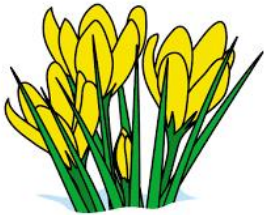


# SPOKANENWORD

March

2024



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 327-7852

[www.spokanefriends.com](http://www.spokanefriends.com)

[spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:spokanefriends@gmail.com)

Following the teachings of the Living Christ, we are an open, loving, and affirming community. We believe that God's Light is inherent within all people. There are no exceptions.

## Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness  
begins at 8:45 a.m. or  
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 CASE FOR GUN REFORM

By Tom Mauser



**My son Daniel was one of the students killed in the mass shooting at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999.** Since then, I have been a fierce advocate for gun reform.

I lament that many Americans seem unwilling to talk about the issue of gun violence, unless it's to others who hold the same opinions. While it may seem too volatile an issue, I believe it can be discussed in a civil way if we turn down the rhetoric and rely more on facts and reality.

Concern for gun violence in America is certainly not new for Quakers. Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) has had a staff person dedicated to reducing gun violence for decades. Many Yearly Meetings and individual meetings have produced statements advocating gun control, which can then be sent to political leaders and others in positions of power.

The Quaker community has been far ahead of the curve in responding to America's epidemic of gun violence. After the Sandy Hook school shooting in 2012, the Shepherdstown Meeting of Friends in W. Va. started a movement that ended up visiting Senator Rockefeller and winning his endorsement, and the day after visiting Senator Joe Manchin's office, the Senator did a historic turnaround on gun violence, working out a compromise with republican Senator Toomey for background checks.

More currently Quaker testimony on gun violence appears on podcasts by Quaker-Speak. Quakers meeting also support and join other faith and interfaith communities (Faith Action Network for example) for advocacy at the State level.

We need to have more discussions between reasonable people from both sides of the issue. Polls have shown that a majority of Americans are in the middle. They support the right to bear arms, but they also recognize the need to have restrictions.

To make progress, it is important for people on both sides to acknowledge the concerns of the other and find common ground, while also focusing on facts. For example, some gun owners complain about the time it takes to complete a background check to purchase a firearm. That needs to be acknowledged, but all citizens endure metal detector delays at airports, court rooms, and other places. They don't like it, but they are willing to sacrifice their time because they realize it's for the collective security of everyone. That is a very Christian position.

I know people are hearing from the gun lobby all the time. I want to arm the people, so to speak, to be able to respond without feeling intimidated. Here are some common claims and clichés of the gun lobby, and the way I respond to them.

■ **The claim: Gun control simply doesn't work. Chicago has strict gun laws yet a high gun death rate.**

My reply: Chicago has a terrible gun violence problem, but many of the guns used there come in from states with weak gun laws. New Orleans, Memphis, and Saint

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 1) Louis have gun homicide rates as bad or worse than Chicago— and they are in states with weak gun laws. Many of our gun laws come from the state level. The fact is that states with strong gun laws, like Massachusetts, California, and Hawaii, have the lowest gun death rates, while those with weak gun laws, like Alabama, Missouri, and Louisiana, have among the highest.

■ **The claim: Criminals don't follow gun laws and don't go through background checks.**

My reply: Sure, by definition criminals ignore many laws. But it's simply not true that they don't go through background checks. In 2021, over 14,000 people failed a background check in Colorado, based on offenses like homicide, spouse abuse, and rape. Isn't it better that we deny their gun purchases?

■ **The claim: Criminals will be able to get a gun somewhere else anyhow.**

My reply: If our laws are going to make it easy for them, sure they will. So are we going to make it difficult or easy? Are we going to surrender and just be fatalistic and discouraged, or are we going to be people of faith who tackle a problem in order to save lives?



■ **The claim: The problem is mental health.**

My reply: Numerous published studies demonstrate that only a small percentage of shootings are committed by people with a diagnosed mental illness. Some people think that a person crazy enough to shoot others is mentally ill. But “crazy,” “angry,” and “disgruntled” are not mental health diagnoses. They are behaviors.

People with mental health issues are being scapegoated by those who want to shift the subject away from guns. The Ten Commandments tell us not to bear false witness, yet that's what's happening here, adding to the stigmatization surrounding mental illness.

■ **The claim: Gun reform advocates are trying to keep law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. They are trying to confiscate their firearms, leaving only criminals with them.**

My reply: The reality is that gun sales are up significantly, despite the gun laws that are in place. People do have a right to protect themselves, and what actual laws prevent people from doing that? All this talk of confiscation is irresponsible. It's spoken simply to get gun owners very angry. The 14th Amendment protects people from the government seizing property without due process. Besides, let's have a reality check: How in the world would the government be able to seize 400 million firearms?

■ **The claim: “Guns don't kill people—people kill people.”**

My reply: There are two common elements in every shooting—at least one person and at least one gun. We are by far the most heavily armed industrialized nation, and it's no coincidence that we have the highest per capita gun death rate by far.

■ **The claim: The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.**

My reply: It's easy to think, “I can take out a mass shooter if I see him,” but the reality is that many gun carriers freeze when faced with a real-life situation. Or they miss and make matters worse. Or they forget that there could be deadly crossfire from other gun carriers, or that the police won't know who the good guy with a gun is, since we don't wear a good guy label. The reality is that today's good guy can easily become tomorrow's bad guy. The reality is that very few shootings are stopped by a good guy with a gun. The best way to stop a bad guy is not to let him get a gun in the first place.

**Tom Mauser** is the father of Columbine victim Daniel Mauser, spokesman for Colorado Ceasefire, and author of [Walking in Daniel's Shoes](#). He is a member of Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Littleton, Colo. Most of the above piece was condensed from his article of the same title in the November 2022 issue of **Messenger**.

The information on Quaker response to gun violence comes from the following sources:

<https://www.fcni.org/issues/gun-violence-prevention> ; Podcasts: Use your search engine and look for “QuakerSpeak gun control” ; <https://www.fcni.org/events/quaker-witness-gun-violence> ; <https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/quakers-unite-and-inspire-on-gun-violence/> ; <https://www.fcni.org/updates/2023-08/how-can-i-advocate-gun-violence-prevention> ; Look for [2024-Gun-Responsibility-Agenda-1 PDF \(fanwa.org\)](#) on your web browser.

## MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

February 18, 2024



The meeting was called to order with prayer by Laverne Biel. Twelve people were present.

Minutes: The minutes were read. They were approved with the correction that Jon Maroni questioned the continuance of our See the Need program.

Elders: The office assistant position was advertised and six applications were submitted. None had listed references. Two of the candidates will be pursued, requesting references. Speakers have been organized through March 24. It was decided that all worship leaders will be required to be "in person" and not on Zoom. (Elders Report attached)

Paul Blankenship and his wife will be visiting on March 17.

Treasurers Report: No written report was submitted due to transition of personnel. The need for a written report will be communicated. In other respects, the transition was smooth, with Jon Maroni stepping down as Treasurer, replaced by Pam Emery as our acting Treasurer and Keri Noelle as our Accountant.

Stewards: No report was given. However, it has been noted that the downstairs classrooms need to be painted and carpet installed thereafter.

There is work being done by Dave Roberts to help with an online request for assistance for a family in need.

Pastors Report: Ken Peacock reported on his contacts with Earl Moore during her surgery and the family of Joyce Nelson. He officiated at Joyce Nelson's memorial service at which there were 90-100 people in attendance. Ken spoke about peace and other Quaker values, and the group had a short period of Open Worship to honor Joyce's choice of a Quaker meeting as her church home.

Ken encouraged us to connect with family and friends and invite them to visit. He also plans to contact those who haven't attended recently.

New Business: Andrew Nakushian, Laverne Biel and Walter Simon are updating the website. Russ Brickner, a Zoom attender, responded to a letter inviting him into membership; he indicated he wants to become recorded when he can attend in person when he returns to Spokane.

There was no further business. The meeting was closed with prayer by Dave Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Keehnen, Recording Clerk

A poster for a concert. The background is a scenic view of a lake and mountains under a blue sky. The text is centered and reads:

**A CRESTLINE CONCERT**  
FEATURING  
FRANCINE HARRIS, PIANIST ~ STEVE FLATAU, TENOR  
*Program with a wide variety of piano and vocal musical styles offering something for everyone*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 ~ 2PM**  
CRESTLINE CHURCH  
CORNER OF CRESTLINE AND 44<sup>TH</sup> - SPOKANE SOUTH HILL.  
*Free admission ~ Reception to follow*

### MARCH QUOTES

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. — Charles Dickens

"Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour."  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"That's the trouble with March—the warmth never lasts. There's that narrow stretch when it parades as spring, just enough for you to thaw if you're sitting in the sun, but then it's gone."*  
— V. E. Schwab

## Caritas Needs

### Foods Needed

Top Ramen  
Canned Veggies  
Canned Fruit  
Jellies and Jams  
Beans

Spaghetti  
Canned Meats  
Chicken, Tuna  
Peanut Butter  
Chili



### Necessities Needed

Can Openers  
Bar Soap  
Tooth Paste  
Toilet Paper

Shampoo  
Detergent  
Tooth Brushes

### Monetary Donations

Money is ALWAYS needed for Caritas to purchase shelf-stable items, utility expenses, gas vouchers and bus passes to help our clients.

Thank you so much to all those who have been doing Lenten contributions. It is so appreciated.

## Quaker News

- ⇒ **Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting** will have its Annual Sessions on June 7-6 at Canby Grove, in Canby, Oregon.
- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** will have its Annual Sessions on July 10—14, 2024, at
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting** will hold Annual Sessions on July 21-24, 2024, at George Fox University.
- ⇒ Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) will hold its **World Plenary Meeting** August 5-12 2024 in South Africa and online. This is a meeting for representatives from all sections to tend to FWCC business, surrounded by worship and fellowship with Friends from around the world. The 2024 WPM will be hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, *and held in South Africa and online. The theme is 'Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another'.* More information at <https://fwcc.world/wpm/>

## George Fox's 400th birthday

January 1 - December 31

Celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker co-founder George Fox will take place throughout 2024. Many of these events can be joined online, from around the world. Find out more at <https://fwcc.world/fox/>



## JOYCE MARIE NELSON

1940 - 2024



Joyce Nelson, 83, passed away on February 4, 2024. She was born on May 1, 1940, in Reardan, Washington, to Clarence and Lorraine Rattray. She attended school at Four Mound Prairie and Reardan High School.

For decades Joyce was an avid volunteer in a number of local organizations including the Foresters, where she worked with Spokane Arena and rest stops, the Four Mound Prairie Home-makers Club. She was craft show coordinator and host of Reardan Mule Days.

Joyce was a dedicated crafter, joining craft shows throughout Washington State and teaching others this art. As she crafted, she'd talk about needing more craft supplies —buttons, rare buttons, yarn, etc. and off she'd go; she visited thrift stores every where she went. If she saw a yard sale sign, she was there. She found lots of treasures at thrift stores and yard sales to turn into something beautiful.

She was the repository of family history — while crocheting, she would tell stories about the Rattray homestead, her schooling, her parents and grandparents, and her children. She had a deep love for family, holding all her babies, watching them grow up. If they needed a helping hand or someone to talk to, she was there.

Joyce was a Mariners fan. In the evenings she sat in her rocking chair and watch their games. If you heard a "woohoo," you'd know the Mariners were winning or getting home runs that day. Afternoons she sat on the porch or patio with iced tea or diet Pepsi, surrounded by her snacks, a craft project in her lap or sometimes a book.

Joyce was a long-time member of Spokane Friends, a Quaker Meeting. She served faithfully for many years on the Missions Committee, preparing meals for the Gideons with Becky Williams. When Becky went to live with her mother, Joyce headed up the project, often bringing along her children and grandchildren to help out. For many years the Gideon meal donations provided the Meeting's major support of local mission projects. Family celebrations, birthdays, and reunions were often held in the Meeting's fellowship hall.

Joyce is survived by brother Larry, sons Dale, Mike and Brett Rogers, daughters Linda Higgins, Shelly Jones, and Beckey Tsoumpas, 27 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren. As matriarch of her family she took joy in traveling with them and spending time with them. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.



## SPOKANE FRIENDS WELCOMES KENNETH PEACOCK

by Walter Simon

Spokane Friends Church, a regional Quaker institution, extends a hearty welcome to Kenneth Peacock, our recently appointed Chaplain and Pastor of Congregational Care. Ken is focused on community support, pastoral care and inter-dynamic relationships within Spokane.

Our Chaplain's spiritual development began in Bogota, Colombia, SA, where his parents served as missionaries in Literature Ministries. Ken is bilingual: Spanish and English. Credentials include a Masters in Child and Youth Studies from Nova Southeastern University and a Masters in Theology from Whitworth University. Ken's experience includes Vocational Skill training, Foster Care Social Work, and Chaplaincy, having completed the Chaplain Training Program at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center here in Spokane.

Ken describes his spiritual values as simplicity, gentleness, peace, love, justice, faith and being present. His goals include supporting the community of Friends, growth of membership, and demonstrating Quaker values.

In Light of this, Spokane Friends Church has joined Greater Spokane, to better integrate the interests of the community, to promote civic goals, and to increase awareness of Spokane Friends Church in the Spokane Community. Further details? Spokane Friends is at your service.



Spokane Friends  
extends a hearty welcome to  
**Ken Peacock**  
our new Chaplain,  
Pastor of Congregational Care

### **Ken's Contact Information**

Mobile: 509-279-9625

Email: [ken.spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:ken.spokanefriends@gmail.com)

### **Ken's Office Hours**

Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00 pm

Learn more about Ken in the next Newsletter,



Fig Tree

## **2024 Benefit Events**

**Lunch - Friday, March 8, 2024**

Buffet opens 11 a.m. • Program 12-1

Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University

**Breakfast-Time - Wednesday, March 13**

Gather 7:30 • Slides 7:50 • Program 8 - 9 a.m. - Zoom

There is no charge to attend. Guests are asked to donate

**Gala Celebrating 40 Years of The Fig Tree**

Sunday, April 28 5 - 8 p.m.

Cathedral of St. John

127 E. 12th Ave.

Keynote Speaker: Karen Georgia Thompson  
General Minister & President, Un-  
national United Church of Christ Member of the World Council  
of Churches Central Committee

Tickets - \$50 • Sponsors Welcome

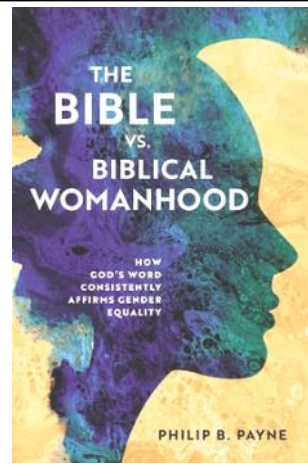
RSVP to The Fig Tree  
1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202



### Speaker Schedule

March 3 Lois Kieffaber  
March 10 John Kinney  
March 17 Ruthie Tippin  
March 24 Johan Maurer





## Join us in celebrating Women's History Month



Online book club discussion  
Sunday, March 31st at 6:30 pm  
All are welcome

**About the book:** "Biblical womanhood" is the idea that the Bible teaches God-ordained male leadership and female submission in the home and subordination in the church. Some say this hierarchy of authority is sufficiently evidenced by examples of male leadership (and lack of female leadership) in the Bible: the first human was male, Israel's official priests were male, most authors of Scripture were male, Jesus was male and chose twelve male Apostles. God is addressed as Father. Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands. In The Bible vs. Biblical Womanhood, New Testament scholar Philip B. Payne argues that the very Bible passages that are often believed to teach male headship and female subordination actually teach gender equality. He demonstrates that the Bible does not endorse gender hierarchy but instead emphasizes that the Holy Spirit gifts ALL believers for ministry. These concepts are examined in 14 Bible passages throughout the Old and New Testaments, using careful exploration of Greek and Hebrew word meanings, historical and cultural context, and examples from Scripture. Payne defends his position by providing detailed answers to common objections at the end of each chapter. The Bible vs. Biblical Womanhood is for those struggling to reconcile the Bible's seemingly contradictory teachings about man and woman.

Reach out to [taylorblackwell900@gmail.com](mailto:taylorblackwell900@gmail.com) if interested in reading the book during March and joining the discussion — or if you need assistance with purchasing the book.

**Spokane Friends launches a Book Club that will meet once a month**

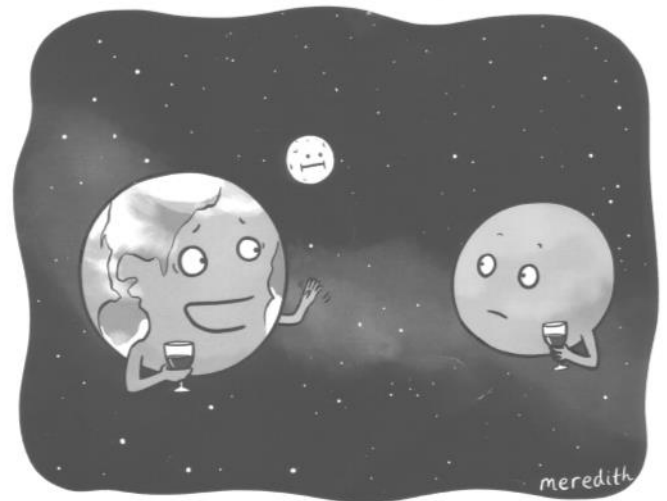
### Half an Ear

There are those who listen with half an ear—  
perhaps half deaf, or waiting to reply  
because he's thinking about his next point  
and is indifferent to yours, or she makes  
the once-a-year obligatory call to someone back  
home that'll permit her  
to say she's in touch, in the midst of which she is  
told Great-uncle Walter just died  
and she replies, "So sorry to hear that—  
and please tell him that I asked about him."

David Black

Louisa, Va.

Friends Journal, December 2022



*"Nice to meet you! Hey, you wouldn't happen to have  
room for about eight billion largish, talking  
mammals, would you?"*

Cartoon by Meredith Southard, Courtesy of CartoonStock.com

**Note: The opinions expressed within this Newsletter and on our website are those of the authors, not the Meeting or the editor Lois Kieffaber.**