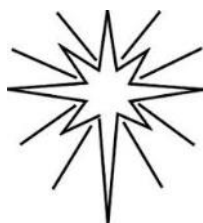


# SPOKANENWORD

December  
2020



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.com

spokanefriends@gmail.com



Note: We are pleased to announce the addition of a new monthly column which we hope will represent Quakerism, raise questions, and perhaps even elicit responses and/or letters to the writer of the column. Please address any responses to "afriend" and send them to [spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:spokanefriends@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: PEACE

by afriend

**Merry Christmas:** This year the gift to consider is how we realize a meaningful healing given serious cultural divisions presently faced as community and nation, addressing social trauma, a wild chapter in American history.

Christmas offers a message of hope, a celebration, the birth-of-a-child, swaddled in a manger, whose life represents a dynamic aspect of religious philosophy for over 2,000 years. *Joy to the world!*

The spiritual gift we owe ourselves this year is to stay open to our responsibility as Christians, essentially to reflect on how to heal a conflicted nation.

We stand a better chance of supporting our country's longevity, not by tossing bricks, but by reaching for spiritual renewal. Love; not hate.

David Brooks wrote: "... permanent indignation is not a healthy emotional state." When dreams collide with reality it's easy to react, but at this moment a healing is asked of us, a blessing for a divided nation. Hug your country!

The mechanisms of our democracy have been essentially passed to us by our forefathers centuries back, seemingly good advice on how to sustain a nation's durability, offering, with the best of intentions, significant principles to guide us!

Introspective therapy may help but requires more than *ad libs* and pharmaceuticals. In recent correspondence a Spokane Friends' elder thought about her part in the big picture: "Not to worry about the national situation (can't change it), but to see and interact with my own circle, through a lens of God's love for them".

Right now the melting pot boils over, fueled by a heated clash of wills. The new dance in America might be called the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Shift?

As Quakers we seek peaceful resolve, a thrashing of ideas and ideals that support long established values, and in process sustain connections with other faith institutions, seeking social harmony, conflicted by a difference of values, mask-on-mask-off logic, as we spin in the middle of a pandemic squall.

Hatred and self-serving fantasy may develop strong character, aberrant behavior, and divisive political stands, but in simple terms we are stuck with each other on a spinning ball, and patience is required for sake of communal resolve, avoiding detrimental conduct, hopefully resolved by rational thought, at a time when we mere mortals walk unplowed ground expecting to madly jig body and soul into 2021.

The gift we offer is "peace on earth and goodwill," in our homes, on Spokane Streets and all that our country serves, but please remember resolution is a handy power tool for national longevity.

(continued on next page)



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)

Love, even a little bit spread around, offers insight, and can also be an energetic guide, love inspired by unvarnished hope, not blather served-up as fact, one that seeks to resolve sensitive civic issues.

Looking back but thinking forward, recall Abe Lincoln "hoped *the better angels of our nature* would save us from a terrible conflagration"

How do we come together on common ground? How do we treat each other now? What do you think?

Write to a friend at [spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:spokanefriends@gmail.com)

*If something rises in the silence, you may wonder whether or not you should share it with the group. Here are some queries, to help you discern.*

## To Speak or Not to Speak; That is the Question

Part of a Quaker meeting is a period of silence during which participants listen for a direct message from God. It goes by many names, such as "open worship," "listening worship" or "centering down." During this time a person may occasionally break the silence by rising to speak a message that comes to mind during that period. When one receives a message, the question arises as to whether it is just for oneself or for others. The following "guide" as to whether to speak is attributed to Stan Thornburg, a pastor in Northwest Yearly Meeting.



By Sue Keehnen

The Blue Tattoo  
by Margo Muffin

# Sue's Corner



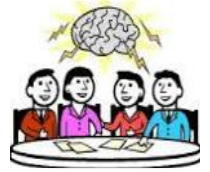
Olive Oatman is the subject of this book. In the 1850's, her family was part of a westward Mormon migration. They were poorly equipped and the planning and leadership was even worse. Her father had separated himself and his family from the other migrants, which left them open to an Indian attack in Arizona. Olive and a younger sister were captured by the attacking Indians and later 'traded' to a peaceful tribe where they seemed to be assimilated into a new family life.

After 5 or 6 years, Olive was found and saved from her 'captivity'. She thus had to undergo 2 huge adjustments during her teenage years. During this time, she was tattooed, very obviously on her chin. Ms. Mifflin discusses the attitude of the times relative to the 'savages' and the fragility of white womanhood. And here is Olive with a very obvious sig, in the eyes of that society, of being "damaged goods."

At times, the narrative became more about her being a sideshow, with a book supposedly written by her but more likely ghost written by a minister out to profit from her. His was a notorious story within this narrative.

## MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

15 November 2020



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 11 people were in attendance.

The October 18<sup>th</sup> minutes were read and approved with one correction. It is just the flat part of the church roof that needs fixed not the gable. The minutes of the called meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> were read and approved as read.

Elder's Report: Very meaningful messages were reviewed. The December messages have been scheduled. The book study "Color of Compromise" is scheduled to start on December 1<sup>st</sup>. People are to email the office, with suggestions, if they want to have "Peace" month in January.

Two actions items are 1. Advertise in the Fig Tree and possible news story up to \$75. 2. Spokane FAVS with a Banner Ad for \$100. These were both **approved** by the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Not available today

Stewards & Trustees Report: There is a possibility that more outside groups would like to use our building for some of their meetings. One is the Knights of Columbus and that will need to be worked out with the Trustees. We want to thank Bob and Mary Wiese for the donation of speakers for the sanctuary.

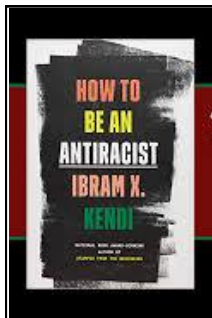
Our Caritas sub-committee met with Bob Walker, a volunteer and 4 board members recently to present our concerns. They agreed to give the \$750 a month. They will paint the areas discussed; we will pick the color. They will have volunteers do the painting. Caritas will pay for half the carpet. Anything further will be in writing. The full board of Caritas still needs to meet.

With no further old or new business and all hearts and minds clear, Tina Weaver dismissed in prayer

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Nixon*

Recording Clerk



[Note: Those of us who have read this book may enjoy seeing parts of a review that appeared in the April 2020 issue of *Friends Journal*.]

### How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

reviewed by Lori Patterson

As the only Black girl in the public school I attended, I thought racism was my problem. I didn't have the words to identify the racism I experienced. Oh sure, I knew that the other kids were being mean when they made fun of my hair. But I didn't know why they were being mean. I thought there was something wrong with my hair. I carried these feelings of inferiority with me to high school and college, where I slowly began to unravel the mystery of why those kids were mean to me. I started reading books about racism and learned what the actual problem was.

As Black poet Audre Lorde says in *Sister Outsider*: "The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations which we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor which is planted deep within each of us, and which knows only the oppressors' tactics, the oppressors' relationships."

Quakers refer to "holding in the light," not "holding in the dark." Maybe we need to rethink this, or at least add to our thinking. Because we miss so much by focusing on the light and not the shadow that it creates. In the shadows, we can find the oppressor within. In my own way, I tried to fit in with the oppressor: for example, straightening my hair.

Instead I could have been fighting back against the racist behavior I was experiencing by behaving in an anti-racist way. And that is the crux of this book. We are either racist or anti-racist. The place to examine this dichotomy is within ourselves, according to Kendi. Only then will we be equipped to cope with the racism of the outside world.

To that end, I asked two White Friends to read this book and share their reactions with me. Here is what they said.

(continued on p. 4)

## Caritas Stats for October 2020

Individuals served	556
Children (0-18)	127
Adults (18-54)	285
Seniors (55 and over)	144
Households served	292
Lbs. of food through the Table of Plenty & Food Pantry	21,411
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 389.50
Utility assistance	\$ 172.17
Number of Volunteers	47
Volunteer Hours	712



Giving Opportunity: Deacon Roy Buck of St. Charles is doing a Christmas Tree of Giving for Caritas children only. If you are interested in donating a gift, please contact him at 509-327-9573 or 509-953-9533.

Volunteer needed! AS volunteer is needed to fill 4 Little Food Pantries once a week. Please call Santos at 326-2249.

Note from a Caritas client: I just want to say THANK YOU for reaching out to us. [G] hasn't worked since the beginning of the pandemic and JUST started training for a new job. I am a brittle diabetic. I have extreme high levels but also have extreme low levels. His job was wanting to make him work nights but he couldn't because of me. So, they let him go. This will be a blessing for our children. So thank you so much!"

*"We have gifts that differ according to the favor bestowed on each of us.."  
Romans 12:6-8*

*Kelsie Rowland*

Operations Manager  
Caritas Outreach Ministries

### Caritas Needs

Food  
Peanut Butter

Necessities  
Paper Towels                      Laundry Soap  
Toothbrushes

## Quaker News

- ⇒ Mary Klein, editor and executive director of the magazine *Western Friend* has recently started an **online community forum** for ongoing mutual support among Friends in the West. Find it at <https://westernfriend.discussion.community/>
- ⇒ The next **Quarterly Gathering** for Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2021. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.
- ⇒ Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends **Annual Sessions** are scheduled for Friday to Sunday, June 18-20, 2021, and we are tentatively planning on meeting in person at Canby Grove.
- ⇒ **The National Alliance on Mental Health** has 24-hr support through their helpline: 1-800-950-NAMI or text "NAMI" to 741741.

### When They Ask You to Pray

When they ask you to pray  
they will, in most cases,  
bow their heads  
and close their eyes  
and wait.

And they will expect you  
to address God on their behalf  
with the assumption  
that you and the Almighty  
have a relationship that is  
more intimate than their own.

It's probably best if,  
at that point, you do not  
attempt to disabuse them  
of that assumption.

— Ken Gibble

## How to Be an Antiracist (continued from p. 3)

"So many unchallenged societal assumptions are discussed; the weak deadbeat Black man, the single Black mother as incompetent parent, Black children as underachieving, Black space as dangerous, inequality resulting from problematic Black people. It is anti-racist to see that loud Black people should be in a group with loud people, not in a group with all Blacks as if that is an inherent flaw of a whole race. He sees racism as a cancer that cannot be cured by . . . assimilation, moral persuasion, or education. Present approaches boil down to the anti-racist idea that racial groups are equal and the only thing inferior about Black people is their opportunities."

Kendi talks about his battle with cancer, which can be a metaphor for combating racism. We can look at racism as a problem much the same as a cancer that needs to be gotten rid of at its source. And that source is within us all. That source allows us to enact laws that block the progress of Black and Brown people in this country. It determines how we vote and how we treat each other. The question is how do we use Spirit courageously, so that we become not just "not racist" but actively anti-racist.