# SPOKANEWORD

# Мау 2024

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

**&** 

# Reflections

#### **NAMING AND BEING NAMED**

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Names are important, and some are interesting. The names for groupings of animals are very interesting. Most would know the name "herd" as a name for a group of cows. Well, groups of animals are named in the following ways. We have a flamboyance of flamingos. There is a bloat of hippopotamus... or is it hippopotami? There is a conspiracy of Lemurs and a parliament of owls. Don't forget the gaggle of geese. When I learned of the following one, I had a good laugh. Monkeys. Monkeys are known as a congress of monkeys. True story. Yes, we could make a lot out of that one. So.... Some names evoke a chuckle, others a pause for contemplation, and yet others bring us a smile in recognition of beauty.

But; How would I be named? I wondered what name others would use to call me? What would my friends and I be called? Apparently, a group of peacocks is called a muster. Not a pride since that was already taken by the Lions. Some call a group of peacocks and peahens an ostentation. As I learned of the names given to groups of animals, I noticed the name reflects a trait or feature of that animal. While nomenclature in the animal kingdom is a fun activity, I got to thinking: how does this apply to me? What might people call me? This is a challenging thought. What trait of mine would be used to name me? I do hope the name would be positive. But, realistically, that might be a 50/50 venture. While my "name" today may or may not be all I might hope it to be; I do know is this: the name I have today is not necessarily the name that will stick to me. Our own history offers us an important lesson.

Originally, Quaker was a term of derision. It was a name used to poke fun at the Religious Society of Friends. The name Quaker was initially associated with suffering, with bullying. Over time, "Quaker" became a name for a person with integrity, a person who valued and promoted peace, and a person who took seriously the call to emulate Christ. We might say that Quakers have made a name for themselves. So... we have a cackle of hyenas, a memory of elephants, and a journey of giraffes. These names remind me that I do have the opportunity; yes, I do have the power to influence how I am named and how I will be remembered. I do not have to be known as an obstinance of buffalo, or a smack of jellyfish. Thanks be to God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, I have the choice to live a life that will cause others to call me a name, a name by which I will remembered. Maybe... I might be known for something like a kaleidoscope of butterflies. I certainly do not wish to be known as an unkindness of ravens. The challenge is this: Based on my life, what would others call me?

A reflection, prayerfully and thoughtfully offered by **Ken Peacock**.

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#### Ken Peacock's Office Hours

Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00 pm or by appointment Mobile: 509-279-9625

Email: ken.spokanefriends@gmail.com

#### Diana Davis's Office Hours

Tuesdays 8:30 am to 1:00 pm Wednesdays 3:00 to 6:00 pm Fridays 10:00 am to 2:30 pm (flexible as needed)

Speaker Schedule

May 5 Ken Peacock

May 12 Jon Kinney

May 19 Ruthie Tippin

May 26 Johan Maurer



Financial Report

	March 2024	Year to Date
Income:	\$6229.45	\$13,118.23
Expenses:	\$4156.81	\$14,890.25

Difference: \$2072.84 **-** \$ 1,772.02

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 <a href="https://fwcc.world/fox/">https://fwcc.world/fox/</a>

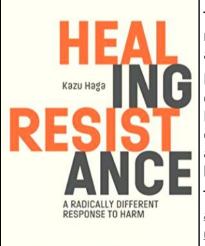


#### Spokane Friends Starts a Book Club

Taylor Blackwell leads a Book Discussion that meets once a month. The first book we read and discussed, chosen to honor the month of March as Women's History Month, was The Bible vs. Biblical Womanhood by Philip B. Payne. Payne 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.

For April, to honor Earth Month, we chose The End of Eden: Wild Nature in the Age of Climate Breakdown by Adam Welz, a book that pushes us to really grasp and address climate breakdown and its meaning for

all the rest of creation.



The book for May is Healing Resistance by Kazu Haga, who offers a mindfulness-based approach to nonviolent action, demonstrating how nonviolence is a powerful tool for personal and social transformation.

Nonviolence was once considered the highest form of activism and radical change. And yet its basic truth, its restorative power, has been forgotten. In Healing Resistance, leading trainer Kazu Haga blazingly reclaims the energy and assertiveness of nonviolent practice and shows that a principled approach to nonviolence is the way to transform not only unjust systems but broken relationships.

The Book Discussion group meets on the last Sunday of the month, at 11:30 am, shortly after rise of worship. Reach out to taylorblackwell900 @gmail.com if you are interested in reading our May book and joining the discussion. Participants can attend either in person or via Zoom.

# MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES April 21, 2024



The meeting was opened by Clerk Laverne Biel with prayer and observations. There were 13 people present.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as presented.

The Treasurers Report (attached) was presented and discussed.

<u>Elders Report</u>: The speaker and worship leader schedules were reviewed and discussed. Ken Peacock agreed to speak on May 5 and June 2, which were open dates.

A <u>new secretary, Diana Davis,</u> has been hired. She will be joining us on May 5 for worship and potluck.

<u>Stewardship Report</u>: Wallpaper removal in a downstairs classroom will be started soon. Painting and carpet replacement will follow.

Walter Simon reported that we are now a member of Greater Spokane, Inc. He has contacted Innovia about a grant. They want a one page request. It is suggested we ask for at least \$50,000 to pave the parking lot.

The next project will be to contact the City of Spokane, asking for \$40,000 for additional roof repairs. We will need an estimate for paving the parking lot. Stewards pointed out the roof has already been repaired, and should be good for ten years.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Bob Weise.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Keehnen, Recording Clerk

#### **Out and About with Spokane Friends**

Spokane Friends Meeting was well represented at the *Gala Celebration of 40 Years of the Fig Tree* on April 28, 2024. Those attending sat at a table sponsored by Wade Schwartz, who is the Treasurer of *Fig Tree*.



Present were **Ken Peacock and Amy Cross**, **Jeremy and Nancy Street**, **Bruce and Leann Williams**, **Lois Kieffaber**, **and Wade Schwartz**. Proclamations from Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown and Washington Governor were



received and read. Many awards were presented. Featured speaker was Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, the first woman of African descent elected as general minister and president/CEO of the United Church of Christ. She also serves as a member of the World Council of Churches Central and Executive Committees. She emphasized how

important it is to tell ourselves — and each other — stories of hope, to combat the influence of media, whose decision is based on "what sells."

Making contact with other Quakers in the region may involve a trip of 150 miles, but that did not stop some Spokane Quakers from accepting an invitation to worship with the *Pullman/Moscow Monthly Meeting*. On Sunday, April 5, **Alan Binnie, Bill and Emalee Gillis, Carolynne Myall and Sydney Chambers** made the journey to Moscow, ID and were warmly received for worship and a potluck dinner following. Quakers from Lewiston also worship with this Monthly Meeting, which is affiliated with North Pacific Yearly Meeting.



#### Caritas Needs

#### **FOOD**

Breakfast cereal—no oatmeal
Pancake mix Cooking oil
Spaghetti pasta—NO elbow macaroni
Jelly/jam



#### **NECESSITIES**

Shampoo Laundry detergent Dish soap

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Blessings to you. Caritas Staff and Volunteers

#### Poet's Corner

## Definition

Keep me in your thoughts he said and it was more than a request which is to say that no one wants to be forgotten that life without relationship is no life at all that every heartfelt asking is by definition a prayer.

Ken Gibble Reprinted from *Messenger*, March 2024

#### Some George MacDonald Quotes

From a sermon:

One may readily conclude how poorly God thinks of riches when we see the sort of people he sends them to.

From a letter to a reader:

It is Jesus who is the Revelation of God, not the Bible; that is but a means to a mighty eternal end. The book is indeed sent us by God, but it nowhere claims to be his very word. If it were . . .it would have been a good deal better written. Yet even its errors and blunders do not touch the truth, and are the merest trifles . . . Jesus alone is The Word of God.

#### **Quaker News**

- ⇒ Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) seeks General Secretary who will be responsible for the effective management of all its affairs as it partners with marginalized women in developing countries to improve their quality of life. For more info, go to <a href="mailto:rswr.org/careers">rswr.org/careers</a>. Ruthie Tippin is on their Board.
- ⇒ **Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting** will have its <u>Annual Sessions</u> on June 7-9 at Canby Grove, in Canby, Oregon. Darren Kenworthy is the speaker and the topic is how to move forward as a Yearly Meeting in an era of young people turning away from the church pew to different ways of reaching toward God, focused on service and direct experience.
- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** will have its Annual Sessions on July 10—14, 2024, at University of Montana in Missoula, Montana. The theme is "Cross the Divide" and will consider divides between us and the earth, politics and poverty, race and resources, and finally between us and Spirit.
- ⇒ **Twin Rocks Friends Camp** invites us to the Dedication and Open House of their new Young Adult Community House, Saturday, May ll, 2024, 3 pm.
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting** will hold <u>Annual Sessions</u> on July 21-24, 2024, at George Fox University.
- ⇒ Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) has introduced an interactive map and directory of Friends in the Americas. Use the map tool to find the nearest Quaker worship at fwccdirectory.org,
- ⇒ Over 300 young people lobbied Congress to establish a Truth and Healing Commission to investigate the Indian Boarding School era. This was sponsored by Friends Committee for National Legislation. Following U.S. -led attacks in Yemen, FCNL also advocated for Congress to push for a cease-fire in the war in Israel-Palestine and to pursue diplomatic engagement to deescalate tensions in the region.

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

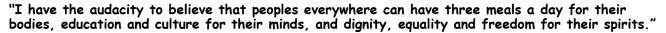


## Spokane Friends Meeting 1612 W. Dalke Avenue Spokane, WA 99205

Holding in the Light

During Meeting for Worship, many share joys about changes in their lives, new opportunities, new ministries, unexpected blessings; others share concerns. You may wish to carry these joys and concerns in your heart and remember them in your prayers.

- Delmar and Renee celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.
- Successful kidney transplant for Don's brother-in-law.
- Medication adjustments and household help for Walter.
- Improvement in son with digestive problems.
- Unjust arrest of young man attending bachelor party in Turks and Caicos.
- Marsha, newly diagnosed with M.S.
- Audrey and Jose in Puerto Rico, working on house repairs after tornado, as Audrey recovers from knee surgery.
- Recent diagnosis of Graves disease for sister with an impatient husband.
- Roy and Karen, dealing with a variety of significant health issues.
- Tragic loss of life due to violent outbreak of hostilities between Palestinians and the Israeli government.
- Conclusion of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.



Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Letters from Friends





#### Ken Peacock's Office Hours

Sundays 12:00 to 4:00 pm Wednesday 2:00 to 6:00 pm or by appointment

Mobile: 509-279-9625

Email: ken.spokanefriends@gmail.com

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In a recent email our Johan Mauer, reviews Brian Zahnd's book, <u>A Farewell to Mars.</u> Here are a few selections he provided as teasers... Isn't it time we abandoned our de facto agreement with Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas, and their worn-out, death-dealing ideas? Isn't it time we took seriously the revolutionary, life-giving ideas of Jesus -- the one whom God raised from the dead and declared to be Lord by the power of an indestructible life? Isn't it time we were converted and became as children, having the capacity to imagine the radical otherness of the kingdom of God? ... At the very least, we ought to take a fresh look and evaluate with new eyes what Jesus of Nazareth actually taught about the dark foundations of human civilization and the alternative he offers in the kingdom of God. (from Chapter 1, "That Preacher of Peace.")

Far too many American Christians embrace a faulty, half-baked, doom-oriented, hyperviolent eschatology, popularized in Christian fiction (of all things!), that envisions God as saving parts of people for a nonspatial, nontemporal existence in a Platonic "heaven" while kicking his own good creation into the garbage can! Framed by this kind of world-despairing eschatology, evangelism comes to resemble something like trying to push people onto the last chopper out of Saigon. But this is an evangelism that bears no resemblance to the apostolic gospel proclaimed in the book of Acts. Christianity's first apostles evangelized, not by trying to sign people up for an apocalyptic evacuation, but by announcing the arrival of a new world order. The apostles understood the kingdom of God as a new arrangement of human society where Jesus is the world's true King. (from Chapter 2, Repairing the World.)

We believe in Jesus theologically, religiously, spiritually, sentimentally ... but not politically. We believe Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity, but we don't really believe he was a competent political theologian. If we were tasked with framing a political theology drawn only from Jesus's words, what would it look like? Why? Because when it comes to political models for running the world, we find it hard to believe in Jesus. (Chapter 4, It's Hard to Believe in Jesus.)

The road of nonviolent peacemaking is not an easy road, it's not a popular road, and it's certainly not a road for cowards. The road of "God is on our side, and he shall surely smite our enemies" is a wide road. A lot of parades have gone down that road. It doesn't take much courage to travel that road; just fall in step and follow the crowd. A marching band is usually playing. But it's also the road that leads to burned villages, bombed cities, and solemn processions of flag-draped coffins. Until the self-professed followers of Jesus are willing to forsake the wide road for the narrow way, the popular sentiment for the unpopular conviction, the easy assumptions for the hard alternatives -- Jesus will continue to weep while his disciples shout hosanna. (Chapter 6, The Things that Make for Peace.)

Before we appeal to Hitler as the ultimate argument against Christian nonviolence, we first have to ask how Hitler was able to amass a following of Christians in the first place. (Chapter 7, Clouds, Christ, and Kingdom Come.)

What lessons and priorities might Friends take from Brian Zahnd's message? There's theoretically great

"Rebooting" June 25, 2017, Amber Joplin in SERMONS Zandt's book date 2014

# SPOKANEWORD

# February

2023

We are putting together an EMERGENCY CONTACT list especially for those that might live by themselves or have no relatives in the area. If you would like to be included give Pam or Nick the information. This will be stored in a safe place.

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

When locking the front door of the meeting house, please check that it is truly locked by pulling on the handle. Sometimes it does not completely clos

Spokane Friends Meeting 1612 W. Dalke Avenue Spokane, WA 99205

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The note below has been received from our pastor and is posted on the Bulletin Board.

#### Just two small words

#### To express so much gratitude.

<u>Note to on-line readers</u>: Sometimes we print pictures that we have as hard copy, but not an on-line version. We cut them out and paste them in before making the Newsletter copies. Thus the on-line version does not include them and you see a blank space instead. Sorry.

Those who attend services at Spokane Friends will find the missing material in the Newsletter posted on the Bulletin Board.

## Letters from Friends

Our Latest Communication from

For more information call Caritas at 509-326-2249 or watch this space in upcoming Newsletters.

(continued on page 4)

This drawing, gifted to FAN by artist Rev. Dan Erlander, is an early depiction of the kind of multi-faith movement for justice our founders envisioned. It is replicated on the certificate received by each faith community when they join our network. In this season calling for FAN's public witness, may we find courage and synergy together!

### Letters from Friends

Our Latest Communication from Elizabeth Todd

#### From Fan's WEBSITE 2024:

**HB 6007 Concerning Employment Standards for Grocery Workers** will retain grocery workers' jobs and protect from layoffs caused by corporate mergers.

#### **Access to Healthcare**

**SB 5853 Extending the Crisis Relief Center Model** will provide behavioral health crisis services for minors.

**HB 1929 Supporting Young Adults Following Inpatient Behavioral Health Treatment** will provide critical services.

The legislature prioritized mental healthcare this year allocating \$339 million on behavioral health programs, staffing and facilities.

#### **Housing**

A number of big housing policies failed, including HB 2114 capping annual rent increases for tenants

#### Housing

A number of big housing policies failed, including HB 2114 capping annual rent increases for tenantsat 7% per year, and the Affordable Homes Act (REET 2.0) which would have increased transfer tax on properties sold over \$3M but exempt those \$1M and below. We will continue to pursue housing justice with our coalition partners. **Police Accountability and Incarceration Reform** 

Four years after the death of Manny Ellis who died while hog-tied in police custody in Tacoma, **SB 6009 Hog Tying Ban was passed.** This session, however, saw the failure of key initiatives supported by police accountability proponents, notably HB 1513 Traffic Safety for All aimed at limiting police traffic stops and HB 1579 Independent Prosecutor legislation intended to broaden the attorney general's power to probe into unlawful use of force by police officers. Bills we supported for reform of our incarceration system also did not pass.

Thank you for your advocacy! We will continue to work together for policies that didn't pass during the 2025 session. In the meantime, we can celebrate what we accomplished together.

#### **BILLS THAT PASSED WITH YOUR ADVOCACY!**

For the full list of the bills that passed or did not move, see our updated <u>Bill Tracker</u>.

#### **BIG WINS for Public Safety and Gun Responsibility**

**SB 5427 Biased Incidents Hotline** will support people who have been targeted by hate crimes and bias incidents.

**HB 1903 Reporting Lost and Stolen Firearms** within 24 hours of discovering weapons are gone. **HB 2118 Dealer Responsibility** establishes further requirements of care for gun dealers.

**SB 5444 Concerning Firearms in Sensitive Places** will prohibit carrying a weapon into certain designated places like zoos, public libraries, and transit facilities.

#### **Protecting the Safety Net**

**HB 1652** Ensuring Families on TANF Keep 100% of Their Child Support Payments. The bill will go into effect January 1, 2026.

#### **Advance Immigrant and Refugee Rights**

**HB 2368 Funding for Services for Newly Arrived Immigrants** within the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, allowing ORIA to provide emergency and legal services for people who do not qualify for federal refugee programs.

#### **Supporting Workers**

**HB 6007 Concerning Employment Standards for Grocery Workers** will retain grocery workers' jobs and protect from layoffs caused by corporate mergers.

#### **Access to Healthcare**

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#### **How God Sees Us**

• We must learn to see the divine worth in everyone regardless of how they treat us.

#### By Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt nterest

Our work must follow two laws. We may not bear grudges against anyone, for the kingdom of God is God's love for all people. And we must not annoy, scorn, or despise any of the poor as of less value than ourselves. You are yourself a miserable wretch if you treat them as though they were of no value. We must always have God's values before our eyes. God's treasure lies within each person, not with the great and powerful of this earth. I even have to say to a king, an emperor, or a general: "As head of state or as a great scholar you have no value before God, only as a poor human being you are of value to him. Your value is not a hair more than that of the humble and poor, of the lowest errand boy."

The divine worth in any despised person must be recognized, and we must protect and cherish it. Whenever we get together with people, we need to consider their value for the kingdom of God. If anyone sins against us or insults, punches, or swears at us, we should not think about the cursing, but be mindful. We could say: "He is foolish insulting me like that." We can even tell him directly: "Hey, it's stupid to curse like that!" But we should not despise him for insulting us because in God's name we see him as precious for the kingdom of heaven.

When history, which confuses us and creates enemies, comes to an end and deception has been driven out of the world, we might see this treasure shining clearly. In the meantime, I must see it in my enemy as a mustard seed and forgive again and again. If someone should insult me a hundred times I must still see in him value for God.

This is what people have not yet learned, and I believe that this is why the kingdom of God has not yet come. People bite and scratch, warring against each other, despising and scorning one another. Even the finest people are ready, for the sake of their beliefs and convictions, to judge and condemn others – they have thoroughly learned that! But to discern what is of God in the enemy, to grasp God's worth in those who insult us, in foreigners, in those far from us who think differently, in the poor just as much as in the noble – this they have not learned.

Only the attitude that Jesus represents can achieve something. Let us learn to be people who can forgive, even seven times a day. We must firmly believe that each person, just as they are, is destined for the kingdom of God, so let us stop judging and condemning them.

Excerpted from a sermon given October 29, 1899, published in Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt, *Ihr Menschen seid* Gottes (Zurich: Rotapfel Verlag, 1928), translated by Jörg Barth and Renate Barth.

The Office Mailbox			
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# Half an Ear used in March 2024 Newsletter 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, Dec 2022 The Spokane Meeting Library has a number of great Pendle Hill pamphlets. They range from historical analysis to theological statements to thoughtful advice. Come in, pick out some titles that look interesting to you from the teal file. The pamphlets are arranged by number in the boxes. Feel free to check them out, using the clipboard nearby. Keep them as long as you need, just return them when you are done.

Send to: Stamps for Right Sharing c/o Indianapolis First Friends 3030 Kessler Blvd. East Drive Indianapolis, IN 46220

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.

Pendle Hill pamphlets on Quakerism in Spokane Meeting library

By Linda Pierce

Published since 1934 the Pendle Hill of Friends #387

What is Quakerism? A Primer #277

It's Our Library — Let's Use It

# Letters from Friends

Our Latest Communication from Elizabeth Todd

# FEBRUARY 2023

2022022

Spokane Friends Meeting Spokanefriendsegmail.com www.spokanefriends.com

#### What Comes Next

will come when it's ready can't be hurried or stopped will be its own amazement.

What comes next can't be trapped by some sly metaphor.

belongs to itself comes from a great distance enters without announcement.



The sun comes up;
It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing his praise again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me...
Let me be singing when the evening comes. - Matt Redman

Hello, Friend:

January 25, 2023 Here we are in 2023!

#### What Comes Next

will come when it's ready can't be hurried or stopped will be its own amazement.

What comes next can't be trapped by some sly metaphor,

belongs to itself comes from a great distance enters without announcement.

When death comes with a personal invitation to leave this life,

may there be a working light if I get up in the dark to see who's here.

Jeanne Lohmann Olympia, Wash. Feb 2015 Friends Journal