Web News-Calendar Summer 2019 Fig Tree

Unity in Community is 25

The 2019 Unity in the Community, which starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Clocktower Meadow of Riverfront Park in Spokane, is celebrating the 25th year as the region’s largest multi-cultural celebration.

“It is a time of celebration and joy for how our similarities and differences make us a stronger and better community,” said April Anderson, co-organizer of the Unity in the Community with Mareesa Henderson.

Unity in the Community was founded in 1994 by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under Pastor Lonnie Mitchell in Liberty Park to break down racial and cultural barriers.  In 2004, AHANA (African America, Hispanic and Native American Association) under Ben Cabildo took on responsibility for continuing Unity in the Community.  In 2007, it moved to Riverfront Park.  Unity in the Community is now an independent nonprofit coordinated by April and Mareesa.

Participants celebrate and share their cultures, identities or communities.  It is also an opportunity to connect people to resources. Access to services, especially underrepresented people, is a vital part of our mission, she said.

Other highlights include free K to eighth grade school supplies, live entertainment and more than 100 vendors as part of the Cultural Village, Career and Education Fair, Health Fair, Youth Fair, and General Vendors.

The Cultural Village showcases many cultures in the region, including those of American Indians, India, Burma, Bulgaria, Turkey, Persia, Tonga, The Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, West Africa, Scandinavia, Germany, Hmong, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, China and more. Children entering the village are given a “passport” they take to each booth to be stamped to use to receive school supplies.

The Career and Education Fair offers employment and educational information.

The Health Fair has booths with information on traditional and alternative medicine approaches to health care with blood pressure testing, first aid, reiki healing, sound healing, chiropractic, hospice care, dental care and more.

The Youth Fair will include face painting, family friendly activities, large games, sidewalk chalk contests and more.

General Vendors include nonprofit organizations and others sharing information on their programs and services.

Vendor booths and entertainment will be in the Clocktower Meadow. The Cultural Village will be near the clocktower.

April and Mareesa, who have helped organize it for more than 12 years, said about 5,000 attend.

Believing that racial or cultural bigotry is about ignorance, and there is need to respond to diversity with more than tolerance, April and Mareesa work to educate people about the diverse cultures in Spokane through Unity in the Community.

From February through August, they work with a board of six and committee of 20 to plan the event.  About 150 volunteers help the Friday evening and Saturday of the event from setup to take down.

“We need to embrace our different cultures and walks of life. We need to come together to understand each other. Diversity and inclusion enrich the lives of all. Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance.” said April.

They prepare and distribute 1,400 school bags with school supplies such as paper, binders, crayons, glue, folders and more, and 300 senior bags for people 65 and older with 15 pages of discount coupons, water bottles, jar openers, stress balls, puzzles and other items.

“Planning Unity in the Community is a labor of love,” said April.

Mareesa likes a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: “Everybody can be great…because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

For information, email nwunity@icloud.com

Resource Directory goes to press in July

The deadline for The Fig Tree’s 2019-20 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources is in June, when final page updates must be done, layouts will be completed and editing will be done.

It will go to the printer to be published in July.

Volunteers are helping with ad sales, recruiting partners, editing and preparing for the mailing. In August and September, bulk orders will be delivered. Those wishing quantities of the Resource Directory for use by staff and to share with clients need to have their orders in by June 15.

Community partners who contribute $500, $1,000 and more will have their logo on the cover.

Among the community partners committed by Fig Tree press time are Banner Bank, the Sisters of the Holy Names, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Second Harvest, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, the Community Building Foundation, the Arc of Spokane and Washington Trust Bank.

As of May 31, $26,000 of the $29,000 budget for ads were committed, and $8,650 of $11,500 for community partners.

To join Resource Directory underwriters, call 535-1813 or email mary@thefigtree.org.

Camino pilgrims plan Mass, dinner in July

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Spokane Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino have announced the fourth annual Pilgrims’ Mass followed by a traditional “pilgrims’ dinner.”

The Mass and dinner celebrating the feast-day of Saint James the Apostle (“Santiago”), will take place at 5 p.m., Sunday, July 28, at Sacred Heart Church, 219 E. Rockwood Blvd. in Spokane.

At the Mass, people who have walked or plan to walk the Camino de Santiago in the near future can receive a “pilgrim sea shell” and a pilgrim’s blessing.

Celebrating the Mass and preaching will be Father Kevin Codd, who has written two books on his own experience as a pilgrim.

His first book, To the Field of Stars, chronicled his 500 mile walk from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the burial place of the Apostle James.

His second book, Beyond Even the Stars, shares the story of his second pilgrimage from his home when he was rector at the University/Seminary in Louvain, Belgium, through much of France.

Both books are written with humor and spiritual reflections as he faced the challenges of the pilgrim life along the Way.

During dinner, there will be brief talks and reflections. All pilgrims who have already walked, those who are intending to walk and those who are simply “pilgrims at heart” may share their “pilgrim stories and adventures.”

Donations are welcomed for the dinner.

For information, call 747-5810 or email kacodd@gmail.com or visit the American Pilgrims on the Camino website, https://americanpilgrims.org/.

Diocese holds congregational development event

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane invites congregations to send teams to the College for Congregational Development Sunday to Saturday, Aug. 4 to 10, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The college is a comprehensive training program for clergy and laity in congregational and organization development, said Susan Cleveley, canon to the ordinary for the diocese.

It is a two-year program that includes readings, homework, presentations, working in teams, the completion of a content exam and the completion of two back-home projects.

Because the college seeks to improve the way leaders function in congregations, congregations want to send clergy-lay teams.

Susan said the diocese is the third of seven U.S. and Canadian dioceses to adopt the program, starting in 2014 with a grant..

The eight-day intensive summer training draws people from around the U.S.

Susan became involved with the program in 2009 and graduated in 2010 as a trainer for this diocese and two other dioceses.

“It gives congregations a greater sense of agency—choices about next steps and sense of where God is calling them to respond to changes in the world,” she said.

For information, call 624-3191 or email susanc@spokanediocese.org.

Our Place collects food for summer hunger

Our Place will do its fourth annual Christmas in July Food and Fun’d Drive from July 1 to 25.

“Hunger does not end in the summer, but there are not community dinners like other times of the year,” said Kat Hartsell, development director. “People are on vacation and children are out of school, so attention shifts.

“We hope to bring in extra food during the summer when food donations are down, but need is up because children are not eating breakfast and lunch at school, or receiving a weekend backpack with food-to-go,” she said.

Our Place spreads awareness of the need for food donations by having Christmas-wrapped donation boxes at organizations and businesses in the West Central and surrounding area.

Kendall Yards and the West Central Community Center ran competitions to build interest.

“The first year, Our Place thought it might need to shut its doors in the summer because of not having enough food,” she said, “but we kept open with the donation of 5,500 pounds of food.”

In July 2018, the Christmas in July drive drew 20,000 pounds of food and Our Place served 850 families.

For information, call 326-7267 or email office@ourplacespokane.org.

Habitat’s Blitz Build is June 3 to 14 in Deer Park

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane has been “Blitz Building” for 18 years.  Every year, the Blitz Build attracts hundreds of volunteers from the community. The 2019 Blitz Build from June 3 to 14 will draw about 1,000 skilled and unskilled volunteers, sponsor groups, business and community leaders, and current and future homeowners to work side-by-side to build decent, affordable homes for families in need in Spokane County. The Blitz Build site is at the 1000 block of S. Margaret St. in Deer Park.

Michelle Girardot, CEO for Habitat-Spokane finds Spokane generous. She said Blitz Build brings people and organizations together “to build something greater than themselves.” While Habitat builds homes year-round, Blitz Build is an accelerated construction effort that raises awareness about the local affordable housing crisis.

The home of future Habitat homeowner, Janessa, is part of the June Blitz. Her mortgage payments will be no more than 30 percent of her income. Her partnership with Habitat includes 500 hours of “sweat equity,”working on her home and neighbors’ homes, in the Habitat store, and completing homebuyer readiness courses. She recently graduated from college and works to support her family.

For information, contact Lydia Duffy at 534-2552 or lduffy@habitat-spokane.org.

Holocaust survivor speaks at Chabad in Spokane

Irving Roth, one of few living Holocaust survivors, will speak at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, at the Jewish Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave. Born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in 1929, he survived the horrors of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.

He immigrated to the United States in 1947. His memories of the Nazi death camps never faded. He devotes his time to educating young and old on the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils of prejudice and anti-Semitism. He received a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and resides in Nassau County, N.Y.

For information, call 443-4116 or email rabbihahn@gmail.com.

Spokane’s Kizuri fair trade store has new owner

Kim Harmson sold Kizuri, the fair trade store in the Community Building, to Jillian Joseph as of May 1. When Kim and Jillian met five years ago in Rwanda, Kim said she secretly knew that Jillian would be such a perfect fit for Kizuri. After living in Senegal, Paris and New York City for five years, Jillian returned home to Spokane.

“The time was right for both of us,” said Kim. “I am confident that she will do amazing work. I am retiring to spend time with my first grandbaby. I can’t begin to tell you what these last 10 and a half years have meant to me. The support, friendships and conversations I have had have enriched my life tremendously and fueled my commitment to continue working for a better world. I will miss you all, but I will fill in at Kizuri occasionally.”

For information, call 464-7677 or visit kizurispokane.com.

RSVP Fair introduces volunteering opportunities

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Spokane County, sponsored by the YMCA of the Inland Northwest since 1975, will host a volunteer recruitment fair to connect adults 55 and over with volunteering opportunities in the community. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, at the Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave.

Representatives from more than 20 nonprofits will offer information on volunteering opportunities for older adults, like reading to children, feeding hungry families and offering companionship.

Justin Eisenstadt, director of the RSVP program, cited a study that said many people report improvements in their health, decreased depression and less social isolation from volunteering regularly.

For information, call 344 7787 or email rsvp@ymcainw.org.

Out Spokane Parade and Festival is June 8

The Out Spokane Parade and Festival will run from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 8, in Riverfront Park. More than 10,000 people are expected for the parade, which is followed by the Rainbow Festival at the park’s Lilac Meadows east of the Clock Tower.

There will be entertainment, a resource and business fair, a family area and the Odyssey Teen Zone. The celebration continues into the evening with an All Ages Dance Party and fireworks display.

For information, call 720-7609, outspokane.com.

Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16

The annual Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16 in Spokane. The Pillar Awards Show is from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, June 14, at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 E. Greene. The Juneteenth Celebration BBQ will be from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at Liberty Park, 1623 E. 4th Ave. It is an opportunity to recognize African-American history and culture in commemorating the official end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865.

A Father’s Day Brunch is from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 16, at the MLK Outreach Community Center, 500 S. Stone.

For information, email inwjc@ymail.com or visit inwjc.org.

Out of the Shadows auditions for actors, shadows

Auditions for actors and shadow actors for Out of the Shadows Theater’s production of “The Music Man Jr.” will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 26, at Lutheran Academy of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Rd. in Coeur d’Alene.  Out of the Shadows casts people with disabilities of any age as actors.  They are paired with shadow actors who assist them in rehearsals and performances.

Volunteers build and transport sets, manage microphones, serve as are stage crew, costume assistants and ushers, and do publicity.

The plays are Nov. 1 to 3, and 8 to 10 at the Kroc Center Theater.

For information, call 208-818-0953 or visit outoftheshadowstheater.com.

MLK center program like camp

Some summer opportunities for youth are right in Spokane, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Centers’ 10-week Summer Youth Academy for low-income, ethnically diverse children ages five to 12.

It offers character education to promote self-esteem, positive values and interactions. Activities also bridge gaps for students behind in literacy or math. Plus there are field trips and recreational activities.

For information, call 868-0856 or visit mlkspokane.org.

CALENDAR

June 3-14 • Habitat-Spokane Blitz Build, Deer Park, 534-2552, lduffy@habitat-spokane.org

June 5 • Interfaith Pride Worship Service, 116 W. Pacific, 6:30 p.m.

• Holocaust Survivor Irving Roth, Jewish Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave., 7 p.m., 443-0770, rabbihahn@gmail.com, jewishspokane.com

June 6 • Inland Northwest Lighthouse Food Truck Rally, 6402 N. Addison, 4 to 8 p.m., 487-0405

June 6, • Café Affogato Community Day Benefiting the

July 4 & Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane,

Aug 1 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

June 6 & • Peace & Justice Action Committee,

July 18 Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.

June 6, 13, 20 • Diverse Voices Writing Group, Spark Center, 1214 W. Summit Pky, 5:30 p.m., 279-0299

June 7 • Healthy Kids Day, Spokane Valley YMCA, 421 N. Discovery Pl., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 777-9622

June 7-13 • Young Adults Explore Buddhism, Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Ln., Newport, 3 p.m. June 7, 509-447-4459, office.sravasti@gmail.com

June 8 • Spokane Riverkeeper Spring River Cleanup, People’s Park, Sandifer Bridge Parking, 10 a.m. to noon, Garage Party 1 to 3 p.m., cforjustice.org

• 28th Annual OutSpokane Parade and Festival, “To Thrive, Not Just Survive,” Riverfront Park, 507 N. Howard, noon to 6 p.m., 720-7609, outspokane.com

• East African Night, Somali and Ethiopian cuisines, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 6 to 9 p.m., inlandcurry.com

June 9 • Filipino American Cultural Festival, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th,1 to 5 p.m.

• Understanding Guatemala: An Indigenous Perspective, Ingrid Sub Cuc, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 3:30 p.m.

June 11 • Unity in the Community Planning, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org

• Summer Barbecue with Msgr. Robert Pearson, “Divine Mercy on Display,” Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net

June 12 • Spokane Farmers’ Market on Wednesdays opens, 5th between Browne and Division

• Summertime Spiritual Moment, “Images of God: Glimpses of Our Lord in Events, Nature, Objects and People,” Fr. Ed Marrier, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 8 to 9:30 a.m., 448-1224. Ihrc.net

• Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Volunteer Recruitment Fair, Southside Center, 3151 E. 27th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 344-7787, rsvp@ymcainw.org

• Hispanic Business Professional Assn. with Walter Kendricks and Shari Clarke, Fiesta Mexicana, 6 p.m., hbpaspokane.net

June 13-16 • The Moving Wall: Vietnam Veterans, replica of Memorial in D.C., Medical Lake Middle School, 250 S. Prentis, 6 p.m., medicallake.org/vmwall

June 13, 27 • Showing Up for Racial Justice, Community Building, 35 W. Main. 5:30 p.m., pjals.org

June 14-15 • 24-hour Cancer Retreat, “The Cancer Adversity: Is There an Advantage?,” Jim Morrison, author and cancer survivor, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net

June 14-16 • Juneteenth Celebration see article for events

June 15 • World Refugee Day, Refugee Connections Spokane, Nevada Park, 800 E. Joseph, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,209-2384 rcs@refugeeconnectionsspokane.org

• Real Border Issues, Ray Ortega, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m.

June 17 • NAACP General Membership Meeting, 25 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com

June 19 • Juneteenth Celebration, Texas Chili Tasting, Human Rights Education Institute (HREI), 414 W. Fort Grounds, CdA, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 208-292-2359,

June 19-23 • SEA-TRI-KAN - Ride with Refugees, benefit for World Relief, fundraiser.worldreliefseattle.org

• Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, Spokane Convention Center, 325-6383

June 20 • Spokane Caregiver Conference, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 458-7450 x2

June 21-28 “Come to the Quiet,” silent, individual retreats, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, spirit-center.org

June 22 • Silver Valley Ride to Defeat ALS, Kingston, Idaho, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 863-4321, alsa-ec.org

• 8 Lakes Leg Aches, Lutheran Community Services Northwest Benefit Bike Ride, lcsnw.org/8-lakes-bike-ride

• Day of Reflection, Painting, Sacred Art, “Illuminated Manuscripts: The Word in Miniature,” Hannah Charlton, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net

• Cultural Day for organizations of color, Coeur d’Alene Casino, Worley, Idaho

• Daughters of Norway, 10 a.m., 926-8090

June 22-23 • Rally the Valley, food-vendors-crafts-art, by Spokane Valley City Hall, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, 928-9664, charity@thefamilyguide.org

June 24-27 • Whitworth Ministry Institute,777-3275

June 24-27 • Kids Summer Cooking Camps, Second Harvest

July 15-18 Kitchen, 1234 E. Front, call 534-6678, 2-harvest.org

June 30 • Faith Action Network, Spokane Spring Summit, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 3:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org

July 1-25 • Christmas in July Food and Fun’d Drive, Our Place, 326-7267, office@ourplacespokane.org

July 9 • Summertime Barbecue with Msgr. John Steiner, “Update on the Pope and Renewal of the Roman Curia,” IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 p.m., 448-1224

July 10 • Silent Day of Reflection on Carmelite Spirituality, “A Prayer Beyond the Beginnings: Journey to Divine Intimacy with St. Teresa,” Sr. Leslie Lund, OCDH, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net

July 11 & 25 • Showing Up for Racial Justice, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.net

July 14 • French Picnic, HREI, 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr., CdA, 1:30 to 4 p.m., 208-292-2359, jsaster@hrei.org

July 14-21• Eight-Day Ignatian Silent Retreat, “Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola,” Fr Jeff Putthoff SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net

July 20 • South Perry Street Fair, 10 a.m. to 10.p.m, southperry.org

July 25 • Summer Concert, Naomi,11214 E. Broadway, 5 to 8 p.m., 924-6492

July 26-28 • Julyamsh Pow Wow, Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Coeur d’Alene, 800-523-2462, julyamsh.com

July 28 • Pilgrims on the Camino, Sacred Heart Church, 219 E. Rockwood, 5 p.m., 747-5810, kacodd@gmail.com

Aug 1, 15 • Peace & Justice Action Committee Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.

Aug 2 • Evening in Tuscany, YWCA Spokane Benefit, Beacon Hill Events Center, 4848 E. Valley Springs Rd.., 5 to 10 p.m., 789-9312, ywcaspokane.org

Aug 2-4 • Hillyard Festival, Harmon Park, Friday noon to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 270-1569, shawn@hillyardfestival.com

Aug 4-10 • College of Congregational Development, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 624-3191

Aug 8, 22 • Showing Up for Racial Justice, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.

Aug 9-11 “A Sip of Silence,” silent retreat, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, spirit-center.org

Aug 14 • Summertime Spiritual Moment, “Life of Vietnamese Catholics Before, During and After the Vietnam War,” IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 8 p.m., 448-1224. Ihrc.net

Aug 15-18 • Veterans for Peace Convention, Doubletree Hotel, 209-3585, veteransforpeace.org

Aug 16-18 • Weekend Retreat, “Everyone’s Call to Holiness, Everyday God,” Fr. Anthony Ciorra, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net

Aug 17 • Unity in the Community, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, 599-6669, nwunity.org

Aug 21 • Santo Domingo Caribbean Dinner, HREI, 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr., CdA, 6 to 9 p.m., 208-292-2359, jsaster@hrei.org

Aug 22 • “Dig In,” Catholic Charities, Historic Washington Cracker Co., 304 W. Pacific, 6 p.m., cceasternwa.org

Aug 23-25 • Gathering at the Falls Powwow, Riverfront Park Lilac Bowl, 590-5044, visitspokane.com/events/summer-events/gathering-at-the-falls-powwow/

Aug 26 • Out of the Shadows Theater auditions, Lutheran Academy of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CdA, 208-818-0953

Aug 27 • Summertime Barbecue with Fr. Joe Weitensteiner, “Morningstar Boys Ranch: First 50 Years and Beyond,” IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr , 5:30 p.m., Ihrc.net

Aug 28-Sept 2 • Pig Out in the Park 40, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., 921-5575, spokanepigout.com

Sept 4 • Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave. 9:15 a.m.

Sept 5 • Fig Tree Benefit & Board, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, noon-benefit, 1 p.m.-board, 535-1813