

34TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Stories inside

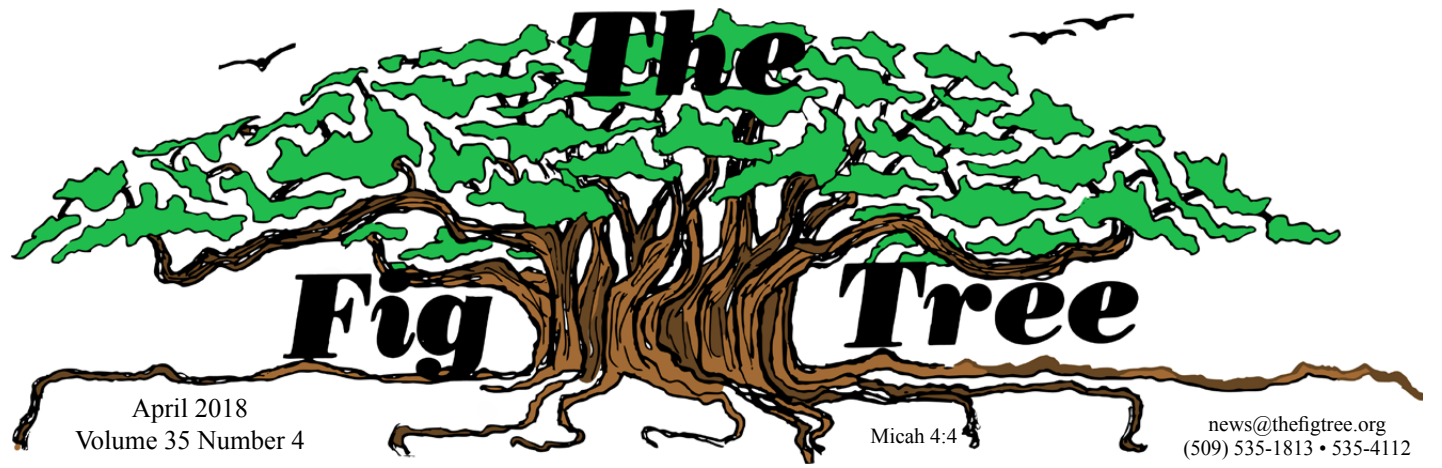
Professor connects ethics and environment - p. 6

Author felt impact of "Martin and Bobby" - p. 7

Woman hopes to inspire food revolution - p. 8

Filmmaker tells of Comfort Dog ministry - p. 9

CALENDAR ON PAGE 11
FEATURES 50 EVENTS



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Program builds up leadership, grades

By Mary Stamp

In the safe, supportive environment of Neighborhood Network programs, Betsy Williams sees children and youth improve their grades and develop leadership skills. She also sees their low-income families improve their lives through participation in Neighborhood Networks programs.

These programs are offered for people living in multi-family housing through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to improve self-sufficiency and access to technology.

In 1995, Neighborhood Networks was started by HUD nationally to build economic, health, education and personal self-sufficiency for low- to moderate-income families.

"We seek to make workers, critical thinkers, studiers, helpers, engineers and doctors, to teach them to work with little and they will have much," Betsy said. "We offer the program out of love to give children opportunities, to be a support mechanism to encourage those who are discouraged by their struggles, so they do not reach a breaking point.

"We create an environment so children gain initiative and engage themselves as leaders to change the



Betsy Williams, right, serves Lynndsie Sturgill a salad as she arrives after school.

world and to have a heart for the community," she said.

After school, the children come to the South Perry Learning Center at Emmanuel Family Life Center, operated by New Bryant Arms South dba Richard Allen Apartments, the adjacent low-income housing.

By 3:15 p.m., Betsy said, the children come from Grant Elementary School tired, so they begin the after-school program by sitting down to read or complete homework, and eating a meal that volunteers prepare.

"When they leave at 5 p.m., they have had a meal and have done their homework," she said. "I see a difference in their lives and demeanor."

Parents who come home from work tired are relieved that their children have been fed and have their homework done. They have reported that their children's grades have gone from Ds to Bs, their depression has lifted, and they are more outgoing.

Betsy began in 2003 as assistant manager and now is community manager at Richard Allen Apartments, built in 1971 by New Bryant Arms South dba Richard Allen

Continued on page 4

Holocaust survivor is concerned that genocide still occurs around world

Cora der Koorkanian, a Holocaust survivor who grew up in Bucharest, Romania, is aware that genocide is happening all over the world, such as against Muslims in Myanmar. She is concerned about anti-Muslim sentiments in Europe and here.

Not only did the Holocaust affect her generation of family and friends, but also her great-grandparents fled pogroms persecuting Jews in Russia to settle in Romania.

In addition, her husband's mother lost her parents, first husband and her two children

fleeing during the death march of the Armenian genocide.

With that continuing concern, Cora has been involved in the Yom HaShoah Planning Committee and will light one of the candles for the Holocaust survivors in the 2018 Yom HaShoah Community Observance of the Holocaust at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 15, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

In Spokane since November 2016, she moved from Manchester, N.H., to be near her daughter and two grandchildren.

Cora grew up believing that

whatever did not kill her made her stronger. Even in bad times, she thought positively, putting one foot in front of the other.

"I never learned to hate. I forgive, but I don't forget," she said. "It's important not to forget. I do not divide the world into good people and bad people, because even good people sometimes do bad things."

When working with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Brazil, a German colleague was a good friend. Someone wondered how that could be.

"We were both children, starving and hiding from bombs at the same age. He was in Berlin. I was in Bucharest," she said.

Today, Cora has many shoes, because in the war, Jews were not allowed to buy shoes. She cut toes off her shoes and added cardboard as her feet grew. She also keeps bread in her refrigerator because her family did not have enough bread in the war.

"No matter what our conditions then, we had love at home. I may not have had food in my tummy or

Continued on page 5

Fig Tree Benefit events help raise funds, connect

The Fig Tree's Annual Benefit Lunch and Benefit Breakfast March 9 and 14, raised \$26,100 as of March 30, plus \$2,950 in pledges—\$29,000 toward the \$30,000 basic goal for benefits.

To help reach that goal, and the stretch goal of \$50,000 to provide additional staffing, summaries of the speakers' talks about how The Fig Tree helps the region live into the theme, "Including Everyone: We Need Each Other," are on page 11. Their full speeches are online at www.thefigtree.org under the menu item "News" and then "YouTube Videos."

Their comments can help raise additional funds all year, said editor Mary Stamp. In addition, the benefit video with reflections of others on the role and value of the newspaper and directory is also available online.

"Several who attended volunteered to 'share The Fig Tree story.' The summaries in this issue and videos are tools people can use to introduce The Fig Tree to others to increase our circulation and draw more volunteers," she said.

From the benefits, The Fig Tree added 30 new sponsors and more than 20 new volunteers. Nearly 200 attended each event.

Individuals, congregations and organizations that host tables bring new people to introduce them, and bring long-time supporters to celebrate what The Fig Tree monthly newspaper and the annual Resource Directory mean to them. There were more than 25 hosts at each event.

"Many thanks to all the hosts, volunteers, donors, planners and others who made the event possible, and to Gonzaga University for the venue," said Mary. "It's always such a time of rejoicing to bring The Fig Tree family together to reflect on what we do and why we do it."

For information, call 535-1813 or email mary@thefigtree.org.

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Around the World

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WCC reaffirms water as God's gift, human right

Members and partners of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (WCC-EWN) at the Alternative World Water Forum (Forum Alternativo Mundial da Agua or FAMA, in Portuguese) ratified the "Ecumenical declaration on water as a human right and a public good," originally released 13 years ago.

Program will empower Syrian-Armenian youth

A program to empower Syrian-Armenian youth who escaped the conflict in Syria and settled in Armenia began March 20 in Yerevan. Through training, capacity building and joint activities, the project aims to deepen relations between Syrian and local Armenian youth. "Better future for Syrian-Armenian Youth" is a project of World Council of Churches Armenian Round Table Foundation (ART) and "Aleppo" Compatriotic Charitable Organization.

Bible Societies report more access to scriptures

In 2017, United Bible Societies, a global network working in more than 200 countries and territories, assisted in scripture translations in 49 languages spoken by 580 million people.

Thursdays in Black spread in Nigeria

The Rev. Ikechukwu Anaga remembers when people didn't know about "Thursdays in Black," the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. His community of Aba, in Abia State, Nigeria, was seeing firsthand an increase in gender-based violence and rape. When Anaga helped others in his community make a firm decision to do something about it, the zeal and passion for Thursdays in Black rose.

Ecumenical Review marks WCC 70th year

Under the title, "Walking Together, Serving Justice and Peace," the latest issue of The Ecumenical Review, the quarterly journal of the WCC, commemorates the WCC's 70th anniversary by publishing an article, address or book chapter by each of the WCC's seven general secretaries since it was founded in 1948.

Renewed hope for a prosperous Zimbabwe

"Communications is at the heart of what it means to be church," according to Kenneth Mtata, general secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches. Since he took office in September 2016, communication has been a priority. The ZCC plans a network to communicators in churches to share knowledge and experience.

WCC joins interfaith coalition on water justice

As the 8th World Water Forum (WWF) unfolds in Brasilia, Brazil, the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (WCC-EWN) is taking part in a series of activities to challenge the corporate takeover of water bodies around the world.

UN, NGOs, WCC challenge violence against children

Representatives of UN agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization have spoken of how religious communities and churches can play a key part in ending violence in early childhood.

"Arusha Call to Discipleship" issued

Participants from the World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) issued a "Call to Discipleship" on March 13, as the conference closed. More than 1,000 people engaged in mission and evangelism gathered in Tanzania for it, coming from different Christian traditions across the world. They reflected on their call to discipleship and its significance in transforming mission in a world of pain, dislocation and turmoil.

'Warsha' calls on migrants as agents of change

Thirty participants gathered March 9 to 10 in Arusha, Tanzania, in a "warsha"—a workshop to discuss ideas to advance creative thinking—entitled "Building Capacity for Migration & Multicultural Ministries: From Chaos to Hope." "Warsha," a Kiswahili term, refers to a way the church today can inform and inspire mission and ministry with the migrants.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Resource Directory updating is underway

The process of producing the 2018-19 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources is underway.

More than half of the advertisers have confirmed as of the March 31 early deadline. The next deadline is April 30.

"We continue to reach out to the past and new advertisers to fill the space and draw the funds to support the publication," said Malcolm Haworth, directory editor.

He has also been updating the listings based on forms that were sent out by mail and email, and

based on online research.

"I encourage anyone interested in advertising and those who have not yet updated their information to contact us so that we can make the changes needed," he said.

Agencies and businesses who were community partners for the last edition are also renewing.

"We are reaching out to more organizations and businesses to be community partners so we can publish 16,000 copies or more this year, because of the increased demand we had last year," Malcolm said. "We are also asking

agencies and businesses to let us know how many copies they want in advance, so we publish enough.

"Each year, it has grown more popular, especially as it is used as a self-help tool by people with needs and crises," he said. "Part of the gap for them has been in not knowing what resources are out there to help in their situations."

In addition, volunteers are needed to help do editing, mailing and deliveries.

For information, call 535-1813, 216-6090 or email resourcedirectory@thefigtree.org.

Human Rights banquet will be on April 20

The 21st Annual Human Rights Banquet of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCTFHR) is Friday, April 20, at The Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W. Appleway in Coeur d'Alene.

A silent auction and reception begin at 5 p.m., followed by a dinner and program at 6:30.

Raymond Reyes, associate academic vice president and chief diversity officer for Gonzaga University, will speak on the theme

of "Our Pursuit for Equality and Social Justice for the Human Race Continues."

He is an internationally recognized authority in human rights, equity, social justice, diversity education, Indian education, sports psychology, multicultural literacy and spiritual significance of human differences.

"Raymond is one of the few Renaissance individuals with incredible compassion that I've met," said Tony Stewart, KCT-

FHR secretary.

The evening will also include Civil Rights Awards, a live auction of a basketball signed by the 2017-2018 Gonzaga Basketball Team, and inductions into the Idaho Hall of Fame.

Banquet proceeds go to the Human Rights Education Institute (HREI) and four minority scholarships at North Idaho College. The auction supports the KCTFHR.

For information, call 208-765-3932.

Faith Action Network plans spring summits

The Faith Action Network of Washington (FAN) is planning its annual Spring Summits with advocating faith communities

across the state coming together to talk about how the FAN legislative agenda fared during the past session and to make plans

for priorities and actions for the rest of the year, said Paul Benz, co-director.

Yakima's summit will be from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 6, at Toppenish United Methodist Church, 201 N. Beech St.

In Spokane, the summit will

be from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 3, at All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S. Spruce.

There are also summits in Vancouver and Seattle.

For information, call 206-625-9790, email benz@fanwa.org or visit fanwa.org.

Mijo Lee is speaker for PJALS Luncheon

Mijo Lee, executive director of the Social Justice Fund NW, a community foundation that funds grassroots movements for social justice, will be the keynote speaker on the theme, "Building Beyond the Moment," for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Luncheon from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 2, at the Spokane Valley Event Center, 10514 E. Sprague Ave.

Except for five years in New York, she is a lifetime Northwesterner. As an activist and organizer, Mijo, who lives in Seattle, has worked in various movements including domestic violence ad-

vocacy, fair trade, police accountability, immigrant rights and youth organizing, and also as an appellate public defender. She helps people realize their power as fund raisers, donors, and activists.

For information, call 838-7870, email liz or visit pjals.org.

Rural Ministry Resources plans workshop

Rural Ministry Resources will offer a workshop, "Pulling It Together," from 1 p.m., Friday, April 6, to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center,

6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.

Friday presentations include 1) "Relying on Faith," led by Paul Palumbo and Sandy Bryant from Lake Chelan; 2) "Fifth Quarter," led by Stacey Friedlein who works with youth in Davenport, and 3) "Dealing with Grief Six Months after Loss," with Michelle Mitchell, a Hospice of Spokane grief counselor.

Saturday presentations include "Time for Sharing" with Freeman High School principal James Straw and discussion of restarting the Rural Ministry Network and meeting in rural communities every three to four months. There will be a closing worship.

For information, call 509-284-6107 or email kramerrmrelmore@frontier.com.

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Building Beyond the Moment
Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane Luncheon Benefit

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spokane Valley Event Center

10514 E. Sprague Ave. - Spokane WA

Only minutes from downtown with plenty of free parking

Keynote Speaker: Mijo Lee

executive director of Social Justice Fund NW

Reserve your seat at www.pjals.org/2018luncheon

Retreat Center plans Day of Prayer on China

Anthony Clark, history professor at Whitworth University, will lead a Day of Prayer on the Martyrs of China, "Don't Stop Us from Dying with You! The Spirituality of China's Martyr Saints," from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.

Anthony, who also hosted the 13-part EWTN television series, "Saints of China: Martyrs of the Middle Kingdom," has published several books and articles on Catholicism in China, and is a contributing editor for Catholic World Report. He does research in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and the Vatican.

For information, call 448-1224 or visit ihrc.net.

Justice Lunchbox is on third Wednesdays

The Center for Justice has a lecture series called Justice Lunchbox at noon on third Wednesdays at 25 W. Main.

Rick Eichstaedt, director of the center, announced that on April 18, Lisa Robbe of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombuds will give a presentation on "What is the Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombuds?"

For information, call 835-5211 or email ricke@cfjustice.org.

Fair Housing Conference will be on April 26

The 2018 Inland Northwest Fair Housing Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, April 26, at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

The event will include celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, said Terri Anderson, director of the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance in Spokane.

For information, call 325-2665, email execdir@nwfair-house.org or visit nwfairhouse.org.

In April, Spokane Gives engages volunteers

Spokane Gives 2018 connects volunteers with organizations throughout April and jump starts volunteerism for the year, said Marisela Revuelta Cervantes, volunteer engagement manager with Spokane County United Way.

"Over the past three years more than 52,000 citizens have volunteered their time and talents to Spokane Gives projects, logging 274,000 hours of time, and providing an impact value worth over \$6.35 million," she said.

Spokane volunteer opportunities and mini grants for youth for up to \$500 are available with information at volunteerspokane.org/spokane-gives.

A project for the City of Spokane is Cleaning from the Corridor from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 28, beginning in Peaceful Valley. Other opportunities include thrift store cleaning, office cleaning, father mentoring, clothing room help, social media volunteer, indoor painting, downtown graffiti clean-up, assembling backpacks, ESL teaching, grant writing, repacking food donations, Global Youth Service Day, KYRS volunteer coordinator and much more.

For information, call 324-5020 or email mariselar@unitedwayspokane.org.

Journalist is Whitworth Forum speaker

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist and New York Times best-selling author Katherine Boo will speak for Whitworth University's spring President's Leadership Forum, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, at the Spokane Convention Center.

She has written for The New Yorker, The Washington Post and Washington Monthly, telling stories about the world's poor and disadvantaged people.

Her reporting at The Post about group homes for intellectually disabled people won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2000.

Her New York Times best-selling book, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize, won the National Book Award for Nonfiction in 2012 and was adapted for the stage by the National Theatre in Washington, D.C. It tells of families striving toward a better life in the slums of Mumbai, India.

For information, call 777-3449 or visit whitworth.edu/leadershipforum.

Area youth organize rally, march that draws 5,000

Despite snow flakes falling, about 5,000 elementary, middle and high school students, parents and community members gathered March 24 for Spokane's March for Our Lives at Riverfront Park.

They listened to speeches and then marched through downtown Spokane to call for an end to gun violence in schools and communities.

They carried signs and repeated chants that said: "Kids not guns." "Love not hate makes America great."

"No more thoughts and prayers. Take action, show you care," read one sign.

"Am I next?" asked another.

They made it clear, they are not about removing every firearm from every home, but making gun ownership more responsible so everyone is safer.

"We are here about gun reform and safety," said Audrey Baumer of Cheney High School.

Local high school students began organizing for the day, as well as for school walkouts on March



Ellary Lockood, one of the organizers, spoke at the march.

14 and April 20, at the Feb. 24 Peace and Justice Action League Peace Action Conference.

Student organizers helped to form a Student Council with support from some adults. Members of the Teachers Union were trained as peacekeepers

There were 800 March for our Lives events across the United States and around the world, growing out of a gunman's kill-

ing of 17 students and teachers at Margery Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida, and injuring others.

Since the shooting, students there and at other schools have challenged the federal government's inability to stop such shootings.

For information, visit the group's facebook page, No Kids Left Spokane.

Spokane, Pullman, Moscow, Coeur d'Alene

Area communities plan Earth Day events

Earth Day and Night Festival will be celebrated in Spokane with a festival and block party from 10 a.m., Saturday, April 21, to 2 p.m., Sunday, April 22, in downtown Spokane.

The festival celebrates sacred connections between the planet and people with a multi-block event bringing together "sustainable minds, local entrepreneurs, multiple stages and venues, art and vendors," said Tara Williamson, organizer.

The Procession of the Species will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday.

"We seek more community partners and sponsors, as we build a network of entrepreneurs and artists who work continuously to improve our community," she said.

"The idea is to gather a network of artists and small business people who are devoted to innovative work and being an example daily of sustainable change, promoting

the idea that Earth Day needs to be every day," Tara said.

For information, call 202-9368.

The 14th Annual Pullman Stream Clean-up is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 21, at Spring Street Park. Participants will join the City of Pullman Stormwater Services and the Palouse Conservation District walking along Pullman streams and removing litter and recyclables from the waterways.

The event will take place rain or shine. Participants are encouraged to wear closed-toe shoes

For information, visit palousecd.org/pullman-stream-cleanup.

The Mayor of Moscow, Bill Lambert, is looking for nominations for the 2018 Mayor's Earth Day Awards.

Candidates are people who use sustainable practices like recycling, reusing, construction or design or public education. There are awards for businesses, students, schools, nonprofits, government and green neighbors.

For information, email sec@ci.moscow.id.us.

In Coeur d'Alene, there will be an Earth Day 5K and 10K Virtual Race. Participants compete on their own—running, jogging or walking any time from April 22 to 30 on a road, treadmill, trail, gym or track. They will submit their time. Officials will send a medal to them. Fifteen percent of entry fees—which include an official bib, medal and shipping—is donated to Wild Earth Allies, wildearthallies.org.

Sukiyaki Dinner 2018
Saturday, April 21
 noon to 5 p.m.
\$15/meal
 (Take Out available)
Highland Park United Methodist Church
 611 S. Garfield St. - Spokane

Senior center sets dinner and auction on April 14

"Keep the Good Going" is the theme for the Hillyard Senior Center's Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, April 14, in the Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute event center.

For 44 years the nonprofit center has provided thousands of hours of nutritional, recreational and educational services to mostly low income seniors.

For information, call 482-0803.

Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 28, 2018

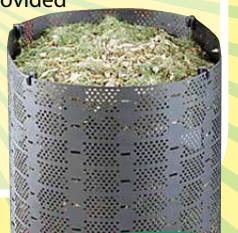
11 am-2 pm

John A. Finch Arboretum

Learn how to compost at home from Master Composter/Recyclers

Spokane County residents from jurisdictions participating in the County's Regional Solid Waste System may take home a free compost bin. Limit one per household. Bins provided by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Please arrive no later than 1:30 pm and bring proof of residency.



For more information call 625-6580 or go to www.spokanecountysolidwaste.org

Partial funding provided by WA State Dept of Ecology.



Taizé Prayer
Celebration of New Life
THURSDAY at 4:15 PM

The Ministry Institute
 405 E. Sinto
 two blocks North of St. Aloysius Church

The Ministry Institute invites you to pray with music, readings and silence in the style of Taizé. **No Taizé prayer on April 26, May 17 or 24. Check for summer schedule.**

For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu.

We invite you to join us for reflection and contemplation.

Program is pipeline to inspire children to pursue college and jobs

Continued from page 1

Apartments, the HUD-assisted multi-family housing that is managed by Kiemle and Hagood Co.

In 1997, Pastor Lonnie Mitchell started Neighborhood Networks and ran the program out of an office at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Neighborhood Networks moved to the Richard Allen Apartments and then, in 2008, it moved to Emmanuel Family Life Center, which was built between the church and apartments.

Charles Williams, Betsy's son, now manages the After-School Program, the Computer and Internet Education, the Summer Teen Program and Emmanuel Family Life Center.

"He is a role model, challenging children and youth to keep focused on education as he did," said Betsy.

He emerged from early struggles in school to study at Eastern Washington University and earn an online degree in business from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

The low-income tenants need assistance to keep their housing, so Neighborhood Networks also offers Responsible Renters classes, Tree of Sharing Christmas gifts, a food program after school and in the summer, Washington Connections and SNAP utility assistance.

The focus of the after-school program is education through the Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI). The method involves youth engagement, peer interaction, a supportive environment, a safe environment and youth voice.

"It's not a hang-out for children and youth, but a pipeline to inspire children to go on to jobs and higher education," Betsy said. "We build in critical thinking and have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program."

Each day children come, the two staff and five volunteers test their mood: "How did you do today? Was it a great day, medium or rough?"

If they are upset, we re-direct them so they are calm and do not disrupt the other students."

The 32 children who come are to do homework and read. They can do educational programs on the computers. Tuesdays and Thursdays a volunteer leads a STEM program in robotics. Volunteers also offer art, yoga and sewing. On Wednesdays and Fridays, a volunteer offers tutoring in math. Once a month, volunteers from The Links, Inc., teach a history class.

Sometimes they see movies or have speakers. Recently, after a fire fighter talked about fire prevention, children went home and set up fire escape plans, Betsy said.

Charles keeps the children on task with incentives and asks their teachers to send homework packets in case children forget their homework.

Now that the Open Doors program of the Family Promise Day Center is housed in the Emmanuel Family Life Center, more children, including teens, come.

"Middle school and high school youth who come early use computers and then do homework in a room across the hall," Betsy said.

"We help them set goals of getting jobs and going to college. We encourage them to stay on top of their homework and be involved with activities and athletics."

Charles and volunteers also encourage them to do board games and play after homework is done.

"We help them stay focused in spite of challenges and struggles their families face," she said.

In addition to the meal, Neighborhood Networks provides Bite-to-Go boxes of food for weekends. "If children's clothes are not clean, we provide resources to do laundry and may buy clothes and shoes for some," said Betsy.

Charles has rapport with the children and youth.

"They trust him," Betsy said. "He knows their struggles and motivates them, because he experienced similar struggles."

In the eight-week Summer Teen Program, Charles takes 25 teens, ages 13 to 17, to tour colleges to motivate them to earn degrees or specialize in a trade. The program includes health awareness, SAT training, community service, career opportunities, arts and self-esteem building to help them overcome poverty.

Betsy also collaborates with Kiemle & Hagood and Transitions to teach Responsible Renters so families have the foundation they need as renters.

"We encourage people to come out of their apartments and find resources to better their lives," she said.

"We can't just work with children. We also need to help the parents be able to provide food, clothing and housing," Betsy

said. "We provide them with resources so they can support their children."

Betsy knows the importance of education, because her family's life has turned around since she, her son, her husband—also Charles—and daughter Chantel have pursued higher education.

They came to Spokane in 1992 when her husband was stationed at Fairchild Air Force Base.

She first worked at a bank and cared for her mother, who moved from Illinois after having a stroke.

When she was a child, Betsy's mother often took her fishing in Clinton, Iowa, and drove by Ashford University. Her mother dreamed that one day Betsy would study there.

When searching for a college, Betsy remembered her mother's dream and applied there.

Higher education has made a difference for her family.

In 2012, Betsy earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ashford University's online program. She now also has a master's degree in education from Ashford.

Betsy's husband Charles participated in the construction and completion of the Emmanuel Center. Then he earned a degree in civil engineering and is now a construction contract manager with Fairchild.

Meanwhile, she was being mentored for ordination through the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2007 as an itinerant minister. In 2013, she was ordained an itinerant deacon.

"Ministry has always been a direction for me," she said. "There were many Baptist min-

isters in my family. My roots are to serve in the community and in the church."

She recently began studies for a master of divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in Ohio to pursue ordination as an itinerant elder.

"God has given me a heart for people and a love of children," she said. "The Bible says that if it's in your power to do good, then do good.

"If we have much, we are to serve others, to have generous hearts," Betsy said.

For information, call 981-6568.



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Whitworth begins construction of Beeksma Family Theology Center

Whitworth University will hold a blessing ceremony at 3:15 p.m., Thursday, April 12, to launch

construction on the Beeksma Family Theology Center, a \$2.8 million addition to the Seeley Mudd Chapel.

ees; new gathering spaces for students; more seating and improved audiovisuals in the chapel, and a remodeled conference room.

Joyce Beeksma, who provided a \$1.5 million gift. Barney earned a bachelor's degree in business management and Joyce, a bachelor's in education. Several of their grandchildren have recently graduated from or are currently attending Whitworth.

Partners International receives grant for staff

Partners International has received a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Wash., which allows it to search for two new staff members to help Partners International expand its reach and grow deeper roots among its supporters in the Pacific Northwest.

The addition will house the theology department, campus ministry and Office of Church Engagement to encourage interaction.

"It will encourage collaboration, with spaces to gather and wide hallways for conversations," said Jerry Sittser, Whitworth professor of theology and senior fellow in the Office of Church Engagement.

Other major donors include the M.J. Murdock Trust and local philanthropist Jim Cowles.

The trust has awarded \$271,000, over three years to fund two new positions: a church development director to build new partnerships with churches for overseas ministries and a digital media technician to create video and media to capture the mission and vision of Partners International.

Scheduled to be completed in fall 2018, the expansion will provide offices for more than 20 faculty, staff and student employ-


The center is named for 1954 Whitworth alumni Barney and

These two positions have the potential to help it grow, said Larry Andrews, Partners International's president and CEO.

For information, call 343-4021 or email scotts@partnersintl.org.

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Despite being hungry, hiding from bombs love motivated survival, caring

Continued from page 1
shoes on my feet, but I had love. I pass it on," she said.

Cora was born in 1934 in Bucharest, a year after Hitler came to power. Her mother—her father's second wife—died when she was 37 and Cora was 14 months old. Her oldest brother was 29 years older. She had six brothers and two sisters. Her father, a Zionist, was born in 1875, owned a restaurant and was president of a local synagogue.

Struggles for Jews began before the war. Her family had to quickly move out of their two-story house to live in a two-bedroom apartment. Before the Germans took his restaurant, Cora's father gave it to the maître d', who had worked with him for 20 years.

One Friday evening in January 1941, a friend and her mother suddenly came to the house. The mother told her father that 170 Jews had been taken to a slaughterhouse—among them her husband—hung by their feet and had their throats cut. After Cora learned about it, she had nightmares. Her friend did not know how her father died until later, when both were in Israel.

Her father, like other Jews, bribed local officials to survive.

Beyond Germans, the local Iron Guard "carried on fierce pogroms against Jews," she said. Romania joined the Axis and sent people to concentration camps. Two of her brothers were sent to labor camps in 1942.

One, a Zionist, owned a brick factory Nazis took over when they took him. After the war, Communists took it. Nothing was returned to Jews, she said.

Cora's father kept kosher, but was able to sneak bacon to his son at the camp—through a "good" German whose son was an SS guard there. He said, "If it saves my son's life, it's not a sin."

Her brothers returned after the war ended in August 1944 in Romania. Her six-foot-tall brother, Moris, weighed 120 pounds. His skin hung on him. He recovered and lived to be 93. Her other brother, Bernard, came back and had a heart attack. He had several more heart attacks and lived to be 65.

Their first evening home, the family sat at the dinner table. Her father suddenly turned off the lights, and, in gratitude for their survival, said, "Look how much light is in here. All my stars are here."

When war broke out in Romania in 1941, Cora was seven. She attended kindergarten and



Cora der Koorkanian

first grade at a private school run by nuns, until she was kicked out because she was Jewish. Not allowed to go to school, Jewish children studied in synagogues.

"The joke was on the Nazis because we had the best teachers. Many had doctoral degrees," she said.

After the war, the Jewish school re-opened, and many children had skipped one or two grades. She graduated when she was 16.

Cora's father believed girls needed more education than boys, because it was harder for girls to achieve anything without education.

After the Germans left, the Communists took over.

In 1940, one sister had left for Palestine when she was 14. In 1950, Cora immigrated to Israel with her father, one brother and his family.

"When we left, we only took a carry-on bag, no money or jewelry," she said. "Two other brothers came later."

The Romanian Communists made Israel buy the release of her Zionist brother. Israel bought 10 others, too.

Two brothers stayed in Romania. One was an opera singer. The other's wife wanted to stay with her family.

In Israel, Cora was in a kibbutz—a collective farm—for two years. She entered the military and attended nursing school.

During these years, Cora was long-distance dating George, who was in the foreign service in Washington, D.C. When he asked her to marry him, she moved there in 1976 and became a citizen.

Since 1956, he had been in the diplomatic courier service with the State Department. From 1976 to 1988 they were stationed together three years in Frankfurt, Germany, five years in Bangkok, Thailand, and four years in Frankfurt.

When he retired, they settled in his home town, Manchester, N.H. Their daughter, Diana, who was born a year after they married, grew up attending international schools in Thailand and Germany, and schools in Manchester.

In New Hampshire, Cora became an interpreter for courts and lawyers, and for medical, family planning, children's health and cancer care services. Her husband died of cancer in 2007.

Since moving to Spokane, she is a five-minute walk from her daughter and two grandchildren.

"I had wonderful memories of my grandmother and wanted to pass that on to my grandchildren," she said.

Last July, Cora and two cousins, who live in France, visited Romania to search for ancestors.

"It was an eye-opener. Jews are now less than one percent of the Romanian population—7,000 now compared to the pre-war population of 750,000. We went to four towns, Bucharest, Iasi, Roman and Falticeni. My great-grandfather came from Russia to Falticeni in 1848. Once 78 percent of the people there were Jews from Russia. Now just 12 Jews live there."

Because of limited openings for Jews at universities, her cousins went to France. Three, who studied medicine in Lyon, were sent to

Auschwitz. Only one returned.

In her early years in Israel, she and her friends did not talk of their experiences, but eventually, they began telling their stories.

A friend, Eva Moses Kor, one of the Mengele twins, wrote *Children of the Flames: Dr. Josef Mengele and the Untold Story of the Twins at Auschwitz*. Eva goes back to Auschwitz to speak.

Another friend, Irene Cedar Rogers, whom she visits in Florida, wrote *Finding Peace Is My Revenge*.

Cora chooses to write and tell good memories about her family to her grandchildren.

"All I have gone through has made me a stronger, tougher and better person. I am lucky how my life evolved," she said.

Compared to subsistence living in Romania, she now lives in comfort, so she gave the one-time reparation the German government paid her—as a child Holocaust survivor—for scholarships and programs to help people learn about the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide.

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Professor, students call for curricula focus, divestment, sustainability

On campus and in the community, Brian Henning teaches about the intersection of philosophy, ethics and environmental sustainability, and raises challenges about curricula, investments and energy sources.

Brian, who is professor of philosophy, ethics and environmental issues at Gonzaga University, said there are technical aspects to decarbonizing transportation and energy—like electric cars and solar energy—but technical solutions are not enough to avoid catastrophic climate change.

“Many people sacrifice at the altar of consumption,” he said, “but those at the top are often not happier.”

“While technical problems need technical solutions, moral problems require moral solutions, changing our underlying attitudes, assumptions and beliefs,” he said. “We as humans need to live in a way that mutually benefits other forms of life on earth, rather than conquering them,” he added.

In the Jesuit tradition of philosophy, Brian even asks if “sustainability” is an adequate goal.

Something sustainable can be done indefinitely, but sustainability provides no way of knowing what is in fact worth doing. There are many forms of human living that may be sustainable, but are not good, he said.

“Is late stage consumer society sustainable? What does a good life look like? What is our relationship with the natural world?” Brian asked. “If we do sustainable things to survive, we also need conversations about ethics and values.”

Born in Twin Falls, Idaho, raised in Boise and studying in Seattle and New York City, his early education was public, but all his undergraduate and graduate education was at Jesuit schools. He appreciates that Gonzaga and the Jesuits have kept philosophy alive, requiring it for all students.

For him, Jesuit education is rich in dialogue. In contrast, some universities avoid religion and others require one brand of religious thought, but “Jesuits are willing to embrace the value of difficult conversations.”

He earned his bachelor’s degree at Seattle University and completed two master’s degrees and a doctoral degree in philosophy from Fordham University in New York City. After teaching five years at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, he came to Gonzaga in 2008.



Brian Henning brings challenge on campus and in community.

Brian has four emphases outside of class:

- He helped found and worked with Gonzaga’s Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability from 2008 to 2015. Since 2015, he has focused on the Cataldo Project: Sustainability Across the Curriculum Initiative.

- He is the faculty leader of the Fossil Free Gonzaga campaign to divest Gonzaga’s endowment of fossil-fuel investments.

- In 2017, he helped found 350 Spokane, a local branch of the international grassroots climate action group 350.org.

- He gives community presentations on his recent book, *Riders in the Storm: Ethics in an Age of Climate Change*.

Brian notes that recent developments in Catholic and Jesuit thinking on the environment may require making ecology more central to Gonzaga’s curricula.

1) Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’* “On Care for Our Common Home,” says climate change is a threat to life on this planet and vulnerable people, making ecology central to Catholic social teaching.

2) Jesuits affirmed in General Congregation 35 (GC35) in 2008 that care for and right relation with creation are fundamental to the Jesuit charism.

3) The 2011 Special Report of the Society of Jesus’ Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, “Healing a Broken World,” reinforces GC35.

4) In the new Western Province of the Society of Jesus—combining the Oregon (the Northwest) and California provinces—environmental concerns are central.

“Jesuits say justice is about a right relationship with the Creator, with others and with creation. Social justice and environmental justice are both critical,” he said.

Brian said that according to *Laudato Si’*, every aspect of cre-

ation has “intrinsic value,” a concept from environmental ethics that “something has value in and for its own sake—humans, animals, plants, species, ecosystems—not merely for its usefulness to human beings,” he explained. “Anthropocentrism values things based solely on their use by humans.”

“Technologies alone will not resolve the climate crisis. Christians know the climate crisis is a symptom of deeper problems of human society—selfishness and consumerism,” he said.

In the campaign for fossil fuel divestment at Gonzaga University, Brian and several hundred students call for reconsidering certain investments of endowment funds, which help provide scholarships and build buildings.

“If profits come from the sale of carbon fuels that cause climate change and harm poor people, it’s contrary to teachings of the Catholic Church, the Society of Jesus and Gonzaga University,” he said.

GU’s investment policy allows it to exclude investments contrary to its values. So students have studied the investments and challenged the Board of Trustees. There is a divestment resolution before the Faculty Senate, and the trustees themselves have a task force studying the investments.

Brian said that in the 1990s, the socially responsible investment movement asked people to invest in businesses compatible with their values or not to invest in companies inconsistent with their values—such as related to labor practices, civil rights, women’s rights, animal rights and weapons manufacture.

Another approach has been to invest in corporations to engage in shareholder activism, voting to influence their behavior, Brian said.

Large corporations, however, have found ways to resist

shareholder resolutions, and the increase in mutual funds investing in many corporations makes shareholder activism difficult.

“Some fossil fuel companies were bad actors, hiding internal documents, like tobacco companies did when they hid reports on research that said tobacco was addictive and caused cancer.”

Brian said that when Exxon-Mobil found in the 1970s that their products cause climate change, they buried the research and funded efforts for decades to sow doubts in the science.

“Given past experience, shareholder activism may not change the behavior of some companies. Divestment is a reasonable response,” he said.

“Our focus is to build a commitment to divest over a reasonable period. Some say divestment is hard because there is oil in everything, like plastics. So we are targeting companies that own fossil fuels, not companies that use it,” Brian added.

“**We target the problem,** not the company, to motivate companies to stop extracting oil, coal and gas,” he said.

Divestment worked in the 1980s to pressure the South African government to move away from apartheid rule.

“Now we are glad to be on the

right side of history, ending a racist regime. Now we need to be on the right side of history by divesting from fossil fuel,” said Brian.

A year ago, he helped found 350 Spokane, citizens working on the grassroots level, connecting with the international 350 climate action group. They are working for the City of Spokane to update its Sustainability Action Plan, to include, along with goals and measuring the city’s footprint, a climate action plan. Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gases to 30 percent of the 2005 level by 2030 and do a greenhouse gas inventory.

“The magnitude of the problem actually requires the city to reduce the gasses to 80 percent of the 2005 levels,” he said. “In Spokane, we need to embrace a goal of 100 percent of electricity coming from fossil-free fuels as citizens in Edmonds, Whatcom County and Portland have done.”

350 Spokane, which now has more than 400 members, is gathering signatures on a petition calling for the city to update its Sustainability Action Plan and to commit to 100 percent renewable electricity, so the city council knows the community cares.

For information, call 313-5885, email henning@gonzaga.edu or visit connect.gonzaga.edu/henning.

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Spokane author introduces new generation to 1960s leaders' call for justice

On April 4, Claire Rudolf Murphy will be in Indianapolis for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the speech Senator Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy (Bobby) gave at a campaign rally there that evening.

Bobby had been campaigning before huge crowds at Notre Dame and Ball State University earlier in the day. As he boarded the plane to Indianapolis, he learned Martin had been assassinated.

Bobby spoke from a truck bed, telling the crowd of blacks and whites gathered in a black neighborhood of Martin's assassination. Teens who saw him that night told Claire years later that he was pale when he spoke. Claire had traveled there two years ago to research her book on the two leaders.

"It was a profound speech. He said he knew the loss of a family member. Speaking from his heart, he asked, 'What kind of country are we going to be? What are we going to do?'" said Claire.

Indianapolis did not erupt in violence as did other cities, she reported.

Two months later, Bobby was assassinated on June 5, after he won the California primary.

There is a King-Kennedy Memorial on the site where he spoke. At this year's commemoration, Claire will meet Kerry Kennedy, Bobby's daughter, and Congressman John Lewis, who had joined Bobby's campaign.

"The words of Martin and Bobby were not tweets or quick responses. They wrote most of their own speeches," said Claire, explaining that because she writes for teens, she needs to give historical background.

That speech opens her book for young adults, *Martin and Bobby: A Journey to Justice*, about two 1960s leaders who influenced her and the world. The book will be published in October.

Claire is the author of 17 fiction and nonfiction books for children and teens.

"I'm passionate about the civil rights stories of the 1960s and I'm proud of young protesters today speaking out against violence and shootings. To oppose school shootings should not be divisive," she said.

"Their campaign reminds me of the young civil rights activists 50 years ago who forced the country to listen. The youth will vote. The children will lead us," added Claire, reminding that Martin was 39 when he died and Bobby was 42.

Martin is more than his "I Have a Dream" speech. In the five years after that speech at the March on Washington, he spoke out on ending poverty and the Vietnam War.

Although Bobby and Martin were from different worlds, Claire writes about how they respected



Claire Rudolf Murphy is author of 17 books for children and teens.

each other.

"Both trusted in God. Right now we can lose hope seeing what is happening in Washington, D.C., but like Martin and Bobby 50 years ago, we need to value every life," she said.

Claire believes that as Martin and Bobby stayed faithful, "we should not give up" but know there is "healing in coming together to face challenges."

Even though her family discussed politics, civil rights and women's rights at the dinner table, Claire said she did not understand the work of King, until one day in high school at Holy Names Academy in Spokane, Sister Margaret put up a bulletin board: "Christ, the King! King, the Christ!"

"I thought, 'Wow!' King lived the Gospels, welcoming children and the poor, and working for peace," she said, "just like Jesus in the Gospel stories I grew up with."

When Bobby was killed, her mother woke her up and said, "Claire, history is being made." Her family sat in front of the TV and watched the chaos.

Claire believes, "We have much to learn from history. The violence and dissonance of 1968

resonate today.

"Martin believed in nonviolence despite the violence he saw," said Claire.

She majored in history at Santa Clara University, graduating in 1973 and earning teaching credentials at the University of California in Berkeley.

From there, she joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and went to St. Mary's Mission in Western Alaska to teach at a Jesuit boarding school for Yup'ik Eskimo students. She met her husband there. They married and raised their two children in Fairbanks, where she taught middle school and high school, until she began writing books in 1991. She moved back to Spokane in 1998.

While Claire begins the book, *Martin and Bobby: A Journey to Justice*, with their last days in 1968, she looks back at their lives and the civil rights movement as a way to give background young readers may not have.

As part of the research she did for the book, Claire spent time in Indianapolis and talked by phone to people in Memphis, interviewing people who were teens when they heard Bobby and Martin

speak in those cities.

They told her of their longing for leadership and community today.

"In March, Bobby had declared that he would run for President. Martin was planning the Poor People's March for April in Washington, D.C.

By 1968, they were on the same page," Claire said. "Both men were against the Vietnam War because it took resources from the poor."

Earlier in the 1960s, Martin had pushed President John Kennedy (JFK) to send federal troops to protect the Freedom Riders in the South and other activists, and to promote the Civil Rights Act. That meant Bobby, as attorney general, would have to order troops to protect civil rights workers who were challenging segregation.

Bobby did not personally experience segregation or racism, until the University of Virginia refused to play Harvard's team because it had a black player. Harvard would not leave that player out, so Virginia, not wanting to give up its homecoming game, relented thanks to Bobby's efforts, she said.

Claire said Bobby understood prejudice and segregation intellectually because of experiences of his Irish Catholic grandparents. He knew racism was wrong, but wanted white Southern Democrat votes to re-elect his brother.

Bobby convinced JFK to support the Civil Rights Act in June 1963, and JFK sent federal troops to integrate the University of Alabama.

After JFK was assassinated in November 1963, Claire said, Bobby no longer needed to protect his brother. Out of his grief over the loss of his brother, Bobby looked at what he believed: that all people have value.

As a Senator in New York, he reached out to neighbors of color in the city, to Cesar Chavez in California and to poor people in Appalachia.

When President Lyndon Johnson escalated the Vietnam War, Bobby decided to run for President.

"During his Presidential campaign, he told people what he believed, not what would get him elected," said Claire. "His words then are words we need today on behalf of immigrants, the poor and students shot in schools and innocent people on the streets."

Since 2008, along with writing children's books, Claire has been on the faculty of Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., teaching new writers in a "low-residency model" masters in fine arts in writing for children and young adults. They go for two weeks of classes in residency in January and July, and then she mentors students in writing during the rest of the semester.

She wrote early books about Fairbanks as a gold rush town and about the gold-rush women.

Marching with Aunt Susan, about Susan B. Anthony, is one of her books about people in American history who persevered despite the odds.

Another recent book travels through the history of protest in America using "My Country Tis of Thee," with verses from abolition, suffrage, Civil War and civil rights times.

"We need to slow down, listen, pray and think," she said.

When *Martin and Bobby: A Journey to Justice* is out in the fall, Claire plans to give presentations.

For information, call 924-8994 or email clairerudolfmurphy@gmail.com.



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North Idaho woman plants seeds for a food revolution in the region

By Kaye Hult

Teri McKenzie has been planting seeds of a food revolution in the Inland Northwest since she moved to North Idaho in 2013.

Spurred on by her love of anything food-related and using her community-building skills, she invited people with a similar passion to gather in February 2014. About 60 came.

The enthusiasm to create a food system for the area was palpable. Out of this and subsequent meetings, the Inland Northwest Food Network was born.

By April 2014, she had brought together a board of directors. The following January, they held their first public event: a presentation by historian Robert Singletary called "Chew on This! The History of Food and Farming in Kootenai County."

Their mission is "to connect people, places, food and farms through education and outreach," she said. It "envisions a resilient, community food system that celebrates the cultural aspects of our region's food and promotes health for individuals, the local economy and the environment."

Teri, who became the network's paid staff in January 2018, guides those involved to work collaboratively. She wants to empower people through information, not just through lectures, but also through hands-on experiences.

For example, a once-yearly Farm to Table Dinner allows those who attend to meet the farmer(s), tour the farm and learn that farm's model of farming. They learn what influences in the soil affect the flavor and nutritional value of the plants and animals. Right after the tour, they sit down to taste food grown there. This year's tour will be July 22 at Ace of Spades Farm in Spokane.

In March, a scion exchange and grafting workshop was held in Spokane Valley. Scions are young shoots or twigs, especially cut for grafting or rooting. In this case, the scions came from a variety of apple trees, many of them heirlooms that are native or well-adapted to this area. Not only could participants purchase the scions, but they could also graft them to root stock.

More than three years into this effort, Teri sees this as a time to reflect on the status of the organization.

"It's time to look at what has worked well and what needs to be tweaked or let go. Where do we go from here?" she asked. "We have nonprofit status, staff and a budget. Foundational programs are in place."

Teri described the programs:

- At "Chew on This!" seven



Teri McKenzie founds Inland Northwest Food Network.

months a year, guest speakers from the region explore topics related to food and farming.

Because it is important to have people break bread together and celebrate locally grown and/or seasonal food, the program begins with a light supper.

On Tuesday, April 10, author David Montgomery will present a talk entitled, "Growing a Revolution." He will discuss how regenerative agriculture holds the promise of restoring depleted soils while helping address climate change and restoring life to the land, Teri said.

- The Food for Thought Book Club meets from 6 to 8 p.m., first Wednesdays at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library to discuss how food and farming impact lives. In January, a second group began meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. fourth Wednesdays at the Washington State University Extension in Spokane.

In April, both groups will discuss David's book, *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*.

- The Seasonal Kitchen: Cooking with the Bounty of the Region offers monthly hands-on classes.

- Last summer, the network began the free Power of Produce (PoP) Club at the Hayden Farmers Market. It encouraged children from five to 12 years old to make healthy food choices, teaching them to shop for, grow and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables. It

will be offered again this summer at the market.

"Children's eating habits are formed when they are young, so it is important to offer them nutritious foods at an early age to help instill healthy food choices that will last for their lifetime," said Teri, who hopes to start more children's programs, such as partnering with children's camps and programs in parks.

- The Inland Northwest Food Network's newest program is One Dinner—"one chef, one night and one ingredient." It is a series of multi-course dinners to benefit the organization. Each chef selects one seasonal ingredient to use in each course. Regional wines and craft brews are served. The dinners are being held every two months, using locally sourced, organic ingredients.

The next One Dinner features Chef Laurent Zirotti of Fleur de Sel in Post Falls from 6 to 9 p.m., Monday, April 23, at Fleur de Sel. His ingredient will be eggs.

"One Dinner offers a fun way for people to experience a taste of place by showcasing regional foods," Teri said, asking, "What is the Inland Northwest's regional food identity?"

She spoke of the Cultivated Chef program that will offer educational and networking opportunities for chefs in the region.

"Chefs help shape public appetite for various foods," she

said. "They can help educate and encourage their guests to eat seasonally by serving foods that are in season and then taking them off the menu during the off season. For example, chefs may say they aren't serving tomatoes now because they don't grow here now."

Teri's roots are in New York and Ohio. At Ohio University, she became passionate about social change. She graduated with a bachelor of political science degree, then spent time in the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa. After that, she attended Antioch University in Seattle, graduating with a master's degree in whole systems design with a focus on nonprofit leadership.

With experience in the nonprofit sector and in higher education, Teri draws inspiration from teachings of the natural world.

"Food touches so many aspects of our lives—our health, our planet and our local economy," she said. "Despite there being many problems facing our food system, there are also countless ways that each of us can work to counter that. The network

emphasizes solutions rather than dwelling on what's broken," she added. "What's more, food is celebratory, so we all can have fun while working to transform our food system."

"I firmly believe in people's collective wisdom and creativity to address the problems we currently face," Teri said.

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Comfort dogs draw out grief to bring healing after shootings, trauma

By Mark Kinney

Given that people can relate to the pleasure of petting a dog, and the peace and joy it can bring, Ken Fay, a certified dog handler with Lutheran Church Charities' Comfort Dog Program, said that simple act can be therapeutic for people who have experienced trauma and loss.

His introduction to the comfort dog program came as the result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in December, 2012 in Newtown, Conn., where he and his wife, Jodi, lived until last April, when they moved to Liberty Lake for his job as director of productions for byDesign Films in Post Falls.

They continue doing the comfort dog ministry from Post Falls.

They were members of Christ The King Lutheran Church in Newtown. The pastor and congregation helped minister to victims' families, including a member family who lost a child. The pastor, Rob Morris, was among faith leaders who had gathered at the local firehouse that day to comfort families who had lost children.

Ken said the response to the shooting was quick and overwhelming. People offered prayers, put up signs of support like "love you" and "stay strong." There were teddy bears everywhere. Love flooded into our community.

The pastor told elders that Lutheran Church Charities called to say they were sending comfort dogs.

"None of us had heard of the program, but that Sunday, nine dog teams arrived and more came in the next weeks and months," Ken said.

Comfort dogs helped start healing in the congregation and the community.

"They allowed us to process what had happened Friday," Ken said. "They became an amazing distraction. We were petting the dogs, crying, talking, processing and praying. They were such a boost to our psyche."

Christ The King provided support to dog and handler teams who stayed in Newtown until the next spring.

"They gave their presence, peace and the proclamation of Christ in the darkest of places," he said. "They were there to hold us, cry with us, talk with us, sit with us—just giving a place to decompress our feelings."

The dogs, all Golden Retrievers, are love, innocence and a conduit to something normal in an abnormal situation, said Ken, noting the tragedy was particularly hard because it was the Christmas season.

Maggie was one of the original nine dogs to arrive in Newtown. She had only been in the program for a year. She had come from a prison program where inmates interacted with dogs to learn responsibility."

After the Boston bombings on April 5, 2013, Maggie and another handler went to interact with survivors, families and hospital staff.

By September, Christ The King decided to adopt the comfort dog program as Newtown Comfort. Ken and another parishioner volunteered as program co-leaders.

"Later our church had a Passing the Leash ceremony, when the church adopted Maggie," he said.

Maggie stays in touch with all she visits on her Facebook page,



Jodi and Ken Fay work with Maggie, at Christ The King Lutheran.

which all the dogs have. Ken gives voice to the comfort she shares with people through the page.

Ken said God has been preparing him for this and other ministries his entire life. He and his wife, Jodi, were short-term missionaries in the summer of 2012, teaching English in Macau with Concordia University.

He and Jodi, who met in college at Western Connecticut University, travelled to Israel in 2011 to walk in the Lord's footsteps, further strengthening their faith.

Jodi is also a certified comfort dog handler and they work together. When a tragedy occurs, Lutheran Church Charities contacts comfort dog teams to see which ones can respond most quickly.

"They want paws and boots on the ground as soon as possible," said Ken, adding that teams never go anywhere unless invited. A church usually sponsors the team.

The dogs are trained to the level of a service dog. Handling commands are standard so a trained handler can work with any dog. If a handler has to return home, another handler can work with the dog as long as needed.

Comfort dog teams come from all over the United States, Ken said. When they come to a disaster zone, they serve as part of a family of faith.

Handling a comfort dog in a post-disaster environment is powerful, he said, because of the

effect dog and handler have on a suffering individual.

"We are a presence of hope and proclamation of mercy in a place that is terrible. We are the hands, feet and paws of Jesus. The dogs open avenues to conversation," he said.

"People don't know what to say or do. They don't know why they're crying when they see us. They don't know what they're feeling," Ken said. "Then they get down on their knees with the dog and start talking, crying or saying nothing. They may just sit in shock."

Ken, who is also a chaplain for a mounted cavalry unit in the Connecticut National Guard, was in Las Vegas when the shootings occurred at the country music festival last fall. He was walking on the Las Vegas strip and heard shots from a nearby casino. He heard the sounds of panic and anguish from the crowd.

Despite his military experience, he said he was affected by witnessing the traumatic event. It triggered memories of Sandy Hook.

"In a military context, we expect to be shot at, but this was an innocent civilian population being attacked by evil," he said.

Ken contacted the director of Lutheran Church Charities that evening. They knew of the situation and dogs were enroute. While waiting for them, Ken responded as a person of faith,

interacting with news reporters, counselors and survivors.

"I tried to be in the moment with these people who were suffering," he said. "I had experienced it myself, so that night was horrendous personally."

Last summer, Ken was reunited with Maggie and Rob in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and subsequent flooding. They went to places where people gathered, such as supply distribution centers. They encountered people experiencing uncertainty and anxiety, some because they were separated from their own pets.

They also ministered to a dying man in his home in Rockport, Texas. Although he had been unresponsive, he responded to Maggie's presence when she gently climbed into bed next to him and laid her head on his stomach.

She was there for 40 minutes while Rob administered a commendation for the dying service. It was a blessing to the man's family, Ken said.

Each comfort dog team has a leader, or "top dog," who coordinates the ministry in the church. The dog lives in a home with a caretaker. The team also has a "comfort voice" to handle the team's social media presence and correspondence. Each dog has a Facebook page.

The team has a scheduler to handle logistics of sending dogs where they are needed.

The ministry, headquartered in Northbrook, Ill., started in 2008 after Hurricane Katrina when

founder Tim Hetzner brought dogs to New Orleans. Soon after returning, Tim responded to a shooting on a college campus in Illinois and then Sandy Hook.

Ken said the Newtown tragedy brought national attention to the comfort dog ministry.

There are more than 130 dogs in the U.S. program. More are being trained to meet increasing demand. The dogs are trained in Northbrook, at a facility that offers simulated environments they may encounter and acclimates them to aircraft noise for air travel.

Ken said dogs and handlers work long days in response to a tragedy, but the dogs are given breaks, usually after two to four hours. Handlers play with the dog and give it toys as a reward.

After play and reward, the handler gives the command, "We're dressing," to let the dog know it is returning to work. The dog becomes docile, the handler puts the dog's vest on, and they are ready to go back. The next command is "with me," and dog and handler are once again a team.

"Those dogs are trained not to bark, bite or lick," he said.

Ken won an Emmy for a children's category video he wrote and produced with his brother called, "Wags 'n Tales." It tells of the comfort dogs in Newtown. He made it to interest both children and adults.

For information, call 866-455-6466 or visit LutheranChurchCharities.org.



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- APPLE (parent participation program for grades K-6)
- Core Knowledge (a rigorous, classical curriculum for grades K-6)
- The Enrichment Cooperative (homeschool support for grades K-12)
- The Community School (project-based learning for grades 9-12)
- On Track Academy (specialized learning for grades 11-12)
- Institute of Science and Technology at North Central (molecular biology immersion for grades 7-12)
- Spokane Virtual Learning (instructor-led online courses for grades K-12)
- NEWTECH Skill Center (career and technical training for grades 11-12)

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The Fig Tree is about sharing, reflecting, engaging and connecting

Simply put, we are about sharing stories, reflecting on issues, engaging in dialogue and connecting people to inspire action.

In a time of division,
we need to understand each other.
In a time of exclusion
we need to reach out to each other.
In a time of confusion
we need to learn about each other.
In a time of hate
we need to embrace each other.
In a time of isolation
we need to be in solidarity with each other.

The Fig Tree's strength is sharing stories, helping people give voice to their values and share how they and others are making a difference. The Resource Directory's strength is in connecting people with each

other and resources.

Both move us beyond where typical media leave us hanging in conflict, numbed by violence, silenced by sensation and feeling hopeless to address problems.

Fig Tree media exist to inform, inspire and involve us. We have a responsibility to help us see through propaganda, sexism, fear and hate that divide us. In these times, in all times, we are to be about "Including Everyone" because "We Need Each Other."

Last spring, we lost a long-time partner with the Resource Directory, so we developed the Community Partners Project. We printed 14,500, instead of 12,000 copies. We drew partnerships from Second Harvest, Banner Bank, the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, Catholic Char-

ities, Washington Trust and Empire Health Services. The Arc helped with distribution.

We have fewer than 100 copies until we publish in July.

We invite new entities to join continuing partners and be partners this year—order copies ahead and help underwrite them.

We now see the directory not only as a tool for service providers to help people in need but also as a self-help tool for people to use to look for their own solutions.

Today, we have new energy from students in Florida, the MeToo movement, the Poor People's Campaign and more. As that new energy joins the ongoing efforts, may we realize we need each other to become ongoing witnesses to the call of our faiths to love, care, seek mercy, do justice and walk

humbly. The Fig Tree can help with education and dialogue to spur the momentum to keep on keeping on.

The more funds we circulate in the faith, nonprofit, human service, justice advocacy communities, the healthier the society and those sectors are. The more people who volunteer the stronger each nonprofit is. We have two interns and new writers.

Rallies, marches, workshops, conferences and responsible media are what democracy looks like, stirring people to speak out and seek justice.

Our media are valuable tools as they enable us to be informed about opportunities to walk, march, talk, pray and work to bend the arc of history toward justice.

Mary Stamp - Editor



Benefit speakers reflect on the importance of 'including everyone'

Hershel Zellman - Temple Beth Shalom's Yom HaShoah Committee

In 1995, Temple Beth Shalom turned Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Memorial Day, into a community observance. The Fig Tree has given regular coverage.



In keeping with the theme, "Including Everyone: We Need Each Other," we need to work with each other if we are ever going to eliminate genocide from our world.

When I think of The Fig Tree, the words breadth and depth come to mind. In the recent issue, I saw articles about two Muslim leaders urging support for resettling refugees locally, a United Church of Christ minister telling how our values compel us to act, a local group launching the Poor People's Campaign in Spokane, a Spokane Valley high school English teacher motivating students to study the Holocaust and participate in Yom HaShoah art and essay contests. There was also a story on classical and funk concerts—pretty diverse subjects.

I'm on the two-year-old Spokane County Human Rights Task Force. Early on, we wanted to catalogue all the human rights groups in the county. We thought it would be an onerous task, until a member suggested looking at the Resource Directory. It listed every human rights organization. Mission accomplished! Thanks Fig Tree!

I also appreciate the breadth and depth of the articles from the human rights perspective and the extent to which they present the region's diverse ethnicities and religions.

Shonna Bartlett - The Ministry Institute

The Ministry Institute works with Gonzaga University to bring international students, primarily priests and nuns, to Gonzaga to learn English, earn advanced degrees or have a sabbatical to renew their theology and learn skills to go back to their countries with a new sense of vocation.



We advertise in the Fig Tree to let people know about our retreats, seminars, workshops and prayer services. A couple who moved to Post Falls learned about our Thursday Taizé prayer services. Others come because of ads and stories.

I know of no other newspaper in the U.S. that connects to so many faith communities over a large geographic area. It's an important source of communication in our region.

I read it cover to cover when I get it and am inspired by people who not only read their sacred texts and pray, but also take their faith into the world and serve people in need, the basic call of any religion.

We give it to our students. Many are from areas where there is conflict over religion. For them, it's important to see how people work together, and different religions combine efforts to solve problems and serve

people in need. The Fig Tree, an alternative way to look at the world, shows by lives lived what is possible.

James Casper - Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho

Habitat for Humanity is an outlet for the action that many love to do but don't have skills to do on their own.

When we advertise in the directory and newspaper, people respond. We can tell people how they can be involved and we can make it easy for them to use their interests, skills and time. We can be the place people can put faith in action.



We try to include everyone. We work with families who have challenges to overcome.

We see safe, secure housing as a way to provide a start for them, but it's not the end of their journey.

We're not the solution for a lifelong list of problems. We hope we start people on the path of taking care of themselves and motivate them to better themselves after they have built a home with help. Families need help with other issues. We give a Resource Directory to help them connect with other people and programs that can help them with needs beyond our sphere.

We also encourage people to use the resource directory to find a place to volunteer to put their skills and faith into action.

Christina Kamkosi - Empire Health Foundation

Last year Empire Health Foundation, (EHF) partnered with The Fig Tree to help distribute the Resource Directory through a Responsive Grant. Our mission at EHF is to make Eastern Washington healthy. This is a bold goal, and we cannot do it by ourselves. We rely on community partners, who connect the community to resources. We heard testimonials from our rural partners on how the directory is helpful in their day-to-day work. It's amazing how vast the reach is.

I also had the opportunity to share my personal story through The Fig Tree. Sometimes reality is complex, but stories give it form. That was true in my life. I came to this country in 2010 to go to grad school at Whitworth University. I came into a community with few people who looked like me. I did not feel I belonged, but The Fig Tree gave me an opportunity to share my story. In many cases in history, people like me are dehumanized in this country. Sharing my story in The Fig Tree helped me to be humanized and feel a sense of belonging, so I can contribute.



There are so many stories in The Fig Tree—stories of hope, stories of justice, stories of faith and stories of love. So many stories and that is what sharing our stories did for me and has done for so many others.

Mark Kinney - Thrivent - Fig Tree advertiser, sponsor and writer

The Fig Tree makes a tremendous impact on the community by sharing faith stories of individuals and of organizations serving those in need. Soon after I became director at Mission Community Outreach Center, Mary did a story on me in 2012. It was a simple story about how I came to be director and what the center did, but our profile was raised significantly by it.

The Resource Directory helped us connect people with resources they needed. Mission Community Outreach Center serves the very lowest of the low-income people in Spokane meeting basic needs for clothing, household goods, and hygiene items. That was often just the beginning of their needs. By using the directory, we connected them with further resources.

I have written two stories recently about people sharing their faith in action and what brought them to do the work they are doing. One was on Charles Brondos about his recurring involvement with the Feed My Starving Children program, and one on Lew and Gloria Hinshaw, who are volunteer ombudsmen in a long-term care facility in North Idaho. It's a privilege to highlight the work of people like these and I feel it will inspire others to action.

I continue to support the Fig Tree as a volunteer, an advertiser and a sponsor, because I value the work it does by spreading the messages of faith in action, and of diversity and inclusion in our community.

Kristine Hoover - Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies

Gonzaga is an important place to gather in community and become who we aspire to be. We have faculty who do research on misogyny, racism, xenophobia, sexism or other things that are divisive. Students will become our leaders for tomorrow and their engagement, reflection and action are so important in their formation and development to combat hate.

How do we include everyone? What does it mean to include everyone? Mary and The Fig Tree set a bar high, so we might shift the needle a little bit in overcoming hate. What can each of us do? There is power in this room because of the networks, relationships and our everyday interactions. We have an opportunity when we come together to include everyone, one person at a time, even at a gas station, grocery store or the library, at coffee or at work—or maybe while reading a copy of The Fig Tree.

Including everyone means to invite everyone to respond to listen and learn from one another. Today, how will each of us intentionally include everyone respectfully

in dialogue as The Fig Tree mission calls us to do?

Lisa Simpson - Catholic Charities Eastern Washington

Catholic Charities supports The Fig Tree on three different levels:

1) We are a regular advertiser because we value the audience. It is important for people of all faiths and opinions to see what we are doing and join with us in celebrating our programs and events in the community.

2) We appreciate The Fig Tree for its journalism. In this time when every article in newspapers seems to be divisive, it is amazing to read articles that show people of diversity of opinion and faith, and to show people working together for solutions.

3) I learned the value of the resource directories this year, when we distributed more than 1,500. We planned to hand out 300 copies at the Homeless Connect, but I forgot to clearly label the boxes to be set aside for it. I had to call different programs to ask if any had extra copies. In call after call, they said they had no copies left, because they "are like gold in our programs. Clients love them. We love them." I begged for extra copies to come back to the office and asked Mary for more copies.

It speaks volumes of how important the directory is. We are proud to be a community partner and will be one again this year.

Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad - Catholic Diocese of Spokane

"That they may be one," the Gospel mandate remains. It must continue to unfold in our lives, our community and our world. Isn't it fascinating to see what has happened in the last 50 years. I grew up in the Methow Valley. There were few Catholics. Our language and the language of the various religious groups was a bit negative toward each other, but God has a sense of humor.

My closest friend was in the Evangelical Methodist Church. One day we were playing, and his father invited me into the church. I hesitated. I wondered if the roof was going to fall on me. What will my parents and pastor think? Times have changed, wonderfully.

As we think about that change over the years, many stories have unfolded. As we look at the history of The Fig Tree over the 35 years, many stories have come forth from this publication. These stories have become our stories, my story. It's a rich treasure for us, connecting us better than ever before. We live in a polarized world. That has to change.

The Fig Tree helps us connect and share our stories to give us a sense of vision and outreach to those who are vulnerable.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 1-30** • **Spokane Gives 2018**, a month of connecting volunteers with organizations, 324-5020, mariselar@unitedwayspokane.org
- Apr 3** • **Tenant Meeting** and Call to Action, 35 W. Main, 5:30 to 7 p.m., terria@tenantsunion.org, 464-7620
- Apr 4** • **Remembrance on anniversary** of assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., New Hope Baptist Church, 9021 E. Boone, 6 p.m., 535-1336
- Apr 5** • **Caffe Affogato Community Day** benefitting the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., 838-7870
- Apr 5, 19** • **Poor People's Campaign** Spokane Area Coalition Organizing Meeting SEIU 1199 NW, 901 E. Second Ave., 5:30 potluck, 6 to 8 p.m., meeting, poorpeoplescampaign.org
- Spokane Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center Spokane, 2900 S. Bernard, 7 to 9 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- Apr 6** • **Sexual Assault Awareness Month First Friday Art Installation and Chalk Walk**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest Spokane, 210 W. Sprague, 5 to 8 p.m., 747-8224
- Apr 6-8** • **Kairos Outside of Eastern Washington** ministry for women impacted by incarceration, weekend retreat, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kennewick, 509-375-4087 or 947-4419
- Apr 7** • **The Land's Council April Showers** Auction and Dinner, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 5 to 9 p.m., 838-4912
- **YWCA Spring Fling**, Champagne Brunch and Silent Auction, Anthony's Restaurant, 510 N. Lincoln, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 789-9312, ywcaspokane.org
- **Citizenship Clinic**, legal workshop, School of Law Courtroom, Gonzaga, 721 N. Cincinnati St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., worldreliefsokane.org/citizenship-clinic
- Apr 7, 8** • **"The Nature of Reality, The Meaning of Life and What to Do about It,"** Gregory Gibbs, Buddhist Workshop, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry St., 3 p.m., 534-7954
- Apr 9-15** • **Centering Prayer Intensive**, Spirit Center, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000
- Apr 10** • **Unity in the Community Committee** meeting to plan Aug. 18 event, Emmanuel Family Live Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwnunity.org
- **350 Spokane General Meeting**, "Clean Power-Fossil Free Climate Action Plan," 25 W. Main, 6:30 p.m., jobsbee@gmail.com
- Apr 11** **Hispanic Business Professional Association**, "Co-Housing in Spokane: A Different Kind of Neighborhood," Nikki Lockwood and Christine Bruntlett, Perkins Restaurant, Division and Olive, 11:30 a.m., hbaspokane.net
- **Inland Northwest Business Alliance** Luncheon, James Mohr, vice chancellor for student affairs, WSU Health Sciences Spokane, "Transforming Just Us to Justice: Becoming an Ally for All," 11:30 a.m., inbachamber.org
- Apr 12** • **Coeur d'Alene Dances of Universal Peace**, The Harding Center, 15th & Wallace, Coeur d'Alene, 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- **Whitworth Blessing** for Beekma Family Theology Center construction, Seeley Mudd Chapel, 3:15 p.m., 777-4401
- Apr 13** • **"Cheers for Kids,"** Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery Dinner, McGinnity Room, 116 W. Pacific, 6 to 9 p.m., 340-0479, amber@vanessabehan.org
- Apr 14** • **Latin Band Concert**, benefit for legal aid for immigrants, Milonga and Mariachi Arriba Jalisco, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave., 7:30 p.m., 951-8023
- **Hillyard Senior Center** Annual Dinner and Auction, Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute event center, 5:30 p.m., 482-0803, hillyardscenter@yahoo.com
- Apr 15** • **Yom HaShoah Commemoration** of the Holocaust, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 7 p.m., 747-3304
- Apr 16** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, 7 p.m., facebook.com/Spokane.naacp
- Apr 17** • **Amy Peloff**, "Feminism and Popular Culture," Women and Gender Studies, Whitworth, Eric Johnson Science Auditorium, 7 p.m.,
- Apr 18** • **Central Washington Conference** for the Greater Good in Yakima, Washington Nonprofits, Yakima Convention Center, 10 N. 8th St., washingtonnonprofits.org
- **Day of Prayer for Martyrs of China**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- **"Our Kids: Our Business,"** Reception, Program and Networking, Jeremy Richman, Coordinated Care and Molina Healthcare, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga, training 1 to 5 p.m., reception 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., ourkidsspokane.org/events
- Apr 19** • **Baha'i Fireside Discussions**, Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main St., 7 to 8 p.m., sclid.org
- Apr 20** • **"Our Pursuit for Equality and Social Justice for the Human Race Continues,"** Raymond Reyes, 21st Annual Human Rights Banquet and Annual Gala, Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W. Appleway, Coeur d'Alene, 5 p.m., 208-765-3932, idahohumanrights.org
- Apr 20-22** • **"#Movement,"** The NATIVE Project's Indian Youth Leadership Camp, 325-5502, nativeproject.org/leadership
- Apr 21** • **Women & Children's Free Restaurant** and Community Kitchen annual Spring Tea Fundraiser, The Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 324-1995 ext 303
- **Sukiyaki Dinner**, Highland Park United Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield, noon to 6 p.m., 535-2687, hp-spokane.org
- **Vietnamese Heritage Day** with cultural performances, art, history, food, Vietnamese American Senior Association, Service Station, 9315 N. Nevada, 1 to 4 p.m., 899-5058, vasa.spokane@yahoo.com
- **African American Graduation**, Whitworth University, Hixson Building, 1 to 4 p.m., aagradspokane@gmail.com
- **Chocolate & Champagne Gala**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Historic Davenport Hotel, 6 p.m., 747-8224
- Apr 21-22** • **Earth Day and Earth Night**, "Rhythm of the Earth," downtown Spokane, 202-9368
- Apr 23-29** • **Get Lit Festival**, reading, writing workshops, poetry slams, live music, book signings in many venues, getlitfestival.org
- Apr 24** • **Katherine Boo**, Whitworth's President's Leadership Forum, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 7:30 p.m., 777-349
- Apr 25** • **Nonviolent De-escalation Training** for the May 1 Immigration March and during the Poor People's Campaign, 35 W. Main, 6 to 8 p.m., 838-7870
- Apr 26** • **Inland NW Fair Housing Conference**, Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 325-2665
- **Stand Against Racism Day**—Courageous Conversations, YWCA Comstock Room, 930 N. Monroe, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., ericas@ywcaspokane.org 326-1190
- Apr 27** • **Native American Graduation**, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga, 6:30 p.m., emma.noyes@wsu.edu
- Apr 28** • **Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day** Celebration, John A. Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6580, spokanecounty.solidwaste.org
- **Spokane Tribal Series**, Spokane Tribal History and Science, Mobius Science Center, 332 N. Post St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., mobiusspokane.org, 321-7123
- **Emerge Latino** Northwest Regional Conference, Columbia Basin College, 2600 N. 20th, Pasco, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 469-463-7678, abi.zapote@gmail.com
- Apr 30** • **El día de los niños/El día de los libros** (Children's Day/Book Day), Cheney Library, 610 First St., 2 to 4 p.m., Argonne Library, 4322 N. Argonne Rd., 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 30-May 4** • **EWU Pride Week**, Cheney, sites.ewu.edu/pridecenter/
- May 2** • **Fig Tree Mailing and Deliveries**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m., 535-1813
- **"Everyday People: Building Beyond the Moment,"** PJALS Luncheon, Spokane Valley Event Center, 10514 E. Sprague Ave., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., pjals.org
- May 3** • **Fig Tree Meetings**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., Benefit, noon, Board, 1 to 3 p.m., 535-1813
- **Hispanic/Latino Graduate** Recognition, Lair, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St., 5 to 8:30 p.m., 979-8590, hbaspokane.net

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Christian father and Jewish mother introduce their children to both faiths

Rob Sauders and Diana Kooranian-Sauders are raising their nine-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter in both Jewish and Christian traditions.

This season, they celebrate both Passover and Easter.

They believe their children have the right to choose their beliefs and the only way to make an informed choice is to be educated in both faith traditions.

“Some literature on raising interfaith children suggests they will be confused, but we have not found that true,” Diana said. “They gain something from each faith community.

“Regardless of what they choose, we want them to understand who we are and what motivates us,” Rob said.

“They pick up on common themes, and we make sure they understand these are different religions, not the same, even though there are many commonalities,” Diana said.

“In broad themes, they are similar but they are different in details, practices and culture,” Rob said.

“We do all the holidays,” he said. “Hannukah, Christmas, Passover and Easter activities,



These are some of the books an interfaith couple use with their children.

along with other Jewish holidays, including the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, and Yom Kippur, the day of

atonement, in the fall.

Their family also attends the annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust remembrance service at Temple Beth Shalom.

They are involved in both the Reform Jewish Congregation Emanu-El and Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ in Spokane.

“From Sunday school at Westminster, they gain a broad perspective,” Rob said.

The church has been using a book by Desmond Tutu of South Africa as a resource for its classes.

“The UCC church is open and affirming and involves people from various Christian backgrounds. Similarly, the Reform congregation is a welcoming and inclusive Jewish community,” Rob said.

“The Reform movement shares many values with the United Church of Christ, including the priority on social justice, racial equality, women’s issues and environmental responsibility,” Rob and Diana said. “Broad themes are similar. Details differ, but can enrich.

“We understand differences are not about right or wrong,” he said.

“Often we stress differences, but it’s about some do religion this way, and others do it that way.”

Diana’s mother is Jewish and her father was Armenian and a member of the Apostolic/Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, so she is familiar with growing up in an interfaith household, in which her parents encouraged her to decide what faith path to follow.

“I identify as Jewish, but my name is Armenian. I’m proud of that heritage, too,” she said. “There is a big Armenian community in New England with much extended family. The East Coast also has a bigger Jewish community.”

Diana said her parents were culturally involved in their communities.

Rob grew up going to Sunday school regularly.

In the Jewish community in Spokane, Diana said it’s important to be involved. On the East Coast, there are other Jewish children in school and the community.

“Here there are just a handful, so we have to proactively make efforts to introduce them to Jewish culture and religious education,” Diana explained.

PJALS and faith leaders plan for the Poor People’s Campaign locally

The Peace and Justice Action League in Spokane (PJALS) and Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience are spearheading Eastern Washington and North Idaho events for The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival.

The campaign is an effort by Repairers of the Breach, founded in 2015 by the Rev. William Barber II in collaboration with the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice, the Education Project, and hundreds of local and national partners.

It is a multi-state movement with the goal of ending systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction and other injustices.

Liz Moore, executive director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) and one of the tri-chairs for the Washington State Coordinating Committee, was in Nashville in March for a training of trainers with the Rev. James Lawson, who studied nonviolence three years with Mahatma Gandhi in India before organizing nonviolent resistance in the civil rights movement, such as the lunch counter sit-ins.

“He emphasized the importance of preparation so organizers main-

tain nonviolent discipline and agree on strategy,” Liz said.

“James said the Poor People’s Campaign will build on past campaigns and create a new moment of struggle with a new scale of coordination to push back systemic causes of poverty, racism, militarism and ecological devastation.

“The hope is to create power the power brokers will not expect to bring change,” Liz said.

The campaign, “The Season of Moral Resistance,” that will run from Mother’s Day through the summer solstice will launch a long-term, multi-year campaign.

For a Mother’s Day protest in Olympia, Spokane will have a send-off rally for its delegation.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit poorpeoplescampaign.org or pjals.org.

In Spokane, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC), a diverse group of spiritual leaders, has come together facilitated by the Rev. Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ, to support PJALS in this effort.

“We, as a diverse group of spiritual leaders, can model what it means to repair the breach. We can model unity in the effort to overcome poverty, racism and militarism, and move toward

developing the beloved community,” said Gen.

A remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. is planned at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 4, at New Hope Baptist Church, 9021 E. Boone.

Beginning on Mother’s Day, May 13, the campaign will engage in 40 days of action.

On “Moral Mondays,” groups around the nation and in Washington, D.C., will gather at state capitals to make known their concerns that leaders take moral

actions and act with integrity regarding the four key areas of poverty, racism, militarism and environmental devastation.

PJALS and FLLC are planning activities.

- A series of 40 videos of people telling their stories will be available to build understanding.
- Voters will be registered.
- Booklets of meditations on overcoming divisions are planned.

FLLC is discussing activities, such as visiting those incarcerated at Airway Heights or a day of service at the new Martin Luther

King Center location at 500 S. Stone.

“Moral concerns of our faith traditions are how our society treats the vulnerable—the people whom Jesus calls ‘the least of these.’ Our traditions point to equal protection under the law, a desire for peace within and among nations, the dignity of all people and the responsibility to care for our common home,” are the goals of the Repairers of the Breach organization.

For information, call 408-593-9556 or genheywood@att.net.

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