

SPOKANENWORD

March
2026



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 327-7852

www.spokanefriends.org
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 8:30 a.m. or
when first person sits down

Gathering worship 10:00 a.m.
In-Person and Via Zoom
See Website For Link

INUUC Worship Service 11:30 am

First Sunday of the Month
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

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

Last Sunday of the Month
Book Club at rise of worship

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT**

“Holding in the light” seems to be a Quaker catchphrase that we use. A definition that I once read by a Quaker was that prayer is passionate thinking. I’m not good at being on my knees and praying. But I do think passionately about people and concerns of the world. And I think of that passionate thinking as a way to lift them up into the love and light of God. Holding someone in the light for me really means hoping they’ll be drawn into that healing light and love. (Brent Bill)

It means for me holding someone in my heart and praying for them. I often end up praying that God holds someone tight, that God sustains someone, that God softens someone’s heart, or fills someone’s heart. (Kate Griffith)

I also often will hold someone in the light by just bringing them into my mind and my heart and praying for them. Sometimes it’s just like I’m thinking of my friend and sending them love; and sometimes it’s thinking of someone in my community who’s struggling in a very specific way and I’m imagining for them a path forward. I hold the current situation in my heart and give that over to God to come up with a creative solution. (Sal Emi Link)

Meeting for worship in an assembled body of Friends brings me to a place of complete unity with the people who are sitting around me. It doesn’t negate their individuality. And I realize how much I celebrate and rejoice when I see individuals walk into the meeting room. But I also know that when they walk in and sit down and settle, that process of the melding of individual pieces of the Divine becomes this unified light. When I’m by myself that notion of unity persists. And I can be holding someone in the light with that same sense of being unified, and at one with that person. We don’t end with the corporal body that we have. (Rebecca Leuchak)

Holding in the light means putting a person or a group of persons or a situation in God’s hands, praying, and letting it go. I hold the current situation in my heart and give that over to God to come up with a creative solution. (Renzo Carranza)

I think it’s a beautiful concept. And it’s a way of saying prayer without asking for outcomes. And that’s important to me. Who are we to know what the outcomes should be? (Jennifer Kavanagh)

I was teaching first day school several years ago, and we were talking about what it means to hold someone in the light, and this one little boy, who was always making trouble, raised his hand. And he said, Wendy, if I can hold someone in the Light, can I hold someone in the fire that I’m mad at? I love that story. That is what early Quakers meant by holding in the light. The light was not a very comfortable light for them. It was like a fire. (Windy Cooler)

It can be a really difficult thing. It tears down the barriers between us and invites people into our personal space in a way that our society doesn’t really encourage and that sometimes doesn’t feel very safe. (continued on next page)

** This is the transcript of the QuakerSpeak discussion of the Quaker concept of holding in the light. The speakers’ names are included after their comments. QuakerSpeak is a Quaker YouTube channel that presents interviews with Friends of all different backgrounds and asks them the core questions of our faith.

(continued from page 1) When I was a kid, I had this great science teacher, and we would take samples from the stream and then look at them under a microscope – those pond critters that you know are invisible normally. They really didn't like being in the light and they be kind of squirming. And I think often, that's how we feel when we're being held in the light by our meeting. A lot of times we don't want our meeting to pray for us. We get in our habits and our defenses and our addictions, and we don't always want to fact that stuff. The light is the place where we see those things, but it's also where we see that we are loved and know that truly, which actually makes it not so terrible to face those things. That's what being held in the light means to me. I still don't always like it, but like that old hymn says "It's me standing in the need of prayer. It's not my brother or my sister, it's me." (Jade Rockwell)

The participants in this interview were:

Brent Bill, West Newton Friends Meeting Windy Cooler, Sandy Springs Friends Meeting

Kate Griffith, Winnebago Friends Worship Group

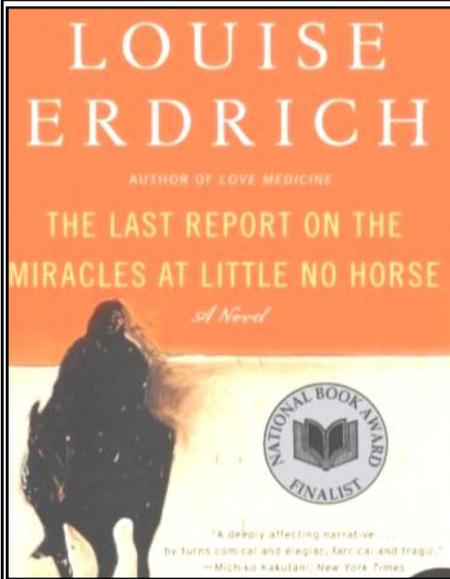
Sal Emi Link, West Elkton Friends Meeting

Rebecca Leuchak, New England Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk

Renzo Carranza, Western Yearly Meeting of Friends

Jade Rockwell, West Elkton Friends Meeting

QuakerSpeak is a member-supported project of Friends Publishing, publishers of Friends Journal (friendsjournal.org), Quaker.org, and the Quakers Today podcast (quakerstoday.org). You can subscribe for free and get them in your inbox. QuakerSpeak is directed by Layla Cuthrell



THE LAST REPORT ON THE MIRACLES AT LITTLE NO HORSE

By Louise Erdrich

For more than a half century, Father Damien Modeste has served his beloved people, the Ojibwa, on the remote reservation of Little No Horse. Now, nearing the end of his life, Father Damien dreads the discovery of his physical identity, for he is a woman who has lived as a man. To complicate his fears, his quiet life changes when a troubled colleague comes to the reservation to investigate the life of the perplexing, difficult, possibly false saint Sister Leopolda. Father Damien alone knows the strange truth of Sister Leopolda's piety and is faced with the most difficult decision of his life: Should he reveal all he knows and risk everything? Or should he manufacture a protective history though he believes Leopolda's wonder-working is motivated by evil?

WE WILL DISCUSS THIS BOOK AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE ON MARCH 29 AT THE MEETING HOUSE.

Update on Sudan



Makeshift shelters built by displaced Sudanese people November 2025

Sudan is now the world's largest humanitarian crisis:

- More than 15 million people have been forced to flee; this includes the Sudanese families now living in Spokane.
- 30 million – including 14 million children — urgently need aid just to survive.
- Entire cities are being emptied by siege and starvation.

Women and girls have been taken from refugee camps and raped. The elderly have been shot and killed with machine guns. Children are fleeing alone in sheer terror after witnessing their parents murdered in front of them. Some survivors have escaped only by pretending to be dead.

These are not isolated attacks. Amnesty International research has documented the systematic execution of civilians and sexual violence as a

weapon of war spiraling across Sudan. Survivors described seeing streets "covered with bodies" and the violence has become so widespread that it can be seen from space. These violations are enabled by the flow of weapons into Sudan and the international community's failure to act. Amnesty International has also documented how the conflict is fueled by a constant flow of weapons into the country, particularly from the United Arab Emirates.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

February 15, 2026



The meeting was called to order by Jon Maroni with prayer. Fourteen people were present, including three via Zoom.

The Minutes of the last meeting were the meeting and **approved**.

Treasurer's Report: \$20,000 have been transferred from the checking account to the Everence Account. The fund for the new HVAC system has reached \$21,000. The Meeting expressed gratitude and appreciation for the fund-raising work led by Lacy Winder and Krista Maroni, and for the contributions from Spokane Friends, the Quaker Worship Group, and INUUC.

Elders Report: The Elders met via Zoom with Kent and LaVerne Biel joining from Mississippi. The April potluck date coincides with Easter Sunday this year. It was decided to have the potluck on the first Sunday of April. The speaker schedule has been modified to include Jon Kinney on alternate months, as is the case with Johan Maurer and Ruthie Tippin.

Since the INUUC group is using the building more than the original agreement has specified; they have added Mahjong sessions weekly and a Crafts and Conversation meeting once a month. They are agreeable to increasing their donation. After discussion, this question will be referred to the Steward and Trustees to bring a recommendation at the next Business Meeting. The Elders Report is attached.

Nominating Committee: The nomination of Taylor Blackwell to Elders was discussed particularly in regard to her plans to move to Maine this summer. Some hesitancy was expressed about regular participation via Zoom, since the Elders prefer in-person meetings and because of the time difference. The Meeting **approved Taylor as an interim Elder** during the time she is living in the Spokane area.

As requested by Clerk of Elders, Pam Emery, Alan Binnie spoke more fully about the possibility of Spokane Friends designating the Meeting House as a Sanctuary space for those fearing violence and/or deportation by agencies of the Federal Government. John Kinney spoke about Quaker boldness in the past, sometimes leading to martyrdom. An *ad hoc* committee was appointed to consider this matter further. Its members are Alan Binnie, Taylor Blackwell, Lois Kieffaber, and Lyn Lindell.

Permission was requested by Lois Kieffaber to use our outside signboard to display a message wishing our Muslim friends a safe and blessed Ramadan, as we have done in past years. This was **approved**.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Kieffaber, Recording Secretary



Financial Report



	<u>Jan 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	\$ 5188.45	\$ 5188.45
Expenses:	4231.62	4231.62
Difference:	+ 946.83	+ 946.83

Thank you for giving to Spokane Friends !

You can now give to Spokane Friends via the QR code on the right!

..Or via our website,

your weekly worship email,

your bank's free Bill Pay

or you can mail it to us.

Want to designate a gift just for our new HVAC system?

No problem, just scan the QRcode on the left.



But wait! There's more! Fundraisers and designated gifts have reached \$21,000 for our new HVAC system!

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

An Interactive Zoom Workshop on March 14



In this 2-hour participatory program, we experience the history of the colonization of Turtle Island, the land now known as the United States. The story is told through the words of Indigenous leaders, European/American leaders, and Western historians. We engage with this history through experiential exercises and small group discussions. And we are invited to consider how we can build relationships with Indigenous peoples based on truth, respect, justice, and our shared humanity. Facilitators are both Native and non-Native persons. Sponsored by Friends Peace Teams. **Register:** <https://friendspeaceteams.org/upcoming-events/>

Office Hours

Diana Davis, Office Administrator,
works remote Mon-Wed
checking email/phone messages.

In-office hours are
Thurs and Fri, 10:30 am–2:30 pm

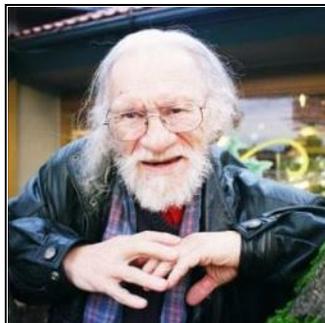
Poet's Corner

Unspoken

by Renee Emerson

When your prayer request isn't just for your grandma's dog, you quit requesting so much. Don't request at all, unless asked. Then it's *How's your mother?* and you have to decide whether you'll lie in church — *Fine* — or tell it. She's safe. She's driving down to Memphis again to check on him, seems he's got a cyst, dementia, a severe lack of remorse. Could be worse. Hard to know the sterile language of medical. You don't when you ask God yourself for healing, for mercy, for deliverance, death. You ask it like a child, the first and sometimes only word is *Help*.

From Church Ladies, Fernwood Press, 2023



WALTER HERBERT SIMON

1935 - 2026

Walter Simon was born in The Bronx NY in 1935, the son of a Catholic and a Jewish parent. He left school at 15 and traveled the country from Maine to California, working on lobster boats and in kitchens. At age 18 he joined the Army and while working in the mess hall, a fellow soldier who was a Quaker graduate of Haverford, taught him to read and to write a good sentence. Returning home, the GI Bill allowed him to study make-up, anatomy, and lighting for television in NY. He arrived in Seattle with wife Carol to take a job writing promotional copy for a radio station.

As a skilled puppeteer, Walter was very successful in sales and promotion using the Popeye image and his unique Popeye voice. He also worked for the New Seattle Science Center, during which time he acquired a giraffe skeleton for the Center and assembled it.

After Seattle, Walter worked at the Roslyn Café, made well known by Northern Exposure, where he met his third wife, Canadian Mary Swaine. Their son Sydney was born after they moved to Montreal. Walter returned to Seattle for surgery and recuperation, once for open heart and later for throat cancer. On one of his many travels via Greyhound, he met Martha Iuster who became his life partner until her passing in 2023. They moved to her log cabin in Montana at the base of the Mission Mts. near Ronan and later moved to a small farm in Springfield OR. Their life was full of gardening, music, mutual understanding and the fellowship of The Society of Friends in Eugene OR. In 2016 Martha had a debilitating stroke and passed away three years later.

Walter received a BS in Social Anthropology at the University of WA and studied motion and artiodactyls at Columbia University. Decades of field work – American and Canadian First Nations, as well as water-ways – comprised his media experience, 3 TV documentaries, humorous newspaper publications, voicing for commercial stations and PBS, major market experience, two volumes of poetry, and 50 readings.

Walter moved to Spokane in 2019 where he found support and encouragement in the Quaker community, the VA, and Goodwill. While living at Cathedral Plaza, he devoted his time and energy to writing, focusing on the interests of the city. He also became an active participant in the Spokane Quaker community, feeling particularly at home in the unprogrammed Quaker Worship Group, and serving as Spokane Friends Publicity Coordinator. Walter remained engaged with his community until his passing on February 5, 2026, receiving loving care and heartfelt tributes from the VA in Spokane, Washington. He is survived by his son Sydney Swaine-Simon of Montreal.