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OUR 30TH YEAR**

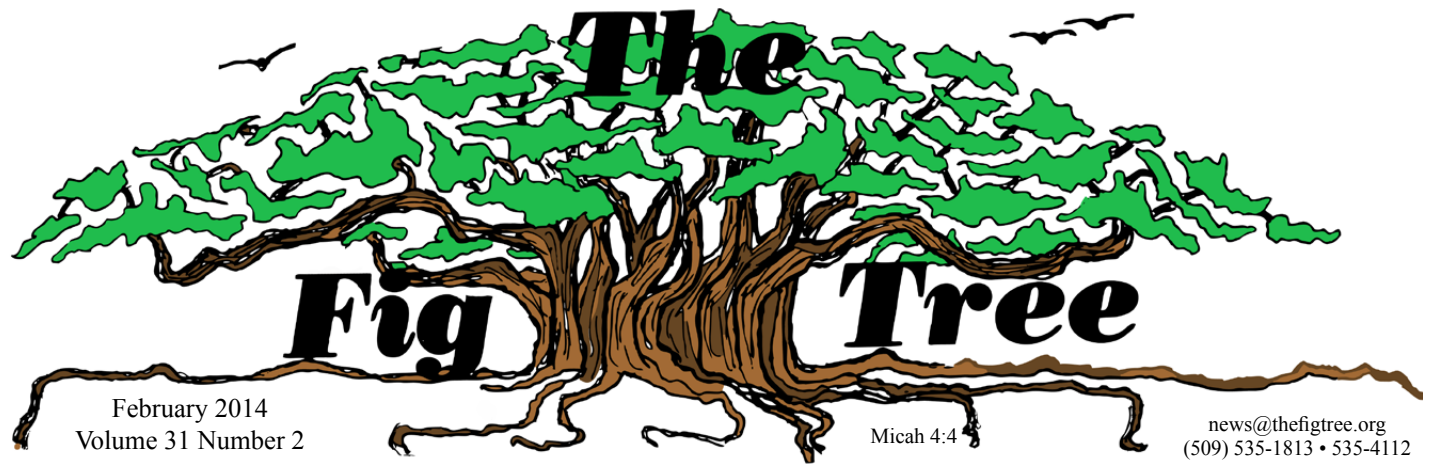
**STORIES INSIDE**

**Store sustains furniture bank - p. 4**

**United Way expands its mission - p. 6**

**VISTA volunteers build capacity of nonprofits - p. 7**

**Caritas moves to Spokane Friends Church - p. 12**



*Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org) • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links*

# Writer explores post traumatic growth

**By Mary Stamp**

In her latest book, Linda Lawrence Hunt combines her experience from her journey of grief since her 25-year-old daughter Krista died in 1998 with research on and stories of others who lost children,

*Pilgrimage through Loss: Pathways to Strength and Renewal after the Death of a Child* took her nine years to write, because she was teaching and faced a second bout of breast cancer.

Krista had died in a bus accident while she and her husband Aaron Ausland were serving three years with the Mennonite Central Committee in a remote village in Bolivia. After graduating from the University of Puget Sound (UPS) in 1995, they worked in Alaska and went to Bolivia to live among and come to know the people.

Linda said her book differs from other grief books because she explores “how people live forever with loss of someone they love, particularly a child” in a culture that emphasizes closure.

“There are many good books on immediate grief, but little is written on long-term loss,” she said, adding, “Parents live with ‘forever love’ of a child.”

Linda will have a book launch-



**Linda Hunt shares insights from experiences of people who have lost children.**

ing at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8, at Auntie’s, 402 W. Main in Spokane.

Linda said she “came into faith” during high school in Seattle. She and Jim met at the University of Washington, where she majored in history, English and education. She attended University Presbyterian Church and worked with Young Life. After graduating in 1962, she taught two years in Glendora, Calif., and then taught in Edmonds while Jim completed doctoral studies.

In 1963, she joined a biblical scholar for a 35-day tour of the Middle East and Europe, acting on her desire to explore the world.

They came to Spokane when Jim began teaching at Whitworth University. Susan was born in 1970. Krista was born in 1972. Linda worked part time in public relations at the YWCA, until they adopted Jefferson, a four-year-old Korean child in 1976.

She completed a master’s degree in education at Whitworth in 1980, and began teaching writing at Spokane Community College and a Jan term class on women and history at Whitworth. Half-time teaching at Whitworth grew into to full-time teaching. She worked 20 years

*Continued on page 9*

## Winter Waters 2014 event features speaker on Columbia River Treaty and water issues

D.R. Michel, the executive director of Upper Columbia United Tribes, will speak on modernizing the Columbia River Treaty as the keynote speaker for Winter Waters 2014 from 6:30 to 9:30, Friday, Feb. 21, at Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave.

“Our annual celebration of water will focus on the blossoming international effort to modernize the Columbia River Treaty to return salmon home to the Spokane River and other ancestral spawning waters in the upper Columbia Basin,” said John Osborn, one of the organizers.

Jace Bylenga of the Sierra Club will also provide an update on oil trains and coal trains.

The event will honor as Watershed Heroes Norman Whittlesey and Walter Butcher, two Washington State University emeritus professors, for their historic contributions in water economics and ongoing scrutiny of federal and state irrigation projects proposed for the region.

John said that Norman and Walter have provided “rigorous, independent economic analysis” that is necessary to “political and public decision-making for

investing scarce public monies in water projects.”

Norman and Walter prepared analysis that discredited expansion of surface irrigation that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Ecology have proposed on the Odessa Subarea east of Moses Lake.

In the Yakima Basin where water demand exceeds water supply, regulations have continued to protect senior water rights holders, who have first claim to withdraw water, over junior water rights holders. When the Bureau of Reclamation and Ecology sought to build new irrigation dams at Bumping Lake and Lmuna Creek, despite lower-cost alternatives,

Norman and Walter provided the 2013 Legislative session with an economic review that triggered larger political and public discussion about who would pay for what benefits, John said.

Through their academic service, they have helped protect rivers, taxpayers and ratepayers for decades, said John.

For information, call 939-1290 or email [john@waterplanet.ws](mailto:john@waterplanet.ws).

## Spokane will participate in One Billion Rising

Spokane will again participate in One Billion Rising, a global call to end violence against women and girls.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest and the YWCA are organizing a One Billion Rising Dance Break/Flash Mob at 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 14, at River Park Square Atrium, 808 W. Main Ave.

Last year, 300 people in Spokane joined 1 billion people in 207 countries around the world to take a stand for justice, said Olivia Brannon of Lutheran Community Services NW.

“This year, we expect the number of Spokane participants to grow even more,” she added.

There will also be a screening of the documentary, “One Billion Rising,” at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6, in room 1A of the Downtown Public Library.

The film explores the ways people from diverse cultures interpreted and celebrated the event last year.

After the screening, there will be an opportunity to learn the official One Billion Rising “Break the Chain” dance, Olivia said.

On Feb. 14, people will gather to show that Spokane will not tolerate gender-based violence, she said.

The Dance Break/Flash Mob event will feature the Shock Dancers, local dance groups, and members of the City Council.

For information, call 844-4220, email [kgrundmanis@lcsnw.org](mailto:kgrundmanis@lcsnw.org), see the Facebook Event “One Billion Rising Spokane,” or go to [#rise4justice](https://www.facebook.com/rise4justice).

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100  
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#### Faith leaders offer reflections on World Day of Peace

The World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit reflected on Pope Francis' message on World Day of Peace during a Jan. 20 inter-religious service in Geneva, along with other religious leaders representing Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist communities in Switzerland.

The Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg organized the service. World Day of Peace, initiated by the Roman Catholic Church, is commemorated on Jan. 1.

**Speaking to about 200 people, Olav said,** "His Holiness Pope Francis calls all of us to join hands as sisters and brothers of one human family" and "work together for peace and justice in this world that we share." At the service, Olav expressed appreciation for peace initiatives taken by Pope Francis in Syria and the Middle East. He said, "we cannot speak about peace and justice in abstract terms" but emphasized the need to "respond every day in practical and concrete actions to the calls that reach us from churches and others in the crises and conflict-stricken areas of this world."

#### Archives help address issues of the past

In a recent talk organized by the Archives of the World Council of Churches, Elisabeth Baumgartner, a Swiss lawyer and head of the Swiss Peace Foundation project, "Archives and Dealing with the Past," stressed the importance of archives and documentation in seeking justice, reconciliation and conflict resolution for international affairs, peace-building and strengthening democratic institutions. Her talk at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva was organized by the Geneva Forum of the Archivists and WCC Archives.

**She emphasized the need for access to information** and the "right to know" to help people deal with the past, such as for investigations, truth commissions and tribunals addressing human rights violations. She shared examples from East-Timor, Chile, Croatia, Guatemala, Argentina, the Philippines and South Africa on how archives are sensitive and in danger as they are used to seek truth and justice.

**Elisabeth said information useful for investigations** of human rights violations are found not only in the courts, army and police, but also in hospitals, churches and human rights organizations. She spoke of the need for preservation, protection, maintenance of and access to archives as an "important legacy" for societies concerned with the human rights and democracy.

#### Ecumenical panel promotes economic justice

The Ecumenical Panel on a New International Financial and Economic Architecture recently met to develop advocacy strategies for churches to ensure economic justice and the ecological wellbeing of communities they serve.

The panel of economic experts and theologians met recently at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, identifying discrepancies within global economic and financial structures that generate adverse impact on communities. They urge churches to influence states and financial institutions in realizing ethical and just systems.

The panel was established last year by the World Council of Churches, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the Council for World Mission as a follow-up to their 2012 São Paulo conference on a New Financial and Economic Architecture.

They discussed policy and structural changes related to public finance and debt, financial sector regulation and global economic governance to ensure social inclusion, gender justice and care for the environment while promoting an "economy of life."

"The financial sector has brought down the world economy," said Barry Herman, a U.S. panelist, adding that financial services essential to the functioning of the world economies must operate with less risk. With "financial exploitation universal," he said "churches can be an important voice in mobilizing public opinion and pressuring governments to avoid negative effects."

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## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Fig Tree seeks 15 more table hosts for benefits

The Fig Tree seeks to have 30 tables each at its 2014 Benefit Breakfast and Benefit Lunch, as part of its 30th anniversary.

The two annual benefit events, a breakfast at 7:15 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, and a lunch at 11:45 a.m., Friday, March 14, both at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, will share how The Fig Tree is "Empowering People: Through Hope, Action and Justice."

There are 25 hosts signed up for the breakfast and 20 for the lunch. Table hosts cover the cost of the food and invite guests to fill their tables of eight and donate.

Organizers are recruiting local speakers from people involved in

the beginnings in 1984 and people about whom The Fig Tree has written recent articles.

"We will share about origins of the logo, the emerging mission, our role in the region and how unique our media are," said editor Mary Stamp.

The Fig Tree also plans a 30th Anniversary Dinner at Whitworth University, featuring Michael Kinnamon, an internationally recognized scholar and leader in the ecumenical movement. He is visiting professor of ecumenical collaboration in interreligious dialogue at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

The dinner will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, at the HUB

at Whitworth University. The Fig Tree also seeks hosts to help invite guests. The cost will be \$50 per plate.

Michael is the immediate past general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Christ in the USA and has also served as general secretary of the Consultation on Church Union and as executive secretary of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order.

During the recent World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan, South Korea, he was a keynote lecturer for the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute.

For information, call 535-1813 or email [mary@thefigtree.org](mailto:mary@thefigtree.org).

### Peggy McIntosh lectures on inclusion

Author and activist Peggy McIntosh will speak on "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack: Privilege, Education and the Vision of Achieving Inclusion," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6, at Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University.

As part of her role of consulting with higher-education on multicultural and gender-free curricula, she will spend a day meeting with students, faculty and staff to explore how privilege is associated with constructs of

race, gender and sexuality, and the corresponding implications for inclusive education.

"Whitworth has been doing reflective work on building inclusiveness at the university, and I am pleased to share in its next steps," she said.

She will discuss white privilege, a theory used in anti-racism studies, practices and activism, and methods to weaken systems that reward unearned power.

Whitworth assistant vice presi-

dent for diversity and intercultural relations Larry Burnley hopes participants will be challenged to consider ways they benefit from or are disadvantaged by forms of power and privilege.

Peggy is associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women, and the founder and co-director of the National SEED (Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity) Project on Inclusive Curriculum.

For information, call 777-3434 or email [cbeck@whitworth.edu](mailto:cbeck@whitworth.edu).

### FOR director speaks at Spokane conference

The Rev. Kristin Stoneking, executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) since August 2013, is the featured speaker for the Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference, Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in North America, is approaching its centennial in 2014 to 2015.

Kristin believes the challenges of creating a nonviolent world without oppression must be approached in new ways.

She previously served 14 years as executive director of the Cal Aggie Christian Association in Davis and has been an advocate of the Occupy/Decolonize movement. Ordained as a United Methodist minister, she has led faith-based social justice campaigns on various issues.

Kristin is nearing completion of a doctoral degree in interreligious studies and nonviolence education at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

FOR has 100 chapters, religious peace fellowships and affiliated groups, including the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

(PJALS).

The conference, sponsored by PJALS, opens with a reception and musicians at 8:30 p.m., Friday. The conference with workshops will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit [pjals.org/2014conference](http://pjals.org/2014conference).

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For more information visit us on Facebook at  
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**Winter Waters 2014**  
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Patsy Clark Mansion - 2208 W. Second Ave. - Spokane

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**D. R. Michel**

Upper Columbia United Tribes Director

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## Community leaders discuss current, local issues related to civil rights

Several community leaders offered reflections on the local significance of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service on Sunday, Jan. 19, at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ.

Others shared at the opening rally the next day before more than 2,000 people marched from the Convention Center to River Park Square.

The march included many more children than in other years, coming to learn about the civil rights leader's impact in the 1950s and 1960s, and his impact on lives today.

"What do we want as the journey for freedom, justice and equality continues?" the Rev. Lawrence Burnley, assistant vice president of intercultural relations

at Whitworth University, asked at the service.

"This is a time to remember the sacrifices of those upon whose shoulders we stand and to reflect on what the Creator says to us as individuals and as a collective people," he said.

Spokane attorney Gloria Ochoa, director of local government multicultural affairs for the City of Spokane, reported that Mayor Condon created the position to address the city's diversity needs, one of which is that the city's work force be representative of Spokane's diversity.

"We have much work to do to break the barriers that deny access to education and opportunities for women, people of color and our LGBT community to succeed in reaching positions of leadership, authority and power, and have a

seat at the table," she said.

Gloria, a marathon runner, likened the process to preparing for and finishing a marathon.

"Marathon runners need to educate themselves, train, have mentors that encourage and push, and have supporters along the way," she said. "Even if a runner makes it to the starting line, it's not enough. They need to be able to stay in the marathon and make it to the finish line.

"Too many people of color start the race but do not finish," she said. "All of us need to be on the sidelines providing the resources needed."

Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich told of teaching 15-year-olds in a Sunday school lesson on recognizing what God does for people in their daily lives.

"One of the gifts God gave

us is King. What have we done with God's gift? What are we doing? God's spirit taught us to love one another," he said. "King walked in the footsteps of God to freedom, justice and equality. He knew there would be a price for his words, life and actions. He knew hate and that as long as people hated, we would need to counter it. We need to treasure the precious gift God gave us in him."

Last summer, Ozzie continued, community youth gathered to say, "No more violence."

"Did we grab hold of that gift?" Ozzie asked. "Love and education are each part of what we need if we want young people to break out of violence. King was our mentor. He was a true gift. God only sends gifts every once in a while to call for love, unity, hope and education."

James Wilburn, president of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP, said King was a member of the Montgomery, Ala., branch of the NAACP, and became its president during the bus boycott.

He quoted King as saying that African Americans would not be satisfied until justice rolls down like a mighty stream. Then he read the "I Have a Dream" speech.

For information, call 455-8722.

### Despite differences of opinion, advocates connect people of faith to speak out

Speakers at the 2014 Eastern Washington Legislative Conferences urged participants to learn about, reflect on and speak out on issues coming before the Washington State Legislature.

Workshop leader Tom Soeldner of the Faith and Environment Network said "the conference theme, 'Dismantling the Culture of Violence' and issues—wage theft, social safety net, immigration policies and environmental sustainability—reflect problems we have relating to others."

His interest the environmental stems from his belief that people are to "live together responsibly as partners with the natural world." He shared information on priorities, such as Columbia River cleanup, and on coal and oil trains.

Greg Cunningham of Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Office, said there is a bill on immigration this year in the U.S. Senate, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act. In this bill, border security takes precedence over legaliza-

tion of current illegal residents or amnesty provisions.

The "safety net" for the poor often becomes the target in budget cutting, so Scott Cooper of Parish Social Services with Catholic Charities Spokane said that advocates often are defensive, aware that "if we lose a program it's nearly impossible to restore it." Absorbing cuts since 2008, "we have sought to sustain and maintain programs, so we can restore state funding in better times." He applauds advocates who remind, "let's not balance the budget on the backs of the poor" and say "budgets are moral documents."

Paul Benz, director of the Faith Action Network of Washington, encourages networks congregations and individuals to engage people of faith in political actions.

"Congregations include people with different opinions. We do not tell people what to do, but seek to inform people about issues.

"Because some businesses short change employee pay, we support efforts to end wage theft," he said.

In a panel, Episcopal Bishop

Jim Waggoner, Jr., said because all human life is sacred, he supports an initiative supporting background checks on gun purchasers.

Social worker Louise Chadez has gone to school board meetings to question Spokane Public Schools' decision to have armed employees in schools.

Mary Lou Johnson, Angela Weber and Breean Beggs of the Smart Justice Campaign discussed the justice system. Mary Lou challenged the need for a new jail because incarceration does not reduce recidivism. Angela asked people to like the Smart Justice Campaign on Facebook. Breean said criminal justice is 74 percent of the Spokane County budget. Savings on that would have impact on all programs.

Dom Felix, an intern with the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane's Police Accountability program said a priority is to have an independent ombudsman.

Victoria Thorpe told of efforts to abolish the death penalty as an ineffective deterrent and waste of resources.

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## Retail furnishings store will help sustain Catholic Charities' furniture bank

The growing demand for furniture at the former Spokane Community Warehouse led Catholic Charities Spokane to start Furnishings for Hope as a retail outlet to support the Catholic Charities - Spokane Furniture Bank, the new name for the community warehouse.

Furnishings for Hope sells middle- to higher-end used furniture, antiques and mid-range new furniture priced to appeal to people in the neighborhood and people who commute north and south on Monroe.

In early January, they opened the Furnishings for Hope store at 1905 N. Monroe in the former Stewart's Hardware building, built in 1912.

There will be a grand opening at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 12, with Catholic Bishop of Spokane Blase Cupich offering a blessing and the store providing some discounts.

The names and logos of the store and furniture bank are similar so people see the connection.

The Spokane Community Warehouse opened in 2009 in a room in the former YWCA and grew until it became a stand-alone program under Catholic Charities. In 2013, it was renamed the Furniture Bank.

It works with 24 social service agencies. Case managers determine needs and refer people to the program, which is able to meet about 70 percent of the needs.

In 2013, the furniture bank served 623 households, providing beds, couches, dressers, tables, chairs and kitchenware.

Three people are part of a team making this ministry possible.

- Lesley-Anne Stormo, who runs Catholic Charities - Spokane Furniture Bank, at 919 E. Trent, began working at St. Margaret's Shelter in 2011.

- Inga Weber, who manages the store, brings experience from working in and operating a family dry cleaning business for 33 years. She and her husband closed the business in 2012.

- Jim Nicks, who retired as assistant police chief for the City of Spokane, is operations director and program director connecting the two ventures.

Lesley-Anne said that after St. Vincent de Paul closed, Homeless Coalition agencies housing people realized that when they found permanent housing for clients, there were no affordable options for furnishing the houses. St. Margaret's Shelter agreed to develop a furniture bank, where some people could bring donations and others could pick them up for free.

Lesley-Anne began working at St. Margaret's to develop a



Inga Weber listens carefully to people at Furnishings for Hope.

vocational rehabilitation program so that once people were off the street, they would have income to pay for their housing.

"Our goal was to help homeless women develop job skills before they moved from transitional to permanent housing, so they would be self-sufficient," she said.

She taught skills to prepare people for what employers seek in hiring and to build self-awareness of how to keep jobs, such as to have a plan B for child care. At St. Margaret's Vinegar Flats Community Garden and the The Pearl Clothing Boutique, she could offer only a few women skills in gardening and customer service.

With the growing demand for the furniture, there was need for more staff at the furniture bank so it became another site for women to gain job skills.

"For the furniture bank to be self-sustaining, we then decided to develop the retail store, Furnishings for Hope, using income from that to help cover the costs of the Furniture Bank," said Lesley-Anne, who grew up in Wisconsin, studied English in Michigan, worked in California and came to Spokane to be a residence director at Whitworth University in 2002. In 2009, she completed a master's degree in organizational leadership at Gonzaga University.

Inga, who grew up and raised her family in Spokane, has been involved in the community and St. Thomas More Parish through scouting, Childbirth and Parenting Assistance (CAPA) and its diaper drives and baby showers.

"Because dry cleaning is a dying industry with people buying mostly wash-and-wear clothing," she said, she and her husband

decided to close their business.

Aware that "there are people in need all over the community all the time," she was looking for a ministry that would connect people with resources.

Meanwhile, Jim was looking for someone to run the store and knew of her experience.

"Both the furniture bank and retail store offer more than furnishings. We offer a human touch. We listen to people's stories," said Inga. "When people come in, I listen to what they have to say to understand what they are looking for. Because they see the Catholic Charities' logo, some share their stories. I listen to their needs and suggest where they may find help.

"In selling furniture, we hold inventory longer than some stores, because people take time to think about buying furniture," she said.

From her years in business, she brings skills in the behind-the-scenes factors of running a business—taxes and licenses—and interacting with customers as a pleasant, friendly person.

She greets people and listens to what they need and want.

"I have had to be educated on what I do not know about. In dry cleaning, I knew about different types of fabric," she said. "In furniture, I am learning what makes for quality, durability and value.

"When my husband, David, and I concluded we needed to close the dry cleaning store, we did not know what would be next, but let "God direct our way to find jobs that fit us," she said.

Jim sees the furnishings store and furniture bank as sister programs. He describes the store as "the economic engine to cover costs for long-term sustainability"

of the furniture bank.

"Every day, about 50 people come into the store. As they learn about the furniture bank, many who buy furniture decide to donate their used furniture," he said.

The store delivers new furniture and picks up donated furniture, said Jim, who served 30 years in law enforcement in Spokane, plus a year in Yakima and two years in Ephrata. He learned about the program through Catholic Charities' executive director Rob McCann, who had interaction with the police department.

Jim, who grew up Methodist in Ephrata became Catholic when he married. He and his wife attend Mary Queen Catholic Church. He attended Washington State University, Central Washington University and Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and finished a degree

in criminal justice administration in a distance-learning program at Columbia Southern University in Alabama 12 years ago. He also completed several courses in executive management.

"From my work with law enforcement, it is easy to become hardened about people and human nature, but with Catholic Charities I work with people in different situations—the worst and the best," he said. "I appreciate serving individuals on a personal level.

"Faith affects how we conduct our business, interface with people and serve people. In law enforcement, I dealt with crises in the moment and may not have known a person's long-term issues. Here, I build longer-term relationships and may see some end results," he said.

For information, call 868-0062 or email jnicks@ccspokane.org.

### Family Promise of Spokane

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# Retired pastor heads Inland Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters

By Kaye Hult

Since retiring in 2009 after 16 years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Coeur d'Alene, the Rev. Mike Bullard has served the church through his involvement in disaster relief. He now is on the National Response Team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and chairs the Inland Northwest chapter of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

Soon after he retired, Ferry County experienced a storm with hurricane force winds. One person died. Many homes were damaged. The power was off for two weeks.

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest asked Mike to help through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. He worked with the Rev. George Abrams, retired pastor of Cheney United Methodist Church, who works with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) on disaster response. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was also involved.

## Finds ecumenical action

"I saw Southern Baptists come right away with chain saws, tarps and food," Mike said. "Seventh Day Adventists went door to door and checked on people. George and I helped them set up a long-term recovery committee.

UMCOR provided funds for a caseworker to work for the committee. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) provided funds for a caseworker to help people needing assistance.



Mike Bullard finds a niche to serve in retirement.

"I was thrilled how each group had its own thing. It was clear which group was doing what. As a result, I became interested in disaster assistance," he said.

Mike spent a year taking disaster relief training and discerning if his gifts matched their need. Then he joined the PDA National Response Team and that led to his involvement with VOAD.

## VOAD coordinates efforts

VOAD operates on several levels—state, area-wide and national. There is one for Idaho, one for Washington and one for the Inland Northwest. VOADs provide regular communication and planning among states and coun-

ties. Their disaster planning includes faith-based organizations, FEMA, the Red Cross and animal organizations (to care for pets and provide comfort animals).

Mike saw one VOAD in action in the fire in Yarnell, Ariz.

"Because the VOAD in that part of Arizona was so active and prepared, there was a long-term recovery group active long before scammers arrived," Mike said. "They pulled together the resources."

In Yarnell, where half the town burned to the ground and 19 firefighters died, many houses were too old to be insured. Most people had little income and about half had no insurance.

"They pulled together because they had prepared ahead through VOAD. Their recovery was months ahead of any other area affected," he said.

## Each group has its role

Mike described the chain of events that takes place once a disaster strikes.

First to come in are the "badges, guns and ambulances." Then come the utilities and those clearing transportation routes. These are government-related.

Then the red-shirted Red Cross workers and FEMA come.

FEMA can only provide services in a national disaster, but they are there from the start to evaluate whether the "disaster" gains that designation.

Mike said most of the larger religious organizations participate.

Yellow-shirted Southern Baptists come in to serve immediate

needs. The blue-shirted Presbyterians come next. They offer compassion-fatigue seminars for first responders and support for affected churches.

Mennonites have a \$30,000 kit for building a house. If a community recruits volunteers, they truck in materials and plans. Other groups are the Seventh Day Adventists, Catholic Charities, Jewish Charities and Islamic Relief.

All these groups operate under VOAD.

As Mike was determining whether to join PDA, Church World Service trained him in long-term recovery groups, and he had training through the Red Cross and FEMA.

## PDA awaits an invitation

"Presbyterian Disaster Assistance never goes in unless invited by a Presbyterian church," he explained. Once there, they will help anyone. After that, they contact the Red Cross and FEMA to connect on specific needs.

The disaster workers include an Emotional and Spiritual Care Team with trained counselors. They offer hospitality for work groups for long-term recovery efforts. They help a church install showers, beds and more so it can house recovery workers.

In addition, PDA operates a Christian summer camp for children and youth who have survived school shootings to work together to understand what they experienced in a spiritual context."

## Provide safety, spiritual care

The goal of disaster work, according to Mike, is not to put

people's lives back like they were, nor to make lives like they should be. Its goal is to see that people have safety, security, sanitation and spiritual care.

## Disaster work gratifying

Mike finds the work gratifying. "People are glad we are there. We are with them in a tough time. We can help," he said.

After a worship service after the fire in Yarnell, "a woman came up to me and said, 'I was bitter. Now I'm not.' To me, that was a six-word novel," he said.

After a tornado in Shawnee, a woman said, "We lost everything. In the 1993 tornado, I lost my first husband. Here we lost just stuff. It was nothing."

Mike said strangers come up to him and other workers in restaurants and buy them food.

"It's inspiring to see what people can and will do for each other," he said.

## Relief workers need training

Mike cautions people not to self-deploy. Well meaning people may go in wanting to help, but if they are untrained, they may create additional difficulties.

"People need to be trained and identified," he said, encouraging people to volunteer with existing agencies ahead of time to take training from the Red Cross or a faith-based organization.

Mike attends Bethany Presbyterian Church in Spokane, with his wife, Betsy, who works with the Area Agency on Aging.

For information, call 208-659-2491 or email [mabullard@gmail.com](mailto:mabullard@gmail.com).

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# United Way adapts to changing times by promoting collaboration

As the world has changed, Spokane County United Way has evolved to do more than its root mission of raising funds to give to nonprofits to improve people's lives.

Janice Marich, vice president of community relations, said its mission of mobilizing resources to improve people's lives and strengthen the community has been broadened.

Along with running annual campaigns to raise funds and give to organizations, it also collaborates with the community to advocate to change systems and connects volunteers with organizations to serve the community.

"We are looking at how we can work with others to tackle problems of society to make the long-term changes that will create measurable results to improve the quality of life for everyone," she said.

**To assure quality of life,** Spokane County United Way's goals are to give people tools and resources for 1) *education*, to be successful in life, 2) *income*, to be financially stable and 3) *health*, to improve their access to health care and educate them on healthy choices, she said.

"Research says that if people are not educated, they will struggle in life to meet their basic needs, they will have lower income and poorer health outcomes," said Janice. "We focus on education, income and health as building blocks."

"All are interconnected, so we need to work on all three," she said.

"We do not provide direct services, but we find programs that support part of the process. Then we connect and convene people," Janice explained.

**Spokane County United Way**, which was founded in 1921, now serves as a convener, collaborator and capacity builder to change systems.

"We are about joining with others and encouraging others to work together. No one organization can bring all the change needed," Janice said. "In collaboration, each comes to the table ready to advance the common good."

Since moving from the old YMCA building in 2009, United Way finds that its new location at 920 N. Washington is conducive to its role as a convener. Its building is now a hub of activity, she said. Business people come in and out. Nonprofits use the meeting space for training programs. It is also a volunteer tax preparation site.

As a convener and collaborator, Spokane County United Way en-



Janice Marich said the United Way office serves as a hub of activity.

courages people to speak up about their concerns and to advocate for policy changes that will improve systems and lives.

Staff and volunteers talk with people in the community, listening to learn what kind of community and world they want to live in.

"We focus on what everyone values: the dreams and aspirations for children to graduate, be successful and be healthy so they have bright futures," Janice said.

**She recently helped facilitate** a conversation with teens at Volunteer of America's Crosswalk program for street kids. She found it eye-opening to listen to the teens' experiences.

"Underneath, they want the same things everyone wants," she said.

Janice asked an 18-year-old about his dreams. He said he hopes his son will never have to stand before a group and say he's an alcoholic.

Foster care children want someone to care, someone to love them, she added. So United Way helps connect caring adults with them to help address what they need to be successful.

**Based on what they heard** in conversations, United Way has made some new investments in the community:

- Blueprints for Learning for 82 childcare programs;
- Communities in Schools to connect with 350 at-risk youth;
- The Martin Luther King Jr. FAME after-school tutoring and mentoring program;
- Odyssey Youth Center for at-risk GLBTQ youth, and

The Spokane Salish School for dual-language learning.

Collaborative grants went to Growing Hope community gardens in West Central Spokane, and Youth REACH, a partnership between YFA (Youth, Family, Adults) Connections, Team Child and VOA's Crosswalk—programs connecting homeless teens with

resources that help them return to schools and families.

Spokane County United Way also supports many other programs, including programs for victims of domestic violence.

**Seeking to bring new money** into the community, it has received funding from the Gates Foundation to address intergenerational poverty.

The vision is for people not to let poverty or adverse childhoods limit their capacity, Janice said.

"I see an evolution in the community from 'we have the answers' to 'we can't do the work alone'," she said. "Grants help people collaborate and partner—to think, act and work differently."

Capacity building is about more than money. It is also about using volunteers to help people reach goals, she said.

**Another way to mobilize** resources and build capacity is to encourage volunteerism.

United Way recently launched Volunteer Spokane, an online tool at [volunteerspokane.org](http://volunteerspokane.org) to give agencies the opportunity to describe their programs and their need for volunteers.

It also gives volunteers a means to match their passions and expertise with issues they want to affect, ways they want to serve and gifts they can bring to the nonprofit community.

Volunteer Spokane, Janice said, is a more effective online platform than the program they previously used to connect organizations with volunteers.

Volunteer Spokane is also designed to connect people through social media.

"It's easy for organizations to update. They can include videos and pictures. They can also advertise events," she said. "We continue to explore ways it can be a resource for agencies."

Volunteer Spokane helps volunteers match their interests and skills with various categories of

service and action.

It can also be used to recruit volunteers in emergencies, disasters or finding people to help seniors shovel after snowstorms.

Before switching platforms, United Way had 27 organizations signed up. Their information automatically transferred into the new platform, but organizations will benefit by updating their entries to use the new features.

Now there are 51 organizations, said Janice, who continues to recruit nonprofits.

**She likes businesses** to encourage employees to volunteer, giving incentives for them to serve in the community during work hours.

Janice, for example, volunteers as chair of the Spokane Public

Library board of trustees, because it supports people having access to books and literacy that lead to successful education.

While hospitals and other programs may still need volunteers to rock babies, Janice said United Way needs volunteers to do the hard work to change structures, as well as to connect children with caring adult mentors who will stick with them, so they stay in school and can enter careers.

**Aware that the faith community** is part of the caring community, Janice hopes congregations will sign up with Volunteer Spokane to invite people to participate in food drives, senior meals, and other programs and events they sponsor.

"I urge faith leaders to think of projects they can do if they have more help," she said.

For Janice, the work with Spokane County United Way combines her small-town roots in Eureka, Calif., with her career in corporate and government public relations and communications in urban areas.

She worked with the Santa Clara County Health Department, Pacific Bell in California, Nevada and Washington, D.C., the Consumer Protection Unit of Washington State Attorney General's office in Seattle and Empire Health Services in Spokane before joining United Way in 2005.

For information, call 838-6581, email [janicem@unitedwayspokane.org](mailto:janicem@unitedwayspokane.org) or visit [unitedwayspokane.org](http://unitedwayspokane.org).

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# VISTA participants help local nonprofits build their capacity to serve

Brought up with the idea of giving back to the community, Simone Jagers has found a niche in Spokane.

She helps oversee seven colleagues in AmeriCorps VISTA projects, operating under SNAP (Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners) to address poverty.

Their projects serve homeless women and children, provide financial services, coordinate housing services, assist a community garden, run a job club, build a volunteer connection website and develop entrepreneurship programs at an alternative high school.

SNAP, which has roots in an organization that was started in 1966 by Catholic Charities, seeks long-term solutions to eliminate poverty. It was renamed the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program in 1993 and then renamed SNAP for Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners in 2008 when its mission was to provide access and connections to resources for low-income people.

In September 2014, oversight of the AmeriCorps VISTA program will be transferred to United Way of Spokane.

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) was proposed in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, as a domestic Peace Corps to increase services in urban and rural poverty areas. President Lyndon Johnson launched it through the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of the War on Poverty. In 1993, VISTA was incorporated under AmeriCorps. It is overseen by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Simone said that VISTA volunteers help nonprofits with capacity building, which means to strengthen the organizations' ability to serve the community and create partnerships.

"VISTA participants give up a lot, often relocating to a new community and earning little money," she said. "We do not do it for the money. We need to have a passion and want to give back to America, to help a community and to grow personally."

The VISTA program is at its heart about giving back and building something greater for the community and people in need.

Simone summarized the current VISTA projects:

- Brandy Skinner is a volunteer coordinator at Hearth Homes, helping volunteers work with women and children through the Spokane Parent Advocacy Network.

- Cheri Mills is the financial enterprise coordinator with SNAP, working on several programs that involve small business development with the goal of creating a social enterprise for SNAP.

- Shanti Elliott helps connect low-income and homeless individuals through InfoLink, a multimedia platform connecting individuals to resources in the Spokane community.

- Omar Akkari works at Spokane Valley Partners Community Gardens to increase access to and affordability of locally grown fresh produce. The program envisions a community in which people can grow their own food in backyard or community gardens, work with each other on food and community issues, and shop locally at farmers' markets, keeping their money local to spur economic development.

- Raymond Knight is job creations coordinator with the Northeast Community Center Association. Through his efforts, beginning in mid January, members of the Hillyard neighborhood are able to sharpen job-seeking skills through the Job Club Networking Group. It will help members improve resumé writing, application and interviewing skills; gain job readiness skills assessments and career advice, and match their skills and interests to local opportunities for gainful employment.

- Kate Derrick is working at Spokane County United Way, developing their new Volunteer Spokane online volunteer coordination program to help community agencies find volunteers.

- Jen Shreiber serves at On Track Academy to develop a youth entrepreneurial program that allows youth to pursue their passions. She helps the school connect students to the community so they can learn about businesses first hand through internships in jobs of their choice, as opportunities for them to think about their future in school, trade, gardening, plumbing or computers.

Simone shared her own journey to Spokane and into VISTA to give an idea of the experience VISTA volunteers bring.

Growing up in Brooklyn the daughter of a school teacher and an international civil servant with UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization, she was committed to serve.

After graduating from the University of Arizona in 2005, she returned to New York to work in a "dayhab" program with people with intellectual disabilities. She helped them work at food banks and other volunteer sites so they could also give back to the community.

The next two years, she did gender studies at the University for Peace in Costa Rica with more than 200 students from 58 coun-



Simone Jagers coordinates seven VISTA volunteers as they serve the community.

tries. She studied and discussed the cultural impacts of gender justice issues with people from around the world in such places as Thailand, Sudan, Cameroon, Mexico, Argentina, Ethiopia, the United States and Canada.

After graduating in 2010, she studied international affairs, peace and conflict through Innsbruck University in Austria, with emphasis on "how we establish peace in life when we are living in chaos," she said.

Simone graduated from that program in November 2012, just after she started with VISTA in August 2012 on an assignment in Cordova, Alaska, an area settled by Spanish people.

She worked in a domestic violence intervention center in this remote fishing town with no road in or out. The only transportation is by boat or plane.

She spent a year building capacity by launching such programs as a women's health initiative and a men's respect media campaign, called Cordova Men Choose Respect. She also began outreach to the LGBTQ community, participated in fund raising efforts, wrote grants and worked with another VISTA volunteer.

Simone learned about the opening in Spokane to do capacity building to build organizations' ability to serve in the community.

"Working for SNAP is an amazing opportunity because it is such a giving organization that focuses on empowerment and community action," she said. "Being a VISTA leader gives me the ability to be part of all the VISTA projects that have a positive impact on Spokane."

For information, call 456-7111 x 326 jagers@snapwa.org.

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# Martin Luther King Jr. Day speaker calls for ringing bells until all are free

Carolyn Gordon, chair of the department of preaching and communications at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., called those who came to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorative service “bell ringers for freedom” for choosing the celebration over watching the Seattle Seahawks vs. 49ers football game.

Carolyn read from Luke 4:18 Jesus’ first sermon, often quoted by King, in which Jesus said, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release of the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of God’s favor.”

She noted that it’s easy to stop there, rather than read on about people in the congregation wanting to drive Jesus out over a cliff, and that he escapes by walking through the crowd.

“The year of God’s favor,” she explained, “is the jubilee, which is to happen every 50 years when land is to be returned to the original owners, debts forgiven and slaves freed. His proclaiming that did not end happily ever after.

“Jesus went from hero to zero,” she said. “Have you ever been in a situation when people have become so mad they wanted to hurl you off a cliff?”

“Just because you are called does not mean people will receive you. Have you ever become tired of trying to free those who do not want to be free?” she asked.

Carolyn pointed out that while everyone may not receive the message, someone may receive it.

“We are not to grow weary in well doing. Not everyone will applaud when we ring the bell of freedom, but we need to ring the bell.

“You are called, but the call is to more than you” she said, pointing around the room: “It’s to you, and you, and you, and you.

“There are good days and bad days, but we are still called. Dark times do not mean God has forsaken us,” she said. “We need to do what we can do. The rest is God’s task.”

Carolyn said King also wrestled with his mortality and with people. The people of Atlanta said they couldn’t do what was happening in Alabama and other parts of the country, where people were set free to eat at lunch counters and shop, but because the people of Alabama became free, the



Carolyn Gordon speaks at the King commemorative service.

people of Atlanta did, too.

“We see the pretty part with the March on Washington and the dream speech. We do not see the threats that kept King up at night, worried about protecting his family or how the FBI tried to tear up his family,” she said.

“We do not see how he had to sneak out so he would not be lynched. He was always in danger. In New York, he was stabbed with a letter opener and barely survived.

“It’s like those who were going to kill Jesus because they did not like his sermon. Through Jesus’ example of walking out through the crowd, he encourages us not to be afraid,” Carolyn said.

Harriet Tubman said, “I saved 1,000 from slavery, but I would have saved another 1,000 if they had known they were slaves.”

“Some people do not want to be free and are mad if others are free,” Carolyn said.

“We allow fear to tie us up in captivity. It’s hard to be free. Don’t give up. We need to celebrate the 1,000 saved” she continued.

“If I can say I rang the bell because God told me, don’t worry about being satisfied or being alone. If I ring the bell, and you ring the bell, and you, and you, and you will ring the bell.”

In England, people rang church bells to form community, to call people to worship, to notify of strife or if someone needed help.

“Churches ring their bells collectively as a call to worship and to community. One bell may not be heard, but as all ring their

bells, the bells are heard through the land. Bell ringers all over the world are ringing the bell for freedom and justice, a symphony of bells,” Carolyn said.

“You may be discouraged and tired, but the call of God is not once,” she said. “When we are tired of one call, God has a new call. When we call people to be free, we do not decide who will be set free.”

Today, many African-Americans can go to the best restaurants or fly first class, but “we are still not all free.”

Carolyn said she grew up believing that women were not to preach.

“I was okay with it. I did not want to preach, but then I realized I was called to preach in a church that told women they were not to preach,” she said.

Carolyn is ordained in the Southern Baptist and National Baptist churches.

She was called to teach at a school and was shaken that university level people were still arguing over whether God called women to preach.

“We’re doing it,” she said. “In the midst of my righteous indignation, it was amazing to hear scriptures to think of others who are captives. We do not think churches are captives.

“What are you still captive about?” she asked.

For every freedom gained, she said someone sat at a table and argued on behalf of the person needing to be freed.

“For whom will you sit at the table and speak? We are not called



Marchers line up for Martin Luther King Jr. Day March that extended from the Convention Center to River Park Square.



2014 march included many more children than previous years.

to fight every battle. You may fight the battle for homosexuals. Churches can’t escape that discussion. Someone else may build ramps in churches for people with disabilities. Someone may work on behalf of protecting children of immigrants here illegally. There are still homeless people, still children raising themselves under bridges. Who will sit at the table for them? We can’t afford any longer to be afraid,” she said.

“Jesus walked away into the world to set people free, to call people back from death. When he finished his walk on earth, he found himself on a cross. That appears to be the end of the story, but it’s not.

He cried, “Why did you forsake me,” and then said, “Into your hands I commend my spirit.”

“It’s not over. People ring bells because Jesus went into death and into life,” Carolyn said. “Would we celebrate King if he had not died? King would say there’s work still to do.

“Until all are free, black, white, rich and poor, you and others have to ring bells until all are free. Don’t give up because it’s hard, because people are against you,” she said. “Let your bell ring until God says, ‘Well done good and faithful servant. Put the bell down.’”

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# Author looks at long-term grief in a culture that expects closure

*Continued from page 1*  
there until Krista's death.

The next year, Linda and Jim co-founded and she became director of the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship to foster international service for young adults.

"We buried Krista on her third wedding anniversary," Linda said.

A Shaker box with her ashes was placed on the altar at First Presbyterian Church where she had been married.

**Devastated after Krista's death,** Linda remembers being on her porch talking with God, not understanding, but wanting to keep her heart open to God.

"I knew no one is immune to facing difficulties," she said, telling of her brother's death in a car accident in 1962, "but I believe God walks with us in hard times.

"In today's world, most people have three days off work. For us, it was the end of a school semester. We had three months until teaching in September, so we were fortunate," Linda said.

"A month after Krista's death, our daughter Susan was to marry in Newport, RI. The minister made it clear, it was Susan's wedding, not another memorial to her sister," Linda said.

Then she and Jim went to Bolivia to help Aaron close the house and learn about the last six months of Krista's life. They went to the accident site. They listened to a tape Krista had made telling about her experiences.

In Bolivia, the words of the hymn, "Sorrow and Love Flow Mingled Down," came to her.

**"Our challenge would be to live** creatively with sorrow and love, because Krista would not want us to grieve forever. She would want us to live joyfully and vibrantly," Linda said.

She began to hear myths about families who lose children and to hear typical things people tell friends and family in times of loss.

People told her everything changes when a child dies. Some said 90 percent of marriages end. However, Compassionate Friends, an organization of parents who lose children reports that only 16 percent of marriages end.

**Soon after returning** from Bolivia, she wrote a 50-page piece, "A Terrible Beauty: Loss and Love in Bolivia." It was too long for a magazine article and too

short for a book. She shortened it to publish in UPS Arches.

The article also told about the Krista Foundation's efforts to encourage young people to be involved in international experiences.

"While writing this, I cried and felt close to Krista," she said. "I began to wonder if people fear moving out of grief because they fear losing the closeness to the person."

Being half Norwegian, she went inward. She put a professional wall around herself at work. Friends in the church and at Whitworth seemed to know what they needed to do.

**Pilgrimage through Loss** speaks of the need for both solitude and companionship.

Aaron took a year off to travel and stayed with the Hunts a while. Then he went back to Bolivia for four years and met his wife, Gabriela. They and their two children, the Hunt's heart-grandchildren, now live in Seattle where he works for World Vision.

**Linda said Jim grieved** differently. The first year, he poured himself into work and being a church elder. He took a sabbatical the second year. He found solitude backpacking with their dog for a week in the Olympic Peninsula.

Jim continued his commitment to introduce students to Central America.

While in Ecuador for an international service learning conference, he met a woman on the bus from Quito to Machu Pichu. When he learned she, too, had lost a 25-year-old daughter in a bus accident, he broke bread with her.

**"Our loss immerses us** in international ties. Suffering happens to many," Linda said.

"Through history and international affairs, we are aware of the depth of suffering of people around the world who lose their homes and countries, who are refugees in Syria and Africa, who have seen violence or lost family to violence, who lose children, who suffer health and a multitude of other losses.

"We lost Krista. We treasure that we had her for 25 years," she said.

**International experiences** are important to the Hunts.

With Whitworth programs, she and Jim had visited Berlin,

Mexico City and Spain. This spring, she and Jim will spend in Costa Rica, where he will teach five weeks at Whitworth's program there.

Krista joined them in Spain and joined Jim on a semester immersion trip to Honduras and in El Salvador.

Later when Jim took students to El Salvador, standing by the altar where Archbishop Oscar Romero had been assassinated, he remembered being there with Krista and grieved the loss of his dreams for her life.

Linda and Jim also went to Korea—to trace the roots of their adopted son, Jefferson—to Japan, Ecuador and the Gallapagos, and on a Barcelona-to-Venice tour.

**Through the Krista Foundation,** the Hunts encourage young adults to be engaged in global service in developing nations and in American urban centers.

Believing they need support before they go, while there and when they return, the Hunts decided to open a guest house to offer them and others hospitality.

Linda took down an old barn in their back yard and built a guest house, called the Hearth.

In 2003, she invited nine women to come there for a weekend as part of her research and story gathering for *Pilgrimage through Loss*. They had experienced different losses—one to suicide, one in a car accident, and an elderly woman who recently lost her son.

"I wanted to find out what gestures helped give them strength, renewal and resilience," she said. "I saw people I knew who lost children lead creative, vibrant lives."

**Linda said she and others** experience "post-traumatic growth."

"Several said they long to hear their children's name, but at family reunions, people do not want to say their names," she said.

Linda suggested ideas for people who want to help—friends, family and caring professionals.

For example, she said, religious clichés, such as saying the person "is in a better place," may be counterproductive.

She interviewed 30 people for the book, sharing their wisdom and current research such as on the myth about divorce, ideas about male and female approaches, and closure as a cultural cliché arising from Elizabeth Kubler-

Ross' description of five stages of grief.

"We don't need closure but can live with 'forever love' in a culture that expects peace and healing in three months," Linda said.

**"The 12 pathways I offer** to renewal—such as solitude, nature, work and forgiving—are not a prescription," she said. "My goal is to spark people's imagination, to share stories and think together how to be strong after a devastating loss.

"Often we do not see that under great sorrow is great love, energizing people for future creativity and experience. The pain is

strong. If people who lose children tap into their lives, it can be an energizing force in time," said Linda. "Everyone's timetable is different depending on the loss. Parents need to trust themselves.

"They also need a companion," she said. "I hope the book can be one companion.

**"Faith is important** in my journey, particularly the community of faith," Linda said. "I have been deeply blessed with friendships. Love from faith nourishes us."

For information, call 467-0478 or email [lhunt@whitworth.edu](mailto:lhunt@whitworth.edu).

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## Churches as conscience keepers of society confront injustice, violence

Now that those of us who attended the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches this fall in Busan, South Korea, are home, we seek to bring the call to life, unity, love, peace and justice to our settings.

At home, we again meet religious divisions, secular hatreds and political differences, but we now have stories of how people are working to dismantle culture of hate, fear, distrust, injustice and violence. So we are empowered to care, advocate, listen, forgive and reconcile.

Returning to help plan the annual Eastern Washington Legislative Conference was a way to do that. We gathered people to address wages inequities, poverty, immigration, environment, gun control, smart justice, police accountability and death penalty abolition under the theme, "Dis-mantling the Culture of Violence."

As we met, news of the day continued. Various peace negotiations are underway in the Middle East. State legislators build their agenda. Media cover pollsters. Enmities rage. Distrust continues. Fear abounds.

Even if negotiations about violence and weapons in the Middle East progress, and even if Congress or the President establishes new policies, we still must change hearts, minds, souls, spirits and relationships if we are to dismantle the culture of violence.

Without talking with our enemy and listening, we cling to animosities.

Without sharing stories of the human impact of losses and efforts to build solutions, we feed suspicions that block relationships.

Without forgiving and apologizing, there is no truth or reconciliation.

Pain, trauma and hate continue for decades and centuries, as they have since the

Civil War and the civil rights movement.

In the midst of economic, ecological, socio-political and spiritual challenges, we are to engage our God-given gifts to transform relationships. Congregations need to be communities of healing and compassion, seeding faithful living, so justice grows and God's peace blooms.

Worship, singing, prayers and scriptures reminded us we are not only to care, but also to free the oppressed, give sight to the blind, forgive debts, and overcome violence, oppression and injustice.

One assembly statement spoke of the politicization of religion and the religionization of politics. Globally, as well as in the U.S., that trend fosters hatred, intolerance, discrimination and exclusion. Divide and conquer confuses and silences, keeping those with economic power in control of

the "story" and policies, so they retain and gain wealth.

The assembly encouraged us to listen to voices from the margins to learn "lessons of hope and perseverance that keep us committed to liberation and solidarity."

The unity pursued in the ecumenical movement gives us tools to engage with each other despite our diversity, agreeing to disagree, but respecting each other. This is also true in interfaith relations.

As conscience keepers in our societies, churches have a moral imperative to confront injustice as an integral part of "costly discipleship" in our public engagement.

Fig Tree media and events invite us to recognize and respect our differences, to listen and learn so we continue to work together for justice and peace, life and love.

Mary Stamp - Editor

## Strengthening the economy remains top on poll of Americans

Strengthening the economy is still the most important priority Americans want to see addressed by Congress and the President, but urgency about our fiscal deficit has declined somewhat, according to the poll results on national priorities reported by the Pew Research Center. Results on a wide range of polling questions related to the State of the Union speech by the President were recently summarized on their website at [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

People have a To Do list they want their public servants to work on. The six policy priorities were, in descending order, strengthening the economy, improving the job situation, defending the country from terrorism, improving the educational system, making the Social Security system sound, and reducing the budget deficit.

Results ranged from 80 percent for strengthening the economy to 63 percent for reducing the deficit, down from 72 percent for last year.

Dealing with the economy isn't a one-item task, as can be seen in the overlap of

subjects people wanted President Obama to cover in the SOTU speech. (Love that abbreviation.) In descending order, these were the economy, health care reform, income inequality, minimum wage, energy, immigration, the deficit, climate change and guns.

My own list would include eliminating subsidies that have outgrown their usefulness. For instance, an oil company can eliminate its tax burden completely, while making record profits, by using the oil depletion allowance. Both President Reagan and President Obama called for its repeal, and the President touched on it briefly in his speech. A Center for American Progress study estimates that repeal would save the government \$11.2 billion over 10 years.

Extending unemployment compensation for a year for the long-term unemployed is supported by 63 percent of Americans. Some in Congress insist the cost of extension must be offset by cuts in other benefit programs. Shouldn't all *benefit* programs be on the table? Couldn't corporations feel

patriotic for doing their bit in hard times? After all, they are people now.

It is always time for reasonable conversations searching for common ground and fruitful solutions on all levels of society and government.

It is expected that a country as large and diverse as the United States would have a wide variety of opinions about what to do about almost anything. However, public support across the political span is 65 percent or more for raising the minimum wage to \$10.10, finding some form of legal status for illegal immigrants now in the country, and reducing poverty, which is linked with income inequality. It seems reasonable to expect Congress to work on these.

As our economy and inequalities worsen, I see similarities with the last years of the 19th century, often called The Gilded Age. As I have read *The Bully Pulpit*, Doris Kearns Goodwin's book about Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, those similarities seem sharper.

The gap between the rich and the poor

was acute. Immigration was heavy. The rich spent lavishly and indulgently with no awareness of the desperate situation of the poor, who lived six to a room in tenements a few blocks from their mansions. Low paid employees feared asking for a raise. Joining a union was a sure way to lose a job. Legislators were owned by special interests. The robber barons created their world of big business: big oil, big mining, big railroads, big banking. A strange version of Darwin's theory of evolution was applied to human society and called Social Darwinism. Some businessmen proudly identified with it. They had survived in business because they were the fittest.

Early legislative attempts to rein in excesses and to improve the plight of laborers were struck down in court as violations of the business owners' property rights.

Too much of this echoes today.

Let's hope Pete Seeger was right. "The human race is going to realize it's going to have to start treating each other decently."

Nancy Minard - contributing editor

Letter to the Editor

## Sounding Board

Reflections

### Letter

#### Poor need to have support systems

Just wanted to pass along kudos for Nancy Minard's excellent editorial in the January issue of The Fig Tree, "Often we focus on ills of those in poverty and avoid creating a fair society."

Your insight about the unfair judgment often placed upon the poor was illuminating and is something we battle to overcome on a regular basis at SNAP. Our antidote—treating all individuals with dignity while promoting our three core values of community, justice and respect—aligns with the points you made about providing the poor with the "support systems money can supply."

I'd love to talk to you sometime about your ideas of supplying those support systems. Creating increased opportunity for all of our neighbors is one of my primary roles as SNAP's outreach specialist.

Craig Howard  
Community Relations  
/Outreach Specialist

## Bishop emeritus offers reflections on call to ecumenism

At a recent Coffee and Contemplation series at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad gave an overview of points in Pope John Paul's 1995 Encyclical, "That All May Be One," related to the Catholic Church and the ecumenical movement.

The 2014 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme, "Is Christ Divided?" suggests that at times the church is polarized, he said, but ecumenical and interreligious relationships are essential.

The encyclical was written to prepare for the jubilee year, 2000, understanding that reconciliation arises recognizing faults, he said.

"It was a time for the Catholic Church to ask for forgiveness and to work to be more Christ like," he said, noting that more is happening since Pope Francis became pope in 2013.

Bishop Skylstad, who now leads Marriage Encounter and retreats for sisters and priests, said the introduction to the encyclical offers the theology and spirituality of ecumenism. It reminds that Vatican II calls for Christian unity.

"It calls for new vigor and progress in theology and for purification of memories, because as a church we were once standoffish to Protestants," said Bishop Skylstad.

That, however, was not his experience, growing up in a world of non-Catholics in the Methow Valley. His grade school setting was ecumenical with few Catholics.

Bishop Skylstad quoted Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, who said, "We need to be ecumenical because Christ loved everyone. We need to work together with other churches."

On Pope John Paul's 40 trips around the world, he met with ecumenical and interreligious

communities. He developed a special relationship with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Both respected each other as theologians.

Chapter 1 of the encyclical says, "God's purpose is to gather all in unity." It uses Ezekiel 16, telling that putting two stacks of sticks together is stronger, like the many strands in a rope. The Gospel of John says Jesus died for all and wanted all to be together as one.

"In Catholic theology, we are all made in the image of God. Each is made like a unique part of God," Bishop Skylstad said. "Ephesians 2 said Jesus reconciled all nations to God, so we need to reconcile all people."

"Chapter 1 also calls for unity of the divided humanity. Divisions are contrary to Christ's desire and a stumbling block to the world," he said, noting that many years of politically based conflict have spilled into religion and damaged preaching, as people see preachers preaching "a nice word" but not living it.

"The way of ecumenism is the way of Christ," he said. Cardinal Caspar said Jesus' prayer was a call to conversion and renewal.

"To believe in Jesus means to desire unity in institutions, because institutions—like government—help us lay hands on life and make things operate," Bishop Skylstad said.

"To desire unity means to desire communion," he said. One bishop said that after Jesus told the disciples to distribute loaves and fishes, "people, who had come as a *crowd*, left as a *people*. We as the church are to be people. Divisions in the U.S. make us a crowd."

Vatican II called for recognizing and appreciating the gifts of others.

"That means Catholics may admire Mormons' sense of family and Protestants' focus on God's

Word," Bishop Skylstad said. Since Vatican II, Catholics began to follow the three-year cycle of liturgical readings with three scripture readings, not just two scriptures in a one-year cycle.

"That has given us more exposure to the Scriptures," he said. "That's how gifts of others can touch us."

The encyclical speaks of the primacy of prayer, because common prayer brings Christians together, along with fellowship, such as at Thanksgiving and Easter services, he added.

The encyclical says, "we need to think about dialogue not just as an exchange of ideas but as an exchange of gifts in a mutual relationship."

"Dialogue presumes the good intent of others," Bishop Skylstad said. "Dialogue examines the vertical dialogue with God, as a means to resolve human disagreements."

The second chapter of the encyclical on "The Fruits of Dialogue" is about rediscovering relationships with other people as brothers and sisters and a sense of working with and respecting one another. Catholic Relief Services, for example, works in solidarity with other groups to meet people's needs and serve humanity.

Bishop Skylstad sees the rise of community in small towns as preachers meet to discuss the common schedule of scriptural readings. He added that the Northwest Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the Columbia River Watershed also brought people together to discuss faith related to protecting the region's river.

When he was bishop, he attended what was called the Octet, eight Christian leaders who met for breakfast Wednesdays and became close friends, supportive of each other as they talked of the people and issues they encountered.

For information, call 358-7300 or 448-1224.



# Calendar of Events

- |  |   |
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| <p><b>Feb 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Documentary Short Film Screening and Dance Learning</b>, One Billion Rising, Lutheran Community Services and YWCA, Spokane Public Library, Room 1A, 906 West Main, 3:30 p.m., 343-5057, kgrundmanis@lcsnw.org, onebillionrising.org</li> <li>• <b>"Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack: Privilege, Education and the Vision of Achieving Inclusion,"</b> Peggy McIntosh, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3203, cbeck@whitworth.edu</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 6, 20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peace and Justice Action Committee</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Order Cinn-A-Gram</b> for Valentine gift, Meals on Wheels Spokane Benefit, www.mowspokane.org, 232-0864</li> <li>• <b>Native Project Healthy Heart</b> screening, dinner and powwow, Rogers High School, 1622 E. Wellesley, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. grand entry, 325-5502, NATIVEproject.org</li> <li>• <b>Gospel Explosion</b> celebration of Black History Month with Whitworth and area choirs, Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth, 7 p.m., whitworth.edu/heritagemonth</li> <li>• <b>Great Decisions Lecture</b> - "Food, Farms and Families: Sustainable Agriculture and Central America," Florence Reed of Sustainable Harvest International, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m., kfector@whitworth.edu</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pilgrimage through Loss: Pathways to Strength and Renewal after the Death of a Child,</b> Linda Lawrence Hunt, Book Launching, Auntie's, 402 W. Main, 2 p.m., 467-0478, lhunt@whitworth.edu</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 8, 15, 22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leonard Oakland Film Festival</b>, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 and 10 p.m., whitworth.edu/oaklandfestival</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"HIV/AIDS and Women in Prostitution: What's Human Rights Got to Do with It?"</b> Bipasha Biswas, school of social work, 207 Monroe Hall, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, noon, 359-2898 or email cvines@ewu.edu</li> <li>• <b>YWCA Racial/Social Justice Committee</b>, YWCA, 930 N. Monroe, 4 p.m., ywcaspokane.org</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grand Opening Furnishings for Hope</b>, 1905 N. Monroe, 10 a.m., 868-0062</li> <li>• <b>"Freedom Riders,"</b> Mocktail Movie Night, Unity Multicultural Education Center, Foley Teleconference Center, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 313-5838</li> <li>• <b>Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870</li> <li>• <b>Veterans for Peace</b>, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m. 838-7870</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 12, 26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transitional Living Center Open House</b>, 3128 N. Hemlock, 2 to 5 p.m., 328-6702, rspv@help4women.org</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 13, 27</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee</b>, 35 W. Main, 3 p.m., 838-7870</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One Billion Rising Dance Break/Flash Mob</b>, Lutheran Community Services and YWCA, River Park Square, 808 W Main Ave, Spokane, 3 p.m., 343-5057, kgrundmanis@lcsnw.org</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NAACP meeting</b>, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 7 p.m.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Feb 20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Our Place Auction</b> and "Alice" performance, Magnuson Theatre, Gonzaga University, 6:30 p.m., 326-7267</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Winter Waters,"</b> "Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty," D.R. Michel of Upper Columbia United Tribes, Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. Second, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., 939-1290, john@waterplanet.ws</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Awareness Night: "Abolitionists"</b> Documentary, Unity Multicultural Education Center, Foley Teleconference Center, Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 313-5838</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 21-23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women's Cancer Survivor Retreat</b>, Sr. Patricia Novak, OSF, The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 483-6495</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 21, 22, 28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Alice,"</b> Magnuson Theatre, Gonzaga, 316553</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 1, 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22nd Annual Friendship Dance-Powwow</b>, Northern Quest Resort &amp; Casino, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 509-363-5314, northwesternmuseum.org</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Veterans Cultural Connection</b>, Spokane Community College Veterans Club, SCC, 1810 N Greene St., 2 p.m., scvetsclub@gmail.com</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Black Concert</b> featuring student pianists, Music Building Recital Hall, Whitworth, 3 p.m., 777-3280, music@whitworth.edu</li> <li>• <b>Marriage Enrichment Seminar</b>, Kristine Maus, founder of Theology of the Body Northwest, "Authentic Love through the Eyes of God," Otis Elementary School, 22000 E. Wellesley, Otis Orchards, noon to 4 p.m., 924-1180, stjoeeparish.org</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Real Talk: Muslim Traditions,"</b> Gonzaga student panel, Foley Teleconference Center, Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 313-5838</li> </ul> <p><b>Feb 27-28</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10th Annual International Globalization, Diversity and Education Conference</b>, Northern Quest Resort and Casino, 100 N. Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, education.wsu.edu/globalization/, mthayes@wsu.edu</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 1, 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Les Miserables,"</b> Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 624-1200</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jazz Mass</b> by Dan Keberle, the Rev Janeen Steer preaching, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave., 7 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Fig Tree distribution</b>, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Fig Tree Board and Benefit Planning</b>, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon and 1 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 7-8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference</b>, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 838-7870</li> <li>• <b>"Rend Your Heart Not Your Garments: Journeying into Lent,"</b> Sr. Patricia Novak, OSF, The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 483-6495</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kosher Dinner</b>, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., 747-3304</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast</b>, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 7:15 a.m., 535-1813</li> </ul> <p><b>Mar 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fig Tree Benefit Lunch</b>, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 11:45 a.m., 535-1813</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Many of the cultural events are from the monthly calendar prepared by Yvonne Montoya-Zamora, human resource analyst at Washington State University

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### Upcoming Programs

**Women's Cancer Survivor Retreat**  
 February 21-23  
 May 16-18

Facilitator: Sister Patricia Novak, OSF  
 Pamper yourself and share with other survivors. Join us for a weekend of relaxation, rest, presentation, sharing and more. You will even be treated to massage and meridian therapy as part of this one of a kind weekend.

Limited to ten people.  
 Begins 7:00PM Friday to Sunday 1:00PM  
 Cost: \$195 - Scholarships available

**RSVP TODAY**

View current calendar of events online

**"Rend Your Heart Not Your Garments: Journeying into Lent"**

Sat. March 8, 2014  
 10:00am - 3:00pm

Facilitator: Sister Patricia Novak, OSF  
 Allow God to touch your heart as you seek a renewed spirit during your Lenten journey in preparing for the celebration of Easter. Join with others for this day of quiet renewal in a relaxing spiritual atmosphere. There will be opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Lent, special prayers, personal quiet time and sharing with others.

Suggested Donation:  
 \$30 - fee assistance is available  
 Coffee, tea and simple lunch provided

RSVP-(509) 483-6495 \* www.SJFOnline.org

## Peace & Economic Justice

### Action Conference

March 7 & 8

Unitarian Universalist Church  
 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

Friday, March 7 - 6 to 8:30 p.m.

free opening reception with local musicians

Saturday, March 8 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Keynote: Kristin Stoneking

Executive Director

of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, plus three education-action workshops breakfast & lunch



Early bird registration Feb. 1-22: \$40 general/\$30 member sponsoring groups/\$15 living lightly-low-income, students, seniors (add \$5 after Feb. 22)

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# Caritas Outreach Ministry relocates to Spokane Friends Church

Aware that their building sits empty much of the week—except when they host Family Promise families—Spokane Friends Church has welcomed Caritas Outreach Ministry to share its building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For 20 years, Caritas has been a cooperative ministry of 14 churches in Northwest Spokane, demonstrating Christ's love by assisting people in need with its food bank, necessities bank, and with energy and utility bills.

Caritas was first located at Assumption Catholic Parish, at Emmanuel Baptist Church and then at a commercial building at 2929 N. Monroe, near the south side of its service area. Now that it is at the Spokane Friends Church, 1612 N. Dalke, it is in the center of its service area.

In Northwest Spokane, people once owned their homes, but now there are more renters.

Pam Emery, the church secretary, Dwaine Williams, a trustee, Bob Walker, a volunteer from Assumption, and the Rev. Nick Block, pastor of the church and chair of the Caritas board, shared insights on the move.

**Pam is in the building** often as secretary and was key to the church's decision to share its space. For years, she has helped coordinate use of the building by Family Promise, to shelter homeless families every 12 weeks.

"We're on the same page with Caritas in wanting to help people," Pam said, noting adjustments needed in "little things" as Caritas moved into three rooms on the main floor and has its two large desks to welcome clients in the church's foyer.

In talking with Caritas' director Kaye DeLong, Pam realized there's a process underway to welcome Caritas.

"It makes sense to reach out, even for small churches," said Pam, who grew up in Spokane and began attending Spokane Friends Church with her husband 40 years ago when their children were young.

"It's not our building. It's God's building. We can so easily become possessive," she said.

Pam worked for a phone company for 30 years and retired 15 years ago. Since then, she has worked as secretary on and off.

When she began attending the church, two blocks from her home, she knew little about Quakers. She values the peace testimony, the quietness and the small size of the church.

"I like that we are to be in sacred communion with God constantly, not just on Sundays," she



**Pam Emery, Kaye DeLong and Dwaine Williams in the church foyer at Caritas' desk.**

said. "Quakers have always been about peace and justice. Caritas feeds the hungry, and that's part of what's needed for there to be peace and justice.

**Dwaine, a church member** since 1969, said the decision to welcome Caritas followed a Quaker process of discerning consensus.

The proposal came before the October monthly meeting. There was a positive response, but people also asked questions and raised concerns, he said.

"In November, we sensed the meeting was in favor of it and talked about it using 600 square feet in four rooms for storage in refrigerators and on shelving," he said.

"Distribution is in the front lobby. It's the area we use for fellowship after worship," Dwaine said. "We see it as a ministry of the church. It's an opportunity for us to volunteer, to talk with and be of assistance to people spiritually. We hope to have more volunteers from our church help with Caritas."

Caritas was struggling to pay the rent in the commercial space. At Spokane Friends Church, rather than rent, Caritas makes a monthly contribution toward defraying additional utilities and maintenance costs incurred by their presence in the church.

Dwaine and other trustees met with the Caritas staff and board to discuss logistics.

"Caritas is not just a grab and go service, but people go through an interview process, and assistance is based on family size, need and utility bills," he said.

Dwaine, who is a physical therapist, moved to Spokane in 1969 with his wife, Becky, a nurse. He grew up in Friends churches and served in foreign mission several times.

"We're committed to show

Christ's love through serving," he said.

In 1974, they went to Vietnam. Becky taught nursing. He was one of four therapists assigned to different hospitals in Saigon through Vietnam Christian Service.

They also served three years each in Bolivia and Peru, teaching Bible school, planting churches, training musicians and helping the church reach people. They served from 1980 to 1988, and were home from then to 1998. From 1999 to 2002, they helped administer boys and girls homes in Jamaica.

"Don't be surprised if God tells you to do something you never thought you would do," Dwaine said. "We did not go on our own strength, but we depended on God for wisdom and strength."

So when the church was considering having Caritas share their building, he said, "we sought God's lead. Coming to consensus is something Friends know by God's lead. If we disagree, we take it home and pray, then come back to talk about it.

**Bob did not know** about Car-

itas until he read about it in the Assumption bulletin seven years ago and decided to volunteer after he retired from a wholesale company.

Then his pastor asked him to represent the church on the board of directors because, he said, "Caritas can do more than Assumption could do by itself to

have impact on the community."

Bob also appreciates that Caritas is addressing needs year round.

**Nick, who has been pastor** of the Spokane Friends Church for nine years, has served nearly three years on the Caritas board and is chair of its board.

"Caritas looks at the whole family and provides food for several weeks to help them get over a hump without creating dependency," he said. "Clients are interviewed to identify their needs, because empty pantry shelves are symptomatic of more needs than food."

Caritas receives food from local congregations and Second Harvest, funds to help with heating from city utilities, individual donations and grants.

Churches donate food out of which meals can be made, because they want the people in need to feel good about themselves and gain confidence, Nick said.

"Our board does not want to do anything that would create dependency," he said.

For information, call 326-2249 or visit [caritasoutreachministries.org](http://caritasoutreachministries.org).

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**Linda Lawrence Hunt**  
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