Street (between State and Ohio Streets) in Bellingham. The worship hour is followed by time for sharing Joys and Concerns, introductions, and announcements, and then usually by socializing over tea, coffee, and snacks or (on most first Sundays) a potluck lunch. Most weeks there is also a Second Hour activity: Meeting for Worship for Business on most second Sundays, and some kind of educational and/or discussion activity otherwise. We usually meet elsewhere the first Sunday in August (an outdoor meeting in a park, followed by a potluck picnic) and, in some years, on the Sunday during our Annual Meeting Retreat. Location changes are publicized well in advance through the communication channels listed below (see **II**).

I. OTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

1. **Mid-week evening worship** is hosted on most second and fourth Wednesdays by **Mary Ann Percy** (858-361-4296 or earthling27@gmail.com) beginning at 7 pm. An hour of open worship is usually followed by worship-sharing or some other sharing activity as the Friends then present may decide. Contact Mary Ann for location and directions.
2. Our **Spirit Group** meets monthly on a weekday evening, usually a Thursday (7 – 9 pm), for some free-wheeling discussion typically using a short reading as a jumping-off point. For details and/or to join the list to receive email notices of readings and the next discussion session, contact **Larry Thomsson** (360-961-8326 or Lathompson47@gmail.com).
3. Our monthly **Book Group** meets on a weekday evening, currently the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 pm, for discussion of a book selected by the group and usually available to borrow. For details and/or to join the list to receive email notices of books and meeting locations, contact **Susan Richardson** (360-733-5477 or richardsonsusan3@gmail.com).
4. The **Earthcare Group** meets monthly from 7 – 9 pm on an evening most convenient to those interested. We seek to respond to the question of how Earth is calling us to act on her behalf. We are currently reading and discussing Joanna Macy's books on The Work That Reconnects and also experiencing one of her exercises each month. Contact **Mary Ann Percy** (earthling27@gmail.com or 858-361-4296) for additional information.
5. The **Friendly Listening Group** usually meets on the second Saturday of each month, at 10 am at Terra Organica in the Public Market at 1530 Cornwall Avenue, for non-judgmental sharing about our lives and thoughts. Each session lasts about an hour. For more information contact **Dusty Andersen** (dusty@jessearnold.com or 360-592-2605) or **Lynne Lohr** (360-733-3305).

II. SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT BELLINGHAM FRIENDS MEETING AND ABOUT QUAKERISM:

1. To receive a weekly (Wednesday morning) summary of Meeting-related information and announcements by email (the “**BFM E-News**”), contact **Judy Hopkinson** (360-920-1728 or jd.hopkinson@gmail.com). This can also be requested on the back of the Welcome Card. The E-news also contains announcements about events in the non-Quaker local community and in the wider Quaker community (e.g., FCNL or FGC) that may be of interest to Bellingham Friends.
2. Our Meeting **website** is at bellinghamfriends.org. Most of the website is public. From the “About Us” page you can access a photo gallery that includes many Friends who attend frequently, along with their names, and from which you can also download the latest version of this document, a copy of “A Quaker Glossary”, and other documents concerning our Meeting or Quakerism more generally. To request access to the private portions of the website, contact Webmaster **John Hatten** (360-671-7012 or quaker@kulshan.net) to get a password set up for you.
3. Our **Facebook group page** is at www.facebook.com/groups/BellinghamQuakers/.

4. We have a group **list-serve**. You may sign up to receive emails as they're posted, or as a daily or weekly digest. The more Friends that participate, the more useful it becomes. Just go to the following web page: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/BellinghamQuakers/info>. Please contact **Allen Stockbridge** by email (cleanairguy@gmail.com) if you have any trouble connecting to either the Facebook page (see II-3. above) or to the Yahoo list-serve group.

5. To receive **committee reports and the agenda** in advance for our monthly (usually 2nd Sunday) Meeting for Worship for Business, and **minutes** afterwards, contact **Judy Hopkinson** (see II-1. above). This is a separate list.

6. To receive periodic Bellingham Friends Meeting **Directory** updates, including the current whole Meeting Directory, by email, contact **Don Goldstein** (360-671-1395 or dnx6309@gmail.com). This emailing list consists of all who are listed themselves in our Meeting Directory with an email address, which status you can request at any time if you expect to attend at least a few times per year. You can also request this on the back of the Welcome Card. [NOTE: Don will add you to the Directory (if he has the needed contact information) once you have attended several times, even if you haven't explicitly requested it, but in that case you can subsequently request deletion if you so wish.]

7. You can also pick up a copy of the Bellingham Friends Meeting **Directory** in **printed form**. It's produced during April each year, and copies are available most weeks at Meeting from the literature rack on the greeting table behind the donations box. The 2017-2018 Directory has a yellow cover. (If you cannot find a printed copy, see II-6. above.)

8. **Other inquiries** concerning Bellingham Friends Meeting can be sent by email to info@bellinghamfriends.org, or you may telephone (leaving a message if needed) **360-671-1395**.

9. Our Meeting maintains a **library** of books, pamphlets, and some periodicals related to Quakerism, Quaker history, Quakers concerns and action in the world, and related topics. There is a marked basket containing several items of particular usefulness to those new to our faith. Materials may be borrowed using a self-service signout notebook. The library is located in the northeast corner of the Explorations Academy library, the room in which we have worship on Sundays. Contact our librarian, **Rachel Van Boven** (415-828-2978 or rachelannevb@gmail.com) for further details.

NOTE: The individuals listed above as **Contact People** for the various information sources are subject to change, particularly so during spring each year. This document will be updated as needed to reflect such changes, or the addition of any new activities or information sources.

-- Published by the Outreach and Welcoming Committee: Don Goldstein (clerk), Dusty Andersen, Don Reinke, and Lynne Lohr. Feedback concerning this document is welcome.