

April 2011

NEWSLETTER



173 N. PROSPECT ST. BURLINGTON VERMONT 05401

Burlington Friends Meeting

Call to Witness and Day of Discernment

New England Yearly Meeting invites Friends to participate in a Call to Witness and Day of Discernment, April 22-23. As an outgrowth of the 2010 Session Minute of Sending Forth, this weekend is a search for how God is leading New England Yearly Meeting to deepen our spirituality and its expression in our testimonies. It is an opportunity to stand with others in witness, to share our journeys and our differences.

We are suggesting a donation of \$15 a day per adult or \$25 for the two days. This is to cover the cost of food and the traveling expenses of presenters. Make checks payable to New England Yearly Meeting and send to Aggie Mitchkoski, 7 Old Albany Road, Deerfield, MA 01342

Detailed information at the link:

<http://www.neympeace.org/witness-discernment-in-april/>

NEYM Faith & Practice Revision

New England Yearly meeting is conducting a several year process of revising the Faith and Practice, and is asking monthly meetings for feedback at different points along the way. One draft section to be reviewed is the proposed section on Advices and Queries.

BFM Ministry and Counsel will be using this draft version for the once monthly reading during Meeting for Worship in the coming months and they will appear in the newsletter each month. Friends are also encouraged to go to the BFM website and download the draft document for personal reflection and review. Sometime in the fall, M&C will schedule a session for those interested to offer collective feedback to send to the NEYM Faith and Practice revisions work group. Meanwhile, feel free to direct questions or comments to Anne Liske or Lynne Silva, co-clerks of Ministry and Counsel.



Spring is Coming!

Just a reminder that if you want a gardening plot behind the meeting house, please contact me by emailing me

at robin.moore23@gmail.com or calling me at 802-922-3435. Thanks, Robin

www.burlingtonquakers.org

Looking to the Future of Our Meeting

Friends,

We are in a moment of tremendous possibility in our Meeting – a chance to map out a direction that can carry us forward into the coming transitions of our community, city and planet.

Our recognition of the moment came during the March Meeting for Business when the Meeting treasurer made a (somewhat predictable) report on the property mortgage. When we considered the option of hunkering down and focusing most of our financial attention on just meeting the payments for the eight years until the mortgage is paid off, we had to ask the question, and then what? Who will we be then?

The answer of course depends on who we are and what we do now. If we don't begin to envision and work towards a long range (eight year?) goal now, we will simply be a group that has paid off its mortgage at the end of eight years.

But what if, instead, we commit ourselves to the question and bring all our creativity and all our voices to the project? We have the chance to be in a very rare position in eight years. We can be a community in every sense, one with active soul, dedicated purpose and amazing physical resources to offer Burlington.

This is the time to draw the map and begin to create how we will use the resources of ourselves and our property when we no longer have the financial limitation of mortgage payments. Climate changes and peak oil are already present. There are few organizations that are in a better position to help with that transition. Does that mean using the property for transition education, an urban center, a sustainable urban gardening demonstration project? What else might we add to the possibilities? Whatever the goal, now is when we have to set the direction so that when the property is ready, we have the organizational structure and purpose to also be ready.

So, with that in mind, the March Business Meeting decided to commit the lion's share of upcoming Business Meetings to exploring this issue. Only reports requiring action will be heard at the meeting. Rather than presenting at the meeting, committees are asked to send all informational reports to the recording clerk for inclusion in the minutes. We will reserve our creative juices for envisioning and planning.

Please come. Please encourage others to come. A small group, no matter how enthusiastic, cannot find its way to the kind of broad wisdom we need. We need your voice to help us see all sides of the possibilities. And as Quakers have done for over three hundred years, we will challenge each other until we arrive at the right place.

Meeting for Business will take place at 12:45 on Sunday, April 10. I hope you'll be there.

Diane Montgomery-Logan



Adult Religious Education in May

Ministry and Counsel will host a two-session adult religious education discussion, May 1 and May 15 using the Thomas Kelly pamphlet titled "The Gathered Meeting". Coffee is at 9:15, discussion from 9:30-10:45. We understand that some folks may need to leave to assist with First Day School at 10:30. Jan Van Landingham who shared this piece as part of her welcome into membership at BFM will lead the discussion. Copies will be available each First Day at the meetinghouse between now and May 1.

Qigong Seminar

A Level I Seminar in the Healing Arts of Emei Qigong will be taught at the meeting house by Grandmaster Fu Wei Zhong of China, the 13th Lineage Holder of Emei Qigong tradition, assisted by Teacher in Training, Jeanne Plo. Participants will be introduced to the essential concepts of Emei Qigong and receive thorough instruction in the Wuji Gong form, the school's fundamental movement practice. All interested persons may apply.

Emei Qigong is a comprehensive system of Chan (Zen) Qigong that generates vital energy and leads to the attainment of ever higher levels of awareness. The study and practice of Emei Qigong promotes strong physical health, emotional balance and spiritual development. The practice emphasizes internal cultivation and cleansing the heart, which allow latent abilities to surface and the true nature of humanity and one's self to be expressed. Emei Qigong is a way of life that develops compassion, wisdom and power.

May 28 - 31, 2011 at the Meeting House; \$60 total cost for all four days

For more information or to register email emeiqigong123@gmail.com or call 802-233-6377.

Staying Connected with Ruah

Dear BFM Friends,

I know some of you have received bogus emails that pretend to be from me about posting photos on mydaily-flog. These are a scam. Please don't open them. I will not be sending anything about posting photos.

I will let you know through the BFM mailing list when I have uploaded a new post to my blog. You can also go directly to the blog and subscribe, if you want at www.transitionvision.wordpress.com. That's also where you'll go to read my latest entries.

I hope we can stay connected through this blog. At the bottom of the blog you can choose to comment, which would be great. I'll be away from BFM from early May through late July, but you will be very much in my heart.

Blessings, Ruah

Creative Quest

Friends and their families are welcome to attend the Creative Quest Art Camp which will be happening again at BFM, 9-3pm, July 18-22 and July 25-29. Create works of art that you have dreamed of doing.

Scholarships are available. Check out the website:

www.creativequestvt.org Call Jeanne Plo 233-6377 or Frank Gonzalez 864-1888 for more information.



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



Burlington Friends Meeting Events

All at the Meeting House unless noted

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT/COMMITTEE
Each Sunday	Meeting for Worship - 11 am	Anne Liske (497-0154)
Each Wednesday	Meeting for Worship—Noon	Paul Hood (865-0403)
First & Third Sundays	Children’s Religious Education & Family First Day School—10:30 a.m.	Ellyn Leamon (434-7744) or Jean McCandless (862-8665)
Second Sundays	Meeting for Worship for Business—12:45	Louis Cox
Second Sundays	Singing before worship - 9:30-10:45	Louise Brill (540-1020)

Advices and Queries (NEYM Draft)

How can we be faithful to the guidance of the Inward Teacher? We yearn for lives of integrity; lives whose faith and practice form a seamless whole. Advices and queries are tools for self-examination we can use as individuals and meeting communities as we strive for that goal. They have served generations of Friends in our search for a life centered in the Spirit. Pray with advices and queries; hold them in your hearts.