

SPOKANENWORD

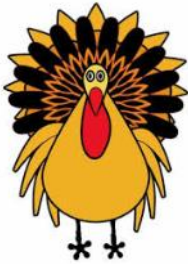
November
2022



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 a.m.
In-Person 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

THE HOMELESS

... a perplexing social issue

by Walter Simon

In a democracy the full functioning of the body politic depends upon defining reasonable solutions often as complex as the rhetoric that endorses the issues.

Solving local homeless matters are complicated when searching for resolution, especially when money and views speak louder than words.

Spokane is in an internal battle between concern for the homeless and increased anxiety over an unresolved civic dilemma, seemingly adrift in the shifting winds of public opinion.

The homeless are found housed in doorways, under railroad bridges and in a squalid encampment on East Second Avenue and Ray Street near I-90, land maintained by WSDOT, juxtaposed with a complaining neighborhood. This *Camp Hope* has the potential to explode into serious conflict between the city and squatters!

Three rubrics to consider: Reality, Politics, and Resolution. A casual survey at street level reveals Spokane's residents are emotionally burdened and perplexed. However, and thankfully, there's an impressive body of collective actions beyond policies that offer aid to support the county's homeless, estimated at roughly 1,800 persons.

Active street level agencies to consider: Dominant --in my estimation-- is Catholic Charities, offering well managed Permanent *Supportive Housing* with established goals that provide positive training focused on progressive steps of recovery.

Other significant agencies include: VA Homeless Programs, Spokane Housing Authority, Goodwill, Hope House, House of Charity, Homeless Outreach, Salvation Army, Family Promise of Spokane, Spokane Homeless Shelters, and Spokane's core of about thirty open doors for basic street level support.

Goodwill of Spokane is an example of a sophisticated understanding of a system for processing the homeless by directing goals, completing sheets of paperwork, offering kindness and guidance endorsing a theme: "Together, we create opportunities that change lives and strengthen communities."

Consider the guts of the matter: Homelessness is not exactly a choice, more an interface of complex and dynamic circumstances. Issues: "economic hardship, divorce, death of a spouse, lack of affordable housing, low living wage, domestic violence, medical bankruptcy and mental illness."

For background focused on Spokane's 2019 economic reality, family income below the poverty level was 39.5% compared to 9.8% across the state. *

For comparison 135 million people are considered either poor or low income in the USA. The numbers say 18% of households bring in less than \$25,000 a year. **

Based on Spokane statistics, the poverty level of the "very poor" residents shows a peak of 13.8% for those between 18-24 years of age, dropping to figures ranging from 6.7% down as age progresses. *

The question remains: Can a satisfactory solution be achieved at a time of diverse political self-interest, particularly considering that the homeless population has increased these last 2 years?

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page) What's new? A homeless program to benefit discharged military personnel is at the development stage: *Community Solutions Built for Zero*, directed by United Way and Goodwill leaders, a fresh approach, advised by a committee of articulate veterans.

Homeless agency efforts in our region seem overwhelmed. There is a strong effort to house those in need, but without the growth of low-income housing and related financial support, the problems remain a consuming concern. Most homeless are from Spokane County or have links to family and friends here. Underfunded local agencies are stepping up to embrace the problem but are haunted by financial issues. Homeless issues are easier to define than address.

Faced with a nagging problem and an expanding homeless population, time and political insight are needed for a positive solution. There will always be the homeless, as well as the concerned who seek out the best way to proceed. Regrettably no one is immune to societal conflicts.

The City of Spokane is to be commended for its detailing of these homeless issues. Relative to this, though curious, recently, the City Council voted a support budget, but solutions come at a high price!

Approved by 5 to 2 vote was a \$6.5 million contract with the Guardians Foundation, based in Post Falls, Idaho to operate the Trent Resource and Assistance Center through the end of 2023, but canceled as of October 26 ('22) over an unresolved fraud issue with the foundation...whoops reappointed to the Salvation Army. This is an ongoing story that merits additional research.

Questions remain! Is common good a fantasy? Will Spokane taxpayers feel comfortable about the expense of housing the homeless? Nobody wants to support you when you are down and out, but without the support, how can you ever escape from being down and out? It's a real Catch-22 situation.

*www.city-data.com/poverty/poverty-2021-Spokane-Washington.html

** New York Times - October 2, 2022 2022 by Shoemaker & Company. Used by permission of the publisher.

Walter Simon received a BS in Social Anthropology at the University of WA and studied motion and artiodactyls at Columbia University. Decades of field work with American and Canadian Natives Decades of field work: American, Canadian Natives, and American Gypsies, as well waterways, enabled his six decades of media experience, 3 TV documentaries, humorous newspaper publications, voicing for commercial stations and PBS, major market experience, two volumes of poetry, and 50 readings.--50 readings. His second book is about to be published, and best of all, he says, is being a puppeteer for over sixty years. He is a long-time Quaker and is now a member of Spokane Friends Meeting.

Discipline by Dash Shaw

Reviewed by Lois Kieffaber

You must be kidding — a QUAKER graphic novel??

YES, it IS a Graphic Novel. Who knew? It is also the first graphic novel I have ever read, so I did not know what to expect. Here is what the Goodreads website has to say about it: During the Civil War, many Quakers were caught between their fervent support of abolition, a desire to preserve the Union, and their long-standing commitment to pacifism. When Charles Cox, a young Quaker from Indiana, slips out early one morning to enlist in the Union Army, he scandalizes his family and his community.

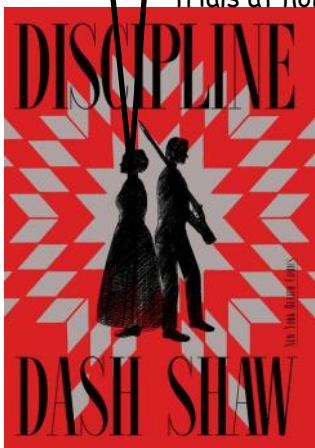
Leaving behind the strict ways of Quaker life, Cox is soon confronted with the savagery of battle, the cruelty of the enemy (as well as of his fellow soldiers), and the overwhelming strangeness of the world beyond his home. He clings to his faith and family through letters with his sister, Fanny, who faces her own trials at home: betrayal, death, and a church that seems ready to fracture under the stress of the war.

Discipline is told largely through the letters exchanged between the Cox siblings—incorporating material from actual Quaker and soldier journals of the era—and drawn in a style that combines modern graphic storytelling with the Civil War-era battlefield illustrations (see below) of the likes of Thomas Nast and Winslow Homer. The result is a powerful consideration of faith, justice, and violence, an American comics masterpiece. [goodreads.com]

The reader-reviews at the same website were interesting and entertaining. Here is one of them:

My wife didn't like this at all but she never read it. And she loves everything Quaker. She just couldn't get past the art and layout. I thought it was great, especially the art and layout. Divorce papers have been served.

And best of all — a copy of *Discipline* is in OUR Quaker library.



The opinions expressed within this Newsletter and on our website are those of the authors, not the Meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
19 October 2022



The meeting was called to order by LaVerne Biel. 15 people were present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read. It was noted that Kjersten Schmidt was nominated to be assistant recording clerk, to be considered for approval at the October meeting. It was also noted that the correct spelling of Andrew's last name is NAKISHIAN and is so corrected. Minutes were APPROVED as corrected.

Treasurers Report: There was no report, as the Treasurer was not present.

Nominating Committee: Kjersten Schmidt was approved as Assistant Recording Clerk.

Elders Report. Tina Weaver reported. Lois Kieffaber will continue doing the monthly newsletter. It is PROPOSED that she be paid for this. Pam Emery and Lois Kieffaber will share secretarial duties between them, working up to 8 hours per week at minimum wage.

Proposed speakers for November are:

11/6 John Kinney

11/13 Leanne Williams

The inclusivity statement will be sent to attendees for consideration. Discussion on this is continued until the November meeting.

Elders are open for suggestions for a topic for January sermons, as we have done in the past.

Discussion followed on expectations for a pastor. Suggestions are employment of 8 hours per week with 3 of those being in the Office, and one Sunday per month presenting a message.

Sue Keehnen expressed concern that the meeting members are expecting a pastor to take sole responsibility for "pastoral duties". There are things, such as visits, phone calls, or meals, that all of us can take responsibility for.

Stewards/Trustees Report Kent Biel reported that the bathroom partitions are still not done.

There was discussion of instituting a more formal offering during Sunday worship services.

The transfer of \$30,000 to Everence has been completed.

Reports from Pillars

Caring for the Meeting: There will be a Thanksgiving-themed potluck on November 6. Sign up sheet for the meal plan will be available the next two Sundays.

New Business: Walter Simon reported on his work of grant writing. He is working on better representing us to the public.

Andrew Nakushian will be contacted for website advice.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed in prayer by Linda Nixon.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Keehnen, Recording Clerk

Spokane Friends Slate of Officers and Committees

Presiding Clerk: LaVerne Biel 3 years

Asst. Clerk: Jon Maroni 1 year

Recording Clerk: Sue Keehnen 3 years

Asst. Rec. Clerk: Kjersten Schmidt 3 years

Treasurer: John Maroni 1 year

Asst. Treasurer Wade Schwartz 1 year

Elders: Krista Maroni, Clerk 1 year

Kent Biel (3 years)

Charlene Cox (2 years)

Tina Weaver (1 year)

Trustees: Bill Emery (1 year)

Kent Biel (2 years)

Jonas Cox (3 years)

Nominating: LaVerne Biel

Lois Kieffaber

Pillar Contacts

Serving the Community: Jonas Cox, Sue Keehnen

Caring for the Meeting: Pam Emery, Lois Kieffaber

Sharing the Light: LaVerne Biel, Jon Kinney

Quaker News

- ⇒ Despite the war in Ukraine **Friends House Moscow** continues its programs, including Big Change, supporting needs of social orphans, Kids are Kids, serving refugee children, and Alternatives to Violence training in Ukraine. They have also received grants from several Quaker organizations to promote peace and healing throughout the region.
- ⇒ Friends House Moscow also hosts a Daily International Meeting for Worship and Peace at 9:00 an Pacific Time, attended by Friends all over the world. You can join them at <http://tinyurl.com/fhm-zoom-for-peace>
- ⇒ **Called to a Committed Life** begins Saturday, Nov. 12 9:30-11:30 Pacific Time. This is an all new year-long series of online sessions and residential retreats with Way of the Spirit. Session One: *Intentions* is offered at either one of the date above, and you can attend as a stand-alone trial or to begin the year-long series. For more information, look at Bulletin 09.02.22 at <https://ww.scymfriends.org/newsletter>
- ⇒ Evangelical Friends Mission has printed a **Christmas Catalog** which is available on the table in the hospitality area. It allows you to give gifts
- ⇒ **Hillsboro Friends is seeking an Executive Director** with the heart of a pastor, full or part time, interim or permanent. Hillsboro has a ministry of providing meals to homeless people and a safe place to hang out on the weekends, when many other programs were closed. More importantly, this service has become known throughout the houseless community, has earned the trust of many, and is part of the weekly routine for a group of people who are somehow managing to get by without permanent housing. The service has become known throughout the houseless community and has earned the trust of many.
- ⇒ Other job postings that are now available: Camp Tillikum is seeking a full time **Maintenance Director**; Twin Rocks Camp — **Food Service Leaders, Development Director and Marketing Coordinator**; Metolius Friends seeks a full time **Youth & Family Pastor**; Newberg Friends Church is receiving applications for a **full-time pastoral position**; Crossroad Community Church (near Astoria) seeks a **lead pastor**; Greenleaf Friends Church in southern Idaho seeks a **lead pastor** with direct connection to Greenleaf Friends Academy, a K-12 Christian School, on their property. Ask the Office for more info about these positions.

EVERYDAY PHRASES THAT PERPETUATE THE OPPRESSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Circle the wagons This phrase is used to mean that a group should take a defensive position. [Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.](#) writes: "Circle the wagons translates to 'the savages are coming and we are about to be attacked.' Hollywood movies about settlers in North America moving west to invade and inhabit the traditional territories of First Peoples contributed greatly to the formation of this phrase." The story that white people needed to protect themselves from Indigenous aggressors, rather than the other way around, is an unavoidable subtext of this phrase.

Indian giver First included in a dictionary in 1860, this term was defined as "one who gives a present and then takes it back." This awful phrase originated when colonizers didn't understand the cultural practice of bartering as practiced by Indigenous Peoples. The idea that Native people are untrustworthy or likely to give a gift or make a deal that is later renegeged upon is ludicrous when considering the actual pattern of breaking treaties and stealing land practiced by colonizers.

Source: <https://radicalcopyeditor.com/2020/10/12/thirty-everyday-phrases-that-perpetuate-the-oppression-of-indigenous-peoples/>

Wade Schwartz, our Fig Tree liaison, shares this poster to inform us of their Fall Fundraiser. Also The Fig Tree has a \$2,700 matching grant so people can give and their gift will be doubled.



Fall Fundraiser
from Oct. 21 to Nov. 29 (Giving Tuesday)
is a time for renewing & new sponsors

**TO SUPPORT
NEWSPAPER'S & DIRECTORY'S MISSION OF**

- sharing stories of people who make a difference
- connecting people with the resources they need
- fostering reflection, understanding and dialogue
- inspiring respect/solidarity among diverse people

DONATE

at facebook.com/donate/839824063701083
at our website thefigtree.org/donate.html
or by mailing a check to

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

**Sponsor \$20-\$50 • Friend \$75-\$250
Sustainer \$500-\$1,200**

Caritas News

The Fall Fundraiser Dinner and Auction was a great success, raising \$15,528. Thanks to our generous donors, the underwrites and all the baskets that were donated. A special thank you to our Volunteers that helped put this together.

Unfortunately we will not be putting together any Thanksgiving Baskets this year. We will be referring Clients to Tom's Turkey Drive.

Christmas is underway!! Caritas is **focusing on Seniors** this year, because there are a lot of programs out there for families with kids. If you are interested in adopting a family for Christmas, please let us know. (But if you would like to adopt a family with kids that can also be arranged.) Just call us at the Food Bank. 509-326-2249.

In the past certain churches have been helping us with certain food needs for the month of November. The churches are:

St. Charles.....Chili and Variety Soups
 Prince of Peace.....Variety Soups and Jelly/Jam
 New Hope Christian.....Canned chicken and Canned Fruits
 Messiah Lutheran.....Laundry Soap
 St David's.....Jelly and Jam

If any other church would like to participate this way in November, please email us or give us a call. You can also contact Santos at 509-954-6420.

If you are not able to participate that is fine also. Your support in thoughts and prayer is always appreciated.

Again, many many thanks for all your support and generosity to help us help those in need!

Santos Higgins



Every Vote Matters

It's time to vote! Ballots have landed across the state. Vote by November 8 for the candidates with the best solutions for our communities. Let's keep ensuring that everyone's voting rights are protected. Remind your family and friends also to vote — it's especially important this year.



Artwork by Yorlanda Walls.

Fall Back



Set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday.

...or be late for church on Sunday and miss hearing John Kinney's message. (The bulletin had it backwards last, I believe.)

Be there or miss it.

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

IT'S FAN'S ANNUAL DINNER !!

Come together to celebrate our multifait, statewide movement!

PATHWAYS OF SOLIDARITY

FAN's Annual Dinner

Sunday November 20, 2022

In Renton, Spokane, and Livestreamed

Program begins at 5:30pm

Please register online by November 11 if you plan to attend in-person or virtually: bit.ly/FANDinner2022.



Artwork by Dan Erlander

Spokane members will be able to celebrate in-person or on line.

The dinner will be at
Thrive Center
110 E. 4th Avenue
Nov. 20, 4:30—7:30 pm

Individual tickets \$85

On-line tickets \$25

For more information and to register for the event, go to fanwa.org/annual-dinner/

SAVE THE DATE

