

# SPOKANEWORD

November  
Eleventh Month  
2017



Spokane Friends  
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## 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.

**GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES . . .**

**Wait, not them!**

by Brian Bachman

The famous words of Emma Lazarus' poem, "The New Colossus," engraved on a bronze plaque at the foot of the Statue of Liberty, have always been more aspirational than reflective of the reality of American history. One of the few constants of our history has been the determination of every new group that reaches the shores of our country in search of a better life to slam the doors and bar them against groups lined up to come in behind them.

Anti-immigration sentiment has been a near constant among the American people. The immigrant groups such sentiments has been invoked against have changed over the years, but the hatred, prejudice, and abuse heaped upon them has not.

At the very time Lazarus was writing her poem, in 1883, the United States had just passed its first real immigration law, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. That law singled out Chinese (the "Yellow Peril" in the journalistic parlance of the time) as singularly unsuited to become residents and citizens of the US. Until that time, for more than 100 years of our history, immigration was essentially unlimited, and everyone had a chance to come to the US and eventually become a citizen. Not that they received a warm welcome from those already here, but there was no such thing as an "illegal immigrant" during the time period when white European immigration was at its peak.

Excepting some archaic phrasings, anti-immigrant sentiments from earlier periods of our history could just as easily have been expressed by those who oppose immigration (legal and/or illegal) today. Here are just a few illustrative examples:

*"Few of their children in the country learn English. . . . The signs in our streets have inscriptions in both languages. . . . Unless the stream of their importation could be turned, they will soon so outnumber us that all the advantages we have will not be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious."*

Was this Joe Arpaio talking about Mexican immigrants to the American southwest? No, it was Benjamin Franklin talking about German immigrants to Pennsylvania in the 1750's. Could he perhaps have been talking about our Brethren ancestors?

*"We should build a wall of grass around the country."*

Was this Donald Trump in the last election campaign? Fortunately not, as making his infamous wall out of brass would be even more expensive that it already is reported to be. No, it was John Jay, who went on to become the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, also in the 1760's. The target of his fear and ire? Catholics, seen as a dangerous threat to Protestant Christianity in the New World. I guess at least Jay didn't try to claim he was going to make the Pope pay for the wall.

*"The enormous influx of alien foreigners will in the end prove ruinous to American workingmen, by REDUCING THE WAGES OF LABOR...."*

Was this a Breitbart editorial from the last few years? No, it was a *Philadelphia Sun* editorial from 1854. The immigrant group "provoking" such fear of economic ruin? The Irish, commonly depicted at the time as lazy, violent, drunken, and perhaps worst of all . . . Catholic.

*"Now, what do we find in all our large cities? Entire sections containing a population incapable of understanding our institutions, with no comprehension of our national ideals, and for the most part incapable of speaking the English language. . . . American's first duty is to those already within her own shores."*

Was this from a speech in Congress by an America First devotee during recent attempts (and failures) to enact immigration reform? No, it was a statement by Rep. Grant Hudson in 1924. The target of his ire was not Mexicans, nor Muslims, but rather Italians and Slavs fleeing poverty, war and oppression in their own countries.

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From the beginning of immigration legislation with the Chinese Exclusion Act, Congress, motivate by these powerful nativist fears and prejudices has passed numerous additional restrictions on immigration and has made it easier to deport illegal immigrants and legal immigrants who have not yet become citizens. On a few rare occasions, the laws were liberalized, such as when purely race-based criteria for exclusion were finally dropped (while still maintaining several provisions clearly favoring white immigrants) in 1954.

Since 1996, Congress has been unable to pass any significant immigration legislation, paralyzed by a divide between nativist determined to lower the level of immigration, and reformers aiming to keep the level of immigration roughly the same while addressing weaknesses and injustices in the law.

All of the debate about immigration has occurred despite the near unanimous consensus of both historians and economists that immigration has been a tremendous advantage for the US. Immigration is largely credited with enabling our rapid expansion into a world power, and giving our economy a dynamism and creativity that is the envy of the rest of the developed world. Our country literally has been built on the sweat of generations of immigrants, each of whom faced prejudice and hatred upon their arrival.

Some things never change. Currently, Hispanic and Muslim immigrants are the targets of nativist fear-mongering, whereas in the past it was Chinese, Irish, Italians, Slave, Catholics, Jews, and even Germans. One of the saddest ironies is that the descendants of many of those who faced discrimination on their arrival in the US are now among the loudest in demonizing immigrants today. We apparently do not know our history, or have not learned anything from it.

If Americans cannot or will not learn from our history, perhaps we Christians can learn from the Bible: "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34). Is there anything the least bit unclear about this instruction?

**Brian Bachman** is a former diplomat with the US State Department. [Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, used by permission, link to http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2017/wait-not-them.html](http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2017/wait-not-them.html)

### Letters to the Editor

#### Fake Facts

Something is SURELY wrong with the numbers in the Caritas News last Month (October). It states that 655 individuals were served and that 1004 households were served. This means that almost all individuals had at least two households, which does not fit with most Caritas clients. What gives?? **Not a Math Whiz, but Give Me a Break Editor:** *You are SO right!! Those two numbers were inadvertently exchanged: it should have said 1004 individuals in 655 households were served in August. But it is encouraging to know that someone actually reads the Newsletter!*

#### Leadership Schedule Mix-up

The Leadership Schedule in the Newsletter did NOT agree with the Leadership Schedule printed in the Oct 17 Bulletin. This makes it hard if you want to invite friends to hear a particular speaker. Wouldn't it be nice if all the schedules agreed with each other no matter where they are printed?

**And Get the Dates Right, Too**

*Editor: Yes.*

**The Gideons are coming!**


Tuesday evening, November 7, our faithful Missions Committee Kitchen Team will be serving Shepherd's Pie. Beginning this month, the donations will go to the missions projects that were approved at the September Business Meeting. The sign-up sheet for our faithful helpers awaits you in the hospitality area. Note that we are requesting more food, as the attendance has increased.



**News From Caritas**

During the month of September 2017, Caritas Outreach Ministries served **717 individuals**:


Children (0-18)	<b>229</b>
Adults (18-54)	<b>311</b>
Seniors (55 & over)	<b>177</b>



We served **294** households.

We distributed **10,603 lbs** of food through both our Bread Wall and our Food Bank. We had **58** volunteers putting in **440** hours.

Caritas will celebrate its **25th Anniversary** with a birthday party on Wednesday, November 15, from 11 am to 2 pm.



**Fall Leadership Schedule**

- ◆ Nov 5      Radio Play
- ◆ Nov 12     Lois Kieffaber
- ◆ Nov 19     Worship in the Manner of Friends



## SHEERA ASHER CUNNINGHAM

1976 - 2017

Sheera was called to the Lord on October 12, 2017. She was hit by a drunk driver on Sunday, October 8th, and her body sustained substantial injuries from the impact of the car. She fought to survive for four days, until it was too much for her young body to handle.

Sheera Cunningham was born on July 24, 1976 in Hillsboro, OR. She grew up in Forest Grove, OR and in the Chicago area before moving to Spokane in 1989 where she graduated from Mead HS. She was her parent's miracle baby, the only child of Milt and Nadine Asher. Her name Sheera means song; she had a beautiful singing voice. and She was very creative and inventive, a self-employed artist who enjoyed making trash into treasure, and she found beauty in everything she touched. She was an advocate for the "underdog", especially autistic kids and the homeless.

Sheera met her husband Damian Cunningham in July of 2004. It was an instant match and a love that could not be broken. Damian became a part of the family, helping with the kids and taking care of Sheera. They were married in August of 2006. Even after they fell on hard times and became homeless, Damian and Sheera had a bond that could not be broken, their love grew stronger in their hard times.

Sheera is survived by her parents Milt and Nadine; husband Damian Cunningham; and three beautiful children: Faith age 18, Patience age 17, and Trinity age 15. Sheera was taken from her family at a very young age.

Through this tragic event her family would like to please encourage you not to drink and drive, please think twice before you get behind the wheel, so no other family has to experience a sudden and tragic loss like this family has.



## EDITH FRANCIS MYERS PINTO

1926 - 2017

Edith Frances Myers Pinto went gently into the arms of Jesus October 20, 2017. She was born May 5, 1926 in Canyon County, Idaho, near Greenleaf, to Arthur and Rachel Selby Myers. She graduated from the Greenleaf Friends Academy in 1943. She attended Northwest Nazarene College for a short time and then Cascade College in Portland, OR.

In 1946, she married Harold Brown. They had 9 children. James Douglas (JD), Diana Ruth, Shirley Louise, David Harold, Kenneth Paul, Joanne Edith, Jonathan Murray, Roy Arthur, and Virginia Kay (Ginger). She loved being a mother and grandmother! She married Gilbert Pinto, the love of her life, in September 1974. She worked for the USPS for 12 years and retired in 1977. In 1984, at the age of 58, she graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in Sociology.

Because of her passion to help others, for many years she was a *Guardian ad litem* for Juvenile Court, where she impacted the lives of many children. She also served with organizations that ministered to those in need, including Caritas of which she was a founding Board Member in 1992.

She was a member of Spokane Friends church for over 60 years, where she served faithfully in many capacities. She was happiest working in the background to lend support where needed. Her church family valued her compassion and wisdom.

After Gilbert retired in 1984 they enjoyed traveling across the U.S. and to Canada and Europe. After Gil's death in 2015, she moved to her daughter Joanne and son-in-law Greg's home on the same property where she was born.

Edith had a deep relationship with her Lord and Savior and faced the difficult times in her life with God's grace and love. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gil, her sisters Dorothy Teter and Rosa Gibbs, son David Brown, a grandson Derric Brown, nephew Stephen Teter and son-in-law Larry Pickle. She is survived by her brother Leroy (Florence), her children JD Brown (Missy), Diane Payne, Shirley Kliver (Dan), Kenneth Brown (Shirley), Joanne Warren (Greg), Jonathan Brown (Maria), Ginger McGovern, Roy Brown, a step-daughter RaMona Pinto, 22 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Edith will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

# MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

October 15, 2017



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 13 people were in attendance. The minutes from the September meeting were approved as read with one correction. Jon & Krista Maroni were recommended by the Elders in September to be recorded as members of our body. This was approved by the Business meeting.

Missions: Preferences for Missions donations from the Gideon meals were presented and discussed. The list was narrowed down to the following 10 selections: Caritas, SFC Emergency fund, Johan & Judy Mauer, Jonathan & Carol Williams, Elizabeth Todd, Family Promise, Blessings Under the Bridge, Christ Kitchen, Faith Action Network, and FCNL. Stewards and Trustees have been asked to bring some type of policy statement concerning the use of the SFC Emergency Funds.

It was reported that Lois Kieffaber & Leann Williams did not attend the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting gathering in Eugene.

Treasurer's Report: The problems with Caritas concerning their monthly donations have been solved.

Elders: The Elders updated the list of secretarial duties. Lois asked for assistance with certain office tasks (see attached). Volunteers responded: Linda Nixon will respond to new attenders who sign the guest book, and will send cards from the church on birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Sue Keehnen will prepare Gospel Grams for children and change the church reader board as needed. Pam Emery will update the bulletin boards. Bob Wiese will create schedules for ushers, greeters and offering counters every 3 months. Charlene Cox will straighten the sanctuary, and Wade Schwartz will update the website as needed.

Stewards & Trustees: No report.

Peace with Justice: Lois Kieffaber attended the Fall Cluster Gathering for Faith Action Network churches in our area on

Education: No report.

Nominating Committee: A slate of nominations for committees and offices for this year were presented, and approval will be asked for at the November Meeting.

Anya Lawrence brought concerns about our discussions with both yearly meetings. She suggested that having some type of discussion regarding this at each Monthly Meeting for the next several months would help. Individuals were invited to present new Queries. It was decided that we would start doing this at the end of every Business Meeting.

With no further business and all hearts clear, Bob Wiese dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



Q Been attending Spokane Friends for long enough to become curious about Quakers? Think you Q  
Q might be a Quaker? If so, please talk to Lois Kieffaber, Pam Emery, Anya Lawrence, or Bob Q  
Q Wiese, who will be able to answer questions and help you begin the process of becoming recorded Q  
Q as a member of Spokane Friends. Q





# Letters from Friends

On October 18th, we received an email from Elizabeth Todd asking for our prayers in a distressing situation. Then on October 20th, before we could pray together on Sunday, we received a one-pager with the end of the story. Both of them are now posted on the Bulletin Board, if you want to read all about it.



## Take Action on Budget & Tax Plan

We all know that a budget is a moral document and that taxation is the means by which a society ensures the physical and economic security for all. The current Republican-led effort in Congress to reform our federal tax system will enhance those already possessing considerable wealth, tossing only a few crumbs to middle- and lower-income households. It is estimated that the Senate tax plan would add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over 10 years and be paid for by decimating basic human need programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Currently, both the House and the Senate have passed their budget resolutions and will need to approve a joint budget. Each chamber's budget and appropriations committees are working out the details of the tax cuts and the morally unconscionable cuts to federal human service programs. For more information, see: [www.cbpp.org/budget-briefs](http://www.cbpp.org/budget-briefs).

### Take Action

The most important action any of us can take is to send stories of impacts to those who rely on government assistance programs, from food to housing to health care, to the local office of your member of Congress. In the message you send, clearly state that cutting these programs in the federal budget will only increase hunger and poverty. Those of us in Eastern Washington can use the Websites listed below (unto contact our members of Congress).

District 5 Representative **Cathy McMorris-Rodgers**: [mcmorris.house.gov/contact/](http://mcmorris.house.gov/contact/) 509-353-2374

US Senator **Patty Murray**: [www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme](http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme)

US Senator **Maria Cantwell**: [www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact/email)

## Urge Congress to Pass Comprehensive Sentencing Reform

The bipartisan **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2017** (S.1917) would reduce mandatory minimums for nonviolent drug offenses, give judges greater discretion in sentencing, create a new system by which prisoners can have their sentences reduced for participation in recidivism reduction programs, and reform the federal juvenile justice system to ensure better treatment for youth offenders.

The legislation represents the most significant attempt at criminal justice reform in years, and it's time for Washington State **Senators Murray and Cantwell** to join the effort. Contact both of them and urge them to co-sponsor this legislation to create fairer sentencing laws and reduce mass incarceration in this country, which disproportionately targets people of color.

## INLAND AREA MEETING FOR VISIONING

On October 14 a visioning meeting was held at River of Life Friends Church in Post Falls for the Inland Area of NWYM. [ *We did not receive an invitation to this meeting. Presumably we should have gotten the information by reading the YM Publication Connection. (I did not.) Fortunately Linda Nixon, our Representative, found out about it and attended on our behalf. This report is from her.* ] Brad Holton and Debbie Harrison, from the Administrative Council of NWYM, participated. Entiat Friends, Spokane Friends, Woodland Friends and Post Falls Friends were represented at the visioning meeting.

The five following questions were presented and much discussion was heard.

1. What do you see is going well for NWYM at this time?
2. What do you see as our biggest challenges at this time?
3. If you could identify one change you think NWYM should consider what would it be and why?
4. What are the biggest questions you have about the future of NWYM?
5. What suggestions do you have for us as NWYM leadership that we should consider as we seek to discern God's path.

An outside consulting firm, Genysys, will use an electronic Organizational Questionnaire, and hopes for many responses from pastors, meeting leadership and attenders within NWYM. The results will be compiled and sent the NWYM Task Force for consideration, with no names attached unless the person gives permission. If you would like to take this survey, please send your name and email address to Linda Nixon.

### Important and Time-Sensitive!!

You can read the entire YM document outlining the visioning process, including its timeline and the members of the Task Force at this web address:

<http://nwfriends.org/nwym-visioning-process/>

Another way to participate in the survey is to contact NWYM directly, or ask the Church Office to do it for you.

**It is to be completed by December 5, so the time is short**

### Current stories in Quaker News:

- Silvertown Friends approved a minute on Sept. 24 that says "the LGBYQ+ community will be welcome to fully participate in the life of the Meeting." They must now decide whether to be an independent church or to join the new yearly meeting.
- The February meeting at North Valley Friends included more churches than first reported. At least 76 people from 14 different churches in NWYM gathered to hear more about what it might mean to start a new yearly meeting. (an earlier report said 12 churches were represented.)

Read more about these stories at [www.quakernews.com](http://www.quakernews.com) 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.



*Fall Folk Festival*  
Celebrating our area's cultural diversity

November 11th and 12th, 2017  
Saturday 11am to 10pm  
Sunday 11am to 5pm

Live Radio Broadcast 11am to 1pm (Saturday) KPBX-FM 91.1

**Spokane Community College**  
Lair Student Center - 1810 N. Greene Street

**FREE ADMISSION / FREE PARKING**

For more information call 828-3683 or visit [www.spokanefolkfestival.org](http://www.spokanefolkfestival.org)

The **Crab Creek Wranglers** are preparing for the Fall Folk Festival on November 11, where they will be entertaining on stage from 11:30 to noon. Sue Keehnen will also be participating in the Craft Show occurring at the same venue.

