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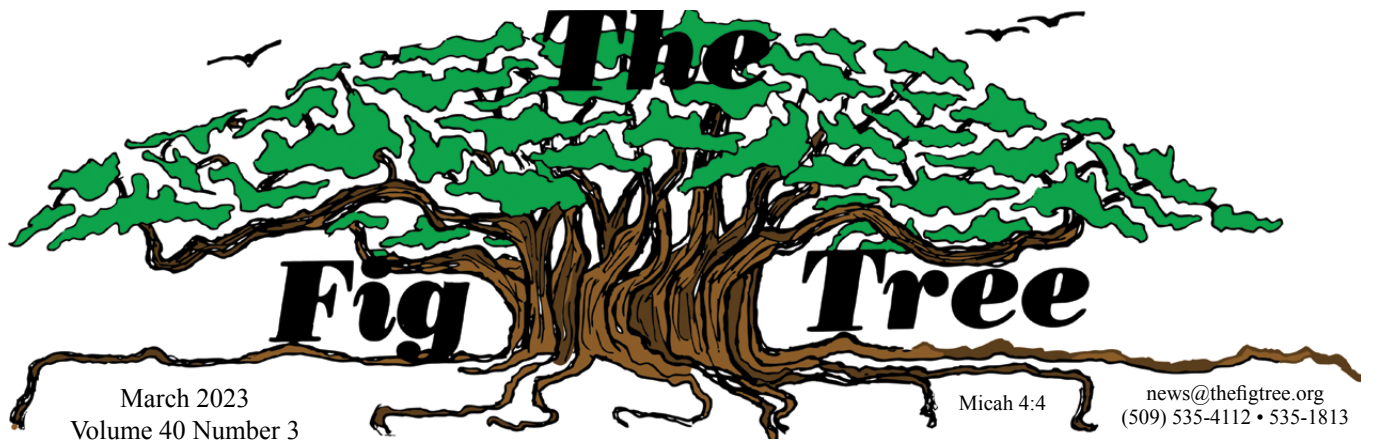
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March 2023  
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Micah 4:4

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(509) 535-4112 • 535-1813

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

# Data on paper can transform lives

By Mary Stamp

Malcolm Haworth, who has been editor of the Inland Northwest's annual comprehensive Resource Directory for 15 of its 50 years, grew up knowing the value of ecumenical and interfaith networking, relationships and service.

He also grew up with a love for details and research from personal interest in learning about world leaders and research for history studies.

Malcolm now knows that the data he gathers for the directory is more than words on paper. It transforms lives.

Often he has calls from strangers who thank him for his work and tell him how the directory helped them find connections they needed. Just as often people call seeking assistance and—knowing the ins and outs of services—he can guide them to the help they need.

“One day I was dropping off some household goods at Goodwill. The man who was unloading my trunk noticed copies of the directory. He told me that when he was homeless, he had picked up a copy at Catholic Charities and found the job at Goodwill.



Malcolm Haworth is committed to assuring accuracy and building networks.

The next day, he found affordable housing.

“He thanked me graciously and asked to take more copies to share with friends,” Malcolm said.

“We are on earth to make a difference, to transform lives of folks when they are down and out, and to offer people opportunities to give back,” Malcolm said, adding that many describe the directory as “gold.”

“It’s a treasure chest full of gems of information,” said Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp, who also responds to calls of people seeking assistance.

For service providers, the Resource Directory helps them realize they are not alone, but part of a larger network of faith, nonprofit and government agencies who care about people.

Malcolm attended United Church of Christ (UCC) churches in Tekoa, Veradale, Cheney and Pullman. He was active in campus ministries at Washington State University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history in 2001 and at Eastern Washington University where he earned a master’s degree in history in 2005. From 2004 to 2007,

*Continued on page 4*

## Ed Sinclair saw his family’s business as a ministry to the faith community

In his 55 years as the fourth generation in his family’s business, Kaufer’s Religious Supplies, Ed Sinclair considered the business a ministry, with sales about relationships and meeting needs of clergy and laity.

“It’s amazing what customers shared when they came for a baptismal gift or a condolence card,” he said.

Since 1904, most Kaufer family members have worked in, managed and owned stores in Seattle, Spokane and San Francisco.

Members of the fifth generation chose to pursue other call-

ings in life, said Ed, who is the great-grandson of Philip Kaufer, who founded the Seattle store with his brother Louis.

In August, Catholic Supply of St. Louis acquired the stores in a merger.

Ed started working in the Seattle warehouse in 1967, did shipping and receiving, and then sales. Before moving to Spokane in 1981, he visited Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran and other churches in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Utah to establish friendships and business relationships.

“Some might call it sales, but to me it was about relationships to find ways to meet needs with our goods and connections with manufacturers, artists and artisans,” he said.

Ed was 28 when he and his wife Mary Ann came to Spokane with their three children. He was to work five years with the manager, Mildred Beaudry—then in her 80s—and find a new manager. His great uncle John had hired her when he founded the Spokane store downtown on Monroe. In the 1950s, the store was on Riverside, and in the 1960s, at 716 W. Sprague.

Mildred worked with Ed’s aunt Betty. The store later moved to 907 W. Boone, where Mildred worked until the late 1980s.

Ed and Mary Ann liked Spokane and decided to stay, so went from assistant manager to co-manager to manager.

“In a family business, family members are partners and grow into new positions,” Ed said.

The second generation were his grandfather, Leonard, his

*Continued on page 6*

## Spring benefit events mark directory’s 50th

“Sharing Resources: Transforming Lives” is the theme of The Fig Tree’s Spring Benefits. The Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 3, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University and at [gonzaga.edu/streaming](http://gonzaga.edu/streaming). The Breakfast-Time Zoom gathering is from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., Wednesday, March 15.

RSVP by Feb. 24 for March 3 and by March 10 for a link for March 15.

Hosts will gather friends and colleagues at tables on Friday and in Zoom groups on Wednesday to hear the story of 50 years of publishing the Resource Directory.

Hamilton Studio is preparing a video giving an overview of the history and the impact of the Resource Directory on the community and people.

Nicole Bishop of SNAP, Oscar Harris of Spokane Public Schools, Lynn Kimball of ALTCEW and Johnny Edmundson of Growing Neighbors will tell how they use the directory to inform clients, teachers, students and volunteers about resources that can improve their lives.

Directory editor Malcolm Haworth and Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp speak on the history and the impact of the publication.

**The Spring Benefits provide funding** for The Fig Tree newspaper, the annual Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources, its website, social media, interfaith dialogues, legislative conference and other education events.

For information, call 535-4112, email [event@thefigtree.org](mailto:event@thefigtree.org) or visit [thefigtree.org](http://thefigtree.org) to register.

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**Lecture addresses witness in age of polarization**

Whitworth University's Weyerhaeuser Hall co-hosted with the Office of Church Engagement presents "Christian Witness in an Age of Polarization," 7 p.m., Thursday, March 9, at Robinson Teaching Theatre.

John Inazu, the Sally Danforth distinguished professor of law and religion at Washington University in St. Louis, and the author of *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving through Deep Difference*, will present, said David Henreckson of the Weyerhaeuser Center.

For information, email [dhenreckson@whitworth.edu](mailto:dhenreckson@whitworth.edu).

**Council on Aging needs meals on wheels helpers**

Council on Aging in Colfax seeks volunteers for deliveries for their meals on wheels program.

Paige Collins, Council on Aging director, said that deliveries are every day of the year with 12 recipients.

Volunteers would pick up the meals at the hospital at 11:15 a.m., deliver and then return the containers back to the Whitman Hospital.

"Meal delivery routes take just over an hour for people who know Colfax well," said Paige.

For information, call 397-4305.

**Health Department offers guidelines on COVID**

Washington State Department of Health is still offering information to people who have tested positive with COVID-19.

These include guidelines for isolation—five days—and quarantine, treatment with health care providers, support—including meal and medication delivery, childcare and other services while recovering from COVID-19—and information about long COVID.

For information, visit [doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19](http://doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid-19).

**Girl Scouts plan Sweets Before Supper**

Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho will host Sweets Before Supper, its annual fundraising event from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, March 11 at the Davenport Grand Hotel.

There will be tastings of Girl Scout Cookie-inspired bite-sized desserts made by six local chefs followed with dinner and celebration showcasing Girl Scouts building "Girls of Courage, Confidence and Character."

They will honor 11 Women of Distinction for their community commitment and leadership as role models for Girl Scouts. Honorees are Avonte Jackson of Kennewick, Cynthia Pemberton of Lewiston, Karen Lauritzen of Post Falls, Vivienne Baldassare of Pullman, Anya Guy of Pullman, Brigit Clary of Richland/Ellensburg, Kim Pearman-Gillman of Spokane, Teresa Bendito of Wenatchee, and Posthumous Woman of Distinction award for Sandy Williams of Spokane.

For information, call 747-8091 or visit [gsewni.org](http://gsewni.org).

**Franciscan sister leads Lenten retreat**

Sr. Pat Novak, OSF, is planning Lenten retreat opportunities on the theme, "A Steadfast Spirit Renew within Me," for prayer, Scripture study, guided reflection, personal quiet space and sharing with others during Lent. The in-person retreat day is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 4, at Cardinal Bea House at Gonzaga University, 1107 N. Astor St. A virtual retreat is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 11.

For information or to reserve, call 241-3180 or email [pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com](mailto:pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com).

**United Way North Idaho holds luncheon**

United Way of North Idaho will hold its 2023 Impact Awards Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 22, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

They will recognize those who give back, including companies that support their work, nonprofits that have received Community Care Fund grants, and individuals who support the Coeur d'Alene community nonprofits.

They will recognize the Volunteer of the Year, who has given time to a local nonprofit, and the Nonprofit Professional of the Year, who has committed their career to improve lives in North Idaho, said Jen Reynolds of United Way North Idaho.

For information, call 208-667-8112, email [jen@uwnorthidaho.org](mailto:jen@uwnorthidaho.org) or visit [uwnorthidaho.org/awards](http://uwnorthidaho.org/awards).

**Catholic Supply now operates Kaufer's**

Catholic Supply of St. Louis Inc., a 62-year Catholic family-owned business with two locations in Missouri purchased the two Pacific Northwest Kaufer companies in August.

The acquisition includes both Kaufer's Seattle and Spokane locations, which were independently owned and operated. With the purchase, the two locations operate as one

unified company in partnership with Catholic Supply to provide "the finest service and products in the Northwest," said Lara Trainer with Catholic Supply.

What this means for Kaufer's customers is the same staff in Spokane and Seattle, a new, more robust website [kaufers.shop](http://kaufers.shop), expanded inventories,

a return of Kaufer's delivery service for church accounts, faster delivery times and greater buying power to provide better selection and prices, she said.

"We're excited for this new chapter in our company's long, rich history," Lara commented.

For information, call 326-7070 or visit [kaufers.shop](http://kaufers.shop) or [catholicssupply.com](http://catholicssupply.com)

**NAACP Spokane has new president**

NAACP Spokane has chosen Kurtis Robinson to move into the role of branch president following Kiantha Duncan's decision to resign.

Kurtis was first vice president and past president.

"For two years, Kiantha served our branch as president with vigor, grace, diplomacy and courage," said Kurtis. "Under her leadership, Spokane NAACP saw exceptional growth, forged new and exciting community partnerships, and amplified our branch's ability to be a meaningful and effective partner in new relationships. We thank Kiantha for her service and commitment to the NAACP and our Spokane Community."

In her statement, Kiantha said, "I will continue my work in shifting culture, using organizational and leadership development that unites us."

The branch will proceed with its commitment to advocate where needed and face challenges with diplomacy, understanding and action for the Spokane community, said the board.

The NAACP Spokane Branch has been protecting and expanding the rights of historically impacted people for more than 100 years.

Currently its committees pri-

oritize education, criminal justice needs, civil engagement, healthcare, environmental justice, legal redress and more.

For information, follow @spokane.naacp on Facebook or visit [naacpspokane.com](http://naacpspokane.com).

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**2023 Spring Benefit Events  
Help Deepen Our Roots**



**Benefit Lunch  
Friday, March 3, 2023**

Buffet Opens at 11:30 a.m.  
Program is 12-1  
Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University  
[gonzaga.edu/streaming](http://gonzaga.edu/streaming)

**Breakfast-Time Benefit  
Wednesday, March 15**

Program is 7:45-8:45 a.m. - Zoom

Both events feature a video and speakers who use the Resource Directory and whose lives have been transformed by the directory.

There is no charge to attend the event.  
Guests are asked to donate to The Fig Tree

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# Editor makes research to update Resource Directory a calling

*Continued from page 1*

he was an adjunct teacher with EWU's American Indian Studies program.

**His love of verifying details,** researching history and compiling databases—as he did for political campaigns—fit with gathering data on services for vulnerable people and with fostering networks for faiths and nonprofits.

In his early years, he volunteered with The Fig Tree, so he was familiar with the Resource Directory.

In 2007, the Interfaith Council turned over publishing the directory to The Fig Tree. As an AmeriCorps volunteer, Malcolm produced the directory for two years, until The Fig Tree hired him as directory editor and ecumenical liaison.

**In November 2008,** he began as director of the Interfaith Council of the Inland Northwest and as Eastern Washington liaison with the Washington Association of Churches, now the Faith Action Network.

In those roles, he organized the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Easter Sunrise Service and Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

**“We do not have details** on the first editions of the directory, but John Olson started it after he founded the Spokane Christian Coalition in 1971,” said Mary. “The first edition in our archives is 1978. It had 28 pages, listed congregations and was distributed to hotels, motels, the Chamber of Commerce and congregations.”

Several years after Mary joined the Coalition staff in 1984 to start The Fig Tree, she became involved with gathering data, doing layouts and taking cover photos. When she worked on it until 2000, it also included ministries, human services and justice groups.

**From 2005 to 2010,** Mark Westbrook, a member of St. Ann's Parish and ad salesperson at the Spokesman-Review, sold ads for the directory, first for the Council and then for The Fig Tree. Its circulation was 3,000 when he started.

**The first edition** The Fig Tree published was Volume 35. It had 166 pages and a circulation of 4,500. It listed 869 congregations and 850 agencies.

Malcolm added congregations in the Inland Northwest and more categories.

**By 2012, there were** 1,100 congregations and 2,300 agencies, with 10,000 copies. In 2018, it had grown to 1,400 congregations and 4,000 agen-



Recent directory cover feature people whose stories are shared in The Fig Tree.

cies listed on 200 pages, and the circulation was 12,000. In 2022, after COVID, there 1,150 congregations and about 7,000 agencies. The circulation was 18,000, and it will be 20,000 in 2023.

**Demand continues to grow.**

“We are unique in the resource and referral industry. We have a reputation for providing trusted information so the Washington 211, Spokane 311 information and referral lines, plus Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW) uses our data,” Malcolm said.

Over the years, several groups have developed online directories—Tin Can, Spokane Cares, My Seeker, Unite Us and El Vinculo. Some received limited-term local, state and national grants, but they were unable to maintain funding, he said.

**From 2009 to 2016,** The Fig Tree partnered with Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS). They transferred data from their Spokane Resource Directory, provided funds to print 2,500 copies and offered services of a staff person.

“With our comprehensive directory, families gained access to information for grandparents in the senior section, and for their many other needs in the other sections,” Malcolm pointed out.

“After their funding declined and ended, we invited others to be community partners, placing their logos on the cover as we had done with CCS,” said Mary. “We maintained circulation, continuing to deliver copies to Head Start and Early Learning programs.”

**As part of its community** partnership, Second Harvest provides volunteers and a truck to deliver bulk orders to about 50 agencies. Catholic Charities' partnership includes distributing 1,500 copies.

Other 2022 community partners were Rotary 221, Banner Bank, Providence Health Services, Sisters of the Holy Names,

Paul Viren & Associates, Innovia Foundation, Empire Health Foundation, Community Building Foundation, Washington Trust Bank, ALTCEW, Northwest Mediation Center, Goodwill Industries, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Eastern Washington University, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels.

**They provide \$20,000** in support. With \$46,000 from 128 advertisers and donors, production costs are covered.

Each year, Malcolm builds on the previous edition, adding corrections, updates and new materials. Then he reassesses the categories.

**“Faith and nonprofit** communities are constantly changing—staff, phone numbers, emails, websites and even locations. They change their services as grants come and go,” he explained.

During the year, Malcolm contacts congregations and agencies by mail, email, phone and online, adding updates in online files at thefigtree.org.

In the spring, he adds new data for the print edition, which goes to press in late June or early July. In the summer, copies are mailed and delivered.

**Malcolm has provided** some other services:

- Partnering in 2012 and 2013 with World Relief, he did editions with selected resources translated into Arabic, Chin, Karen, Nepali and Russian.

- During COVID, Malcolm kept up with frequent changes to prepare online COVID editions, updated weekly and then monthly. It included the most current information on food banks, testing sites, vaccination sites, meal sites and other resources.

- In 2020, he located agencies on a Google map on the website.

Part of Malcolm's information comes from relationships he builds by attending meetings

empowered for collaboration.

“We envision a communication tool to strengthen ties among faiths and nonprofits to collaborate on ongoing and emerging ministries,” he said.

**“I do much of the work** alone in my home office, but I do not do the work alone. I rely on networks, volunteers, donors and events,” Malcolm said.

“While much is online today, there is still demand for print copies,” Malcolm said. “Being in print and online, we are the ‘go-to’ guide for resources.”

For information, call 216-6090, email resourcedirectory@thefigtree.org or visit thefigtree.org.

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World Council of Churches attendees are back in their home settings

# Assembly gathers people for dialogue and solidarity with 'the least'

By Kaye Hult

Speaking at the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference (EWLC) Jan. 21, Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ and convener of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho, shared insights from the World Council of Churches (WCC) 11th Assembly, in Karlsruhe, Germany in September 2022.

Addressing "Care for Our Common Home: Now and Forever," she opened with a WCC prayer, asking God's presence "on a pilgrimage to a new world of justice, reconciliation, unity, peace and wholeness."

Hoping EWLC participants would be encouraged for local action by learning of global action, she described the relationships built through the WCC's diversity, gathering more than 3,000 people from its 352 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican, Evangelical, Pentecostal and other churches every six to eight years. Delegates from 140 different countries set WCC policies.

Participants were also Roman Catholics who have long worked with the WCC, and new observers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "The WCC brings people together to share in dialogue and concern for marginalized people," she said.

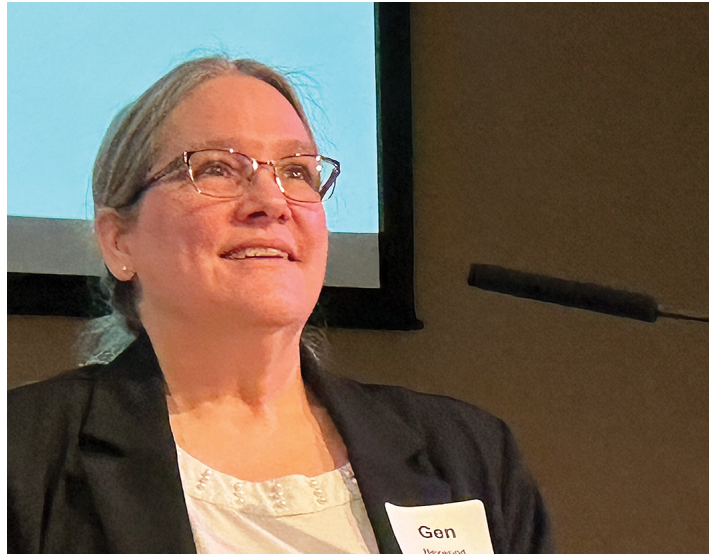
Gen quoted the acting general secretary, Ioan Sauca, on the importance of relationship and having "an open and free space for dialogue on any topic with which our world is faced," he said. "We cannot and will not take any stand on an ethical issue or faith matter that may divide us."

She also shared moderator Agnes Abuon's comments on the relationship of delegates as "a living image of humankind in all its diversity," bringing stories of people struggling for justice and peace and seeking reconciliation and unity.

Agnes called for confronting the world as it is, broken and marked by human sin—violence and war, communities divided by hate speech, racism and ethnic tensions, and land and communities affected by the climate emergency and economic exploitation.

"In our relationship with one another at the Assembly," Gen said, "just gathering such varied expressions of Christian faith into one place was an amazing success."

She asked EWLC attendees to "build relationships and embrace with gratitude those gathered here today. We are together in the care of our common home. We have hope. We believe that



Gen Heywood turns insights from global gathering into lessons for joining efforts to work for justice regionally.

together we can move the arc of justice."

Gen recognized the danger of speaking the truth. At the Assembly, the WCC was criticized for including the Russian Orthodox churches, given their role in aggression against Ukraine.

Ioan said the WCC is as an open platform for dialogue and encounter, discussion and challenging one another on the path to unity.

Instead of using the language of politicians to exclude or demonize, he invited using the language of faith to offer a safe platform of encounter and dialogue, "to listen even if we disagree," said Ioan. "I believe in the power of dialogue and the process toward reconciliation."

Agnes asked: "When today hate speech is normalized through social media networks; when xenophobia and racism are nurtured by national populism and politics of fear; when the poor face the consequences of climate catastrophe and exploitation driven by the lifestyles of a few who are rich, does it not make sense to call all Christians and churches to re-envision prophetically their mission, witness and unity in relation to Christ's compassionate love?"

Agnes called for those in churches to be "bold and prophetic. To proclaim Christ's love and to struggle for human dignity and the life of creation is our call."

Gen said: "We must have courage and energy to face the danger of speaking the truth. Just as this is necessary in the global context, it is an even more difficult reality in our local context, which brings us to the moral imperative to learn from those most affected."

She told how WCC leaders visited and listened to communities around the world to raise awareness about rape and gender-based violence through the Thursdays in Black program. Differently abled leaders were intentionally included in the Assembly leadership, programs and worship. WCC leaders listened to concerns of youth on climate and continue conversations on accepting LGBTQ people.

Gen was uncomfortable with the theme for the Assembly, "Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity," noting that before reconciliation there must be genuine repentance. She found that Pan African Women of Faith Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN) and the Gathering of Indigenous People had similar ideas.

"There can be no reconciliation without speaking the truth about the treatment Black women have endured from other women, men, churches and societies," she said. "Genuine apologies are essential."

PAWEEN creates opportunities to celebrate women leaders,

creates resources and shares knowledge to strengthen their relationships, Gen said.

The Indigenous Peoples gathering made a statement to the WCC on the theme. They told how Green industries had impact. For the Sami people, Green industries, coming without permission of the people, have brought heavy equipment into a fragile ecosystem to build windmill farms, destroying Sami land and driving the Sami from their homes. Green energy can be dirty.

"Great Grandmother Mary Lyons and others spoke of the connection between generational trauma and healing connected with the land," Gen said. "Generational knowledge is still available. Indigenous people must be on committees about climate change."

Indigenous people said there can be no reconciliation without understanding and healing from the spiritual violence they have experienced from boarding schools, mining and property laws.

In their statement to the WCC, Indigenous peoples called for the

WCC to join with them in their healing journeys to recover their God-given identities.

Gen invited EWLC participants to celebrate the relationships they form, to have courage to speak truth, and to listen to and learn from those most affected by systems of injustice.

For information, call 926-7173 or email genheywood@gmail.com. Her full comments will soon be online at thefigtree.org and click on videos.

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# Panelists say the greatest need is to build more affordable housing

The Eastern Washington Legislative Conference (EWLC) plenary on “Housing Is a Human Right” took its theme from Catholic social teaching, said Scott Cooper, director of parish social ministries with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW), as he introduced the session.

“Being in charge of the front desk at Catholic Charities, I find that the single most common call relates to housing,” he said. “There is great need for affordable housing.”

Scott introduced the panelists, Ben Stuckart, director of the Spokane Low-Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC); Duaa-Rahemaah Williams, state organizer with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA); Maurice Smith, executive director of Rising River Media, and producer of “My Road Leads Home” and other video documentaries on homelessness, and Kim McCollim, director of the City of Spokane Neighborhood, Housing and Human Services division.

Each discussed how to move people from homelessness to housing stability.

Ben said people in Spokane spend three years on a waiting list for federal low-income rent subsidy vouchers.

A University of Washington study of 50 cities finds the U.S. poverty levels correlate with rent rates.

“Homelessness is a housing crisis,” he said, noting subsidies for building low-income housing have been cut 75 percent since the 1970s.

Despite its success, he said Expo '74 took down 30 percent of Spokane's low-income housing and has not replaced it. In the 1980s, Spokane lost Single Room Occupancy housing and has no plans to replace it.

“If we do not meet basic needs, we can't meet higher needs. People need a roof over their heads,” said Ben. “Society should guarantee housing.”

He added that, despite laws that people should not pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing, some pay 50 percent or more.

Ben supports a change in zoning to allow for building more triplexes in single family home zones. He also recommends a



Kim McCollim, Maurice Smith, Duaa-Rahemaah Williams and Ben Stuckart

real estate excise tax to fund multiplex homes.

“We need to have mixed-income neighborhoods for everyone to do well,” he said.

Email [benstuckhart@gmail.com](mailto:benstuckhart@gmail.com).

Duaa-Rahemaah said WLIHA has advocated more than 40 years for housing justice so people of all races, ethnicities, abilities, genders and identities can have safe, healthy affordable housing.

“We build a power base to make local, state and national changes,” she said, telling of starting the 2015 Community Change Low-Income Housing that has an organizer live in the housing to organize neighbors.

WLIHA also offers a housing justice narrative tool kit.

“Because safe, equal, affordable housing is a basic human need,” she said, “we give voice to the voiceless, especially black, indigenous, people of color, LG-BTQ, refugees and immigrants and veterans.”

“To promote housing stability, we want voices from lived experience, so people tell stories of what happens when rents increase. We can't have those who are housed become homeless,” she said.

She supports rent stabilization in HB 1388 to prevent predatory rent practices and HB 1389 to cut the six-months' notice needed to break a lease if rent is raised.

Email [duarahemaah@wilha.org](mailto:duarahemaah@wilha.org).

Maurice has learned about homelessness in 18 years of working among homeless people and recently as day manager at Camp Hope.

In 2000, he went bankrupt and was essentially homeless but because of friends and family, his family did not have to sleep in a car.

His experience includes working with West Central Ministries to feed 150 to 300 people, helping build Truth Ministries and working four years with homeless, marginalized people through Homeless Connect.

He began to educate people, filming a documentary, “My Road Leads Home” with Community-Minded Television. A recent documentary, “The Truth about Homeless Camps,” tells of 623 people living in one city block, called Camp Hope.

He tells how the camp started and why some homeless people do not want to go to a shelter.

“It is a visual testimony to the failure of policies to address homelessness,” he said, describing shrinking the camp to 120 by offering people stable places to live, giving them bus tickets to family and moving some to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center or CCEW Catalyst housing.

Maurice is compiling lessons that Camp Hope has taught him

about housing.

“With churches, we can move people from chaos to cosmos to shalom to bring order out of disorder, moving the chronically homeless step by step to stability,” he said. “We work with them to bring order back to their lives, so they make better choices and decisions.”

Maurice hopes that as the people experience caring, they will move from survival in the camp to thrive and live in shalom.

“The Camp is shrinking as we move people to better options. That is how we build shalom and how we serve ‘the least of these,’” he said.

Email [risingrivermedia@gmail.com](mailto:risingrivermedia@gmail.com).

While Kim McCollim has worked on housing for 30 years—20 with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Seattle and Spokane—she has been with the City of Spokane for only a short time.

She said one reason homelessness is rising is that in 2012, HUD eliminated transitional housing for domestic violence victims and youth, and stopped supporting housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

She sees the need for long-term care as more baby boomers become seniors.

Kim challenges the “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) mindset, be it about homeless camps, race, shelters or multiplex housing. She urges advocacy in neighborhood councils.

Other factors in homelessness are mental illness and substance abuse, because of a lack of mental health or addiction treatment beds.

From working with HUD, she advocates for affordable co-housing so older people are not sick and alone.

Email [kmccollim@spokanecity.org](mailto:kmccollim@spokanecity.org).

See videos at [youtube.com/user/thefigtree1323/videos](https://youtube.com/user/thefigtree1323/videos).



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Eastern Washington Legislative Conference

Indigenous Voices on Environmental Stewardship

**Tribal members make the point that what benefits tribes benefits all**

For an Eastern Washington Legislative Conference panel, “Indigenous Voices Speak to Environmental Stewardship,” members of the Spokane, Colville Confederated and Nimiipuu tribes discussed environmental issues indigenous communities face locally and globally.

**Spokane Tribal member Margo Hill**, who is associate director of Small, Urban, Rural and Tribal Center on Mobility, affirmed the moral imperative to speak and listen to the truth.

A former tribal attorney and judge, she brings lived experience to teaching at Eastern Washington University tribal health, law, addiction, planning and community development.

“Our tribes live along the Columbia, Spokane and Snake rivers, which have dams for hydropower and flood control. The dams block the return of salmon,” said Margo.

“We are buying lands where we can re-introduce salmon. We work with the Lands Council to restore wetlands and clean water. We work with Spokane Riverkeeper on water conservation and quality, and to restore clean, fast-running rivers,” she said. “We are also working with the American Indian Community Center to secure land for a homesite.”

Sometimes tribes have conflicts with environmental projects, like locating wind turbines on land where the Yakama harvest traditional foods.

“Indigenous people need to be at decision-making tables for environmental justice and climate resilience,” Margo asserted.

Email [mhill86@ewu.edu](mailto:mhill86@ewu.edu).

**Jeff Ferguson**, a Spokane tribal member, uses his skills as a freelance photographer and videographer to educate on climate change and Native youth.

Recently, he joined the Earthrise Collective indigenous spiritual gathering at Mt. Sinai before going to the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. He is preparing documentaries on the experiences.

Jeff found that COP27 divided the haves and have nots. People needed money to attend. His reservation was changed at the last minute to a room that would have been far too expensive. He and other indigenous friends were forced to find private housing.

A friend, Jacob Johns, from Earthrise Collective protested during the video speech by Joe Biden, seeing it as “neo-colonial



**D.R. Michel, Julian Matthews, Jeff Ferguson and Margo Hill raise indigenous perspectives.**

spin on climate action.” Jacob said carbon trading can “trade the health of one community for the health of another.”

“Indigenous people have solutions to the climate crisis but have no voice,” Jeff said. “Few know what our government negotiating team agrees to. We need Biden to declare a climate emergency and end subsidies to fossil fuels.”

In the session, Jeff showed video of Pooven Moodley, an East Indian spiritual leader from South Africa who spoke at COP27.

He was among the indigenous people who gave Jeff hope about leadership, momentum and energy.

“Indigenous people worked in respect, sharing indigenous wisdom as a platform for people to share and call for healing,” he said. “The message from the indigenous people was that now is the time for us to step into our rightful place after centuries of harm, collectively tapping into the wisdom of our ancestors.”

Email [jfergusonphotos@yahoo.com](mailto:jfergusonphotos@yahoo.com).

**D.R. Michel**, a citizen of the Lakes Band in the Colville Confederated Tribe and executive director of Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) for 14 years, promotes fish, water and wildlife through the voices of 15,000 people in member tribes, managing 2 million acres of reservation land and 500 miles of waterways.

Formed in 1982 to ensure a healthy future for traditional lands, UCUT unites tribes to address treaty rights and common concerns to benefit all people.

“What we do does not just benefit the tribes, but all citi-

zens in the Inland Northwest,” D.R. said.

“My grandparents were the last generation to fish at Kettle Falls. Five generations later, there are no salmon there for my great-granddaughter,” he said. “We have lost a piece of who we are. It is our responsibility to bring back salmon.”

D.R. calls people to value long-term sustainability and see ecosystem functions as more than costs.

“Some say we can’t afford to put in fish passage at Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams,” he said. “We can’t afford not to do it. We need fish passage, along with power and irrigation.”

Hydropower is just \$3.3 billion of the \$190 billion value of the Columbia River for all uses, he said.

He is excited that fish released in 2017 above Chief Joe Dam remembered their way back and spawned in the Sanpoil and Spokane Rivers.

Fish released by the Coeur

d’Alene Tribe at Hangman Creek went to the ocean and one came back, and was returned to the tribe.

Beyond flood control and power, D.R. uplifted economic opportunities in fisheries.

“We must educate folks to correct historic wrongs,” he said, “so everyone benefits economically and spiritually.”

Email [dr@ucut-nsn.org](mailto:dr@ucut-nsn.org).

**Julian Matthews**, coordinator with Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, seeks to ensure treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather, and to educate tribal youth and adults to protect those rights.

Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment has organized protests of Exxon Mobile transporting megaloads through Nimiipuu territory to Beaver Creek, B.C., to build a pipeline.

Julian seeks to restore rights for the Nez Perce (Nimiipuu) in the Treaty of 1855, that ceded a million acres to the government in exchange for hunting, fishing

and territorial rights.

The tribe seeks to bring salmon to the headwaters of the Snake River, which has four earthen dams.

“Salmon are becoming extinct,” Julian said, “So tribes are working to breach the dams. The baby fish or smolt should float down the river to the ocean. Dams impede the flow. Water behind the dams is warm and kills salmon. Dam turbines also kill salmon.”

He said the dams can be breached so water can flow freely and be cooler.

Julian is teaching Nimiipuu youth to make paddles and canoes for the first time in 100 years.

“Environmental justice is about the rights to preserve nature,” said Julian, who was raised Catholic and attended Gonzaga University, where he learned teachings that coincide with Nimiipuu belief that all of the life God created is important—including wolves, bears, elk, deer, salmon, the land and water.

Email [protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com](mailto:protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com).

Their full comments are on The Fig Tree YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/thefigtree1323/videos>.

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## Workshop on Racial Justice Issues gives time for open discussion

By Mary Stamp  
 Leading a discussion at a workshop on "Racial Justice Issues" for the 2023 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, NAACP Spokane leaders Amy McColm and Lisa Gardner said the NAACP is concerned about far more than voting rights and police violence.

"It's a place where people of color and white people work together to address issues," they said.

**Amy chairs the Education Committee** and Lisa, along with being director of communications and community engagement for Spokane City Council, is second vice president of the NAACP.

NAACP Spokane seeks to be at the table to discuss a broad range of social justice issues represented by its committees: economic justice, environmental justice, youth and young adult engagement, legal redress, education, civic engagement, criminal justice and health care.

**On health issues, Lisa pointed out** that the NAACP is working with Spokane Public Schools to invite students of color to enter the pipeline of those going to college to study for health careers, to be doctors, nurses and psychologists.

"There are few people of color in

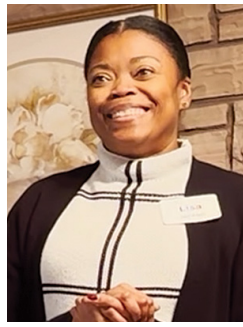
the health-care industry, so people of color see few people who look like them when they go to an emergency room or a doctor's office," she said.

When one workshop participant said she wanted to be involved but "can't join the NAACP because she is white," Amy and Lisa were quick to correct her, saying the NAACP encourages whites to join. Given that just 2 percent of Spokane's population is African American, many members are white.

**"We want you to be a member and ally,"** Lisa said.

Another participant asked about a comment from someone in her book group that is currently studying on racism. The group member suggested that "if you think you are not racist, you may be racist."

Lisa said that in the NAACP people of color and white people recognize barriers of systemic racism and "figure out



Lisa Gardner and Amy McColm

together how to disrupt and dismantle the barriers."

Amy said being together in the NAACP helps people look at implicit bias and talk about civil rights.

"We as whites need to be correctable when we say things that hurt someone. We can say we are sorry and can thank the person for having the grace to tell us," she said.

**Lisa pointed out that racial justice** is a process, listening to those exposed to bias and resistance, and joining them in breaking down the injustices.

Amy said the Education Committee focuses on issues such as pressure on school boards by militant, right-wing groups that want to ban books on racial history and on gender identity.

She spoke of simple educational efforts, like the power of her wearing her well-worn "Black Lives Matter" T-shirt as a means to open conversations.

A third participant did not know about environmental injustices people of color face.

"We learn as we go along," said Amy. Jessica Zimmerle, now formerly with Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light, said that organization has an intentional anti-racist strategy as it challenges environmental injustices.

**Post-George Floyd, Lisa noted** there has been awareness of the need to be inclusive and anti-racist, and the need to promote diversity, equity and inclusion as more than "buzz words."

"Our members want to do something more than go out and march," Lisa said.

**One attendee explained** that an ally is someone who walks side by side.

"A justice co-conspirator is one who stands beside us and goes all the way," she said.

Justice Forral of Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) told of an opportunity SCAR offers each week for people to meet people of diverse races informally to build community: Burrito Sundays are at 5:30 p.m., Sundays at Indigenous Eats, 829 E. Boone.

For information, email [amymcolm@gmail.com](mailto:amymcolm@gmail.com) or [lisagardner@gmail.com](mailto:lisagardner@gmail.com).

## Workshop on 'Food Security' invited participants to join in hunger relief efforts

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM  
 Aaron Czyzewski, director of advocacy and public policy for Food Lifeline, told participants in the Jan. 21 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference this is "an ideal time to come together and talk about hunger relief policies and ways that we can work together."

He was glad to speak with faith-based folks like those at the conference because "faith has no end and provides the fortitude needed for a long struggle."

**Kathy Hedgcock**, long-time staff member at Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest, began the virtual session on "Food Security" by affirming that, "as a member of Feeding America, we rely on their government affairs team to keep us aware of public policy at the national level." In this region, she is proud of their relationship with their peer, Food Lifeline, the food bank distribution center for Western Washington.

**Aaron described** public policy changes proposed at the federal and state levels and encouraged participants to reach out to their lawmakers to make their desires known.

In reviewing state and federal policy, key players and grassroots strategies, he praised the White House Conference on Hunger, Health and Nutrition called by the Biden-Harris administration, which outlined a strategy to eliminate hunger by 2030.

"If we accomplish what it lays out, we can see a dramatic decrease in hunger," he commented.

Aaron pointed out that hun-



Aaron Czyzewski



Kathy Hedgcock

ger at the national level is addressed through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation's first line of defense against hunger that puts funds for food in the pocketbooks of many Americans.

**Explaining how advocates** could act to help end hunger through this program he said, "We are entering a period when SNAP can be shaped. It is a major component of the Farm Bill, which must be reauthorized by Congress in 2023."

He invited advocates to protect, improve and expand SNAP so it reflects a family's needs and is accessible to people who qualify, particularly to youth, seniors and immigrants.

Aaron praised Senator Patty Murray's recent delivery of a permanent program that provides school children a Summer EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer), offering free meals and snacks to low-income children

when out of school for summer or extended breaks.

On policies before the 2023 Washington State Legislature, Food Lifeline looks at food bank insecurity issues and issues on root causes of hunger.

Aaron said the Working Families Tax Credit (HB 1075/SB 5249) would expand previous legislation to ensure that low-income workers who are eligible receive a tax rebate of \$300 to \$1,200 and increases the number of people eligible by lowering the age of beneficiaries from 25 to 18 and expands eligibility to people over 65.

**Food Lifeline also** supports anti-poverty measures like HB 1045 Statewide Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) to establish a pilot program in the state to put cash in the pockets of people in communities experiencing economic insecurity, and the Wealth Tax on Billionaires HB 1473/SB 5486 which would

levy a one percent tax on extreme wealth held in financial intangible property like stocks, bonds and mutual funds wealth for those who earn more than \$250 million.

**Finally, Aaron urged** attendees to share their support of bills important to them by going to the website [leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx](http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Participating.aspx) and clicking "yes" on a bill.

For information, see WhiteHouse-National-Strategy-on-Hunger-Nutrition-and-Health-FINAL.pdf at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

Food Lifeline's advocacy

page with its 2023 State Advocacy Agenda and Public Policy Platform is at [foodlifeline.org/](http://foodlifeline.org/)



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## Couple describe the missionary tradition of their church in the area

Elders and sisters—known as missionaries—of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints share their love of Jesus Christ by being his hands in serving, teaching and loving, said President Chris and Sister Becky LeBaron.

Called as mission president and leader in Spokane 18 months ago, the couple guide more than 200 elders and sisters serving in North Idaho south to Lewiston, Eastern Washington west to Ritzville and north to Grand Forks, B.C.

**Their story gives insight** into that program.

Both grew up in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Chris in Sacramento and Salt Lake City, and Becky in Fort Collins, Colo. In the mid-1990s, they met as students at Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho—now Brigham Young University-Idaho.

In 1996, after Becky earned an associate degree in cosmetology, they married and moved to Provo, Utah, where Chris earned a degree in management information systems in the business school at Brigham Young University in 1998.

Chris worked in technology for more than 20 years, including at IBM and Oracle. He was an executive with Salesforce at the time of their call.

**The first of their six sons** served as a missionary in Argentina, the second in Côte d'Ivoire, the third in Cameroon and New Jersey—returning to the U.S. because of COVID. Their fourth son served in Fort Worth, Texas, before going to South Korea.

An hour after they took him to the airport to go to South Korea, the LeBarons received a call from the church headquarters in Salt Lake City, asking them to meet with the leaders.

“We did not apply. The leaders came to us and asked if we could leave what we were doing to be mission leaders for three years, not saying where we would serve,” he said. “The call came from our prophet and Senior Apostle Russell Nelson, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.”

Chris explained the church’s senior leadership of 15 men in the First Presidency and 12 Apostles is modeled after Christ and his followers.

Becky said elders are men 18 to 24 who serve 24 months, and



**Chris and Becky LeBaron guide missionaries in region.**

Photos courtesy of the LeBarons

sisters are women 19 to 23 who serve 18 months.

**Their region has 13 areas** that align with what the church calls a “Stake.” Each stake has six to nine congregations, said Becky, with missionaries serving congregations, along with young, single adults attending area and universities.

Sometimes missionaries are older senior couples or sisters, who serve in the mission office, teach religion classes at a university or help congregations.

**Chris said missionaries and sisters, who live in apartments** the church rents or members’ homes, arise at 6:30 a.m. Until 10 a.m., they study scripture, exercise for 30 minutes, eat breakfast, get ready and plan their day.

Sunday is Sabbath and Monday is a preparation day. From 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays to Saturdays, they do service, like serving food at soup kitchens, raking leaves or shoveling for elderly people, or helping in a homeless shelter.

At noon, they come home for lunch and an hour of companionship study of Spanish, Marshallese or Swahili to communicate with refugees in Spokane.

After that, they study and read scriptures, before they go out to share and teach spiritual messages to invite people to come to Christ, Chris said.

**They meet members and friends of the church interested** in learning more, people referred

by social media or people previously interested in the church. They do less knocking on doors and more meeting and talking with people on the street or in stores, restaurants and parks.

“They meet with anyone who wants to learn more,” said Chris.

He then summarized the church’s origins when Jesus appeared in North America to the indigenous people.

**“Joseph Smith at 14** was confused by the different teachings of many religions. He read in James 1:5 that God answers sincere prayers, so he asked God which church was true,” Chris said. “At a grove of trees near his home in Palmyra, N.Y., he prayed. God, the Father, and Jesus Christ appeared.

“This experience and others were his call to be a prophet and gave him the power to translate writings on the gold plates that he found. The contents of these are now in the Book of Mormon. We believe both the Bible and the Book of Mormon to be the Word of God, testifying that Jesus is the Christ,” Chris explained.

**“Missionaries leave** their families for months to dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ,” said Chris, recalling his two years in the Netherlands, in contrast to his sons going to impoverished countries. “The mission builds a foundation in our lives, preparing us to face the world’s challenges.”

Becky said the experiences



**Trent shelter after metal beds are set up.**

were life-changing for their sons.

As an example of how the missionaries work, the LeBarons told of a pre-Christmas project to build beds for homeless people.

**Spokane’s mayor told** Jennifer Hicks, the church’s regional communications director, of the need to build beds for people being moved from Camp Hope to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center, run by the Salvation Army.

The shelter had been given wood-frame beds, but shelter operators realized bedbugs are more likely to infest wood than metal.

“We deployed 116 missionaries to go to the Interstate Fairgrounds to assemble metal bed frames the city and county provided,” Chris said. “It shows what we can do as the hands of Christ to bless the lives of the downtrodden.

“They built 350 metal beds—designed with two beds side-by-side with a metal divider between them,” he said.

“They assembled the beds in a few hours, but it took the team four days to move the wood beds out and the new ones in, timing their work so as not to displace anyone in the shelter,” said Becky.

“What better time to do it than the week before Christmas, when the Savior, Mary and Joseph found no place in the inn,” Chris added.

**He listed some other projects** missionaries have done on their own or with other churches, faiths or groups.

- Before Christmas, they sang at Meals on Wheels Silver Cafes.
- Last spring, they helped

Hoopfest with tasks.

- At community events, they help vendors set up booths.

- Last Lent and Easter, they helped Seventh-day Adventists set up and enact “The Journey to the Cross.”

- They helped with Red Cross blood drives and cleaned up branches or uprooted trees after storms.

- They ushered for the Coeur d’Alene multi-faith presentation, “Messiah.”

- Through English Connect, they offer English classes for refugees from Ukraine, Russia, Latin America and Africa.

Becky said people needing services can sign up at justserve.org.

**Chris said elders’ and sisters’** efforts drew 355 new members last year. There are now 290,000 members in 554 congregations in Washington, which has seven missions, four temples and 97 family history centers.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived in the area in 1854. By 1930, there were 1,900 members. The Spokane Stake started in 1947. The Spokane Temple was built in 1999.

“We want friends in other faiths to understand we are disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing his love in actions every day,” Chris said. “We serve anyone who needs helping hands.”

In addition to meeting people, they share their message on Facebook @followersof-ChristPNW and the national website is comeuntochrist.org.

For information, call 294-6804 or email jennifer.hicks509@yahoo.com.



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**“I received a great education at Spokane Falls.”**

## Hate Studies Conference lists speakers

Gonzaga Center for the Study of Hate and the Community Colleges of Spokane have announced the speakers for the 7th Annual International Conference on Hate Studies on “The Challenges of Hate in the 21st Century.”

It is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 22 at Spokane Community College and virtually.

Gathering speakers from around the world to “address hate in any of its manifestations, it is one of the leading interdisciplinary academic forums on hate, related social problems and ways to create socially just and inclusive communities,” said Jim Mohr and Vicky Nann, confer-

ence co-chairs

Friday Night Banquet Keynote Speaker is Charlene Teters, interim dean of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and member of the Spokane Nation.

She is an artist, writer, educator and activist, who gained national prominence when she was a graduate student at the University of Indiana-Champaign, spoke out against depictions of American Indian caricatures used as sport team mascots, and was the subject of an award-winning documentary, “In Whose Honor?” by Jay Rosenstein.

Other speakers include Nimmi Gowrinathan, founder of the Politics of Sexual Violence Ini-

tiative; Rae Jereza, a researcher at the Polarization and Extremism Research Lab at American University; Arun Kundnani, who writes about racial capitalism and Islamophobia, surveillance and political violence; David Neiwert, an investigative journalist with Daily Kos; Nicole Nguyen, associate professor of criminology, law and justice, and educational policies at the University of Illinois at Chicago; Zoe Samudzi, a research associate at the Center for the Study of Race, Gender and Class at the University of Johannesburg, and Arjun Sethi, editor of American Hate: Survivors Speak Out.

For information, visit [gonzaga.edu/icohs](http://gonzaga.edu/icohs).

## Faith and Reason sets two lectures

“Reading the Bible with the Church” is theme of two lectures being presented by the Gonzaga Faith and Reason Institute 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, and Wednesday, March 1.

Speakers include Catherine Tkacz, Theology from Ukrainian Catholic University and Douglas Kries, Philosophy, Gonzaga University, who are co-editors of

*The Church and Her Scriptures.*

Catherine will speak on “The Incarnation as the Reset of Creation” at 7 p.m., Tuesday, in Jepson Center at Gonzaga University. Douglas shares “Faith, Reason and Just War” at 7 p.m., Wednesday, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

For information, call 313-6743 or email [calhoun@gonzaga.edu](mailto:calhoun@gonzaga.edu).

### Barton School seek volunteer

The Barton School at First Presbyterian Church is seeking volunteers at 8 a.m. Fridays to transport elderly, homebound immigrants for English lessons. The volunteer could stay and help from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., or return at 11:30 a.m. to take participants home by 12:30 p.m.

For information, email [serviceteam@spokaneipc.org](mailto:serviceteam@spokaneipc.org).

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When you take your child (ages 0-18 years) to a health clinic in Washington state, you might have to pay a small charge for getting the shot and for the office visit, but you will not be charged for the vaccine itself. Spokane Regional Health District assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To file a complaint or to request more information, reasonable accommodations, or language translations, contact 509.324.1501 or visit [srhd.org](http://srhd.org). Created: February 2023

# Whitworth chaplain passes on the confidence that marks her life

**By Emma Maple - intern**

Two things that stand out with Whitworth campus pastor Stephy Nobles-Beans—fondly known as Mama Beans by many students—are her immense love for God and an equally immense amount of drive.

Stephy says the story of her hiring at Whitworth in 1996 is her testimonial. She was working for a supervisor who made her job hard because, Stephy believes, she was prejudiced against her as a Christian and as a woman of color.

After taking seven days off work following a car wreck, she walked into her office to find a huge stack of accounts on her desk. Her supervisor told Stephy she had 30 days to settle all of them.

“The stack was probably three to six months of work,” Stephy said. “She left my cubicle. I cried.”

“The Holy Spirit said, go get the newspaper. So, I got the newspaper, and started looking for a job,” she said.

**She found an opening** for administrative assistant to the vice president of student life and dean of students. She called and learned the application deadline was that day, so she typed her resume and a faith statement, collected references and drove up the street to turn it in.

The next day, Stephy had a phone interview with Whitworth. A week and a half later, they called asking for an in-person one-on-one. She did it on her lunch break and returned confident.

About a week was left on the 30-day ultimatum her boss had given. No response the third week. On Wednesday of the fourth week, the university called.

They offered her the job that Friday, 30 days after the car wreck. Stephy had already packed up her office and typed a resignation letter.

“I had enough boldness, confidence and trust in God,” she said. “I came to Whitworth University 26 years ago, and the rest is history.”

**Stephy has worn several hats** at Whitworth. She was an administrative assistant for seven years, and then became coordinator of the chapel.

“It gave me the opportunity to build relationships with students,” said Stephy, who decided to earn a bachelor’s degree. Then her boss retired, and they hired Forrest Buckner as the dean of spiritual life.

He invited her to be the multicultural ministry coordinator to coordinate relationships with



**Stephy Nobles-Beans office walls convey some of the messages she seeks to convey to students.**

students of color and the chapel.

Next, three people—Forrest, a student and her son—encouraged her to work toward her master’s.

At first, Stephy balked, wondering what she would study. She already had a good job, but realized that “sometimes we settle, because we think that’s all we’re capable of doing.”

**Finally, she decided** not to settle. In 2015, at the age of 60, she started a master’s in leadership at Whitworth, graduating in 2017.

Then, Forrest encouraged her to teach as a professor by building a curriculum and teaching it with him. Together they created “TH 174 - Diverse Christian Leadership,” a course Whitworth has now offered for five years.

Now, Stephy is a campus pastor, as well as associate chaplain for diversity, equity and inclusion for campus ministries and the trainer for diversity, equity and inclusion for human resources at the university.

**Her day-to-day life is full,** exciting and sometimes “a little overwhelming.”

Along with her Whitworth positions, Stephy started a business selling coffee called “Mama Beans On Holy Grounds.” The business was born from a dream she had when she ran a home for women and children recovering from domestic violence from

2008 to 2017. During that time, she hoped to open a coffee shop in the house, to show women they could be business owners. “It never transpired,” she said, but, at the end of 2021, “the Holy Spirit said to take the dream off the shelf and blow the dust off. I did that and started dreaming.”

**Stephy said Mama Beans** On Holy Ground is “coffee with a purpose.” The back of the coffee bag reads: “lovingly known as Mama Beans to many throughout the community, Stephy loves connecting conversation and coffee. She is excited about starting her online coffee business. Her vision is to help underrepresented women of color in her community through her program, Brown Girls Magic Leadership. Coffee sales will help women of color reach their potential through the three L’s: Leading, Learning and Loving Leadership Program. Her goal is to help women of color create their own narrative for leadership. Her motto is ‘Brown Skin Girls Lead, Too.’”

As Mama Beans On Holy Grounds completes its first year in March, it has 60 customers.

In January, Stephy started a Wednesday podcast called SHE-BREWS to talk about leadership.

**Another of her brainchildren** is a leadership and mentoring group called Brown Girls Magic, which she began three years ago.

The group is planning their first Women of Color Conference for Saturday, March 18, at Whitworth’s HUB, featuring a speaker and panel.

About 30 women attend a Wednesday women’s Bible study, which Stephy has led for five years.

Because the women’s Bible study was popular, she started one for the staff this past year.

**There’s more:** Stephy has written five books, including her newest book, *Born to Be a Boss: Brown Skin Girls Lead Too!* She describes it as “my little memoir of 30 to 40 years of talking about leadership.”

“I wear many caps. People say, ‘Don’t you ever sit down?’ I try, but it just don’t work. God gives me all these gifts and talents, so I use them in the lanes that he calls me to use them in.”

**Stephy’s not letting** how busy she is stop her from dreaming. She is starting her own business as a leadership coach.

Her motivation for becoming a leadership coach is to be a role model for other women of color.

“I want women of color to know they can lead, and they can lead well. They can lead in any arena, whether it’s in the courthouse, the schoolhouse or their house. They are able to lead and lead well,” she said.

“Sometimes they don’t have a

template or a blueprint, but ‘Oh, she looks just like me, and she’s a leader,’” Stephy said.

**When she first became** a professor, one of the most impactful moments was having a student of color walk up to her and say, “I can become a professor. I had to see it first. I had to see somebody like me in the classroom teaching and not just sitting.”

After being the role model for one student, Stephy knew she wanted to show more women of color that they could do anything. She wants to help other people uncover their skills.

**“We all have a purpose.** Some people just don’t know what it is because they haven’t tapped into it,” she said. “As a leader, that’s what I want to teach people. Each of us has gifts and talents that are deeply embedded in us. We don’t know how to get them. I’m motivated to motivate others. I’m bringing my bucket and my shovel, we’re gonna dig out those gifts and talents. I call them pearls and jewels that people have to help build the kingdom of God on earth.”

Stephy’s motivation for all of her work is her “creative flowing juices from the Holy Spirit.”

“I sit and think sometimes. I know I didn’t come up with all this stuff. I just sit and listen to the Holy Spirit,” she said.

**Stephy’s love for God** is evident.

“I think people think I’m crazy when I talk about God,” she said. “I have seen God’s goodness in my life. I’ve seen miracles performed. Nothing is impossible with God, to them that believe.”

For information, email [sbeans@whitworth.edu](mailto:sbeans@whitworth.edu) or visit [www.onholysgrounds.com](http://www.onholysgrounds.com).

## RSVP NOW for the 2023 Spring Benefit Events

### Benefit Lunch Friday, March 3, 2023

Buffet Opens at 11:30 a.m. • Program is 12-1  
Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University • [gonzaga.edu/streaming](http://gonzaga.edu/streaming)

### Breakfast-Time Benefit Wed., March 15

Program is 7:45-8:45 a.m. - Zoom

**To RSVP: email [event@thefigtree.org](mailto:event@thefigtree.org) or at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org)**

**by Feb. 24 for the 3rd • by March 10 for the 15th**

Religious Studies Department Presents  
Spring 2023 Flannery

## Synodality and the New Media



In this lecture, we shall explore how the use of new media, following the vTaiwan model, can be a means to go beyond an impasse and discern the consensus fidelium. vTaiwan is an online-offline discussion platform established by the government and activists in Taiwan to promote participatory governance.

March 20th  
Hemmingson  
Ballroom  
4:30-6pm

Questions? Email, [sheveland@gonzaga.edu](mailto:sheveland@gonzaga.edu)

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## State legislators listen to their constituents as they shape policies

Here we go again! It seems that there is no time for most national elected leaders to shift from political campaigns and take time to govern. For far too many, their governing is over-ruled or made invisible by media as they begin campaigning for re-election in the next round. It would be nice to see them being concerned about finding real solutions to issues that plague society.

Media pundits already set them up for sparring and political games to keep readers, viewers and listeners on edge in ways that “hold” their audience.

It’s tragic to see national leaders devolve into that spiral. Media seem less interested on the state and local level.

The Eastern Washington Legislative Conference (EWLC) briefings, plenaries and workshops indicate that state legislators are at work making things happen to improve lives. They are less pressed by of media seeking a divisive story. In fact, on the state level, media tend to do their job of informing us about what is happening.

It gives positive room for organizations like the Faith Action Network (FAN) of Washington, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) and Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WAIPL) to inform citizens motivated by their faith values on how to the status of bills so they can make their voices heard.

In this issue, we share information from EWLC plenary and workshop speakers and discussion leaders shared. They provided background information to build awareness around issues of housing, environment, refugees, seniors, racial justice and food security.

In the February issue, we reported information on issues and bills offered by FAN, WSCC and Earth Ministry/WAIPL advocates who keep up on issues, build relationships with legislators and create coalitions among faith communities so their concerns are articulated clearly.

Faith Action Network, now in its 10th year, connects with thousands of people

and more 160 faith communities across state to “partner for the common good” as they advocate “for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.” FAN was formed when the Washington Association of Churches and Lutheran Public Policy Office merged.

The Washington State Catholic Conference describes itself as a common voice for Catholics, the public policy voice for the bishops of Washington and “Catholics advocating for the common good, to create a society that recognizes the dignity of every human person.”

Earth Ministry/WAIPL “envisions a just and sustainable future in which people of all spiritual traditions fully embrace their faith’s call to environmental stewardship.”

Elise DeGooyer, executive director of FAN, said state legislators are at work and people can follow the FAN Bill Tracker at fanwa.org.

“Things are moving as we come close to policy and fiscal cutoff dates,” she said.

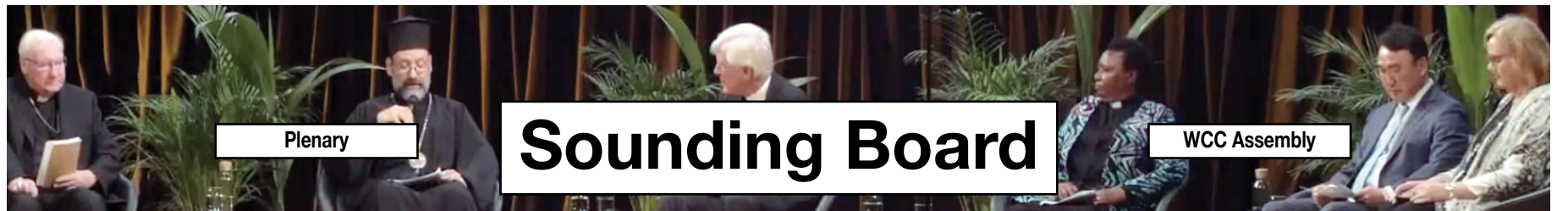
“Our state legislators are hard at work governing and working to get policies through that impact lives.” At the Feb. 9, FAN Advocacy Day, Elise was impressed by the passion in 41st District Rep. My-Linh Thai’s words to those at for Interfaith Advocacy Day. “She talked about love and doing what is right for humanity as the motivation for her work. She is the first refugee to serve in the our State Legislature.”

Feb. 15, two legislators spoke about criminal justice reform at the Multifaith Lobbying Day for Restorative Justice, and about real people whose lives and stories have shaped their policymaking.

“So at least at the state level, I think they’re really hard at doing the work they were elected to do,” Elise affirmed.

Hearing compassion for people and passion for justice from their faith-based constituents also helps motivate state legislators.

Mary Stamp - Editor



## Women church leaders address church unity and common witness

In the final plenary, a Kenyan Anglican, Australian Pentecostal, a Mexican Methodist and Canadian Mennonite were among church leaders who addressed the plenary theme, “Christian Unity and the Churches’ Common Witness.”

The day’s scripture was on the sons of Zebedee asking Jesus who would sit at his right and left hands, and hearing that “whoever wishes to be great must be a servant.” Jesus uses the term “diakonia,” calling disciples to be servants to one another and the world.

The following are excerpts of their comments.

**Rosemary Muthoni Mbogo**, who is provincial secretary of and canon in the Anglican Church of Kenya, and was the chair of the Kenya National Council of Churches (NCC) from 2012 to 2018, said “the move to Christian unity is a step-by-step endeavor to understand God’s heart, will and mind.”



Rosemary Muthoni Mbogo

“There is no space in the world that is not part of the space encompassed by God’s love,” she said, encouraged that East Africans make visible the unity of Christian bodies through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and through programs on environment, social justice and serving people in need.

Common actions on national, moral, social, health and economic issues by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Churches, Pentecostal Churches and the NCC give her hope for unity.

“Actions are for men and women, young and old in the church. Let us move with God’s love, using our unique gifts,” said Rosemary, telling of her mixed heritage, born into a Pentecostal family, studying at Catholic schools and then studying for ministry in African traditions.

“Who am I? I am a child of God in the

world of God, serving the people of God,” she affirmed.

**Jacqueline Grey**, pastor and leader in the Pentecostal World Fellowship, professor of biblical studies at Alphacrucis College in Australia, likens the sons of Zebedee to Pentecostal churches, who are young, energetic, visionary often preoccupied with ambition and arrogance, and overwhelmed by rejection and ridicule.



Jacqueline Grey

“Some disciples are in conflict with the young upstarts,” she noted. “We have been in conflict with disciples of other traditions, related to proselytism, suspicion and mutual rejection.”

“Jesus calls all together to forget squabbles, agendas and status so they can serve others as he did,” she said.

“In Busan, the WCC proactively reached out to Pentecostals to include us and to invite us to sit at the ecumenical table,” Jacqueline said. “It’s important we are at the table. We are grateful for inclusion. By working on commissions, we build relationships and trust.”

The Global Christian Forum has fostered relationships, so Pentecostals are joining the WCC, she said, and the Pentecostal World Fellowship has an ecumenical commission and dialogues.

Because Pentecostalism is grassroots, Jacqueline said effectiveness is measured by looking at the local levels.

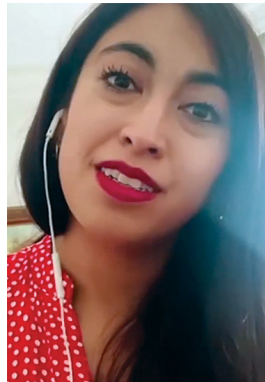
“Locally, we still see frustration,” she noted. “Until it is normal to pray and worship together, we will not see the fruit of our activities, but being together here at the common table, we can share in our common mission.”

Jacqueline is hopeful for the future relationship of Pentecostals in the WCC but noted it is hard for many Pentecostals to come to an expensive assembly because many are poor.

“Our theology and that of many of our

young leaders is increasingly ecumenical. It gives me hope. Still, we need deliberate ecumenical engagement to build trust to overcome past and present tensions, suspicions and stereotypes as we come together in Christ’s love,” she said. “We must truly love one another, not just tolerate one another. To love one another, we must know one another in relationships.”

**Lani Mireya Anaya Jiménez**, of the Methodist Church in Mexico, is a specialist in peace and sustainable development, and does research and projects to bring meaningful participation of women and youth in decision making.



Lani Mireya Anaya Jiménez

“The core of our faith and the core of the ecumenical movement are that we are united in the triune God, or we are merely another organization in civil society,” she said.

Unity is needed as the world faces polarization and fundamentalism that divide churches from the ecumenical movement and their own churches.

“How do we reconcile with Christians who are not part of the ecumenical movement?” she asked.

Lani saw “structural violence” as young ecumenical leaders were kept out of decision-making roles in WCC structures.

“The young have formed ecumenical spaces in digital networks. How will we show them we want them to join in intergenerational unity?” she asked. “If we do not affirm their roles, what will be our heritage in future generations?”

**Bran Friesen of the Mennonite Church** in Canada serves on the executive committee of the World Student Christian Federation and World Council of Churches reference group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. Bran also works with Indigenous leaders and communities

across Turtle Island in Canada.

For moving into the future, she said that discomfort can be a gift. Accountability is part of the churches’ role in reconciliation, especially related to harm done to indigenous people.

“We are in an era of deep grief, but truth is being told by youth as bodies of indigenous children are found on the grounds of residential schools,” she said.

She also expressed concern that the climate disaster affects and displaces indigenous people around the world.



Bran Friesen

Love, Bran said, has led some churches to give public apologies to indigenous people, but “love is not satisfied by words alone. Love means mending wounds.”

Bran said true reconciliation is “reconcile-action” as churches turn inward to heal their own personal and structural wounds from colonization, and then alter church behavior so it no longer hurts people.

“I challenge us to pursue radical actions of accountability to protect the earth and unquestionably return land to indigenous people,” she said.

“We need to listen to indigenous voices and follow their lead,” Bran advised. “My vision is for every indigenous community to have clean water, food security and housing security, and for women and girls to be believed when they are brave enough to tell us how they have been hurt.

“I hope for a future of reconciliation where we respect the cultures of indigenous people, learn their languages, are joyful with them and celebrate their strengths,” Bran said. “This is the future my generation craves. I challenge churches to do this now, united across denominations, color, privilege, locations and religions—inclusive of youth.”

For information, visit [oikoumene.org/assembly/assembly-live#thematic-plenaries](http://oikoumene.org/assembly/assembly-live#thematic-plenaries).

# Calendar of Events

Area code is 509 unless otherwise listed.

- Feb 27, Mar 1 • A Matter of Balance** coach training, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW), 1222 N Post, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 777-1571, philip.healean@dshs.wa.gov
- Feb 28 - Mar 1 • End the Violence Conference**, Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., endtheviolence.org, eventbrite.com/e/52492906387
- Faith and Reason Institute** Lectures, Gonzaga University, "The Incarnation as the Reset of Creation," Catherine Tkaxz, Tues 7 p.m., Jepson; "Faith, Reason, and Just War," Douglas Kries, Wed, 7 p.m.
- Mar 1 • Nominations for United Way North Idaho** Nonprofit Professional/Volunteer of the Year, uwnorthidaho.org/awards
- Mar 2 • Spokane Homeless Coalition**, The Gathering House, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., spokanehc.com
- To Mar 3 • Mardi Bras**, Benefit for Hope House, 318 S Adams, 2-4 p.m. drop off at Hope House, 328-6702
- Mar 3 • "Sharing Resources, Transforming Lives,"** 50th year of the Resource Directory at The Fig Tree Spring Benefit Lunch, Gonzaga's Cataldo Hall, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 535-4112, event@thefigtree.org
- Mar 3-4 • 24 Hour Sacred Art Retreat**, The Temptation of Christ, Hanna Charlton, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 4:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Mar 3-5 • Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella**, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, Fri. 3-7 p.m., Sat. 3 & 7 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m., 487-6540
- Mar 4 • 1912 Center Winter Market**, 412 E 3rd, Moscow, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 208-669-2249
- Lent Retreat Day**, "A Steadfast Spirit Renew in Me," Sr. Patricia Novak at Bea House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 541-3140, pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com
- Building Brighter Futures Fundraiser**, Northeast Youth Center, Northern Quest Resort & Casino, 100 N. Hayford, Airway Heights, 5:30 to 9 p.m., 482-0708
- Mar 4, 5 • Spokane Symphony Masterworks 7:** Welcome Back, Eckhart, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun., 3 p.m.
- Mar 6 • Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra**, Rachmaninoff and Mozart Piano Concerto with Richard Goode, piano soloist, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 211 E DeSmet, 7:30 p.m., 313-2787
- Mar 6-29 • A Matter of Balance:** Managing Concerns about Falls, ALTCEW, Parks and Recreation, 615 4th, Cheney, M, W 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 777-1571
- Mar 7 • Boards in Gear**, Nonprofit Association of Washington (NAWA), Gladish Community Center, 115 NW State, Pullman, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., nonprofitwa.org/event/pullman-boards-in-gear/
- Mar 8 • Boards in Gear**, NAWA, Walla Walla, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. nonprofitwa.org/event/walla-walla-boards-in-gear
- Vegan Comfort Foods Cooking Class**, Second Harvest, 1234 E. Front, 5 to 8 pm., 252-6256
- Hispanic Business Professional Association** Monthly Meeting, Fiesta Mexicana, 1227 S. Grand Blvd, 6 to 7:30 p.m., hbpaofspokane.org
- International Women's Day:** "My Names Is Andrea," film and poetry, Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 7 to 10 p.m., 209-2383
- Mar 8-11 • Habitat for Humanity-Spokane's Women Build** Event, Deer Park, habitat-spokane.org/womenbuild
- Mar 9 • The Eightfold Path of the Fool**, Eric Cunningham, explore Eightfold Preparatory Path in Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Ijng and Modern Chemistry, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, 11507 S. Keeney, 993-2968, harmonywoods.org
- Cardinal Michael Czerny**, "Caring for Our Common Home, in This World and with This Climate," Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 211 E Desmet, 7 to 8:30 p.m., 719-464-5555
- "Christian Witness in an Age of Polarization,"** John Inazu of Washington University in St. Louis, Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth, 7 p.m., whitworth.edu/speaker-series/
- YWCA Spokane Women of Achievement Party** 2023, Celebrating Every Woman, The Davenport Grand, 333 W Spokane Falls Blvd, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., ywcaspokane.org
- Mar 9, 23 • Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., slichty@pjals.org
- Mar 10-12 • Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend, in person, IHRC, ihrc.net
- To Mar 11 • Hostile Terrain 94**, Undocumented Migration Project Exhibit od U.S.-Mexico border realities, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1535 NE Wilson, Pullman, T-F 1 to 4 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 335-1910
- Juentino Aranda: Espere Mucho Tiempo Pa Ver**, Intersection of Mexico and America mixing pre-Columbian and current affairs, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, T-S, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 335-1910
- Mar 11 • Sweets Before Supper Gala**, Girl Scouts

of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, Davenport Grand Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Celebrating Eight Women of Distinction. 6 to 9 p.m., 747-8091

- Lent Retreat Morning** by Zoom, "A Steadfast Spirit Renew in Me," Sr. Patricia Novak, OSF, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 241-3180, pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com
- Mar 11, 20 • Spokane Jazz Orchestra:** Groove Summit II, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 7:30 p.m., 227-7404
- To Mar 12 • "Gift of a Moment,"** Lila Shaw Girvin Art Exhibit, MAC, 2316 W. 1st, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 456-3931
- Mar 12 • Integrating Body and Mind:** Alexander Technique and Movement Awareness, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, 11507 S. Keeney 1 to 3 p.m., elainebelle.com
- Mar 14 • Peace and Justice Action Committee**, PJALS, zoom, 5:30 p.m., jarcher@pjals.org
- Mar 15 • "Sharing Resources, Transforming Lives,"** 50th Anniversary of the Resource Directory at The Fig Tree Spring Breakfast-Time Zoom Benefit, 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., 535-4112, event@thefigtree.org
- Executive Director Coffee Hour**, NAWA, 9 a.m. nonprofitwa.org/calendar
- Volunteer Orientation**, Thrive International, 110 E. 4th, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., thriveint.org/events
- Mar 17 • Deadline - Annual Jessica Stein Memorial Art** Contest for the 2023 Community Observance of the Holocaust at Temple Beth Shalom on Apr. 20
- Mar 18 • Cabin Fever Gardening Symposium**, Benjamin Vogt, Master Gardeners Foundation of Spokane County, online, 9 to 11 a.m., 477-2181, mgfsc.org
- Celebrating Our Young Artists Winners**, performing with the Coeur d'Alene Symphony, Schuler Performing Arts Center, 1000 W. Garden, Coeur d'Alene, 7:30 p.m., 208-765-3833
- Spokane Symphony Pops 4:** Cirque Musica Symphonic, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, 7:30 p.m., 624-1200
- Mar 18, 20 • MET Live in HD:** Lohengrin, Wagner's masterpiece directed by Francois Girard at The Kenworthy, 508 S. Main, Moscow, Sat. 9 a.m., Mon, 6 p.m., Kenworthy.org
- Mar 19 • Purple Ribbon Banquet**, "Empowered to Soar" and Live Auction, Women's Healing and Empowerment Network and Cleone's Closet Food Pantry, 6 to 8 p.m., Center Place Regional Event Center, 2426 N Discovery Pl, register be March 3 - whenetwork.com
- Mar 20 • NAACP General Membership Meeting**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, or virtual, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- Mar 22 • Silent Day of Prayer**, Stations of the Cross, A Lenten Retreat, Sr. Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA, IHRC, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ihrc.net
- United Way of North Idaho Impact Awards** Luncheon, Coeur d'Alene Resort, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., uwnorthidaho.org/awards-luncheon-registration
- Mar 24 • Mama Beans 1st Anniversary Celebration** and *Born to Be a Boss* Book Launch, Stephy Nobles Beans, Carl Maxey Center, 3114 E 5th, 6 to 8 p.m., 879-8070, onhollygrounds.com
- Mar 25 • Deep Peace**, A Retreat for Anxiety and Overwhelm, Wellness Therapies Spokane, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 481-9629, harmonywoods.org/event/deep-peace/
- Tools for Running an Effective Nonprofit**, NAWA, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. nonprofitwa.org/event/spokane-tools-for-running-an-effective-nonprofit
- Spring Fiber Festival**, NE Washington Fair Grounds, 317 W Astor, Colville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 684-2585
- El Mercado Spokane**, Latinos En Spokane, West Central Community Center, 1603 W. Belt, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., info@latinosenspokane.org
- Mar 27 • Get Lit! Festival Book Club**, Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main, 838-0206
- Mar 28-Apr 20 • A Matter of Balance:** Managing Concerns about Falls, ALTCEW, Spokane Valley Fire Dept, 2120 N. Wilbur, T, Th 2 to 4 p.m., 777-1571
- Mar 30 • Uncovered: The Secrets We Hide**, four short docu-style films on overcoming toxic shame Leon Logothesis, TedX Speaker and TV host, The Garland Theater, 924 W. Garland, 6 to 9 p.m., storiesuncovered.com
- Apr 5 • The Fig Tree Distribution and Mailing**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 535-4112, kaye@thefigtree.org
- Apr 6 • The Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meeting**, 12 to 3 p.m., 535-4112, mary@thefigtree.org
- Weds • Open Meditation**, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, 5:30 to 7 a.m., (206) 979-5570
- Suns • Burritos for the People**, Spokane Community Against Racism, Compassionate Addiction Treatment, 168 S. Divison, 8:30 to 10 a.m., scarspokane.org
- To May 13 • Facing Fire:** Art, Wildfire, and the End of Nature in the New West, Jundt Art Museum, 200 E. Desmet, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 313-6843

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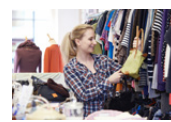
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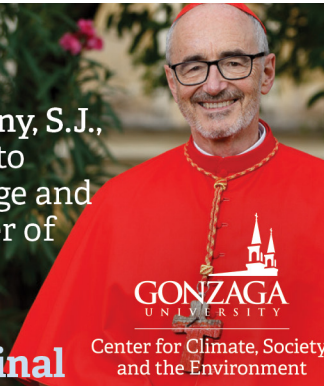


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# Hospice of Spokane was countercultural when it started 45 years ago

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM  
Forty-five years ago, Hospice of Spokane opened its doors—one of only 12 other hospices in the United States at the time.

Barb Savage, one of its five founders, described how they created a Hospice by making the path and walking on it.

“We didn’t know how to get where we wanted to go but we figured it out. We really didn’t know what we were doing,” she said.

Another founder, Johnny Cox, said hospice is an alternate way to care for people who were dying.

His wife, Barb, frustrated as a nurse in the ICU and long-term care, “knew we could do better” in helping people who were dying.

**Hospice was a new idea** that was both countercultural and revolutionary in American health care.

“We were bringing caring for a person who was dying back into their own family with support to assure their comfort, to provide symptom management and to accompany them as they walked through the final days that for many can be scary,” Johnny said.

In 1977, when Hospice of Spokane was founded, nobody knew what it was, so one of the biggest challenges was to educate physicians, nurses and the community about what it was so physicians would be comfortable to refer patients. At first, Hospice of Spokane had only enough funds to hire only two staff members, and they worried they might not make payroll.

**Now, 45 years later**, executive director Gina Drummond and development director, Joan Poirier, said Hospice of Spokane is well-known in the community, its hospice house, a staff of about 150 people—including a medical director, nurses, social workers, nurses aides, two full-time chaplains and bereavement counselors—plus 200 active volunteers and another 100 who volunteer on occasion.

A 12-person board of volunteer trustees is responsible for governance.

Today they serve more than 2,200 patients each year and on any given day are accompanying about 300 people on their end-of-life journeys.

**Gina said that hospice care** brings a reminder of the importance of relationships.

“Forgiveness and gratitude are so important throughout



**Joan Poirier is development director and Gina Drummond is executive director of Hospice of Spokane.**

our lives and certainly at the end,” she commented. “We are reminded not to take anyone or anything for granted.”

There have been many changes for Hospice through the years.

Now they receive payments for their services from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies. In the early years, there was no Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement.

**It was such a new concept** that education of the health care community—doctors, assisted living facilities, skilled-nursing homes, adult family homes and hospital social workers—was crucial so they would refer those who could benefit from the services hospice provided.

In the early years, Hospice of Spokane was the only program of its type in the region.

Now Hospice of Spokane, Northeast Washington’s only nonprofit hospice, serves Spokane, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.

With their comprehensive staffing, they provide a holistic approach to end-of-life care, addressing the medical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of patients with terminal illnesses, along with providing support to their families.

**The statistics in their latest annual report** reflect their services to terminally ill people and their families in whatever setting they call home.

- They served a total of 824 patients at their hospice house.
- Their team drove 824,760 miles to serve patients.
- They served 452 veterans and paid special tribute to them with a certificate honoring their service.
- Their volunteers donated 8,671 hours to Hospice of Spo-

kane and the patients and families served.

- Their chaplains provided 2,233 visits to patients and their loved ones of all faiths and spiritual backgrounds.

- Hospice’s bereavement counselors has provided grief counseling and support to 4,407 family members and close friends of those who have been served by Hospice of Spokane

during the past year.

“We still work hard to get the word out about hospice and our services,” said Gina. “We give presentations wherever people ask us.”

**She described the education process.**

“When I am in a group of people and asked what I do, I tell them what I do and about hospice. There is often a silence when I finish as people think about a loved one who died recently or a loved one they know who could benefit from our services,” Gina said.

The criteria for admission to hospice are clear and enable hospice to receive per diem payment from Medicare: The person must have a less than 6-month prognosis, be no longer seeking progressive or curative treatment and be interested in a palliative care plan that assures their comfort.

**If Gina hears that someone** might qualify for hospice care, no matter where they are living—even if they are couch surfing or homeless—she encourages people to call for a visit to have the person evaluated.

Joan explained that Hospice of Spokane is weaving its 45th anniversary into all their events this year.

**On Feb. 24, they will hold** a fundraising event, Taste of Life, at the historic Davenport Hotel.

Later in the year, they plan a Golf Scramble and their annual picnic honoring volunteers.

Both Gina and Joan confirmed that their message on this 45th anniversary is about community.

“We have been through a lot the last few years and we are celebrating that we have just hung in there together,” they said. “We see ourselves as members of the community, working with and for the community.”

**In 2023, the community** is just coming out of the gloom of the pandemic and all who are in the community, especially health care partners, value our relationships and believe these are moving forward in a good way,” said Gina and Joan.

For information, call 456-0438 or toll-free at 888-459-0438, email [jpoirier@hospiceofspokane.org](mailto:jpoirier@hospiceofspokane.org) or [gdrummond@hospiceofspokane.org](mailto:gdrummond@hospiceofspokane.org), or visit [hospiceofspokane.org](http://hospiceofspokane.org).



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