

36TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Stories inside

A few of many stories of hope - p. 3, 5, 6

Faith leaders guide response to COVID-19 - p. 7-8

Dinner Table organizing leads to new law - p. 9

CMTV14 fills need to tell stories in video - p. 12

BECAUSE OF CANCELLATIONS THERE IS NO CALENDAR



April 2020 Volume 37 Number 4

Micah 4:4

news@thefigtree.org (509) 535-1813 • 535-4112

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

'I can help, so I do it. It needs to be done.'

By Mary Stamp

With these times calling for new ways of action and caring, we choose for our lead story, the story of Carla Peperzak, recently named Washington's Person of the Year.

For most of her 96 years, Carla Peperzak sought to live a normal day-to-day life, remembering, but silent about, the atrocities she experienced in her teen years in the Dutch Resistance, helping save the lives of the 40 Jews she hid during World War II.

Because few Holocaust survivors talked about it, several generations of young people knew little about 6 million Jews dying. For many years, she avoided Judaism.

The resistance formed soon after German troops invaded Holland and began picking up people on the streets in July 1942. Carla's father, Morrie Olman, a fashion designer, had an attorney remove the "J" for Jew from the ID cards of Carla and her sister, Miep. Their mother was not Jewish.

Carla became Catholic because it was safer. That meant she could work with the underground in a group of eight resistance workers.

She joined the underground when her father's brother asked her to hide his wife, two children and



Carla Peperzak helped the Dutch Resistance and now helps educate on the Holocaust.

him. A trusted neighbor helped her find a place.

Today, she said, her greatest "revenge" against the Nazis is her survival and the lives of her three daughters, son, 11 grandchildren and, in May, 20 great-grandchildren.

Carla, a member of Temple Beth Shalom and its Yom Hashoah Committee, knows she has a responsibility to educate people about the Holocaust. She speaks with junior high, high school, university students and adults, and a few grade school classes.

In her memoir, Keys to My Life, she writes that "the more informed the students are, the better they can understand that terrible time and, hopefully, prevent it from happening again."

While many students today could care less, there are always some who care. Many of them submit essays and art to the Eva Lassman Memorial Essay Contest and Art Contest. Entries are in and being evaluated.

"I want today's teens to know about it and spread the word," she said.

"When I first started sharing what I experienced, it brought

Continued on page 4

Helpers are evident in response to needs arising around COVID-19

One TV station news program has started a "Look for the Helpers" feature, citing Mr. Rogers' suggestion that in times of stress and struggle, children/adults "look for the helpers."

It's what The Fig Tree's mission is to do in all times.

"It's overwhelming all the helpers who are helping in these times—as always," said Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree editor. "Instead of our usual approach of feature articles, we are sharing hope with you by sharing a sampling of what some of the ministries, government agencies, nonprofits,

businesses and faith communities are doing.

"For those feeling hopeless during these times, we invite them to be aware of all the neighbors helping neighbors, using their ingenuity to adjust services around social (physical) distancing and hygiene protocols to bring their love, care and resources to people in need," she said.

The following are just some of the agencies changing their approaches to provide services in the midst of the pandemic and in response to the "novel coronavirus disease that started in 2019"

(COVID-19).

More updates are being compiled every day by Malcolm Haworth, directory editor. They are posted at thefigtree.org.

Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW) is posting updates in a pdf file, "Service Impact Due to COVID-19," at altcew.org in the bottom under "What's New?"

They invite anyone with questions on obtaining food, transportation or supplies during the COVID-19 crisis to call their helpline at 509-960-7281. While ALTCEW has made changes, they don't impact its ability to serve clients. Call 458-2509 or visit altcew.org.

American Red Cross of the Greater Inland Northwest reported a severe shortage of blood collection nationally because of coronavirus with more than 2,700 drives canceled across the U.S. in two weeks resulting in a loss of more than 86,000 units. There is no evidence COVID-19 can be

Continued on page 3

Directory editor informs community of resources

Responding to the daily developments of resources in the COVID-19 pandemic, The Fig Tree swung into busy mode, first gathering and sharing information on churches and faith groups closing worship and gatherings, and then keeping up with the ever-changing updates of services for people in need.

"We posted the status of gatherings for worship on the website in early-March," said Malcolm Haworth, directory editor.

Creative responses and insights of faith leaders in this issue tell how faith communities are finding new ways to "be communities of faith" in these times.

Agencies sent information on how they are feeding, sheltering and serving people in new ways, and Malcolm called, emailed and checked websites to update an online Emergency Resource Directory Supplement on COVID-19 resources.

"It tells who is open, who is closed and who has shifted focus," he said. "So much changes day-to-day, it is soon outdated.

Malcolm provides regular, sometimes daily, updates on food banks, meals, hygiene items, public health, community centers, energy and rent assistance, food/hygiene donations, hospitals, children's food/care, shelters, vulnerable populations and more.

An elementary school counselor called to say: "You are heroes of the day with your resource information being spread to thousands as needs in the community grow because of food insecurity and unemployment." It's at www.thefigtree.org.

Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp and editors included an overview of the community outpouring and ingenuity, and stories of hope. "We published despite a drop to half the usual amount of advertising and we planned alternatives to bulk distribution," she said.

For information, call 535-1813 and visit Fig Tree Facebook fundraiser at https://www.facebook.com/donate/611050986413388/.

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID SPOKANE WA Permit No. 1044

The Fig Tree 1323 S. Perry St. Spokane, WA 99202-3571

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
 Fax: +41-22 788 7244 www.oikoumene.org

Ecumenical leaders call for unity in protecting life

In a historic joint pastoral statement released on March 26, the World Council of Churches, Regional Ecumenical Organizations and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) affirmed the urgency of standing together to protect life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the first time ever, all regions in the ecumenical movement around the world are standing together with a common message that urges both prayers and action for one world to protect life.

“We urge people everywhere to give the highest priority to addressing this situation and assisting in whatever ways we can in our collective efforts to protect life,” the statement reads.

“Ours is a global church, and this is an international crisis impacting the oikoumene, the whole inhabited world,” said Jim Winkler, president and general secretary of the NCC. “The God of love calls us together, and God’s love will see us through.”

For the sake of God’s love, “it is important and urgent that we adapt our modes of worship and fellowship to the needs of this time of pandemic infection, in order to avoid the risk of becoming sources of viral transmission rather than means of grace,” said the global ecumenical leaders.

“Our faith in the God of life compels us to protect life” and continued, “Let us manifest God’s unconditional love in safe, practical ways that protect life, alleviate suffering, and ensure that churches and public services do not become hubs of transmission of the virus,” they said.

The leaders of the global and regional ecumenical bodies affirmed that physical distancing does not mean spiritual isolation. They urged churches all over the world to review their role in society by safely ministering to, providing for and caring for the poor, the sick, the marginalized and the aged—especially all those who are most at risk due to COVID-19.

“People in many parts of the world have become homebound these days. Being homebound does not mean that we cannot experience deep spiritual solidarity with each other, by virtue of our baptism into the one body of Christ,” said the leaders.

The statement suggests praying at home, giving thanks to God for strength, healing and courage.

“We can show our love for God and our neighbor by not gathering in person for public worship,” they said. “Many congregations can share their worship gatherings online or digitally. Members and pastors can also stay in touch with each other and provide pastoral care by telephone.”

The novel coronavirus pandemic has reached all regions of our planet, they noted.

“There is fear and panic, pain and suffering, doubt and misinformation, about both the virus and our response as Christians,” they said. “Amid stories of suffering and tragedy, there are also stories of simple kindness and extravagant love, of solidarity and the sharing of hope and peace in innovative and surprising ways.”

The general secretaries also urged all to consider the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world: “In the midst of this grave crisis, we lift up prayers for those providing leadership and for governments around the world, urging them to give priority concern to those who live in poverty as well as to the marginalized and refugees living in our midst.”

“United in love and service,” they said. “We are in this together.”

Christians united in saying Lord’s Prayer

On Wednesday, March 25, the WCC and Pope Francis invited all Christians to join in praying the Lord’s Prayer simultaneously at noon Rome time or at noon local times. Cardinal Kurt Koch said in the invitation that it is a time to pray together for the end of the pandemic. Olav welcomed the opportunity for people to participate in united prayer for all humanity as it faces the common pandemic of COVID-19. “At this challenging time, prayerful activities that unite us are a reminder that we are one human family,” he said.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree is grateful for benefit support, continues appeal to reach funding goal

Malcolm Haworth, our Resource Directory editor, is studying the 1918 to 1920 period in Spokane for his doctoral dissertation with Gonzaga’s Leadership Studies program.

He began sharing documents about the 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic as COVID-19 developments emerged.

As a result of that and other information coming out just before The Fig Tree’s March 6 and 9 Benefit Lunch and Breakfast, Mary Stamp, editor, said, “We did not want to risk the health of those attending.

“Looking at the list of people coming, I know most of them and I care. We did not want to jeopardize anyone’s health or life, plus, we realized we could ask for donations online, by email, phone and mail until the funds are raised,” she said.

The day before the lunch, The Fig Tree notified Gonzaga’s caterer, Flavours, which was preparing food for 210 for the lunch and 180 for the breakfast, that we would cancel. They had purchased the food for both events.

By Friday, they let Mary know they had “repurposed” all the food but some fruit, to other sites on campus.

“We arranged for Second Harvest to pick up the extra fruit,” she said.

Instead of having a bill of nearly \$6,000, they billed us \$272, so we could cut back our budget goal from \$34,000 to \$28,000. We already had \$4,400 in donations. Guests, who missed the cancellation notice and came, gave checks for nearly \$1,000.

Online giving grew. Many donated more than they might have.

“That is much appreciated, because our advertising—heavily depending on events—may dip temporarily,” said Mary.

As of **March 20**, we had received more than **\$18,000**, leaving less than \$10,000 to raise toward our initial goal.

“We realize many are absorbed in getting by day-to-day. Giving slowed, but we know many still plan to give,” said Mary.

“We may expand our goal back to \$34,000 to cover the loss in ad income. Every issue, we rely on

bringing in more than \$3,500 in ads,” she said.

Many ads are for events that have been canceled. Some event advertisers in this issue are running their ads anyway to support us.”

By not holding the benefits, The Fig Tree lost the opportunity to distribute door prizes to guests, but decided to livestream the door-prize drawing on Facebook and contacted winners.

The Fig Tree thanks those who donated prizes. Barb Borgens provided gift certificates from Starbucks. Nick Beamer provided a gift certificate from Rosauers and flowers from Safeway. Highland Park United Methodist gave tea sets in gift baskets. Yvonne Lopez Morton gave a wool ball necklace, a scarf, a vase and two books.

Catherine Ferguson SNJM offered homemade cookies and certificates for more.

Sue Orłowski SP gave framed photographs of mountains, a stream and a mushroom. David Morton gave framed photos of flowers and butterflies. Zak Longoria gave two scenic photos on canvas.

Linda Hunt offered copies of her award-winning book, *Soul Space*. Mary Stamp offered copies of her books, *Beyond Me* and *In Our Midst*, and photo cards.

Comments of those who agreed to speak are in Sounding Board.

Thanks also for all those who agreed to host tables and invited guests.

They are All Saints Lutheran, Madelyn Bafus, Sheri Barnard, Nick and Sue Ann Beamer, Carol Bellinger, Ladd Bjorneby, David Brookbank, Jim and Andy Castro-Lang, Sarah Yerden with Catholic Charities, Lauri Clark-Strait, Dennis and Theresa Cronin, VOA’s Crosswalk, Sally Duffy, Marijke Fakasiieiki, Tom Fallquist, Ganesh Himal Trading Co. and Kizuri, Malcolm Haworth, Eric Henningsen, Highland Park United Methodist, Suzi Hokonson, Kaye Hult, Deidre and Lance Jacobson,

Walter Kendricks, Mark Kinney, Fred Jessett, Gary Jewell, Betty Krafft and Lorna Kropp.

They also include Melfa Lohstroh and Audubon UMC, Darrel Lundby, Dean Lynch and Michael Flannery, Mary and Alan Mackay, Lynda Maraby, Kimberly Meinecke, Pat Millen OSF, The Ministry Institute, Mary Noble and Hershel Zellman, Shelly Redinger, Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, Raymond Reyes for Gonzaga Second Harvest, Sisters of Providence, Sisters of the Holy Names, Sharon Rodkey Smith, Mary Stamp, Lynn Swedberg, Unity Spiritual Center, Happy and James Watkins, Don Weber and St. Aloysius, Anastasia Wendlinder, Dale Soden for Whitworth, and Don and Jan Young.

“Anyone who intended to come and those who would have missed it may still send their donations by mail or online,” said Mary. “Donations are what keep our media alive.”

For information, call 535-1813, email event@thefigtree.org, or donate at thefigtree.org or through The Fig Tree Fundraiser on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/611050986413388/>.

Unique Gifts and Clothing
 Kizuri
 • Fair Trade •
 Earth Friendly • Local
 Shop kizuri.com
 for pick-up, delivery
 and shipping
 509.464.7677

The Fig Tree is reader supported BECOME A SPONSOR!

- \$20-48 Sponsor
- \$56-108 Friend
- \$300-\$1,000 Underwriter
- \$42 for bulk order of 10
- \$300/year pledge for five years

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE _____

SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.
Deadlines:
 COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
 It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
Editorial Team
 Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
 Directory Editor - Malcolm Haworth
 Website Developer - Lorna Kropp
 Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
 Editing - Carol Bellinger, Catherine Ferguson SNJM, Kaye Hult, Inga Jablonsky, Mary Mackay, Dru Powers, Nancy Roth, Marilyn Urness, Sara Weaver
Fig Tree Board
 Nick Beamer, Barb Borgens, Lauri Clark-Strait, Tom Fallquist, Catherine Ferguson SNJM, Malcolm Haworth, Kaye Hult, Fred Jessett, Walter Kendricks, Gary Jewell, Lynda Maraby, Wade Schwartz, Mary Stamp, Brenda Tudor, Tracey Waring, James Watkins, Anastasia Wendlinder
 Copyright © 2020
 (509) 535-1813 or 535-4112

Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day Celebration
Saturday, April 25, 2020
11 am-2 pm
John A. Finch Arboretum
 Learn how to compost at home from Master Composter Recyclers
 Spokane County residents may take some a free compost bin. Limit one per household. Bins provided by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology.
 Please arrive no later than 9:30 pm and bring proof of residency.
CANCELLED
 Thank you for supporting The Fig Tree!
 Master Composter Recyclers
 For more information call 625-6580 or go to www.spokanecountysolidwaste.org
 Partial funding provided by WA State Dept of Ecology.

COVID-19 is call to action

Continued from page 1
transferred by blood.

Locally, it is halting its in-home smoke alarm installation and provide house fire safety education for the time being. Call 590-7691 or email ryan.rodin@redcross.org.

The Americans and the Holocaust exhibit and related events at Gonzaga University during March and April have been cancelled. Gonzaga classes will be online.

The American Library Association is developing a new schedule that extends the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit tour dates by one year. Tentative plans are to bring the exhibit to Spokane the spring of 2022.

Arc of Spokane is temporarily suspending activity in the community center and community inclusion programs. Staff who are impacted by layoff on programs dependent on clients are offered other opportunities to assist in supported living. Call 328-6326 or see arc-spokane.org.

Audubon Park United Methodist Church's Food Bank will be open from 8:30 a.m. to noon, second and fourth Tuesdays, but the Tuesday Breakfast has been cancelled through April. They need more volunteers because many regular volunteers are in the vulnerable population. Contact office@audubonparkumc.org.

Caritas is open regular hours. It will keep its facility clean and social distancing of clients. Clients with symptoms will be asked to stay outdoors, and will be given a food package outside. See caritasoutreachministries.org.

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) has stood side by side with people in the region for more than 100 years through times of change and hardship. Today is no different.

"During this COVID-19 crisis, sitting on the sidelines is not an option for us," said Rob McCann, executive director. "We have a sacred obligation and duty to continue the work you have entrusted to us, as best we can, even in this current Coronavirus world. Social distancing does not mean that we forget about our clients. We are putting forth every effort to ensure our clients know we are here for them. We will always answer the

call to serve."

He said that the poor and vulnerable are being hit hardest by this global pandemic, and Catholic Charities intends to remain here for them.

"We will not shy away from this fight. We are safely equipping our staff and building our organization to stand with the poor and vulnerable in this time of great need for them and for us all," Rob said.

CCEW is looking for Shopping Angels who will fill a bag of non-perishable food items while they shop for themselves and drop it off at the drive-in at its headquarters, 12 E. 5th Ave.

Staff will deliver "the miracle food bags" to seniors who are unable to leave their homes. CCEW also seeks donations of non-perishable food items.

See cceasternwa.org/covid-19.

Communities in Schools is working with partners to distribute food to students to assure their needs are met. It seeks donations of food and funds. It is doing remote coaching and staff are doing remote communication. See communitiesinschools.org.

Community-Minded Enterprises has cancelled all trainings and events have been postponed. **Recovery Café** is closed to the public. **CMTV14** studio is closed to the public. See updates at community-minded.org/2020/03/13/community-minded-enterprises-covid-19-updates/

Crosswalk is cancelling all events, group meetings, shelter tours and in-person fundraisers to help "flatten the curve in Spokane," said Jon Carollo. He is grateful for meal providers bringing meals to the shelter door. It continues, as a shelter provider, to serve those who need help, aware of the impact of cancelling fundraisers. Jon requested people bring extra toilet paper, latex gloves, masks and other supplies to its shelters. See <https://www.voaspokane.org/covid19>.

Family Promise of North Idaho, which continues to serve homeless families, suggests calling before coming in, to be sure that someone is in the office. They do not have regular office hours. Currently, two families are in the program, and a third is expected.

With restrictions on gathering, places that hosted families overnight have shut down, but

Restaurant prepares meals for other nonprofits

Women and Children's Free Restaurant and Community Kitchen (WCFR) is in full gear distributing prepared meals and groceries to as many women, families and organizations as possible, said Lisa Diffley, executive director.

As of March 16, the 32-year old nonprofit discontinued its dining-in program and shifted to distribution of bags of groceries and prepared meals in tents in their parking lot.

The restaurant distributed 600 meals on the first day. The next day, it provided 3,465.

"We are prepared to distribute 6,000 to 7,000 meals per week for as long as needed, provided we have funds to pay our small staff and purchase safety and packaging supplies. We rely heavily on food donations from pass-thru organizations, food vendors and grocers," said Lisa.

The restaurant's small staff and volunteers are doing their best to keep up with increased needs.

Among those volunteers is Sue Elmer, who has donated time to the restaurant for nearly six years.

She approaches volunteering with energy and compassion for others. During this unparalleled time of need, Sue has worked every shift in the "takeout tent" waving in cars and handing out boxes and bags of meals and groceries, said Lisa.

Restaurant personnel protect themselves with social distancing, gloves and facemasks stitched by Karen Cockburn, the mother of a WCFR's employee.

"A colorful mask may cover



Sue Elmer covers face and hands as she works in takeout-tent.

Sue's smile, but she has a twinkle in her eye that lets families know they don't need to worry about having enough food," said Lisa.

WCFR and women like Sue will be there for them every Tuesday and Wednesday at 1408 N. Washington St.

In addition to takeout meals, the restaurant delivers meals to nonprofits across the community. Many of these organizations operate shelters without the capacity to prepare enough meals.

Women & Children's Free Restaurant is a licensed, full service restaurant with a commercial kitchen and a staff of seven.

"Our goal for 2020 was to provide 100,000 meals. There is no question that we'll need to

increase our output and go well beyond that number," said Diffley.

WCFR is distributing meals to Anna Ogden Hall, Catholic Charities Rising Strong, Crosswalk, Cup of Cool Water, Hope House Respite Care, Hope House Shelter, Odyssey Youth Movement, Open Doors Family Promise, Our Place Ministries, Partners with Families and Children, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Shadle Park Presbyterian, Southwest Community Center, SPEAR Ministries, Spokane Resource Center, St. Margaret's Shelter, Transitional Living Center, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, Women's Hearth, and YWCA of Spokane.

For information, call 324-1995 or email lisa@wcferspokane.org.

they found a shelter they can use. Churches have acted as hosts and fed their guests. They welcome donations of food and cleaning supplies. Call 208-777-4190.

Family Promise of Spokane strives to preserve the safety and health of its guests, volunteers, staff, and Spokane community. As of March 25, they had no confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among anyone connected to the organization, but are monitoring developments of the virus closely, implementing a social distancing plan to help slow the spread of this virus in our community.

To protect homeless families at high risk of complications if they

are infected—expectant mothers and children with disabilities or compromised immune systems—Family Promise opened a second 24/7 shelter location housing 18 people. It is full.

In total, they are sheltering 60 people, 31 children and 29 adults in the two locations. Unable to use volunteers and interns, they need financial and prayer support, as staff is stretched thin.

Those staying home can help by donating financially, buying groceries, offering an RV or trailer,

and advocating for homeless children and families. See familypromiseofspokane.org/covid19.

Food Fighters offers a website as a clearinghouse where people can request meals and others respond, partnering with restaurants to deliver 25 meals a day. See spokanefoodfighters.org.

Giving Back Packs, which gives out backpacks with neces-

Continued on page 5



The Fig Tree seeks a

Development Associate

to create and implement its plan for revenue generation.

The ideal candidate will

- be committed to The Fig Tree's mission and values
- have relevant development experience
- be skilled in use of social media for fund raising
- and have strong connections in the Inland Northwest community.

Applications will be received until May 21 - extended because of COVID-19.

Request a job description at mary@thefigtree.org

Carla Peperzak was scared but did what she needed to do to help

Continued from page 1
back memories. It was hard to sleep the nights before and after presentations,” Carla said. “It’s easier now. I’m convinced that telling young people about the Holocaust is why I have lived so long. It’s the most important part of my life.”

In the resistance, she made the best of each day, or “I might not have been able to function,” she said. “I believed the government was terrible, but I was hopeful, so I continued.

“I did what I did and did not think too much about it, or I might not have done it,” she said.

Carla, who was 16 when the war started in May 1940, was taking her final high school exams. The University of Amsterdam required signing a loyalty oath. She would not sign, so she studied to be a medical technologist at a private university.

She was 18 to 20 when she hid Jews.

“People thought I was in school when I was away. I didn’t earn my degree until 1944,” said Carla. “I was cautious. I did not tell my parents or sister what I was doing. The less they knew, the safer they were.”

She helped Jews she hid get new IDs, so they did not have to wear a star. She picked up blank ID cards printed in England and dropped in pre-arranged places at night by low-flying English planes. She added photos and had

a machine to make thumbprints. She made about 100 IDs.

Radios were confiscated. It was dangerous to listen to the radio, but at the house of a fellow resistance fighter, she also listened to BBC news. They prepared a one-page sheet with news. Carla made copies on a mimeograph.

“We handed out the copies, careful about who got them,” she said.

Carla rode her bike to farms for food and brought hosts extra ration cards underground members stole from distribution centers. She visited the people she hid each month, bringing them ration cards and medicines, and spending time with them. Often, she and her family were hungry.

“I also carried messages to different places,” she said. “We could not use the phone or mail.”

She usually rode her bike to avoid roadblocks, but sometimes went by train. When she met someone in another town, each had a piece of paper cut to match the other, so they knew they had the right person.

Carla had a German nurse’s ID and uniform she sometimes wore.

“I spoke fluent German, so I got out of some tough spots. I was scared most of the time. I had to be so careful,” she said. “German soldiers and SS officers liked girls, so sometimes I flirted my way out of a difficult situation.”

One day, two Nazi secret police interrogated her at her home.

They found nothing out of order. Flirting helped her out of that situation. The men then even helped her carry her suitcase—containing forged paperwork and the thumbprint machine—downstairs to her bike.

A few times Carla went into hiding, riding her bicycle out of Amsterdam to stay with people in the underground.

“In my underground group, I did not know last names, and sometimes did not know their first names,” she said. “If I was caught, I could truthfully say I did not know others’ names.”

Carla began working as a medical technician near the end of the war. After the war, she had no contact with those in her underground network.

Before Otto Frank’s family went into hiding, they lived half a block away. Margot and Anne were in the Reform temple Carla attended in Amsterdam. When she first went to see “The Diary of Anne Frank” with her daughter, Carla had to leave after the first act.

Three of her father’s six siblings and their spouses died in concentration camps. Of Holland’s 150,000 Jews before the war, only 20,000 survived.

After the war, Carla worked eight months as medical officer in a camp for Dutch Nazis. She had a bit of revenge when some complained about the food. She put a tube into their stomachs

without anesthesia and pumped their stomachs “to see if they needed a special diet.”

Then she worked with the Royal Dutch Army Nurses Corp Blood Transfusion service.

In the record cold spring of 1945 after liberation, 25,000 people died from hunger, disease and malnutrition, she wrote in her memoir.

Under the Marshall plan, her father returned to his work, manufacturing and designing women’s clothing in a factory he owned.

Carla met her husband, Paul Peperzak, after the war. He studied tropical agriculture at the University of Amsterdam, where she had begun studies to be a doctor. He had a scholarship to go to Iowa State College in Ames. They married in November 1947. He left for the U.S. soon after, and she joined him in February 1948.

After he earned a master’s degree in soil management, they went to Liberia, West Africa, where their children Marc and Marian were born. Returning to Iowa in 1953, he worked on a doctoral degree. Two more children, Joan and Yvonne, were born there. In 1956, they moved to Hawaii, where they became U.S. citizens in 1958.

Because Paul was Catholic, they raised their children in that faith. His work with the United Nations took them to Thailand and Italy. They also lived in Alabama, Florida, California and Washing-

ton, D.C., where Paul joined the World Bank. They then spent five years in Kenya, returning to Washington, D.C., in 1979. After Paul retired, they moved in 1988 to Colorado Springs. After he died in 2001, Carla moved to Spokane in 2004 to be with her daughter, Marian.

She returned slowly to Judaism after her children left home.

It took 18 years for Carla to write her memoir, which is published on demand through Amazon. Proceeds go to scholarships for Yom HaShoah.

Carla visited her family in Holland almost every year. In recent years, until her sister’s death, they kept in contact through Facetime.

When asked about forgiving, she said, “We cannot forgive someone who kills people, only those people killed and God can do that.”

Recently recognized as the 2020 Washingtonian of the Year, Carla said she is grateful if it means people talk about the Holocaust, because it’s important for people to know about it.

Why was she in the underground?

“I could help, so I did. It needed to be done,” she said.

On receiving the award at the Governor’s Mansion, she said that she speaks about the Holocaust “because it is necessary. I can do it, so I do it.”

For information, email copeperzak@gmail.com

Observance cancelled but art, essays on ‘Superheroes of Holocaust’ judged

Like many April events, Spokane’s Yom HaShoah Observance planned for Sunday, April 26, was cancelled.

Before that happened, however 170 students from middle schools and high schools wrote essays and nearly 100 students created art pieces on the 2020 theme, “Superheroes of the Holocaust: When Ordinary People Become Extraordinary.”

Hershel Zellman and Mary Noble of the Yom Hashoah Observance Planning Committee said that committee evaluated the art and essays and chose winners.

“Although it was disappointing to have to cancel this year’s Yom HaShoah Observance, our writing and art contests have proceeded,” said Hershel.

“We have been heartened to see how the middle and high school students rose to the challenge of this year’s theme,” he said.

“We asked the students to learn about the Holocaust and identify actions people took that they thought qualified them as “Superheroes” of the Holocaust,” he explained.

Artists were asked to create an original piece of art inspired by the actions of a Superhero of the Holocaust.

Writers were asked to submit a written entry that introduces an individual who they considered a superhero, describes the significance of their actions and explains how their actions inspire them today.

The middle school first place winner was Garrett Johnson, an eighth grader from Salk Middle School, whose teacher is Debra Trujillo.

His metal and wood sculpture was inspired by Sophia Kritikou. She was a single mother in Greece who saved the Kazansky family



Middle-school winner Garrett Johnson tells of Greek woman who hid family. High school first place winner Natalie Kearce depicts saving Jews on Trans-Siberian Railway.



from the Nazis: a father and his three children, whom she hid in her home.

The high school first place winner was Natalie Kearce, a 10th grader at On Track Academy, whose teacher is Erin Bangle.

Natalie created a stained-glass window inspired by Chiune Sugi-

hara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who issued visas for 6,000 Jews who would have otherwise been sent to concentration camps. The escapees endured a grueling route on the Trans-Siberian

Railway through Russia to end in Japan and move on to safety.

As The Fig Tree was going to press, writing submissions were being judged.

For information, call 747-3304.



FROM YESTERDAY...



TO TODAY...

HENNESSEY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY IS COMMITTED TO BEING THE HIGHEST QUALITY FUNERAL SERVICE PROVIDER IN SPOKANE EACH AND EVERY DAY WITH EVERY FAMILY WE SERVE. THANK YOU SPOKANE FOR LETTING US SERVE YOU FOR OVER 125 YEARS.




HENNESSEY
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

2203 NORTH DIVISION ST
SPOKANE WA 99207
(509) 328-2600
WWW.HENNESSEYFUNERALHOMES.COM

N-SID-SEN-Camp & Retreat Center

A year-round retreat center for your youth group, church gathering, workshop or meeting space. With 200+ acres and 1/4 mile of beachfront, we welcome you to the eastern shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene.



www.n-sid-sen.org • 208-689-3489
36395 S Highway 97, Harrison, Idaho 83833

Nonprofits muster new resources

Continued from page 3
 sities to homeless people, is collecting toilet paper from business and individual donations to give to homeless shelters. It is working with restaurants to offer about 100 meals a day. See gbpacks.org.

The Greenhouse Community Center at 211 N. Fir St. in Deer Park is open, continuing its drive-through food bank from 1 to 4 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, keeping everything sanitized. For people in the 99006 zip code who sign up, it provides monthly boxes. The Weekly Porch is for anyone who signs up. It provides produce, bread, milk and eggs. The Greenhouse also is offering help with utility bills. Those who are sick or have symptoms should stay home, and request home delivery, provided based on volunteer availability. Call 276-6897 or email greenhouseccfoodbank@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane has suspended its operations at work sites, its store and office. Now with the “shelter in place” order, Michelle Girardot, executive director, said it’s the right thing to do, but for about 40 families they serve, it “exacerbates conditions in which they have struggled for so long” in unhealthy houses with leaks and mold, overcrowded living with extended family, and poor insulation.

She said families Habitat partners with will be hardest hit by economic shocks from the crisis as they lose jobs. To bring back these families, she calls for people to send support to Habitat at habitat-spokane.org.

Heart of the City Church in Coeur d’Alene is experiencing ongoing changes. The food bank is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday, but drive-up only for a prepared food box. Staff is working from home to help people with rent and utilities via emails. Call 208-665-7808 and see theheartcda.com.

Hope House is addressing overcrowding. The emergency shelter is moving to 24-hour shelter service, but not accepting new women. Women are offered breakfast, lunch and dinner. They move to the patio from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. to allow for sanitization. Participants are to avoid other drop-in centers.

House of Charity, along with 24/7 shelter access, is providing

regular daily services from 7:30 a.m. to noon, as well as sleeping programs. From noon to 7 p.m., when closed, it is offering Porta-Potties in its courtyard with two staff to monitor and sanitize between each use.

Jewels Helping Hands opened a new warming center in Spokane to take pressure off other shelters that are overwhelmed and enable social distancing. An appeal went out to the Homeless Coalition partners for 80 sleeping mats, which can be bought at local stores’ camping departments.

The Cannon Street Warming Center is open 24/7 and is full inside. They serve sack breakfasts, lunch and a hot dinner outside. There are showers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They offer tents and sleeping bags.

Call 281-7120 and see jewelshelpinghands.org.

Kizuri is closed, but is taking orders by phone for delivery or pickup. Call 464-7677.

The Kaufer Co. is closed but Ed Sinclair sells books, music and other supplies by phone or email orders, and online at <https://kauferco.com/books/>.

The Kroc Center in Coeur d’Alene has its help line open seven days a week during business hours to field questions and fill requests of people in need, such as groceries and gas. People can call with prayer requests or to talk. Recently they sent \$100 in gift cards to the Rathdrum Senior Center to help clients with food. Staff are also assisting with the Panhandle Health District Help-Line. Updates are by calling 208-277-7889 or at www.kroccda.org/notice.

Martin Luther King Jr. Center at East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, has new Food Bank hours 1 to 3 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The building is temporarily closed without an appointment. FAME and ECEAP programs are open 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. WIC is at the Broadway location. SNAP is by appointment. The SCC Early Head Start and Gym are closed. Call 868-0856 or see mlkspokane.org.

Mead Food Bank continues regular hours 4 to 6:45 p.m., Wednesdays, bread and produce 4 to 5 p.m., Sundays. They are setting up a drive through collection. Clients walking or biking are to wait outside.

Businesses, agency gifts aid Union Gospel Mission

Barbara Comito of Union Gospel Mission shared some ways neighbors are helping them.

- No-Li Brewhouse is providing UGM with a gallon of hand sanitizer per day.

- Rick Clark of Giving Backpacks raised \$1,000 online in 15 minutes to provide 100 meals for the women and children at the Crisis Shelter from Mac Daddy’s on Monday night. Rick’s idea is to support local businesses and help homeless shelters at the same time.

- Because Northern Quest Resort and Casino is closed for two weeks, they brought a huge quantity of prepped food to UGM last week. The timing couldn’t have been better. UGM is currently short staffed, so 500+ pounds of chicken and beef, along with a healthy supply of sliced vegetables will be put to good use feeding the men, women and children in our shelters.

For information, call



Dale Fruin, UGM kitchen supervisor, left receives pans of meat from Northern Quest chef Frank Comito.

Mid-City Concerns Meals on Wheels is taking precautionary measures to keep seniors healthy and safe during the crisis, when many feel more alone in self-isolation.

Many seniors who would not usually be homebound have contacted MOW for assistance during isolation. Being privately funded, it is able to respond to an average of 10 seniors a day on its delivery routes, as it delivers meals to members of its Senior Center, which is closed.

Volunteers delivering meals stay outside the residences and stay six feet away.

MOW Spokane is seeking additional volunteers to deliver meals, do welfare checks by phone and offer uplifting gestures to seniors—such as cards, gift boxes and letters. See mowspokane.org/covid19.

Three businesses have partnered with MOW to serve seniors.

Horizon Credit Union delivered hundreds of rolls of toilet paper and Grocery Outlet gift cards to MOW and other organizations serving seniors.

Grocery Outlet brought bags of groceries for MOW Spokane to deliver to seniors.

Clinkerdagger partnered with MOW to provide prime rib meals for those who usually eat at the Senior Center to pick up. For every meal purchased, a meal went to a senior.

Greater Spokane Meals on Wheels as of March 20 will cancel onsite meals at Silver Cafés and replace with MOW. This increases the need for driv-

ers, so it is training and re-training drivers to limit contact. There are restrictions and training for drivers, plus precautionary measures and a daily wellness check for drivers. See gscmealsonwheels.org.

Mission Community Outreach was closed as of March 16 because its volunteers are in the high risk category. Ali Norris, director, said they will possibly open in some capacity in April.

NAACP Spokane president Kurtis Robinson wrote the Spokane and Eastern Washington mayors and government institutions to encourage enforcing protections for all people in the state, to address hoarding and price gouging. In light of historic dynamics, he urged that institutions and businesses be intentional and transparent to include the marginalized and most vulnerable, using a race equity lens and awareness of classism in distributing food, physical resources, and medical testing and treatments.

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane has compiled a list of resources, including meals

for students and families at linktree/peacejusticeaction and invites people to send additions. Its office is closed and staff are working from home. All events are canceled and meetings will be by phone or videoconference. They are working to deliver content of the cancelled Action Conference. See pjals.org.

Refugee Connections Spokane plans to use its van to deliver food bank food to refugee elders it usually serves who cannot leave their homes to shop. Its office is closed, but it is working with partner agencies, such as Spokane County United Way, the Spokane Public Health District and Spokane Public Schools to keep constituents updated on best practices. See refugeeconnectionsspokane.org.


Salvation Army of Spokane’s coronavirus response effort includes continuing the Family Resource Center—food bank—continues to help people in need, as there has been a 30 percent increase in services because of COVID-19.



**Believing in Resurrection,
 we trust that this time in the tomb
 will burst forth with new life.
 Be of good courage, be kind and
 we look forward to resuming activities
 As soon as possible**

The Ministry Institute 405 E. Sinto, two blocks north of St. Aloysius Church
 For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or
bartletts@gonzaga.edu.

We invite you to join us for reflection, prayer and spiritual renewal.



Even in the COVID-19 crisis, we continue to serve the poorest of the poor – people who know what it feels like to be vulnerable, fragile, at-risk, isolated and afraid.

Catholic Charities is here to help ALL of us now.

For more information please visit
www.cceasternwa.org/covid-19

Agencies find new ways to serve

Continued from page 5

“We ask people to donate extra toilet paper, hand sanitizer, tissue, cleaning wipes and surgical masks for people who come to the food bank,” said Major Ken Perine, corps officer of the Spokane Salvation Army Citadel Corps.

In practicing safe distance, the Spokane Salvation Army is handling food box requests in front of the Family Resource Center. Individuals sign up for food boxes and volunteers bring the boxes to them, instead of people “self-shopping” for food.

Some people needing food are driving up, getting out of their cars to sign up for the food and then waiting in their cars for a volunteer to bring them a box of food.

“We want folks who are not eligible for unemployment to spend their money on rent, not food,” he said.

The Emergency Safe Shelter, where people can stay up to 90 days, and Stepping Stones for families staying up to a year, are operating. Staff are checking guests’ health every day. Families and guests practice social distancing.

The Youth Center is closed.

Church services are online.

The Salvation Army seeks donations to purchase items. Information on donating is at <https://salary.us/coronavirusresponse>.

Volunteers, age 55 and younger, are needed for four-hour shifts. To practice social distancing, volunteers have limited contact with people coming for food. Sign up is at makingspokanebetter.org.

Second Harvest is assessing needs of partner agencies and mobilizing resources to help ensure an uninterrupted supply of food for children, families and seniors who need it. Although daily operations continue, Second Harvest’s food supply chain is being strained and volunteering has been disrupted as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold.

The COVID-19 crisis will lead more people to turn to food banks for help. Second Harvest is appealing for donations to keep its food supply stable and respond to unprecedented need. See 2-harvest.org.

Serve Spokane will refuse service to anyone showing symptoms. Those needing food and clothing can call for home delivery. See servespokane.org.

Spark Central closed its after-school program and in-person programs, but staff raised \$5,000 to provide kits with Legos, play-dough, crayons and snacks for kids to have during this time they are out of school. See sparkcentral.org.

SPEAR Ministries after school program in East Central north of I-90 needs non-perishable food for their food bank for low-income children and families. People wanting to help may take donations to St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave – call 747-6677 for hours.

The Spokane Alliance is working with its member congregations and unions to build teams to reach out in their organizations to see what needs there are and to connect them with resources.

The Alliance is also partnering

with the Spokane Regional Health District to train volunteers to check on people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not need to be hospitalized.

Non-members may also contact Lead Organizer Katie Zinler to participate by calling 389-1750 or by emailing katie@spokanealliance.org.

Spokane Riverkeeper is committed to maintaining the health and safety of our Spokane Riverkeeper community members, volunteers, staff and partners. They are closely monitoring the development of COVID-19 precautions for Eastern Washington. In the hopes of continuing to flatten the curve, they are taking cues from Spokane Regional Health District and continuing to wash hands, work remotely and stay home when sick. See spokaneriverkeeper.org.

Spokane Valley Partners is monitoring developments related to COVID-19 and taking proactive measures to protect the health and well-being of its partners, volunteers, staff and the vulnerable children, families and seniors it serves. It asks those coming to follow the best practices.

SVP’s food bank, diaper bank and emergency assistance are operating as usual, with increased sanitation and social distancing. Its clothing bank is closed until further notice due to the virus’s lifespan on soft goods. It is not accepting donations of clothing or household goods until further notice.

The need for help with utilities is increasing. This disaster will affect those who need SVP services most: families with children and the elderly. In addition, they are seeing a new clientele of low-wage, hourly workers who have been hit with layoffs and job losses. SVP is concerned about the stability of some of its revenue support partners, churches and businesses, whose incomes are affected through shutdowns.

It has an emergency appeal. See svpart.org.

Tenants Union of Washington continues its advocacy. Terri Anderson, director in Spokane, reports that the city of Spokane expanded its emergency order to include a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. The Spokane moratorium halts all notices to terminate and all evictions and foreclosures and stops late fees for April rent. It applies to both commercial and residential evictions. It also provides an exception for notices to terminate for the safety of residents in the building. This order fills the gaps left in the statewide moratorium on evictions. Contact terria@tenantsunion.org.

Tum Tum Pantry personnel and volunteers will wear protective gear, gloves and masks.

Seriously Local
Spokane's
Urban Eden Farm
C.S.A. Shares
Restaurant Sales
Farmer's Markets
urbanedenfarm.com

Steve Scott spends ‘time off’ volunteering

By Emily Franko

When Steve Scott received his “COVID-19 vacation notice,” as he calls it, from his employer, he knew how he’d be spending his time off—helping his community get through this crisis.

Steve works for a retail store that temporarily closed its stores in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He has spent every weekday since at Second Harvest making emergency food bags to be distributed at Mobile Market distributions.

A regular Mobile Market volunteer, Steve has seen how hunger impacts the community. He decided to spend his time off from work at Second Harvest because he knows the need for food assistance will grow during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m a firm believer that community is what we make of it—what we put into it,” he said.

“Even though I’m one of the people who lives paycheck-to-paycheck, I’m grateful to have a paycheck,” Scott said. “As someone who is healthy and active, volunteering at Second Harvest is something I can do to be there for those people who need food right now.”

For information, call 534-6678 or visit 2-harvest.org.



Steve Scott wants to help community in crisis.

Donations are encouraged at local Rosaauer’s. See newhungercoalition.org.

Union Gospel Mission’s response is evolving daily. People experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable and many shelter guests have health conditions that put them at high risk. It prepares food onsite in commercial kitchens, has a free medical clinic at each shelter, has sufficient space for social distancing and isolation. Cleanliness and sanitation are always priorities. The capacity at the men’s shelter is 120.

With the city’s request that shelters operate 24/7, men will no longer leave the building during the day. Bagged meals-to-go are served to the public at noon and 6 p.m. at the east door of the shelter on Denver Ave. See Updates are at uniongospelmission.org/covid-19.

Spokane County United Way has set up a COVID-19 Community Forum to connect agencies with specific needs for people and supplies with individuals who are looking for ways to help. There are instructions for listing volunteer opportunities or in-kind items in the COVID-19 Community Forum section of the VolunteerSpokane.org website, said Drew Curry, community outreach and development manager.

It has streamlined the process to match community volunteers with community needs. It is working with school districts, government, businesses and nonprofits to coordinate community efforts. It has partnered with Innovia

Foundation, Empire Health Foundation and other funding partners to set up a community fund for financial assistance at innovia.org/give-now. Call 324-5041 or see unitedwayspokane.org/COVID18Resources.

Vanessa Behan, concerned about the potential increase in child abuse and neglect during the COVID-19 crisis with schools closed six weeks, is offering support to children and families on its website and social media. Parents with limited support face difficult decisions about child care. Vanessa Behan is considering how to increase services for parents needing child care.

Parents need to carefully scrutinize anyone they leave their children with in the coming days, considering how well they know the person, their experience with children, age appropriate expectations, number of children, safety of the location, CPR certification and how they handle stress.

Call 535-3255 or see vanessabehan.org.

Veradale UCC and Bethany Presbyterian offer Hoarders’ Forgiveness Banks for those who bought excess TP, sanitizer and hygiene items. They can drop off items by calling Veradale UCC at 926-7173, or Bethany at 534-0600. The churches will arrange to share the items with shelters.

Women’s and Children’s Free Restaurant is monitoring developments related to COVID-19 and taking protective measures. It is distributing food to other non-

profits, like Transitions, Catholic Charities and Vanessa Behan from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Take-out meals are offered until all 3,000 meals per week are served on a first-come-first-served basis. See wcferspokane.org/about-us-2/.

World Relief: While the World Relief office in Spokane is closed and volunteer activities are postponed, staff is working remotely. Its mission remains to empower the community to serve the most vulnerable, but it recognizes crises bring disproportionate impact. It is working to disseminate public information in immigrants’ and refugees’ languages. A task force will assess financial, housing and food needs for clients, and will help meet some of those needs. It is developing new technologies to share information. See worldrelief.org/covid-19.

The YWCA is closed but its services to women, children and families remain available, especially given the needs with the stress. It continues to serve through its domestic violence safe shelter and other services by phone, email and video—legal advocacy, mental health, counseling, job readiness and family support services. Its 24-Hour Helpline is at 326-2255, text 220-3725 or email help@ywcaspokane.org.

For updates on food banks, school food bag handouts and more, visit www.thefigtree.org, where new developments are being continually reported.

DISHMAN HILLS CONSERVANCY
Protecting the Wild Heart of Spokane
For information, maps, nature walks go to DishmanHills.org

CDA Acupuncture and Holistic Healing
HALLOWITZ HOLISTIC HEALING
101 N. EVERGREEN SPOKANE VALLEY, WA
WE’VE MOVED!!!
Acupuncture Diet & Nutrition
810 E. Sherman Ave. Naturopathic Medicine
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814 Holistic Skin Care
(The blue building south of Sherman Ave. near 8th St.)
We are excited to share our new space with you.
Thank you for supporting
our small local business as we grow!
208.665.2293
www.cdahealing.com

Faith leaders share insights to help members

Leaders of regional denominations—the Episcopal Diocese, Catholic Diocese, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Synod, the Presbytery, the United Methodist district, the Disciples of Christ region and the United Church of Christ have been sharing insights to help people through these times.

They have been using emails, social media and websites to explore how to be a community

of faith in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mostly they are sharing among their congregations. These articles offer an opportunity for ecumenical sharing.

Each offers insights as they announce that they will not meet for worship and will stay away from each other—contrary to their understanding of faith.

The Fig Tree offers information from these faith communities,

because they sent in information. It could not cover what all congregations or wider church entities are doing for lack of person power and time.

The Fig Tree encourages members of each faith communities to connect with their congregations and regional bodies, and to use these times as an opportunity to connect ecumenically.

UCC churches connecting more online

Mike Denton - Conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

“Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. Go ahead and do it again,” says Mike in many of his daily posts to the conference’s email Google Group.

Early on he suggested each congregation plan to prepare for the disruption that would be caused by COVID-19. He called for efforts to limit exposure “to ourselves, our communities and those we care for and love.”

Mike suggested not having in-person worship six weeks through Holy Week and Easter, cancelling or postponing face-to-face meetings and gatherings (including funerals and weddings), suspending face-to-face pastoral visits and switching to video conferencing, phone calls, emails or letters for the foreseeable future, conversing with groups using the building, promoting online and mail-in giving and designing a recovery plan.

The PNC Board has cancelled the in-person business portion of its Annual Meeting that was scheduled April 24 in Spokane. Other ways will be found online to share workshops and worship.

He called churches to consider



The Rev. Mike Denton

offering their buildings for emergency usage if needed, such as if hospitals exceed capacity or shelters need space for homeless people with social distancing.

As of March 21, the conference camps were experiencing cancellations, so space was available. Pilgrim Firs at Port Orchard signed on to use its rooms to house people experiencing homelessness who need shelters with social distancing. N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d’Alene has offered its facilities as an Idaho election site to give people social distancing.

“These days are challenging

ones and they will not be without pain,” he said. “However, I know we would all rather choose some pain now to participate in protecting others from suffering and death. Our behavior and willingness to participate in social distancing, hand washing and disinfecting could lower this number significantly.

“There will be another side of this. We will celebrate and worship together again. In the meantime, may God help us answer the call before us at this time,” he said.

The conference has compiled a list posted online that indicates 24 of its 71 congregations have services online through Facebook, Youtube and Zoom.

The PNC also has scheduled gatherings online using Ring Central and Zoom meetings for “worshiping together when we can’t be together, a conference-wide check-in, a staff community office hour, pastoral care during an outbreak, children and youth ministers, moderators meeting, church administration and fiduciary considerations and a clergy prayer group.

For information, call 206-838-7575 or visit centeringout.blog or pncucc.org.

Presbytery head suggests seeing God already at work

Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, the Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle

With things rapidly changing, Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, executive minister of the Presbytery, said, “It’s been a difficult challenge to continue to be able to connect with folks for worship as well as reaching out to our neighbors. The situation is changing daily.

“Many of our churches went to a Facebook livestream format for worship on March 22. Now with Gov. Jay Inslee’s ‘Stay Home Stay Healthy’ order, we can’t even gather a team of worship leaders for livestream worship,” she said.

Sheryl expects that adaptations and creative ministries will continue to emerge.

“The pandemic has revealed some deeper questions about the meaning of worship and what does it mean to be the Church,” she said. Without a building we are forced into a deeper understanding of Church. Congregations are a community that is part of a larger community.

“We need to grow in our capacity to see God at work in the community and join in with what God is already doing,” Sheryl said, quoting scripture: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.”

“I pray for you as you address the fear and isolation that many are feeling,” she said. “Know that I am available via my cell phone for encouragement/counsel.

“In our theology worship is not restricted to the sanctuary and we are all called to care for the most vulnerable,” Sheryl said. “I’m so encouraged by the creative ways you have found to offer worship opportunities for your people and beyond. I’m also grateful for the many food distribution ministries which are “essential” and must be continued to feed the community. “We are in the midst of a huge shift in our understanding of our



The Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle

culture and the Church. As you continue to manage the present, my hope is that you will also wrestle with the questions, ‘How do you see your church as part of your community?’ and ‘What does it mean to be the Church without a building?’ she said.

Steve Lympus, lead pastor at Shadle Presbyterian Church, said a church elder proposed doing a drive-in service with people sitting in their cars in the parking lot. They set up a small FM transmitter inside the church building. People in cars tuned to 87.7 FM while a small team of musicians and Steve led the service, and he preached. They also livestreamed the service over Facebook with a cellphone on a tripod. Forty cars were in the parking lot. Communion was served in prepackaged small cups.

Pastors and staff at Hamblen Park Presbyterian plan to live stream from multiple locations. Head pastor Steve Watts said a video at <https://youtu.be/7YnWffwxLSU> tells how to do that.

The presbytery continues to update its website with resources for these times for worship, spiritual resources and how to love neighbors.

Missional expeditor Katie Stark is hosting weekly Zoom meetings at 2 p.m. Wednesdays with pastors and program staff on doing ministry amid the changes happening.

For information, call 924-4148 or visit presbyinw.org.

St. Clare’s uses technology for worship, meetings

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the national emergency and the state “stay at home” order, St. Clare Ecumenical Catholic Communion has cancelled Sunday liturgies until further notice.

“We want to be prudent and keep our community safe,” said Linda Kobe Smith on behalf of the team. “This is an unprecedented time with many in our community in the high risk population. We will maintain community through media, email and phone calls. We are sharing book groups and Sunday homilies through technology that brings us face-to-face. We are grateful for those who keep us connected.

“Our community is more than our Sunday liturgy,” she said. “Eucharist is given and received in many forms.”

Temple Beth Shalom finds ways to maintain community

Diane Lefcort, the Temple Beth Shalom Board president, said that in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and based on input from the USCJ and statements released by Governor Jay Inslee, Temple Beth Shalom decided to be pro-active to reduce the spread of the virus and keep our community safe by cancelling all TBS events and classes through March. “We will move toward live streaming services and are investigating offering some classes through an interactive platform such as ZOOM.

“This will be a challenging time and we will make every attempt to maintain community via multimedia, email and phone calls. We encourage you to stay in touch and let’s help to take care of each other,” said Diane.

For information, call 747-3304 or visit spokanetbs.org.

Just Trade

fairly traded crafts from around the world

inside

Brused Books

235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898

Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Goodwill®

Industries of the Inland Northwest

Donate. Shop. Change a life.

When you support Goodwill, you help change lives in the Inland Northwest through:

- Skills assesment and training
- Job development
- Financial education
- Resume development
- Housing stability for homeless and at-risk Veterans
- Youth Mentoring
- and more

www.DiscoverGoodwill.org

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

HOLY CROSS
FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

Compassionate pricing with superior service.

(509)467-5496
holycrossofspokane.org

7200 N. Wall, Spokane, WA 99208

A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

HOLY CROSS ST. JOSEPH QUEEN OF PEACE
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FAITHFUL: FUNERAL | CREMATION | CEMETERY | FAMILY ESTATES

Bishop acts to reduce spread of infection

The Most Rev. Thomas Daly - Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane

"In his March 25 update on the diocesan response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bishop Thomas Daly said, "The speed at which this infection is spreading only seems to increase. I am concerned about our health care workers and the potential of overwhelming our hospitals in Eastern Washington.

"I want our parishes and institutions to play a role in preventing the spread of this virus. Therefore, I am announcing the following requirements which will remain in place until Monday, April 13," he said.

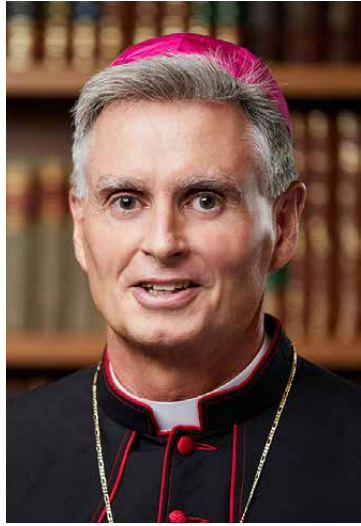
- All public Masses remain suspended. Priests are to offer private Mass on a daily basis and, to the extent possible, live stream the Mass on the web.

- All remain dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

- The Chrism Mass schedule for March 31st is postponed.

- Per instruction by the State of Washington, public funeral Masses, memorials and graveside services are prohibited.

- The Sacrament of Penance should be celebrated exclusively for those near death. Penitents



Bishop Thomas Daly

not in danger of death should be encouraged to make a perfect act of contrition.

- The Sacrament of the Sick should be limited to those in danger of death. Priests should use proper precautions including the use of a cotton swab to administer the sacrament.

- Parishes should suspend all office hours, meetings, adoration, stations and every parish activity.

- The public celebrations of Holy Week liturgies are suspended. Bishop Daly will celebrate

these liturgies at the Cathedral and they will be live-streamed.

- The Sacraments of Initiation are postponed except in the danger of death.

- Palms should be blessed and reserved for later distribution.

- Parishioners are encouraged to regularly connect with their parish websites as well as the diocesan site. At-home prayers and devotions are encouraged.

- The faithful continue to be encouraged to join me in fasting on Fridays until this pandemic is over.

- Parishioners are encouraged to maintain their financial support of their parish to the extent possible.

"I understand some of these requirements are drastic and disappointing," he said, "However, my hope is that they will help to facilitate a speedy end to the spread of COVID-19.

"I once again entrust the faithful of Eastern Washington to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes. Just as God has granted countless healings through her intercession in the past, may we receive that same healing today." For information, call 358-7300 or visit <https://dioceseofspokane.org/coronavirus>.

Episcopal diocese finds new ways to worship, be church

The Right Rev. Gretchen Rehberg - bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

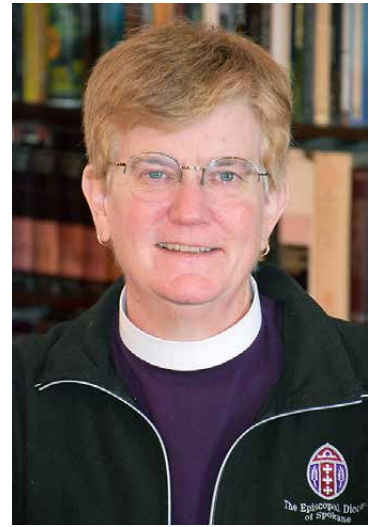
"We are living in a time that feels new and scary," said Gretchen on March 18. "Most of us have never experienced a global pandemic. We were not trained for such times. In many ways, that's true, but we are called as disciples of Jesus for just such times of confusion, fear and doubt."

In Jesus' time and the 2000 years since, his followers have faithfully tried to love God and love neighbors in whatever circumstances they have found themselves, she said.

The diocese is offering live-streamed worship online Sundays at 10:30 a.m. from different congregations. Upcoming services are April 5 from St. David's in Spokane, and April 12 from the Cathedral of St. John in Spokane.

The diocese is providing home worship materials and congregations are finding ways to be in community while physically apart.

"We pray we will be worshipping side-by-side soon. In the meantime, we continue to be the church. Let us pray for all impacted by this pandemic, including those whose work has shut down and income is lost," Gretchen said. "Pray and give, so we may assist others. Our congregations have ways to support those



Bishop Gretchen Rehberg

in need, so we need members to continue to give to our churches, neighbors and communities."

Gretchen invites those in the diocese to worship in new ways and rediscover the meaning of "when two or three are gathered."

There are links in the "worship" tab at www.spokanediocese.org.

She prays that "we be tender with one another in these times, we do not neglect to worship, we look out for one another, we lift up one another in prayer, especially those without shelter, adequate food or social support."

For updates, call 624-3191 or visit spokanediocese.org.

Lutheran bishop captures anxiety of time

Bishop Kristen Kuempel of the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reported March 17 that the NWIM Synod Executive Committee cancelled regional gatherings for April 25 in Pullman, May 2 in Twin Falls and May 16 in Moses Lake.

"With the constantly changing guidelines and extended timelines for this pandemic, there are no plans to reschedule these events," she said, noting there is a synod staff travel ban in line with CDC recommendations.

An eight-week ban on worship and other gatherings includes Holy Week and Easter.

Synod Staff are working from their homes and "with the wonders of technology, people can continue to call the synod office during normal business hours and talk to a real person at 509-838-9871," she said.

"We hear concern about financial needs in this pandemic, recognizing that some people cannot use or are uncomfortable with electronic giving," said Kristen, reminding that it is vital for financial support of congregations to continue so staff can continue to work.

"It feels as if leadership is building the plane while we're flying it,



Bishop Kristen Kuempel

and just when we think we have it figured out someone comes and tells us that it was supposed to be a boat," she observed.

The Synod office is working on a best practices document.

For members who are not fluent with technology, congregational leaders will communicate regularly with letters and newsletters.

"As we weather this COVID-19 pandemic, I am consistently surprised at the spirit, the compassion and the care I hear expressed for one another," Kristen said, noting that is the case even though "we

are frazzled, fragile and forlorn."

"As difficult as this time is, I think we will learn about what it means to be church in this age," she said. "If it is anything like I see every day, all will be well, different, but well.

"Many congregations oversee ministries to the marginalized—clothing closets, food pantries, feeding programs," she said, urging that those ministries continue if they can be done so volunteers and those served are protected.

"I encourage an over-abundance of caution over disregard of safety in every situation. This response is about the safety and well-being of our neighbors," she said.

On March 20, Kristen posted information for congregations that host recovery groups in their buildings and are conflicted about closing buildings adding to stresses of individuals breaking their sobriety.

She suggested churches check with their insurance companies, but added that many recovery programs are offering meetings by phone to allow for "compassionate distancing and self quarantine."

For information, call 838-9871 or visit nwimsynod.org.

Leader says distancing that's needed is physical, not social

Gregg Sealey, superintendent of the Inland Missional District of Greater Northwest (GNW) Area of the United Methodist Church, said Bishop Elaine Stanovsky suspended all gatherings in the GNW area of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Even in areas where the virus hasn't been confirmed by tests, health officials say it is likely present, so she took that step to prevent or slow its spread and avoid overwhelming the health system.

"In this time of challenge, I want to help in whatever ways I can," Gregg said.

The conference has a list of churches offering online worship opportunities at <https://greaternw.org/coronavirus/>

"All in-person gatherings are suspended with a call for physical—I'm using 'physical' because we do need to be socially connected—distancing "that is both foreign to our ethos but necessary to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic," Gregg said, reminding of the practices that everyone should be doing by now: 20-second hand washing, no-touch greetings, avoiding



The Rev. Gregg Sealey

groups and staying home if not feeling well.

Gregg is sharing weekly Zoom conference calls to support clergy and lay leaders and holds all in prayer "during these days of isolation and anxiety." His facebook page has information on opportunities to worship online in the Greater Northwest Area of the UMC.

For updates, call 800-755-7710 or go to pnwumc.org or greaternw.org.

Regional minister calls for creativity in worship, meeting

Sandy Messick - regional minister of the Northern Lights Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) said that the effects are unevenly felt across its wide geographic area. In Western Washington with the largest number of cases reported, pastors and congregations cancelled worship services and meetings earlier out of concern for the safety of all.

In other parts of the region—Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Oregon—such decisions are coming. Online devotionals at north-

ernlightsdisciples.org include a national daily devotional, prayers for Lent and a Journey to Easter.

Pastors are thinking of new ways to be church in these difficult times, said Sandy, who is gathering the pastors in weekly Zoom meetings to offer resources and encouragement.

Instead of a regional youth gathering, there will be a virtual gathering of youth.

The first assembly of the new region, planned in May, will be rescheduled in the fall.

"Let us be community to each other and reach out to each other," said Sandy, suggesting that communities not yet affected need to plan to modify worship and other gathering practices.

She called for those who suspend worship for a time, to think creatively about how to stay connected as a congregation.

"For some, Sunday worship is a primary point of social contact. How can we ensure our members are not isolated? What role can the elders and other members play in

keeping connected? How can we use technology to provide opportunities for gathering—such as online Bible studies, livestreaming worship? Who will need extra help in getting connected through technology?

Sandy will converse with pastors by email and Zoom, and share denominational resources. She is exploring using Zoom for regional worship, offering technology grants and inviting online donations.

See northernlightsdisciples.org/covid-19-response-and-resources/.



The Rev. Sandy Messick

Pastor and organizer team up to elicit needs of West Central neighborhood

Housing was among three issues—with health care and jobs—that emerged from a listening campaign of the Spokane Alliance last summer, said lead organizer Katie Zinler.

In those sessions, she said she saw the “grittiness, heart, power, potential and anger that make for good organizing.”

Through the Spokane Alliance, members can work on all three issues as an organization, creating strategies and actions. The alliance drew 217 to a fall candidate forum on housing and homelessness.

West Central Spokane chose to focus on housing efforts and formed the Housing Equity Action Research Team (HEART).

Health care concerns—expense, navigating the system and the lack of mental health care—were addressed by others. The alliance has created a workshop on prescription drugs costs and is offering it to congregations.

Creating jobs in building trades has long been a focus of the alliance. Seven years ago, the City of Spokane voted to require contractors for city building projects use apprentices as 15 percent of their employees, to train more people to enter good careers with health care and retirement benefits.

“To build infrastructure, we need a well-trained work force,” Katie said. “The city monitors contractors to be sure they meet the standard.”

In the fall of 2018, Katie started



Katie Zinler and Katy Shedlock stand by map of derelict houses.

to work with the Dinner Table program of the West Central Episcopal Mission to see what organizing could do for those coming to the meal. Those interested stayed for a listening session.

Gathering with participants at the Dinner Table, Katie and United Methodist pastor Katy Shedlock set up a listening session, inviting guests to stay after the dinner.

“We asked what one thing would they change to make a difference in their lives. They said they needed more stable, dignified, affordable housing in West Central Spokane,” Katie said.

To research what actions are appropriate, the Housing Equity Action Research Team (HEART) meets once or twice a month.

Katie described the principles of organizing.

“The Spokane Alliance allows

me to work on the big issues of injustice, led and driven by people experiencing them,” she said. “Faith communities want to do that, and the Spokane Alliance gives them a way to do it.”

Katie said that about half of those involved in HEART have housing and half have inadequate housing or live outside.

“Some live in housing with no hot water or a broken toilet, but are afraid to call the landlord, because they have too many people living with them,” she said.

HEART did a survey of the neighborhood and found many vacant properties in an area of people without homes. They found 34 within a few blocks of the West Central Episcopal Mission at Elm and Dean.

The Spokane Alliance has helped them do research for information they need to develop

an action plan.

They looked at funding sources and found that because of the Kendall Yards development in the neighborhood, the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district they created includes West Central Spokane.

“TIF funds are tax revenue created by developers. Excess tax can go into improvements in a neighborhood, like paving streets and public infrastructure, but can’t be used for affordable housing,” said Katie.

The team began working to change that on the state level.

“The Spokane Alliance has a culture of living and learning together,” Katie said, commenting that participants learned from the process of developing and advocating for the bill.”

Katie said she likes organizing because of her Jewish heritage.

“My great grandparents were refugees fleeing Russia because of the pogroms against Jews. My grandmother was the child of immigrants in New York City. My grandfather sold vegetables from a cart there during the Depression,” she said.

While she did not experience those struggles, her parents taught her that she had an obligation to make sure people have opportunities to live healthy, happy, successful lives.

“In Maryland, I worked with refugees fleeing violence in El Salvador,” she said. “I saw my family history in their strength. I knew that after a few generations,

I was able to be free, because we have democracy.”

Katie spent her first 18 years in New Jersey before she studied sociology, anthropology and history at Swarthmore University in Pennsylvania. After earning a bachelor’s degree in 2011, she went to Washington D.C. and worked for three years with Jews United for Justice, a Jewish community organizing group.

From 2014 to 2017, she worked with Action in Montgomery in Montgomery County, Maryland, which is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, as is the Spokane Alliance.

She and her husband, who met in Jews United for Justice, took a road trip around the U.S. in 2017 to find a “purple place that was politically mixed” to make their new home. They found Spokane. He is using his organizing experience with the Washington State Federation of Employees Union.

Katie, who serves on the Board of Temple Beth Shalom, said congregations and community groups want to ensure that people have opportunities.

“The best way to do that is to keep our democratic culture. As a person of a religious minority living in an area of white supremacy, I have concern about the need to keep extremism in check,” she said.

For information, call 532-1688 or email katie@spokanealliance.org.

First of two articles on West Central Episcopal Mission.

Advocating for housing stretches neighbor out of her comfort zone

Alisa Shaffer, who grew up in Morgan Acres and raised her children in the Hillyard and West Central neighborhoods, shared her skills and experiences to help legislators address create HB 2497 housing issues in West Central Spokane.

She also learned about the legislative process as she stretched outside her comfort zone, interacting with political professionals to advocate for the bill.

“I’ve learned by life experience, struggling with addiction, working as a nurses’ aide and in a warehouse, and surviving cancer, two heart attacks, a stroke and one TIA,” she said.

“I have lived in West Central a long time and know people there. I volunteered with the Off Broadway Ministry and know people’s struggle with housing,” said Alisa.

She learned about the Spokane Alliance through the Dinner Table

and participated in listening sessions. She helped start HEART and is co-chair of it with Katy Shedlock.

“I’m passionate about helping others and I know housing here is bad,” said Alisa.

“That’s why I was interested in what the Spokane Alliance was doing. Members of the alliance and HEART met with Senator Andy Billig, Rep. Marcus Ricelli and Rep. Timm Ormsby, and then worked to develop a bill that became HB 2497 to expand the use of Tax Incentive Funds (TIF) for affordable housing, as well as infrastructure,” she said.

It passed in March, and the governor signed it.

“I had never been involved in such a project and never been an activist before,” she said. “I kept sending emails to the governor

and legislators.”

Alisa said that when they built Kendall Yards, it should have also meant improvement for West Central, the poorest neighborhood in the city.

“Now we are working to have the city change the way the city TIF laws are written, too,” she said, aware that coronavirus will slow that action.

Alisa previously helped The Porch and the food bank at Off Broadway Ministry to hand out box dinners and food.

“It’s vital for people to have food. Many are homeless and on the streets. Disabled people do not belong on the streets, and school children should not be bouncing from couch to couch. Poor credit scores and background checks make housing tight for many in West Central,” she said.

“It’s not the way it was. Now the only housing many can find is from a slumlord whose houses are substandard,” she said.

Progress on action has been put on hold. HEART canceled its meeting because many are the age group most vulnerable to COVID-19.

A Spokane Alliance listening session was also canceled.

Alisa, who has been a member of the River Christian Church in Hillyard, now lives in a mobile home in Spokane Valley and is applying for SSI disability after a recent stroke.

“Faith helps. I read the Bible

daily and pray a lot, especially for my three sons, their spouses and grandchildren, and for my husband’s sons, daughter and grandchildren,” she said.

At the Dinner Table, attendees also share prayers for concerns for themselves and for each other.

“I grew up in a neighborhood where neighbors up and down the row knew us and would help us. That base gives me a positive attitude,” said Alisa, who married at 17 and earned a GED later. “I’ve been independent all my life. I live one day at a time.”

For information, call 217-5359 or email shafferah367@gmail.com.

FāVS Coffee Talk is online April 4

Religion journalist Simmons takes Spokane FāVS Coffee Talk community discussion online in response to social distancing. It will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 4, on “Who Will You Be in a Crisis?”

Panelists Heather Tadlock of Bethany Church, Todd Eklof of Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, Jim CastroLang of Colville United Church of Christ and Megan Loe of KREM 2 News will be at <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneFAVS/>. Questions may be emailed to tracysimmons@spokanefavs.com, messaged through Facebook, tweeted to @spokanefavs or texted to 509-240-1830.

Special thanks to our April advertisers making this issue possible.

Ads were down because events were cancelled. SEND A DONATION

to fill the gap to
The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202

Strong schools. Strong communities.

Learn more about us at spokaneschools.org/stories.

Spokane Public Schools
excellence for everyone

f t y i

Editorial Reflections

May our concern for community in this crises seed a new 'normal'

"Community" is the word for today. We hear about "community spread," a call for community responsibility and acting for community health. We hear that "herd" immunity is needed to quell the spread.

"Community" is at the core of teachings of the faiths and the missions of nonprofits.

We hear of need for personal and social responsibility to achieve isolation from the community and social distancing to protect ourselves and, for the sake of others, to prevent spread, especially to vulnerable people—elderly, immune-compromised, homeless, hungry, imprisoned.

Faith leaders remind congregations that community response of caring and justice are critical today more than ever.

We are to love one another in new ways—finding new means to connect while being apart. Out of concern for the community, congregations and faith communities went online to worship, meet, study and share resources.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organization director-general, said, "This virus will not be stopped without the cooperation of governments, businesses, society and people. It is everyone's responsibility. We are as strong as our weakest link. The world is intertwined, globalized. We need to act in unison to build global preparedness and global resistance," he said.

In a press conference, he and other health care professionals said that to lessen fear,

people need to be informed so they protect themselves and others, and discover positive ways to channel their energy.

How fortunate we are to have internet connections that allow us to connect with our leaders and be informed by scientists.

Congress passed bipartisan legislation to provide relief, funds and supplies for businesses, workers and hospitals.

Living in a pandemic with confusion about what to do, we need information as we put our lives on pause, take deep breaths, enter a Lenten time-out. Faith leaders cite teachings to turn us from fear, to seek new ways to be compassionate.

We must also be attuned to see how inequities of society in "normal" times may

exacerbate risks now. Community means assuring the wellbeing of all people at all times.

It's a time to buy just enough for our needs, so enough is there for everyone else's needs.

It's a time for solidarity, putting the health of the community and the wellbeing of all ahead of our wants.

It's a time for public-private partnerships and volunteerism to help.

It is a time for prayer, for loving neighbors, caring for people around us and using our God-given gifts.

When we return to "normal," may it be a new, more just, more loving normal.

Mary Stamp - Editor

We need the 'time out' and healing of Sabbath, love in all times

An observation from satellite views is the dramatic reduction in carbon emissions as transportation, production, shipments, work places, schools and entertainment/sports have shut down. It's giving everyone a chance to slow down, and giving Mother Nature a chance to heal.

Perhaps there always has been a reason to keep the Sabbath as a day of rest each week. Not only is it a chance for people to breathe, relax, heal and build relationships, but also it is a chance to step out of the frenzy of profit-making, competition, shopping, sports contests, entertainment, travel, slavery and overworking.

What if we took Sabbath—encapsulating many faiths' traditions—from Friday sundown to Sunday at midnight each week—imagine what impact that might have on reducing global warming, let alone our health.

Do we need to be so busy, busy working, shopping and being out and about all weekend? We have been told to pause, to take a day of rest. Our days of rest are giving time for nature to heal a bit.

What other insights about our frenzied lives will we gain from this time of disruption?

Do we need to be contagious with love,

healing, help? as U.S. Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said. "Love is not self-centered, selfish, but seeking the good and welfare of others. The love is so great that we would give up our life for friends. We will fight our contagion by the disciplined labor of love, working through medical folks and each of us who can help and heal, voluntarily worshiping God online if that will help someone else," he said.

What will happen as our season tickets on subways, to concerts or soccer games become useless? As Mass is canceled?

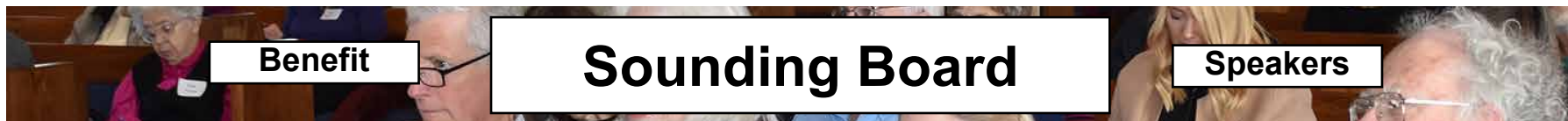
"We are asked to think not for selves but for community. The virus is bringing a new

awareness that we all share the same physical space. We live here together—different ethnicities and races. God's love is in our lived love for each other. Love can heal, lift up, liberate," Bishop Curry said.

What if, like the Sabbath, we take this time out as holy time, time to pray, time to think about how the world might every day and every time be different—more just, loving, connected, understanding, respectful, prayerful, joyful, peaceful, caring, healthy, equal, livable for all?

We can all partner in prayer—receive and share prayer concerns.

Mary Stamp - editor



Four of eight speakers for 2020 Fig Tree benefits shared their comments

Margo Hill – Eastern Washington University and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

I appreciate how The Fig Tree newspaper tells human stories. An important part of our work with Missing Murdered Indigenous Women is that they are real people, mothers, aunts, grandmothers and daughters who are missing, but no one tells their stories or reports that they are missing.

The Fig Tree took time to explain the complicated jurisdictional issues from federal and Indian laws because of the patchwork quilt of Indian lands. Because people do not understand, law enforcement and attorneys are uncertain, so they do not act quickly to investigate or prosecute crimes.

It is important the public understands that indigenous women are not missing because they are bad—prostitutes or addicts—but because they are stuck struggling with poverty and mental health issues.

We didn't ask for our lands to be broken, jurisdiction to be confusing or our people to be relocated to cities. The Fig Tree told those parts of our story.

Mary did excellent journalism in the interview and research to tell the story. After reading it, a transit official, who sees women trafficked and abused, said he was impressed by my work.

The Fig Tree got the story out to people so they can make a different world. A teacher came up to me at a store and said she was impressed with what I was doing. She had brought her sewing machine to help a girl in her class sew a ribbon skirt to solidify her connection with her culture.

Mark Finney - World Relief Spokane:

The March Fig Tree features a front page article on Deacon Chalo Martinez. I never met or heard of him before, but as I read the article I felt like I knew him a bit. I felt proud that Spokane has a leader like Chalo. I was inspired to continue seeking ways my ministry, as a pastor at Emmaus Church

and director of World Relief Spokane, can make a difference, just as Chalo does in his ministries in Spokane and the region.

Stories tell us who we are. They tell us who our neighbors are. Stories tell us what it means to be part of a community. They tell us who we are together as a community in Spokane and the Inland Northwest.

The Fig Tree is an important voice, because it shines a unique light on our city and region. It tells us who we are and who we want to become.

The Fig Tree is distinct from other area media because it focuses on "faith in action." It shares stories that are happening here, *and* that are inspiring and aspirational. When I read about work on homelessness, immigration, caring for creation, racial reconciliations and refugees, I am encouraged by what is taking place, and I am inspired to do more to put my own faith into action. The Fig Tree inspires *me* to act.

In my role leading World Relief Spokane, I see how The Fig Tree inspires others to act. People say they read about refugees, volunteers and churches engaged with World Relief and making a difference. World Relief has connected with volunteers and church partners thanks to stories.

We've seen community leaders find their voices and call others to action by sharing their experiences with others.

Thank you to the staff, board and everyone who supports this valuable ministry. I am grateful for ways you inspire me to act, and connect me with others who are committed to put their faith into action.

Linda Hunt – The Krista Foundation

While preparing my comments, Mr. Rogers' song, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood" came to mind.

To me, The Fig Tree invites readers into our neighborhood, introduces us to one another and helps us see why each person or organization brings gifts to the community.

In the early 1990s, I was director of

Whitworth University's writing program. I was to hire adjuncts. I'd heard about Mary Stamp and her skills as a journalist, publishing and writing in The Fig Tree. I asked her to interview for the position. She shared her vision and commitment to this fledgling newspaper and her determination to focus on that. "I want to give it my all. It's not easy." Period. End of conversation. Her clarity of vision and actions are exemplified in her determination to share "faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest." It made me want this new newspaper to flourish.

Month after month, year after year, Mary stayed true to this vision and brought other writers and supporters into it. While health experts have been concerned with a "loneliness epidemic" arising in a digital world, The Fig Tree continues to show many ways we are and can be connected to one another.

Each month, it introduces us to citizens in the interfaith community and organizations concerned for the common good. I see Mary as our Spokane Mr. Rogers, fulfilling the wish "Won't you *meet* my neighbor?"

As a journalist, she encourages going "beneath headlines" and helps readers understand what motivates and energizes people to give to their passions.

Mary interviewed me for features on the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship and as author of *Soul Space: People and Places that Make a Difference*. Her penetrating questions, genuine interest and desire to communicate our story are gifts.

In the recent issue, her writing makes me want to meet Chalo Martinez, the deacon who works with Hispanic parishioners. She led with his belief that "there are many faces in God's House," and told his family's immigration story, and his work for years as a parole officer with gang members and the criminal justice system.

In the same issue, I met Suzi Hokonson, Eric Henningsen and asylum seeker Lewis Gewgeh Nuah and learned of their journey. I also met 95-year-old neighbor

Donna Simanton and learned of her lifelong advocacy for peace, and Naghmana Sherazi, a Muslim Pakistani scientist who was determined to open doors in organizations when she was new to Spokane. I would love to meet each of them in person.

The ads are equally informative, a main street bulletin board in the neighborhood. I learn of upcoming conferences, creative businesses, a calendar of events, places for retreats and more.

Our lives are richer knowing stories of individuals and organizations who exhibit commitment and put their faith in action. Truly our own monthly hope-filled beautiful day in our Spokane neighborhood.

Dainen Penta - Center for Justice

The Fig Tree connects people, shares positive, uplifting stories of the great work in our communities, and inspires action. In this time of uncertainty, it reminds us there are many amazing individuals and groups in our community.

During college, while a small, trusted group of friends showed me what unconditional love really looks like, there were unfortunately also many judgmental voices that reflected xenophobia and homophobia, and those voices often felt deafening.

The Fig Tree has helped restore balance for me and demonstrates the restorative power of faith communities. The collective power of so many in Spokane to embrace me and others who have felt shunned or shut out by other Christians has been redeeming for my soul and for my heart, and affirms why I returned to Spokane after so many years.

While media can feel disheartening, positive stories in The Fig Tree feel like a breath of fresh air. That's why it's critical that our community donate to ensure that the great work of The Fig Tree continues.

Donations may be sent by mail to The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202, or online at facebook.com/donate/611050986413388/.



it is so outdate a month newspa Malcon

HREI FLLC NAACP Artists CFJustice Monaste

Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC) had scheduled the Second Annual Healing of the Earth Vigil for Earth Day, April 22, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. They had planned to hold it at the Tribal Gathering Place in Spokane.

FLLC still plans to hold the vigil. They have changed it to an online event, to be accessed through the FLLC Facebook Page. Jacob Jons, Barbara Miller, and others actively working to heal the Earth will share about their personal experiences. While

there will be no music, there will be the ringing of the bell during a period of extended silence as those participating hold hopeful thoughts and prayers for the healing of the earth.

For more information, contact Gen Heywood at 408-593-9556.

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221



MAYA EARTH COFFEE

Earth friendly gourmet blend
Shade Grown Indigenous Coffee
Purchase by text, email or online
coffee@mayaeearthcoffee.com
www.mayaeearthcoffee.com • 509-768-3193



MOVING? WE ARE ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

- Full-time trained movers
- Trucks & all equipment provided
- No move too small. • No move too big.

Free written estimates!
Senior discounts Licensed & Insured

CALL TODAY: 509-928-4738

The Human Rights Education Institute (HREI) in Coeur d'Alene provided "take home" activity kits Spring Break Camps.

Volunteers prepared five days of "Stay at Home" activities for the Around the World Multicultural Camp for six to 11 year olds to explore culture, music, games, arts and crafts, language and food from different regions.

The Youth Advocates for Human Rights Camp for ages 11 to 14 years and the Youth Advocates Camp for teens introduce topics to inspire young adults to be advocates for change.

HREI programs offer student education that is fun while providing understanding of diversity and cultural humility.

"We believe that student edu-

cation is the key to addressing hate, hateful actions, and bullying incidents," said Jeanette Laster, executive director.

"During this challenging time, we will be hosting virtual opportunities from our H.E.R.O. program for high school and college students," she said.

For information, email jlaster@hrei.org.

Census count is underway now

In the midst of the shock of the Coronavirus count, a different kind of counting is taking place, reminded Beth Pelliccioti, president of the Spokane Area League of Women Voters.

The U.S. Census, counting everyone in the United States, has been occurring every 10 years since 1790. This is a subtle count, but a profound one.

"This timed count of adults, children, citizens and non-citizens, homeowners, renters, those with residences and those without will have impact on almost every aspect of our lives for the next 10 years," she said. "Data determines our voting districts, the number of representatives we have for our region and state, and the funding we receive for vital services such as medical clinics, fire stations and schools."

Beth noted that those who do not complete the Census are often those who may need the government services the most.

"In Eastern Washington alone, we stand to lose \$3,000/person per year for 10 years for every adult and every child who is not counted. There is a slogan—ten minutes to complete 10 questions impacts us for the next 10 years," she said.

It's now time to fill out the Census. Official letters should have arrived or will arrive soon. The survey may be completed online or by phoning 844-330-2020 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. (EST).



Rockwood South Hill:
2903 E. 25th Ave.
509-536-6650

Rockwood Hawthorne:
101 E. Hawthorne Rd.
509-466-0411

www.rockwoodretirement.org

independent • assisted • skilled nursing • memory care



Rockwood
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

If you missed the Benefit Lunch or Breakfast because we cancelled them you can still send a much needed
DONATION

to

The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202
WE NEED \$10,000 more

Sometimes the soul needs space.



Take the journey within.
Retreats at Spirit Center
www.Spirit-Center.org
208-962-2000

MONASTERY OF ST. GERTRUDE + COTTONWOOD, IDAHO



GIVE NOW.

WWW.FAMILYPROMISEOFSPokane.ORG/DONATE

HOMELESS FAMILIES NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN EVER.



Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

Respecting People. Impacting Business.™

Locally owned by Susan and Ira Amstadter

Helping area non-profits grow & prosper

Spokane Public Radio provides the news, music, and programming you need.

We've been broadcasting for 40 years, and with your help we'll be here for 40 more.



Listen to SPR by streaming on your phone, laptop, or other devices

SPR relies on listener support to stay on the air. You can support SPR today. Find details online at SpokanePublicRadio.org

CMTV14 gives access to video tools during COVID-19 and all times

By Johnny Fulfer

At the Community-Minded Enterprise public access television channel, CMTV14, staff are gearing up to help local organizations continue operating by using video.

With the growing concern about COVID-19, DaShawn Bedford, station production manager, and Darrien Mack, production associate, are shifting focus to support organizations with their filming and editing services.

The virus has forced many local companies, colleges and universities online, making videography services an important element of the pandemic responses.

With colleges and universities closing campuses, professors are putting their courses online. That creates a challenge for instructors who have not taught online.

Local companies are in the same boat. While meetings are moving to the remote conferencing service Zoom, many other business activities must be filmed.

"We plan to reduce our normal rates for filming and editing services," DaShawn said, "from \$1,000 to \$750 for four hours. We also have filming packages for larger projects."

"We are just beginning to find ways CMTV can help our community respond to COVID-19," said Lee Williams, executive director of Community-Minded Enterprises (CME). "We are communicating daily about how we can help."

The desire to help Spokane companies through these challenging times reflects the mission of CME to "empower communities to improve long term well-being through outreach, access and training."

The City of Spokane awarded CME, a Spokane nonprofit, the contract to create the city's official public access television station in 2007. Digital media programs air on Comcast channel 14, reaching about 100,000 homes in the Spokane area.

CMTV's response to the new environment is a new way the station "offers the community the ability to have their voice heard," said Nancy Rust, CME finance and operations director.

Many people have documentaries, shows, public service announcement and other program ideas. For people with something to say to the public, CMTV14 is like a soapbox to share their vision, she said.

Beyond video and editing services, DaShawn and Darrien offer a community space for creativity.

For a monthly membership fee of \$25, people can come to the studio at 104 W. 3rd Ave., Suite B, and use the editing equipment, cameras, lights and microphones to create a music video, short film or documentary. The studio usage fee of \$150 gives access to the green screen, dollies and lights.

"Many people have stories that want to be told," DaShawn said, "but don't have the money to buy high-end cameras. That shouldn't be the reason they can't tell their story."

For example, Maurice Smith of Spokane Homeless Connect and Rising Media didn't know anything about filming or editing when he walked into the CMTV14 studio to create a documentary series on homelessness in Spokane. With the support of Darrien and DaShawn, he learned how to work



Darrien Mack and DaShawn Bedford team up to help community use video to have a voice.

cameras, edit films and create a documentary.

In January 2019, he filmed "The Spokane Homeless Connect," the first episode of the series.

"The documentary demonstrates what CMTV is here to do," DaShawn said. "It's to start conversations and for people to tell stories they want to share."

Maurice went to CMTV14 daily to work on the second episode, "The Hidden Homeless."

"CMTV takes someone like me who knows nothing," Maurice said, "and lets me handle the equipment. People here taught me how to use the equipment and when I made a mistake, they showed me how to fix it."

People like Maurice, who use CMTV14's equipment and advice are called community producers.

"Anyone can become a member and come in here between Monday and Friday," DaShawn said. "Even high school teens have learned how to use the equipment."

Lewis and Clark High School students used the equipment to film a 24-minute documentary on Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I just went over there and helped out," DaShawn said. "They did the editing and put the story together."

In addition to the community producer program, they have the CMTV14 channel itself.

"As long as it's not hypersexual or hyperviolent," Darrien said, "people can create productions to express themselves."

CMTV14 also offers acting classes on Mondays and Saturdays. Some classes are for adults or young adults. One just invites people into a freestyle experience to let their acting come out.

They were planning to start a new class involving both acting and videography, which would give film students an opportunity to shoot something real and give acting students the chance to experience what it's like to act in front of a camera.

With the mounting concern over COVID-19, however, all classes are postponed.

Because the classes were an important source of revenue, they will make this up with more filming and editing contracts.

Local companies and nonprofits hire them to film promotional videos, public service announcements and community meetings.

Darrien and DaShawn are confident they will continue to draw more business, because they are attentive to detail and have a track record of producing quality films.

CMTV14 stands out because

of the energy and collaborative culture that Darrien and DaShawn bring to their work, said Nancy.

"It's weird having my career be something I like doing for a hobby," Darrien said. "There have been times where I'm off the clock and then I'm working on my own video. Same seat, same software and doing the same thing, but I'll be here until 10 at night."

After he earned a bachelor's in graphic design from Whitworth University in 2013, Darrien traveled and started a small videography company. Then he worked as master controller at KHQ before being hired at CME in 2017.

"I figured out early on that I wanted to spend my time creating," he said. "I also have an ethical direction to help people with what they want to achieve. I want to create what I like and help others create what they want."

Both Darrien and DaShawn, grew up in Spokane. Their personal histories shape their approach to their work.

"I'm ten years older than Darrien, so his black culture is a bit dif-

ferent than mine," DaShawn said.

They dress differently and bring a different sense of design, rhythm and mood to their work but they bring energy and a collaborative spirit to creative projects.

DaShawn grew up in West Central Spokane, an area known in the 1990s for criminal activity. While some friends were into gang activity, he found solace in basketball, playing in middle school, high school and at Spokane Community College.

From basketball, he learned that a team is sometimes up or sometimes behind by 30 points but it can come back.

"It's about attitude," he said. "It's never over until it's over."

Self-taught as a videographer, DaShawn's determination to challenge himself led him to teach himself to use a camera on a project for the Spokane Airport in 2006. The more he filmed, the more he knew that was what he wanted to do with his life.

Soon he was honing his skills by volunteering at CME, which saw his talent and hired him.

DaShawn did a public service announcement for the Boys and Girls Club, and that year they raised more than \$300,000. The national Boys and Girls Club saw it and asked if they could show it at their national fundraiser.

His next project was a documentary on Rachel Dolezal, the former president of the Spokane NAACP who gained national attention for identifying as a black woman despite having no black ancestry.

DaShawn said his time filming that lightened his perspective about her.

"She did more positive than negative. I know some see it differently, and that's okay," he said.

Beyond their day-to-day work at CMTV14, both Darrien and DaShawn work on their own projects.

Some gained the attention of Spokane Arts, a nonprofit. It recently awarded DaShawn \$5,000 to create a documentary on Bobby Jack Sumler, a local basketball legend, who set records when he played at Spokane Community College (SCC). He later coached the team and was a role model for them.

"I love playing basketball and doing camera work," DaShawn said. "In this production, I combine both."

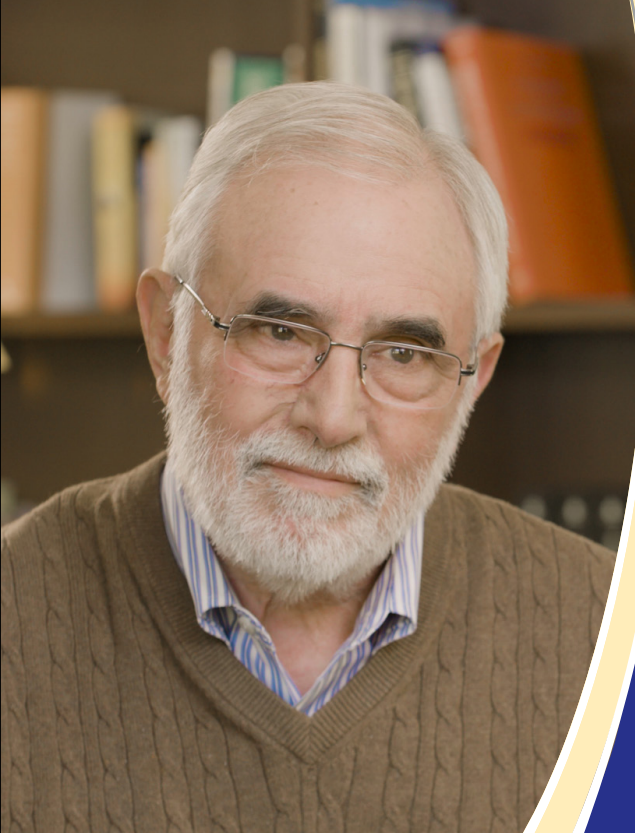
For information, call 960-7452 or email dashawnb@community-minded.org or darrienm@community-minded.org.





Full Menu in Drive-Thru!

[facebook/colesbakeryandcafe](https://www.facebook.com/colesbakeryandcafe)
521 E. Holland #20 - 509-413-1739



"You're going to receive some of the best care you've ever had in your life."

— Dr. Jim Shaw

Our community's only nonprofit hospice, serving patients and their families since 1977.

Dignity. Trust. Compassion.
509.456.0438 hospiceofspokane.org

