

SPOKANEWORD

September
Ninth Month
2017



LEARNING IS FUN!

Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205

www.spokanefriends.com
spokanefriends@gmail.com



Sunday Schedule:

Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.
Worship begins in stillness
when first person sits down.
Worship continues with
song and messages
10:00 am
Fellowship
11:00 am

Third Sunday of the Month:

Third Sunday is same
schedule with the addition
of Monthly Meeting at rise
of worship, followed by
a potluck meal.

[AFTER A ONE-MONTH SUMMER VACATION, SPOKANEWORD RESUMES ITS MONTHLY SCHEDULE]

The Most Important Thing, and It's Almost a Secret

By Nicholas Kristof

We journalists are a bit like vultures, feasting on war, scandal and disaster. Turn on the news, and you see Syrian refugees, Volkswagen corruption, dysfunctional government.

Yet that reflects a selection bias in how we report the news: We cover planes that crash, not planes that take off. Indeed, maybe the most important thing happening in the world today is something that we almost never cover: a stunning decline in poverty, illiteracy and disease.

Huh? You're wondering what I've been smoking! Everybody knows about the spread of war, the rise of AIDS and other diseases, the hopeless intractability of poverty.

One survey found that two-thirds of Americans believed that the proportion of the world population living in extreme poverty has almost doubled over the last 20 years. Another 29 percent believed that the proportion had remained roughly the same.

That's 95 percent of Americans — who are utterly wrong. In fact, the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty hasn't doubled or remained the same. It has fallen by more than half, from 35 percent in 1993 to 14 percent in 2011 (the most recent year for which figures are available from the World Bank).

When 95 percent of Americans are completely unaware of a transformation of this magnitude, that reflects a flaw in how we journalists cover the world — and I count myself among the guilty. Consider:

- The number of extremely poor people (defined as those earning less than \$1 or \$1.25 a day, depending on who's counting) rose inexorably until the middle of the 20th century, then roughly stabilized for a few decades. Since the 1990s, the number of poor has plummeted.
- In 1990, more than 12 million children died before the age of 5; this toll has since dropped by more than half.
- More kids than ever are becoming educated, especially girls. In the 1980s, only half of girls in developing countries completed elementary school; now, 80 percent do.

Granted, some 16,000 children still die unnecessarily each day. It's maddening in my travels to watch children dying simply because they were born in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But one reason for our current complacency is a feeling that poverty is inevitable — and that's unwarranted.

The world's best-kept secret is that we live at a historic inflection point when extreme poverty is retreating. United Nations members have just adopted 17 new Global Goals, of which the centerpiece is the elimination of extreme poverty by 2030. Their goals are historic. There will still be poor people, of course, but very few who are too poor to eat or to send children to school. Young journalists or aid workers starting out today will in their careers see very little of the leprosy, illiteracy, elephantiasis and river blindness that I have seen routinely.

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"We live at a time of the greatest development progress among the global poor in the history of the world," notes Steven Radelet, a development economist and Georgetown University professor, in a terrific book coming in November, The Great Surge: The Ascent of the Developing World.

"The next two decades can be even better and can become the greatest era of progress for the world's poor in human history," Radelet writes. I write often about inequality, a huge challenge in the U.S. But globally, inequality is diminishing, because of the rise of poor countries.

What does all this mean in human terms? I was thinking of that last week while interviewing Malala Yousafzai, the teenage Nobel Peace Prize winner. Malala's mother grew up illiterate, like the women before her, and was raised to be invisible to outsiders. Malala is a complete contrast: educated, saucy, outspoken and perhaps the most visible teenage girl in the world.

Even in countries like Pakistan, the epoch of illiterate and invisible women like Malala's mother is fading; the epoch of Malala is dawning. The challenge now is to ensure that rich donor nations are generous in supporting the Global Goals** — but also that developing countries do their part, rather than succumbing to corruption and inefficiency. (I'm talking to you, Angola!)

There's one last false argument to puncture. Cynics argue that saving lives is pointless, because the result is overpopulation that leads more to starve. Not true. Part of this wave of progress is a stunning drop in birthrates.

Haitian women now average 3.1 children; in 1985, they had six. In Bangladesh, women now average 2.2 children. Indonesians, 2.3. When the poor know that their children will survive, when they educate their daughters, when they access family planning, they have fewer children.

So let's get down to work and, on our watch, defeat extreme poverty worldwide. We know that the challenges are surmountable — because we've already turned the tide of history.

**<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>. Other data taken from Unicef and World Bank websites.

Nicholas Kristof is an American journalist who is the winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. He is a regular CNN contributor, and has written an op-ed column for *The New York Times* since November 2001. According to *The Washington Post*, Kristof "rewrote opinion journalism" with his emphasis on human rights abuses and social injustices, such as human trafficking and the Darfur conflict. Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa has described Kristof as an "honorary African" for shining a spotlight on neglected conflicts. The article above appeared in the *New York Times*, Oct. 1, 2015.

Letters from Friends

Two new Newsletters from Friends serving abroad whom we support are now posted on our Bulletin Board. Both have nice colored pictures.

From Elizabeth Jodd
September 1, 2017



From Jonathan and Carol Williams
September
Newsletter



Summer Leadership Schedule

Since so many people traveled out of town this summer, we will let you know what speakers those who stayed in Spokane experienced during Sunday worship.

- June 4: Musical Message by Crab Creek Wranglers
- June 11: "You are Enough," Leann Williams
- June 18: Monthly Meeting for Business
- June 25: "Rebooting," Amber Joplin
- July 2: "18th Century Quaker Testimonies," Randy Vigil
- July 9: "Spiritual Gifts," Charlene Cox
- July 16: Called Business Meeting (preparation for YM)
- July 23: Open Worship with Queries on Peace
- July 30: "Thoughts on Yearly Meeting," Wade Schwartz
- Aug 6: "Thoughts on Yearly Meeting," Linda Nixon
- Aug 13: "No Finer Way to Sink," Duaine Anderson
- Aug 20: "From Clay Tablets to Social Media," Bob Wiese
- Aug 27: Monthly Meeting for Business
- Sept 3: "A Certain Nobleman," Readers Theater

Upcoming Leadership Schedule

- Sept 10: Laurie Clark-Strait
- Sept 17: Monthly Business Meeting
- Sept 24: Dan Berg

Family Promise of Spokane

For **fourteen years** Spokane has been a host church for Family Promise. With the support of another "helper" church, we have turned classrooms into bedrooms to welcome homeless families with children into our building for one week of room and board four times a year. And a shout out to Pam Emery, who has been our Coordinator the entire time!

With heavy hearts, Spokane Friends decided to withdraw from being a host church because of our recent difficulty in finding two overnight hosts for each of the nights during "our" week. So many of us have been faithful volunteers in this program over the years and we are grateful for your service.

We have loved working with this excellent program, and there may be a possibility we can still contribute, as another church has asked if they could use our building while taking responsibility for meals and overnight hosts. We would be happy if this could work.



Caritas News

On Wednesday, August 31, Caritas Volunteers hosted a special luncheon to say goodbye to Lauri Clark-Strait, who has left the position as Caritas Director to accept a full-time position with Volunteers of America, where she will be working with foster children and their parents. She will be greatly missed. Operating Manager Kelsie Rowland will be accepting additional responsibilities as the Board decides on future directions.

We are still in need of volunteers to work at the front desk. Please call 326-2249 for more information. THANK YOU!



Love Chinese Food??

This Wednesday, 10 am - 10pm Shadle Panda Restaurant is co-operating for a Caritas Fund-raiser.

Eat inside or carry out

Take the coupon from the Bulletin to show OR mention Caritas when you checkout. (online: Code 233936) and Caritas gets 20% of the cost!



Invite many friends to join you!

[Lorraine Watson, who served Spokane Friends as Assoc.Pastor and Pastor in the 90's, was quoted in Quaker News. The entire piece can be found at

<http://www.quakernews.com>

"Our current meeting is very much alive with the sense that God is present among us today. We are ... committed to listening deeply to God in community, following the leadings that come and freeing each other to live into the ministries that arise in our midst."

In spite of its size and location, North Seattle Friends is "not a neighborhood church," Watson said, "but a place [to which] people come from all over the area looking for a Christ-centered Quaker presence. We invite all people to join us, recognizing that those who stay are those who have a similar thirst for knowing God."

"We gather in meeting each week with our primary purpose being to listen together to God who is present in our midst and speaking to us. Whatever else happens is of no consequence if we do not listen together and allow God to speak to us. Generally, we also include music, God stories, and a message, but not always. We are very aware that we all bring something to this gathering and that it is not up to the upfront leaders to create the experience for us. We bear witness to how God works in our midst."

[Because there was no Newsletter in August, we present below the Minutes of two called Business Meetings in July. The Minutes of the regular August Business Meeting are on the next page.]

CALLED MEETING FOR BUSINESS

16 July 2017



Business meeting was called at the rise of the worship service by Clerk Jonas Cox to discuss the upcoming NWYM and our Representatives. Amber Joplin and Anya Lawrence informed the clerk that they would be unable to attend NWYM as this year's representatives. Wade Schwartz said he was available to go and was approved to take their place. Since he voiced that he would like to attend the sessions to form the new Yearly Meeting, Linda Nixon was asked to represent Spokane Friends at the general sessions of NWYM. This was also approved. Any concerns that people want brought to either Yearly Meeting can be emailed before the sessions start to either Wade Schwartz or Linda Nixon. The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

CALLED MEETING FOR BUSINESS

6 August 2017

A short called business meeting was held at the rise of the worship service. Two questions were presented:

1. The NWYM Administrative Council has contacted our Clerk Jonas Cox to see if we wanted them to come to our church for a meeting regarding Twin Lakes Friends Camp. Those present said they would like to have a meeting with them. Jonas Cox will contact them and get this set up.
2. Pam Emery has let the meeting know that she will no longer be the Head of Spokane Friends participation in being a host church for Family Promise. She would like to see us lay this down due to the decreasing size of our worshipping community.

Clerk Jonas Cox asked those who were present to pray and think about it over the next week, and then they would make a decision. The meeting was closed in prayer.

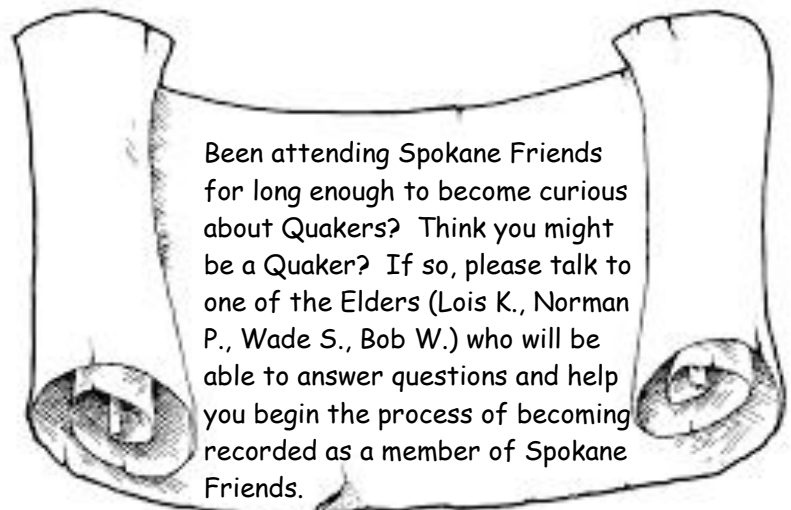
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



IT'S PARTY TIME!!
Say Good-bye to Summer
with your Friends
at a Labor Day Barbeque

At Pam and Bill's house 1311 W Dalke
5:00 pm, Monday, Sept. 4

Grilled Meats supplied: you bring a side dish,
a snack, or a dessert to share.



Been attending Spokane Friends for long enough to become curious about Quakers? Think you might be a Quaker? If so, please talk to one of the Elders (Lois K., Norman P., Wade S., Bob W.) who will be able to answer questions and help you begin the process of becoming recorded as a member of Spokane Friends.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

August 27, 2017



The meeting was opened by Clerk Jonas Cox. 11 people were in attendance. The minutes of the June meeting and the two called meetings were read and approved as read.

Old Business: “The Memorandum of Understanding” between Spokane Friends and Caritas was submitted to those in attendance to read and see if there are changes that need to be made. It was decided that Caritas will not be allowed to use the church office or pastor’s study as office space. We would also like them to try and use one of the rooms downstairs instead of the church library. These two changes were approved. Jonas Cox will get this ready to present to the Caritas Board.

Treasurer’s Report: This was presented by Norman Pasche in Wade Schwartz’s absence. Tithing has been good over the past several months. Starting in 2018 the church secretary position will be a contracted position instead of a church employee. The treasurer was also authorized to pay for 2 hours of Website training per month for the secretary to be able to keep our church Website up to date.

Stewards & Trustees: Steward Bill Emery met with the Caritas Board. Caritas agreed to pay to have the carpet, in the area they use, cleaned. Atlas Heating came in to put an expansion tank connected to our existing boiler due to it leaking.

Nominating Committee: People were given another copy of the church roster of positions. We are asking individuals to look at the openings and see if they feel called to serve. Please return the forms to Charlene Cox, Sue Keehnen or Linda Nixon by Sunday, September 3rd.

Hospitality, Peace with Justice, Education and Elders had no reports.

New Business: Our community has decided to lay down hosting the Family Promise homeless families. Another faith community, one that does not have a building, may be interested in hosting if they can use our facility. Pam Emery will talk again with Steve Allen of Family Promise. She has agreed to be the contact from our meeting.

Jonas Cox will contact someone from NWYM Administrative council to set up the meeting regarding what will be done with Twin Lakes Friends Camp in Twin Lakes, Idaho.

With no other business and all hearts clear, Lois Kieffaber dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

**SMILE FOR A SMILE
A HOMELESS FAMILY
FALL FUNDRAISER**

**Family Promise
Fundraiser**

EVERY DOLLAR PAID FOR YOUR
PROFESSIONAL FAMILY PHOTO SITTING
WILL HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES
FIND HOME AGAIN



On September 23-24, because of the generosity of 35 local photographers, we will offer professional-quality family photographs to families for a significant cause at a great price! In addition, for every booking, one homeless family or former homeless family, will get a free sitting and 8x10.

100% of all proceeds go directly to Family Promise, so by booking a session for \$75 or \$150, families can help truly help homeless children and their families in Spokane.

This website contains all the information about pricing, location, and times: www.familypromiseofspokane.org/smile



Earl Tycksen

September 28, 1934 – July 25, 2017

God chose to call Earl home, very unexpectedly, on July 25, 2017. Earl Harvey Tycksen was born on September 28, 1934, the oldest of seven, to Nute and Leona Tycksen, USAFOB. (Upstairs in the attic, at the foot of the bed)! The family settled in Talent, OR in 1945. After high school, he attended and graduated from George Fox College in 1957.

While at Fox he met the love of his life, Annie Longstroth, and they married on September 26, 1959, in Boise, ID. It was there he began his ministry as an assistant pastor at Whitney Friends Church. He and Annie were thrilled when daughter Lynette was born in La Junta and again when Michael joined them in Jerome, ID. In 1999, In his over 40 years as a Friends pastor, Earl served in La Junta and Littleton, CO, Meridian and Nampa, ID, Silverton and Marion, OR and Spokane WA.

Earl and Annie moved to Newberg to 'retire', eventually making their home at Friendsview Retirement Community, where Earl faithfully preached in Morning Worship. They have lived and worked there for the past 9+ years. Earl was involved in many community activities and positions in NWYM during his lifetime.

Surviving Earl are his beloved wife of 57 years, Annie; daughter Lynette Cortez of Silverton, OR; son Mike (Amy) Tycksen of Richland, WA; and Hoa (Lori Nguyen) Dong of Renton, WA, and nine grandchildren. Earl is also survived by five brothers and one sister and many nieces and nephews. Many dear friends also mourn his passing.

Jon Tippin's mother, Mary Alice Dietrich Tippin, passed away Wednesday morning, August 30, 2017 at Jon and Ruthie's home in Iowa City, IA. She was 97 years old. Her children were with her, having given watchful care over her for the past number of days. **Mary was an active part of Spokane Friends Meeting from 1996 until 2009, and loved her time among Friends there.** Please hold Jon, Ruthie, Marna, Martha, Mary Joan, Rebecca and their families in your hearts and prayers.

Many of us remember Mary with love and affection.

Current stories in Quaker News:

- Rosedale Friends Church to remain in NWYM.
- Scott Mills will remain in NWYM and Pastor Wanda Jenkins proposes a special task force to assist in the rebuilding and unification of NWYM.
- Scotts Mills Friends Church to stay with NWYM.
- Metolius Friends Church will stay in NWYM.
- A Quaker worship group in Pocatello led by Starr and Cross Reardon has severed ties with NWYM

Quaker News is the work of Barclay Press, where we hold to two truths: 1) Sharing stories changes lives, and 2) Open, equal access to information improves our discernment. You can support the work of Quaker News with tax-deductible donations through Barclay Press.

Newly forming Yearly Meeting Finds Name

The new Yearly Meeting made up of churches leaving Northwest Yearly Meeting chose its name during the Annual Sessions in July. It has become **Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYMF)** and plans to move forward as a Quaker, Christ-centered Yearly Meeting. The following Friends were approved to serve in leadership roles:

- Co-presiding Clerks: Cherice Bock and Eric Muhr
- Assistant Clerk: Jon Kershner
- Recording Clerk: Matthew Staples
- Interim Treasurer: Roger Watson
(LorraineWatson's brother)

Wade Schwartz was our Representative at those sessions.

The next large group gathering (anyone can come) will be at Eugene Friends on October 7, 10 am - 4 pm.

Equity Inclusion Minute

The Equity and Inclusion Committee has written a Minute in response to the events in Charlottesville. They have also presented four queries for Friends to prayerfully reflect on.

1. How are the structures within our monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and yearly meeting addressing systemic racism?
2. What are ways your meeting can actively promote racial justice in your local community?
3. Are there other local organizations or activists already doing the work with whom your meeting could partner with and support?
4. Am I living a life that testifies to the evil of white supremacy? Am I willing to learn from past mistakes, omissions, and ways I've noticed racism within myself?

The entire Minute and more can be found on the website for the new Yearly Meeting: <https://www.scymfriends.org/>