

SPOKANEWORD

July
2025



Spokane Friends

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Following the teachings of the Living Christ, we are an open, loving, and affirming community. We believe that God's Light is inherent within all people. There are no exceptions.

Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness begins at 8:45 a.m. or when first person sits down

Gathering worship 10:00 a.m.

In-Person and Via Zoom

See Website For Link

First Sunday of the Month
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

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

Last Sunday of the Month
Book Club at rise of worship

ALIENS

by John Kinney

From 1978 to 1980 I taught at Jesuit High School in Portland. At that time the government expedited the immigration of Laotian refugees to the US because they had assisted the during the Vietnam war. How times change. Along with 4 other couples we sponsored a Laotian family, the Phetsomphus. It was an experience. We had to find housing, furniture, dishes, cookware, job for the dad, assist in enrolling the children in school, schedule dental appointments, etc. One vivid memory is the father, Paul's, birthday. We took Paul out for pizza, played pool and had a few beers. It was late when we dropped him off at his house. Paul's wife insisted that we come inside. She had prepared several Laotian delicacies. There were three of us men left, and Paul pulled out a twelve pack of beer, opened every bottle and placed 4 in front of each of us and insisted that we enjoy his hospitality. Must have been a cultural nod to being generous. Needless to say, I did not feel good the next day. At school it was "Open your book to page 37, read the chapter, answer questions 1-20 and don't bother me."

In 2006 a high school student named Juan Castillo moved to Metaline Falls from Wisconsin with the family of his girlfriend. Things fell apart and he became homeless, so we took him in. He is a fine young man, and we enjoyed hosting him. One night he went out riding around with some friends. Later one of the friends knocked on the door and said a county deputy had arrested Juan and he was in jail in Newport. Here is what happened. When Juan lived with the other family they took Juan fishing by the river. A game department official was crossing the bridge, saw them fishing, went over and found out Juan did not have a license. I have lived here for 66 years, fish, and I have never even seen a game warden. Talk about bad luck. In a way, not Juan's fault. He did not know he needed a license. Juan got a citation and several letters in the mail telling him to pay the fine. His host told him to ignore them so consequently there was a warrant out for his arrest. More bad luck.

Most of the time there is zero traffic here, so I have done creeping stops thousands of times and never been caught. When he was riding around with friends, the driver ran a stop sign, deputy pulled them over, asked their names, gave the driver a warning and arrested Juan because of the outstanding warrant. I went to Newport and bailed Juan out. He was really shaken up and afraid. At the court date the judge was amazing. He told Juan he hoped he had learned his lesson; the bail covered the fine, case closed. Juan was a senior and in one class they investigate possible careers, colleges, and fill out the FASFA government financial aid form. The counselor informed me that Juan couldn't fill out the form because, surprise, he was undocumented. His mother brought him here as a child and missed the Child Citizenship Act program deadline whereby Juan could have gotten citizenship. Juan was the first in his family to graduate from high school, a major accomplishment on Juan's part.

Twelve years ago, our son, Joseph, was going to graduate school in Minneapolis. We knew that Juan was in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, about 2 hours away. We made the drive to visit him. Juan was working hard at a dairy and doing well. Since then, we know he has gotten married and has a child. Right now, he has to be worried about being deported.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

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(continued from page 1) Peter Maurin was the inspiration for Dorothy Day to start the Catholic Worker movement. The two New York City houses of hospitality and soup kitchens they established in the 1930's are still there. There is a Catholic Worker group in Los Angeles, and we zoom their Wednesday evening service. Peter Maurin wrote a series of short pithy essays compiled into a book called "Easy Essays." Here is one that is difficult to hear.

Easy Essay, Peter Maurin, "Feeding the Poor -- At a Sacrifice"

In the first centuries

of Christianity

the hungry were fed

at a personal sacrifice,

the naked were clothed

at a personal sacrifice,

the homeless were sheltered

at a personal sacrifice.

And because the poor

were fed, clothed and sheltered

at a personal sacrifice,

the pagans used to say

about the Christians

"See how they love each other."

In our own day

the poor are no longer

fed, clothed and sheltered

at a personal sacrifice,

but at the expense

of the taxpayers.

And because the poor

are no longer

fed, clothed and sheltered,

the pagans say about the Christians

"See how they pass the buck."

OUCH! Back off, Maurin. I do stuff to help the poor. I am sure you do too. Is it enough? Hmm? Maurin does have a point. King is saying that when it comes to social issues we need to hold the government's feet to the fire. Maurin is saying we are personally responsible for the care of the needy and can't leave it up to the government. It is both.

My topic is a hotly contested issue, immigration. I believe it will be beneficial to be reminded of what Scripture says. Lest you think my message is political I will only quote Scripture. Lest you think my message is political, care of the poor, needy and immigrant is not a partisan issue. It is a Christian one. What the passages may or may not lead you to do on a personal level is between you and the Light. How the passages may or may not lead you to react to governmental policy is between you and the Light. The point is to be informed by Scripture. Let me repeat. The point is to be informed by Scripture. It is easy to get caught up in the storm of arguments and forget the fundamentals. I suggest that you read each Scripture three times and pause after each reading.

First, one bit of biblical term clarification. The word "immigrant," is sometimes translated in Scripture as "sojourner," "stranger," "foreigner," or "alien."

From here on out it is all Scripture

Exodus 23:9: "You must not oppress foreigners. You know what it's like to be a foreigner, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt."

Leviticus 19:33-34: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Deuteronomy 10:17-19: "The LORD your God . . . loves the immigrant, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are immigrants, for you yourselves were immigrants in Egypt."

Deuteronomy 14:29: "The immigrant . . . within your towns shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you."

Deuteronomy 24:17: "You shall not pervert the justice due to the immigrant."

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MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS SUMMARY OF MINUTES

June 22, 2025



The meeting started with prayer by LaVerne Biel. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report: The deficit for May was over \$2,000 and for the year to date, almost \$8,000. A major expense was keeping the two old boilers in repair, and they need to be replaced. We are hoping to install mini-splits to cover both heating and cooling the Building at an estimated cost of \$32,000. It is clear that if we want to continue caring for our Building, we must raise more money, because at present we continue to deplete our savings account month after month.

LaVerne Biel presented a new free fund-raising software called Zeffy which serves only non-profit organizations and does not charge a percentage of each donation which comes in (as does Tithely, our current software). We plan to phase out Tithely and replace it with Zeffy, which will save some money.

At our request Lyn Lindell visited our Meeting to tell us more about how we could help her assist a Sudanese refugee family. The family includes a single mom, Sophia, and four daughters, aged 2, 4, 6, and 8 years old. They need help with transportation for shopping, medical visits, etc.; handy-man jobs within their residence, such as moving heavy furniture and putting up curtains; and help with budgeting and English language skills. Several people expressed interest; they have been asked to call the office, so a list of people, skills, and availability can be given to Lyn and this family.

Elders Report: Diana Dean, our Office Administrator, has asked for a three-hour reduction of her office hours for the summer. She will work from 10 am -- 4 pm on Wednesdays and 12:30 – 2:30 pm on Fridays.

It is the Elders' responsibility to nominate members of the Nominating Committee for the Meeting's approval. They have nominated the following people to serve on this committee: Krista Maroni, Linda Pierce, and Bob Wiese. The Clerk asked us to consider these names thoughtfully for the coming month; they will be presented for approval at next month's Business Meeting.

Stewardship Report: Kent Biel reported that the workday at the church on the 21st of May was very helpful, noting that there was a good start to updating the men's basement bathroom. Some issues were identified and they will be addressed.

There was further discussion about our financial problems and ways we might reduce expenses, increase giving, and attract new members. Walter Simon has been working on making the Meeting more publicly known within the community.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Krista Maroni.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Wiese, Recording Secretary

NEIGHBORING NON-PROFITS SHARE SPACE

Many small churches like ours have lost members during the COVID years and are no longer able to maintain the buildings they own. Two of the Meetings in Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting have recently had to sell their buildings, but they continue to meet together in a smaller rented space. One church used part of the sale money for a trust fund that will guarantee their ability to continue renting a meeting space. The big win, they said, is that they are now able to give away the rest of the money from the sale in amounts that can really help others in need. They are finding joy in being able to decide which needs they can now support.



In our own neighborhood Caritas has moved to a new location with the help of Mark Peterson and the KXLY Extreme Team. They are now at 4718 N. Ash Street (across from Value Village) in the building that formerly housed Sunrise Church of Christ. Watch for their upcoming Open House. But did you know that Sunrise Church of Christ has now merged with Northside Church of Christ, the church whose property Caritas moved to from Spokane Friends? These two congregations have merged to become City Lights and will meet in the former Northside building. This allows the former Sunrise Building to host TWO non-profits. The other one is The Next Chapter, which gives household items to formerly homeless folks that now have a roof over their heads. What a wonderful example of caring for neighbors in need. Overheard on Spokane streets (maybe): "See how they love one another."

(continued from page 2)

Deuteronomy 27:19: "Cursed be anyone who withholds the justice due to the immigrant. . . . Then all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

Jeremiah 7:6: "Do not oppress the immigrant."

Jeremiah 22:3: "This is what the LORD says: 'Do what is just and right. . . . Do no wrong or violence to the immigrant.'"

Ezekiel 22:4, 7: "You have brought your judgment days near and have come to your years of punishment because . . . the foreign resident is exploited within you."

Zechariah 7:10-11: "This is what the LORD Almighty says: Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the . . . immigrant."

Malachi 3:15: "'I will come to you in judgment. I will be quick to testify against those . . . who refuse to help the immigrant and in this way show they do not fear me,' says the LORD who rules over all."

Matt 25:35-36: I was a stranger, and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me.

John Kinney and his wife Erin have been part of our community for a number of years. They live in Metaline and often attend on Zoom, but once a month they travel to Spokane so John can bring us an in-person message. John is a semi-retired math/science teacher who presently teaches precalculus and operates the wastewater treatment plant. The message above was given during Sunday worship at Spokane Friends on May 4, 2025.



Out and About with Spokane Quakers



Spotted at the **downtown Onion restaurant** June 17th were Jon and Ruthie Tippin, passing through on their way to visit son Seth and family in Wyoming. They were joined by current Meeting members, Kent and LaVerne Biel, Pam Emery, and Lois Kieffaber, along with other local Quakers Norm and Terri James, Jeff and Maureen O'Connor, and Bob and Linda Cram, past members of our Meeting.

Spokane Friends Leann Williams and Lois Kieffaber attended the annual sessions of **Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends** at Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, Oregon June 25-27. Leann is a recorded Minister within this Yearly Meeting; Lois was just along for the ride. This year's theme was "Centered in Love" and Matt Boswell, pastor at Camas Friends, was the main speaker.

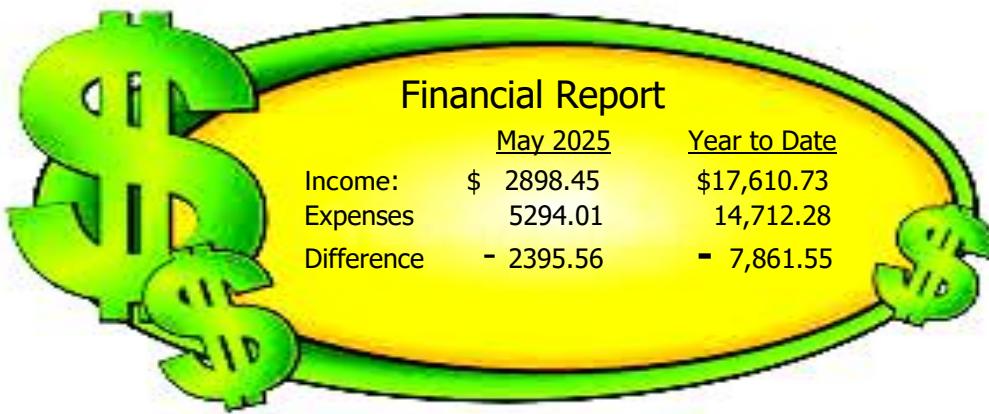
The newly formed **Eastern Washington FCNL Advocacy Group**, which includes both programmed and unprogrammed friends, meets monthly at **Brick West Brewing** after joining the Zoom call from National Headquarters which happens on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm ET (5 pm for us). Contact Alan Binnie for more information.

That same Advocacy Group commissioned six members to visit **Sen. Patty Murray's office** in May to ask her to support humanitarian aid to Gaza and encourage other Senators to do the same. They were warmly received by Murray's Eastern WA Director Lictett Garbe, who encouraged advocates to continue to be loud and keep up the pressure. In the group photo to the right, you will see Alan Binnie and Claire Cushman.



World Refugee Day was celebrated on June 21, and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) provided a team of trained peacekeepers, including Lois Kieffaber, in case it was raided by unwanted visitors. Originally scheduled for Lewis and Clark High School, the venue was changed at the last minute to another location to avoid disruptions by unwelcome visitors.

Yard signs saying "**Quakers welcome migrants with dignity**" were made available to local Quakers via Jonas Cox, who serves in the national structure of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). There are still a couple left; if you want one delivered to you, contact the church Office.



The large shortfall this month is partly due to work required to keep our two old boilers running during the winter.

Thank you for giving to Spokane Friends!

YOU CAN GIVE TO SPOKANE FRIENDS in many ways:

- ◆ Click the Donate button on your weekly email with worship information for Sunday or
- ◆ Go to website, Spokanefriends.org, and click the Donate tab, or
- ◆ Drop checks or cash into the offering plate at the back of the meeting room, or
- ◆ Make an automatic donation through your bank's free Bill Pay service — you choose the amount and how often.

Buy 4th of July Apple Pie!

Fundraiser for Spokane Friends Meeting

Starts at 9 AM Friday, July 4th

1612 W Dalke Ave

First come, first served!

WE'RE ON A MISSION FROM GOD

Only \$20 for a homemade pie

Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your ~~Engines~~ Ovens

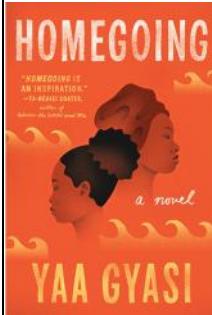
When we saw our recent financial reports, Spokane Friends became aware that our savings are being depleted month after month and our finances are in a state of desolation. In the winter, our boilers which provide heat are old and often require repairing; in the summer as the weather gets hotter and hotter, we are more aware of our need for air-conditioning. So we are trying hard to find ways to raise money to equip our building with mini-splits to provide both heating and air-conditioning.

So ... our first fundraising event of the year occurred on the Fourth of July when we sponsored a pie sale. This event -- and the Blues Brothers theme -- was the clever creation of Lacy Winder. Many pies were made (around 40) and the sale was advertised using an on-line QR-code for ordering along with signs on the sidewalks. I'm hungry again just remembering it.

P.S. All the pies were sold, netting the HVAC fund a startup amount of over \$900. Thank you to all who made pies, bought pies, and ate pies!

P.P.S. The accompanying sale of Sue Keehnen's hand-knitted washcloths also brought in some money.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB CHOICE



Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi begins with two half-sisters who are both impacted by the slave trade and colonialism but in different ways. They are born into different villages in Ghana in the 1700's. Effia stays in Ghana and becomes a wealthy slave trader's wife; Esi is sold into slavery and shipped off to America where her children and grandchildren will be raised in slavery. The novel follows the lives of their descendants, from Ghana's beaches to the plantations of Mississippi, the American Civil War to the jazz clubs and dope houses of twentieth-century Harlem, right up through the present day—offering an essential examination of power and privilege, memory and legacy. While Effia's family benefits from the wealth brought by colonization and slavery, Esi's family suffers from it. **Homegoing** shows how colonization and slavery indubitably bring harm to everyone involved.

WE ARE READING THIS BOOK DURING THE SUMMER AND WILL DISCUSS IT AFTER WORSHIP ON AUGUST 10 AT THE MEETING HOUSE AND VIA ZOOM.

Errata: In the June issue, the Financial Report's Year-to-Date income was incorrectly listed. It should have been \$14,712.28 (the number appearing as YTD expenses). The YTD expenses were - \$5555.07 (not shown). However, the YTD difference reported was correct.

Poet's Corner

So many deaths in our “family” recently . . . this poem is dedicated to those grieving the loss of beloved ones.

One Art

by Elizabeth Bishop

The art of losing isn't hard to master;
so many things seem filled with the intent
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

Lose something every day. Accept the fluster
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent,
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

Then practice losing farther, losing faster;
places, and names, and where it was you meant
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.

I lost my mother's watch. And look! My last, or
next-to-last, of three loved houses went,
The art of losing isn't hard to master.

I lost two cities, lovely ones, And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent,
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.

—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture
I love) I shan't have lied. It's evident
the art of losing's not too hard to master
though it may look like (*Write it!*) like disaster.

From The Art of Losing; Poems of Grief and Healing, Kevin Young, ed., Bloomsbury USA, 2010.

Quaker Connections

- ⇒ This week a new episode from Thee Quaker Podcast brings a story of spiritual courage to us. **The “Quakers vs. ICE” Lawsuit**“ details how a group of Quakers filed a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security when the federal government rescinded a decades-old policy protecting houses of worship from immigration raids. Listen to this podcast at <https://quakerpodcast.com/the-quakers-vs-ice-lawsuit/> **Thee Quaker Podcast** is an outgrowth from the QuakerSpeak video project.
- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** will hold Annual Sessions on July 9-13, 2024 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. Walter Simon plans to represent Spokane Friends there.
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting's Annual Sessions** will be held at George Fox University, July 20-23, 2025. The theme is “Hope” and the main speaker is Dr. David Williams from Malone University.
- ⇒ **Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM)** is advertising for an Administrative Assistant position. It is remote and part-time (20 hr/wk) and will involve managing a data base. Read the complete job description at <https://friendsmission.com/>



It's a Party ...

. . . A letter-writing party, that is.

They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger... (Lam. 4:9)

Israel is intentionally starving the people of Gaza as a weapon of war with the backing of our government. In response to this atrocity, Alan and Kristine Binne will be hosting a gathering of the East Washington Friends National Committee on Legislation Advocacy Team at their home to write letters to our Members of Congress on **Sunday, July 13**, at 3:00 pm. Since words alone cannot convey the ongoing misery, letters will include disturbing images of a few of the many, many malnourished children who are victims of this policy. If you are interested in writing letters with us and sharing in a potluck, or if you have questions, please contact Alan at 509-720-8576 by July 6th.

