



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

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

Menus 100% View only

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

1	Think we can do better than the hellscap of late capitalism? You're right.
2	Welcome - thanks for visiting the Burlington Organizing Directory (BOArD).
3	You can find and share BOArD at tinyurl.com/organizebtv
4	
5	<div>What is BOArD?</div> <div>This is an open-source tool for anyone looking to practice care for each other, our community, and our city.</div> <div>BOArD is managed by a collective of volunteers who want to help build a culture of participation and liberatory engagement in the Burlington area. You can get in touch with us at organizebtv@gmail.com.</div>

| 6 | |
| 7 | Why does BOArD exist? 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 it's not always clear how or where or when to get involved in that work. BOArD is a funnel to get that beautiful energy into the places where it's needed. We know our systems are failing us and everyone has something to contribute. Hopefully, by connecting with and caring for each other, we can move towards a more permanently organized Burlington. |

Add 1000 more rows at the bottom



BOARD: Burlington Area Organizing Directory					
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help					
Menus 100% View only					
A1 Time sensitive need?					
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Time sensitive need?	Focus/Issue area	Project/group name	What is this group/project?	How can you get involved?
2	yes	Food + farm Labor	Migrant Justice	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.	Sign up for action alerts here: https://migrantjustice.net/get-involved?gid-2&reset-1&gid-2&reset-1
3	yes	Food + farm Mutual aid	People's Kitchen	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
4	yes	Housing Mutual aid	Solidarity with homeless neighbors	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.	Fill out the form with what you can offer!
5		Abolition + racial justice	BTV CopWatch	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.	https://btvcopwatch.org/get-involved/
6		Abolition + racial justice	FreeHer Vermont	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!	Follow on Instagram, attend an event, join People Not Prisons meetings biweekly Thursdays at 6 PM on zoom (email vermont@thecouncilus for more info!)
7		Abolition + racial justice	SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice)	SURJ mobilizes white people for justice across the country — through campaigns, 200 chapters across the country, and deep local organizing projects.	Email surj.burlington.vt@gmail.com , follow their Facebook page
8		Abolition + racial justice	Vermont Interfaith Action	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	Many events are held via Zoom. The building the VIA based out of is wheelchair accessible with some accessible parking and a parking lot. Restrooms are accessible all-gender restrooms are available.

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.

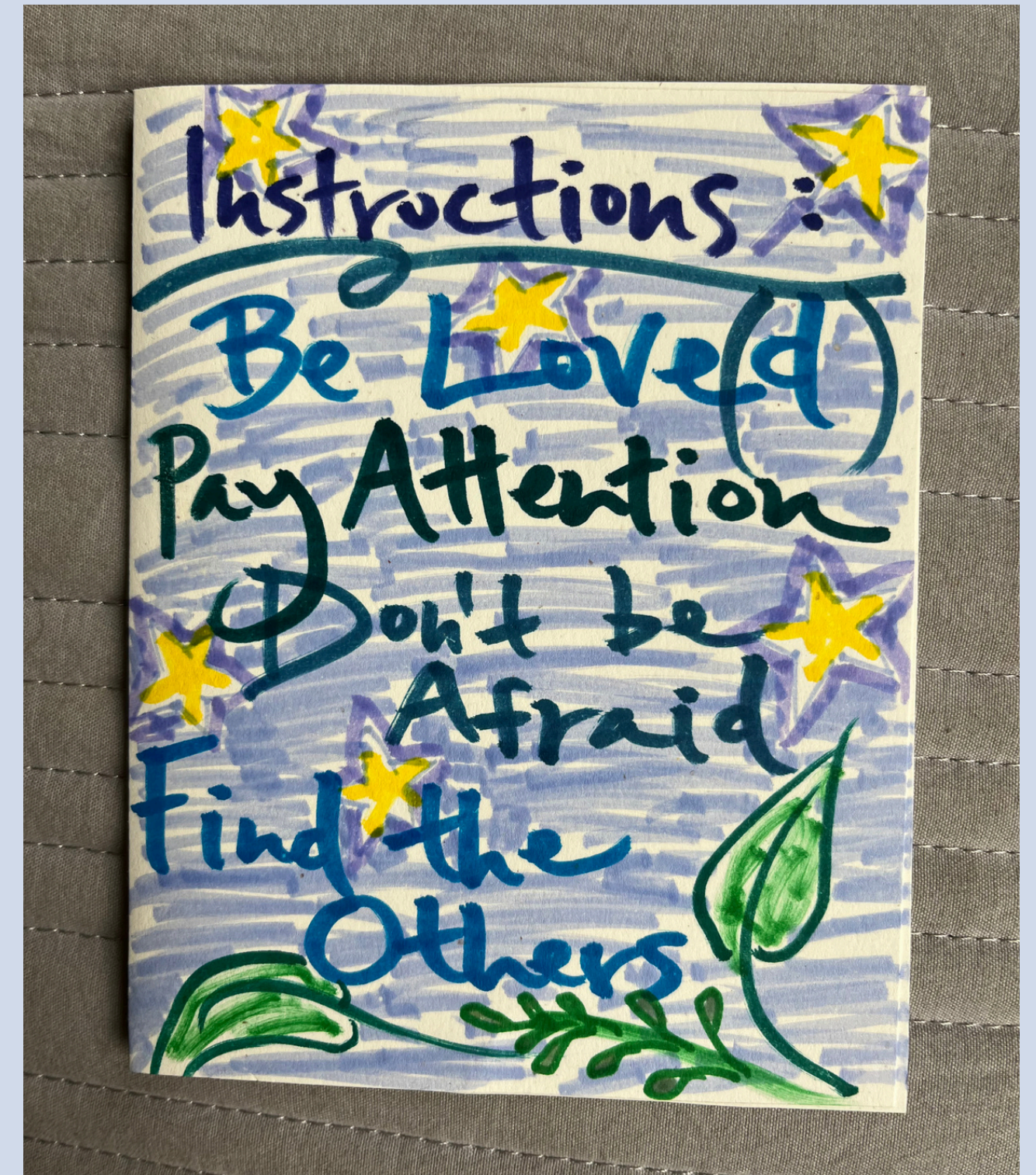
Wednesday

- Midday Mindfulness @ Noon
- 5:30 Guided Mindfulness

Thursday

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

INDIVISIBLE: MIDDLEBURY



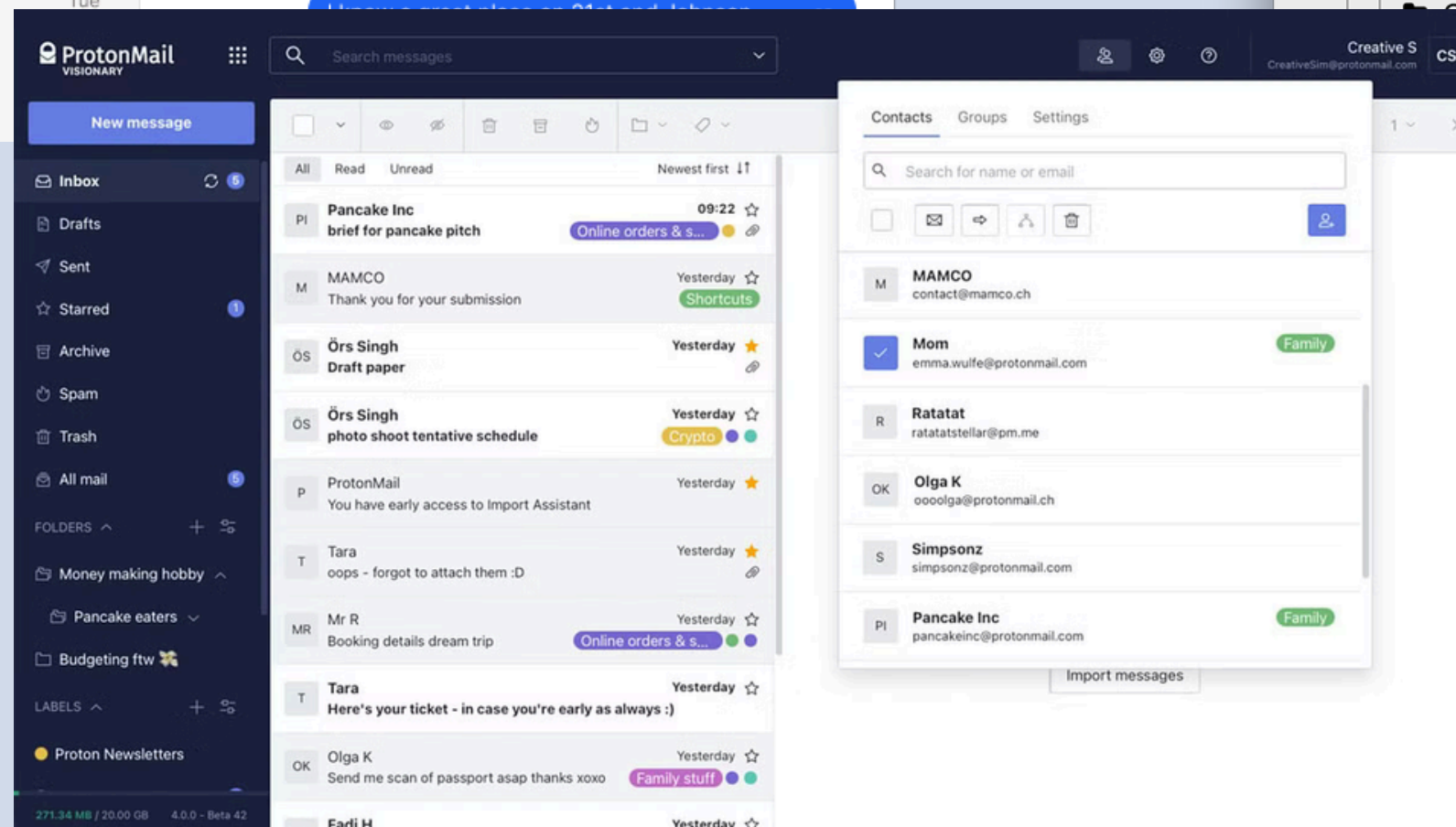
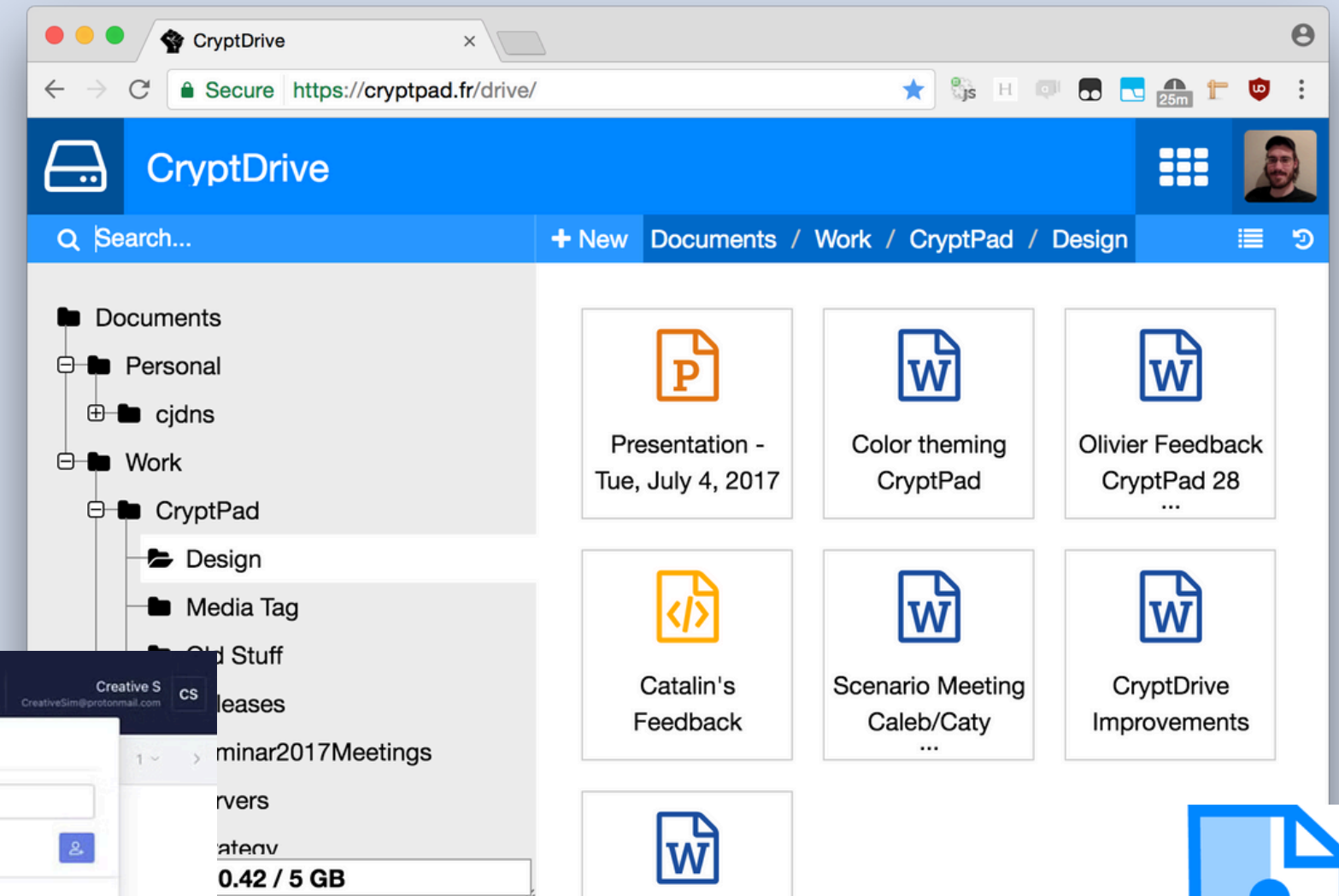
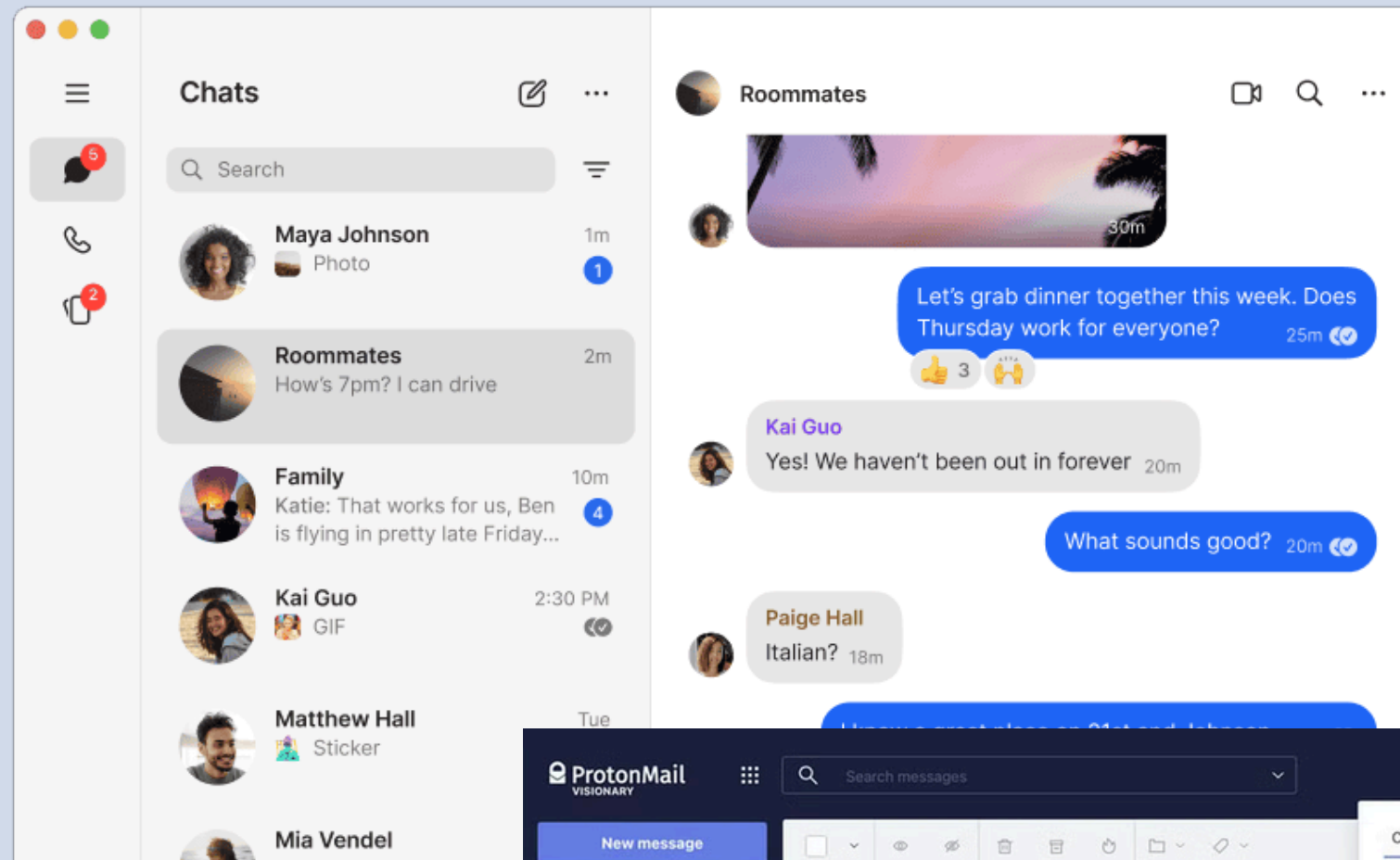
COMMUNITY SING + INFO. SHARING



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."

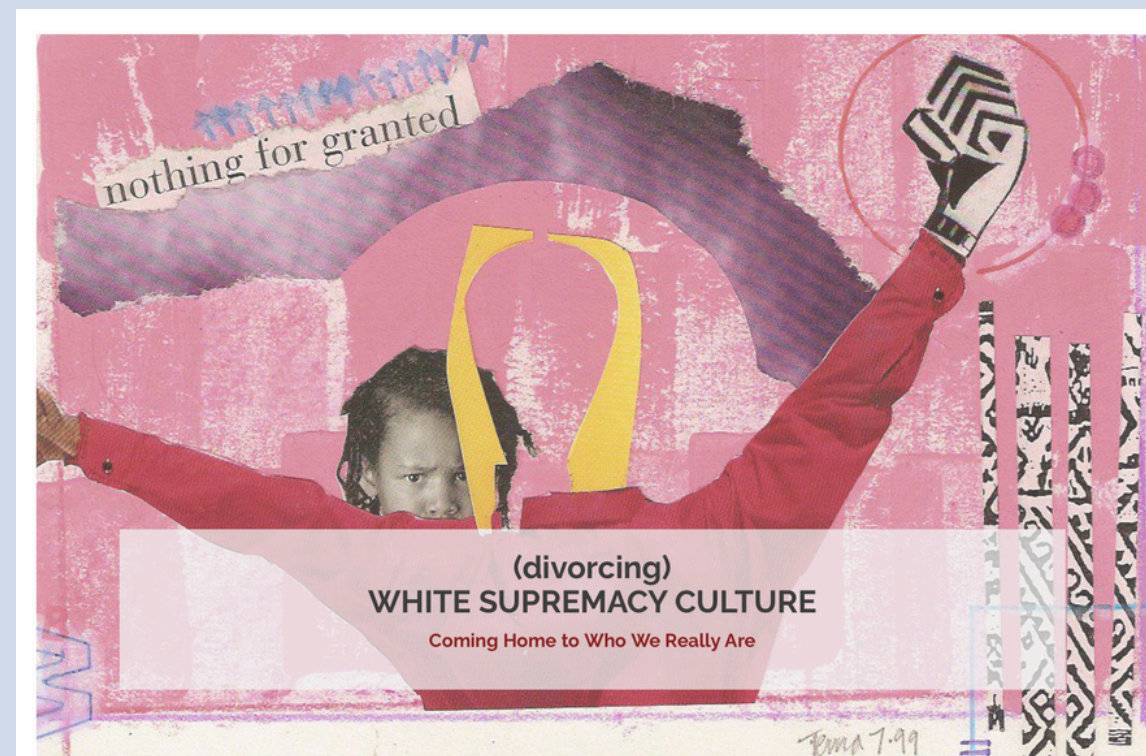
Learn more at openspaceworld.org

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
2. Building Power in Place: A Radical Municipalist Toolkit
3. 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

