

SPOKANEWORD

September
2021



Okay, Boomer, It's Time to Fund Reparations

by Zona Douthit

I had a paternal great-great-something grandfather in the eighteenth century who bequeathed his slaves to his wife in his will, and a beloved maternal grandfather who belonged to the Klan in Oklahoma and might have even participated in bombings during the Tulsa race massacre in 1921. I have considered myself “not racist” for many years, but then I am privileged not to have to think about racism all the time. Four hundred years of slavery and structural racism are a burden that all White Americans must acknowledge and affirmatively seek to repair, but the sticky question is how to pay for those reparations.

Personally, I have long struggled with the concept of reparations for slavery and racism. How much easier it might have been to appease my White conscience if each slave had actually received 40 acres and a mule. Then my White conscience might be able to get away with thinking: They had a chance to be just like us, or what more do they want?, or my White conscience’s personal favorite: My ancestors came here with nothing. Of course, those justifications cover when they come face to face with the monster that is structural racism.

Ibram X. Kendi, director and founder of the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, historian, and author of the mind-bending bestseller *How to Be an Antiracist* urges his readers, Black and White, to be antiracist, rather than non-racist. “[As with ‘not racist,’ the color-blind individual, by ostensibly failing to see race, fails to see racism and falls into racist passivity.”

“An antiracist is someone who is supporting antiracist policy by their actions or expressing an antiracist idea.” Kendi says you have to work at being an antiracist like you have to work at overcoming an addiction. It is not enough to say, “I am not racist,” or “I don’t care what color someone’s skin is.”

I truly believe in my heart that I harbor no ill will toward anyone based on their race or country of origin, but Kendi has made me realize that what I believe is not enough. I have to do something about racism. Passivity feeds racism. Antiracism is my personal responsibility, and it is time to do something radical.

We have all been parties to racial inequality—even nice, liberal people. Racist policies and laws have explicitly and implicitly deprived Black people of the opportunity to build wealth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Black Americans’ household income is 30 percent less than that of White, non-Hispanic households. The typical White family has a net worth ten times greater than a typical Black family.

Economists Darrick Hamilton and William A. Darity Jr. wrote in an article for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis *Review*: “[W]ealth is iterative: It provides people with the necessary initial capital to purchase an appreciating asset, which in turn generates more and more wealth, and can be passed from one generation to the next.”

They found that race is a stronger prediction of wealth than class. Shockingly, they cite numerous academic studies, going all the way back to Milton Friedman in 1957, that conclude this disparity is due to differences in intelligence and diligence among the races. How could academic journals print articles like that? The answer is easy: structural racism. For example, they cite a 2015 study that attributed the wealth gap to Blacks’ and Latinos’ investing in “low-return” assets like housing instead of “a more diverse asset portfolio.” Did the author of that study mean to say that poor people were better off investing in the stock market than putting a roof over the heads of their families?

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Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com

spokanefriends@gmail.com



Sunday Schedule

**DURING
COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS**

Morning Worship

10:00 am

At Meeting House

And Via Zoom

See Website For Link

(continued from last page)

Hamilton and Darity conclude: [I]nheritance, bequest, and in vivo transfer account for more of the racial wealth gap than **any other behavioral, demographic, or socioeconomic indicator**. Access to this non-merit-based seed money is not based on some action or inaction on the part of the individual, but rather the familial position into which they are born.

Furthermore, Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, defines White privilege as “an invisible package of unearned assets.” Inherited assets are a conspicuous example of “unearned assets.” History proves that Whites have overwhelmingly benefited from inherited assets. By 2030, some experts have calculated that the baby-boomer generation might leave their millennial heirs as much as \$68 trillion. Even if that estimate is wrong by half, it will represent one of the greatest wealth transfers ever. However, that flood of wealth will not be distributed equally. Most of the wealth transfer will go from the top tier to their well-educated, successful, adult offspring.

My radical proposal to address reparations for slavery and discrimination is to leave most or all of your estate to organizations that directly promote racial equality and justice rather than to your well-educated, successful, adult offspring.

I devoted 18 years to raising my son which resulted in his being the healthy, intelligent, educated, and happy man he is today. I am confident I have done the best I could for him. The money in my estate will not be life-altering for him; it would be excess wealth. However, if I give most of my estate to organizations that directly benefit Black people and causes, my money could substantially change many lives. If thousands and thousands of us did it, reparations would happen without the need for public debate or a political movement or a congressional vote. It would be a matter of personal responsibility.

So where should you leave your money? My advice is to pick an area of particular interest to you. For me, that is education and justice. I chose the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, where a \$50,000 bequest could allow a Black student to graduate from college with no debt, like my son did. I will also support the Innocence Project, which uses DNA to exonerate the unjustly convicted. Please note that, of the first 367 people freed by the Innocence Project, 61 percent were African American, who make up only 13 percent of the total U.S. population

There are many reputable organizations; I suggest you do your own research before choosing one. Or you might even know a Black family that might benefit from your legacy more than your heirs. If you would like to leave something for your grandchildren’s education, you can set up a trust that pays their education expenses until a certain age and then the residue to a Black cause. If you have a spouse or disabled child, you can put money in a lifetime trust with the residue going to a Black charity.

Many people would rather give to a qualified charity than to the government to avoid the inheritance tax. The inheritance tax of some states may be even greater than the federal rate of 40 per cent. You might consider giving your IRA or other qualified retirement plan to a Black charity. The charity pays no income tax on it, so the gift is worth more. This simple change does not require a lawyer; just change your beneficiary designation form for the accounts. You also don’t need a lawyer to change the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Be sure to list the correct name and tax ID for the charity.

If you are fortunate enough to have a nest egg, by all means, use it to take care of yourself and enjoy the rewards of your hard work. If your family genuinely needs your legacy, take care of them, but for those of us who have raised successful children, consider leaving that nest egg to Black causes that work toward equity and justice, and give those who have been victims of structural racism some of the advantages your children receive

I never talked to my son when he was growing up about racism because racism was not a daily part of our privileged suburban life. I thought that I had done a good job—and I did—at raising a non-racist child. I now know that is not enough. I should have raised an **antiracist** one. The lasting legacy I hope I have given my son is that love is everything and that he has an obligation to help those less fortunate than he. When he was young and figured out that he was smarter than most people, I said to him, “God gave you those brains, and someday He is going to ask for something in return.” It was my first lesson to him about grace versus justice. The money I am leaving to help pay just reparations is part of my thanks to God for gracing me with a wonderful son.

So, okay, boomer, what are you willing to do to be antiracist? I read a suggestion in *Friends Journal* several years ago that, for most of us, our heirs would not miss 10 percent if we left it to a Quaker cause. But the radical, antiracist question to ask yourself is what difference would 50 percent, 75 percent, or 90 percent of my estate make in the lives of those who have been denied equal opportunity for 400 years?

Zona Douthit is a member of Providence (RI) Meeting and an attorney-at-law. This article is condensed from the Sept. 2020 issue of *Friends Journal*. **Copyright: Friends Journal, all rights reserved, link to www.friendsjournal.org/okay-boomer-its-time-to-fund-reparations/**

THE MYSTERY OF HUMAN FOIBLE

...an undercurrent of resolve
by A. Friend

In hazy days of summer past, wounded by regional fires, in a time when overwhelmed by excessive temperatures, can we not accept, a reckoning through a fog of disinformation, that our environment is a threat to our longevity? The environment threatens human health and comfort, calling for a coherent change in our thinking. We need to seek an escape from a dark corner of incompetence. Reasoned principles are a strong foundation, and also the building blocks of a successful republic.

Presently there's a deep fracture in American society, exposing ruptured concepts made divisive if not confusing ... presumably the toll of human foible.

As for freedom of speech we can assume a high price is required, but we must see with clarity the raw unbiased nature of our reality. Our beliefs are seriously tested by thinking structures derived from a variety of interests. These structures stimulate our feelings and hamper rational thinking — how we feel about this and that!

In the age of disinformation far-fetched ideas become bogus facts that affect our identity, a web of life-threatening foolery, unproven and far-fetched, out of context with reality, promoted by suspect motives.

We can't put an eraser to our indelible past, we can only hope at this juncture to expand our future possibilities. We live with our history which provides lessons from our gains and shortcomings. How much of ourselves do we want to offer in support of a fair and honest democratic system?

As Quakers, where meditation serves as a polestar to explore reason in the face of chaos, we need to challenge selfish and destructive techniques for social control. At this juncture we must learn the lessons of our country and try to encourage commonsense, with goals for communal good that favor national integrity!

For reference and a thoughtful caution, think of Orwell's 1984 dystopian warning about the dangers of mind control, using divisive falsehoods as the whip against reason, that unfortunately leave social scars in addition to ruining our environment.

"E-MAIL ME at spokanefriends@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Since last November we have printed a column by A. Friend, whose purpose was to represent the values of Spokane Friends (give or take a little hyperbole) using the essential belief structures of two surveys we have done in the past. The current "A. Friend" will not be writing this column anymore because of a time commitment to another large project which takes precedence.. The use of a pseudonym implies the voice of our community. We would love to continue this column, with various ones of you using the pen-name of A. Friend to write a column about some issue that inspires you or challenges you or outrages you and might engender discussion within the Newsletter's community. We only need one each month and we have some excellent writers in our community.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 22 August 2021



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 15 people were in attendance.

The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Maroni gave a good report. Still waiting to talk with Dave Hampton regarding Friends Foundation.

Elder's Report: Pam Emery gave the report. We welcomed our newest Elder, Kent Biel, to the meeting. We sent a thank you card and gift card to Chuck Salinas. Messages have been reviewed and new messages have been scheduled.

Stewards & Trustees Report: Kent Biel gave the report. Caritas has agreed to pay the extra share of their obligation regarding the carpet and painting. Will speak to the Elders about sending a letter to them. We want to thank Bill and Pam Emery for their work on the foyer and hallway.

Pillars Reports: **Serving the Community:** Jon Maroni said that the "See the Need" is delegated to this pillar. A book, "Welcoming the Stranger" is available about World Relief.

Sharing the Light: The book "The Quaker Way" will start on Sept. 9th with several facilitators, including Jon and Ruthie Tip-pin.

Congregational Care: There have been good responses to notes and letters written to people in the congregation.

New Business: The 501c3 application process has started with these 3 items

1. The fee is \$600.
2. Support by Kent Biel, Sue Keehnen, and Jon Maroni
3. ByLaws need to be sent with the application

A change in the Bylaws is that the Pastor is not on the Nominating Committee. Also this year we changed a few of the officer positions to one year but will be changed back to a 3,2,1 year rotation.

It was brought to our attention by Bob Wiese that we are out of compliance with insurance codes in our meeting room regarding handicap access. This will be sent to the Elders..

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

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

HOWARD D. MARTINSON, JR.

1949 - 2021

Howard D. Martinson, Jr. passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, after a full and joyful life. When diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2010 he became acutely aware of the preciousness of each day. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2020.

Howard was born in 1949 and grew up in Spokane, graduated from Ferris High School, and received his B.A. from Washington State University, where he was in ROTC. He and his wife Paula Owens lived in California and Seattle before moving with their son Peter to Coeur d'Alene in 1978, where daughter Amy was born.

Howard earned an MBA at City University. He started Coeur d'Alene Telecom (initially Coeur d'Alene Wireless) and sold cell phones while they were still largely unknown. He was proud of his work as Executive Director of Fresh Start, writing grants to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness. His lifelong service included the County Waterways Board, the Chamber of Commerce Board and Commodores, the Panhandle and Coeur d'Alene Kiwanis, 1st Presbyterian Church, and many more service and social organizations.

We knew Howard through his wife Amber Joplin, who is a member of Spokane Friends Church and who survives him, and his daughter Amy Cross who married Ken Peacock, also a member. He enjoyed boating with the Spokane Yacht Club, biking, travel, especially cruises, and cheering on the North Idaho College Cardinals, the Cougs, and the Gonzaga Bulldogs. Howard and Amber became snowbirds, RV-ing to Arizona in winter, and they enjoyed traveling overseas and taking many other road trips and cruises during the last years of his life.

Please visit Howard's online guestbook at www.yatesfuneralhomes.com for the complete obituary. A Celebration of Life will occur on September 24 at 1st Presbyterian Church in Coeur d'Alene.



And speaking of reparations . . . **Poet, Activist Dorothy Parker's headstone unveiled**

was the headline of a story in last Wednesday's Spokesman-Review. Dorothy Parker died in 1967, but it was not until last year that her ashes found a final resting place. She on left her estate, along with the right to collect future royalties, to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whom she had never met. When King was assassinated, her estate transferred to the NAACP, which laid her ashes to rest in a garden outside its Baltimore headquarters in 1988.



You might be surprised . . .

. . . . to learn of or recall some of the wonderful speakers whose messages have been blessed us during Sunday worship at Spokane Friends Meeting since January of this year. So here is your visual reminder (in no particular order; also we did not have pictures of all speakers.)



Deborah Suess
Former interim pastor



John Kinney
Math, science teacher



Tim Jackson
Chaplain, Deborah's husband



Leann Williams
Friends in Common, C de 'A



Laurie Kieffaber
Teacher, Preacher, Caregiver



Nick Block
Former SFC Pastor



Colin Saxton
Back with FUM again



Tina Weaver
Mental Health Counsellor



Sarah Scott
Pursuing pastoral minis



Lacy Nguyen
Poet, housing activist



Johan Maurer
Retired Teacher in Russia



Jon Maroni
Marketer, Real Estate



Ruthie Tippin
Retired Quaker Pastor

WORLD RELIEF ASKS FOR HELP

Temporary housing

New arrivals often need temporary places to stay while we find a more permanent housing solution. If you or someone you know has a space for temporary, separate housing for refugees, please email us at wrspokane.org or call us at 509-484-9829.

Donations needed

Mattresses	Box springs
Bed Frames	Toys
Coffee tables	Chair Sets
Cutlery	Pots and pans
Plates	Household cleaning items

Items should be in good condition, without stains. Items can be delivered to our office address. For pickup, please send us a message. Thank you for your support.

If a group is considering helping World Relief, they are asked to read *Welcoming the Stranger* by Matthew Soering and Jenny Yang to better understand how to be welcoming to other cultures.

The Gideons Are Coming!

The Gideons are Coming!

On Tuesday, September 7, Spokane Friends will be serving a ham dinner to the Gideons. The proceeds will go to our "See the Need" program. A signup sheet is in the hospitality area for those who would like to volunteer to help. The food is mostly spoken for, but there are several other jobs still open.



September Sunday Morning Schedule

September 5	Lois Kieffaber
September 12	Lois Kieffaber
September 19	Tracy Richards
September 26	Johan Maurer
October 3	Sarah Scott

\$ Financial Report \$

Giving through July 2021:	\$25,508.86
Expenses through July 2021:	\$32,353.15
Difference:	-\$6,844.29

Quaker News

- ⇒ **World Quaker Day** will take place on Sunday 3rd October 2021 and we are invited to save the date by Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) The theme this year is Resilience and Hope: drawing strength from our Quaker faith. See page for further information.
- ⇒ **Camas Friends Church** (church home of John and Rutie Tippin and also Johan and Judy Maurer) embraced and approved the following "Greening Minute, which is now on their website:
"As a Greening Meeting, we seek to express our love for Creator by showing reverence for Mother Earth and all of Creation: soil, elements, water, air, wind, creatures, and humans. Toward this end, we will seek a deeper understanding of our relationship with Creation and commit to steward Mother Earth's resources more justly and sustainably. We will promote action through personal, tiny radical steps, as well as by joining with neighbors in local, state, national and international communities taking big steps, speaking out for change. A commitment to these steps will lead us to live in harmony with our neighbors and all Creation, and demonstrate our love for The Divine."
- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends Fall Quarterly Gathering** will be on Saturday, October 23. We are planning a hybrid gathering in October: an in-person gathering with Zoom options. This, of course, depends upon the status of the pandemic at that time. Some workshops may be in person and some may be on Zoom.
- ⇒ **Quaker Voice on Washington Public Policy** is looking for a part-time Legislative Advocate and Policy Analyst (lobbyist) for the 2022 legislative session in Olympia. This position will require approximately 90 hours a month during session (January through April) and 20-30 hours a month before and after session (starting October 1, 2021). Compensation is \$25-30/hour, depending on experience. Deadline for application is August 15, 2021. Go to www.quakervoicewa.org/ for more information.
- ⇒ **The Friends Committee on National Legislation** seeks a Spirit-led, seasoned, and strategic Quaker leader who brings vision, inspiration, and executive experience to lead the biggest faith-based lobbying organization in Washington, DC. More information can be found at www.fcnl.org/gsearch. Applications and nominations may be emailed to gsearch@fcnl.org.
- ⇒ **Evangelical Friends Mission** is excited to announce that Stan Leach has been appointed the new Executive Director of EFM! If you would like to learn more about this appointment, you can read the full announcement here: <https://friendsmission.com/news/special-announcement/>.

