

SPOKANEWORD

September
Ninth Month
2018



Spokane Friends
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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.

The Meanings of Endings

by Jim Ross

[Note: Labor Day is right around the corner, and many transitions in our lives happen in the context of our work. So this might be a good time to think about life transitions in general.]

Life can be viewed as a succession of endings. We finish attending a particular school, going to a particular job, living in a certain house, being part of a given neighborhood. A particularly precious ending occurs when our time in the house and neighborhood where we lived as a child comes to an end or when we stop being friends with our first best friend. All sorts of connections come to an end, many with people we once called friends. Connections end, often inexplicably, with those with whom we explored the many facets of the mysteries of intimacy. We become partners in work, in love, in life and these often end sooner than we ever could have imagined. We sometimes end being a child to a parent who is still living. We sometimes end being a parent to a child who, likewise, is still living.

Many firsts are markers for endings. Our first romantic kiss; first sexual experience; first claim to being in a relationship; and first use of alcohol, marijuana, or other health-risk behaviors are all markers of the end of innocence. A first real job and paying one's own rent or mortgage are markers of the end of economic dependence. Receipt of a first pension or social security check and enrollment in Medicare can be viewed as markers of the end of economically productive years.

What do endings mean? Some are less decisive than others, so they often look more like transformations or transitions in our roles or connections to people, places, or groups. We can end a job but still do similar work and remain in touch with some of those with whom we once worked. We can leave a house but still visit the neighborhood or get together with those who were once our neighbors. We can even go back and visit an old house, as I did when I was nine and was welcomed in; however, the old fridge was gone, and my old bedroom's wallpaper was gone, and it no longer smelled like my room. When connections to life partners end, we may still manage to stay in a day-to-day relationship, because we're not ready for it to end. We may let the relationship end, yet remain in contact for practical reasons, such as money or the benefit of the children: that they continue to experience the love of both partners who, though apart, remain amicable. Sometimes we manage to leave a life partnership and later paradoxically become friends with the person who had been the source of dissonance and discord in our lives.

We usually end being a child to our parents when we become independent, but we still choose to remain their children out of love, respect, and family. Sometimes we remain their children too much and longer than we ought, because we can't cut the apron strings or they hold us in that role (at least when we go home and revert to old ways). Conversely, many parents cease to serve as parents because they move on to another life, perhaps another family and even another place. Sometimes time and distance can erode a bond that once existed; sometimes the bond never fully formed, and a parent absconded slowly, often not quickly enough.

Our parents may morph into children because physically and mentally something has happened to them; they've lost their independence; they can no longer perform their activities of daily living. They're not sure who they are or who they once loved, not even recognizing them in person or in photographs. Children can transform into parents of their own parents.

Many endings transform us and engage us in another's transformation. The old house remains the place where one once lived and perhaps becomes hallowed ground. A former life partner or lover turns into someone with whom a different but nevertheless fulfilling relationship can be had. An aged parent, once strong, now becomes dependent on the child, and each may learn to love a different way.

Many endings come slowly and are scarcely noticed. Only when enough time has elapsed can we say, after the fact, at some point love ended. The same applies to commitment to a particular employer, viewing someone as a friend, longing to visit the volcanoes of Iceland,
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being a long-distance runner, drinking five cups of coffee a day, or being dependent on alcohol or drugs. For such things as these, often we only know that something once integral to ourselves has ended because it has dropped from our lives. Part of me ended and was replaced by some new aspect of me that I didn't anticipate. We ask ourselves questions: "Why did I take so long to cease being a runner and take up yoga? Why did I take so long to end letting work to consume me at the cost of family and the larger community?" The most important thing is that the endings usually proclaim new beginnings, too.

Some relationships simply end. Whether ended by choice or circumstances, whether initially one-sided or mutual, relationships to individuals and to entire communities do come to an end. Some end decisively because you know the connection you once had to this person, and all the possibility that may have existed in that connection, is irrefutably dead. We may mourn, rejoice, or do first one and then the other or both simultaneously or in rapid alteration. We may feel confused about how a connection ended, whether it was through slow erosion or cataclysm. We may simply realize one day that the energies that once existed between us and another person, or group of people, or an organization have changed, and perhaps have dissipated entirely. Recognizing endings for what they are, appreciating the meaning of endings is central to growth.

We do ourselves and the communities of which we are part a disservice if we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to say farewell. We all take leave many times throughout life. When we leave the workplace and retire; when a parent, life partner, or child dies; when we move away from the community in which we have spent a good portion of our lives, we may experience these things as a death in life, but they are also transitions. We need to allow ourselves to feel that and also recognize how every ending somehow transforms us.

How many endings represent such important markers in a lifetime that they ought to be celebrated and even recognized as Quakers? Most religions recognize the end of the *in utero* period (the baptism following birth), the end of being single (marriage), and the end of life (last rites prior to death). Many also recognize the transition from childhood to adulthood (confirmation or bar/bat mitzvah). The World Health Association says adolescence ends at age 28; if so, then when does childhood end? One could make a strong case for Friends experimenting with some observance of the transition to adulthood that so many religions recognize at around age 11 to 15, in addition to recognitions of birth, marriage/committed partnering, and death.

In the end, we all die. The "I" that represented our personal consciousness comes to an end. Some argue that we each live beyond such endings and that death is just a transition, a mere pause like a comma or at most a semi-colon but certainly not the end of a sentence. Some will even argue that we return in some form through re-birth. No matter; each of us takes leave in various ways many times during one lifetime. Meantime, many others take leave of us. Knowing how to take our leave, and to accept others' taking leave of us, over and over, is one of the most important things to learn and share.

Jim Ross is a public health researcher and an attendee at Sandy Spring (Md.) Meeting. He is a resident of Silver Spring, Md. [Copyright Friends Journal, all rights reserved, link to http://www.friendsjournal.org/private/FJ-2015-02.PDF](http://www.friendsjournal.org/private/FJ-2015-02.PDF)

AN EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Saturday, September 15, 5:30 pm.



Dwight Kimberley, an emeritus biology professor who attends Reedwood Friends, will present information on Embryology and Human Gender Development. This is an adult educational presentation and includes scientific illustrations of human genitalia as they develop. Dwight will address what it might mean that we are created in the "image of God." This is an opportunity to learn about human development, not a forum to debate social issues. There will be time for questions as part of this informal presentation.

We will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by Dwight's presentation. This community gathering will replace our usual second-Sunday potluck. We hope you will join us.

Want to see more college students in our Meeting?

On Friday, September 7, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Whitworth University is sponsoring a Ministry Fair and will provide a table and chairs to churches and non-profits in the greater Spokane area who want to interact with students, many seeking a new church community or service opportunities. If you feel called to represent us there, the Office will help you with signs, props, and handouts.

Sunday Morning Worship

Leadership Schedule

- Sept 2 Queries
- Sept 16 Lucy Nguyen
- Sept 23 Eric Muhr from Barclay Press
- Sept 30 Krista Maroni
- Oct 7 World Quaker Day

Coming to Spokane Friends in October . . . It's

World Quaker Day

Sunday, October 7



We will invite other Friends from our region to worship with us that morning, to share a meal, to hear their stories, and to discover what we have in common.



Caritas Summer Meal Program

WOW! Caritas has officially wrapped up our 2018 Summer Meal Kits for Kids program. As students return to classes, stomachs full and minds focused, we reflect on the amazing community spirit blessing our young neighbors in need.

Special thanks to churches and individuals who donated child-friendly foods and shout out the Hansen family who dedicated Monday mornings to hand pack hundreds of kits!



Caritas distributed **386 kits** containing 3860 individual breakfasts and lunches!

41 families who could not access the school meal sites, participated in the Caritas program this summer. That is a 245% jump in service compared to 2016.

Bless you for helping us meet this need in NW Spokane! Continue to pray for these children and families as they go back to school. Full stomachs ⇒ minds ready to learn ⇒ higher levels of education ⇒ breaking the cycle of poverty one mouthful at a time!

Other News from Caritas

During the month of July, 2018, Caritas Outreach Ministries served **763 individuals** from **318 households**:

Children (0-18)	234
Adults (18-54)	341
Seniors (55 & over)	188



We distributed **20,525 lbs.** of food through the Table of Plenty and Food Pantry.

We helped **3 families** with emergency utility assistance for a total of **\$558.00**.

We connected families with **\$476.50** worth of hygiene and cleaning supplies.

We gave out **\$20** in fuel vouchers for transportation help.

We had **46** volunteers putting in **368** hours.

Caritas is proud to announce we will be planting

Little Free Pantries

(www.littlefreepantry.org)

in high need neighborhoods! Thanks to a grant from the Spokane Rotary Club 21, we are able to build small outdoor pantries to provide 24hr access to emergency food assistance. Each pantry comes equipped with information redirecting people to Caritas for more services and a food safety guide for donations. We are very excited to see this blessing in action in the near future. Stay tuned for more details on location(s) and how to support this new ministry opportunity.

Note to on-line readers:

Sometimes we print pictures that we have as hard copy, but not an on-line version. We cut them out and paste them in before making the Newsletter copies. Thus the on-line version does not include them and you see a blank space instead. Sorry.

Kelsie Rowland

Operations Manager
Caritas Outreach Ministries

Quaker News

The next **Quarterly Gathering of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting** will be at Eugene Friends Church on October 20. The following Quarterly Gathering will be at West Hills Friends Church on February 16, 2019. Our next annual session will be May 17-19, 2019.

[**Note:** At our June Monthly Meeting (see Minutes in this issue) we decided to send some representatives to attend the next Quarterly Meeting of Sierra-Cascades. The more of us who attend this Quarterly Meeting, the better equipped we will be to decide whether or not we wish to affiliate with them.]

FWCC invites you to join Quakers around the world on 7 October for **World Quaker Day**, in its 5th year. The theme, Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories draws us into our shared experience of worship, celebrating our wonderful diversity of expression. Church to church, meeting to meeting, country to country, and section to section, we feel the power of God collecting us into a faithful family. We welcome all expressions of Quaker worship! <http://www.worldquakerday.org/>

Quaker Earthcare Witness is meeting in Federal Way (near Tacoma), 11-14 October 2018. A link to registration will be available in August. Meetings will take place at the Dumas Bay Centre. More information at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>

West Hills Friends Meeting is seeking an interim pastor during a pastoral transition period. Interested candidates can explore their web site <https://westhillsfriends.org/about-us> to learn about West Hills friends. To find out more about the position for yourself or someone you know, please contact [office @ westhills friends.org](mailto:office@westhillsfriends.org) for details on the requirements and job description.

First Friends Meeting, a Quaker Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, offering both programmed & unprogrammed worship, is seeking a full-time pastor. The Meeting seeks to be a welcoming, community-involved, spiritual body serving the needs of its congregation and community. We are looking for a pastor grounded in Quaker tradition... who is able to lead a heterogeneous body of worshipers into enduring connection with the Divine. See a complete job description and application instructions on our website: www.firstfriendsmeeting.org/pastorsearch

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 19 August 2018



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 13 people were in attendance. The minutes of the June business meeting were read and approved as read.

We welcomed Danna Zahller and Gail Hammer from the Alternatives to Violence Program for a presentation about this organization. It was well received.

Treasurer's report: Wade Schwartz reported that we are doing well financially and may want to put more money in our account with Friends Foundation.

Elder's report: Bob Wiese reported that they continue to review the messages from their last meeting with good feedback from the congregation.

Stewards & Trustee's report: Bill Emery reported that the lighted sign for the church at the southeast corner of the property had been serviced. We thank Bill for all the hard work he puts into the church issues. We also want to thank Wade Schwartz and Norman Pasche for taking care of the garbage in the kitchen during Bill's absence.

Education: No report.

New Business: Pam Emery let us know that Family Promise will be using our facility sometime in October.

We continued to discuss the question : What are we called to be? Sierra-Cascades YM will have its next Quarterly Meeting in Eugene, Oregon, on October 20, 2018. The next one after that will be at West Hills in Portland, Oregon in February, 2019. We have agreed to give financial support to persons who might want to attend from our meeting. Wade Schwartz will approach North Pacific YM to see if we would be welcome as part of their YM since we still consider ourselves a pastoral meeting. We are also still considering possible loose affiliation with other Independent Quaker meetings.

We approved an invitation to Quakers of any kind in nearby areas to join us in worship and fellowship, in celebration of World Quaker Day, October 7, 2018.

Our response to the Alternatives to Violence AVP presentation: We would like to be involved with this organization. Jon Maroni volunteered to spearhead this involvement. He would like to attend one of their workshops to become more familiar with what they do and where. We approved the idea of a "mini-worship" just for Spokane Friends as a starting point.

With no further old or new business and all hearts clear, Jon Maroni dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

In Memoriam

Brian Howard Fuller
April 10, 1945 - July 29, 2018

Brian Howard Fuller was born in Caldwell, Idaho and graduated from Greenleaf Friends Academy in 1963 in Greenleaf, Idaho. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandra Fuller. They raised four daughters,

Andrea Fuller, Joy Fuller, Sonya Kassen (Fuller), and the late Evie Fuller.

Brian loved music and had a beautiful tenor voice. He was licensed and sold real estate in Washington for 40 years and was a certified real estate appraiser for 12 years. He loved farm life and farm animals, especially milk cows. He also designed and built his family homes and created subdivisions. He loved the Lord and his family and friends and will be missed by many.

Brian and his family were members of Spokane Friends Church during the 1980's



Alternatives to Violence Project Report by Jon Maroni

On Sunday August 19th we were fortunate enough to be joined by two representatives from the Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) to share about their work. Their mission is to build an international movement of creative conflict resolution built on affirmation, respect for all, community, cooperation and trust. Founded on Quaker principles of non violence, AVP hosts long (3 day) and short (3-4) hour transformational workshops. You can read about their work on their website www.avpusa.org and discern with us as we plan to host a short workshop for our Spokane Friends community.