



New NEYM ‘Reparations Work Group’ reaching out to native peoples of New England **Subcommittee on reparations proposed for BFM**

by Charles Simpson, BFM co-clerk

THIS PROJECT AROSE in 2017 at New England Yearly Meeting sessions when some Friends wondered whether part of the NEYM Legacy Fund could be used to repair relations between Native Americans and the descendants of the settler-colonizers. This seemed apt because the origin of the Legacy Fund, the sale of a Quaker retirement home on the Massachusetts coast, derives ultimately from the appropriation of indigenous lands. NEYM asked for volunteers willing to participate on an ad-hoc basis in this Reparations Work Group, which met initially in Cambridge, Mass., in October of 2017. We met by telephone again in December 2017. These meetings were convened by Leslie Manning and included Suzanna Schell, Darcy Drayton, Erica Adams, and me.

We reached consensus on initiating a series of discussions and discernment sessions with Native American Elders and tribal representatives at various points across New England over the next year and a half. The purpose is to better acquaint Friends with the perspective of regional Native Americans on past and on-going injustices stemming from colonization and attendant ethnocide and genocide. These will be undertaken in the spirit of repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and to challenge white supremacy. Ultimately, some funding from the Legacy Fund may be available for specific Native-led projects.

The first conference will take place in northern Maine at a date to be set between 3/20/18 and 4/30/18. We will request money from the Legacy Fund to cover the expenses of Native American elders and representatives invited from the Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot nations. A second conference will take place 11/1/18 in Mashpee, Mass. involving the Mashpee Wampanoag and other tribal groups. These meetings will be held at locations convenient to the Indigenous and where they might immediately indicate issues of concern to them. Later conferences will be planned for Connecticut and Vermont. It was suggested that the new FCNL outreach staff dealing with Native American issues be encouraged to attend. The format involves a morning listening to Native American concerns, followed by an afternoon during which Quakers reflect on those perspectives.

It is likely that BFM will take the lead in organizing a meeting with the Vermont Abenaki. I suggest we establish a subcommittee of Peace, Justice, & Earthcare Committee to discuss this challenge. We may want to involve the resources of the Northwest Quarter.

We should be cautious in using the term “reparations,” least we think we can “repair” the damage done by colonization, genocide, ethnocide, and removal. What we can do is move on together with mutual respect, honoring the fact that the Indigenous have crafted ways of living with the natural world that offer us hope at a time when European-based civilization seems bent on bringing the human adventure to a close. •

Honoring Paul Hood (1926–2017) on April 7th at 1st Congregational Church

BURLINGTON FRIENDS are sad to note the passing of our good Friend Paul Hood on November 19, 2017.

A formal Memorial Minute will be brought before the Meeting in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, we take this opportunity to share a few of the many things that we came to love and appreciate about Paul.

He was a good and faithful Friend for many years. He was best known for his clear and unequivocal commitment to nonviolence. As a World War II veteran, he learned first-hand the horrors of war and committed the rest of his life to working with Veterans for Peace, both locally and nationally. He joined the local group each year marching in the Memorial Day Parade and attended national conferences. His peace witness was always done with love, never with judgment.

He is also remembered for his good spirit and faithfulness, which was welcoming to all people. He also served in many capacities within Burlington Friends Meeting and with the larger circle of Friends.

After coming to Burlington in the mid-1980s, he helped form a local ecumenical peace group, Chrysalis, which waged a ten-year campaign against the production of gatling guns at the local General Electric plant.

Paul proudly wore his 50-year sobriety medallion from Alcoholics Anonymous. His commitment to AA included helping others and faithfully attending meetings all those years.

He will also be remembered for his compassionate concern for the people of Palestine, having traveled to Ramallah and seeing first-hand their plight and then bringing that concern back to raise among New England Friends.

Paul's creativity and compassion were expressed well when he and another Friend were sentenced to community service for an act of civil disobedience. Recognizing that homeless people in Burlington had no opportunity for food aid on the weekends, they proposed that their community service be to create an interfaith program to serve food to hungry people. That program, named Small Potatoes, has continued under the care of Burlington Friends Meeting to this day. Week after week, year after year, Paul hard-boiled and peeled a huge number of eggs for sandwiches.

To celebrate Paul's ardent witness, join us for Small Potatoes on Saturday, April 7, 2018 beginning 8 a.m., followed by a Memorial Meeting for Worship in the manner of Friends at the First Congregational Church, 38 S. Winooski Ave., Burlington, Vt.

Preventing war with North Korea FCNL Campaign 2018

by Catherine Bock

IN 2018, ADVOCACY TEAMS are lobbying to stop nuclear war. Today's confrontation with North Korea represents the most urgent risk of nuclear war in a generation. We all know that war is not the answer in North Korea. It would be catastrophic - for the United States, its allies, and the people of the region. Only diplomacy and peacebuilding offer a path for something better.

The United States has successfully used dialogue and diplomacy in the past to avoid both war and capitulation, and it can confidently pursue that path again. Yet far too frequently, each new action, dangerous and provocative, by North Korea is met by President Trump with still more dangerous rhetoric, bellicose threats, and vague references to armed force. The risk of war is real—and growing.

We do not stand helpless in the face of this danger. With the executive branch escalating tensions daily, Congress holds the constitutional responsibility to determine whether the country chooses war. Yet far too many in Congress—both Republicans and Democrats—have been silent in the face of possible conflict. Others in Washington—and in North Korea—will read this silence as consent to war.

In 2018, Advocacy Teams will propel Congressional action on both sides of the aisle to stand up against nuclear war.

- In 2018, Advocacy Teams will know we've won if:
 - We have prevented war with North Korea.
 - Congressional Democrats publicly stand as a voting block against war with North Korea.
 - Individual Congressional Republicans have privately or publicly voiced opposition to war.

Anthony Weil, FCNL's Legislative Secretary for Nuclear Disarmament, will speak on preventing war with North Korea during a National Call on Wed., Jan. 16, tel. 712-770-4218; passcode 330443.

If you would like to join our Burlington advocacy team to learn to lobby and be part of our efforts to prevent war, call Catherine Bock at 650-521-6959 or e-mail: <tinki.bock@gmail.com>

November 12, 2017 Burlington Friends Monthly Meeting for Business

Attending: Charles Simpson, Holly Gorton, Bob Dill, Jeanne Plo, Catherine Bock, Louis Cox, Ruah Swennerfelt, Spencer Smith, Bill Williams, Elinor Yahm, Sophie Quest, Thomas Sharpley, Diana Linda, Abby Matchette, Charles Gurney, Jean McCandless, Christopher McCandless, Jonathan McCandless, Cheryl Flynn, Linda McKenna, Jane VanLandingham, Howard Taylor, Barbara Grace Sullivan

Co-Clerk Presiding: Charles Simpson

Co-Clerk Recording: Holly Gorton

Opening with silent reflection

Readings. Charles Simpson read two items:

“Steps Toward the Goal,” from Dorothy H. Hutchinson: *The Spiritual Basis of Friends’ Social Concern*, 1961, Friends General Conference: “Do minor reforms make great social evils easier for people of tender conscience to accept and therefore delay the final solution of these evils? If I understand the experience of Quaker reformers, this has not been their view. Quakers have seen as two-fold their function in a non-Quaker society: (1) to hold up the ideal; never to forget it nor allow others to forget it as a goal, and (2) at the same time to initiate small, imperfect steps with which they, themselves, are dissatisfied because of their partial nature. It seems to me to be, not only more useful, but to take more courage to work at these partial solutions rather than in effect, to wash one’s hands of evil by rejecting every solution which is less than the ideal.”

After a story told by Subcomandante Marcos, Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional: “Once, in the mountains of Chiapas, a man began to plant trees. Those in the village, toiling in their fields planting and cultivating corn and beans, called him foolish and laughed him. ‘You will be long dead before those trees are tall,’ they said. But he persisted. Generations later, children, old people, and couples walked in the shade of tall trees, used their branches for building material, and marveled at their height. But none could recall who had planted them.”

Committee Reports

Naming Committee. Cheryl Flynn reported that Felicia Kornbluh will serve on the Gifts & Service Committee, joining Jim Geier and Catherine Bock. Friends expressed thanks to the Naming Committee for their good work.

Property Committee. (Report submitted and presented by Bob Dill. Additions made during Meeting for Business are in italics.)

John Moore has left the Committee. Members expressed great appreciation for the work and commitment that John brought to the Committee.

Christopher McCandless reported on projects the Property Committee has been working on. The project list was the same as was presented at the September 12th Property Committee meeting.

Project updates include:

—The pink sink is done.

—The Property Committee decided at their November 7th meeting on the placement of the mop sink. This is the last issue from the city.

—We expect the City to issue a permit for the kitchen in the Bassett House.

—A handicap parking space was established at the October 3rd meeting.

—A work day and a raking day were successful.

—The big oak tree in the northwest part of the property disgorged a large branch in the windstorm of two weeks ago. I will contact Beth at Heritage Tree Service about how to proceed. We are thinking of having any work done during the winter when the ground is frozen enough to minimize damage from driving heavy equipment. There is a fair amount of branch lumber in the woods on the north side of the property. Christopher commented that after seeing the fate of the oak tree he was very glad we cut the cottonwood down. Friends are encouraged to avoid the area, especially in wind storms, for safety. Children should not play in this area.

—The knowledge transfer from Christopher to the rest of us is ongoing. A fairly large amount was covered at the October 3rd meeting and is written up in the meeting minutes. A video-recorded, walking/talking tour of the property is planned for the near future (Christopher, Bob, and any other interested parties).

—Christopher will add some information to the November 7th minutes of the Property Committee regarding the role of event coordinators.

—There was discussion at the last meeting about the risk of events like Sutherland, Texas.

—The Quarterly Meeting will be in Burlington on December 3rd (see details elsewhere).

—There is another leaf-raking day scheduled for November 19th after the rise of Meeting. With three or four people it will take about an hour.

—Sustainable energy: At the October 3rd meeting we decided that solar panels on the roof and/or yard were not optimum, given our relatively poor solar exposure, the nature of our electrical load, and the high cost of installing panels. Since all of Burlington Electric’s power is renewable at present we are going to look into using heat pumps for heating (and cooling).

—The Property Committee hired a consultant to make recommendations about marketing for the rental of Burlington Friends Meeting spaces, such as the Bassett House, the Meetinghouse, and the yard. The report from the consultant is a booklet that will be available at the Meetinghouse. Property Committee would like to establish an ad-hoc Marketing Committee. Interested individuals should contact Bob Dill.

Peace Justice & Earthcare Committee (Report presented by Elinor Yahm.)

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(*This minute approved in the face of the Meeting.*) The committee organized a showing of *Citizen Jane, Battle for the City*, a documentary film about Jane Jacobs, author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and her opposition to the “urban renewal” policies of Robert Moses. The film was shown at the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington and was followed by a discussion about the proposed development in Burlington. Panelists included the former city engineer and Department of Public Works director, a local landscape architect, and Charles Simpson, who has done academic work on the issues Jacobs addressed in her activism.

One Friend recalled that at our October Meeting for Business we agreed that Burlington Friends Meeting would host this event to allow a place for people with different opinions to have conversations. Yet this Friend felt the publicity for the event did not sound even-handed and felt that it sounded like our Meeting has “concerns” about specific development projects proposed for Burlington. We need to understand how Burlington Friends Meeting is represented in the public and in Burlington. Burlington Friends Meeting has not had a conversation on this topic and has not taken a position on the issue.

Initially Peace, Justice, & Earthcare was going to sponsor this event on its own, without approval from the Meeting. However, another Friend noted that a committee of Burlington Friends Meeting should not be sponsoring controversial public events without getting sponsorship from the entire Meeting.

At our October Meeting for Business we agreed that Burlington Friends Meeting would sponsor the event and suggested that the panel discussion should have representation of different opinions. Some Friends thought that varying viewpoints were not well represented and that everyone was opposed to the development, but one Friend remembered that there was someone speaking for the development. The concern Friends expressed is that the community could take a one-sided presentation as an indication that Burlington Friends Meeting is sponsoring this particular point of view.

We are grateful that Peace, Justice, & Earthcare brought this issue to our Meeting for Business. That was good order. The committee did not follow the suggestions from our last Meeting for Business about a having different points of view represented. In the future, we should give clear instructions to the committee if we are concerned about how we appear in the community. The reason for having Burlington Friends Meeting as a body behind an event like this is that it strengthens the work.

Friends agreed that we would like to have *Citizen Jane* shown for BFM, at the Meetinghouse.

—At the rise of Meeting on November 5th, Peace, Justice & Earthcare sponsored a potluck lunch (excellent by all reports), followed by a celebration of the winning of the

Nobel Peace Prize by the International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons, and by a presentation from John Reuwer. John talked about his recent experience lobbying with Physicians for Social Responsibility at the UN and about the status of nuclear arms worldwide. He commented that what makes him believe in God is that we have not yet blown ourselves up.

Ministry & Counsel (presented by Ruah Swennerfelt)

—The second book discussion on Debby Irving’s book *Waking up White* will take place before Meeting next week, November 19th. We will discuss the second section of the book and will use the queries posed at the ends of the chapters.

—Ministry & Counsel has been working to provide similar name tags for everyone. They have made good progress and the name tags will be appearing soon.

—Charles Simpson’s welcoming party will be in the spring because he wants something outside.

(*This minute approved in the face of the Meeting.*) Ministry & Counsel requested feedback about how Friends are feeling about our new experimental format for joys and concerns, asking that joys and concerns arise from the silence after a full hour of regular worship, but before shaking hands. The reason for the experiment was that joys and concerns might carry more spiritual weight coming out of the silence. Friends expressed a variety of opinions. Some strongly preferred the old format and commented that the new way seems to result in a “mushy” end of Meeting, and that the shaking of hands was important to them as an end of Meeting for Worship. Others liked having joys and concerns as part of Meeting for Worship, arising from the silence. Some Friends like both ways.

One Friend commented that we should remember the importance of holding space, with worship continuing during joys and concerns. Another suggested that perhaps worship begins after we shake hands. One Friend suggested that the person with care of Meeting should make it clear that this format for joys and concerns is an experiment. Another suggested that the experiment might be modified such that we would shake hands at the end of the hour, then ask Friends to remain in worship for brief sharing. However, a Friend commented that the shaking of hands triggers socializing, and that change of tone is precisely the challenge that makes joys and concerns less worshipful. A Friend reminds us that Meeting closes when it closes, not necessarily at noon.

Ministry & Counsel brought this issue to Meeting for Business to get feedback, and they received lots. They will keep working on it and will bring a recommendation to the next Meeting for Business, when we will decide whether to make the change permanent or to revert to the old system.

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Friends are encouraged to write down additional reflections and send them to Ministry & Counsel.

—Today our Meeting tried another experiment, intergenerational worship. Today there was a story and song with the children before they left for First Day School. Ministry & Counsel sought feedback on this format, noting that it might happen three times each year, in the fall, the Christmas pageant, and in the spring. Friends enjoyed sharing worship with the kids and noted that it was good to see the parents have more time in Meeting as well. Having the children there provided joyful hopefulness, a shot in the arm. Another Friend noted that we should continue this practice because if we do not, we are saying that adults are more important than children. However, Friends also noted that they would have liked to know that it was going to happen. Publicity about it was not effective, and one Friend suggested that such events should be announced after Meeting for the two weeks before the event.

—There was also confusion about the door to the Meeting room. Normally it is closed after the beginning of worship and people who come late all come in at the same time, 15 minutes into worship. However, today the door was left open to allow families to enter and join the intergenerational worship even if they were a little late. There was some confusion today, with some people closing the door and others opening it because the plan to leave the door open was not communicated clearly.

Children's Religious Education Committee (Report submitted and presented by Abby Matchette)

—Children's Religious Education would like to thank everyone for the support of JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project) bags! Fifteen bags were delivered to JUMP, and they were overjoyed for the support, especially as they are low at this moment and worried about their families as the cold weather sets in.

—Children's Religious Education also wrapped and decorated books bought for Vermont Refugee Reads, and we must let you know a correction; 26 books were bought with the money donated from the Friends Concern. These books will be delivered to new families coming in through Refugee Resettlement Program. Thank you all to those who donated, decorated, and supported this service project for our children.

—The annual Christmas program will be December 17th, with a Christmas pageant in the last half-hour of worship. The pageant will be for children of all ages, perhaps with older children having reading roles.

Communications. Louis Cox gave updates on his efforts to create two mailing lists and transfer Burlington Friends Meeting e-mail to Mail Chimp. One e-mail list will contain people who want to get all the e-mails from Burlington Friends Meeting, and the second is for those people who prefer to receive fewer, more general e-mails, including the newsletter. Friends should tell Louis which list they would like to be on, if they have not done so already. So far

we have a list of about 180 e-mail addresses all together, of which 80 will receive everything.

Mail Chimp software has been working well for our Meeting e-mail. It also provides an option to make a newsletter. Such a newsletter wouldn't look like the current print version because it would not be printed (except for a few copies for the table in the entry), so items would not need to be formatted to fit attractively and precisely onto pages. We do need a distinctive and attractive template.

Louis encourages Friends who submit material for to the listserv to add an introduction to draw attention to the item. Also, Louis asks that when submitting material to him for the newsletter, Friends put "for BFM Newsletter" in the subject line of the e-mail to Louis.

Ad-hoc committees

Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Catherine Bock, our Meeting representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), submitted and presented the following report on the FCNL national meeting in Washington, D.C.:

"When I attended the annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) last year it was two days after the election. Fear, anger, and shock were everywhere; On the train to D.C., on Capitol Hill and among Friends at the Meeting. This year was different. We were still afraid, angry and dealing with repeated shocks but there was a sense of hope and passionate commitment to keep working for positive change.

"Thursday was a day of preparation for lobbying our members of Congress for a moral budget asking that Pentagon funding not be increased and that social programs be supported. Some people already had meetings on Thursday but most of us were in our representatives offices on Friday. There were a total of 223 lobby visits by 450 people from all over the country. Together we were the advocacy teams, advocacy corps members, young fellows and FCNL staff living our faith on Capitol Hill.

"I was the only Vermonter, but I met a woman from D.C. at lunch on Thursday and she wanted to join me in visiting my representatives since D.C. doesn't have representation. After a bit of early morning preparation we became a fairly confident lobby team. I really appreciated her help.

"We spoke to friendly knowledgeable staff in Leahy's, Sanders's and Welch's offices. They all agreed with our ask but they said how much they appreciate the work FCNL has done because it makes working across the aisle to get legislation passed much easier. As follow up I sent each office a packet of five flyers that FCNL has compiled. Here's a link to those files: <<https://www.fcnl.org/documents/437>>. Here is the reply I got from Leahy's office:

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'Thanks, Catherine, these charts are really well done and I'm happy to have my own digital copy. I've always felt that one of the most important jobs Senators, and by extension their staff, have is to try to bridge the gap between citizens in the states and the Federal workers in the bureaucracy. So I'm really honored that you felt like I was helpful at that for you.'

'The weekend was filled with FCNL business meetings, more speakers, and cake to begin the celebration of FCNL's 75th year. On Saturday night the nine new young fellows who will be spending a year on Capitol Hill assisting the FCNL staff gave speeches presenting themselves.

I was so impressed, moved and inspired by each of them, especially Emmet Witkovsky-Eldred, who spoke of his plan to study law to be able to make positive social change by taking on unjust systems. He told of his mother having Alzheimer's, which is a preexisting condition, but he will never let them take away her healthcare. I suggest you listen to some or all of these speeches at: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/learn-lobby-lead-report-on-annual-meeting-2017-1107>

'I learned that the advocacy team project has grown to 82 teams throughout the country who are working hard to write op-eds and contact their representatives every month. Burlington has one of the oldest advocacy teams but could use more members. There is also an advocacy corps made up of young people ages 19 to 30 who get paid to organize their local communities around federal legislation. We met the 20 members who will be working for the next nine months. The last effort FCNL does to support young people in making change is the spring lobby weekend, where 400 young leaders come to D.C. for learning, lobbying, and inspiration.

'The meetings for business were well run and efficient, with no difficult decisions like we experienced last year. In general I can say that my whole time in D.C. felt like a celebration of all the people and the work that has been accomplished, in spite of the insane political climate of our new administration. I left with new inspirations to persist in lobbying, feeling hopeful that we will see things turning for the better.

If you are interested in joining the Burlington advocacy team please contact me: Catherine Bock, 650-521-6959 <tinki.bock@gmail.com>.'

Meeting thanked Catherine for her work representing us and representing the state of Vermont.

Planning Committee for Quarterly Meeting. Ruah Swennerfelt circulated sign-up sheets for people to provide food and help for Northwest Quarterly Meeting, which Burlington Friends Meeting is hosting next month on December 3rd.

Sanctuary Vermont interfaith group. (Report submitted and presented by Charles Simpson.)

"Sanctuary Vermont" Meeting
Burlington Friends Meetinghouse, October 31, 2017

Present: Ava Kelly, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Charles Simpson, and Christopher McCandless, Burlington Friends Meeting

Outreach Teams: We determined that the best way to get the attention of faith communities interested in a state-wide Sanctuary Conference would be through visitations by teams of one migrant worker and one member of a faith community, speaking for 5 to 10 minutes during religious services in various locations. The non-migrant could briefly explain the deportation/sanctuary issue and the migrant could tell a personal story about their circumstances. This approach might elicit greater understanding and empathy for those facing deportation, keeping in mind that Vermont residents have many issues preoccupying them and many may have genuine fear of outsiders. Christopher noted that central to the Abrahamic tradition was extending welcome to strangers. Such talks would include notice about our state-wide "Sanctuary Vermont" interfaith gathering to be held in the spring. Because Kim Emo is presently out of the country, it was agreed that March would be the best month in which to have this gathering. The location is yet to be determined.

Several individuals were mentioned as likely to be effective speakers. In addition to the three of us present, Kim Emo, Pastor of Franklin Alliance for Rural Ministries; and Suzi Wiziwati, active on incarceration issues, were mentioned. We hope that working with Migrant Justice will allow us to reach spokespeople from the migrant community itself.

Further Planning: We agreed to meet again on November 21st, 12:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Burlington, to continue planning. We will each commit to bringing at least one new member to this planning meeting and Charles will notify those on our current list, largely Quakers.

Charles agreed to write the discussion draft of a letter to be sent to area religious organizations requesting time at their services at which our outreach teams could speak.

Letters to Burlington Monthly Meeting

We received a gracious thank-you note from North Hero Library for our donation, which we had sent in gratitude for them letting the Islands Worship Group use their space each Sunday last summer. They are clearly open to continuing our relationship.

Closing with silent worship and a handshake.

Changes afoot for BFM's Meeting for Business

by Holly Gorton and Charles Simpson

BOTH OF US ARE FAIRLY NEW as presiding clerks: Charles has been serving for about 18 months and Holly for six. Fortunately, our Meeting has a practice of sending new clerks to Arthur Larrabee's clerking workshop at Pendle Hill, and both of us have now attended. We have discussed our clerking in light of our experience at the Pendle Hill workshop and how best to use our workshop experience to benefit Burlington Friends. Here we share some of those thoughts with you.

Arthur Larrabee reminded us that our Quaker Monthly Meetings for Business have three purposes:

- Conducting business
- Nurturing our spirit
- Building our community

At its best, our Quaker Meeting for Business holds these three things in balance. That means that time and energy must be devoted to spiritual nurture and community building, or our conduct of business will suffer; the three elements are synergistic. We have all experienced meetings for business that seem interminable, when there is no more spiritual energy to carry the process.

In addition, Arthur Larrabee strongly suggested that we periodically devote some time at the beginning of Quaker Meeting for Business to what he calls "Continuing Quaker Education." He was referring to a few minutes taken every couple of months to remind ourselves of various aspects Quaker process and of why we do things the way we do. As we welcome new Friends, this Continuing Quaker Education seems like a particularly good idea, but it doesn't hurt to remind long-term Friends, as well.

If we are to devote time to spiritual nurture, community building, and continuing Quaker education, how will we find time for conducting business? Actually, all three of these practices should enhance our ability to conduct business because they enhance our ability to listen deeply, to "release" pre-conceived ideas, and to change our minds. While decisions in the non-Quaker world often depend on skills in rhetoric, lobbying, and even bullying, Quakers uphold a different notion of process and success. We believe that finding the way forward through spirit-led discernment is possible if we set aside our preconceptions and personal agendas, opening ourselves to collective insight. A quote from Arthur Larrabee is relevant here: "If we are not willing to release, we'd be better off voting."

It is the clerk's responsibility not only to balance business, spirit, and community, but also to make our meetings efficient. There are a couple of procedural things we can do as presiding clerks to increase efficiency. First, we hope to distribute an agenda about a week in advance, with indications as to which items are simple

reports and which are action items. If there are materials that Friends should read before Quaker Meeting for Business, we can distribute those as well. From Arthur Larrabee: "The Spirit favors the well-prepared."

Another change we would like to make is in the approval of minutes. We have been reading back any minutes that might be controversial or that document our actions so that they can be approved "in the face of the Meeting." However, we have not been reading the entire narrative portion of the minutes back for approval, and we feel that to do so would be a drain on the spiritual energy of the Meeting. However, Friends do need a chance to correct errors, and minutes do need to be approved. Therefore we will be sending out minutes from the previous Meeting for Business when we send out the agenda for the next Meeting for Business. Portions that have already been approved will be so indicated. We ask that Friends look over the minutes, come to the next meeting with any corrections, and be prepared to approve the minutes.

Changes in how we handle the agenda and minutes take organization, but they are really quite straightforward. More difficult for us will be Arthur Larrabee's admonition to the clerks to "inhabit [our] authority" and use it to keep things moving toward finding a sense of the Meeting. We have not always done that as effectively as we might. It is our responsibility to move things along if someone speaks overlong or strays off topic, or if we keep hearing similar things repeatedly. It is our responsibility to remind Friends that we are not gathered to hear all there is to say about a subject or to hear from every individual, but to hear any divergent points of view and to discern a sense of the meeting.

While clerks have considerable responsibility during Quaker Meeting for Business, they are not alone. They are supported by all present. All can facilitate a successful, efficient, and enjoyable business process. Arthur Larrabee describes this responsibility as "clerking consciousness," in other words being aware of what the clerk is thinking about, and listening as a clerk would listen. It requires thinking about common ground, how to bring us to good order, the emerging sense of the Meeting, and how to help that sense emerge. •

Mind the light of God in your consciences,
which will show you all deceit.

Dwelling in it guides out of the many things
into one spirit, which cannot lie, nor
deceive.

Those who are guided by it, are one.

~ George Fox, 1624-1691

Deepening worship through building community at the Pendle Hill clerking workshop

by Holly Gorton

BURLINGTON FRIENDS MEETING generously supported my attendance at the annual Pendle Hill workshop about clerking: “Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence,” led by Arthur Larrabee. I am tremendously grateful for that Meeting support, and also for the spirit embodied by Arthur Larrabee, and for the rich ambiance of Pendle Hill. Charles Simpson attended the same workshop in 2016, and you can read his remarks about his experience in the January 2017 newsletter: <http://burlingtonquakers.org/17Jan.pdf>. Charles did a great job of summarizing content of the workshop dealing with clerking and how Friends conduct business. I’d like to address some less-tangible impressions I took away from Pendle Hill that will remain with me for a long time.

First, there’s Arthur Larrabee himself. Imagine an extraordinarily experienced clerk who is also charismatic and a skilled teacher, one who models the clerking principles he’s trying to convey, one who truly understands the link between worship and business. We often stopped and discussed how he had done things, like reminding Friends in Meeting for Business to address him (rather than each other), pausing for silence between speakers, and making sure that speakers waited to be recognized. He gave many examples of what he would say in various circumstances, some routine, some very difficult.

One of the themes that kept recurring over the weekend was community. We were a group of 45 clerks – committee clerks, presiding clerks, and rising clerks – but few people knew each other initially. Yet Arthur set the goal that we would leave the workshop knowing everyone’s name and a little about each person. I know I didn’t quite manage to do that, but Arthur’s goal of building a community was clear, and build it we did. For example, he began the workshop with some intentional community-building exercises to learn names, where each person was from, the name and size of their home Meeting, and something each person enjoyed doing. I’m a beginning cello student, and I found a beginning string bass player!

Why such a focus on community? Ours would be a short-lived community, after all. We met each other Friday evening and would disband Sunday after lunch. But community is connected directly to the quality of worship. I’ve known that for a long time but have never seen it demonstrated as clearly

as during that weekend clerking workshop. We worshiped together for short periods of time at every session of the workshop, and for a longer period each day. Worship was rich from the very beginning. This was a group of experienced friends, meeting in a beautiful place deeply imbued with Quaker history and operating by Quaker principles. What changed over the course of the weekend was that we began to know each other. Friends shared perspectives, experiences, and ideas during the workshop sessions. We shared conversation over every meal. We shared problems our Meetings face and helped each other find ways forward. It seemed like the community was stronger with each passing hour, and as community grew, worship deepened.

We worshiped just within our own workshop group until Sunday morning, when we joined the rest of the Pendle Hill community in their regular Meeting room. We were now a community in worship together, not just a bunch of like-minded strangers, and the change in depth of worship was palpable. Toward the end of Sunday worship, the person with care of Meeting spoke, indicating that we were nearing the end of our worship time, and that we would use the last few minutes to hear personal joys and concerns rise from the silence. The one concern I remember was for the residents and staff who had been displaced from Barclay Friends Senior Living facility, a nearby Quaker nursing home that had burned to the ground a few days before. It was lovely to hear a concern like that rise worshipfully from silence. Later there were announcements about what Friends could do to help, but for the moment Friends were still in worship, and the concern rose out of the silence. It felt just right.

I will take many lessons from my weekend workshop at Pendle Hill. Of course there are nuts-and-bolts things about how to keep a Quaker Meeting running smoothly, but the one entreaty I especially want to share with Friends is this: Take every chance you can to get to know others in the Meeting. Join them in work. Join them in play. Join them at meals. Help them when you can. Then bring the spirit of community into Meeting for Worship, and carry it with you also as we tend to business in Meeting for Business. •

Notes from BFM's Web Manager, Bill Williams

"Quaker Kathleen" offers e-communications help

KATHLEEN WOOTEN—perhaps known best to many of us as the “go-to” logistics person at NEYM Annual Sessions—has a substantial Internet presence as “Quaker Kathleen,” a knowledgeable and helpful source for electronic resources useful to churches generally and Quaker Meetings in particular. Kathleen sent out an invitation the other day to join with a group of fellow NEYM “ePublishers of Truth” to discuss electronic communications and outreach in our New England Quaker Meetings. The group will interact in a variety of ways and in a variety of forums. I signed up immediately, and the invitation is open to anyone else in BFM who would like to know more about electronic outreach—web-sites, electronic newsletters, mailing-list management, electronic calendars and Meeting scheduling, and so on. If you're interested, send me an e-mail and I'll forward Kathleen's invitation to you.

BFM calendars

Did you know that we have an electronic calendar that lists most of our public events and many committee meetings? Did you know that if your committee is sponsoring a public event, you should put it on this calendar?

Anyone can look at the BFM calendar simply by clicking on the link “View the Meeting Calendar” on the “Events” page of our website. If you already use a Google calendar, you can also subscribe to the Meeting's calendar, and all Meeting events will automatically be displayed on your calendar, along with your personal events (you can fiddle with things like colors and typefaces to make it clear whose events are whose). You can also add the Meeting calendar to your Mac or Windows calendar if you'd like. There are excellent step-by-step instructions on how to do all of these things are available on the web, so I'll just give some links here.

—To get started on Google calendars: <https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/2465776?co=GENIE.Platform=Desktop&hl=en>.

—To subscribe to a Google calendar on a Mac: <https://support.apple.com/guide/calendar/subscribe-to-calendars-icl1022/mac>.

—To subscribe to a Google calendar on a PC: <https://www.howtogeek.com/224899/how-to-use-your-google-calendar-in-the-windows-10-calendar-app/>.

The URL of our Meeting calendar is: <http://burlingtonquakers.org/calendar.html>

Although anyone can look at the Meeting's Google calendar, not everyone can add or remove items; to do that, you have to be on a list maintained by the web manager. Most committee clerks are already on the list, but I'm happy add anyone who needs to make changes on the calendar. If you are on the list of people authorized to make calendar changes, do be careful! We've had problems in the past with events being removed by well-meaning people who were just trying to clear out their personal calendars.

Finally, a very important note: putting something on the BFM electronic calendar does not reserve space! The (non-electronic) calendar that shows who is using what space in BFM buildings is maintained by the property manager (currently Christopher McCandless), and only the property manager can make changes to it. Part of the reason for this is that many groups that are not very closely associated with BFM use various parts of our buildings at various times, and most of us don't know about these events. Naturally, such meetings don't show on our electronic calendar, either. •



Burlington Friends Meeting
173 N. Prospect St.
Burlington, Vermont 05401

January 2018



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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact/Committee</u>
Each Sunday	Meeting for Worship—11:00 a.m.	Ruah Swennerfelt, 425-3377 Linda McKenna, 879-4307
Each Wednesday	Midweek Worship—noon	John Sharpless, 871-5195
Each Sunday	Childcare during worship and other Meeting events, upon request	Louis Cox, 425-3377
January 21, 2018	Discussion of book, <i>Waking up White</i>	Ruah Swennerfelt, 425-3377
February 4, 2018	Worship sharing reviewing the “Membership” section of the new NEYM Faith & Practice	Linda McKenna 879-4307
February 8, 2018	BFM Meeting for Business—12:45 p.m.	Holly Gorton, <HLGorton@smcm.edu>
March 3, 2018 (Sat.)	Northwest Quarterly Mtg. in Poultney hosted by Wilderness MM	Ann Buffum <azbuffum@gmail.com>
April 7, 2018	Memorial Meeting for Paul Hood (1926-2017) First Congregational Church in Burlington beginning with Small Potatoes at 8:00 a.m.	

Send newsletter submissions to Louis Cox <jlouiscox@gmail.com>