

SPOKANEWORD

March
2021



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

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Sunday Schedule
during
Covid-19 Restrictions

Morning Worship

10:00 am

At Meeting House

And Via Zoom

See Website For Link

KNOW THY SELF*

the looking glass of logic.

By A. Friend



At this defining moment in American history, we offer that balance keeps us focused. Granted, for the weary it's easier to sit around humming to the ambient noise of Mars, chiming from outer space.

But more prudent during this stressful time of social divisions is to look into yourself, not out! This is a good period in our dog-eared history to take strong interest in the future of our nation, because "...as long as we're divided, we're conquered."**

Accept that boundaries of our mutual society are weakened! Dare to suggest the USA recently had a metaphorical earthquake, a big bang relative to our life in North America as a democracy.

Time to reflect on expectations of Twenty-first Century America needs, consider yourself, kids, internet communications, and granny rock'n in the backroom.

Suggest the next four years will determine the road we travel: democracy or autocracy, or a bit of both. Analysis should include thoughts on the influence, and preservation of our nation, things like why lobbyists donate huge funds to important politicians, critical unemployment issues, the comfort of cardboard beds under-bridge shelters for homeless, asylum seekers pressing against a wire fence, not to forget ecological warnings, food on the table, guns and safe streets.

Who will rise in our nation to save us from ourselves? Perhaps a gifted social thinker with the courage to guide with reasoned principals, because it appears, we're faced with a social transition in need of a healing! When words seem shallow first consider motive.

Though political campaigns cost in the millions, please believe your vote is worth much more. Time to do some thinking about where you stand and how you strut.

Quaker's are practiced in introspection based on a well-honed tradition of meditative *silent*-service, an opportunity to understand the more sensitive aspects of spirit and self... thoughts bouncing around in your head. Such insight offers hope, while seeking reconciliation.

In the biological sense: the purpose of life is to survive. One unsettled example: pandemic stats are frightful. Another: bombast and disinformation have become common. All considered harmful.

There are two ways to approach introspection: logic and feelings. In the former reason mutes doubt, the latter opens a frame-of-mind. More productive to mix both, seeking purpose.

Seek opportunity to know limits, to support tolerance and vision, to overcome the conflicts of everyday living. It's easier to fantasize an existence where the inner-self and outer reality conflict, some at explosive moments, as thought dictates action for good or not so. Lock your house and your car, but open your mind!

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Looking in, while avoiding self-deception, is not easy. Looking out easier by comparison, because that unexpected flying brick can do serious damage! Perspective is everything. Courage to speak useful!

Seek opportunity to know limits, to support tolerance and vision, to overcome the conflicts of everyday living. It's easier to fantasize an existence where the inner-self and outer reality conflict, some at explosive moments, as thought dictates action for good or not so. Lock your house and your car, but open your mind!

There have been various futurists, along with the instructive divinity of prayer, to chaperon us through the journey between life and death. Roads, as goals have potholes, but clear thought cushions unexpected bumps.

As guide an inciteful reminder comes from an anonymous rhymester:

*As you amble through life my friend
whatever be your goal,
keep your eye upon the donut.
and not upon the hole!*

Wherever you travel, seek peace and reason. Expose the deviance of aggressive prejudice.

What do you think?

Write: A. Friend: spokanefriends@gmail.com

Next Month: Community focus



The Cold Millions by Jess Walter

Sue's Corner



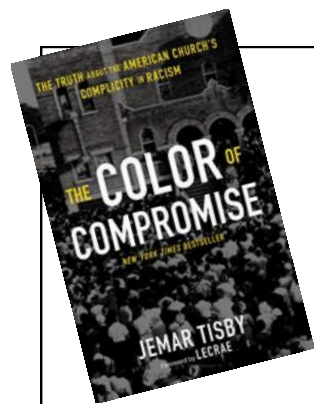
I recently read this book for a discussion group through Aunties Bookstore. We were fortunate to have Jess join us for this meeting. He described the book as a "labor feminist western". It also describes the idealism of the early labor movement and the violence of the time, only 100 years ago.

While the story takes place in Spokane and some of the characters did exist and do as described, we are encouraged to treat them as fictional.... we don't really know their thoughts or their actual words. I asked Jess how he came upon his idea for the story. He was searching the newspaper archives for information on Tom Foley (remember him?) and was sidetracked by articles on Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. She was a pregnant 19 year old labor activist.

Some of the places in the book no longer exist but reminders still stand. The Clock tower centers us around the past train station. The baseball field in Peaceful Valley still exists and this is where the tramps slept. Labor employment halls existed on Post and Stevens. These places found day labor for the tramps and charged them \$1 a day for the employment opportunity. Three of the characters go by train to Taft, and the Great Fire of 1910 played a minor part in that part of the story.

This is about tramps, crooked cops, one awfully creepy murderer, suffragists madams, and Ursula the Great (a vaudeville singer who performs with a live cougar). My favorite spot was when the address was given for the police chief who was shot through his front window. That street sounded familiar. When I googled the address I discovered it was just around the block from a law office I once worked at in West Central.

[Note: If you would like to read this book, there is a copy of this book (signed by Jess Walter himself!) available in the Meeting House Office.]



YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE



Andre Dove

A group of Spokane Friends has recently completed reading and discussing *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby. The facilitator of the discussions was Rev. Andre Dove, pastor of Restoration Church in Spokane, who was our speaker during worship last August. As one reviewer of the book said, "Reconciliation doesn't happen without truth telling. Jemar takes us on a historical journey laying out the racial complicity of the church. It's difficult to understand the complexities of the history of racial oppression in America; one must begin to identify the intentional and unintentional blind spots many have. Jemar calls the church to face its tragic history in an effort to build a new future and to save it from repeating past mistakes. The foundation of reconciliation begins with truth. Tisby encourages us to become courageous Christians who face our past with lament, hope, and humility. History is imperative to understanding the present. *The Color of Compromise* gives us an aerial view of our past with hopes of a Christian awakening. This is a must-read for all Christians who have hopes of seeing reconciliation." (LATASHA MORRISON, founder and president, *Be the Bridge*)

Here are some comments by participants in the discussions:

. . . I thought Rev Andre Dove did a great job in guiding us through the book and generating interesting discussions. I learned so much about the history of our country; it opened my eyes to religious decisions, especially about race, that impact our world today. It was also interesting to hear the various views from the participants. Thanks to everyone involved in making this a successful, memorable experience. — Nancy Street

I appreciated the historic perspective of the church's complicity in racism put in chronological order. It helped explain events in my early life that did not seem to fit. The denomination I was raised in and the racist roots of some of evangelicalism came into clearer focus. It gave me new eyes. God, lead me to see clearly how I am called to respond to this clearer vision. God, give me the tenacity to keep at it. — Leann Williams

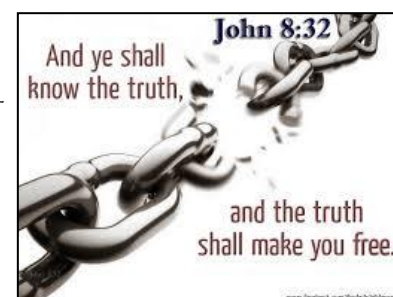
I really enjoyed hearing/sharing comments from/with others at the group. Folks were respectful and we each came away with different ideas that we had not thought of before. I encourage everyone to try out the book for yourself. —Linda Bond

I was somewhat aware of how churches had compromised their beliefs to maintain slavery and keep African Americans subservient after emancipation. However I was not aware of the extent. I was often struck with a profound sense of sadness. As we learned about clergy after clergy and denomination after denomination that compromised key biblical principles, Martin Luther King Jr. was a shining light of hope. "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." I do not see any wiggle room in that passage and yet it is widely ignored by most denominations. Martin Luther King Jr. lived it. How he was able to remain true to active nonviolent resistance in spite of the hate heaped upon him is a mystery. — John Kinney

What I learned from our discussions: Because I am in the ruling class by virtue of my race, I must do my own work to educate myself about how our country's economic and social system gives power and privilege to me. I cannot expect my class to easily recognize, let alone give up, its power; therefore we have some hard work ahead of us to correct the injustices of our well-oiled system. —Lois Kieffaber

I was very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2020-21 Spokane Friends book study of *The Color of Compromise*. Some of my takeaways: Racism has been largely invisible to most white Americans. White Christians are being called to see and lament, to move outside our practiced "reasonableness" toward a loving sense of outrage - and action - that addresses the injustices that afflict our black siblings and fellow citizens. Profound thanks to Andre Dove for sharing his passion and insight. — Katie Buckley

For me, *The Color of Compromise* text provided two of three perspectives on the history of our racialized Christian culture. First, the historical past and third, a way forward, came from the text. The middle part, the second part, "Who are we today?" This part was gifted by the personal life stories of the book club members. I loved the stories and respected the courage to share. These stories of where, when and how we grew up were as critical as the words on the page to understand the compromise story. Each shared story seemed to be wrapped in a desire to continue to grow into something more aware. Something that better expresses mercy and the knowledge that ALL are loved. — John Buckley



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
21 February 2021



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 13 people were in attendance in person or via Zoom.

The January minutes were read and **approved as read**.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Maroni reported that everything is looking good. He is still working on the online giving. "Bill pay" may also be used via one's personal bank account. Jon will demonstrate methods at the next meeting.

Stewards and Trustees Report: No specific report today.

Elder's Report: Messages have been reviewed and there are people scheduled for messages through March. We have talked with FUM (Friends United Meeting) about being a single church congregation that could possibly join that group. We discussed the possibility of looking for a part-time pastor. There was a request to start some **Financial Management classes** led by Jon Maroni. This was **approved** by the Meeting with the following people to help set this up: Lois Kieffaber, Walter Simon and Tina Weaver. Another suggestion was made to create a Community Fund to assist people that contact the church. This was approved with the following people to serve on a committee to be designators of this fund: Jonas Cox, Walter Simon, Anya Lawrence and Krista Maroni. It was also **approved to continue the process of applying for 501c3 status** for our Monthly Meeting at Spokane Friends. This will help us working with Walter Simon on possibly getting grants for specific projects; also if someone should give a large amount they will have the 501c3 number to put on their tax return. Laverne Biel continued to ask that we work on our Vision and Mission Statement so people will know who we are and what we are about. Tina Weaver also commented that the Quaker way has always been by consensus and we should continue to pray about these issues and seek that outcome.

Anya Lawrence will be speaking in the meeting house on February 28th and requested that as many people as possible try to make it to the sanctuary for worship. The meeting will still be available by Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

A Prayer from Howard Thurman

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me!



Open unto me—light for
my darkness.

Open unto me—courage for
my fear.

Open unto me—peace for
my turmoil

Open unto me—joy for
my sorrow.

Open unto me—strength for
my weakness.

Open unto me—wisdom for
my confusion.

Open unto me—forgiveness for
my sins.

Open unto me—tenderness for
my toughness.

Open unto me—love for
my hates.

Open unto me—hope for
my despair

Open unto me Thyself for
myself.

Lord, Lord, open unto me!

Sunday Schedule

Mar 7	Tim Jackson
Mar 14	Walter Simon
Mar 21	Ruthie Tippin
Apr 4	Deborah Suess

Financial Report

Income for January 2021:	\$3190.00
Expenses for January 2021:	\$4400.10
Difference:	-\$1210.10

~ from *Meditations of the Heart*



**Beyond Words:
Doing Justice**

Deepening Our Roots

Lunchtime Virtual Benefit

Friday, March 5, 2021

Program 12-12:45 p.m.

Breakfast-time Virtual Benefit

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Program 8 to 8:45 a.m.

CALL 535-4112 or 535-1813

email mary@thefigtree.org

The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202

Caritas Stats for January 2021

Individuals served	510
Households served	271
Lbs. of food through the Table of Plenty & Food Pantry	28,507
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 389.50
Utility assistance	\$ 2,400
Number of Volunteers	61
Volunteer Hours	909



Caritas is MOVING!

We are so grateful for our time here at Spokane Friends Church. When we moved in in 2013/14, we had no idea how God would bless this ministry and TRIPLE the number of clients we serve in a year! We had been prayerfully considering our options to continue to meet the need coming to our doors when we were joined by a new supporting church, Northside Church of Christ in 2020. They too had been praying over how to best use their out building to serve their neighborhood. Caritas Board Chair, Bob Walker, did a write up on how this new relationship came to be in God's timing. Over the next few months, we will be keeping you updated on renovations and all the prep and planning to relaunch in a new facility. We hope to be fully transitioned by June 1st of this year. In the meantime, we will continue to serve clients at the current location in Spokane Friends Church and donations can still be dropped off Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 10am – 1pm. *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*

Matthew 22:39 (KJV)

Kelsie Rowland, Operations Manager

Quaker News

- ⇒ Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends **Annual Sessions** are scheduled for Friday to Sunday, June 18–20, 2021, and they are tentatively planning on meeting in person at Canby Grove.
- ⇒ Northwest Yearly Meeting's **Annual Sessions** will take place July 18–21. No further information is available at this time.
- ⇒ **Thursdays with Friends** is a twice monthly online conversation about the political topics that matter to you, hosted by FCNL General Secretary Diane Randall. Recent topics include *Racism and Policing in America*, *The Rise of Guns During the Pandemic*, and *The State of Native America*. 4:00–4:30 p.m., EST. For more information, visit fcnl.org/TWF
- ⇒ Our sister meeting in Seattle, North Seattle Friends (where Paul Blankenship is now pastoring) sponsored the following advertisement in the newspaper

Statement on Racism and Police Brutality

North Seattle Friends Meeting is devastated by the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, and others by law enforcement officers and vigilantes. We as followers of Jesus Christ, affirm that there is that of God in everyone. The recent killings, as much as those of the past, fly in the face of that sacred truth. We stand with the Black Lives Matter movement against the racist system that creates this violence and protects its perpetrators. We cannot, with our Quaker testimony of peace, stand idle and remain neutral in the face of this state-sponsored violence. We will actively address the racism within ourselves, our meeting, and the wider community. This statement is merely a first step to commit us to action and growth.

Paid for by North Seattle Friends Church(Quaker)
www.northseattlefriends.org

Caritas Needs

Food
Crackers

Necessities
Laundry Soap
Toilet Paper



Sneak Peek at the new building Caritas will be moving into at Northside Church of Christ 5601 N. Jefferson



Letters from Friends

Letter from Karli Norman in Honduras

Hello, Friends!

I write to you from El Cusuco Cafe in the town of Cofradía. I have settled into a routine of visiting this cafe on the weekends, ordering a cold tea (té frío) or trying to order a hot matcha and getting a tiny macchiato instead and settling down in a corner with my laptop to use their super-fast wifi and write my lesson plans. It's a short bus ride down the road and even if the trip typically sets me back about 60 lempira, the productive results are definitely worth it.

Teaching in Brisas de Valle is challenging and exhausting and, to be honest, I have yet to truly see the rewarding part yet. However, I am reminded constantly what my students are up against.

Thursday, I was invited to have dinner and eat cake at a third grader's family home on the other side of Brisas de Valle. Abner is a sweet boy who always wants to answer question and clearly has a small crush on teacher. Invited into his family home, I was given a plastic patio chair to sit on and offered a glass of water. I ate dinner (papasas, they were delicious!) with Abner, his parents, grandmother and baby brother Joshua in the walled-in porch area that also held the family kitchen, pila, dining area, and the storefront from which they run their pulperia (small, family-run convenience stores). Abner's room itself is cement, like the rest of the home, with a bed, dresser, and a small computer set up in the corner specifically for our online classes. He keeps his floor clear to lay down a piece of plywood for his tap practice. For an eight year old, I will say that his soft shoe routine is pretty good.

The hospitality, the food, and the genuine kindness was so wonderful. Like many of my fellow teachers, I can feel frustrated with the wifi, the communication issues, the school bureaucracy, and the kids who goof off in class. It can feel like everything is set up against us. Sitting in Abner's house, I had to reflect on the fact that even though Abner is a happy, safe child, Honduras's infrastructure and education system places more hurdles than stepping stones in front of him and students like him.

Many students in Honduras, due to poverty or location are not in school. Public schools are not teaching online, which means many public school students haven't been to school in a year. Others may be able to afford private schools, but not the computers or phones or wifi for classes. Others may not be able to afford the tuition for private schools.

Our school is currently looking for scholarship donations, which are extremely cheap by American standards (\$59!). If anyone is interested in sponsoring a students, you may contact the school and speak with Miss Sarah Funda, our volunteer coordinator, at gardenschoolvictoria@gmail.com.

Regards,

Karli Norman

"Pearls Before Swine" is a comic strip carried by the Spokesman-Review. The strip below was printed on February 17, 2019. It was understood by many as a eulogy for Anthony Bourdain who took his own life. The S-R blocked out the fourth panel when it was first published, but more recently the entire strip was reprinted. As Pastis implies, travel is broadening (if you have time and money . . .) and one is less likely to want to drop bombs on people one has met. As for suicide, profound sorrow.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

BY STEPHAN PASTIS

