

# SPOKANEWORD

*January is Peace  
Month  
2020*



Spokane Friends

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Sunday Schedule:

Unprogrammed Worship

9:00—9:45 am

Programmed Worship

10:00 am.

Fellowship 11:00 am

Third Sunday of the Month:

Monthly Meeting for

Business begins at rise of

worship.

A Blessing written by Brother David Steindalrast,

A Benedictine monk

Mag you grow still enough to hear  
the small noises earth makes in preparing for the long sleep of  
winter,  
so that you yourself may grow calm and grounded deep within.

Mag you grow still enough to hear  
the trickling of water seeping into the ground,  
so that your soul may be softened and healed,  
guided in its flow.

Mag you grow still enough to hear  
the splintering of starlight in the winter sky  
and the roar at earth's fiery core.

Mag you grow still enough to hear  
the stir of a single snowflake in the air  
so that your inner silence may turn into hushed expectation.

Peace..... the angel announced.

But peace is as much task as gift.

Only if we become calm as earth,

fluid as water,

and blazing as fire

will we be able to rise to the task of peacemaking,  
and the air will stir with the rush of wings of angels arriving to help  
us.

This is why I wish you that great inner stillness  
which alone allows us to speak, even today,  
without irony of "peace on earth"  
and, without despair, to work for it.





Spokane Friends have celebrated January as Peace Month for several years now. This year our emphasis is on Peace with our Neighbors. We are trying to educate ourselves about other faith traditions. We will be hearing from several who have agreed to speak to us about their faith. We start out on January 5th with Tracy Simmons who works with all faiths across Spokane.

Tracy Simmons is an award winning journalist specializing in religion reporting, digital entrepreneurship and social journalism. In her 15 years on the religion beat, Simmons has tucked a notepad in her pocket and found some of her favorite stories aboard cargo ships in New Jersey, on a police chase in Albuquerque, in dusty Texas church bell towers, on the streets of New York and in tent cities in Haiti. Simmons has worked as a multimedia journalist for newspapers across New Mexico, Texas and Connecticut. She serves as the executive director of SpokaneFAVS.com, a digital journalism start-up covering religion news and commentary in Spokane, Wash. She also writes for The Spokesman-Review and for the Religion News Service. She is also a Lecturer of Strategic Communication at University of Idaho.

January 12th we have invited Neal Schindler who is the director of Spokane Area Jewish Family Services.

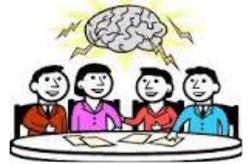
A native of Detroit, Michigan, Neal Schindler has lived in the Pacific Northwest since 2002. He worked in journalism and media in Seattle before moving to Spokane to earn a master's degree in counseling from Eastern Washington University. Neal has provided counseling and social services to diverse populations since 2010. He was raised in a Reconstructionist congregation and is currently a member of Congregation Emanu-El. He loves his work as director of Spokane Area Jewish Family Services. The Jewish values that are most important to Neal include humor, resilience, community, food, intellectualism, and healthy skepticism. He lives with his wife, son, and two cats in West Central Spokane.

January 26th Yousif Kaddoura from the Muslim community will be speaking.

As of this printing I have not received any info on Yousif.



**MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES**  
**December 15, 2019**



The meeting was opened by presiding clerk, Jonas Cox. The November minutes were read and approved as read. Eight people were in attendance.

**Treasurer's report:**

We need to find out how much the costs have increased since Caritas has been in our building. Pam and Bill Emery have been researching this but haven't finished. Jonas Cox asked some specific questions about the monthly report that weren't able to be answered. Jonas and Wade will meet and discuss this. A new treasurer is being sought after.

**Stewards and trustees report:**

Someone from the committee will meet with the Caritas Board on December 16th. They will bring up the definite increase in their support from \$350 to \$500. It was brought up that Bob Walker is a good advocate for us. He is a member of Caritas' board.

**Elder's report:**

We have reviewed previous messages from the pulpit. We will continue the schedule of peace month in January and Quaker education in February. We are waiting to hear from 4 people that would like to consider being officially brought into our community. The Christmas eve service is at 5pm instead of 6pm. We have considered a few folks to ask to be on elders. Paul is bringing up ideas of what kind of street ministry we would like to pursue. We are also discussing music selection and a way to maybe update what we are doing.

**Pastors report:**

Paul will do the Quaker messages in February. He is still trying to discern what a street ministry will look like. An email will be sent to the speakers in January with some queries recommended by Paul and LaVerne. For example: What would be helpful for us to know about you and what do you know about Spokane Friends and Quakers in general. How might Spokane Friends be a friend to your faith community.

**New business:**

A new modem from Comcast was installed in our computer system.

With no further old or new business and all hearts and minds were clear the meeting was dismissed in prayer by Lois Kieffaber.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Nixon, recording clerk

**Sunday Leadership Schedule**

- ◆ Jan 5 Tracy Simmons
- ◆ Jan. 12 Neal Schindler
- ◆ Jan. 26 Yousif Kaddoura

## Paul Blankenship Seeks Ministry Growth

At the November Monthly Meeting for Business we learned that Paul has been accepted into a course offered by the Graduate Theological Seminary in Berkeley on spiritual formation and growth. Much of it will be done on-line, but the cohort group will meet together for a week at a time four times a year. The Elders think this training will make Paul even more valuable to us and to others he serves in the future.

San Francisco Theological Seminary (SFTS) houses one of the finest spiritual direction and formation programs in the world. Through intensive seminars on site and online classes, its faculty and students explore the holy mystery of divine love in order to provide care for mind and spirit, church and society. Paul's first class of his spiritual direction program, which will begin 7 January, is entitled "Contemplative Listening." It will teach him to help people pay attention to the real and tender movements of God's love within their lives so that they can become more free to love themselves and the world around them.

The first course meeting and tuition installment is due in mid-January. Some at the Business Meeting expressed a desire to help Paul with these expenses. We have decided to include an envelope with the Bulletin during the month of December for those who want to contribute via the Meeting (checks to the Meeting in the envelopes will go to Paul) thus making the donation tax deductible. Paul thanks you, deeply, for your prayers and any financial support you feel freely led to share as he begins this program.



# Sue's Corner

## THE CHAPERONE by Luanne Moriority

I first encountered this story as a Masterpiece Theater movie, which I watched twice. The first time I was irritated by the on and off Midwestern American accent. (So we sound THAT bad?)

The movie followed the book well but only through half the book. Cora chaperones an early film star (Louise Brooks, and yes there was such a person) on a summer trip to New York City so Louise can attend classes at a prestigious dance school. We are life and social attitudes changing through Cora's eyes: the attitudes towards hemlines and makeup to not talking alone with men you don't know, through a variety of other changes that we now take for granted.

The Book goes into enough depth about Cora's thoughts and feelings, and how her attitudes mellow and even drastically change over the years. Her first memories are of being in an orphan's home in NYC and taking an orphan train to be adopted sight unseen by people who weren't vetted. If the children weren't spoken for by the last stop, they went back.

Cora was lucky in many ways. The chaperoning experience was a turning point in her life, which had some surprises in it. You never know what secrets people have.

**O God,** you are the source of life and peace. Praised be your name forever. We know it is you who turns our minds to thoughts of peace in this time of war. We pray that enemies begin to speak to one another; that those who are estranged join hands in friendship; that nations seek the way of **PEACE.**

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live. Give to us: understanding that puts an end to strife; mercy that quenches hatred; and forgiveness that overcomes vengeance. Empower all people to live your law of **LOVE.**

Amen

