

SPOKANEWORD

July
2024



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 from Ken

THE DISTINGUISHING MARK OF THE MEETING HOUSE

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35

I am really pleased with the interest of those who have desired to be recorded as Friends of the Spokane Friends Meeting, SFM. On June 9th, 2024, we welcomed Russ Brickner, Taylor Blackwell, and Andrew Nakushian. There is interest from others as well. What has drawn so many to SFM over the years? Love. The love expressed for everyone.

This is where it becomes very difficult, personally and as a community. Love is not easy. We are not talking of happy love, or "groovy" love. This is not Woodstock, 1969. This is Spokane 2024. Today we live in a Municipality, a State, and a Country that is increasingly divisive and contentious. This makes loving others a very difficult task. We do not have full agreement within our own Meeting when it comes to politics and current events. The reason love is difficult is that it is Jesus who calls us to love. Right away, my mind wants to know: what is the standard for this love? Jesus leaves us in no doubt. The standard is this: "Just as I have loved you." Jesus is the standard.

There is no mention of politics, no mention of geography. There is no mention of education, status, nor income level. So, what are the features of the love of Jesus? Jesus loves freely, Jesus loves without distinction. Jesus loves notwithstanding ungratefulness. Jesus loves notwithstanding unworthiness. "God shows His love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. This means Jesus loved us while we have observable things which may be quite disagreeable. Jesus loves in humility. Jesus loves in service to others. Jesus loves in deed, not just word.

I confess this is most uncomfortable to me. The standard of Jesus is a standard I cannot meet. I need the Light of God to show me the way. I need the Strength of God to love like Jesus. I need the Grace of God to love without distinction and without exception. No one is excluded from Jesus' love. There is no reason which will exclude anyone from Jesus' Love. I need Jesus love so that I may love like Jesus.

From John, we read: "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the Truth; your Word is Truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." John 17:16-18. We do not have any excuses. We cannot claim that Jesus love is Divine and we are only human. No, we do not get to throw up our hands in resignation and defeat. Jesus fully expects us to love as Jesus loves. "The glory that you have given me I have given them,

(continued on next page)

(continued from last page) that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” John 17:22-23

We are sent by Jesus. We are also sent by God. This is a divine commission. We are given the authority and the power to love like Jesus loved. Yes, it is possible. Jesus is the way. We need to follow the Light. What makes this commission so difficult for me is that there are no exceptions and no excuses. There are people in this world who irritate me. I have been known to be angry against a person or two. I am human. I do not love perfectly. That is no excuse. I must continue to strive to love better and more purely today than I did yesterday.

Many of us are here today, we are part of the community of Faith we call Spokane Friends Meeting, because we were loved. We were accepted. Acceptance is another form of love. We were accepted as we are. I encourage us all to live into the Love of Jesus. I encourage us to let the Light of the Love of God shine in everything we speak and do. Without exception, and without excuse. Not easy. No, it certainly is not. But it is not impossible, because Jesus is the way and the power we need to love others as Jesus loved us. God wants us to succeed in this kind of love. That is why we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us, even in our darkest moments.

What is the distinguishing feature of our Meeting? Love, I hope. And I hope it will continue to be love and acceptance. In our quiet moments, let us ponder and consider that the love shown by Jesus is not impossible. Jesus is the way, and Jesus wants us to succeed at loving others. Therefore, Jesus will give us what we need to grow in love. In your quiet time, tomorrow has not arrived. Yesterday is gone. All we have is today. Let us give today all we have in Jesus, and let us love. We are known by our love.

With prayer-filled consideration, Ken Peacock

Ken Peacock serves Spokane Friends part-time as Chaplain and Pastor of Congregational Care. His ministry is focused on community support and pastoral care. Ken is bilingual, having been born in Bogota, Columbia, where his parents served as missionaries. He has a Masters in Child and Youth Studies from Nova Southeastern University, a Masters in Theology from Whitworth University, and has completed the Chaplain training Program at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center. Ken’s experience also includes vocational skill training, foster care social work, and business management.

Out and About with Spokane Friends

Friends **Leann Williams** and **Lois Kieffaber** attended Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYMF, pronounced “skimpf”) Annual Sessions June 8-10 at Canby Grove, Oregon. **Johan Maurer** served admirably as Recording Clerk for the Sessions and was also a member of the Faith and Practice Committee which presented the draft of the Preamble for that document (soon to be available in the Office, we hope). Leann offered a Workshop about the neurological basis of our reactions when confronted by angry opponents and how to manage those reactions to promote civil discourse.

On June 30 **Alan Binnie** along with **Bill and Emily Gillis** and several other attenders of the unprogrammed worship group that we host will make the trip to visit Sandpoint Friends Meeting. And they, along with **Walter Simon**, hope to attend North Pacific Yearly Meeting in Missoula in mid-July.

We hear the Ken Peacock’s wife **Amy Cross** has been welcomed onto the Board of The Fig Tree, as **Wade Schwartz** retires after six years of service on the same Board.

Serving as a PJALS Volunteer Peacekeeper during the Pride in Perry event on June 29 was **Lois Kieffaber**. A street festival with many vendors occupied South Perry’s main street from 12 –5 pm. Only one jacked-up black pickup with an “Ultimate MAGA” flag and no muffler was spotted during the event.



MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

June 23, 2024



The meeting was called to order by Clerk LaVerne Biel with a moment of silence. Twelve people were present.

Minutes: The minutes were read and APPROVED with the following addition:

"There will be a discussion with Walter Simon on how to broaden our marketing strategy."

Treasurer's Report: Pam Emery presented the report. It was APPROVED to add Pam Emery's name to the Everence account and to delete Jon Maroni's name from the account. There was a question about why there was a charge of over \$11,000 under "accounts receivable." This will be investigated.

Elders Report: Pam Emery presented the report (copy attached). Speakers have been arranged through August. Jon Kinney and Ruthie have exchanged dates in August, because Ruthie will speak in person during a family gathering in Spokane.

Ken Peacock will be on vacation July 11-22. Diana Davis's office hours will return to the original schedule for the summer. They are Tuesday morning 8: -12, Wednesday afternoon 3 – 6 pm, and Friday 10 am – 2:30 pm ((flexible)).

Laverne Biel will be meeting with Walter Simon monthly to help him feel more connected with the meeting. We need to develop a brochure to give newcomers, visitors, and media that explains who we are and what we stand for.

Stewardship/Trustees Report: There has been basic upkeep of the building. The painting and carpeting of the larger downstairs classroom has been completed with help from the Emerys, Biels, Russ Brickner, and Jonathan and Miles Watson.

Several groups have expressed interest in using our building. This is a plus for advertising and income. A status report on that is requested for next month. Bill Emery reported that a Montessori School contacted Walter Simon about potential use. Walter referred this to Bill, but there's been no contact yet.

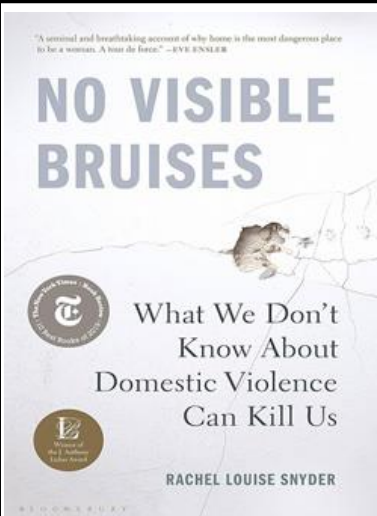
Pastors Report: None

There was a time of brainstorming ideas to make us more visible to the public. Many good ideas were presented, such as picnics in the grassy area, food trucks, counseling groups, etc. Having an Instagram account was suggested. A committee of Jon Maroni, Krista Maroni, Bill Emery, Andrew Nakushian and Lacy Winder was formed to narrow down these ideas to fit our current size and budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Ken Peacock.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Keehnen, Recording Clerk

JULY'S BOOK OF THE MONTH



In *No Visible Bruises*, journalist Rachel Louise Snyder frames this urgent and immersive account of the scale of domestic violence in our country around key stories that explode the common myths: That if things were bad enough, victims would just leave; that a violent person cannot become nonviolent; that shelter is an adequate response; that violence inside the home is separate from other forms of violence like mass shootings, gang violence, and sexual assault. Through the stories of victims, perpetrators, law enforcement, and reform movements from across the country, Snyder explores not only the dark corners of private violence, but also its far-reaching consequences for society, and what it will take to truly address it.

Read this book during July . . and discuss it with us on July 28 at 11:30 am. . at the Meeting House or via Zoom

Spokane Friends Meeting Goes Public with KHQ's NonStop Local News

The 400th Anniversary of George Fox's Birthday brought some unexpected publicity to our Meeting. A digital journalist, one Andru Zodrow, interviewed Jon Maroni and Lois Kieffaber on June 27, and the story was published online the following day.

It turned out that the journalist was much more interested in Spokane Friends as a Quaker community — how we worshiped, what values of Quakerism were most appealing to us, and what we had to offer to the Spokane community — than about our founder George Fox.

You may see the entire piece that Zodrow wrote by going to <https://www.khq.com/news/spokane-friends>



Poet's Corner

No Stones

I did not throw a stone! Indeed, indeed,
This most unfortunate affair we all regret
Was never any choice of mine. And yet
Those who forgot themselves, those born to lead
Had reasons for their wrath. To intercede
For him, their victim, would have been to let
Myself share in their rage. I may forget —
Who knows? — sometime the one whom I saw
bleed.

No stones! I did not throw a single stone!
I did not join the milling, angry crowd
That worked their will on one. Apart, alone,
I only watched. Why then must I recall,
Over and over, other curses loud,
And garments lying at the feet to Saul?

— Lucile Brandt, The Flame Tree, 1973

Quaker News

- ⇒ **West Hills Friends** goes solar! After raising \$45,000 in a matter of months, their solar panels started producing electricity on June 12, 2004. They received a large grant from Energy Trust available for nonprofits and a 30% rebate from the federal government.
- ⇒ **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. Alan Binnie, Walter Simon, and other Quakers from the “downstairs” group plan to attend.
- ⇒ **Northwest Yearly Meeting** will hold Annual Sessions 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 at fwccdirectory.org to find the nearest Quaker worship.
- ⇒ **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 rswr.org/careers. Ruthie Tippin is on their Board.

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 Summer Office Hours

Tuesday morning 8:00 to 12:00

Wednesday afternoon 3:00–6:00

Friday (flexible) 10am–2:30pm

This flame stands without more quivering. — T. S. Elliot

HIDDEN IN THE CORNERS OF THE MIND

by Walter Simon

It's been noted in Quaker thought from the beginning: how we act determines whether we recognize and are guided by the presence of God within. Earlier in speaking within the Meeting I endorsed a spiritual bond between body and mind, affected by emotions, which can open doors to greater understanding of this aspect of spirituality.

A portion of our understanding relies on faith. As hope supports faith, faith itself supports conviction, those religious values that sustain us in compelling moments of introspection accompanying conscious thought. Without faith, dreams seldom come to fruition, and the aspirations they represent are more like spinning eyeballs from a dreamlike state.

Faith is a feeling, no matter what particular icons or religious examples have represented faith-based values — Biblical lessons on the difference between right and wrong, conscious thought, numerous ways that religious institutions use in hopes of inspiring a certain standard of faith. As a reference for moral values, the Bible seems to contain clear instructions, testaments that teach religious values and are a guide for ethical standards, with a few threats tossed-in. The Bible serves as a guidepost for teaching the seeds of moral conviction that open the mind and help us construct what we accept and who we are. Thus faith is a stepladder constructed by an open mind, an accepted moral code, and conscious thought, and it suggests a long insightful journey! . Many have looked to the sky, from primitive times to the present, for our place in the universe, a grounding from which to apply moral lessons and shape ourselves, that can guide a cognitive view.

Two additional notes: first, behavioral psychologist B. F. Skinner theorized that “what goes in comes out” in suggesting that learning at a young age can be hammered into you. Second, repetition is a form of reinforcement of what is learned, for example, faith-based hymns we sing together often contain beliefs learned as a child.

As we continue our journey, our belief system is impacted by experience. Faith goes beyond adult lessons learned from childhood. It must develop to account for human experience, often including further interactions with organized religions and influenced by congregational numbers. Faith seems a simple feeling in yourself, a self-defined sense made positive by social interactions and dynamic mental insight. A Rabbi mentor once told me: “Prophets always get stoned.” This was in the mid-sixties, so it took me a while to figure out that he was not referring to the drug culture, rather he meant: “Prophets get hit with rocks!”

Big questions! Dreams may go on forever, but it takes a lot of faith to make them come alive. Life experiences can alter dreams, some of which may become nightmares. The long view of this is that reality is what happens. Faith tries to make sense of it all in a way that contributes to spiritual growth. We all hope for this sort of faith, far better than an ice-cream cone on a hot Spokane day.

Faith is a feeling, a road map for guidance. You know it when you got it! I assume we all hope for peace of mind; I suggest that divinely inspired faith is a polestar that guides moral judgement and is useful for our endurance as a nation in a complex world. Dare to say that, like music, faith “hath charms to soothe the savage beast.”

Is there a point here? Yes! **Have faith in yourself and teach by example! This seems the Quaker way.**

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 -- American, Canadian Natives, and American Gypsies, as well as 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. His second book has been 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.

PJALS is now hiring for TWO exciting positions

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) engages everyday people to build a just and nonviolent world. Our approach is community organizing and grassroots leadership development for peace, racial equity, economic justice, and human rights.

Currently PJALS is seeking:

A full-time **COMMUNITY ORGANIZER** and

A part-time **OPERATIONS MANAGER**

More information about both positions is available at pjals.org/jobs

PJALS 2024 strategic priorities are:

1. Countering American imperialism and militarism
2. Ending mass incarceration, including transforming policing
3. Countering white nationalism and American fascism
4. Grassroots leadership development and education for action

CARITAS News and Needs



Here are the Caritas needs this week:

FOOD

Boxed cereals	Jam/Jelly
Pancake mix	Syrup
Canned beans — black, red, and white. NO pinto beans though.	

NECESSITIES

Laundry detergent	Dish Detergent
Shampoo	Cleaning products

FUNDRAISER NEWS:

We are scheduled for a Caritas Fundraiser on Sept. 28! We need volunteers plus baskets or other donated items. Basket ideas: Sports, Gardeners, Man, Spa, Christmas, Wine and Cheese, Pet, Date Night, Inspirational, Gonzaga, WSU, EWU, just to name a few. We need your help to keep helping people in need

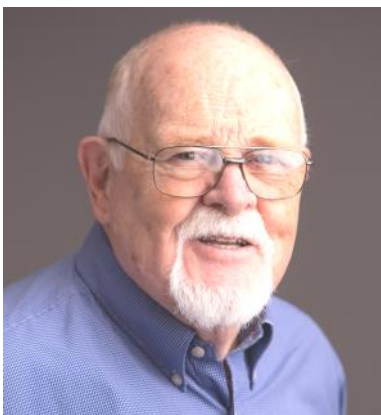
Financial Report

May 2024

Year to Date

Income:	\$ 7,440.30	\$ 31,177.83
Expenses:	3,886.32	24,083.56
Difference:	+\$3,553.98	+\$ 7,094.27

The fact is, on average, 70 women in the U.S. are shot and killed by an intimate partner each month, and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times as likely a woman will be killed. Data from the CDC shows guns were the leading cause of death for children in 2020, surpassing motor vehicle crashes, drug overdoses, cancer and, yes, even Covid.



ROY EUGENE MCCONAUGHEY

1944 - 2024

Roy was born to Clarence and Jennie McConaughy in Caldwell, Idaho, and spent his childhood in the Treasure Valley in Idaho. The family moved to Newberg, Oregon, when Roy began college at George Fox College (now University).

Roy played football and baseball and ran track at George Fox. He met his partner Karen Sue Thornburg while at college. They were married on December 27, 1964, at Newberg Friends Church. Roy graduated in 1966 with a Psych/Soc degree and he began teaching school and coaching in Wilder, Idaho.

His teaching career lasted until 1975 when he took a youth pastor position at Northridge Friends Church in Wichita, Kansas. Roy and Karen were both recorded Friends ministers and pastored among Friends in Kansas, Washington, Oregon, and

Idaho. In particular, he was the pastor at Spokane Friends from 1979 - 1986, a period characterized by active youth groups and high attendance at worship services.

He later returned to education and served as a teacher and coach, as well as principal at CS Lewis School in Newberg. He ended his education career as a much-loved substitute in and around Yamhill County, Oregon.

Roy loved the outdoors, birds, flowers, people, horses and dogs. He never met a stranger and found a deep connection with his horses and dogs. He loved encouraging current George Fox football players as a member of the Bruin Football Club. He was inducted into the George Fox Sports Hall of Fame in 2021.

Roy is survived by Karen, his partner of nearly 60 years; his two sons Shawn (Katrina) and Michael (Adina) and three grandchildren, Jered (Alyssa), Amanda (Joey), and Elsie (Payton) and a brother Glen (Nancy). as well as many other beloved family members and friends.