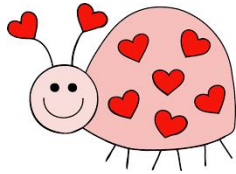


SPOKANEWORD

February
Second Month
2019



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.

The Paper Route

by Gary Benesh

"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10 NKJV).

It started innocently enough.

My older brother had a paper route. He delivered the local newspaper to the nearby neighborhood. Our neighborhood was an odd mixture. One side had a well-groomed community of modern houses recently built by wealthier business owners, lawyers, and doctors. We lived on the edge of that community in a small, falling-apart farmhouse.

Beyond us were numerous other farmhouses built years ago by Eastern European immigrants who had a kaleidoscope of names that rolled off your tongue if you didn't try to pronounce them the way that they were spelled — names like Chervanak, Polivka, Karpechek, Frajovic, Janeski. Each had a small plot of land that included a no-loner-used hayfield. To get to these houses, you had to take a narrow gravel road up and across the hillside. On the way back you would take a path down through the woods to the creek where the final house was found. That neighborhood was the last part of the route.

My brother decided to try out for football. Practice had two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, when newspapers were to be delivered. His friend Richard volunteered to do the route for him. I was to help him the first day, since I had helped my brother many times and knew the route well. He was 15, I was 8.

I remember the place clearly. It was in the wooded section going down to the creek and the last house. The path passed a well that had pure water that we would often drink. The well had a cover, and there was a bucket hanging on a post inviting the weary passerby to have a drink of cool water. After the well, we would pass an abandoned house. There was a narrow dirt road that went from the house, down the hill, through the woods, and across the creek before it joined the paved county road. It was there that it happened.

I thought it was too insignificant to write about. Now I find that I am unable to put down on paper what actually transpired in those perhaps 15 minutes. I don't know why — it should be easy enough to use the words necessary to describe the event. It is not fear or dread. It does not seem that repugnant to me even now. It was just an event, seemingly minor — something that has never haunted me, something that I easily put behind me. I have no feelings of anger, nor have I a need to seek vengeance. Richard has since passed away. He was a successful member of his community. I felt no need to ever expose him — or it is rather to expose myself? — to the public.

Perhaps that is it. To write down the details would be to risk exposure. I have always been one to avoid any controversy that could cause embarrassment. Perhaps this event was what made me that way. But how could I possibly know if there is a direct cause and effect between this event and my emotional make-up?

I will skip the details and go on to the bribe. Of course Richard did not want me to tell anyone. He told me that he would give me five packs of firecrackers. To an e-year-old that seemed like a great prize. He brought them to me on the morning of the Fourth of July. I remember going out and shooting them immediately with the usual excitement a child has with fireworks.

Yet, thought I couldn't quite identify what it was at that time, I had another unsettled feeling that I now know was a sense of guilt. The firecrackers were tainted. It was "hush money" in a sense. Even without the bribe, I would not have dared to tell anyone what happened to me. It would remain hidden deep in my memory, separated from my thoughts. It never happened again. I would be part of my forgotten past.

There are two remaining details, one odd and one haunting. That evening, about an hour afterwards, we had supper with tapioca pudding for dessert. While eating it, I noticed a little white worm on my arm. I had a sick feeling. I had no idea where it had come from, but I was unable to eat tapioca for years afterwards.

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The second was a haunting question: What about my sister? She was two years younger. I know that he had opportunities with her. I have never brought it up with her. In fact, I have never brought it up with anyone. A couple of times I have thought of just asking, "Do you remember Richard?"

If she reacted oddly, then I would know. And she would know, too, that we shared a common experience. But this is not the type of question you ask over the phone or by email. She lives in Florida now, and we do not see each other often. The last time I saw her, I was about to ask, and then didn't.

I need to ask.

Now the tears have come. They are almost uncontrollable. I don't know why, or where they have come from. It was only a minor incident, and I have long since put it out of my mind

Gary Benesh is a retired Church of the Brethren pastor and school teacher. He lives in North Carolina. Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, used by permission, link to <http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2018/the-paper-route.html>



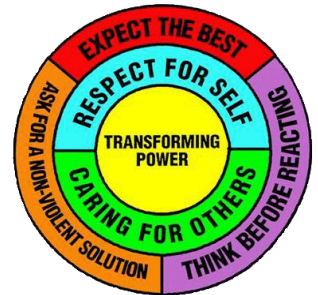
Coming Soon to Spokane Friends Church The AVP Basic Workshop

After hosting Alternative to Violence Project's mini-workshop in October, Spokane Friends decided they would like to host the AVP BASIC WORKSHOP, which is an intensive 18-hour workshop.

The Workshop would be presented over two consecutive weekends: Feb. 16-17 and Feb. 23-24. On each weekend, participants would meet Friday evening from 6:00-9:00 PM and on Saturday from 10:00 AM-4:30 PM. The cost of the Workshop is \$30 and will include lunch on Saturdays.

The Basic AVP workshop teaches interpersonal conflict resolution skills through a series of step-by-step processes. These experiences in small groups and one-to-one interactions build a sense of community and trust through exercises focusing on:

- Communication — Improving both listening skills and assertive methods of expression.
- Cooperation — Developing cooperative attitudes that avoid competitive conflicts.
- Creative Conflict Resolution — Getting in touch with the inner Transforming Power to resolve violence. Role playing provides an opportunity to explore this power and learn new and creative ways to respond to real life conflict in our lives.


























AVP workshops seek to assist people in personal growth and change. We join together, participants and facilitators both, to explore our own corners of violence and seek more satisfying ways to respond. To learn more about AVP please visit their website www.avpusa.org.

Workshop space will be limited to the first 20 people who register. Participants should plan to attend all sessions.

TO REGISTER for the AVP Workshop:


Please send an email to Spokane Friends at spokanefriends@gmail.com with your name, OR ask someone already signed up to submit your name, OR call Spokane Friends at 327-7852 and leave a message. The Registration Fee may be paid at the first session of the Workshop.
























There is an excellent Editorial Reflection by our friend **Laurie Clark-Strait** (former Executive Director of Caritas) in the **January** issue of *The Fig Tree*. It is on page 10 and is titled "Child opens door to conversation with, understanding of homeless men". Laurie will be bringing us a message in March. (When the February issue of The Fig Tree arrives, the January issue will be in the magazine rack near the bulletins boards.)

The Gideons are Coming! The Gideons are Coming!

Tuesday evening, February 5th, the Missions Committee will serve dinner to the Gideons. The donation will go to Jonathan and Carol Williams. The sign-up sheet is in the hospitality area, if you can help supply side dishes to accompany the meal.



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 16 December 2018



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 13 people were in attendance. The December minutes were read and approved with clarifications.

Treasurer's Report: Very good report. The church use fee is currently \$150. The Trustees need to look at raising this amount to be more in line with what other organizations are charging for the use of a facility like ours. They were asked to bring a recommendation our next meeting.

Stewards & Trustees Report: We are still waiting for the plumbing estimates from Gold Seal Plumbing regarding the bathrooms. The Ad Hoc committee has gone through the church and has a list of recommendations for improvements.

- 1) Redo of entryway by removing the linoleum and replace with individual carpet squares. We will also ask Caritas to share in this expense.
- 2) Library/Conference room – reducing book inventory to emphasize a stronger Quaker focus.
- 3) Painting hallway down through the back stairs.
- 4) Repurpose rooms downstairs.

We want to thank all of them for their hard work. We will also need to find out prices for these projects. When asked for their number one priority, the committee chose the Library/Conference room.

Lorna Hyslop has volunteered to work on the children's rooms downstairs, and Lois Kieffaber and Anya Lawrence are going to work on reducing the music stored in the small room off the Stage by discarding what we no longer use. They will also go through the music files in the Library and save only the music we use for worship.

Elders Report: Messages on Sunday continue to be of high caliber. The next 6 weeks have been scheduled. Polina, the pianist from Whitworth will continue to play for us once a month. Registration for the Alternatives to Violence workshop is still open.

Old Business: We need to look and pray about our decisions for Spokane Friends Meeting. Options at this time include staying Independent, having some type of association with North Pacific Yearly Meeting, joining Sierra Cascades YM..

With no further old or new business and all hearts are clear, Anya Lawrence dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

Appearing at Whitworth University Austin Channing Brown

Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm
Weyerhauser Hall, Robinson Teaching Theater

When Krista Maroni brought the message on January 27th, she quoted from Brown's book *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* during her presentation about current voices speaking for racial reconciliation. This public lecture will allow you to hear the author herself. Austin Channing



Brown is an author and a leading new voice on racial justice committed to exploring the intersections of racial justice, faith and black womanhood. Whether she is being interviewed, lecturing, or leading a workshop, Austin is sure to elicit a full range of emotions as she invites you to celebrate blackness with her.

Death of Mary Oliver

Mary Oliver died of lymphoma at age 83. She is an American poet who has won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. The New York Times described her as "far and away, [America's] best-selling poet."



An example of her poetry:

"It doesn't have to be blue iris, it can be weeds
in a vacant lot.
Just pay attention, then patch a few words together
and don't try to make them elaborate.
This isn't a contest but the doorway into
thanks. A silence in which another
voice may speak."

— Mary Oliver, Praying

News from Caritas

During the month of December 2018, Caritas Outreach Ministries served **741 individuals** from **275 households**:

Children (0-18)	253
Adults (18-54)	318
Seniors (55 & over)	170



We distributed **14,679 lbs.** of food through the Table of Plenty and Food Pantry.

We helped **4 families** with emergency utility assistance for a total of **\$440.82**

We connected families with **\$537** worth of hygiene and cleaning supplies.

We gave out **\$80** in fuel vouchers and **2 bus passes** for transportation assistance.

We had **49 volunteers** putting in **511 hours**.

Happy New Year to our big Caritas Family & Supporters!

We served a record of 9973 clients in 2018 and you helped with 6119 volunteer hours, 186,614 pounds of food, \$22,168 in hygiene/cleaning products, and \$9,898 towards client heat & utilities.

We can't thank you enough for caring for our neighbors in need!

Please continue to lift this ministry up in your prayers during 2019. Spokane is in a state of transition as we see a steady influx of homelessness and poverty. Caritas does not discriminate or judge. We are called only to serve our neighbors in need. Pray that we as a city learn to navigate what is helping, what is needed, and how to encourage one another in compassion to move forward.

Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV) For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

Kelsie Rowland

Operations Manager

Caritas Outreach Ministries

[Editor's Note: I hope we are all somewhat impressed by the difference we are making in the lives of our neighbors by sharing our Meeting House with Caritas, itself an organization with as many budget constraints as we have. Together we are serving our neighbors in ways that require the effort of many volunteers but do not constitute a large financial burden for us. Even small churches with small budgets can obey Jesus' command to serve our neighbors and help bring God's kingdom to earth.}]

Advocating Quakers

In Washington, D.C. the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a Quaker-based public interest lobbying organization that advocates for peace and social justice across a dozen legislative programs.

The word "lobbying" carries a lot of baggage. Most of us think of large corporations, big pharma, the coal industry, and insurance companies when we hear the word. We think of the amassing of power and money that can be used to influence legislators to impose changes which will benefit their industries. That is why I prefer the word "advocating".

The difference between the two is that advocacy does not have any direct benefit to employees or the people who pay for their work. Freed from seeking personal gain, faith-based agencies like FAN (Faith Action Network) and FCNL can pursue public interest, striving faithfully and ethically to realize God's vision for peace with justice.

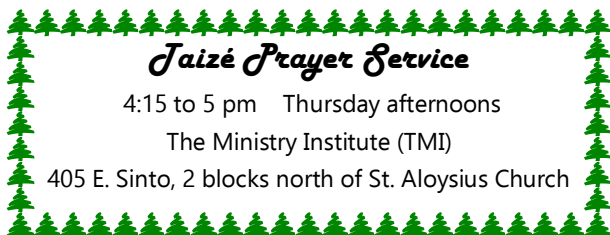
Those who work at FCNL emphasize the power and moral clarity that prayerfulness can bring to their work. The energy to lobby comes from prayer. But the notion of prayer in policy has come under serious scrutiny. In the wake of tragic instances of gun violence, the routine response of "thoughts and prayers" has proven inadequate. Many people dismiss the very mention of prayer, as in "We don't need thoughts and prayers, we need action!"

Quakers attempt to live so that prayer and policy are not two different responses to violence, but can support each other. Quakers gather together to worship and gather together to serve our neighbor. We try to ask, "Where do we have a particular voice that needs to be heard? Where do we see gaps which we can help fill by working side-by-side within ecumenical groups?"

Below is a picture of FCNL's building in Washington D.C. The sign reads:

QUAKERS ARE SILENT IN WORSHIP
LOUD AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE.

(Picture was "cut and paste")



The Friends Committee on National Legislation building.
Photo by Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred