

# MUTUAL AID

BUILDING SOLIDARITY  
THROUGH THIS CRISIS  
(AND THE NEXT)

# GOALS OF TODAY'S SESSION:

- Feeling confident to take action and plug into mutual aid around Vermont
- Leave with connections to other people and how to connect with them
- Creative thinking around your paid role
- Learn about history of mutual aid
- Needs + Assessment Mapping
- Power Sharing
- How to Define Agency
- Imperfect Allies
- Commerce w/out Capitalism
- How to take care of organizers while also taking care of the community

# BLACK PANTHERS: FREE BREAKFAST FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN



Bill Whitfield, member of the Black Panther chapter in Kansas City, serving free breakfast to children before they go to school. (Credit: William P. Straeter/AP Photo)



Brad Jones, member of the Philadelphia Black Panthers Organization, helping serve breakfast to youngsters. (Credit: Bill Ingraham/AP Photo)

Bettmann Archive/Getty Images



What is your work?

Does your work intersect with mutual aid?

Are conditions intensifying the need for mutual aid?

# What organizing is already happening where you live?

- Childcare Center in BTV
- Monthly community dinners in Worcester funded by bi-annual clothing swap - spotlight on community member
- Signal channel for vital farmworker support
- Work brigades on farms in Addison County
- Civic Standard in Hardwick
- Community Meals in NEK
- Barn parties!

# What needs aren't being met where you live?

- Transportation in NEK + Bennington County (probably all over VT)
- More space for cross-class and cross-race dialogue
  - Esp. for those without kids
  - Around charity vs. mutual aid
- Lack of mutual aid for conventional farmers
- How to identify needs in an inclusive way?
  - How to have more friends/fun/time to meet people and develop trust → become less isolated → more parties
- Housing in BTV
- Food access needs since COVID - with rising food prices
  - Solutions fall more in charity than mutual aid



# SING WITH US!

## “IN THIS HOUSE” BY MA MUSE + MAGGIE WHEELER

In this house, we lead with love  
In this house, we lift each other up  
In this house, we learn to fly like the dove  
Ohhh, this is the house we've been dreaming of  
Ohhh, this is the house we've been dreaming of

So come on over (come on over)  
Come on in (come on in)  
Come on over (come on over)  
Let's be friends (let's be friends)  
Come on over  
There is enough  
Ohhh, this is the house we've been dreaming of  
Ohhh, this is the house we've been dreaming of

# ABOLITION KITCHEN



# FARMACY: FOOD IS MEDICINE



# BOARD: BURLINGTON AREA ORGANIZING RESOURCE DIRECTORY

BOARD: Burlington Area Organizing Directory

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Search Menus 100% View only

A1:G1 Think we can do better than the hellscape of late capitalism? You're right.

1	Think we can do better than the hellscape of late capitalism? You're right.
2	Welcome - thanks for visiting the Burlington Organizing Directory (BOArD). You can find and share BOArD at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/organizebtv">tinyurl.com/organizebtv</a>
3	
4	
5	<b>What is BOArD?</b> This is an <b>open-source tool</b> for anyone looking to <b>practice care for each other, our community, and our city.</b> BOArD is managed by a collective of volunteers who want to help <b>build a culture of participation and liberatory engagement</b> in the Burlington area. You can get in touch with us at <a href="mailto:organizebtv@gmail.com">organizebtv@gmail.com</a> .
6	
7	<b>Why does BOArD exist?</b> BOArD exists because there are a lot of folks in this town who really care about making the world better and different for people - but <b>it's not always clear how or where or when to get involved</b> in that work. BOArD is a funnel to get that beautiful energy into the places where it's needed. We know <b>our systems are failing us and everyone has something to contribute</b> . Hopefully, by connecting with and caring for each other, we can move towards a more <b>permanently organized Burlington</b> .
8	
9	<b>How do I use this thing?</b> The tabs below are organized by ways you can engage: <b>Get Organized:</b> join a group, go to a meeting, learn about a campaign, etc. <b>Places + Recurring Events:</b> places and events where you might make some friends or learn new things. <b>Needs + Offerings:</b> mutual aid-type sheets that you can use like a community bulletin board to ask for or offer help. To ask for help, please fill out <a href="#">this form</a> . <b>Events + Announcements:</b> editable by anyone - use it like a community bulletin board.
10	
11	<b>What do you mean by 'organizing'?</b> In this context, organizing is any work we do as a community to advance the needs and visions of the people. 'The people' is all of us who are acted on by systems of power, rather than having agency. We are not the government, we are not the wealthy elite, we are not corporations. We are the ones who have to survive the horrific conditions created by all of those entities, and we have an opportunity to organize ourselves to resist those conditions and create better ones.
12	
13	<b>I need more help!</b> Have no fear! <a href="#">Fill out this form</a> with your name and contact info. Someone will be in touch soon to help you figure out how to get involved.
14	
15	<b>BOArD in person</b> Want to meet people in real life, sing some songs, build some relationships, eat tasty food, and get oriented to this spreadsheet? Come to <b>20 Rock Point Road on first Sundays from 4:30-6:30pm</b> . You can find us at a fire pit behind the chapel. There will be food, song, fire, and relationship building.
16	
17	<b>Security Culture with BOArD</b> You may be asking: Why would you make a list of all the radical stuff in one place? Haven't you read HISTORY? Well, we have decided on the following principles: 1. BOArD will <b>only share public facing data</b> (stuff that's already on the internet, social media, etc) 2. <b>Succumbing to paranoia is exactly what the empire wants.</b> Authoritarian regimes are super successful when people preemptively yield to the feeling of being oppressed. Like baby penguins in the arctic, we will wither in isolation, and thrive in a cuddle puddle! 3. Many listed organizations have a <b>process for vetting newcomers anyway</b> , and if they don't, that naturally determines what is happening in those meetings. 4. Individual organizations can <b>ask to be removed from BOArD</b> , if they wish, by emailing <a href="mailto:organizebtv@gmail.com">organizebtv@gmail.com</a> .
18	
19	<b>Something missing/wrong?</b> If you want to list a project or recurring event, <a href="#">fill out this short form</a> . Write to us at <a href="mailto:organizebtv@gmail.com">organizebtv@gmail.com</a> with any corrections/updates. If you want to list an event that is <b>only happening once</b> , put it in the Events + Announcements tab. Thank you!

Add 1000 more rows at the bottom

START HERE! | Get Organized | Places + Recurring Events | Events + Announcements | Needs Form

BOARD: Burlington Area Organizing Directory

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Search Menus 100% View only

A1 Time sensitive need?

Time sensitive need?	Focus/issue area	Project/group name	What is this group/project?	How can you get involved?	Accessibility
yes	Food + farm Labor	<a href="#">Migrant Justice</a>	Our mission is to build the voice, capacity, and power of the immigrant farmworker community to organize for economic justice and human rights. We bring together community members to analyze shared problems and envision collective solutions.	<b>Sign up for action alerts here:</b> <a href="https://migrantjustice.net/get-involved?gid-2&amp;reset-1&amp;gid-2&amp;reset-1">https://migrantjustice.net/get-involved?gid-2&amp;reset-1&amp;gid-2&amp;reset-1</a>	
yes	Food + farm Mutual aid	<a href="#">People's Kitchen</a>	People's Kitchen cooks and distributes free food all the time, including to unhoused neighbors weathering the cold 3 nights/week.	Text FaRied at 802 272 8339	Food distribution is outside and masks are not required. There are many roles available, including roles with varying needs.
yes	Housing Mutual aid	<a href="#">Solidarity with homeless neighbors</a>	If you are interested in supporting homeless neighbors in the Burlington VT area this winter, please fill out this form! With temperatures freezing and shelters at capacity, your solidarity could save lives. Thank you. Organized by concerned community members.	<a href="#">Fill out the form</a> with what you can offer!	
	Abolition + racial justice	<a href="#">BTV CopWatch</a>	BTV CopWatch is not a non-profit or hierarchical organization. We are an autonomous community of people who aid in community defense through filming the cops, providing mutual aid and community care with Food Not Cops, supporting Queer/Trans/BIPOC, and much more.	<a href="https://btvcopwatch.org/get-involved/">https://btvcopwatch.org/get-involved/</a>	Copwatching can be done solo or with a buddy. People frequently stand while copwatching, but depend on situation it may be possible to copwatch while sitting.
	Abolition + racial justice	<a href="#">FreeHer Vermont</a>	FreeHer Vermont Campaign is a campaign associated with The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. FreeHer VT organizes around resisting the VT Department of Corrections' plan to spend \$100 million to build a new women's prison. The group organizes rallies, supports incarcerated folks, makes political education materials, and more!	<a href="#">Follow on Instagram</a> , attend an event, join People Not Prisons meetings biweekly Thursdays at 6 PM on zoom (email <a href="mailto:vermont@thecouncilus.org">vermont@thecouncilus.org</a> for more info!)	Virtual meetings
	Abolition + racial justice	<a href="#">SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice)</a>	SURJ mobilizes white people for justice across the country — through campaigns, 200 chapters across the country, and deep local organizing projects.	Email <a href="mailto:surj.burlington.vt@gmail.com">surj.burlington.vt@gmail.com</a> , follow their <a href="#">Facebook page</a>	Some campaigns are virtual. Monthly meetings are virtual with live captioning and ASL interpretation upon request.
	Abolition + racial justice	<a href="#">Vermont Interfaith Action</a>	The mission of Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) is to transform people and communities. By developing the leadership skills and guiding Vermonters through a grassroots community organizing methodology, we achieve transformative change on issues of social justice that adversely affect low- and moderate-income persons, black/indigenous/people of color, and other marginalized individuals	<a href="https://viavt.org/contact-us">https://viavt.org/contact-us</a>	Many events are held via Zoom. The building the VIA is based out of is wheelchair accessible with some accessible parking and a parking lot. Restrooms are accessible. All-gender restrooms are available.

START HERE! | Get Organized | Places + Recurring Events | Events + Announcements | Needs Form | Offerings

# YOGA EQUITY PROJECT



# FARMER CLIMATE NETWORK



# COURT HEARING ACCOMPANIMENT



# GATHER: MIDDLEBURY



## Why do we GATHER?

GATHER is a community living room. It's a new idea - an **open door** and a **free space** where all people can come together and get to know one another. It's a place to warm up, take a break, enjoy good company, and make some friends. It's all free because it's **YOUR** community living room.

GATHER belongs to the community, so **everyone is**

@

48 Merchants Row  
Middlebury, VT

**Hours**  
**Wed-Sat: 10:30-1:30**  
**Sun: 10-11**

**We're moving!**

## This Week @ GATHER

Gather is open to the public.

Here's what is going on this week.

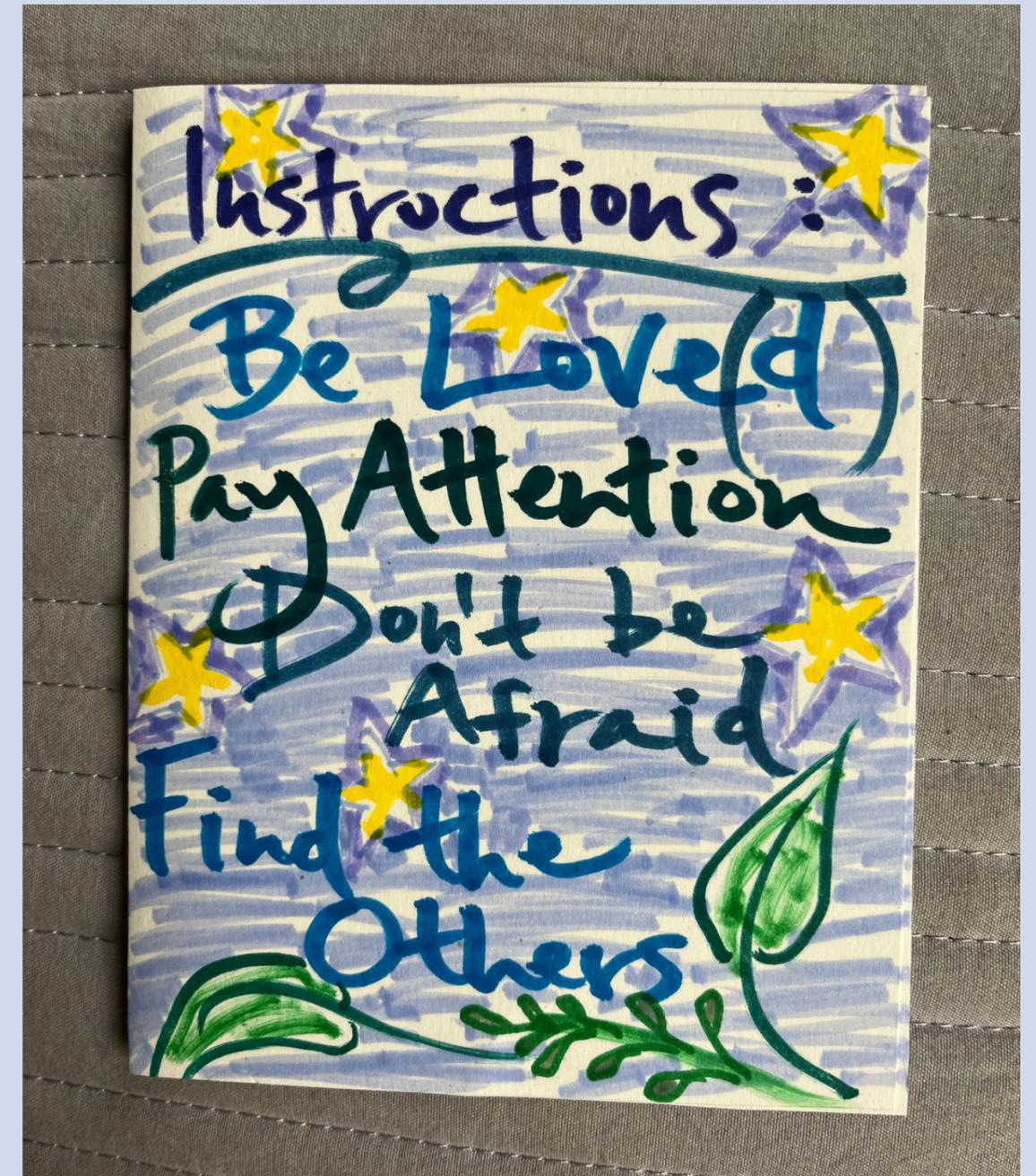
### Wednesday

- Midday Mindfulness @ Noon
- 5:30 Guided Mindfulness

### Thursday

- Gather Friends Circle @ 9:30
- Midday Mindfulness @ Noon

# INDIVISIBLE: MIDDLEBURY



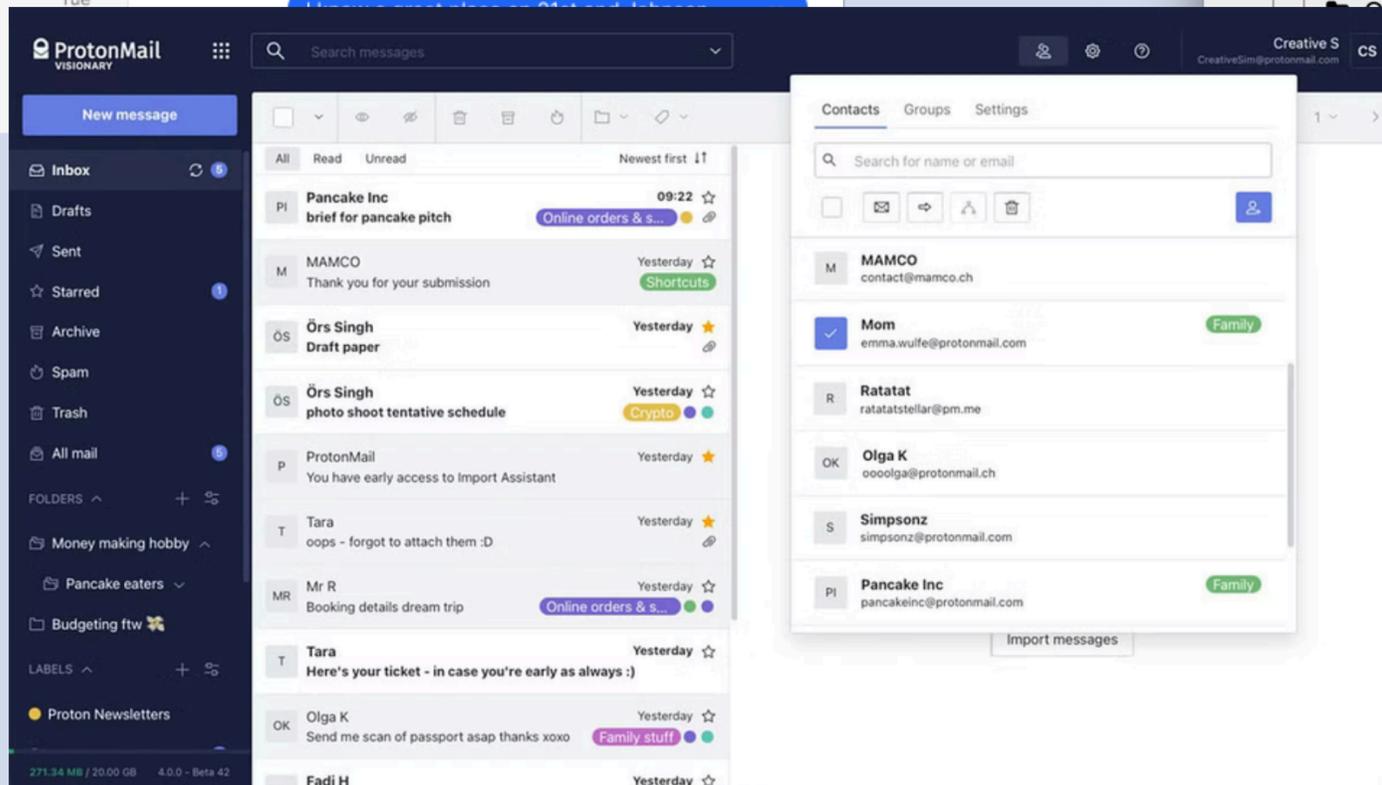
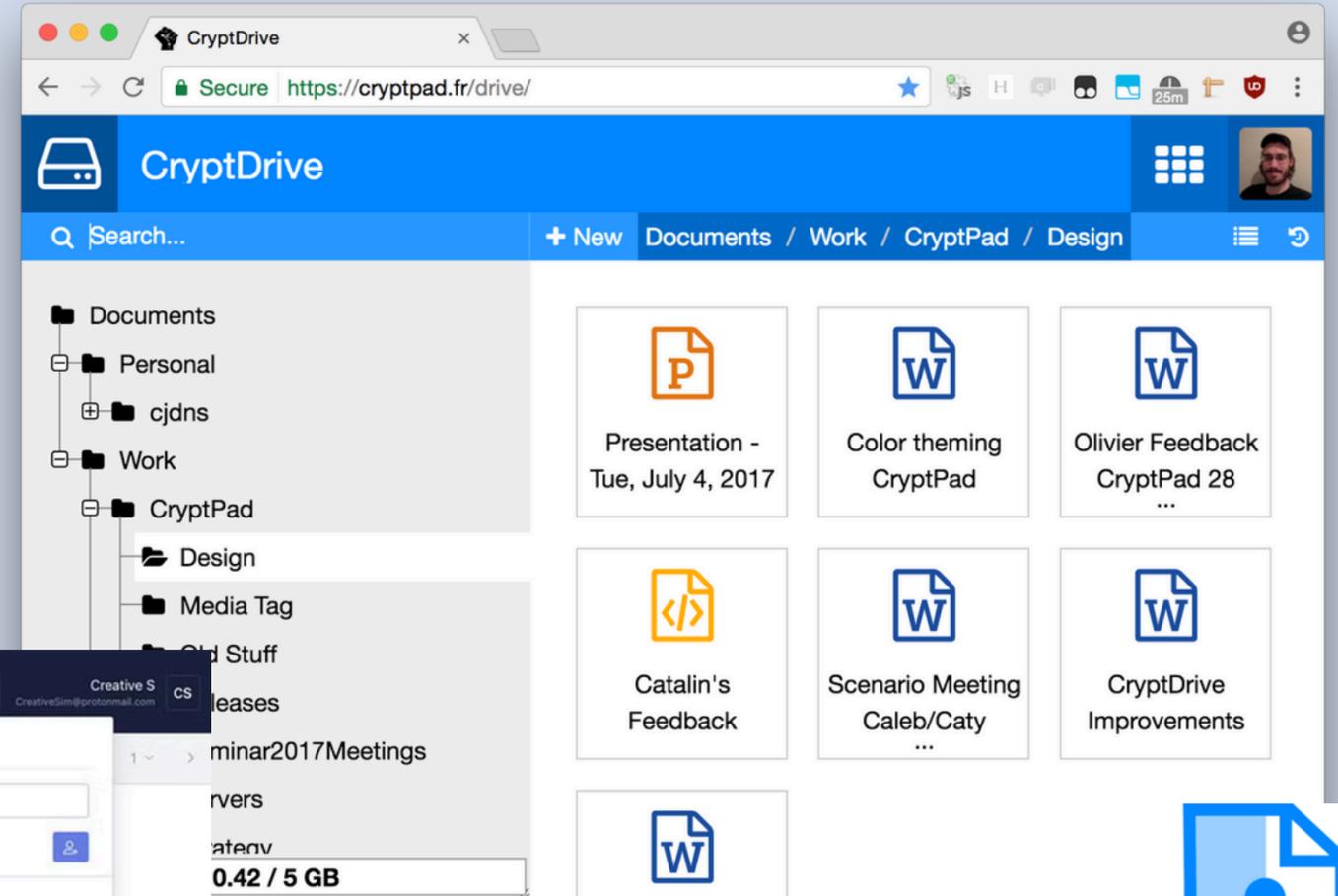
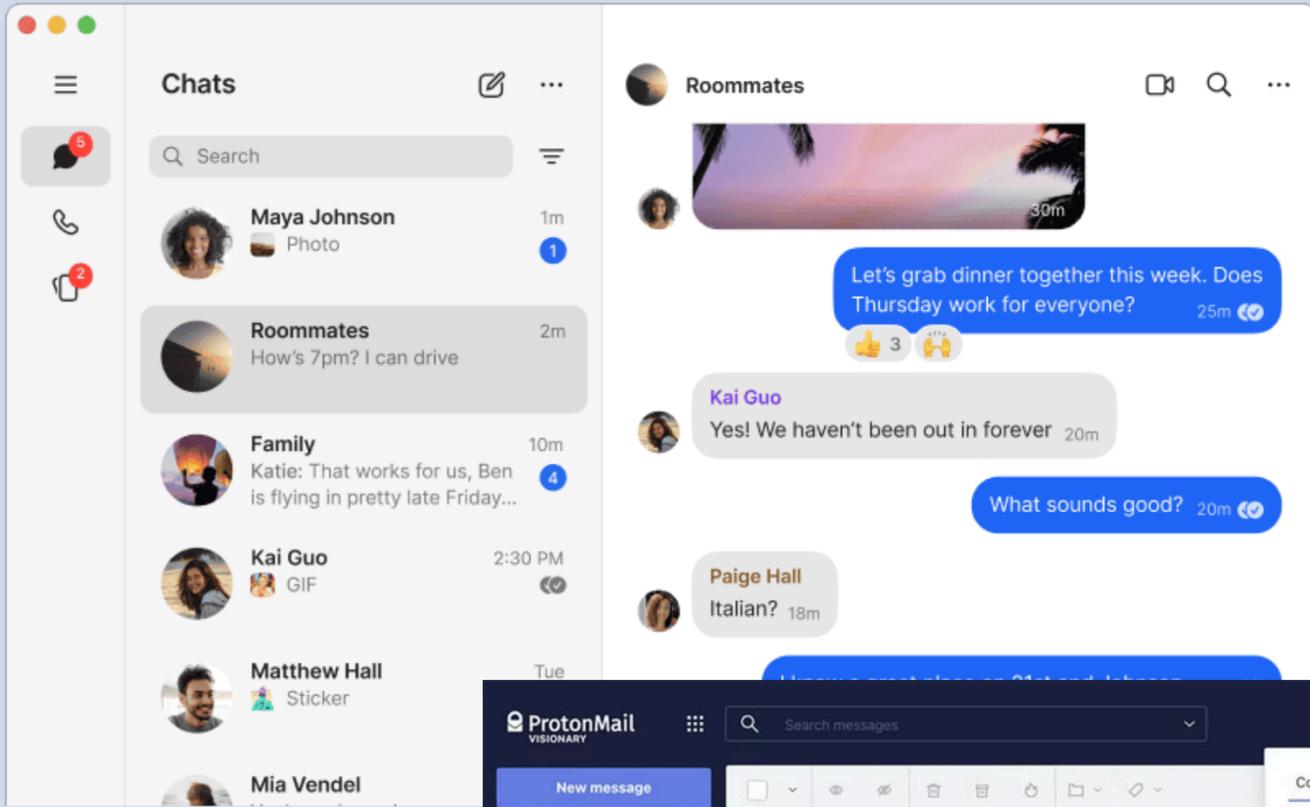
# COMMUNITY SING + INFO. SHARING



# OTHER EXAMPLES IN VERMONT?

1. Needs and Offerings Group in BTV
  - a. 1st Sunday of the month at Rock Point
- 2.

# TECH+ TOOLS



# OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

1. Whoever comes is the right people
2. Whenever it starts is the right time
3. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened
4. When it's over it's over

## **Use The Law of Two Feet (aka "The Law of Mobility"):**

"You, and only you, know when you are learning and contributing as much as you can." It reminds us that "If you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning or contributing, use your two feet, and/or whatever you use to get around, to go somewhere you can learn and contribute more."

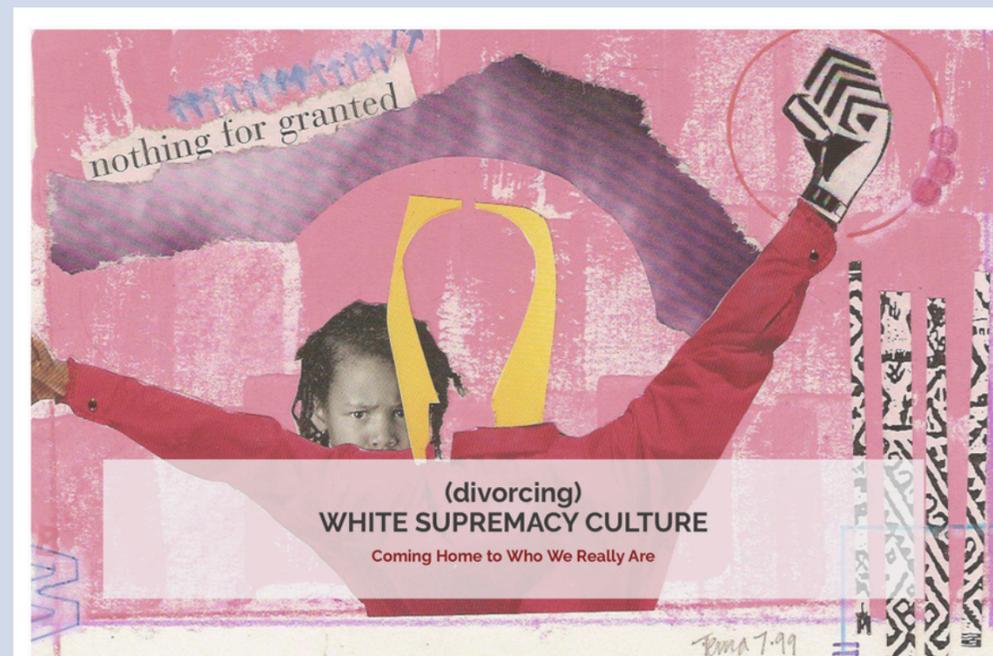
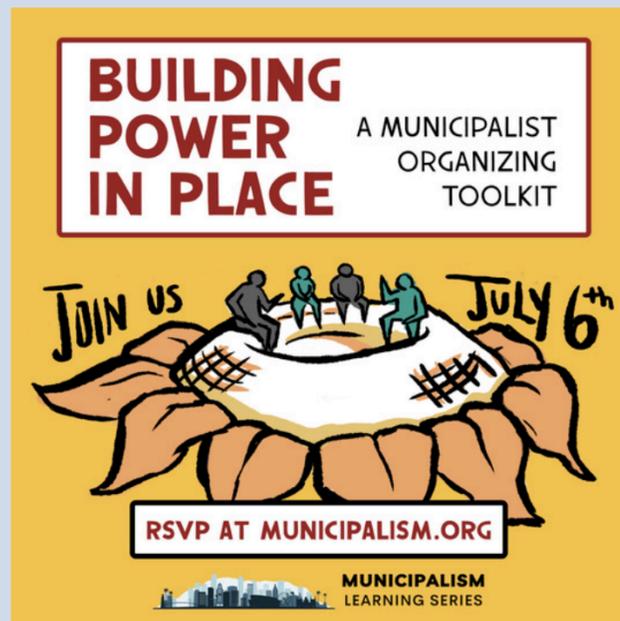
**Learn more at [openspaceworld.org](https://openspaceworld.org)**

# POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE TOPICS

1. Geography
2. How to use Signal
3. Immigration
4. Food distribution
5. Commerce vs. Capitalism
6. Power Sharing
7. Needs/Asset Mapping → how to facilitate
8. How to take care of organizers
9. How to define agency
10. Imperfect allies

# RESOURCES

1. BOARD doc from Burlington: [tinyurl.com/organizebtv](https://tinyurl.com/organizebtv)
2. Building Power in Place: A Radical Municipalist Toolkit
3. [www.WhiteSupremacyCulture.info](http://www.WhiteSupremacyCulture.info)
4. Mutual Aid by Dean Spade
5. Create Signal thread for this session – opt in





# SING WITH US!

"ANTHEM" BY LEONARD COHEN

Ring the bells that still can ring/  
Forget your perfect offering/  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how, the light, gets in  
That's how the light gets in

# SING WITH US!

**“HOW’S ABOUT WE WORK THIS THING TOGETHER?”**

**BY MA MUSE**

How’s about we work this thing together?

All hearts in, In service of all learning

How’s about we work this thing together?

Can I count on you?

You can count on me

Can I count on you?

You can count on me



# SING WITH US!

## ONE FINE DAY BY ALI BURNS

I believe that one fine day  
I believe that one fine day  
That the power of love  
Will rise above  
The love of power

