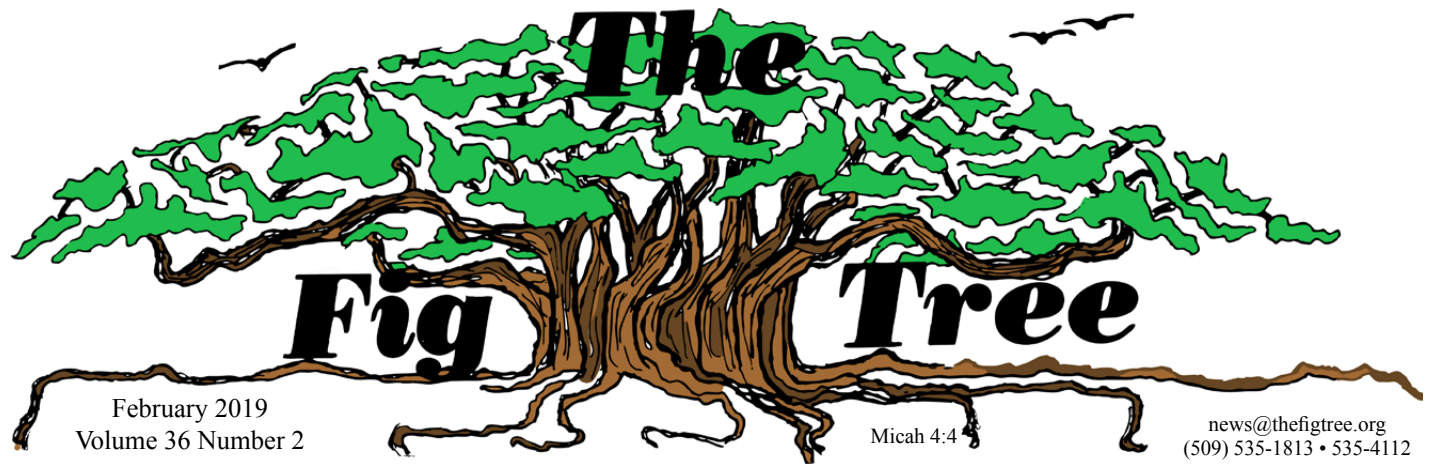


35TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Stories inside

- Couple combine interests in sports, oral care - p. 5
- Three bring ideas home from global event - p. 7
- Teacher of teens turned to meditation - p. 9
- MLK speakers, signs carry on the message - p. 12

CALENDAR ON PAGE 11
FEATURES 56 EVENTS



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

‘Every child needs dreams, opportunities’

By Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

Amber Waldref became the director of the Zone Project to empower Northeast Spokane children, youth and families in December 2017. In so doing, her life’s journey brought her full circle back to her roots.

Amber grew up in the 99207 postal zone, a neighborhood of working class families.

From her early days, she saw herself on a journey to reach her full potential.

“It meant even if a working class or poor child had dreams, the tight community helped him or her see and dream,” she said.

Amber believes every child needs dreams and opportunities to reach his/her full potential.

The Zone Project vision is for all children to be safe and nurtured, residents to be engaged, and families to have what they need to thrive, she said.

It seeks to empower children, youth and families to reach their potential by building on assets, sharing resources, and collaborating across multiple organizations and with residents in a “collective impact” model.

The Project focuses efforts on Northeast neighborhoods and schools that feed to Shaw and Garry



Amber Waldref returns to serve her neighborhood. Photo by Catherine Ferguson SNJM

Middle Schools.

“Northeast Spokane is a diverse neighborhood with many assets, but also many challenges, where 39 percent of children and youth—5,000 of them—live in poverty, where 53 percent of incoming kindergarteners are not fully prepared for school, and where 26 percent of elementary school students are at risk of dropping out by sixth grade,” Amber said.

The Zone Project works holistically to improve housing, education, safety, health and economic stability, she said. It supports children and families in a multi-generational approach to health, safety, jobs and education in partnership with organizations, such as Spokane Public Schools, Gonzaga University, the Housing Authority and Spokane Regional Health District.

“The community’s vision is to support children, youth and adults ‘cradle to career,’ which cannot be carried out by any one organization or person but requires the whole community working together,” Amber said.

Her life journey demonstrates the power of a supportive family and community who affirmed her dreams as a child and empowered

Continued on page 4

Pastors uplift appreciation for life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

As host for the celebration service on Martin Luther King Jr.’s 90th birthday, the Rev. Ezra Kinlow of Holy Temple Church of God in Christ said the gathering celebrated what “we are able to appreciate in our lives as a result of King.”

The Rev. Walter Kendricks, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church and president of the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, said King “was a great statesman, an eloquent leader and a civil rights leader.

“He gave his life so we could do something simple: sit on whatever

seat we want on a bus, sit at lunch counters, and earn an honest wage for an honest day’s work. He did not mind giving his life for the pursuit of justice—not preferential treatment, but justice,” said Walter, frustrated that in 2019, people have not figured out how to live together in harmony.

He read from Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you?” and the answer “to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Walter reminded that King said, “Injustice anywhere—in Mexico, Haiti, Africa, Canada

or the U.S.—is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The Rev. James Watkins of New Hope Baptist introduced the speaker, The Rev. Joe Wittwer, pastor of Life Center Foursquare Church, Spokane’s largest church. Two years ago, he heard Joe speak about “gracism” and knew he was reaching across racial lines to be friends with black pastors.

“Forty-five years ago, he was a hippie, but in 1978, he moved to Spokane and became pastor of the small Life Center Church, which has now grown to 5,000 members and has planted churches throughout Spokane,” said James, noting that the “elephant in the room” is that Joe is the first Caucasian brother to speak for the celebration service in 35 years.

Preaching on “Keep Moving!” Joe said the Gospel message is about reconciliation.

“God created everyone in God’s image, no matter their color, ethnicity, nationality, or language. Black lives matter. White lives matter. Syrian lives matter. El Salvadoran lives matter. God’s

Continued on page 3

The Fig Tree celebrates 35th year at benefits

The Fig Tree will celebrate 35 years of publishing the monthly newspaper covering “faith in action” and “stories of people who make a difference” at its 2019 Benefit Lunch and Benefit Breakfast.

“35 Years of Informing, Inspiring, Involving” is the theme speakers will address during the event and in a video, which will be prepared by Nathan Slabaugh of Slabaugh Media. Speakers are people selected from among those interviewed during 2018 and 2019.

There are 27 hosts committed so far to fill tables for the Benefit Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University. In addition, there are 30 hosts committed to invite people to tables for the Benefit Breakfast from 7 to 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, also at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga.

“Our goal remains to add up to five more hosts for each event,” said Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree co-founder and editor. “We will take time to celebrate the many people over the years whose work, sponsorship, advertising and volunteering have made this unique publication possible.”

The Fig Tree was co-founded by Mary and Holy Names Sister Bernadine Casey in 1984 through what was then the Spokane Christian Coalition to cover religion news in the region. In 2001, it became an independent nonprofit. Since 2006, it has also published the now 46-year-old Resource Directory to connect people with congregations and services.

For information or to RSVP, call 535-1813, email event@thefigtree.org, or visit thefigtree.org/donate.html.

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Meditation helped teacher of teens be able to manage their struggles

Because many of her 18 years of teaching were working with troubled teens, Mary Naber saw the need for helping them with anger management. She also realized she needed to be calm and patient in interacting with them.

That began her path to learning and teaching passage meditation, which focuses attention by repeating words of prayers, texts and sayings from many of the world's faith traditions.

She said passage meditation is "designed for the western 'monkey mind' of multi-tasking, distractions and moving fast."

"Passage meditation helps us change our lives, starting where we are," said Mary. "We don't need to change our beliefs. It's a universal practice that people from many backgrounds, traditions and beliefs can incorporate in their spiritual path."

From seven years of work with IBM in the 1970s in Northern California, she learned to repair typewriters. When first she moved to Spokane in the early 1980s, she did that.

"I was asked to fix the typewriter at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. It turns out that the Rev. Fuji fixed me," said Mary.

Involvement with that community reinforced meditation and introduced her to resources and leaders in the nonviolence movement, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi.

A primary resource has been Sri Eknath Easwaran's book, *Gandhi, the Man, The Story of his Transformation*. It teaches passage meditation. She has visited his Blue Mountain Center for Meditation (BMCM) many times in Tomales, Calif.

For the 11th year, Mary, who meditates regularly, is offering an "Introductory Passage Meditation Workshop" from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, from Feb 5 to 26, at the Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry St.

The sessions include video instruction, discussion and half an hour of meditation on words that embody a person's ideals to drive them deep inside their consciousness.

"In passage meditation, we choose passages. Easwaran has compiled passages from different traditions. He often start people with the prayer of St. Francis, assuming many are connected to churches," she said.

There are Hindu, Buddhist, Sufi, Gandhi's teachings, Native American texts and Kabir and other mystics' sayings, as well as many Christian passages.

"Our lives are shaped by our minds. We may become what we think," the Buddha said.

Mary introduces people to eight steps of passage meditation: 1) pick a passage, based on their reality; 2) memorize it to repeat



Mary Naber

as a mantram or mantra to steady their minds when they feel angry or agitated; 3) practice slowing down throughout the day; 4) have one-pointed attention; 5) train the senses; 6) put others first; 7) find spiritual companionship, and 8) spiritual reading from many traditions.

She said many who come to the workshops are in a hurry, but ready to slow down and focus their lives.

Her own practice of meditation 30 minutes twice a day helps her find peace and calm to make positive changes in stressful situations.

Mary, who is used to exercising her body as a cross country skier and runner—in November she ran a marathon in Athens, Greece, with two friends—knows she needs to exercise her brain.

In college, she had begun exploring meditation.

After graduating in 1971 from San Jose State with a bachelor's degree and in 1972 with teaching credentials at Sonoma State, she worked just three months teaching junior high before she began working with IBM for six years.

"I was idealistic then—and now," she said.

Mary took three months to ride a bike across the U.S. Then, concerned about the threat of nuclear war, she decided to enjoy life working at a ski area at Tahoe a few years.

Mary fell in love and moved with the man to Spokane. She decided to complete a master's degree in special education in 1985 at Whitworth.

While studying, she worked with troubled children at Tamarack Center. After two years, District #81 asked her to teach behaviorally disturbed teens at Sacajawea Junior High for a year. Then she taught math and science to hurting teens for about six years

at Excelsior Youth Center.

Next she worked at the district's Skills Center with disabled youth seeking vocational training—learning auto body repair, construction, welding, cooking, graphic arts, nursing and veterinarian skills.

"I felt valued and helpful," she said.

The need to teach anger management in these schools led her to explore meditation further.

While at Excelsior, she began meditating, realizing, "I needed to help myself to help others," said Mary, who also took classes in peace studies and anger management.

"I progressed from looking at the world in negativism. For years, I had gone to Al-Anon at least twice a week because of relationships with alcoholic or addicted people," she said.

"By meditating, however, something changed for me. I have gained a sense of the unity of life, moving from feeling alone, in darkness and hopelessness, to feeling in love. I didn't trust, and all of a sudden I felt I belonged and was loved."

"I still may get angry, but we need to take responsibility for our own ignorance and disconnection," she said.

Meditation empowers her to show compassion one-on-one, like helping a mother with her children, or taking care of her

90-year-old mother.

Along with meditating, Mary is involved in the Spokane Buddhist Temple. She explained that the Buddha's teachings on "the four noble truths" are sometimes compared to a physician diagnosing an illness and prescribing a treatment.

- The first truth tells what the illness is: "Life is suffering."

- The second tells what causes the illness: attachments to people, things and ideas.

- The third holds out hope for a cure: letting go of attachments.

- The fourth is the practice of Buddha's Eight-Fold Path.

"I feel connected to people now," she said.

"Buddha does not focus on what we do wrong, but on there being 10,000 paths to truth. Buddhism encourages us to question—to listen to what people have to say and see if it works for us and helps us be good people," Mary said. "Buddhism has given me confidence."

When she started attending, the temple had about 25 Japanese and three white members. Many of the Japanese had been in area internment camps, settled here and found community at the temple, she said.

"It was a rude awakening for me to learn about the internment camps," Mary said. "I have learned from their experience of losing everything, but not complaining."

Over time, more non-Japanese came to the temple wanting to know about Buddhism. Now there are only four Japanese people.

"It's not a big enough congregation to have a minister. We have three lay ministers and a supervising minister in Seattle," she said.

A few members know the language and keep up traditions,

teaching other members.

"We have learned to prepare sushi, senbei and other dishes, and learned obon dancing," Mary said.

Nine years ago shortly after she retired, Mary went to Spokane's Sister City in Nishinomiya, Japan and taught English to junior high students for two years.

Meditation also gives her strength to work for social justice.

Mary is also one of Spokane's Raging Grannies, who wear old-fashioned granny clothes and sing funny songs that advocate for social justice. Many songs are take-offs on familiar songs.

"I feel I make a difference as a Raging Granny," she said of the group that includes 12 others. She is also involved with the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane.

Through PJALS she also does nonviolence training for people willing to be a nonviolent presence at Pride Parades, Planned Parenthood, Unity in the Community, and protests about coal trains and other peace and justice issues.

Mary has also experienced the value of intercultural connections through her many years of involvement with the Fall Folk Festival. As volunteer coordinator, she has learned about and helped connect people with the different cultures in Spokane. She has also encouraged people to connect with their own cultural heritages.

"The festival is a way to let people meet people of different cultures and discover they are like them," she said.

Through meditation, social justice work or intercultural awareness, Mary feels she has found her true self.

For information, call 570-6876 or visit bmcm.org, spokanebuddhisttemple.org.

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Nonprofits and faith organizations step up to assist in times of need

Many people, nonprofits, agencies, programs and faith communities in the “servant” sector were stepping up to do what they do in emergencies—helping people through tough times—when the shutdown ended temporarily.

Many public servants, who are part of the infrastructure of helping the country function, were facing need for help through the shutdown. Federal government employees face missed paychecks and public assistance beneficiaries faced cuts.

In a late January press release, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington announced it was ready to support those in the region affected by the shutdown, from “TSA agents at the Spokane International Airport

to forest services in Okanogan County, public servants who work every day to keep people and the environment safe.”

Missing paychecks, working and furloughed government employees had to decide what to pay—mortgages, rent, utility bills, medicines, food and other necessities.

Rob McCann, president of Catholic Charities, said the shutdown of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Agriculture Department, which operates SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, “puts thousands of our vulnerable neighbors at risk of homelessness and hunger.”

Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Goodwill, community centers, outreach

ministry centers, food banks and faith communities are in place, as always, to make sure everyone has basics they need—housing, food and companionship. How long could they have helped without affecting their ongoing outreach?

Catholic Charities’ Emergency Assistance can help with one-time housing, utility or fuel bills. It could assist with tenants’ rights to help negotiate with landlords, as can the Tenants Union. Food banks were already helping families of federal employees and families on SNAP with food. Through more than 250 food pantries, meal sites and partners, Second Harvest helps feed people in need and was ready to assist those struggling in the shutdown.

With added demand for services in this time of increased need, nonprofit agencies need additional financial donations and volunteer assistance.

As we heard voices of people in the indigenous people’s, women’s and Martin Luther King Jr. marches, it’s up to us to speak out, advocate for justice, love people and serve those in need in our families and communities. We advocate because government infrastructure has a crucial role in our lives, and the people in charge of running it day-to-day are public servants.

A question is: Do we want shutdowns or states of emergency to be the way the federal government makes policies?

Mary Stamp - editor



‘We exist. We resist. We rise.’ Indigenous speakers share values

“We exist. We resist. We rise,” said a message carried by several among the 400 in the Jan. 18 Indigenous People’s March in Spokane as they walked from The Gathering Place by City Hall to the bridge beside the fountain in Riverfront Park.

Excerpts of comments by several of the speakers are included here.

David Brown Eagle, an enrolled citizen of the Spokane Tribe of Indians, said it’s easy to wait for someone else to act, but “we need to be willing to act. For us to make change, we need to be there as individuals and collectively. We need to care about the whole planet,” he said, wondering what the world will be like for his two great grandsons and telling them to prepare for their future.



David also shared an insight from his grandmother. He said he used to hate whites, blacks, Mexicans, halfbloods, full-bloods. “I hated everyone and everything because I hated myself for doing what my parents and grandparents taught me not to do,” he said. “If you want to hate me, I understand hate, but today I can I love you.”

His grandmother told him, “There is no hell, but if there is, you’re living it. What you do creates stories and stories can elevate us to heaven. If there is heaven, it’s here. If you want to walk in hell, hate. If you love and forgive, your life is heaven.”

James Pakootas of the Colville Confederated Tribes said he had been overcoming influences of having a father in prison, abuse and being separated from his heritage until his mother married a man who helped him connect to “who I am,” by teaching him his traditions. “I have been empowered by finding my language, ways and culture,” he said.

“We here today are proof that 500 years of genocide and assimilation have not worked, I have survived traumas and my people have survived traumas,” said James, who began learning his language in the last two years. “Now I can say in my own language that I come from strong people, seven generations back and seven generations back before that.”

Now two years in recovery, he works at the Healing Lodge in Spokane with youth who have lost their ways. James is a motivational speaker. For information on his work, visit www.jamespakootas.com.

Angeline Tomeo Sam was humbled by the number of people in the march. “We still are. We are here. We are not

going anywhere. We have been here. We are staying here,” said Angeline.

Angeline, who works for the Bail Project, marched for people locked up in jails away from their families and communities before their trials even though they are innocent. That’s more likely for native people, she said, because their bail is many times higher than bail for whites.

She is grateful for those whose minds are changing.

“We are the change,” she said. “I am grateful for my indigenous ways, morals and ideals.”

Shelly Boyd of the Snaycktx Arrow Lakes Band of Indians living at Inchelium on the Colville Confederated Tribes Reservation, called forward women wearing ribbon skirts to stand with her to remember missing and murdered indigenous women.



“The Arrow Lakes Snaycktx Nation is still here,” she said. “It’s a miracle.”

She challenged consumerism, quoting writer Winona LaDuke, who said, “We are ‘drinking the koolaid’ as consumer people,” observing that if all the world consumed like the U.S. it would take six planets to support everyone.

“We need to remember that the world is greater than us,” said Shelly. “We are from strong people over seven generations. Stand up. Speak truth. Protect the land.”

Iaitia Farrell, a Lakota of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said, “We are fighting genocide, assimilation and pipelines crossing our lands. We are confronting the violence of the oppressor. We are standing together in solidarity for upcoming generations, fighting contamination of water by fracked oil. Water is life.

“Women, youth and water need protection,” she said.

Iaitia calls for solidarity in advocating that governments abide by treaties, not open public lands for oil, build innovative green technology and fight for a better future with clean water.

Tara Dowd, who recently moved from Spokane to Seattle to work with the Potlatch Fund, said that “as we have learned to survive in a colonized world, I am thankful for allies.”



She also urged native people to be counted in the 2020 census, in order to be seen, “so we are not an invisible race, but are seen as being alive and here to stay,” she said.

“No one in the world can empower us. We are powerful people who have experienced atrocious crimes, and we are here. We are beautiful people. We celebrate our elders and those who have fought for our land,” Tara said.

Drea Rose, a member of the Spokane Tribe, said: “We are the answer to our ancestors’ prayers. I made a shift as I became an adult and have taken my place to live and teach the way of my ancestors.”

A year ago, she started the Music, Arts and Creativity Movement, to spread awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women. They met recently with City Council to propose a resolution.

“We painted our hands red and put our handprints on the sidewalks over the cracks to represent blood of missing and murdered women who are falling through the cracks,” she said.

“We have now changed the resolution to be for all missing and murdered indigenous people,” she said.

Deb Abrahamson of the Spokane Tribe said, “I stand before you with fourth stage sarcoma cancer as a result of the uranium mined on our reservation.

“I’m not the only one. Many indigenous people around the world are being killed off by ecocide, because corporations have taken resources from our land and left toxins,” she said. “So we eat, breathe and are surrounded by the toxins.

“Sisters and brothers around the world have parallel genocidal experiences because of what governments are doing,” Debbie said. “The second day in office, Trump approved the Keystone Pipeline. We can’t keep letting such things happen.

“We are one people. We need to fight, unify and be in solidarity with white allies to keep ourselves and our children sustainable, so we move forward as our ancestors intended. I love the land, water and people. They are the future for all humankind. We need to raise our voices.”

John Sirois of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), a member of the Okanogan and Wenatchi on the Colville Confederated Reservation, promotes salmon passage.

Motioning to the Spokane River he said

that “80-pound Chinook used to come here. The people relied on eating salmon. Tribes are working together around salmon, water and land.

“We seek traditional foods for our bodies. Salmon will help the economy and bring jobs and health for all people,” he said. “Treaties and agreements guaranteed our food sources. We need to support them. ‘Salmon people’ give up their lives for us, so when we gather to share food, we express our gratitude, care and love,” John said.

Every time he talks with federal agencies in charge of operating the dams who say it’s too hard or complex to restore salmon runs.

“Tribes together are planning how to get the salmon back and improve water quality. We need to write our representatives to uphold the rights of native people,” John said.

Donell Barlow, who is a certified health coach, said it’s important “to protect our health and not rely on the corrupt government or corporations for food.”

She said that “food is medicine and preventative health care. We need to eat food as medicine, grow community gardens and reuse food waste, rather than eating food shipped thousands of miles.

“What is our relationship with food? Will our choices build our bodies? Do we support corporations that poison our bodies?” Donell asked. “We will thrive if we go back to the old food ways based on the knowledge of our ancestors.”

Ingrid Sub Cuc expressed pride in being part of the resistance of indigenous people, no matter where they are. She spoke of the “ever-growing indigenous diaspora”

and called for resilience of indigenous people everywhere as they are displaced from their lands and made to cross m a n - m a d e borders to survive. “I march for the strength, resilience and unconditional love of indigenous women and for our Madre Tierra!” she said.



photo by Gen Heywood

Calendar of Events

- Feb 1-8 • Spokane International Film Festival**, The Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main, and The Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, spokanefilmfestival.org
- Feb 2 • "The Future of Interfaith" Panel and Coffee Talk**, Spokane FAVS, Origin Church/Interfaith Center, 5115 S. Freya, 10 a.m., 240-1830
- **"The Presumption of Innocence: Further Conversations about Bail and Incarceration in Spokane,"** Kurtis Robinson and Christina Kamkosi, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m., spokanelibrary.org/calendar
- Feb 3 • Moroccan Society and Culture**, Mohammed Boudoudou, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 3:30 p.m., spokanelibrary.org/calendar
- Feb 4 • "Blackfishing: Cultural Appropriation and Bias,"** Black Student Union, Monroe 205, Eastern Washington University (EWU) Cheney, noon, 359-2205
- Feb 5 • African American Heritage Month Lecture** – Austin Channing Brown, author and voice on racial justice, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 to 9 p.m., 777-3583, jroyal@whitworth.edu
- Feb 5-26 • "Introductory Passage Meditation Workshop,"** Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 570-6876, spokanebuddhisttemple.org
- Feb 6 • "More than Just an Entertainer, Athlete or Criminal: Invisible Stories of a Black Man in America,"** George Duvall, Monroe 205, EWU, Cheney, noon, 359-2205
- Feb 7 • "South Africa – An African Plant Sale,"** CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 6:30 p.m., 535-8434, tieg.org
- **Roundtable Homelessness Panel Discussion**, "Hope for the Homeless: A Call to Action," Spokane Valley United Methodist, 115 N. Raymond, 7 p.m., 924-7262
- **Spokane Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center Spokane, 2900 S. Bernard, Spokane, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 509-534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- **Meals on Wheels of Spokane Cinn-A-Gram**, order online deadline, mowspokane.org
- Feb 7, 14 • Peace & Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Feb 7, 14, 21 • "Diverse Voices Writing Group,"** Spark Central, 1214 W. Summit, 5:30 p.m., 279-0299, sparkcentral.org
- Feb 9 • Spokane Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration and Cultural Fair**, Southside Senior and Community Center, 3151 E. 27th, 2 to 5 p.m., spokanechinese.org
- **"The Critical Tenants for the Sphere of Dominance and White Fragility,"** Claudine Richardson of Spokane Falls Community College, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 3:30 p.m.
- **"Speed Faithing Dialogue,"** SGI-USA Spokane Buddhist Center, 1717 W. 6th, 6 to 8 p.m., 838-6518, onepeacemanypaths@gmail.org
- Feb 10 • "My Beloved's Voice: A Valentine's Concert,"** St. John's Music Series and Spokane Kantorei Chamber Choir, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 3 p.m., spokanekantorei@gmail.com
- Feb 11 • "What Does It Mean to Be a Strong Man? Exploring Men's Leadership in Preventing Violence Against Women,"** Jackson Katz, YWCA Spokane's GoodGuys, Hemmingson Center at Gonzaga, 702 E. Desmet, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 326-1190, goodguys@ywcaspokane.org
- **The Opioid Crisis in America,** Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m.
- Feb 12 • "Beavers and a Healthy Community,"** Ben Goldfarb, The Lands Council and Spokane Riverkeeper, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokaneriverkeeper.org
- **Silent Day of Prayer on Confession**, "Penance: Gateway to Freedom," Fr. Tim Hayes, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, kparker@ihrc.net
- Feb 12, 20 • Alma Woodsey Thomas for Kids:** Black History Month for Kids, 12th - Indian Trail Library, 4909 W. Barnes; 20th - Hillyard Library, 4005 N. Cook, 4 p.m.
- Feb 13 • Hispanic Business/Professional Assn.** Monthly Luncheon, Sabes Que – Alejandra Heredia, Mexicana Fiesta, 1227 S. Grand, 6 to 8 p.m., hbaspokane.net
- Feb 14 • Coeur d'Alene Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center of North Idaho, 4465 N 15th, Coeur d'Alene, 6:30 p.m., 509.534.4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- Feb 14, 28 • Showing Up for Racial Justice**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Feb 15 • Native Project Healthy Heart Pow Wow and Dinner**, Rogers High School, 1622 E. Wellesley, 5 p.m., nativeproject.org
- Feb 16 • "BlackKlansman" movie**, East Side Library, 524 S. Stone, 6 p.m.
- Feb 17 • Introduction to Buddhism Program**, Hotel RL at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr., 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 534-7954, spokanebuddhisttemple.org
- Feb 18 • NAACP General Membership Meeting**, 25 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- Feb 19 • "Ten Reasons Why the Science and Theology Dialogue Matters,"** theologian, philosopher and scholar, Thomas Jay Oord, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-1000
- Feb 19-20 • "Steering Our Lives toward Holiness: An Honest Look and Appraisal,"** 24-Hour Retreat on Gaudete Exultate with Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Feb 20 • Go Red for Women Luncheon**, Spokane Convention Center, 10:30 a.m., ahaspokane.ejoinme.org
- Feb 21 • Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience**, Veradale United Church of Christ, 611 S. Progress, 9:15 to 11 a.m., 926-7173
- **"Sultan and the Saint,"** Panel Rabbi Tamar Malino, Sr. Pat Millen OSF, Nezar Hussein, moderator Tracy Simmons, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 747-8803
- **Spokane Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center Spokane, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 509-534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- **Idaho's Role in American Racism**, Past and Present, Eric Johnston Science Center 233, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-3270, anitalewis@whitworth.edu
- Feb 22 • Gospel Explosion**, Seeley Mudd Chapel Sanctuary, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4568, sbears@whitworth.edu
- Feb 22 & 23 • 10th Annual Peace & Justice Action Conference**, "Building Beyond the Moment," Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. George Wright Dr., 6 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 838-7870, pjals.org/2019conference
- Feb 23 • St. Lucy's Breakfast**, Shalom Ministries Benefit, Rockwood Event Center, 2093 E. 25th, 9 a.m., 710-0204, healingpen@comcast.net
- **"Off the Beaten Path: Ten Years Teaching and Traveling in China,"** Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m.
- **Blue Jean Ball Fundraiser for Communities in School**, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 5:30 to 10 p.m.
- **13th Annual Viba Vino & Brew Scholarship Fundraiser**, Shriener's Event Center, 7217 W. Westbow Blvd., 6 p.m., hbaspokane.net
- **Baroque Concert "Handel's Journey,"** Spokane Symphony, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 624-1200, spokanesymphony.org
- Feb 24 • "Wide Open Panel Conversations about Israel,"** Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th, 10 a.m. to noon, 747-3304, www.spokanetbs.org
- **Baroque Concert "Handel's Journey,"** Spokane Symphony, Spokane Valley Church of the Nazarene, 15515 E. 20th, 3 p.m., spokanesymphony.org
- Feb 26 • "Thriving after Service: Veterans Living with TBI,"** Spokane Downtown Library, 906 W. Main, 3:30 p.m.,
- **"Finding York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition,"** Bob Bartlett, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 27 • The Fig Tree mailing and deliveries**, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 24th and Grand, 9:15 a.m., 535-1813
- Feb 28 • The Fig Tree Benefit and Board**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon benefit and 1 p.m., board, 535-1813
- **"From the Upper Room to Pentecost: Toward an Ethic of Racial Mercy,"** Flannery Lecture, Maureen O'Connell of LaSalle University, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 6 p.m., 313-6782, gonzaga.edu/religious-studies
- Feb 28-Mar 1 • WSU College of Education's 15th International Globalization, Diversity and Education Conference**, "Healing the Mind/Body/Soul: Community, Activism and Justice in Education," Northern Quest, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights education.wsu.edu/globalization/
- Mar 1 • March for Meals**, Meals on Wheels Greater Spokane County, Spokane Valley Mall and Northtown Mall, 8 to 10 a.m., 924-6976, gscmealsonwheels.org/events
- **"Winter Waters,"** Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave., 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., 270-6995, waltsoe@gmail.com
- Mar 3 • Opening Concert Bach Extravaganza!** St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th, 800-838-3006, nwbachfest.com
- Mar 8 • The Fig Tree's Benefit Lunch**, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 535-1813
- Mar 13 • The Fig Tree's Benefit Breakfast**, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 7 to 8:30 a.m., 535-1813

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 208-962-2000, www.Spirit-Center.org

Rally speakers, marchers' signs carry King's message and mission

More than 3,000 marched for freedom, justice and equality on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

In the rally that preceded it in the Spokane Convention Center, thousands listened to speakers remind them why they were walking.

Spokane Mayor David Condon said that the day honors the life and legacy of King, who inspired peaceful change as he called for freedom, equality and integrity.

In marching to promote justice and move beyond racism, he said, "We cannot walk alone. Across the city, state and nation, it's a day of service to give thanks for how far we have come since segregation.

"We need to commit to justice, with equality and integrity for all as we march," David said, recognizing the city is not immune to racism and bigotry, but that change "comes through continued struggle.

"We need to be allies because people continue to face prejudice," he said, announcing that the city has a new supportive employment ordinance for people with disabilities. "We need to embrace all citizens.

"Every day is a 'day on' to support those who are marginalized and victimized," David said. "We need to continue to live King's principles of all working together for humankind."

City Council President Ben Stuckart spoke by video, celebrating local civil rights heroes—Freda Gandy, Happy Watkins, Sandy Williams and Kurtis Robinson, leaders of I Did Time and the NAACP working to reduce inequities in the criminal justice system.

Feruz Tikue, a sixth grader at Grant Elementary School, read Grant's Dream, written by the schools Associated Student Body Cabinet. The dream includes:

- All people learn each day.
- All being kind and compassionate.
- Not giving up in face of ostracism.
- All having the opportunity to learn.
- Everyone appreciating others.
- All being respectful and kind.
- Helping everyone in need.
- Standing up for rights.

Kurtis Robinson, president of Spokane's NAACP, said 2019 is the 100th birthday for the local chapter.

"We will look at what it took to get here. We did not get here alone," he said.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People includes all of us. We are



Two boys in march share their reality: friendship.



Feruz Tikue speaks for Grant student body cabinet.



Marchers share the dream, call for doing what's right.



Faith is taking the first step.

for the advancement of all of us," he said, announcing that the year will be time to honor the lives and legacies of people who gave their lives and time for freedom.

There will be trainings and workshops, such as on "Why Race Matters" and on the "Bail Project."

Commenting on the "uprising" of women being elected in 2018, Kurtis said that King and civil rights leaders "took us so far along the long road, but we have a long way to go. King encouraged us to be steady and tenacious."

He reminded of King's words that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Stephy Nobles Beans of Whitworth University reminded those gathered that King was first a minister, then a messenger and

then a man who had impact on the world.

"Growing up in the civil rights era, I will never forget the man who made the world a better place," she said, singing, "Won't let nobody turn me around," and adding that "today, we still refuse to turn around. We are united as hundreds, thousands and millions march.

"There is much to be done. We all can be great. We all can serve by what we do to help others, to make a different community, to assure all are equal and to protect the earth.

"We need to keep moving toward others, to be neighbors," she said, quoting Joe Wittwer's sermon.

Stephy uplifted five points of unity:

- King's dream holds true that all men and women are created

equal and are to be treated with dignity and respect.

• His dream includes celebrating all cultures. It's not a black thing or a white thing. It's a Jesus thing that all are to live together as brothers and sisters or "perish as fools."

• His dream is about investing in the future of young people to have an equal playing field so they can be successful. "Justice plus equality equals success. We can't let them down," she said.

• The time is always right to do what is right. The time is now to come together in unity, harmony and love.

• There is power in numbers. "We may have differences and disagree, but we can come together to have impact by doing what is right," said Stephy.

"So I say—she began singing: 'We have overcome. We have overcome. We have overcome, today.'"

The Rev. Happy Watkins, pastor emeritus of New Hope Baptist Church, thanked everyone in the community for their love and for

working to "make a difference until making a difference don't make no difference anymore."

He recited the words of King's "I Have a Dream" speech as he has for many years in many community groups, adding a change in saying "Let freedom ring," from the mountains of New York, the Alleghenies of Pennsylvania, from Trump Towers in Manhattan and Moscow. "From every mountainside, let freedom ring."

He reminded that "the dream is rooted in the American dream," and expressed hope that "one day the nation will rise up and live the truth that all are created equal."

Happy concluded with the promise that one day all will be free and all of God's children will sing with new meaning, "My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty," and all God's children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, Democrats and Republicans will live together in unity."

For information, call 868-8056 or visit mlkspokane.org.

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