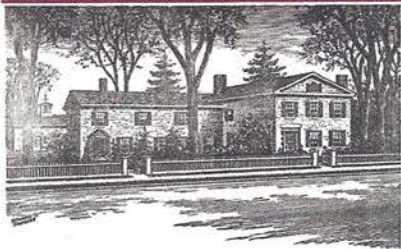


January 2017

NEWSLETTER



173 N. PROSPECT ST. BURLINGTON VERMONT 05401

Burlington Friends Meeting

## Growing into Prophetic Witness

To New England's Meetings

From Brian Drayton, Weare Friends Meeting

Dear Friends,

Many of us are feeling under the weight of grief, fear, and anger in the face of national and world events. Many of us are digging deep, to feel where a prophetic response may be: Is there a word from the Lord that Friends are to carry at this time, in deed or in word? Is our spiritual condition healthy, alert, and clear enough to hear and receive such a word?

Here is one thing I know: A prophetic people is one which welcomes the arising of prophecy. The first motion is, in love, to make room for the leadings, and the people who are led, and give them opportunity to bring what they have been given. This advice comes from the earliest life of the Christian movement. In the ancient book of advice called the "Didache" or "Teaching of the apostles," the little fellowships gathered in Christ's name are admonished to be open to the motion of the Spirit as embodied in traveling ministers: "Let every apostle [one who has been sent] who comes to you be received as the Lord."



Brian Drayton

Knowing that we have this treasure in earthen vessels, we are to "try the spirits" and feel where the divine is present when someone feels moved to act or speak under the guiding influence of the Divine Spirit—but we are warned not to quench the Spirit's motion, but to accept the unexpected activity of that Spirit in our lives as a community as well as individuals: "The spirit blows where it will, and you hear its sound, but don't know whence it comes or whither it goes. So is everyone who is born of the spirit."

As a people, we have fallen so far into a comfortable and secular mind, that we think concerns and leadings are somehow a matter personal to the concerned Friend, and our Meetings can pick and choose whom to hear, whom to invite and allow to come among us! That is a way to avoid the uncomfortable evidence that the living God is still working through us, preparing individuals and pushing them or drawing them into service. It is a way not to change, not to grow, to keep control of our schedules and our attention; to keep ourselves unfree. We often talk about being "spirit-led," but as a people how available are we really to that experience?

When we make time for the unexpected, when we accept the opportunities that come to us through Friends who are called to travel to us, and have the encouragement of their Meetings to do so, we enable those Friends, and others not yet arisen, to learn better how to watch for, hear, bear, and accomplish their service. Our Meetings are "schools of the prophets"—or can be if we recognize the opportunities that come our way, accept them with joy, and learn from them—both from the message and from our experience of reception and discernment.

I have known many Friends, newly drawn into service, who have been discouraged by the convention that prophets come to Meetings only when meetings issue invitations. This turns the matter upside down, Friends: The calling and the service are given through the body, through and out of the common life in the Spirit, and represent an invitation from God to see, to feel, to know, and perhaps to act in fresh ways, in ways renewed by the living water of God's life that brings these leadings and opportunities to us.

It can be inconvenient for a Meeting to make room for such an unplanned, "wildcat" experience of the Spirit. It may also be that a Friend's concern, to be

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brought to a Meeting, will require some discernment by the Meeting about ways and means. I can assure you, though, that it is pretty inconvenient for a Friend to have such a concern, to set aside other things, and dare to stand forth, dare to speak for God and for us. The sense of unreadiness, of unworthiness, of emptiness, is very sharp in such a Friend, and he or she is only too conscious of difficulties for themselves and for their visitors. Yet the act of faithfulness, however imperfectly accomplished, is a step into greater life, and if it is rooted in love, it is evidence of God's work and life active among us. And, Friends, there is such a famine among us, and among people in general, for such evidence!

So if a Friend reaches out to your Meeting, with an earnest statement that she or he is traveling under concern, with the unity of their Meeting (your brothers and sisters!), remember that we can earn a prophet's reward even by offering a cup of water to a prophet. Find a way to entertain this Friend, as we are to entertain strangers sent among us, for thereby we may unexpectedly be visited by an angel—not the traveling Friend, but the beloved Spirit, the Shepherd and Teacher, made available in the giving and receiving of spiritual hospitality. Make room, Friends, light your lamps in welcome, live like people who truly love the Spirit, and who love to see the springs of Life break forth in any!

—In Christian love, your friend,  
Brian Drayton

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## Love, encouragement, and support from your NEYM Staff

November 9, 2016

Dear Friends throughout New England,

As we gathered for our weekly worship this morning, we held all of you in prayer. From that worship, we feel led to write to you with a message of love, encouragement and support.

In the aftermath of this week's election, many who are grieving, angry, fearful and isolated are likely to seek refuge and solace in Friends meetings across our region, this Sunday and in the coming weeks. While Friends can't offer all the answers to those who join us in worship, we can offer them spiritual hospitality—a place where they can experience listening, connection, accompaniment and love. This is a simple and powerful action we can all take in the coming days to lift up a witness to the Light.

Below are some suggestions we hope you'll consider as you prepare for worship this Sunday:

***In our Meetings for Worship.*** Many of us who worship together often are also in need of refuge. We respond to stress differently; some may be more able to serve in this way right now than others. Let's take care of one another, even as we offer hospitality to new visitors. It may help for those who share the care of worship to communicate in advance to ensure that some Friends who are more able to be available are ready to close worship, speak with visitors, or be open to pastoral care needs.

***At the rise of Meeting,*** even a simple invitation for those attending to turn to their neighbor and share briefly what is on their heart might be profoundly helpful. Parents of young children may particularly benefit from connecting with one another as they support their kids. Consider whether newcomers who express an interest might be invited to connect with groups in the Meeting working to address racism, strengthen interfaith relationships, or address community needs. This can be an important way of helping them continue to find support, purpose and nourishment.

### ***In our surrounding communities.***

Remember that because of the climate of fear and hostility fed by this election, many who have been explicitly targeted in the campaign—including People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, Muslims, immigrants, and people with disabilities—may feel particularly unsafe, excluded or afraid.

More than ever, we encourage Friends to look for opportunities to publicly identify our Meetings as places of refuge and sanctuary for our neighbors who might feel under threat. Posting and publicizing commitments to oppose racism, homophobia, Islamophobia and gender-based violence will be more important than ever. Look for opportunities for Friends to partner with and accompany marginalized communities. Participate in ecumenical, interfaith and community events promoting unity, connection, dialogue and mutual respect, and opposing hate and division.

### ***Stay connected with your wider Quaker network.***

Please share information about upcoming events, as well as news, images, reflections, and ideas from your worship, witness, and community-building efforts by e-mailing <[events@neym.org](mailto:events@neym.org)>. Your work will encourage and enliven the work of others.

We are publishing information about local activities on the Events Calendar at <[neym.org/events](http://neym.org/events)>, and sharing news and updates on Facebook at <[www.facebook.com/NEYMof](http://www.facebook.com/NEYMof)>, and through the monthly e-mail newsletter. If you or your Meeting is seeking additional support or connections in responding to the challenges of this time, please let us know—we'll do all we can to connect you with resources, either in our wider Quaker networks or beyond. You can reach us at <[office@neym.org](mailto:office@neym.org)>, or by phone at 508-754-6760.

*Remember that we and many others are holding you in prayer, and that you are not alone.*

—In the Love that binds us together as a community of faith and witness, Anna, Beth, Frederick, Gretchen, Hilary, Kathleen, Nia, Sara, and Noah, Your NEYM Staff

## November 9, 2016 Burlington Friends Monthly Meeting for Business

**Attending:** Anita Rapone, Robin Lloyd, Sophie Quest, Bill Williams, Holly Gorton, Spencer Smith, Cheryl Flynn, Elinor Yahm, Charles Simpson, Linda McKenna, Abigail Matchette, Jeanne Plo, Thomas Sharpley, Paul Hood, Martha Penzer, Stella Penzer, Jonathan McCandless, Karen Poulin, Elizabeth Poulin, Jean McCandless.

**Presiding Clerk:** Jeanne Plo

**Recording Clerk:** Charles Simpson

**Clerk's welcome and reading:**

*Be optimistic. No matter how difficult the situation we face, be optimistic. Real failure is when we lose our hope and conviction. Therefore we should be optimistic.*

—The Dalai Lama

Meeting began with silent worship.

**Children's First Day School proposal:** Elizabeth Poulin

Elizabeth, a young Friend from BFM First Day School, invited the Meeting to participate in her brother's school's project: "Pages for Prisoners." The project seeks soft-cover dictionaries and fiction books for distribution to inmates incarcerated in the region. Friends praised Elizabeth's initiative and approved placing a collection box in the foyer through January 2017. The Meeting Library Committee will help Elizabeth to fill the collection box following the Meeting book sale on November 20th. The BFM webmaster will post a notice of this project on the BFM website: <[www.burlington-quakers.org](http://www.burlington-quakers.org)>.

**Peace Justice, & Earthcare:** Elinor Yahm

Two Minutes were presented for Meeting approval.

Prior to reading the Committee's proposal on Standing Rock, Jean McCandless read a portion of a NEYM Minute distributed on 11/3/16: "In North Dakota, the Standing Rock Sioux and their allies are struggling for the future of their land and people. Where those without worldly power stand in the Truth in the face of empire, God is at work and our faith calls us to support them."

**Proposed BFM Minute Regarding the Standing Rock Sioux Dakota Pipeline Witness**

Rarely have issues of racial and social justice, our colonial past, and the climate crisis combined and so powerfully called for a response by Friends. Since Spring 2016, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe along with official representatives from 200 other Indigenous nations from across the Americas, have converged at Sacred Stone Camp in North Dakota to protect their sovereign lands and water from destruction by the fossil fuel industry. As a result the largest gathering of Indigenous people in over a century has joined the Standing Rock Sioux to help save their land, water, and the environment.

They are demanding that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners permanently halt construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAP), a 1,668-mile link between the Bakken oil shale field in North Dakota and refineries on the Gulf Coast, a network designed to transport 570,000 barrels a day of highly volatile petroleum to markets abroad. The immediate goal of the witness is to prevent extension of the line under the Missouri River, a move that will endanger the only source of tribal water for drinking, irrigation and livestock. The DAP lines also bisect traditional Native American territory on which are located graves and other sites of cultural importance to the Standing Rock Sioux. A pipeline breach, something engineers consider inevitable over time, would destroy the land, water and the sacred tribal lands of these oppressed people.

The Great Sioux Nation, of which the Standing Rock Tribe is a part, have been oppressed by the United States government for 150 years. Seeking peace in 1868, the Sioux signed the Fort Laramie Treaty guaranteeing them a portion of their traditional homeland in perpetuity. When gold was discovered, Congress ignored the treaty and sent in the Army under George Custer, leading to the Sioux defeat of 1877 and the loss of the Black Hills. In 1890, under the Dawes Act, Congress broke up the remaining communal lands and tribal governments, creating individual allotments, in an effort to transform a nomadic people into sedentary farmers. Land outside of the allotments was turned over to white homesteaders, and the tribal land base shrank again. When the Sioux protested through a religious revival, 300 were massacred at Wounded Knee. The Sioux at Standing Rock endured, building a new life based on orchards, fields, and pastures. But in 1958 the United States seized their land yet again, flooding it to create the Oahe Dam and Lake. Now it is Energy Transfer Partners, supported by local and state law enforcement and the Army Corps of Engineers, that are pillaging the Sioux lands.

This time they are not standing alone. Their protest coincides with the climate justice movement, a growing awareness of racism in our society, and an emerging Native peoples' solidarity across the hemisphere. For us as Quakers, it also speaks to:

—Our long-standing historical concern about the integrity of our relationships with Indigenous people.

—Our New England Yearly Meeting's August, 2016 Minute on White Supremacy, calling for our community to engage in introspection of our personal and collective behavior as a colonizing people.

—The November 3rd New England Yearly Meeting Public Statement—A Call for Prayer and Support for Standing Rock (attached).

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>> **November 2016 business**, from page 3

In response to the urgency of this situation, the Peace, Justice, & Earthcare Committee asks that Burlington Monthly Meeting take the following actions:

1. Establish a Friends Concern to raise funds for the Standing Rock Sioux to help them and the growing number of supporters who have joined them, survive the harsh North Dakota winter.

2. Support Friends from our Meeting and throughout New England Yearly Meeting who are led to go to the Standing Rock Reservation to join the public witness.

3. Ask individuals and Meetings to contact local and national legislators and the President now, urging them to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, and ban shale oil extraction. After discussion, the Standing Rock Minute was approved with appreciation. A Friends Concern for Standing Rock was approved. This Minute will be taken to the Northeast Quarterly Meeting on December 4th. The Peace, Justice, & Earthcare Committee was charged with outreach. Jean McCandless will provide a contact link with a tribal member at Standing Rock. The webmaster will post this Minute on the BFM website, adding the following link for additional information: [www.nytimes.com/2016/08/25/opinion/taking-a-stand-at-standing-rock.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/25/opinion/taking-a-stand-at-standing-rock.html?_r=0).

Friends approved the above Minute as presented.

Charles Simpson read the following proposed Minute on the F-35:

### **Proposed Statement of Burlington Friends Meeting to NEYM on the F-35**

Over the 50-year life span of the F-35, America's newest warplane, we will spend \$1.4 trillion on production and maintenance of this one weapons system. That is enough to feed all the world's hungry (\$30 billion per year) and provide everyone on Earth with safe drinking water (\$11 billion per year). Even short of provoking war, its production and deployment misdirects vast amounts of precious metals and fossil fuels. But this stealth airplane is specifically designed for offensive use. It can carry the B61-12 nuclear weapon deep into foreign territory undetected, making its first-strike use more likely.

Here in South Burlington, Vermont, nearly 200 houses have been designated as unsuitable for residential use, due to their proximity to noise exceeding 65 decibels generated by an existing fleet of F-16 fighter planes. An F-35 fleet scheduled to take their place is four times as loud, meaning the cone of health-impacting noise will be wider and more intense. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, there is no effective noise mitigation for these modest, owner-occupied dwellings; they are being demolished. A primary school

is also in the <65dB noise zone, subjecting children to risks of hearing loss and cognitive impairment. [www.who.int/ceh/capacity/noise.pdf](http://www.who.int/ceh/capacity/noise.pdf); [www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/008/136466/e9488.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/008/136466/e9488.pdf). Residents here formed Save Our Skies (SOS) five years ago and were joined by area religious leaders, who urged the cancellation of this basing decision. <http://saveourskiesvt.org/letter-from-our-religious-leaders/>. Government officials did not respond, and legal remedies for noise and toxic fumes that a plane crash would engender, and negative impacts on property values have been exhausted. [www.bing.com/videos/search?q=stop+the+f-35%2c+save+our+skies&qpv=stop+the+f-35%2c+save+our+skies&FORM=VDRE](http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=stop+the+f-35%2c+save+our+skies&qpv=stop+the+f-35%2c+save+our+skies&FORM=VDRE).

Now SOS has joined forces with RootsAction to launch an international campaign to apply political pressure on governments around the world to cancel the production and purchase of this aircraft. Concerns have broadened from local noise and flight safety to the moral distortion associated with the production of this plane.

Some argue that since our economy is bound to the fortunes of the military-industrial complex, we need this plane to generate jobs. To garner political support, its manufacturer, Lockheed-Martin, located the fabrication of components in many Congressional districts and foreign countries. But war production isn't efficient. Researchers at the University of Massachusetts found that when the same amount of money is returned to tax payers or spent on clean energy, healthcare, or transportation, each billion dollars generates 4,000 to 16,000 more jobs than building arms [http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/published\\_study/PERI\\_military\\_spending\\_2011.pdf](http://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/published_study/PERI_military_spending_2011.pdf); <http://www.ciponline.org/research/entry/promising-the-sky-pork-barrel-politics-and-the-f-35-combat-aircraft>.

The F-35 is a weapons system that jeopardizes peace, impairs the health of those living near its bases, and is something the world can't afford. It weakens our ability to address human needs and heightens the risk of war. Burlington Friends Meeting urges the New England Yearly Meeting to ask Congress and the President to abandon this ill-advised and unethical investment, publicize this action, and urge Friends throughout New England to join with RootsAction and sign their petition calling for a cessation in spending on the F-35 [https://act.rootsaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_](https://act.rootsaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_).

Following appreciation, discussion and editorial suggestions, the Minute was approved. The Minute will be taken to Northwest Quarterly Meeting for approval on December 4th and forwarded to NEYM. The webmaster will add this Minute to the BFM webpage. One Friend

**November 2016 business**, next page >>

suggested that the Meeting hold a demonstration on Church Street, where the F-35 Minute could be circulated. Peace, Justice, & Earthcare was asked to consider this idea and other suggestions for action by Friends and individuals. It was suggested that the Co-Clerks send the F-35 Minute as a letter-to-the-editor to the newspress. A copy of the petition cited in the Minute will be made available in the Meetinghouse for individual signatures. Action items in the Minute were referred to Peace, Justice, & Earthcare for coordination

Paul Hood discussed his early nonviolent direct actions against the cruise missile in Washington some years ago and said of the F-35, "I feel personally connected and I'm ready to try to block it."

Friends approved the above Minute as presented.

**Finance Committee:** William E. Williams

The Finance Committee is working on next year's budget and is about to send out pledge letters. Committee clerks should send their projected expenses for next year to the Finance Committee. The budget will be presented at the January Meeting for Business. It was noted that the two speakers at the General Clerking Workshop October 29th were not compensated. A Meeting Concern was approved to provide an honorarium and to cover travel expenses.

### **Announcements:**

—In the aftermath of this week's election, NEYM has suggestions for offering spiritual hospitality and a place where Friends can experience listening, connection, accompaniment, and love. [*See NEYM 11-9-16 Spiritual Hospitality letter on page 2.*]

—December 11th: Instead of Meeting for Business, we will have a potluck and presentation by Sas Carey of Middlebury Meeting, who will show her documentary film *Migration* and facilitate a discussion on spiritual leadings titled, "My 22 years in Mongolia: a tale of Leadings."

—Book sale November 20, 2016

—Check the Meeting bulletin board for Powell House workshops and other announcements.

—American Friends Service Committee needs a new General Secretary. Friends are asked send their recommendations.

—Robin Lloyd described the "safety pin movement," which began in England. By wearing a safety pin on your lapel, you communicate to others that they are in a safe place.

—Northwest Quarterly Meeting at Putney Meeting, December 3rd and 4th.

After a moment of silent worship, the Meeting for Business adjourned at 2:10.

## **Charles Simpson reports on Pendle Hill Clerking Workshop, led by Arthur Larabee, Nov. 18–20, 2016**

THIS WAS A RICHLY informative several days for me. It focused on a Quaker gift to ourselves and, not incidentally, the wider world. That gift is our process of arriving at agreement within a group of spiritually engaged and divergent thinkers. The spiritual dimension, as I understand it, begins with a conviction that we can discern a right way of responding to challenges through inclusive and respectful discussion. This process takes each of us beyond our interests and convictions as previously understood as we listen to others and evaluate evidence. In this way, the right course of action emerges. As Quakers, we think of these journeys as spirit-led. It isn't that an omniscient God conveys to the group a "best decision," but rather that the group process itself forges that decision when we strive for it while spirit-led, rather than lobbying for a preconceived outcome. This workshop made it clear to me that approaching decision-making in this way is an act of faith and trust. We have faith that a best course of action can be found and that we can find it. It is also an act of faith in one another's commitment to this process.

What does good process entail and how can a clerk facilitate? Following Arthur Larabee's guidance, it begins with a collective understanding of decision-making as a spiritual process. God is affirmed to be present to the Meeting through the participants. That Presence is expressed through a journey to discover "the sense of the Meeting," or the unity around which participants can gather. The clerk moves those assembled toward discerning this unity. What does this mean in concrete terms?

—Discerning and avoiding that which is irrelevant or ego-led.

—Keeping in mind that at least two things are happening: the search for unity in a decision and the building of community.

—Understanding that unity is not consensus. Unity is the will of God speaking through the group. Thus even a leading from God for an individual may not be a leading for the Meeting as a whole. Consensus asks, "What can we agree to?" The sense of the Meeting model asks, "How are we led by the Spirit?" A shared awareness equals "unity." Those initially objecting to the direction toward unity that emerges may come to withdraw their objections as they perceive the spirit of the Meeting taking shape.

Speakers address the Meeting through addressing the clerk, not one another. The clerk has the responsibility to discern and propose what seems to be the sense of the Meeting after discussion. At that point members may say "I approve," "I'm not clear," "I'm not comfortable but will stand aside," or "I'm not in unity." When all "ap-

**Clerking**, next page >>

## First Day School Christmas Pageant



**Left:** The children had a lot of fun choosing the roles they would play this year and trying on costumes. **Right:** Beginning the pageant before the whole Meeting, Isaiah,



played by Stuart Wisse, prophecies about the spiritual Leader—a special child to be born in Bethlehem—who will teach his people, then and now, to live in peace and justice.

>> **Clerking**, from page 5

prove” the clerk’s statement, it is the outcome. When some are “not clear,” more time is needed for discussion. When some are “not comfortable,” they are expected to say why as early in the process as possible. If they then “stand aside” they are expected to support the decision of the group. If some “disapprove” and say why, the Meeting does not go forward. However, no individual has a veto power. Unity does not equal unanimity or exact sameness of opinion. It is not necessary for all Friends to be in complete accord for a Meeting to go forward.

“Standing aside” means a member is nonetheless willing to support the decision. The Meeting may choose to go forward at that point or not. When standing aside is frequent, there may be other issues involved that need attention.

A person cannot “stand in the way.” But absence of unity may “stand in the way.” The group takes action, not the individual. The responsibility of those participating in this decision-making process is to accept responsibility and seize opportunity, not assert individual rights. If an individual is not in unity, there is no unity and therefore no decision. The matter cannot go forward. But it is this lack of unity, not the individual, that causes this to happen. An emphatic way of “standing aside” is for an individual to ask that their view be minuted; they still hold it but they affirm their support for group process. In the life of a Meeting, standing aside should be infrequent and may point to larger issues.

It is important to record how a group wrestles with a problem whether they reached a decision or not. There

may be an impasse lasting months or years. This can be fruitful as well as a way to focus attention on work that needs to be done.

After discussion, a clerk proposes a sense of the Meeting and tests it by presenting it to the Meeting. Members may suggest improvements to better reflect how the Spirit has been present. All are responsible to release their truth as they see it and to listen to others.

The process itself is valuable and may or may not result in a decision to take action.

Discerning unity can only arise through deep centering in the atmosphere of worship. To that end we pause to re-center ourselves after each speaker and remain open and tender toward one another. It is a labor to keep from falling into secular patterns of disputation. A long and contentious agenda might require a long period of opening worship.

We don’t vote. Unity requires that all and particularly the clerk seek out and listen to dissenting voices. This may seem slower than a voting process but because it foregrounds problems it may be equal in the long run.

For all at Meeting: Give thought to the Meeting before time, reading the agenda and supporting minutes. Be present at worship and support the expectations of the group for good order, including waiting to be recognized. Once spoken, a truth is then released to the meeting, not held onto. Listen to what others are really saying. Be curious rather than judgmental; don’t repeat what’s already said; support the decisions of the meeting; be patient.... *[To be continued.]*

—Charles Simpson, BFM Co-clerk

# Burlington Friends lobby their Congressional delegates

DURING THE WEEK of December 5–9, 2016 Sophie Quest, Catherine Bock, Elinor Yahm, and Charles Simpson of Burlington Friends Meeting made a number of lobbying visits with Congressional aides.

The first visit was to Bernie Sanders's office, where we met with one of his aides to discuss the situation at Standing Rock. We thanked Bernie for the letter he wrote to President Obama supporting the Water Protectors and discussed what we might expect in the future.

The following day we met with one of Senator Leahy's aides in person and one on Skype the same issue and thanked Leahy for supporting Bernie's letter and looking to stop the pipeline.

Sophie, Catherine, Elinor, and other members of the Burlington Advocacy Group organized by FCNL met with a staffperson in Peter Welch's office to discuss the issue of mass incarceration. We were pleased to find out that all our members of Congress remain committed to fighting for what they feel is right. They were very appreciative of our understanding of how difficult things are going to be. We let them all know they could contact us if they needed support in the community, and they seemed



**BURLINGTON ADVOCACY GROUP members, including three BFM Friends, met in early December with Congressional staffers at U.S. Rep. Peter Welch's office in Burlington.**

genuinely appreciative. They feel it is important to get feedback from Vermonters.

—Elinor Yahm  
Peace, Justice, & Earthcare

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## January 28 workshop: New Story to embody love, compassion, and interbeing

THIS ELECTION marks a time of great uncertainty that presents tremendous dangers and opportunities! A whole range of ideas become possible with the collapse of dominant institutions. Normal is coming unhinged. The social and environmental horrors likely to be committed after this election are likely to incite massive civil disobedience and possibly disorder.

Therefore, it is important to introduce a force to animate the new structures that might appear. Let's create a New Story titled, "We Are All in This Together." In this workshop, led by Pan Vera of New England Nonviolence Training Center, we will practice connecting with others to animate compassion and inter-being.

—How to stay optimistic and get your needs met, in a world that often looks bleak.

—Support to help you bridge any family political differences.

—Standing within your center when political debates happen around you.

—Support to help you bridge any family political differences.

—Actual personal self-empathy work to get clear on your needs in this time.

—Actual practice relating to others with empathy and connection.

—Heralding a new coalition that changes our politics to become more life-serving.

What would it take for a new order to embody love, compassion, and interbeing? It will take empathy, the result of the compassionate inquiry: "What is it like to be you?"

We are all suffering the same wound of separation. We are longing for deep community, intimate connection with nature, and unconditional love. Something hurts. Can you feel it?

We are all in this together. One Earth, one tribe, one people. Let's create an eye of compassion inside the political hate vortex. Let's stand together and stare hate in the face by practicing creative engagement with compassion and empathy.

We will practice getting solidly clear on the beauty of our own needs so that we can more calmly dialogue with people who see the world differently.

We will practice empathy for those caught in the hate vortex, so we can avoid fighting about what we don't want, and work together for our common needs.

**Location:** Burlington Friends Meeting, Bassett House, 173 N. Prospect St. # B, Burlington, Vt.

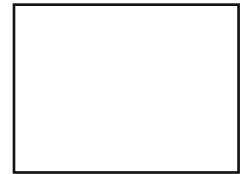
**Date and time:** Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Self-selected sliding scale from \$45 to \$160. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

For more information and to register: <[bit.ly/NewStoryBurlington](http://bit.ly/NewStoryBurlington)>.

**Burlington Friends Meeting**  
**173 N. Prospect St.**  
**Burlington, VT 05401**

**January 2017**



**Burlington Friends Meeting events—  
all at the Meeting House unless noted**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact/Committee</b>
Each Sunday	Meeting for Worship—11 a.m.	Ruah Swennerfelt, 425-3377
Each Wednesday	Midweek Worship—noon	John Sharpless, 871-5195
2nd & 4th Sundays	Children's program—10:45 a.m.	Abby Matchette, 765-618-8936
Each Sunday, on request	Childcare during worship and other Meeting events	Louis Cox, 425-3377
January 8, 2017	Meeting for Business—12:45 p.m.	Jeanne Plo, 233-6377
January 11, 2017	<i>Wednesday:</i> Meeting for Grieving, 7:00 p.m.	
January 28, 2017	<i>Saturday:</i> New Story workshop on nonviolent communication 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	

Send newsletter submissions to Louis Cox <[jlouiscox@gmail.com](mailto:jlouiscox@gmail.com)>