

SPOKANEWORD

May
Fifth Month
2018



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 327-7852
www.spokanefriends.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

Second Sunday of the Month:
After worship we gather for a
Community Potluck Dinner .

Third Sunday of the Month:
Monthly Meeting for
Business begins at rise of
worship.

On Peace & War: Prepping a New Generation of Truth-Tellers by Rusty Nelson

In a community of people who care about what happens in Syria, D.C., Olympia, and around the corner, one can be overwhelmed by calls to action. Choosing a struggle for personal engagement would be almost impossible except that the most compelling struggles often have a way of choosing us. Just when you think you can dedicate your life to saving pampered puppies from confused flight attendants, you might become inspired by hundreds of kids challenging authorities who want them to accept a few minutes of silence as assurance they won't be terrorized, even killed, in the worshipful proliferation of semi-automatic weapons.

Is it enough that we trust these kids to walk out of school for a few minutes, or make up their own minds about the intent of the 2nd Amendment? Of course not. Some of us have been content with vicarious rebellion, and some of us didn't notice revolutions until they were over. Some are parents who have bumped into emotional and communication barriers of our own construction. We all have limits, and we're all still learning, but each of us has something constructive to offer young people who've learned it's up to them to improve the toxic environment foisted upon their generation. Students taking on gun violence, in symbolic or tangible ways, need us. They don't need us to tell them what to do, to organize them, or to empower them, but to encourage them, trust them, and watch their backs for administrations that tremble to think students might drag them out of the ruts of our hair-trigger paradigm. even killed, in the worshipful proliferation of semi-automatic weapons. Is it enough that we trust these kids to walk out of school for a few minutes, or make up their own minds about the intent of the 2nd Amendment? Of course not. Some of us have been content with vicarious rebellion, and some of us didn't notice revolutions until they were over. Some are parents who have bumped into emotional and communication barriers of our own construction. We all have limits, and we're all still learning, but each of us has something constructive to offer young people who've learned it's up to them to improve the toxic environment foisted upon their generation. Students taking on gun violence, in symbolic or tangible ways, need us. They don't need us to tell them what to do, to organize them, or to empower them, but to encourage them, trust them, and watch their backs for administrations that tremble to think students might drag them out of the ruts of our hair-trigger paradigm.

I need your help communicating with these students because I'll appear radical, perhaps scary. As my intermediary, you might explain that I lost many years to my inherited conservatism. I was brought up to conserve racial segregation, modest xenophobia, and brutal military adventures, and I think a reasonable education would inform young people that these anachronisms are obstacles to human progress.

I wish I could go into schools and encourage students, faculty and staff to pick up the pace, find a voice on matters of life and death, rattle the cages of more office holders and power brokers, make consumer choices that reflect consideration for the environment and labor relations. But if I get started, where will I stop connecting the dots? How can I present modest proposals for ending public policies of murder and oppression? Officials will be alarmed. Parents will be outraged. Educators will seek shelter.

Maybe I'm taking myself too seriously, but it happened in 2001, as documented in the annals of this publication. One of the first things I learned when I stuck my toe into the turbid waters of social justice, is the meaning of radical. You'll quickly recall its connection to radish because it's about getting to the root of things. And in any peace movement, you get to the grass roots or you don't last. PJALS has lasted 40 years, and to last another 40, we have to cultivate more of the newer grass.

It starts with telling the truth about war. War is wrong and evil, and it's a shame we don't teach our children that. Americans refuse to learn we have not won a war since 1945; preparations for war make more war inevitable; killing in war is still killing and dying in war is still dying. We have continuous reinforcement of the myth that weapons of war contribute to the security of our

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country and our society. That makes the glorification of war a routine effort of nearly every element of our culture. Any mainstream writer, reporter, politician, entertainer, educator, clergy, or public figure who fails to agree that our military has to be prepared to kill many, many humans quickly and efficiently, will place personal success in jeopardy. It is also considered bad manners that we realize the Soviet Union won the Cold War by dropping out of the Arms Race.

If we could tell the truth about war, we could de-escalate the sidearms race. It would be easy to raise the age for buying semiautomatic weapons if we could raise the age for sending our children to war. Before I went to Vietnam, my army job was baby-sitting. That's what we called administering companies full of student soldiers. Many of those young men were sent to Vietnam after graduation. Others had make-work jobs until their 18th birthdays, when they were considered old enough to kill and die to make America safe from Communism's march through southeast Asia. Is it any wonder, between early enlistment, military prep schools for rich kids and Junior ROTC for poor kids that the U.S. refused to sign the international agreement against the institution of child soldiers?

If we tell the truth about war, we can tell the truth about guns. There is no more sport in hunting deer with an AR-15 than there is honor in the American military victory at My Lai, fifty years ago, March 16. Although the M-16 is now proven as a weapon designed to kill human beings, I was told something different in the 60s. The new rifle was said to be a great advance in combat weaponry because the tumbling bullet shattered flesh and bones, disabling the target (always a vicious, well-armed and trained Communist combatant bent on invading my hometown) so two of his comrades would be taken out of combat when they went to his aid. I never touched an M-16 until I was in Vietnam, having qualified as a small arms expert with a transitional rifle I never saw again.

With all the public discussion about recent horrors of guns in schools, it seems the shooting at Lewis and Clark High School has been forgotten. My daughter was one year out of LC, when a student brought a big handgun to class, confident that it would induce suicide by cop. His plan went well until one of the responding officers deviated from his script, stopped the bleeding in his neck, and ruined his suicide. My daughter is now a well-established teacher in Spokane. She and her son, in his first week of kindergarten, were locked down at Wilson School as authorities tried to sort out the shooting at Freeman, the school in my neighborhood.

Reports from Freeman High last September say the child shooter went to his handgun when his AR-15 jammed. I boldly speculate the kid had posed with his daddy's gun without actually knowing how to use it. If he had been well-trained, there could well have been twenty dead children in his wake instead of one.

I'd be glad to see the 2nd Amendment repealed if it would reduce the carnage by one death/year, in or out of schools. And military style weapons could be banned without damaging the 2nd Amendment anymore than it's profaned by each public pronouncement of Wayne LaPierre. One alternative to banning the 2nd is banning the discharge of firearms, which would make the agricultural process, for which I have borrowed firearms, more unpleasant, while doing wonders for noise pollution in my otherwise peaceful neighborhood.

I like the bumper sticker, "Peace is Disarming," and personally, for disarming to make all of us, not just the folks in schools, a whole lot safer. Law enforcement agencies deserve our assistance and cooperation in making our streets and neighborhoods safer, but they keep losing our trust with their accumulation of and reliance upon excessive firepower. Every time I hear about officers shooting someone holding a knife, a rock, or piece of glass or someone reaching for a blanket that might have a gun under it, I long for someone with the courage and good will to serve, protect, and defend me without lethal weapons, just as I tried to teach my children to look after themselves without hurting someone else. Yes, I'm different, and I won't hold you to my standards of faith and community. But remember that neighborhood policemen in London worked effectively for many years without firearms.

Speaking of faith and trust, do you ever ridicule our government for splashing "In God We Trust" all over while spending more on weapons of mass destruction and pre-emptive war, calling it national defense, than on infrastructure, education, and health, combined? Do you ever laugh at people who claim to have absolute faith in God and won't venture far without a loaded gun? Do you pray for peace and pay for war? Yeah, me too.

I think students and their parents and their neighbors should demand more than an end to school shootings. It's a logical starting place, but let's all challenge the way we think about guns and other lethal weapons. I'm hearing, right now, about school districts handing out detentions to hundreds of students who walked out in protest of semi-automatic weapons. I wish I could be in detention with them and with a singer, to teach them songs of disarmament and solidarity. That would be educational.

If school children can teach us that guns never make them safer, perhaps we can teach our leaders, again, that militarization, war, and nuclear weapons offer no security, but only increase the risk of destroying the earth.



Rusty Nelson is a former director of PJALS, president of Spokane Veterans for Peace, and a long time member of Shalom Church (Mennonite and United Church of Christ). This article first appeared in the April-June issue of *Handful of Salt*, a publication of PJALS. Not coincidentally, he spoke at Spokane Friends on April 29 and his message is posted on the Spokane Friends website.

NOTE: The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of all members of Spokane Friends Church.

Getting Ready for God

By Vivian Thornburg

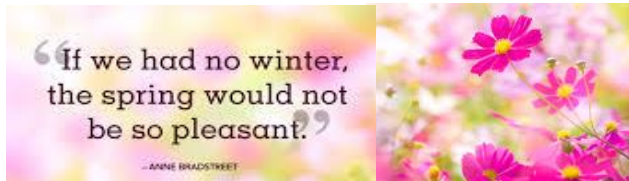
When I was around sixteen years old, I got my first pair of dressy heels: beautiful blue suede pumps. The first time I wore them, I hobbled and wobbled four blocks to the church, and I can't imagine what I looked like. But they were precious to me because they were my first ones and signified so much in my life. I felt beautiful when I wore them.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a dream where I looked down and saw blue suede pumps on my feet; my feet and legs were so beautiful - smooth, shapely, and young! I have a very tangible sense that God is preparing me for my future, and while I'm watching my body age in ways that are far from beautiful, God wants me to see that I am really moving toward perfection.

My first thought is to get rid of the inner burden of carrying around stuff - like self-pity, anger, resentment, judgment, or criticism of others. If I can't let go of these things, I'm not ready to meet him.

No matter what age you are, God is preparing you for your future too. Do those closest to you find you to be cranky and unpleasant? What are you carrying around that keeps you from enjoying this life? Who are you unable to release from judgment, allowing God to love them through you? These get heavier the longer we carry them, and they cripple our souls. Ask God to do a soul-scan for long-time or hidden anger or resentment. And remember that you are moving toward beauty and perfection!

Reprinted by permission from *Fruit of the Vine*, a Quaker daily devotional booklet published by Barclay Press, www.barclaypress.com Vol. 58, No. 2, 2018. Vivian Thornburg has been a teacher, pastor, and NWYM Elder.



Clip and take to restaurant or give to a friend.
Invite all your friends to participate.

Caritas Outreach Ministries

!!! Fundraiser !!!

Panda Express

Friday, May 11, 2018 ♥ 11:00am – 9:00pm

Please Bring Coupon and Support Caritas



FUNDRAISER EVENT

Raise Money for: Caritas Outreach Ministries

When	Where	How
Friday, May 11, 2018 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Panda Express at (Wellsley & Bell) 2235 W. Wellsley Rd Space A Spokane, WA 99201	In-store: <small>Some restrictions apply to this offer.</small> Online: <small>Use 251111 at the promo code box during checkout.</small>

20% of event sales will be donated to Caritas Outreach Ministries

News from Caritas

Kelsie Rowland, Operations Manager at Caritas has shared the following from the April Board Meeting. During the month of March Caritas Outreach Ministries served **782 individuals** from **353 households**:

Children (0-18)	214
Adults (18-54)	358
Seniors (55 & over)	210



We distributed **14,085 lbs.** of food through the Table of Plenty and Food Pantry.

We helped **9 families** with emergency utility assistance for a total of **\$1,085.68**.

We connected families with **\$12,313** worth of hygiene and cleaning supplies.

We gave out **\$90** in fuel vouchers for transportation assistance.

We had **57** volunteers putting in **546** hours.

A Caritas story: "Ms. P" used to be a Caritas client a decade ago. She made positive life changes and did not need services for a long time. Then she got MS and had to file for SSI. Her budget was very strict but workable until she was hospitalized the last two months. She found an individual to manage her funds and pay bills until her health stabilized, but they took full advantage of her trust and she came home to a shut off notice. Her speech is delayed and she was very upset, so it took some patience to walk her through her financial assistance options. We originally made a partial pledge to her account as is our normal practice to encourage clients to grow in their responsibility and budgeting skills. But when we reconnected with Ms. P, she had been unable to find additional funds. She was exhausted from her long illness, frustrated with her inability to communicate as quickly and clearly as she used to before MS, and had shown true grit managing all of this on her own for years. We decided to cover the remaining balance for her to get her a fresh start with her SSI budget next month and, of course, reminded her she could access the food services we provide to fill her pantry.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR THE UN-GALA!

SUPPORT SPOKANE'S MOST VULNERABLE FAMILIES!

For the last 21 years, hundreds of homeless families in Spokane have turned to one organization: Family Promise of Spokane. Facing the hardest season of their lives, these families have found love, support, and real help through an army of humble and passionate volunteers and competent, invested staff.

Family Promise is hosting their **2ND ANNUAL UNGALA** on May 10. Last year, Family Promise broke all convention with their inaugural gala and flipped it on its head. The unGala is 90% about vision, inspiration, stories and surprises and only 10% about fundraising.

This year, Joe and Steve are back as hosts - and you never know what to expect. Jonathan Catherman, a national speaker & best-selling author, will be our keynote speaker, speaking on Mentoring and Serving. Great food, your own 'ole west photo and so much more - book your ticket soon!



ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE

Founded in 1986 in New Jersey, and started in Spokane in 1997.

OUR MISSION:

Family Promise of Spokane supports homeless families by providing stability, empowering sustainability, and coaching to serve others in need.

WHAT SETS US APART?

Family Promise is committed to keeping the whole family together through the toughest season of their lives - and we support them with professional, personal case management all the way to the finish line!



Location:
Centerplace event center
2426 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley

Time:
Doors open at 5:00 pm
Program begins at 6:15 pm
Doors close at 8:30 pm

Date:
Thursday, May 1

Donation:
\$50 per ticket



ORDER YOUR TICKET ON LINE AT www.familypromiseofspokane.org/events

Quaker News

Annual Sessions for Sierra-Cascades YM will be at Canby Grove Christian Center, May 18-20, 2018.

Annual Session for Northwest Yearly Meeting will be in Newberg, OR, July

Answering That of God in Every One: A conference for Quaker women from the Pacific and Inland Northwest and beyond and other women interested in exploring Quaker Spirituality, June 6-10, 2018 at the Canby Grove Christian Center. Register at <http://www.pnwquakerwomen.org/conference/>

Jobs Advertised by Northwest Yearly Meeting

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends is seeking a new **General Superintendent**.

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends is seeking a **Director of Finance**.

Meridian Friends Church seeks a **Children's Ministries Coordinator**.

Newberg Friends seeks a **lead pastor**.

Portland Seminary seeks an **Associate Director of the Seminar Masters Program**.

Alliance Friends (Ohio) seeks a **lead pastor**.

Reedwood Friends Church, an independent, multi-cultural Quaker Church, located in southeast Portland, Oregon, and until recently a part of Northwest Yearly Meeting, is seeking applications for a **full-time pastor**.

Lynwood Friends seeks **Family Pastor** (part-time or full-time)

Vancouver First Friends Seeks **Worship Leader**.

The Teaching Abroad Program in Wuhan China, seeks a **Children's English Teacher** in Wuhan, China.

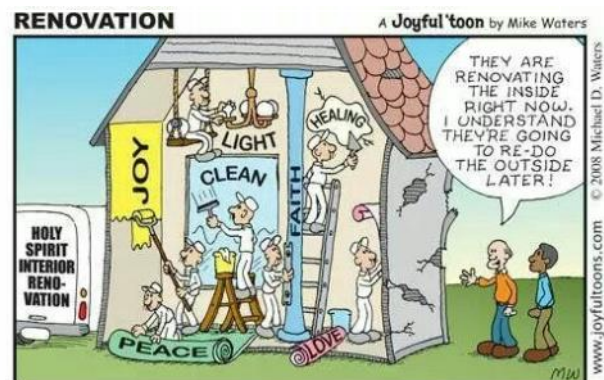
Find more information about these jobs at nwfriends.org under Job Openings.



Sunday Morning Worship
Leadership Schedule

May 13 Lois Kieffaber, Sarah My Sister, II
May 20 Leann Williams, Images of God

Spring Cleaning



Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.
- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16 NV

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES for the Meeting of 18th April 2018 are not yet available and will be published in the June Newsletter. In it's place we will include a letter from the Clerk of the Meeting.



A Letter from the Clerk of Meeting

Friends,

As you are all aware, we have a decision to make about Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) affiliation. Due to the recent split at the yearly meeting level over human sexuality, we have an opportunity to leave NWYM with undisputed ownership of our assets. While the deadline for leaving has been extended, at some point we must declare if we are staying or leaving.

If we leave, we can leave with undisputed ownership of our building and any other assets. If we stay we must agree to abide by the Faith and Practice (F&P) of NWYM. If we later decide to leave NWYM the ownership of our building might be successfully challenged by NWYM and could result in the loss of our building or other assets.

Originally, we would have needed to decide to leave in the next 2 months in order to maintain undisputed ownership, but the deadline for making this decision has been opened to an additional 18 months if we alert NWYM of our interest in continuing the process.

We have been engaged in a process of discerning where we are being led for some time now. We have hosted NWYM Assistant Clerk, Debbie Harrison, Sierra-Cascade's Bylaws Committee member, Loraine Watson, and Reedwood Friends Church's Clerk of Elders, Dwight Kimberly. Each of these has provided information about options of affiliation we might exercise. Our choices seem to be:

1. Stay with NWYM
2. Join Sierra- Cascades Yearly Meeting
3. Become independent and loosely affiliated with other independent monthly meetings like Reedwood Friends

At the April business meeting we took up the question: *Are we being led to stay within NWYM?* Overwhelmingly the answer to that question appeared at that meeting to be "No". Because this is a very important decision for the future of the meeting, I asked those present to think and pray about their response over the course of the month, and in this letter I am asking all of you to do the same.

I hope we can answer the question in the May Monthly Meeting for Business. Please be thinking and praying about this critical decision and come prepared to help us discern where we are being called. Should we continue to affiliate with NWYM or should be leave NWYM and explore other options.?

I look forward to seeing you are at the May Monthly Meeting.

Sincerely,
Jonas Cox
Clerk



The Gideons are coming!

On Tuesday April 1, our Missions Committee will be serving dinner to the Gideons. The donation this month will go to Jonathan and Carol Williams. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship area if you can help out.



Is God giving you a message for Spokane Friends? If so, please contact an Elder or the Meeting Office and we will put you on the schedule for a Sunday morning Meeting for Worship.





Spokane Friends Meeting
1612 W. Dalke Avenue
Spokane, WA 99205
Phone: 509-327-7852
Email: spokanefriends@gmail.com
www.spokanefriends.com

Holding in the Light . . . During Meeting for Worship, many share joys about changes in their lives, new opportunities, new jobs, new ministries, unexpected blessings. Many also share concerns you may wish to carry on your heart and remember in your prayers.

- Continued healing for Chris after surgery.
- Safe arrival of the second Hyslop grandchild.
- Dew's return to our worshipping community.
- New pets coming and older pets lost to death.
- One of Charlene's students whose mother has terminal cancer.
- Our Meeting's decision regarding membership in Northwest Yearly Meeting.
- Friends with serious health issues and those who walk with them.
- Those who do ministry with our support: Jonathan and Carol; Johan and Judy; Elizabeth T; and those organizations with which we work: Caritas Outreach Ministry; The Fig Tree; Faith Action Network, Family Promise; and others.
- Openness of hearts and borders of our country to families displaced by war.
- Those whose lives are oppressed and are vulnerable to violence here and abroad.
- For Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC, who are advocating on our behalf against the use of violence to solve our differences with other nations.



Love is the will to nurture life and growth in oneself and in another. Love is personal; it is the sacred trust of living things.

Donald Green, 1982