

# SPOKANEWORD

Spring  
2026



Spokane Friends  
1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205  
(509) 327-7852

[www.spokanefriends.org](http://www.spokanefriends.org)  
[spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:spokanefriends@gmail.com)

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

INUUC Worship Service 11:30 am

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

## THE WISE PUT DOWN THEIR STONES

by Jon Maroni

There is something deeply human about holding a stone.

Not just the physical kind, but the inward ones: judgment, resentment, quiet condemnation, the subtle belief that we see more clearly than someone else. Stones are not always visible, but they are heavy. And if we are honest, we have all carried them.

In John 8:1–11, we meet a crowd holding stones and a woman taken in adultery. But we also meet Christ, who invites them and us to lay the stones down.

And as we reflect on this passage, we hear an echo that resonates deeply with the Quaker tradition: that there is **that of God in everyone**, and that the **Inner Light** exposes both our sin and our capacity for grace.

Let us step into the scene.

Jesus is teaching in the temple courts when the scribes and Pharisees interrupt Him. They drag a woman into the center; a woman caught in adultery. She is not treated as a person, but as a problem.

They say, "Teacher, the Law of Moses commands us to stone such women. What do you say?" They are not seeking truth; they are seeking justification for violence.

[I'm going to pause and point out something that always bothered me about this story: where is the dude? A woman caught in the act of adultery - we assume that she was caught with someone, but they are let off scot free? ]

But Jesus does something unexpected. He bends down and writes on the ground. From a Quaker standpoint, we might recognize this moment as a kind of holy pause, a refusal to react out of urgency, and instead a turning inward, a listening. Before speaking, Jesus creates space. Silence. Stillness.

And then He says "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." And suddenly, the noise quiets. One by one, they walk away, reminding us of the power in Quaker silence, the power to change, the power to save.

### 1. The Wise Turn to the Inner Light

When Jesus speaks, He does not argue the law. He speaks to the conscience. He invites each person to look inward. This is deeply aligned with the Quaker understanding that truth is not only proclaimed outwardly, but revealed inwardly through the Inner Light, the presence of Christ within, illuminating what is true.

The accusers came focused on her sin. But Jesus redirects them to their own hearts. And in that moment of inward examination, something shifts. They begin to see themselves clearly. The stones become heavier. And they let them fall.

The wise are those who listen to that inward light. . . who pause before reacting. . . who examine their own lives before judging another. . . who trust that the Light will reveal not only the faults of others but their own need for grace. It isn't comfortable to look within, but it is important.

### 2. The Wise Choose Peace Over Punishment

Quakers have long been known as a peace tradition, not just in refusing war, but in rejecting violence in all forms, including the violence of condemnation. (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) And make no mistake: what is happening in this story is a form of communal violence. It is public shaming. Moral outrage. Collective judgment. It is the kind of energy that still exists today in our conversations, our communities, even our churches.

But Jesus disrupts that cycle. He refuses to participate in a system that dehumanizes. Instead, He embodies what we all believe, that the Light is in all people, and he asks them to look within themselves and to access that light. The commitment to see every person as worthy of dignity because they bear the image of God.

To throw a stone is to deny that truth. To put it down is to affirm it. They choose peace because love is more powerful than condemnation.

### **3. The Wise Practice Compassion Rooted in Equality**

One of the core Quaker testimonies is equality, the belief that every person carries the Light of Christ within them. That means this woman is not disposable. It also means the accusers, though self-righteous, are not beyond transformation. Jesus treats the woman not as a category, but as a person.

After everyone leaves, He speaks directly to her: “Where are they? Has no one condemned you?” For the first time in this story, she has a voice. She says, “No one, sir.” And Jesus responds, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and leave your life of sin.”

This is compassion without compromise. He does not excuse her actions, but He restores her dignity. He speaks to the Light within her, the part of her that can still choose a new path. And this is where Quaker theology deepens our understanding: We do not extend grace because people deserve it. We extend grace because God’s Light is still present in them, even when it is dimmed. The wise see that Light and respond to it.

### **4. The Wise Embrace Silence Before Action**

Notice again how this story unfolds. Before Jesus speaks, He kneels. Before he answers, he writes. Before the crowd disperses, there is silence. This is not incidental. In the Quaker tradition, silence is not empty, it is expectant. It is a posture of listening for God’s voice beneath the noise of our own impulses.

How often do we pick up stones too quickly? How often do we react without reflection? The wise resist that urgency. They wait. They listen. They allow space for the Spirit to speak. And often, in that silence, the desire to condemn begins to loosen its grip.

What if putting down our stones begins not with a dramatic decision—but with a quiet pause? A moment of inward listening? A willingness to let God interrupt our certainty?

### **5. The Wisest One Saw the Light in Everyone**

Here is the heart of the story: The only person who had the right to throw a stone... chose not to. Jesus, who was without sin, did not condemn. Instead, He extended mercy.

Why? Because He saw what others could not—or would not see. He saw beyond the woman’s sin to her humanity. He saw beyond the accusers’ righteousness to their need. He saw the Light in all of them. And he responded accordingly. This is the wisdom we are invited into. Not naïve acceptance. Not moral indifference. But a deeper vision, one shaped by grace.

### **Conclusion: Lay Down the Stone, Walk in the Light**

So today, we return to that simple, challenging truth: **The wise put down their stones.** They do so because they have looked inward and seen their own need for mercy. They do so because they have chosen peace over punishment. They do so because they recognize the Light of God in every person. They do so because they have learned to listen before they act. And they do so because they follow a Savior who chose mercy when He had every right to judge.

So, the question is not whether you have a stone. We all do. The question is: will you hold onto it... or will you lay it down? Will you act out of reaction... or out of reflection? Will you see only the fault in others... or the Light within them?

Friends, the invitation is clear: Walk in the Light. Listen deeply. Love boldly. And when you feel the weight of the stone in your hand, be wise enough to let it fall. Amen.

**Jonathan Maroni** and his wife Krista have been members of Spokane Friends for many years. Their adopted daughter Mila Rose joined them at birth. Jon is a financial educator and has served as our Treasurer and Assistant Clerk of Meeting for several terms. In his free time he enjoys playing video games, listening to money podcasts and spending time with his family. The message, edited lightly for space, was given to Spokane Friends during Sunday worship service on March 29, 2026.

## MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

April 19, 2026



The Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business was opened with prayer by Clerk Laverne Biel.

Minutes: The Minutes from the March meeting were not available due to computer problems, but it was recalled that at that meeting we approved a Minute opposing the recent military actions of our government. The Minute will be signed by the Recording Secretary; suggested recipients are Fig Tree, FaVS, and the Spokesman Review. We also recalled that the current contract with INUUC will be extended until June while we work out a new contract which takes into account their increased use of the building.

Elders' Report: The Elders reported that speakers for Sunday worship have been scheduled through June.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Maroni reported that the Meeting's financial condition continues to improve, which is an encouragement to him.

A few suggested changes in the financial printout have been made, including separating out contributions from the Quaker Worship Group and showing the status of the HVAC fund, which has now reached \$25,000. We wish to minute our appreciation to Lacy Winder, whose July Pie Sale success was the inspiration for us to keep working toward raising funds for a new HVAC system. He asked that we consider changing our local banking account from U.S. Bank to one with higher interest.

Stewards' Report: Kent Biel reported continued discussions on the new INUUC contract. The current suggestion is that the building usage fee should be increased from \$1500 to \$2000 monthly because of the increase in building usage. A two-year contract may be offered if asked for. The Stewards discussed hiring a cleaning service but decided not to do that at this time. We are all reminded to check that all lights are off and all doors are locked when we are the last to leave the building.

New HVAC System: The Stewards selected Bill's Heating and A/C for purchase and installation from the quotes obtained 9 months ago. Phase One will include the sanctuary, library, secretary's and pastor's offices and the fellowship hall downstairs, at a cost of \$30,000. Phase Two will include the west side of the building, both upstairs and downstairs, at a cost of \$13,000. The Meeting happily **approved moving forward with Phase One**, with an expectation of putting half down to start the work. At the completion of both phases, the old furnaces can be removed.

The meeting also approved changing our phone services from Central Link to TDS Fiber; installation of the new system is free and will save us approximately \$100/month. Regarding building use by outside groups, the stewards are trying to insure that the same charge is used for all; this will require new contracts. Lacy Winder will work on this. Bill Emery will contact Dud Bain, suggesting \$300 for their annual use of the parking lot. Don Hyslop spoke with our new neighbor to the north who has no objection to his spraying of our property. The washing of the windows will be hired out (Pam Emery will get three quotes) and the building will be power-washed when all the above is completed. The amplifier or the amplifier switch must be repaired or replaced by next Sunday to avoid more situations like this morning's worship service which encountered many problems with the sound system.

Finally, the Stewards have announced that our Spring Workday will be on May 9th, starting at 9 am. All three groups who call the building home will be asked to participate. Clerk LaVerne Biel reminded us that we must overcommunicate to make sure all groups know what is happening. The Stewards Report is attached.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Jon Maroni.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Kieffaber, Recording Secretary



**It's Happening!!** The installation of Phase One of the new HVAC system was installed April 27-28, and will be functional (we hope!) in the month of May. Let's call it a wonderful Mother's Day gift for all those mothers who baked in the summer and froze in the winter with our old heating system.

**All Church Work Day**

**Saturday, May 9th**

**9:00 am**

**Many hands make light work.**





## Out and About with Spokane Quakers

Lyn Lindell, a part of both Quaker communities who meet in our building, has been busy providing transportation for Sudanese refugee women for their weekly grocery shopping at local food banks. Five Sudanese women can fit in her van, but not along with all their groceries, so this involves usually only taking 3/4 time. Lyn is currently assisting one family by helping the father learn to drive, helping the mother with achieving a childcare job position, & helping a senior high son with reading practice. She also provides conversational opportunities for the women at the community center at Go-Go Heights Sunday evenings, teaching them conversational/survival English. Additional transportation is also needed for trips to doctors, dentists, and social services, which do not have regularly scheduled times. If you are interested with helping with any of these, or

other needs of these refugee families, please contact our Office, who will pass the information on to Lyn.

There was a Quaker presence at the No Kings protest at Clark Park on March 22, as shown in the photo to the left of Bill and Emalee Gillis with their signs.



On Sunday, April 19, Alan and Kristine Binney invited the Quaker Worship Group to their home for a worship service in the beautiful spring outdoors. It was followed by a potluck meal, which was also a celebration of Alan Binney's birthday. Happy Birthday, Alan!

On Sunday, May 3rd, the Quaker Worship Group has been invited to the Sandpoint Friends Meeting to participate in a Workshop with Tom Rawson from Orcas Island Worship Group who will share his passion for community building through story and song. Tom is a widely traveled peace activist and folksinger who leads group singing at Quaker gatherings and wherever folks want to raise their voices together. He has a banjo and he's not afraid to use it. This gathering is part of the program of North Pacific Yearly Meeting.

Quakers Bill and Emalee Gillis at a protest

Don and Lorna Hyslop and Lois Kieffaber represented Spokane Friends at the celebration of life celebration for Jean Edmonds (see memorial note below).



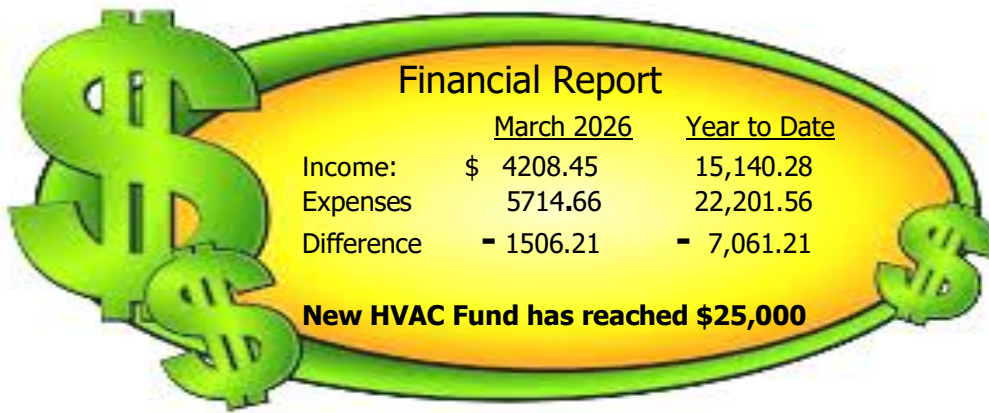
### JEAN ELIZABETH EDMONDS

1947–2026

Jean Fitzgerald was born in Portland in 1947, but lived most of her life in eastern Washington. She married Larry Edmonds in 1970 and they moved to eastern Washington in 1973. They were foster parents to two brothers, Lee Hitchcock and David Bonko, and in 1978 their daughter Ann was born. They lived on a farm in the Reardan community for their remaining years. Jean loved antiques and filled her home with them. She collected teacups, bringing them home from the many places she travelled to. She was in charge of the donkeys in the livestock barn at the Interstate Fair for many years. Although Jean struggled with lupus all her life, she managed the farm and worked unceasingly to ensure that all that came in contact with her knew they were valued and loved.

She and Larry became members of Spokane Friends in 1983, and she served in many capacities for almost two decades. They shared their farming lifestyle and animals with us, providing a donkey for a Christmas pageant or taking us for a hayride. Jean participated in drama at Spokane Friends and sang in the choir. Her life was dedicated to showing God's love and care to all around her.

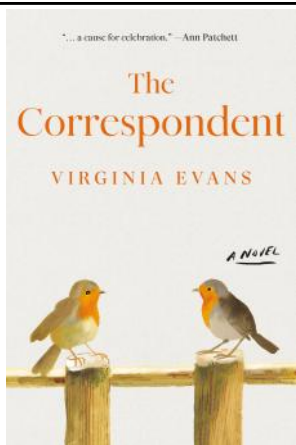
Jean is survived by Larry, her sister Sally Miller, her children, six grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren. A service to celebrate her life was held on April 25 at the Reardan Community Center.



**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.

**Thank you for giving to Spokane Friends!**

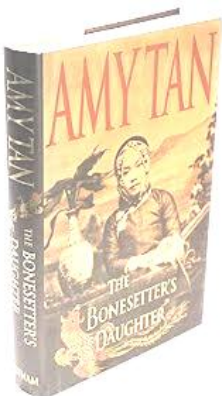


**APRIL BOOK OF THE MONTH**

Our Book Club is reading The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness. We will discuss this book at rise of worship on **Sunday, April 29 in the Library.**

**MAY BOOK OF THE MONTH**



For May, which is Asian-American and Pacific Islander month, we will be reading The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan. Set in contemporary San Francisco and in the Chinese village where Peking Man is being unearthed, The Bonesetter's Daughter is an excavation of the human spirit: the past, its deepest wounds, its most profound hopes. The story conjures the pain of broken dreams, the power of myths, and the strength of love that enables us to recover in memory what we have lost in grief. Over the course of one fog-shrouded year, between one season of falling stars and the next, mother and daughter find what they share in their bones through heredity, history, and inexpressible qualities of love. . We will discuss this book at rise of worship on **Sunday, May 31. in the Library.**

**CATCHING UP WITH CARITAS** Caritas has been averaging 40-45 households per day and enrolling several new families each day. An early evening distribution is planned on the third Wednesday of each month to accommodate working folks. This will require **5-6 new volunteers**. **Please contact Caritas to help.** Workshops in budgeting and financial planning will be offered by Horizon Credit Union. And the new building has a functional kitchen, so Caritas is looking for a person to demonstrate healthy cooking using products on their shelves with samples provided. Interested clients will receive the recipe and ingredients. This will require donations of needed cooking utensils. Watch our Bulletin Board for ways you can help.



## Spokane Friends Adopt Minute of Concern about Iraq War

Like many around the world, members and attenders of Spokane Friends Meeting are deeply disturbed by the US and Israeli attacks on Iran and by the US assassination of Iranian government leaders.

The recent military actions of our government on this and other occasions without concern for the requirements of the US Constitution and the provisions of International Law, including the Charter of the United Nations, require that we speak out.

We call upon our fellow citizens and our government officials to work for a prompt ceasefire, a return to respectful negotiations, compliance with the provisions of international law and our own Constitution, and observance of the moral demand embodied in all religions that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us.

In addition, we endorse the statement by the Friends Committee on National Legislation which can be found at <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2026-02/quaker-lobby-condemns-attacks-iran-and-calls-deescalation-diplomacy-and>, which we also encourage others to read and endorse.

Adopted this 15th day of March, 2026.

Spokane Friends Meeting  
Lois Kieffaber, Recording Clerk

**Note:** This minute was also adopted by the Spokane Quaker Worship Group

Office Administrator, Diana Davis

Thursday and Friday in Office  
10:30—2:30 pm, 509-327-7852

Monday thru Wednesday: Remote  
email Diana at

[diana.spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:diana.spokanefriends@gmail.com)

## Quaker Connections

- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** will hold Annual Sessions on July 22-26, 2026 at Evergreen College in Olympia Washington.
- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades Annual Sessions** will occur July 25-27 at Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, Oregon. Keep up with Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting at <https://www.scymfriends.org/events>
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions** will be held on July 19-22, 2026 at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon
- ⇒ **Evangelical Friends Mission** is accepting applications for a **new bookkeeper** to begin work by July 1st. This is a remote position; 25 hr/wk at \$25/hr. Contact [christy@friendsmission.com](mailto:christy@friendsmission.com) for the full job description.
- ⇒ **Friends Peace Teams** are offering advice for **conscious objectors to navigate the new draft** law that requires all 18-25 year old men to register beginning in December 2026. Quaker author Curt Torell will lead a session, available via Zoom at three different times: April 26, 1–3 pm; May 3, 1–3 pm; and May 11, 6–8 pm. For more information and to register for one of them, go to <https://friendspeacetteams.org/new-draft-law-passed/>
- ⇒ **Folk singer Tom Rawson** will be in Sandpoint Friends Meeting on Sunday, May 3rd, for a day of worship, fellowship, potluck, and singing (in the afternoon). This is supported by the Knitting Us Together program, a ministry of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. Contact Lois if you plan to attend
- ⇒ Friends Committee on National Legislations (FCNL) is offering an on-line session **Intro to Advocacy with FCNL** on May 20, 2026, 8-9 pm EDT. Register at <https://www.fcnl.org/events/may-intro-advocacy-fcni-1> [Some Spokane Friends already belong to an FCNL Advocacy Group.]

**Haiku**

by Lynne Osborne

Bird Travel Maps

The patterns of stars,  
the pull of magnetic fields -  
landmarks on the way.

Through Silent Skies

Songbirds migrate by  
night, silently composing  
a seasonal arc.

Mockingbird Repertoire

Some two hundred songs -  
Avian simulator.  
He mimics them all

Good Morning

Outside my window  
a cavalcade of drama -  
bird feeder frenzy.

Lynne is new to Spokane, having spent time in Ohio, Arizona and, most recently, California. She worked in university student services (scholarships, career counseling) for over 30 years. Both she and her husband Nathan, a birthright Quaker, have a son and a grandson, for whom they happily babysit. Lynne shares her beautiful soprano voice leading singing with the Music Team.

I am tired and hungry.  
I am a diamond dug up from the dirt of the westside streets.  
I am from two thousand feet above sea level, and I sleep beneath the stars.  
I am courage and drive rolled into a ball of blood sweat and tears.  
I am from the wrong side of the tracks but on the good side of karma.  
I am almost always on time but usually a day late and a dollar short.  
I am from the land of milk and honey where too many people go to bed hungry.  
I am down to earth about life but hope my future is a place up above.  
I am tired and hungry.

I am diligence and intuition.  
I am from back alleys, but I stay off of front street.  
I am persistence and resilience when I had nothing else to give.  
I am from food banks lines and a shopping cart residence.  
I am a man of faith who at times didn't even believe in myself.  
I am from dark shadows that some people never escape.  
I am a survivor, when so many were not.  
I am from cold dinners and trail mix and a warm heart.  
I am diligence and intuition.

I am understanding and resolve.  
I am ahead of my bills, hopelessness in the rearview mirror.  
I am from the cold fridge, warm oven, DINNERS ON THE TABLE!  
I am discernment and dialogue, my children are the ones trying to figure things out.  
I am a father and I am a student.  
I am from note books, pencils and sketch pads, and staying up past our bed time.  
I am big ideas and mountains of information, with little people to share with.  
I am from hope, dreams, and progress, now I can see where I am going.  
I am understanding and resolve.

Jonathan (Jon) Brown, grandson of Edith Pinto, grew up in Spokane Friends. He is attending Spokane Community College, now 9 months sober and an honor student..

**An Ecumenical Quaker Draws the Line**

by Nancy Thomas

Can't say I'm not open.  
I meditate with Mennonites,  
chant with Catholics,  
and belt out Baptist blues with the best of them.  
I danced at my daughter's wedding to a Nazarene.  
and once I even rolled the aisle with a Pentecostal.  
But with funerals, I reach my limit.  
When my time comes  
I will insist on my own homespun,  
tried and true Quaker version.  
I just wouldn't feel dead  
without it.

Secret Colors of God by Nancy Thomas, Barclay Press, 2005. Nancy is a Quaker who co-directs a master's program in intercultural studies in Bolivia.



# Office Mailbox

## Ask a Quaker

*How is it proper for a Quaker Meeting to have a Buddhist priest as a speaker during a Sunday Meeting for Worship?*  
*Dazed and Confused*

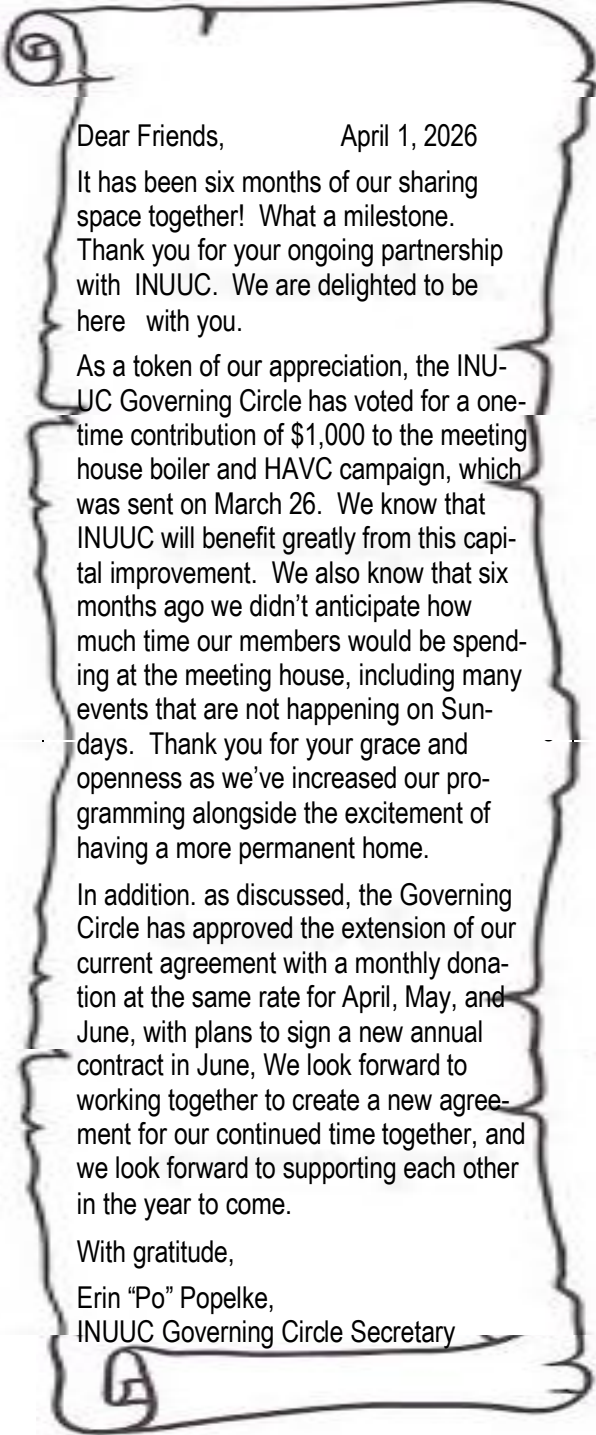
Dear Dazed and Confused, We at Spokane Friends strive to deepen our experience of the inner light of God. One avenue for doing this is listening to and learning from other faith traditions.

The Buddhist tradition emphasizes meditation, self-awareness, and letting go of attachments as a path toward transformation. In this way, both traditions begin with inner change as the foundation for a meaningful life.

Quakers and Buddhists alike value living out their beliefs in daily life. Spokane Friends listens for God's voice to guide our actions, while Buddhists follow a practiced path of teachings and disciplines that shape their way of being.

Recognizing both the similarities and differences between our traditions allows us to grow in understanding and humility. As George Fox wrote, "Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you."

*LaVerne Biel, Clerk of Meeting*



Dear Friends, April 1, 2026

It has been six months of our sharing space together! What a milestone. Thank you for your ongoing partnership with INUUC. We are delighted to be here with you.




As a token of our appreciation, the INUUC Governing Circle has voted for a one-time contribution of \$1,000 to the meeting house boiler and HAVC campaign, which was sent on March 26. We know that INUUC will benefit greatly from this capital improvement. We also know that six months ago we didn't anticipate how much time our members would be spending at the meeting house, including many events that are not happening on Sundays. Thank you for your grace and openness as we've increased our programming alongside the excitement of having a more permanent home.



In addition, as discussed, the Governing Circle has approved the extension of our current agreement with a monthly donation at the same rate for April, May, and June, with plans to sign a new annual contract in June. We look forward to working together to create a new agreement for our continued time together, and we look forward to supporting each other in the year to come.



With gratitude,



Erin "Po" Popelke,  
INUUC Governing Circle Secretary



## • • • Family Promise checks in • • •




 Hello, Spokane Friends Meeting Congregation,
 


 ...I'm incredibly grateful for the way you shared Match Madness with
 

 your congregation. That kind of partnership truly makes a difference for the families we serve.
 

 I'm excited to share that this year's Match Madness was our most successful yet. Together, our community raised a total of **\$222,266.06** to support families working toward stable housing!
 

 Please extend our sincere thanks to your family as well as the congregation for being part of this effort. Their support is helping ensure that families not only find housing, but remain stably housed long-term.
 

 I'd love to stay in touch and find a time to personally thank your congregation or connect further when it's convenient for you.
 

 With gratitude, *Emily Curran*, Development Coordinator
 