

SPOKANENWORD

May
2022



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 327-7852
www.spokanefriends.com
spokanefriends@gmail.com



Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness
begins at 9:00 a.m.
when first person sits down

Programmed worship 10:00 am
In-Person (masked)
and Via Zoom
See Website For Link

First Sunday of the Month
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

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

I Never Thought Of It That Way

How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations
in Dangerously Divided Times

By Monica Guzmán

Reviewed by **Lisa Selen Davis**



“Unfollow if you disagree.” It may sound like an innocuous social media phrase, but Monica Guzmán suggests that, in reality, it reflects the brokenness of a world in which divergent viewpoints preclude relationships. Rejecting someone for their class, race or sexual orientation remains taboo, but ditching people — or doxing*, threatening or shaming them — for their political beliefs? It’s not only acceptable, it’s the ultimate virtue signaling.

But Guzmán, who works in communications at the nonprofit Braver Angels, which seeks to depolarize America, see conflicting ideas and ideals not as the end but the beginning. Her book is a manual for difficult conversations between people who find themselves at opposite ends of the political spectrum, an investigation into the sources of polarization and a road map for marching out of dicey territory.

The first section, “S.O.S.,” details how we got here. The gist is, we’re sorting ourselves into tight groups, stuck in our ideological silos and “othering” people who disagree. From within these blocs, we rarely have to confront those with different ideologies, making it easier to dehumanize them.



The other four sections, “Curiosity,” “People,” “Paths” and “Honesty,” combine interviews, examples, graphs, and bulleted sections with key phrases to remember, like “state your concerns” and “pause and persist.” They detail how and when to engage in discussions with those of different blocs (and, importantly, when not to).

Her prescription for what ails our society is to replace certainty with curiosity, to stop seeing people as representatives of groups we can dismiss and to see them instead as individuals whose backgrounds inform their beliefs. She writes, “If there’s one question I want to persuade you to ask more often, it’s “What am I missing?”



Then, Guzmán says, it becomes possible to have what she calls INTOIT moments (for “I Never Thought of It That Way”), in which we see the person behind the politics. Just as the road to better health is often disappointing low-tech — no silver bullet but the boring and difficult mundanities of sleep hygiene and mindful eating — the cure for polarization is the simple and underappreciated art of conversation. Bue, of course, simple doesn’t mean easy.

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*The meaning of “dox” is to publicly identify or publish private information about (someone) especially as a form of punishment or revenge.

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Guzmán’s lesson seems to be that I should give up the need to be right and focus on the need to stay connected. The book’s greatest offering, I think, is permission to reclaim people we might have dumped for ideological reasons; such connections won’t sully us but may in fact enrich us. I can see this book helping estranged parties who are equally invested in bridging a gap — it could be assigned reading for fractured families aspiring to a harmonious Fourth of July barbecue.

Would these same techniques work on a larger scale, in a county where 62 percent of Americans feel unsafe expressing their political opinions, when the right and left are so extreme that more people declare political homelessness each day? Perhaps in part because I live in such a politically segregated world, my disagreement is often with members of my own party. Can a book like Guzmán’s push us past intra-party battles of race and gender? National shouting matches over infrastructure and abortion?

If people want to seek peace and friendship instead of to dox, threaten or shame, it’s possible. Right now, though that still feels like a big if.

Lisa Selin Davis reviewed Guzmán’s book for the *New York Times Book Review* in its April 3, 2022, issue. The article above is excerpted from that review.

**Continuing at Spokane Friends Church
Renee Girard Video Study**

Study continues through May 27
Thursdays 7-8 p.m. via Zoom

Put two three-year-olds in a room with 20 different toys. One starts to play with a toy, and you know where this is going. The other child wants to play with the same toy. What if it is two different countries and resources? Tensions rise. To avoid violence the countries unite against a common victim, a scapegoat. The scapegoat is destroyed. Order is restored. Repeat the cycle over and over again. What does any of that have to do with the Bible? Turns out a whole lot, according to the ideas of Renee Girard. For one, Jesus came to break the cycle.

*****Our “book” is a six-part video series that does an excellent job of making Girard accessible. Each video is about 15 minutes. Meeting format: Opening prayer, watch a video, discuss, close with prayer. No book to buy. No reading assignment.*****

If you are interested in attending, contact:
John Kinney at kinney@selkirkschools.org
to reserve your spot!

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 29, 4:30 PM

**A special treat for our
Memorial Day Weekend**

Spokane Friends will be hosting a special guest who will teach us how stories can cross barriers, build relationships and promote peace.

**How Not to be Afraid:
An Evening with Irish Storyteller
and Peace Activist Gareth Higgins**

Friends Meeting House
1612 W. Dalke Ave.
Spokane, WA 99205

Sunday, May 29, 2022
4:30 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Q&A to Follow

We’re delighted to welcome beloved storyteller Gareth Higgins to Friends Meeting House for an evening of storytelling and conversation about courage, creativity, and community, based on the ideas in his acclaimed new book, and decades of experience in northern Ireland, the US, and elsewhere seeking to nurture communities who learn and share a better story.

Sunday Speakers



Please tell an Elder when you would like to take a turn.

- ◆ May 1 John Kinney
- ◆ May 8 Ruthie Tippin
- ◆ May 15 Shawnee Ewart
- ◆ May 22 Johan Maurer
- ◆ May 29 Sarah Scott

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES April 25, 2022



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 16 people were in attendance.

The Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Still working on making changes to our Statement of Position report. The money from the Friends Foundation Extension Fund has been deposited into our checking account for now. We are very stable financially but some other issues need to be fixed. We have not met with Everance but that is still being considered.

Elder's Report: We have discussed previous messages and the pulpit is filled for Sundays through June 3rd. We acknowledge that the names of Linda Pierce and Jessica Carlson were brought to the Elders and have been accepted as new members of our congregation.

FAN (Friends Action Network) is a Legislative group that meets in Olympia, Washington. Lois Kieffaber asked for approval to have someone from that group speak to us during Sunday worship with a spiritual message. This was approved by the meeting today. She also brought up that the Pride Parade will be coming up soon and wondered how we felt about our church having some type of representation in that. After a period of silence and discussion it was decided that we obtain more information and pray about it and bring it back for consideration at the monthly meeting in May.

The Pillars are going to have 3 boxes in the foyer for people interested in joining any of these to place their name in the box. We are hoping for more participation in each Pillar. Several have voiced that they would like to start having a pot-luck at church the first Sunday of each month. This will not be on the same Sunday as Business Meeting. This was approved by the meeting today to start on Sunday June 5th. If there are people that want to be placed on the church's email list, these will be added so they can receive information about our activities.

Stewards and Trustees Report: We are making progress on several projects that we are currently working on. The church work day went well with many issues taken care of.

With no new or old business and all hearts and minds were clear, Laverne Biel dismissed us with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



In the United States, the origins of **Mother's Day** go back to 1870, when Julia Ward Howe – best remembered as the poet who wrote “Battle Hymn of the Republic” – worked to establish a Mother's Peace Day. Howe dedicated the celebration to the eradication of war, and organized festivities in Boston for years. Today's commercialized celebration of candy, flowers, gift certificates, and lavish meals at restaurants bears little resemblance to Howe's original idea. But here, for the record's sake, is the proclamation she wrote in 1870, which explains, in her own impassioned words, the goals of the original holiday.

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: “We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

“**Our sons shall not be taken** from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.”

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, “Disarm, disarm! The sword is not the balance of justice.” Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each learning after his own time, the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Spirit of the Waters

Totem Pole Journey
Snake River to the
Salish Sea

Heal and defend the Snake River for all our Relatives!

This May, [Se'Si'Le](#) invites you to stand with Lummi tribal members, the House of Tears Carvers and Tribal communities across the Pacific Northwest in support of a totem pole journey. This indigenous-led movement aims to remove the Snake River dams and restore to health the Snake River salmon runs and our relatives, the Southern Resident Killer Whales (Skali'Chelh in the Lummi language) that depend on them.

The faith community has been asked to show up in solidarity with Native communities across the Pacific Northwest to support this Totem Pole Journey.



The 2022 totem pole journey aims to inspire, inform, and engage Pacific Northwest communities through intergenerational voices, ceremony, art and science, spirituality, ancestral knowledge, and cross-cultural collaboration.

Unfortunately Spokane is not on the route of the totem pole journey, during which it will make 12 stops, starting in Bellingham on May 3 and traveling along the Pacific Coast to Tacoma on May 20 and on to where the Snake River enters the sea. Special events at these stops will include ceremonial moments steeped in ancestral knowledge to deepen our understanding of what it means to be cultural and environmental stewards and the moral obligation we have to ensure the protection of all who inhabit our land and waters and to hold the US government accountable to our Treaty promises with Native Nations.

For more information, go to [First/American Indian Nations Solidarity](#)

Quaker News

- ⇒ Sierra-Cascade Yearly Meeting of Friends is looking forward to their in-person **Annual Sessions at Canby Grove Christian Center** near Canby, Oregon on June 17-19, 2022. To learn more, see <https://www.scymfriends.org/annual-conference>
- ⇒ Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYMF) seeks an **experienced Independent Contractor to maintain our weekly email newsletter for three months and update our website** in preparation for our annual sessions, June 17-19, 2022. This position will expire after three months. Compensation is a total of \$1,500. To learn more, see <https://www.scymfriends.org/job-postings>
- ⇒ North Pacific Yearly Meeting has created a draft Minute of Right Relationship with Indigenous People for consideration at their Annual Sessions July 13–17, 2022 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, OR. You can find this Minute at <https://www.npym.org/>. Sierra–Cascades YM is collaborating in creating this Minute.
- ⇒ The 2022 Gathering of Friends General Conference will be held **online** July 3rd through 9th, 2022. Registration for the virtual Gathering will open in May.
- ⇒ Friends Committee on National Legislation has a position open for the Associate General Secretary (AGS) for Policy and Advocacy. The AGS is responsible for integrating and growing all aspects of FCNL's lobbying by staff and volunteers in Washington and around the country. To learn more, go to <https://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni>.
- ⇒ Klamath Falls Friends Church, an open and affirming semi-programmed Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers), in beautiful southern Oregon, is currently **seeking a part- to full-time Interim or Settled pastor** to guide us along our journey. KFFC is a Christ-centered and seeker-friendly Meeting. For more information, visit klamathfalls-friendschurch.org.
- ⇒ Camp Tillicum, Quaker Cove, Quaker Hill, and Twin Rocks Friends camps are seeking **ministry-minded high school and college-age summer staff**. If you know of a student that would be a good fit, please encourage them to apply. Contact each camp for specific details.
- ⇒ University Friends Meeting (Seattle, Washington) seeks a **Program Director for the Quaker Experiential Service & Training (QuEST) program**. The Director is responsible for implementing a program that provides Quaker and non-Quaker young adults with year-long positions at local social change and social service organizations, and an intentional, residential community. This is a part-time exempt position. Job description is available at <https://quest-seattle.org/download/12810/>.