

35TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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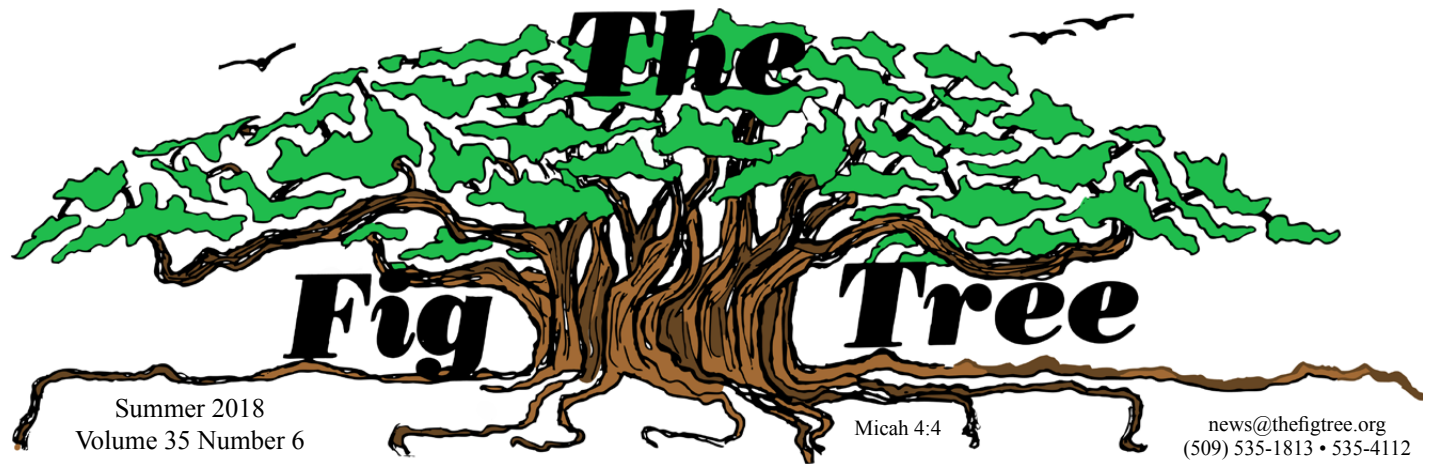
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Cradled baby's feet convey love

By Mary Stamp

When teens visit Ryan Kiely in his office at Excelsior, many notice a close-up photo of him cradling his baby daughter's feet lovingly in his hands.

He has the photo there as an opportunity to remind them that they are worthy of being loved unconditionally, as he continues to love his now five-year-old daughter.

Those who did not experience the love they wanted from their families still connect to the picture. It's still communicates they are worthy of love and respect.

"Then there is hope of healing," said Ryan, who is chief clinical officer.

In 2006, the summer after he graduated from Whitworth University in speech communication, he started working at Excelsior as a behavioral health assistant with the children's residential program.

He works there as part of his commitment to help youth heal from emotional injuries and advocate for trauma-informed systems.

Excelsior has grown from being primarily a residential treatment center to now having 80 percent of staff and services off-site.

"In the last two years, we have



Ryan Kiely shares love with youth who are struggling to find their way.

become the second largest provider of wrap-around services for all ages, next to Frontier Behavioral Health," Ryan said.

Now, in a given day Excelsior's 175 staff serve 250 youth and families on an outpatient basis and 30 youth inpatient.

"It's a major shift from historically doing inpatient work," he said. "We now work in homes and schools, and have 12 staff locations in the community."

From 1893 to 1910, authorities placed underage girls in Good Shepherd Homes around the country, starting in 1907 in Spokane. The girls were taken from brothels and unsafe homes.

The first home was where Northtown Mall now is. In 1959, it was moved to 34 acres in the undeveloped area of Indian Trail. The modern, 60,000-square-foot facility that was built is now the home base for Excelsior.

Until 1982, the Home of the Good Shepherd was run by the sisters of the Good Shepherd. Then, Bob Faltermeyer, now retired, became CEO. Sue Bell still works as medical coordinator, and Marilyn Pitini, as outpatient director. The

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Columbia River tribes in U.S., Canada seek representation at treaty negotiations

Leaders of the Colville Confederated Tribes and three indigenous nations in Canada have expressed their outrage at being excluded by the U.S. and Canadian governments from the re-negotiation of the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty (CRT).

When the CRT was negotiated and ratified in 1964, they were shut out of decisions affecting their rights.

Michael Marchand, chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, has worked with 14 other Columbia River Basin Tribes to have a seat for tribal nations at the

negotiation table.

On May 22, the State Department said U.S. entities joining it in negotiations to modernize the treaty are the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, the Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Colville Tribes and 14 other Columbia River Basin tribes have participated in the multi-year treaty review process, seeking a seat for indigenous people in negotiations.

"We are the people with the

longest and deepest connections to the Columbia River, the people who have respected and depended upon the river and its salmon and other natural and cultural resources for thousands of years," Chairman Marchand said.

The current treaty has also harmed the indigenous people of the Upper Columbia River Basin in Canada—the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwepemc Nation and Syilx Okanagan Nation.

The CRT is the largest international water storage agreement between Canada and the United States, holding back 15.5 million acre-feet of water for flood control and power generation with an annual value of \$3 billion.

The treaty has desecrated sacred, village and burial sites, cut fish populations and harvest areas, and turned a vibrant river into industrial water storage reservoirs, said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Kukpi7 Wayne Christian of the Shuswap National Tribal Council and Jesse Nicholas of the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Continued on page 3

Fig Tree prepares to publish Directory

During June, The Fig Tree is completing ad sales and designs, gathering final updates for listings, preparing the layouts for printing the 2018-19 Resource Directory in early July and arranging for deliveries over the summer.

"We will continue to recruit community partners to help with sponsorship and continue to make calls to finalize numbers for printing," said Malcolm Haworth, directory editor. "We invite agencies and congregations to let us know how many copies they would like to have available to distribute."

On page 10, The Fig Tree expresses its gratitude for the many years Marilyn Stedman contributed to the life of our ecumenical endeavor.

"We value our volunteers and continually reach out to recruit new volunteers to help with mailings, deliveries, writing, editing, displays, planning, benefits and our board," said Mary Stamp, editor.

The Fig Tree's Annual Board Meeting to review its production year, elect board members and officers, and make future plans will be from noon to 3 p.m., Thursday, June 7, at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., where The Fig Tree has its office.

Board members are Pat Millen OSF, moderator; John Wang, vice moderator; Lauri Clark-Strait, secretary; Kathy Sandusky, treasurer; and board members Nick Beamer, Barb Borgens, Mary Ann Farley SNJM, Malcolm Haworth, Kaye Hult, Kimmie Meinecke, Roger Ross, Wade Schwartz, Mary Stamp and Anastasia Wendlinger.

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

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Son's death sparks mother's commitment to work on behalf of veterans

By Kaye Hult

On July 7, 2011, Theresa Hart's son, 20-year-old SPC Nicholas Newby, was killed in Baghdad, Iraq by an armor-piercing bomb.

In October 2013, with the help of her husband, James, and friends, Theresa opened Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, a non-profit program for active military, veterans and Gold Star families.

Newby-ginnings allows her to honor her son and others who have died serving the country. Its motto is, "humble support and steadfast honor to those who served and sacrificed."

Theresa thought she would offer support part-time from her dining room table office. In the first five months, she was able to help more than she expected.

Her work allows her to talk about Nick daily. He joined the Army National Guard in 2008. In 2009, he graduated from high school and went through basic and advanced training.

He was deployed with the National Guard unit out of Post Falls in 2010. He was 10 months into his 12-month deployment when he was killed.

Theresa recites many statistics. Nick was the 4,471st U.S. casualty in Iraq since U.S. involvement there in 2003. He was one of 54 fatalities in 2011. This year, 11 people have died there.

Two months after she learned of his death, Theresa went to work as an RN for the State of Idaho.

"Grief of that magnitude changes a person at a cellular level. When I walked back into work, I said, 'I do not want to be here!'" she said. "Being Nick's mother defined me. Losing him defined me, too. I had to do something."

For about a year and a half, she did nothing. During that time, many of Nick's battle buddies called her, telling her of their struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and financial and relationship problems.

Theresa realized she could help young men and women who had returned home. Her mother came up with the name "Newby-ginnings." As Theresa sat at her kitchen table, the motto, logo and mission statement flowed.

The mission statement is: "With support from and in partnership with the community, Newby-ginnings of North Idaho, Inc., a non-profit organization, will provide, with honor, respect and integrity, essential items, resources and



Theresa Hart started Newby-ginnings.

referrals to area active military, veterans and Gold Star families in need of such services."

They provide basic necessities and common comforts. They welcome clean, functional donations, such as household items, furniture and clothing. They provide these free with no red tape or appointments. People don't have to wait for months, she said.

"We do this with community support through donations and fund raisers," she said. "There are no income eligibility guidelines. No one has to prove their need. All that is required is proof of military service. They can take what they need."

Since starting, Newby-ginnings has enrolled 2,325 veterans, active servicemen and women, and Gold Star families in the Coeur d'Alene area, serving 50 to 100 a day.

Theresa called Scott Thorsness, director of the Kootenai County Veterans Services Office in Post Falls. She asked him to refer people with needs and things to donate. He began making referrals to her.

For about two months, she and James stored items in their garage. They ran out of room, so they rented a 1,700-square-foot industrial unit behind their home. It filled within three months. Then they used a Dalton Gardens facility for two years, but outgrew it.

The next move was one of many serendipitous experiences she has had. It began by her wishing she had a box truck like the one across the street at Dalton Gardens. James had been using his personal truck to haul goods.

When a \$26,000 grant she wrote for a truck, tires and maintenance was denied, she was devastated.

Within a week, Molly Shirey called to say she was dissolving "We've Got Stuff" and giving her remaining inventory to us,"

Theresa said. That included a bigger and better box truck and the driver, Cedric.

One connection led to the next. Through the Coeur d'Alene VFW, Josh Scott of Maximum Exposure donated a wrap for the truck.

He contacted Riverbend Office Park, which gave Theresa a lease at 570 S. Clearwater Loop in Post Falls, where they have been since May 2016.

The nonprofit works with various area veterans' organizations, service agencies and assisted-living facilities.

"If a veteran is released from rehabilitation with a new knee or hip, they call us. We can give them what they need—walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, potty chairs or power chairs," she said.

Newby-ginnings welcomes new kitchen items, underwear, socks, cleaning supplies and more. Those donations go to veterans when they move into a new location. They may have been homeless or just out of the hospital. She wants them to have both a new home and a fresh start with dignity.

They are now having a "Stuff-Raiser." For every new kitchen item someone donates, they receive a raffle ticket for a patriotic quilt. The drawing is July 3.

Theresa spends about 60 hours a week providing this service—30 hours at the shop Mondays through Wednesdays, plus she attends meetings, makes presentations and works at home.

"It's never-ending," she said. "It's not a job. It's my life."

Newby-ginnings has a seven-member board of directors and a staff of about 50 volunteers.

"Their unselfish effort, caring and compassion for others is the lifeblood of our organization," she said. "They are a source of inspiration for me and for the

clients. We couldn't do what we do without them."

Theresa was born in Norwalk, Conn. Her father was in the Air Force 10 years. By the time Theresa was in the ninth grade, she had attended 11 schools. After his discharge in 1978 in Anchorage, the family settled there, attending Catholic churches for a while.

Theresa graduated from the University of Alaska, Anchorage in 1985 with a bachelor's in nursing. Her children, Nick and Nathan, were born to her and her former husband, Wayne, in Alaska. They moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1996.

"Sometimes, I still can't believe Nick is gone," she said. "I just keep moving. My faith has been challenged, but I wonder if God has a sense of humor, because of

the coincidences I have experienced with Newby-ginnings.

"I have an overwhelming sense of responsibility. I want people to appreciate their freedom because of the sacrifices made by so many to preserve it," she said.

"It is our job to live our lives worthy of their sacrifice, to live our lives to the fullest, to laugh, to love, to make this world a better place. Nick would want that," Theresa said.

"Newby-ginnings is the collateral beauty that occurred after immense tragedy. It has helped bring our local veteran community closer together. It has impacted the lives of thousands of people," Theresa said.

For information, call 208-610-6996, email newbyginnings4471@gmail.com.



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Bishop's wedding message on the power of love is for everyone

"There is power in love." Those simple words by the U.S. Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, preaching at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle remind us of our call to love.

At the royal wedding, he cited America's "King," Martin Luther King Jr., who said, "we must discover the power of love, the redemptive power of love, and when we do that we will make of this old world a new world. For love is the only way."

The bishop wasn't talking about oversentimentalizing the power of romantic love at the time of a wedding, but recognizing the power we have when we know we are loved.

"We are made by a power of love," he said. "Our lives were meant and are meant to be lived in that love."

The source of love is God, because God is love, said Bishop Curry.

"There is a power in love to help and heal when nothing else can," the bishop continued, making the point that love is about more than a young couple.

Jesus reminded of scriptures saying we are to "love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength" and then we are also to love our neighbor as ourself.

Again the bishop made it simple: Love God. Love your neighbor. Love yourself.

On that basis, he said that Jesus began "the most revolutionary movement of all human history, a movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world, a movement mandating people to live that love, and in so doing, to change not only their lives, but every life of the world itself."

Bishop Curry made the point that when love is "unselfish, sacrificial and redemp-

tive," it changes lives. He invited us to imagine a world, families, neighborhoods, communities, governments, nations, business and commerce "where love is the way."

When love is the way, no child is hungry, justice rolls down, poverty is history, we lay down our swords and shields, and we treat each other like family.

Bishop Curry recounted how the discovery of fire built today's civilization. He added that if humanity ever captures the energy of love—as it has harnessed fire—it will be the second time in history that "we have discovered fire."

He concluded that Dr. King was right, "we must discover love—the redemptive power of love. When we do that, we will make of this old world a new world."

Wow! The bishop took us back to the simple basis of our faith and many faiths—the power of love to change lives, families,

communities, nations and the world.

That simple, but we make it so hard, because we are easily caught up in selfishness, greed, lust, lies, hate, division, oppression, injustice, grief, anger, hunger, poverty, homelessness, war, racism and inhumanity.

There's a power in love to overcome the hurts, if we let it. There's a power in love to negotiate an end to spending trillions of dollars on nuclear weapons that would end all life on earth.

Love has always been radical and risky.

Jesus died because of love. Gandhi died because of love. Martin Luther King Jr. died because of love. They also lived to love and to spread love.

How are we living out love? How are we making love grow?

Mary Stamp
Editor

The Fig Tree stories are love stories, stories of people living in love

Love permeates what we do with The Fig Tree—sharing love stories.

Fig Tree stories tell of people turning selfishness, greed, lust, lies, hate, division, oppression, injustice, grief, anger, hunger, poverty, homelessness, racism and more into hope. They do that out of faith, because they love God, love God's creation, love people who are all made in God's image, and love themselves, because they live in love.

How exciting it is to edit The Fig Tree and share of a counselor loving traumatized teens, camp directors loving children and youth, a pacifist caring for God's creation, a mother turning grief to service, a young man stepping up to overcome racism and environmental allies in solidarity with tribes. That's just this issue.

Then there is the love of all connected with The Fig Tree to make it possible, love

exemplified by Marilyn Stedman and so many who have continued volunteering and giving in love for our ecumenical vision that we may be one in love, because God loves.

The many Fig Tree stories of people who make a difference are stories of love that compel people to care and act.

Loving the hungry and those needing shelter, the immigrants and those in prisons,

the thirsty, the poor and those marginalized by racism, living faithful and serving in community, working for peace, advocating justice, making mittens, stitching quilts, collecting shoes, reading to children, cleaning a house, chopping wood, sitting with someone who is dying, listening to someone's story—these are among the love stories in The Fig Tree each issue.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

For 22 years, Marilyn Stedman brought light to The Fig Tree family

Marilyn Stedman, a volunteer with The Fig Tree since 1996, died on Monday, May 28, at the age of 89.

One line in her obituary sums up Marilyn: It said that her "life was full of activities that blessed others."

As a volunteer, Marilyn Stedman said that her involvement with The Fig Tree Board has been the "backbone of everything I've done."

That includes the Girl Scouts, Japanese Cultural Center, YWCA, Museum of Arts and Culture, Whitworth Auxiliary, Covenant Christian Church, Junior League and reading to preschoolers.

"The Fig Tree represents an ecumenical vision," she said in a 2014 interview at the time of the 30th anniversary.

Marilyn said that "The Fig Tree has always been positive and I've always tried to be positive in my life. It has helped me and I hope it helps others.

Marilyn joined The Fig Tree board in 1996 and became chair/moderator of the board during its transition to becoming an independent nonprofit corporation in 2001 and for many more years.

Last month, she picked up copies of The Fig Tree to deliver to Origin, her church, and Unity Church near her home.

She has helped with mailings, deliveries, editing, hosting benefit tables, planning benefit events, doing volunteer tasks at events, making phone calls, assisting at displays and spreading the word about The Fig Tree.

She has spent almost all of her years in Spokane, graduating from Lewis & Clark High School and attending Washington State College in Pullman for three years. She met her husband, Dale, there. She had majored in recreation with the goal of being a professional Girl Scout. Dale worked with AAA in Spokane, giving her the freedom to volunteer with Girl Scouts.

Her involvement with Girl Scouts led to connection with Mukogawa's Girl Day and the doll festival, Hinamatsuri. For many years, she volunteered with the Japanese Cultural Center, putting out friendship dolls



Marilyn Stedman

during March.

Most Japanese girls receive traditional dolls from their mothers or grandmothers on their first Hinamatsuri, a 1,000-year-old tradition. At Mukogawa, Girl Scouts help put out the girl dolls.

Marilyn became involved with Girl Scouts at the age of nine, because of her love of the outdoors and because her father, a member of Lions Club that supported Girl Scouts, had helped buy land where the Girl Scout Camp Four Echoes is near Worley, Idaho.

"I loved the camp and was there the first day. My mother was a Girl Scout leader. I was a camp counselor and assistant director. I have led troops for my daughter, Cyn, and

granddaughter."

Marilyn also helped start the day camp program with Spokane Parks and Recreation in the woods at Valleyford County Park before she served as president of the Council.

"Girl Scouts, like The Fig Tree, has international ties. We have four international houses—London, Switzerland, Mexico and India," said Marilyn, who visited all but the one in India.

She has traveled internationally with Dale, when he served on the National AAA Board, going to Holland, Greece, Italy, Estonia, Russia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

In 1983, she took 30 Girl Scouts to Japan, where they had three-week home stays. While there, a Baptist missionary

pastor offered to assist the girls, teaching them Japanese.

Marilyn has had ties with Malawi, including sending a group of Girl Scouts with sports equipment on a visit and connecting with three Malawian Catholic priests, who studied at Gonzaga.

"It's important to try to know other people's cultures, thoughts and religions. We are all one under God," she said.

While the Whitworth Auxiliary was Presbyterian women when it began in 1912, Dorothy Dixon, who was daughter of the founder and secretary at Central Christian Church, invited Marilyn to the Silver Tea fund raiser in the early 1970s and asked her to join. Since then it became ecumenical.

The auxiliary supports international students, helps paint and make curtains for residence halls, and tunes the pianos in the halls, among many activities.

Marilyn appreciated its role in funding international students. She befriended several international students.

For many years, she and Dale read to preschool children. She read to children at the Bethel African American Church's preschool for 10 years until it closed.

She also read with preschoolers at St. Charles' Catholic and the Hearts & Rainbows Preschool at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on S. Ray. Dale has read at St. John Vianney's preschool.

Marilyn grew up in Central Christian Church downtown on Third and Stevens, until the freeway came through.

It moved to 57th and Palouse Hwy., and became Covenant Christian Church. More than 10 years ago, the church sold the building and moved to 57th and Regal.

Still a Disciples of Christ congregation, it recently changed its name to Origin Church, in the woods at 5115 S. Freya.

Through the years with the church, she taught Sunday school, was president of the board and was involved in the women's fellowship.

Her memorial service was June 1. Family have requested that people "bless" their favorite charity with gifts in her name.

Calendar of Events

- June 1-Oct 31** • **"Keeping History Alive,"** Museum of North Idaho, 115 Northwest Blvd., Coeur d'Alene, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tues through Sat, 208-719-0128, museumni.org
- June 4** • **Holocaust survivor** Nissan Krakinowski, 91, Spokane Convention Center, 7 p.m.
- June 4, 11, 18** • **Poor People's Campaign** Action in Olympia, 838-7879, pjals.org
- June 6** • **"Hello, Dolly,"** Benefit for Spokane Valley Partners, Spokane Civic Theatre, 1020 N. Howard, social hour 6:30 p.m., curtain 7:30 p.m., 927-1153, svpart.org/events
- June 7** • **Café Affogato** Community Day Benefiting the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Inland Northwest Lighthouse Food Truck** Rally, 6402 N. Addison, 4 to 8 p.m., 487-0405
- June 7, 14, 21** • **Poor People's Campaign** Spokane Rally and Report-Back, Tribal Gathering Place, Post & Spokane Falls Blvd. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., 838-7870
- June 8** • **Tour of Bunker Hill** Superfund Site
- June 8-15** • **Young Adults Explore Buddhism,** Sravasti Abbey near Newport, 3 p.m. June 8, sravastiabbey.org, 509-447-4459, office.sravasti@gmail.com
- June 9** • **27th Annual Pride Parade,** "Pride, Now More Than Ever," Downtown Spokane, noon, outspokane.com
- **Rainbow Festival,** Riverfront Park Lilac Meadow, noon to 6 p.m., outspokane.com
- June 11** • **Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus** William Skylstad, "Where Are We Going?" Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224
- June 12** • **Unity in the Community Committee,** Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org
- June 13** • **Hispanic Business and Professional** Association, Sabes Qué? Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, director of multicultural affairs, City of Spokane, Perkins at Division & Olive, 11:30 a.m., hbpasokane@gmail.com
- June 13-July 13** • **"Pictures of Nursing: The Zwerdling** Postcard Collection," WSU School of Nursing, 103 E. Spokane Falls Blvd., 324-7340, addy.hatch@wsu.edu
- June 14** • **"Rediscovering God's Magis** within the Silence," Summertime Spiritual Moment, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 448-1224
- June 15** • **Healthy Kids Day,** Spokane Valley YMCA, 421 N. Discovery Pl., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 777-9622
- June 16** • **World Refugee Day,** Nevada Park, 800 E. Joseph, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 209-2384
- June 18** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting,** 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- June 20** • **"What Is a Community Bail Fund** and Do We Need One in Spokane," Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, City of Spokane director of multi-cultural affairs, Center for Justice's Justice Lunchbook, 25 W. Main, noon, 835-5211
- June 20-24** • **SEA-TRI-KAN - Ride with Refugees,** benefit for World Relief starts in Kent, smsmith@wr.org
- June 21** • **Baha'i Fireside Discussion,** Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main, 7 p.m., sclid.org
- June 22** • **Silent Day of Prayer,** "The Question of Jesus," Fr Peter Byrne SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- June 23** • **Ride to Defeat ALS,** one-day cycling event, 1480 Coeur d'Alene River Rd., Kingston, Idaho, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 863-4321, als-a-ec.org
- **Spokane Tribal Series,** Spokane Tribal History and Science, 4th Saturdays through July, Mobius Science Center, 332 N. Post St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 321-7123, mobiusspokane.org
- **Fido Fete Celebrates** Chinese Year of the Dog, Spokane Dog Festival, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 535-0804, southsidescc.org
- **"Art, Crafts and Drafts,"** 2018 Kopanga Benefit of Partnering for Progress, River City Brewing, 121 S. Cedar St., 4 to 8 p.m., 720-8408
- June 28** • **Spokane Caregiver Conference,** keynote Wendy Lustbader, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 458-7450 x2
- **Time's Up Town Hall: Sexual Violence** at School and Work, Lutheran Community Services Northwest at North Central High, 1600 N. Howard, 4 to 6:30 p.m., 747-8224, lcsnw.org
- July 2-Aug 10** • **Mission Community Outreach Center** Shoe Drive, 1906 E. Mission, 536-1084
- July 11** • **Silent Day of Prayer,** "Philosophical Theory, From Intellectual Animals to Divine Animals: St. Thomas Aquinas on Human Destiny," led by Michael Tkacz of Gonzaga University, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- July 13** • **Evening in Tuscany,** YWCA Spokane Benefit for domestic violence shelter, Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad Ave., 6 p.m., 789-9312, ywcaspokane.org
- July 13-14** • **24-Hour Cancer Retreat,** "To See Another Sunrise: How to Survive and Thrive When Cancer Hits," Stage 4 cancer survivor and author Jim Morrison, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- July 5** • **Café Affogato** Community Day Benefiting the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- July 17** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice** Committee, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m., 838-7870
- July 19** • **Peace and Justice Action** Committee, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- July 20** • **Fighting Hate Crime** in Spokane's LGBTQ+ Community, Hemmingson Center, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, 8 a.m. to noon, 747-8224
- July 24** • **"The Global Village...How Do We Do It** as Church?" Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224
- July 27-29** • **"Accentuate the Positive,"** Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, spirit-center.org
- Aug 3-5** • **All Roads Lead to Hillyard,** Hillyard Festival and Hi-Jinx Parade, Harmon Park, Friday noon to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 270-1569
- Aug 11** • **Garland Street Fair,** Garland Business District from Howard to Monroe Streets, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 939-8970, garlanddistrict@gmail.com
- Aug 18** • **Unity in the Community,** Riverfront Park, 9 a.m. parade, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, 599-6669, nwunity.org
- Aug 21** • **Silent Day of Prayer** on Relieving Anxiety, "Peace in an Anxious World: How to Lower Anxiety and Increase Joy," led by Teresa Warren and Michael D'Estere, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- Aug 22** • **Day of Reflection** on Christian Mindfulness, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., "Practical Ways to Cultivate Relationships in Troubling Situations," led by Catherine Reimer, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- Aug 23** • **"Dig In,"** Catholic Charities, Historic Washington Cracker Co., 304 W. Pacific, 6:30 p.m., cceasterwa.org
- Aug 28** • **Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus** William Skylstad, "The Visionary Path: A Look at the Church's Path Here in the Northwest," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 p.m., 448-1224
- Aug 24-26** • **Gathering at the Falls Powwow,** Riverfront Park, 590-5044, gatfpowwow.org
- Sept 5** • **Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery,** St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave. 9:15 a.m.
- Sept 6** • **Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meetings,** 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, noon for benefit, 1 to 3 p.m. for board, 535-1813

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Devon Wilson says 'racism is about power, the power of violence'

Devon Wilson, chair of the NAACP Spokane Criminal Justice Committee, and member of the Center for Justice Board and the Coordinating Committee member on the state Poor People's Campaign Committee, was one of the speakers Monday, May 21, in Olympia.

The theme that week was racism. "Racism is about power, more specifically the power of violence," he said. "Violence has a sound. It sounds like whips cracking, dogs gnashing and pistols blasting. It's the sound of stomachs aching.

"Violence is unique because it's one of few sounds known to create obedience, and if not obedience, then silence. If you pause you can hear the silence echo across cells and cemeteries all over," said Devon, a 2015 graduate of the University of Kentucky in political science and psychology, drawn to Spokane by a family friend.

He has served as an intern in Washington, D.C., and as an aide in the Washington State Legislature in Olympia.

"Racism is division," he continued. "It's division through dehumanization."

He said those gathered at the rally in Olympia would likely stop someone seeking to exploit or displace a group of people, because it's the right thing to do.

Then he pointed out that those who exploit others try to convince people that their targets are "not human, but apes, savages, rats, cockroaches, super-predators or animals." Then more are willing to accept atrocities forced on a group.

An oppressor seeks to convince people to "reject changes that would improve their well-being because they might help that group," said Devon.

"Racism is whitewashing of our history," he said. "It's being told that only great men from great families of great wealth are the ones who can change the world," he said.

Devon added that people are often told that they are not powerful enough, not rich enough, or from the right neighborhood to make a difference, so not to bother fighting.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival over 40 days this spring has several demands.

It demands the end of systemic racism, demands to end the war on the poor, the environment and communities across the globe.

"I stand here today with only one demand: keep fighting, do it nonviolently, but don't stop fighting," he said in Olympia.

"Because we the tired, the poor, we the huddled masses and wretched refuse, we the people are the engine that drives this nation forward, we are the change we have been waiting on, and we are the trumpets that bring down



Devon Wilson speaks for Poor People's Campaign.

walls," Devon said.

"We have a rich legacy of leaders like Frederick Douglass, Coretta Scott King and others who have fought for what is right," he said. "They are watching us today and smiling, because they see us overcoming the lines of division. They are smiling because they know that we know the truth: Justice does not come, it cannot be beckoned. Justice must be brought.

"So that's what we'll do," Devon said. "Together, we must bring justice to the streets of Seattle. We must bring justice to the shelters in Shoreline. We must bring justice to the cells of Spokane...to all corners of this capital, to every city in this state and to every town in this nation until justice finally flows like a river and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

On Thursday, May 24, at the Tribal Meeting Place beside the Spokane City Hall, he led a rally and reported that several people went to Olympia from Eastern Washington on May 21, joining 200 others. Several sat on the floor of the capitol rotunda, "occupying" it. That day, 19 and a half—one woman was pregnant—were arrested on the spot, processed and released.

Two were from Eastern Washington. They are Shelly McLallen of Spokane and Rick Matters, priest at St. Paul's Episcopal

Church in Kennewick.

"It's good to know that white allies are willing to put their bodies on the line for people of color," said Devon at the Spokane rally.

As he stood on the second floor looking over those on the floor in the rotunda, he turned and behind him was a bust of Martin Luther King Jr.

"I remember when studying the Civil Rights movement, wondering what I would have done if I had lived in that era," he said. "Now I'm part of such a movement."

Introducing three speakers, Devon said racism is not just about black and white, but also is about immigrants and other communities of color.

Lili Navarette, who immigrated with her family in 1988 from Mexico City, was discouraged because she not only missed family and friends in Mexico, but also, not speaking English, met discrimination in Spokane. Now she speaks English, but still meets discrimination as a brown woman coordinating volunteers with Planned Parenthood.

"Our President's words inspire hate and harassment, so many of us fear for our lives. His words do not shock people of color, but demonstrate that racism is alive as they awaken a subset of people who believe people of color and immigrants are not important," she said. "I will fight, so discrimination will not be normal.

Our movement is growing bigger every day."

Sandy Williams, editor of The Black Lens, shared a poem she read last year at a march, remembering a young black man shot in the back by a man a white jury said acted in self-defense.

Her poem, "We don't see color in Spokane," points out that people of color are stopped by police more often. For every white adult detained, seven blacks and six Native Americans are detained. Half of the students arrested at schools are people of color, and a disproportionate number of students of color are suspended or expelled.

"Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are twice as likely to live in poverty and have higher mortality rates. Elected officials and decision makers are all white," Sandy said.

"Maybe Spokane needs to start seeing color," she suggested. "Racism is insidious here. We need people meeting in rooms to make decisions to challenge our lack of access and to speak on our behalf."

She called for allies to work with people of color to "make Spokane be the place we want it to be."

Alexis Gallaway-Tonasket, an organizer against environmental racism who is half Colville and half Irish, said being "half from two different worlds," she sees half of her family face different issues from the other half.

"Racism is more than a rude comment in passing. It is a deep dark secret in plain sight. It is that we forget we are all human. We all feel, fear, dream and breathe. We share the same sky, sun, earth water and stars," she said.

"If many humans are struggling with the system, it's the system that is flawed, not the people," Alexis said.

"We need justice for Native Americans, African Americans and immigrant communities," Devon said as the rally ended and many of the 50 who gathered chanted, "We need justice," as they began to march.

At 2 p.m. on "Moral Mondays," people gather from throughout the state for a rally at the State Capitol in Olympia. Some, but not all, may risk arrest. In Spokane, those who go will report back at 5:30 p.m., Thursdays through June 21, at the Tribal Gathering Place.

The theme for May 28, was "The War Economy: Militarism and the Proliferation of Gun Violence." For June 4, it is "Ecological Devastation and the Right to Health, Healthcare and a Healthy Planet." The June 11 rally is on "Everybody Has the Right to Live." The June 18 rally is on "A New and Unsettling Force: Confronting the Distorted Social Narrative."

Nationally, as of May 21, hundreds of people were arrested around the nation. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a leader in the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, was arrested with campaign co-chairs the Revs. William Barber and Liz Theoharis, poor people and clergy who sat in prayer on the floor of U.S. Capitol rotunda, resisting orders from the police to disperse.

They sought to deliver a letter to Senate and House Republican leaders, asking them to restore the Voting Rights Act, end racist gerrymandering and honor minimum wage increases.

For two years, leaders of the Poor People's Campaign visited 10s of thousands of people in dozens of states on a listening tour about issues.

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

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