

SPOKANENEWORD

November

Eleventh Month

2018



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com



Sunday Schedule:

Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.
Worship begins in stillness
when first person sits down.
Worship continues with song
and messages 10:00 am
Fellowship 11:00 am

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

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

[Note: In the February 2014 issue of *Friends Journal*, editors calculated the “most-read articles on our website” (friendsjournal.org). The most popular article from 2013 is the one printed below.]

We Think He Might Be a Boy

by Su Penn

I am at the dining room table, and my five-year-old is in the bathroom. After a bit, I realize that the water has been running for much longer than it takes for him to wash his hands. I hear cupboard doors opening and closing; I hear the rattle of things being taken down from shelves; he’s probably had to put a stool on top of a chair to reach.

“What are you doing in there?” I call.

There is a long pause. He’s definitely up to something.

Finally, he answers: “I am doing,” he says, “what I want to do.”

Let me introduce you to our son. We call him the Tiny Tornado.

He is not yet two and we still think he’s a girl. One day, he refuses every t-shirt in his drawer that has pink anywhere on it, or cap sleeves, or flowers. He puts on jeans and a plain white t-shirt. Later in the day, I’m cleaning out his older brother’s closet, bagging things for Goodwill, and he pounces on a worn-out Spiderman t-shirt that is much too big for him. He wears it all summer. I get it off him every five days or so to wash it, and he puts it back on as soon as it comes out of the dryer. I put his older brother’s outgrown clothes in the basement, and, with a pang, take most of the hand-me-downs from the twin girls down the street to Goodwill instead.

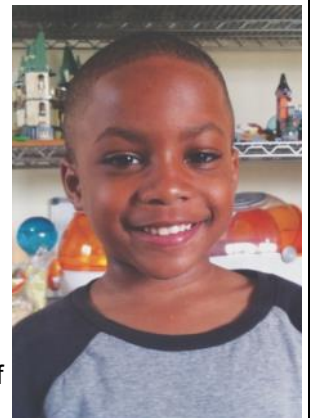
He is two. His brothers are three and six years older than him. We still think he’s a girl. We are at our homeschool group’s Christmas party and my friend Ann says to me, “I find it amusing that the Tiny Tornado is the most boyish of your children.”

He is not quite three. He gets tired of waiting for me to toilet train him, so one day he takes off his diaper and pees in the toilet, and that’s that. He always knows exactly what he wants, but I hesitate when he tells me he wants his hair cut short. I’ve been told so many times that white moms simply can’t cut a black girl’s hair. But he is determined, so, a few days before his third birthday, my partner David gets out the clippers and gives him a mohawk. He runs around with an enormous grin, showing it off. I look at pictures of him with his braids. I think of what hard work it was oiling and combing and parting his hair, how satisfying it was. How beautiful he looked.

He is three. Sometimes he says he’s a boy. We’re not sure. I am looking at a catalog, pinning over a red skirt in his size and wishing I had someone to buy it for. He looks over my shoulder. “Ewww,” he says. I turn the page, and there’s a picture of a boy wearing an oxford shirt, khakis, a v-neck sweater vest, a blazer. “Ooohhh,” he sighs, gazing at it yearningly. He learns, from somewhere, about suits with ties, and I buy him one. He is dazzlingly happy, shinningly handsome.

At the end of the year, his preschool puts on a concert. The girls are brilliant in tulle and glitter and sequined barrettes. He is wearing a polo shirt and cargo shorts. I point to where the girls are showing off their dresses to each other, twirling their skirts. I would have loved

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those dresses at three. I would have loved to buy them for my daughter. I say, “Do you think you would ever want a dress like that?”

“No,” he says. “And I don’t want you to ask me that ever again.”

So I don’t.

He is four. We think he might be a boy. We think probably he is a boy. He holds out the chest of his t-shirt and says to David, “I don’t want to get puffy, like Mama.”

David says, “You mean like breasts?”

“Yeah,” says the Tiny Tornado. He pulls up his t-shirt to show his chest. “I want to be like this, with nipples, but not puffy.”

He’s almost five, and the whole family goes to a conference for trans people, their allies and families, and people in the helping professions. The first morning, at childcare, a volunteer is helping him make his name tag and asks, “Do you want me to write that you like to be called he, like a boy, or she, like a girl?”

Nobody has ever asked him that before, but he answers without hesitation, and the volunteer writes “He” on the Tiny Tornado’s name tag.

The next night, we’re getting ready to go to the family pool party, to join a big happy splashing crowd of trans kids and adults and their families. As we’re changing, I tell him, “I think your blue shorts look enough like a swimsuit that you could wear them to the pool instead of your tankini.” He skips bare-chested down the hallway and spins through the hotel lobby, whirling in little celebratory dances.

He’s five, and he’s a boy.

The week before he starts school, he changes his name to one that sounds more male. The principal and his teachers know his gender status, but to everyone else he’s just one of two hundred little boys showing off to each other on the playground. He worries about his body betraying him, turning him into a woman against his will, and we tell him that doctors can help him with that, if it’s still what he wants when the time comes.

He freezes when his music teacher divides the class into boys and girls, not sure he’s allowed to go with the boys until she reassures him. He asks me to take down a picture of him as a one-year-old. “I have a ribbon in my hair,” he says with distaste. He excels in his swimming lessons, loves his basketball class, learns to skateboard and roller skate. He wants to sign up for t-ball, soccer, karate, hockey, and—now that he knows he won’t be forced to wear tights—a dance class. He trains his dog to jump over jumps and run along balance beams. He can sound out three-letter words and count past twenty. He loves to go to the black barbershop and get a really sharp cut; he admires himself in the rearview mirror all the way home and says with satisfaction, “Lookin’ good. Lookin’ handsome.”

He’s so independent that some mornings he has already packed his snack and lunch for school before I wake up. “Five more minutes, Mom,” he tells me, “and then you really have to get up or we’ll be late.” He tries to pee standing up, and manages surprisingly well, but usually decides to sit down. “He splatters more when he stands up,” I tell his principal. “Well, that certainly sets him apart from the rest of the boys,” she jokes.

I find a doctor’s office that has “male/female/other” on its patient history forms, where he is not their first transgender patient even if he is their first transgender child. I save the information that a new children’s gender clinic has opened in Chicago, just four hours away from us. My father tells me, “I don’t want to have anything to do with you as long as you keep treating her like a boy,” and we are careful about what we tell the Tiny Tornado, because we do not want him ever to think that it’s his fault.

We count our blessings that his school is so supportive, and try not to worry about other schools, and other years. I’m 47 and I’ve never had a career, never made more than \$21,000 a year, but I go back to school in speech language pathology. I do this for many reasons, including my excruciatingly banal mid-life crisis. But I do it, too, because puberty blockers can cost over a thousand dollars a month and insurance will almost never pay for them, and whatever choice he makes at 12, at 15, at 18, we need for it not to be about money.

When I was pregnant with our first child, Friends who knew our intimate connections to trans people asked if we were going to try to raise a Baby X, not assign a gender, and avoid pronouns. David would say, “No, we’re just going to go with the apparent biological sex. We figure if we’re wrong, the baby will let us know soon enough.” But we didn’t think that would really happen.

The Tiny Tornado will have a lot to figure out as he gets older: whether to go through puberty as a boy or a girl; how out to be about his trans status; when and how to disclose to potential romantic partners; whether and when to take hormones or pursue surgery. He knows as much of that as it’s appropriate for a five-year-old to know. Which is to say, he doesn’t know much.

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He trusts us, though, when we say that he is the person who best knows whether he is a boy. He trusts us when we say we can help him with this, that he can grow up to be a man if he wants to, that he can grow up to be any kind of man he wants to be. That he can grow up to be a good man. That we think he will grow up to be the very best kind of man.

Author's Note: It is customary in my experience to use a person's chosen pronoun even when referring to their life before gender transition. In addition, I have chosen to respect the Tiny Tornado's preference not to be referred to with female pronouns.

Copyright Friends Journal, all rights reserved, link to <https://www.friendsjournal.org/we-think-he-might-be-a-boy/> The article above was described as "our breakaway most-read article of all time, shared hundreds of times on pretty much every social media network that exists." Interesting as the article itself was, equally interesting were the 280 responses to it which can be found at the above web address.

NEWS FROM CARITAS

During the month of August, 2018, Caritas Outreach Ministries served **903 individuals** from **353 households**:

Children (0-18)	306
Adults (18-54)	378
Seniors (55 & over)	219



We distributed **18,740 lbs.** of food through the Table of Plenty and Food Pantry.

We helped **6 families** with emergency utility assistance for a total of **\$447.07**.

We connected families with **\$44.50** worth of hygiene and cleaning supplies.

We gave out **\$80** in fuel vouchers for transportation help.

We had **56**volunteers putting in **733** hours.

Caritas is hosting a fundraiser at The Boiler Room on **Thursday, November 29th from 5pm -9pm!** 10% of all sales will go directly to Caritas as well as 100% of all proceeds from our raffle baskets. We are seeking funds to cover increasing operational costs and client services.

- We need to replenish our Transportation Assistance fund which connects clients with bus passes and fuel vouchers to access medical appointments, employment and education opportunities.
- Our Summer Meal Kits for Kids saw record participation numbers in 2018 and we must increase our budget line to meet the coming needs in 2019.
- We paid out over \$10,500 in utility assistance within the last year! Made possible through amazing donations to our Holiday Heat & Utility fund.
- And of course, we are committed to keeping our shelves stocked with the basic essentials of food, hygiene, and cleaning supplies through our Client Needs fund.

We hope to see you there!

Kelsie Rowland

Operations Manager
Caritas Outreach Ministries




Quaker News

We are sad to announce the death of **Annie Tycksen** on October , 2018, at Friendsview Manor. The memorial service will be held in the spring, and we will post a memorial note in the Newsletter as more information becomes available.

The next **Quarterly Gathering of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting** will be at West Hills Friends Church on February 16, 2019. <https://www.scymfriends.org/newsletter/>
The next Annual Session will be May 17-19, 2019.

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. 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

 **The Gideons are coming!** On Tuesday November 6, our Missions Committee will be serving a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs to the Gideons. They need green salads and desserts. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship area if you can help out. The donation this month will go to Caritas.  

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 21 October 2018



The meeting was opened by Assistant Presiding Clerk, Jon Maroni. 11 people were in attendance.

Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Very positive and we are doing well; we finally have a month in which we brought in more than we spent.

Stewards & Trustees report: Bill Emery installed a new garbage disposal in the kitchen. Ben Larson and his team did a fantastic job taking care of the trees and shrubs on the property. Bill Emery replaced the front door lock on Sue Keehnen's house. Other projects at the church have also been completed.

Elders report: Our recent Sunday messages have been of high quality. World Quaker Day was well attended with guest speaker Colin Saxton. Our Meeting would like to sponsor a full workshop with the Alternatives to Violence Project – this was **approved**. Approximately 35 people attended the lecture about Middle East issues by Dr. Raja Tanas from Whitworth. In November we will reverse the business meeting and potluck Sundays due to wanting to have a Thanksgiving meal together on the 18th. Business meeting will be on the 11th.

An Ad hoc committee of Jon Maroni, Linda Pierce, Josh West and Pam Emery will be working on changes to the website.

On October 28th Anya Lawrence will be facilitating a musical program containing the I AM verses from the Gospel of John, accompanied by the music of William Sydeman, a well known and celebrated contemporary composer of classical and sacred music.

New business: A letter was read from Eugene Friends Meeting regarding Walter Simon who is attending our meeting now. He was a member in good standing and they release him to our care.

With no further old or new business and all hearts clear, Bob Wiese dismissed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

SPOKANE FRIENDS CHURCH sponsored a Public Lecture on Saturday evening, October 7. Dr. Raja S. Tanas addressed us on the topic:

"It's dead: the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" Dr. Tanas is a Professor Emeritus at Whitworth University and has taught courses in the areas of Middle Eastern, Arab, and Islamic studies. Over 30 community members were in attendance along with five Friends. Dr. Tanas also spoke the next morning during worship service. His topic there was **"The Descendants of Abraham through Arab-Christian Eyes."**



World Quaker Day
was celebrated by Spokane Friends Church on Sunday, October 7. Our special guest speaker was Colin Saxton, former General Secretary of Friends United Meeting and General Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends. He spoke on **"What in the World Are Quakers Doing?"** We welcomed several old friends and some new ones. At rise of worship we shared a Friendly lunch together.



"As we climb a mountain, we come nearer to other climbers and finally we find ourselves together with them at the top. The word "together" does not imply intellectual agreement, but spiritual unity, which sometimes arises unexpectedly in a group."





QUAKER OATS THREATENS TO SUE QUAKER OAKS CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

Dear Mr. William Lovett,

I am the attorney at the Quaker Oats Company responsible for trademark matters. As you probably know, our company manufactures numerous food products, the most famous of which is oatmeal. In addition to having used the Quaker Oats name as our company name for close to 100 years, we have registered the Quaker name as a trademark.

It was therefore quite a surprise to discover that you are operating a business under the name "Quaker Oats Christmas Tree Farm." Your use of our trademark is likely to mislead consumers into believing that your business is associated with the Quaker Oats Company. It is also likely to weaken our very strong trademark. In light of the foregoing, we hereby demand that you immediately stop all use of the "Quaker Oats" name. While we would like to settle this matter amicably, we will take all steps which are necessary and appropriate to protect our name.

Sincerely, Janet L. Silverberg, counsel

Dear Janet Silverberg,

My breakfast this morning, rolled oats by the way, was interrupted by the arrival of your letter via FedEx, which was delivered to us despite the fact that you have misspelled our company name which is Quaker OAKS Christmas Tree Farm. Our farm was so named because religious services were held outdoors on this farm under a great oak tree until about ten years ago when we were able to move into our new Meetinghouse on another corner of our farm.

Our business is 100% owned and operated by Quakers. I suspect that your firm employs considerable fewer, if any Quakers. We trace our Quaker ancestors back 320 years and they were mostly farmers, but I don't know how many of them grew oats for your company. My guess is that you may be selling far more Lutheran oats, Methodists oats, or maybe atheist oats. Could your company be guilty of product source misrepresentation?

We don't know why you choose to associate your commercial products with our faith, but we supposed you feel there is some marketing value from it. If you were selling machine guns, roulette wheels or some other product offensive to our Quaker faith, we would be upset by the association, but since we find your products wholesome and enjoyable, we consider your use of our name a compliment. We invite you to visit our farm to verify that we are indeed Quaker Oaks Christmas Tree Farm. If you come in December, we'd be happy to sell you a tree!

Sincerely, William Lovett, Visalia California



FAN's 2018 Annual Dinner - Spokane

Faith Action Network's Annual Dinner is Washington State's interfaith celebration of advocacy and community. Join us and make a difference!

On **Sunday, November 18, 2018**, Faith Action Network will host our annual fundraising dinner at the beautiful **Glover Mansion**. We look forward to celebrating the victories of the past year with you, while gathering together with faith leaders and advocates from across the state to continue to move forward our dream for the common good. This event will coincide with the dinner held in Renton and will include a live stream of our speakers and the presentation of our annual awards to advocacy leaders.

In 2018, we are celebrating unprecedented victories in the state legislature, and are bracing ourselves for the ongoing struggle at the federal level. We need your help to keep going strong, fighting on behalf of the values of inclusion, compassion, and justice. We pledge to bring collective power to the issues, to educate on the roots of injustice, and to facilitate advocacy for social change, as together we take courageous public action.

Individual Tickets \$ 85.00 Register at Spokane@fanwa.org no later than **November 9**

Table for 6\$ 480.00

Messenger of Hope \$ 750.00

Movement Builder \$ 500.00

Movement Builder \$ 500.00

The Glover Mansion
321 W 8th Ave.
Spokane, WA 99204

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

In the Neighborhood



Office of Church Engagement

Daniel Hill on *White Awake*:

The Whitworth Office of Church Engagement is excited to welcome author Daniel Hill for a discussion of his book [White Awake](#) on **Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Seeley G. Mudd chapel at Whitworth University**. In *White Awake*, Hill explains his journey toward understanding his own white identity and culture, and describes seven stages of personal and cultural awakening. Hill's writing and work directly address and confront racial and systemic injustice; *White Awake* offers new perspectives on "being white" and empowers readers to be agents of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world. Such insights are crucial to understanding the personal and social realities of race, culture and identity. Please join us for this important conversation!



Caritas Food Bank Fundraiser

Come join us for a fundraiser

To raise money for Caritas Food Bank

at The Boiler Room

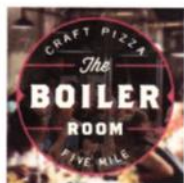
6501 N. Cedar Rd.

On Thursday, November 29th

5:00-9:00 pm

(Reservations Recommended)

10% of all sales including
food, drinks and to-go orders
will go to Caritas



Raffle tickets for gift
baskets will be sold



Come to enjoy a family-fun gathering and
raise money for our food bank



Family Promise Open House !

Join us on **Thursday, November 15th** for a sneak peek of our shelter's new location!

Time: Stop by any time between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm for a tour of the historic Cassano's Building.

Location: Cassano's Grocery, 2002 E Mission Ave, Spokane WA 99202.

**Come for delicious hors d'oeuvres
and a sweet gift from Family Promise to
you!**

This is our way of honoring you as our volunteers and donors and inviting you to be a part of this new adventure! :)

RSVP at msfeir@familypromiseofspokane.org