

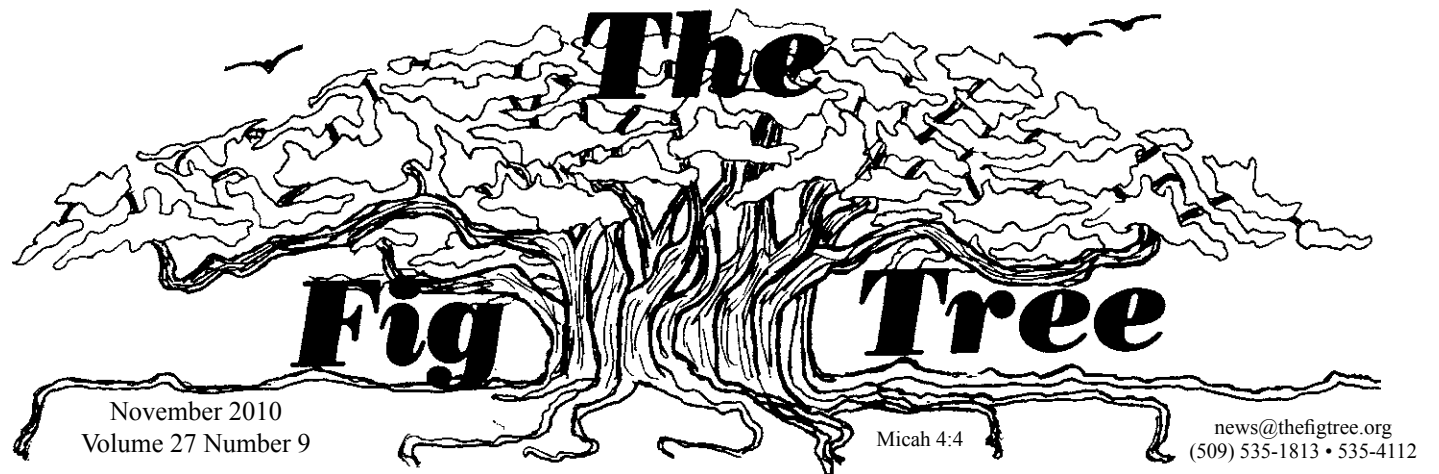
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

online in color at www.thefigtree.org

Fair trade marketing matures

By Mary Stamp

Two suitcases of craft items that a priest at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Colville brought back from Guatemala in 1986 started Pam Vail's interest in fair trade.

She set up a craft sale at her parish, where the late Father Jim McGreevy served after returning from several years at the diocesan mission in Guatemala. Proceeds supported that mission.

"He told us of the extremes of wealth and poverty in Guatemala, and inspired us to do fair trade sales to address injustices," Pam said.

Eventually, she learned about fair trade crafts and foods available on consignment through a Catholic Relief Services (CRS) partnership with SERRV, also called the Work of Human Hands Project. SERRV is an international organization that purchases crafts and foods from small-scale artisans and farmers overseas to promote human dignity and self-sufficiency.

Pam has lived in the Northwest since graduating from high school in 1971 in Los Angeles. After graduating from Evergreen State University in 1977, she moved to Walla Walla and then in 1983 to Colville, where her husband went



Pam Vail promotes fair trade in Catholic Diocese of Spokane

to work with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 1999, she earned a master's in pastoral ministry at Gonzaga University.

At first, her focus was on fair trade sales at her parish. In 2002, she became the Diocese of Spokane's consultant for CRS, the international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic Church. Two years ago, she trained as a Fair Trade Ambassador to visit parishes in the diocese to promote fair trade.

On behalf of CRS, she attended two Fair Trade Futures conferences, one in Chicago in 2005 and one in September in Boston, where she was able to meet producers and network with fair traders around the world.

The first conference, she said, was celebratory. The recent one was reflective, looking at successes and challenges such as certification, volume vs. value, commodities and other fair trade market issues.

The fair trade movement began in 1946 when businesswoman Edna Ruth Byler visited women artisans in Puerto Rico and decided to begin a global movement to end poverty through market-based solutions. A display and sale at the Mennonite

Continued on page 6

Episcopal Diocese organizes for mission to join in ending hunger and poverty

The recent Episcopal Diocesan Convention on "Recipes for Mission" set the stage for the Spokane diocese's new Organizing for Mission team to join in a national plan to engage Episcopalians in ending global hunger and poverty.

Bishop Jim Waggoner, Jr., told delegates that growth of congregations requires equipping people for mission so they can step out and change lives.

Just as each individual is called to discern God's call, he said, the diocese also needs to discern its unique call.

"We have to work together to

change the landscape for those who are hungry, homeless and hopeless, and for children in some local schools, where 50 to 90 percent of children go to bed hungry," Jim said. "It's unacceptable. We need to change the landscape."

Through the Organizing for Mission team, he hopes the diocese will transform communities and mobilize people through "living, loving relationships."

For the convention's closing service at the Cathedral of St. John, Donn Morgan, keynote speaker and professor of Old Testament at Church Divinity

School of the Pacific, spoke on the Gospel of Luke account of Jesus reading from Isaiah to define his mission—and the church's mission—as "bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming freedom for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, releasing the oppressed, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor."

"As communities of faith, we are to shape that mission to our contexts," he said.

While it may seem hard, Donn reassured that "God will do most of this, and invites us to join the throng of folks who have paved the way in mission. The agenda is huge, but our part is small.

"Many communities are already involved in mission and equipped to transform their landscapes of need into freedom and wholeness," he said. "We are always called to this mission."

Pondering about mission as he walked down the street one day, Donn said he raised his head and looked at a person coming toward him in a bright, red T-shirt. On it was a Greek symbol and the

Continued on page 4

Fig Tree Harvest Auction offers a fun way to donate

Overnights, dinners, bread, toys, art, fair trade items, themed baskets and much more are among the many donated items The Fig Tree will offer at its second annual Harvest Auction from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 11, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

Because it is on Veterans Day, Marian Beaumier from Friends of Veterans and Families will give a "mission moment" on their efforts to help clergy and congregation members care for returning veterans and their families.

While those attending the 2010 event make bids for the silent auction, they will snack on foods from Azar's hummus bar and taste fair trade coffees.

Proceeds will support the ministry of The Fig Tree as a model of responsible, solutions-oriented, ecumenical, peace-and-justice journalism.

"We share stories of people who are making a difference in the community, region, nation and world to spread hope and inspire more people to act," said editor Mary Stamp.

"Like public broadcasting, we are available free and rely on readers, advertisers, congregations and agencies to support our work each year," she said. "Unlike public broadcasting, we don't have air time to repeatedly invite people to donate to cover the costs of publishing the newspaper, website and directory. We have placed several reminder notices in this issue, and added 'donate' buttons on our website to communicate our need for sponsors and auction-goers to help us reach \$18,000 in year-end donations to support our unique coverage."

For information, call 535-4112 or email yvonne@thefigtree.org.

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

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Fax: +41-22 788 7244 www.en.ch

Role of women in food production noted

Geneva (ENInews). Women farmers in Africa produce more than 80 percent of the continent's food supply, but lack property rights and are the most affected by hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, said Peter Prove, director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. Speaking ahead of World Food Day on Oct. 15, he said: "More than one billion people are chronically hungry in our world and women are 70 percent of them."

Despite representing the majority of the agricultural workforce and production, women have access to or control only five percent of land globally, according to the report of the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is a church-backed group that campaigns for global food justice, among other issues.

"There must be a profound turnaround in international food and nutrition policies with only five years left to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development Goals," said Angeline Munzara, an advocacy officer for the advocacy alliance.

The report shows, "how land grabbing aggravates hunger in Africa, Asia and Latin America by leading to eviction of peasant communities from their main source of livelihood," said Munzara, a Zimbabwean.

Muslims, Christians can tackle conflicts

Geneva (ENInews). Muslim and Christian leaders need to set up permanent structures of relating to each other to head off potential conflicts in a world where religion is often seen as having a divisive role, said World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit at an October meeting in Albania of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

"The role of religion in emerging geo-political contexts is rapidly changing," he said. "While religion often plays a commendable role as a force for promoting justice, peace and reconciliation, its role has been more divisive in the early 21st century."

As many religions have experienced a spiritual revival, "highly politicized" religious groups, institutions and movements have emerged in some countries. "The changing geopolitical contexts provide more opportunities for political actors to mobilize religion in power struggles and for their political gain," Olav noted. "Religious extremist movements create serious social polarizations that intensify conflicts and encourage more extremism."

The WCC needs to be at the cutting edge of the churches' involvement, fostering a "dynamic interdependence between interfaith dialogue and religious freedom, because one cannot dialogue with tied hands or threats of reprisals," Olav said.

The WCC and several Muslim organizations are organizing a November consultation in Geneva to provide guidance for cooperation between Muslims and Christians at all levels, including joint Christian-Muslim action.

"Muslims and Christians need to understand the challenges that each other face as minorities in different contexts," he said.

Olav noted an increasing role for religion to provide a renewed impetus for "religious activism to mobilize grassroots religious communities for nonviolent social change for justice and peace. Harmonious interaction between religious communities would demonstrate how communities can overcome ethnic divisions, potential conflicts and communal hatreds."

NCC asks FCC to protect Internet freedom

Communicators representing national churches have called on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to protect the freedom of the Internet. Noting that Internet communication is "vital" to faith groups as they share their stories and build communities, the National Council of Churches Communication Commission recently issued a resolution urging the FCC to "protect the freedom of every individual and group to see and hear and send any information they desire.

"Faith communities have experienced uneven access to and coverage by mainstream media," the commission declared, "and wish to keep open the opportunity to create their own material describing their faith traditions."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Week raises awareness of hunger, homelessness

"Are You Aware?" is the theme for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Nov. 14 to 19 in Spokane. Events share about challenges homeless individuals, families and children face daily, and what people can do.

"On any night in this county, more than 1,500 homeless people live on the streets, in cars, in emergency shelters or in transitional housing," said Madelyn Bafus, director of Interfaith Hospitality and chair of the Spokane Homeless Coalition planning committee for the week.

She said there are new people homeless or on the brink of homelessness because of the economic downturn.

The Mayor's Proclamation will be at the Spokane City Council

at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 15, at Spokane City Hall.

The Homeless Winter Wear and Basic Needs Drive has four drop-off sites on Tuesday, Nov. 16—7 to 11 a.m., at the Global Credit Union, 1520 W. Third; and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Shopko stores at 9520 N. Newport Hwy., 4515 S. Regal St. and 13414 E. Sprague Ave.

Items needed include coats, gloves, scarves, boots, socks, hand warmers, plastic ponchos; new shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, soap, razors and lotion, toilet paper, laundry soap, cleaning supplies and pet food.

The Food for Thought Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18, at Shalom Ministries in Central United Methodist, 518 W. 3rd

Ave., connects homeless people and community members.

• The Spokane Mental Health Homeless Outreach Team's annual Winter Wear Pick Up for homeless people is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 19, at First Covenant, 212 S. Division.

The Department of Social and Health Services' Mobile Community Services Office in a van will be staffed with an eligibility specialist who can do eligibility interviews, process applications and authorize benefits for basic food, cash and medical benefits.

At noon, Friday, at First Covenant Church there will be a memorial service to remember homeless people who died this last year.

For information, call 747-5487.

Children and families are advocacy focus

"Kids and Families: People of Faith Advocating for Our Future" is the theme for the 2010 Lutheran Public Policy Office Spokane Fall Forum from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2715 S. Ray.

People from several faith backgrounds will join in this event to learn and take action on local issues facing children and families, said David Hacker of the LPPPO.

Issues will include the school dropout rate, foster care, adoption and child welfare, as well as results of the vote Nov. 2 on the Spokane Children's Initiative.

After an overview on issues, there will be a panel discussion of local leaders from the school district, community service organizations and city government to set the framework for discussion in small groups, in which partici-

pants will identify priorities.

At lunch, participants will interact with elective officials and school representatives.

Speakers from faith communities will offer tools to help individuals and congregations engage public officials to advocate for and shape policy on behalf of children and families, said David. For information, call 206-464-4133 or email lppooffice@lcsnw.org.

Deer Park will build 114 Habitat homes

More than 200 people attended the Habitat Neighbor Day Celebration in October on a 20-acre site south of Deer Park, bordering Colville/Dalton Rd. Habitat for Humanity-Spokane broke ground and unveiled their plan to build 114 homes to transform lives in Deer Park.

The project will stimulate the community's economy by buying millions of dollars in services and materials to build the homes, offering affordable homeownership to people living in poverty. It is

also an opportunity for volunteerism and fellowship.

The celebration included a ground blessing by Pastor Tim White, of Tri-County Christian Center and a ground-breaking ceremony.

The site plan and home designs were on display. Deer Park families interested in learning how to become Habitat homeowners attended an informational meeting. Future meetings will be held at 1 p.m., on second Saturdays, at the Tri-County Christian Center, 320

East 'H' St.

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane has built 205 homes in the county in an effort to eliminate poverty housing by offering affordable homeownership to low-income, hard working families with 0% interest loans that are paid back to Habitat over 20 or 30 years.

Families are required to provide 500 hours of sweat equity and pay closing costs before moving in.

The Deer Park homes will be single and 2-story twin homes.

For information, call 535-2552.

Event introduces 'Green Christmas' ideas

The Faith and Environment Network's fall benefit, "I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas: Ideas for a Sustainable Holiday Season," starts at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18, at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, 127 E 12th Ave.

It includes a local, organic dinner, homemade pies and presentations on how to make the holiday season simple, enjoyable and sustainable, said Felicia O'Reilly

of the network.

There will be demonstrations on giving handmade or locally produced gifts, plus opportunity to share ideas for creating a less hectic holiday season.

Local, organic apple and pumpkin pies will be for sale to raise money for a full-time director.

Those who cannot attend can purchase pies for pick up on Nov. 23, two days before Thanksgiving. Volunteers are needed to bake pies the afternoon of Nov. 18.

For information, email faithandenvironment@gmail.com or visit faithandenvironment-network.org.



INTERFAITH

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

10 A.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 25

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN
127 E. 12TH AVE.

Tolerance & Respect: Blessing People of All Faiths

Speaker: Clare Austen - Unity Church of Spokane
Celebration in stories, song and chant
from different religious traditions.

Please bring non-perishable food items for Second Harvest

A freewill offering will be shared by the sponsors:
the Interfaith Council and Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest

For information, call 534-1011

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Email: news@thefigtree.org

Folk Festival celebrates cultures

The 15th Annual Fall Folk Festival celebrates cultural diversity with two days of free family fun in music, dance and the arts. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 20, and from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21, at Spokane Community College's Lair, 1810 N. Greene.

The festival, sponsored by the Spokane Folklore Society, is made possible by hundreds of volunteers and performers who donate time, energy, money and services.

The first Fall Folk Festival in 1996 was held at the Unitarian Church with 12 performing groups. Despite the ice storm, about 350 people attended, and the festival outgrew the Unitarian Church after three years. It moved to Glover Middle School for several years. Now it draws more than 6,000 attendees to see more than 40 performing groups at Spokane Community College.

For information, call 624-5693, email clcsपो@msn.com or visit www.spokanefolklore.org.

Ecumenical website targets obesity

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO)'s Interfaith Food and Farms Partnership has launched faithandwellness.org, featuring a tool to help prevent childhood obesity and promote wellness.

The website is a product of a two-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded Congregational Wellness Project. EMO was one of 22 pilot projects selected.

Aimed at the religious and general community, faithandwellness.org features the Congregational Health Index (CHI) tool, created by EMO and Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute.

It helps congregations examine health factors, identify strengths and weaknesses, and change policies, practices and building use to create healthy eating and physical activity opportunities.

Eight congregations in Portland and rural Benton County have used the CHI tool to begin conversations on wellness, develop leadership and inspire changes from offering healthful food at fellowship times to converting unused land to community gardens and active play areas. For information, call (503) 939-7507 or email lraymond@emoregon.org.

Second Harvest sets mobile access

Given the recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau that one in seven American adults lives below the poverty line, Second Harvest Inland Northwest continues its efforts to relieve some of the pressure on budgets for healthful foods.

In November, it will continue to host mobile food banks throughout the county. These free, supplemental distributions for low-income families and people needing food assistance include fresh produce, perishable food and some frozen products.

The November mobile food banks will be held:

- from 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, at Mid-City Concerns, 1222 W. Second Ave.;
- from 9 to 11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 11, at Christ Lutheran, 13009 E. Broadway Ave., in Spokane Valley;
- from noon to 2 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12, at Millwood Presbyterian, 3223 N. Marguerite Rd.;
- from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Northeast Youth Center, 3004 E. Queen, and
- from noon to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 17, at Westminster Presbyterian, 2705 W. Boone Ave.

For information, call 252-6260 or email dmeuer@2-harvest.org.

Groups plan Human Rights Day

The United Nations Association and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane are co-sponsoring a celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 12, at All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S. Spruce.

Activist and writer Marianne Torres will speak on "Human Rights in Palestine and Israel," giving her eyewitness report on human rights abuses in Palestine and Israel through the lens of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For information, call 838-7870.

Trish Perez is keynoter for benefit luncheon

Trish Perez, who teaches child development at Harold Washington College in Chicago, will be the featured speaker for the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center's 2010 Benefit Lunch, at 11:30, Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Davenport Hotel.

Born in the Philippines and growing up in the United States and Europe, she knows of cultures where people "do things for the good of the group," rather than focusing on lives of "me, my and mine," she said in a recent interview.

Trish finds that often means families look out for themselves

rather than seeking help from support networks, day care, school and outside school programs.

"In some cultures, people support each other. That's social capital, compared to our focus on capital as money," she said.

Beyond that cultural difference is the societal shift in family demographics from two parents, 2.5 children and a picket fence to more single parent homes, grandparents raising grandchildren, and gay and lesbian families.

"For children, it's their reality that we need to honor so they feel good about themselves and want to learn," Trish said.

In addition, she is concerned that with the fast pace of this society and technology, children have little time to play, little time to sit and make mud pies," she said.

Trish also teaches graduate courses in human development and psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Loyola University.

The annual luncheon raises funds to support the day-care, before- and after-school, summer and family programs of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center at 845 S. Sherman St.

For information, call 455-8722 or visit www.mlkspokane.org.

Clare Austen speaks at Thanksgiving service

The Rev. Clare Austen of Unity Church of Spokane will speak on the theme, "Tolerance and Respect: Blessing People of All Faiths" for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 25, at the Ca-

thedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The celebration will include people from different faith traditions sharing stories, songs and chants.

Those attending on Thanksgiv-

ing day are asked to bring non-perishable food items for Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest.

A freewill offering will be shared by Second Harvest and the Spokane Interfaith Council.

For information, call 534-1011.

Child care center plans benefit dinner

Liberty Park Child Development Center's annual "Dinner by Candlelight," preceding the Whitworth University Christmas Choir Concert, will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the Liberty Park's Child Development Center, a ministry to children and families in one

of the state's poorest neighborhoods. It serves about 75 children and families each day, providing education, child care and family services.

As the economy shrinks, the center's need to serve children and families grows, said Marianne Frase, who is helping organize the benefit.

About 62 percent of the children are from single-parent families, 57 percent are minorities and 85 percent live below the federal poverty level.

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest started the center in 1971 in East Central Spokane and still sponsors it.

For information, call 466-2555.

Shoebboxes of gifts collected Nov. 15-22

Operation Christmas Child involved about 500 Inland Northwest congregations in 2009.

Members filled shoebboxes with gifts for children in poor countries. Last year the area collected more than 16,000 shoe boxes, said Lisa Steger, area coordinator for the project started by Franklin Graham's national Samaritan's Purse ministry in 1993.

Shoe boxes are packed with hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wash cloths, socks, shoes slippers, candy, gum, plates, bowls and toys. She said Samaritan's Purse adds in a booklet about Jesus in different languages.

From Nov. 15 to 22, collection centers in Wilbur, Deer Park, Pullman, Spokane, Spokane Valley, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Sandpoint and Spirit Lake will receive the shoebboxes.

For information, call 290-1170, email lsteger2@comcast.net or visit samaritanaspurse.org.



Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Benefit Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 10 at noon

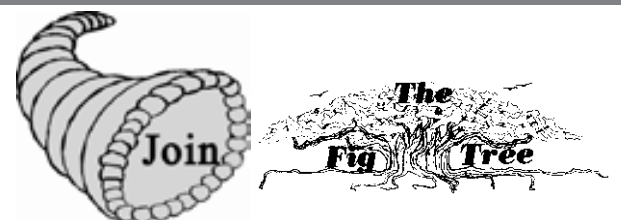
Doors open at 11:30 a.m. • Pennington Ballroom at The Davenport



Tickets: \$35

To purchase tickets, call 455-8722

Proceeds will be used to fund programs vital to the well-being of children and families in the Spokane area



for its 2010

Harvest Auction

Thursday, Nov. 11
6 to 8:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. John Great Hall
127 E. 12th Ave.

- Enjoy Azar's hummus bar and appetizers
- Taste fair trade coffees and chocolate
- Live and silent auction, plus some surprises

Please RSVP - \$5 per person

Send check to The Fig Tree,
1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202

Proceeds support The Fig Tree's outreach through stories that inform, inspire and involve

For information, call 535-4112
email: yvonne@thefigtree.org

Bazaars

Davenport United Methodist Church

BAZAAR

11 am - 2 pm

Friday, Nov 19
210 6th Ave.

Homemade soups, biscuits & pie
Crafts, decorations & baked
goods for sale

Lake City Assembly of God
Medical Lake
4th Annual Hollyfaire
Sat. Nov. 13 - 9 am-4 pm
400 E. Grace - Medical Lake
Crafts • Food • Collectibles • Party Lines

Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ's Christmas Market & Bazaar!

8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 6

411 S. Washington

8:30-10 - Free Coffee & Muffins
Live Music • Baked Goods • Jams &
Jellies • Raffle Baskets • Used Books
Craft Items • Artists' Market
Great Lunch 11:30 am - 1 pm

Audubon Park United
Methodist Women's
Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 6 - 9 am-3 pm
3908 N. Driscoll Blvd.
Wheelchair Friendly

St. John's Cathedral BAZAAR

at 12th & Grand
9:30 am-3:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 13

Lunch - 11:30 am to 1 pm
Tours, Raffles, Music
Food & Craft Items

Episcopalians connect with UN Millennium Development Goals

Continued from page 1
words: "Just do it!"

Helping the Diocese of Spokane's Organizing for Mission Team develop leaders and equip people for mission will be the Rev. Devon Anderson, a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Minneapolis and national director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation.

In a workshop, she told of equipping leaders around local-to-global mission efforts, related to the Episcopal Church USA's commitment to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by the United Nations in 2000.

The focus of the goals and the church's mission is on ending the "staggering, rising global poverty of people living on less than \$1 a day—the bottom billion," Devon said.

The eight goals are eradicating extreme poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, containing HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and creating global partnerships for development.

"If every country gave 0.7 percent of their Gross National Product, the goals would be accomplished by 2015," she said. "The United States gives just 0.2 percent of its GNP to the MDGs."

"The heads of more than 194 countries signed on to the goals and are developing partnerships between the haves and have-nots," she said. "The plan is to work from the bottom up, not top down."

Internationally, the Episcopal Church—as other churches—has organic, community-to-community, diocese-to-diocese, bishop-to-bishop relationships, Devon pointed out.

"The Gospel calls us to charity and justice," she said. "The two go hand-in-hand. Justice requires changing systems. When governments are unstable, it's hard to funnel funds through them, but churches have connections with churches in communities around the world."

In 2001, the Episcopal House of Bishops, meeting two weeks after Sept. 11, saw the crisis as a call for reconciliation, she said. In face of the anger, the bishops discussed how to minister and lead people to act without retribution, seeing the attack as a call for reconciliation and healing in the world.

"Reconciliation means unity, oneness, balance, listening and speaking truth," Devon said.

The 2003 Episcopal General Convention in Minneapolis held a forum on global reconciliation,



The Rev. Devon Anderson will consult with Episcopal Diocese.

recognizing that Christians can be agents of reconciliation by engaging global poverty.

"Globally we have everything we need to eradicate it—technology, money, resources, communities and networks," she told delegates. "We need the will."

Devon remembers people, who packed St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis, flowing out of the Cathedral and into the General Convention to pass a resolution that called every level of the Episcopal Church to give 0.7 percent for some expression of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

From that convention, Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation formed to work with Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) to start an MDG fund for the 40 countries where it already works. The goal is to raise \$6 billion.

Projects underway include the ERD Nets for Life providing mosquito nets to protect children from malaria.

By the 2006 General Convention, 82 percent of dioceses gave 1 percent to MDGs and the national church gave 0.7 percent, for a total of \$1 million.

At the 2009 General Convention in Anaheim, the 0.7 percent had been eliminated from the proposed budget with other major cuts, but it was restored, Devon said.

"Spending on global poverty was seen as optional in the economic downturn, with people in the national church losing jobs, retirement incomes down and strain paying diocesan staff," she said, "but we restored it through efforts of the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, the ERD, Episcopal Church Women and young adults. While we cut \$23 million in church center staff and programs, we restored \$800,000 for the MDGs. We would not forsake our commitment to people who are barely living."

"Mission is not an extra activity.

It's the reason the church exists," Devon asserted.

A UN Summit in September on the Millennium Development Goals found that despite the economic downturn there have been some advances, including an historic drop in childhood mortality because of mosquito nets.

"Collective giving and actions have global implications for the lives of other human beings," Devon said.

Given that the extent of the problem can cause inertia, she said the Washington, D.C., office is increasing efforts to equip people to make systemic changes, keeping Episcopalians informed of bills to create policies that make a difference.

Devon led a pilot project in Organizing for Mission in Minnesota, helping eight congregations build leadership, organizing people to talk about investing in MDG projects.

"We took \$14,000 and turned it into \$100,000, increasing the annual stewardship of churches. We drew new people, people interested in coming to churches that were dealing with the enormous world problems. We trained 50 new leaders, quadrupled giving and revitalized congregations."

"People want to be part of mission," she said, "and we find that money follows mission."

The Spokane Diocese's Organizing for Mission Leadership Team will introduce ways con-

gregations can empower people to share God through a model for mission that excites, encourages and trains people to act on human need in local communities and worldwide.

The team will engage Episcopalians in a 2011 Lenten Mission Initiative to address hunger by committing 0.7 percent of their incomes to local and global hunger ministries.

Half of gifts received will go to El Hogar Project's Episcopal Agricultural School and Farm in Honduras, leaving half for parish teams to use for local projects.

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Rally participants call for feeding the poor, not feeding the war

More than 100 people marching and rallying for peace and justice on Oct. 2 called for feeding the poor, not the war.

They chanted hopes for options possible if wars abroad end: health care, education, jobs, clean water, food, homes and local farms.

While calls for cuts in spending usually focus on cutting services and infrastructure, the marchers called attention to the massive amount of funds going for war and war-industry profits.

Posters offered challenges:

"Smart bombs or smart kids? Let's put our money where our future is."

"Actions of a few can put the world in harmony."

"Grandmothers for jobs, justice and peace."

"Warfare is welfare for the rich."

Liz Moore, director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), which organized the event, said that Eastern Washington has lost \$2.1 billion in funding that has gone since 2001 to support the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That amount could have provided \$932 million per year for health care for children, \$381 million a year for Pell grants for college students, \$229,800 a year for children in HeadStart and \$1,081,000 a year for renewable energy for households, she said.

Instead of money going to communities, it went to benefit people who make money off war, she commented, quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., who called war "a demonic, destructive suction tube" that draws the life out of communities.

Liz added that war adds costs to communities when 30 percent of vets return mentally ill, and when the number of wounded who need care far exceeds the number of dead.

She also expressed concern that offices of antiwar activists in Minnesota have been raided by the FBI and there have been arrests and surveillance of other anti-war activists.

Roseanne Lasater of Code Pink, a nationwide women's anti-war group that supports ending war spending and calls for re-investing in the needs of Americans at home, called for building an America united for jobs, peace and justice for all, an America willing to educate minds, have an economy that works for all, keep up the dream of civil rights, fix the broken immigration system, clean up the environment and assure equality for women.

Tom Charles of Veterans for Peace said it would be nice if "we



Spokane peace march coincided with national march.

did not need to come out to march, but if America follows the path of continued war it means there will not be money for health care, jobs, child care and social programs. It means that 10s of thousands of soldiers return wounded from terrible useless wars."

The Vietnam veteran said that without protests of that earlier war, it would have gone on longer. Tens of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese lost their lives.

"More would have died if tens of thousands of people had not walked the streets to protest the war. We can do the same to end this war," Tom said. "Neither the President nor Congress will end the war. We the people will end it," Tom said.

Joe Anderson of Gonzaga's Justice Club said despite the change in U.S. administrations from Bush to Obama, "the war machine continues to operate." According to Iraq Body Count, since 2003 at least 95,000—Wikileaks report 150,000—Iraqis and 4,400 Americans have been killed. Economist Joseph Stiglitz says the wars will cost at least \$3 trillion.

"With 50,000 American soldiers and 100,000 private contractors in Iraq today, a permanent U.S. presence has been normalized," Joe said.

In his 21 months in office, he said, the President has sent three times more soldiers to Afghanistan, setting up a permanent American presence in South Central Asia "under the guise of promoting women's liberation and democracy."

He calls for a mass mobilization of concerned individuals on campuses and in communities to protest the U.S. war machine.

Cindy White, anti-war activist, announced weekly anti-war

vigils at 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, at Wellesley and Division.

Marianne Torres, writer and activist is concerned that U.S. funding going to Israel helps support human rights violations. From 2009 to 2018, the U.S. will give \$30 billion in military aid to Israel, which "uses the funds to buy weapons, destroy Palestinians' homes, build Jewish-only settlements on Palestinian land and engage in other human rights violations against an unarmed civilian population," she said.

"Do we want the money to support a cultural war or support life and civil rights? We need to end the blockade of Gaza and end aid Israel uses for that and for the occupation of the West Bank. There is a growing global boycott designed to end the occupation and other human rights violations against Palestinians. It's a tool people can use to end the crimes and human rights violations against Palestinians."

David Brookbank, local activist, expressed his ongoing concern about the U.S. and CIA role in undermining democracies in Latin America, repressing unions and journalists. There are still CIA-supported coups that undermine elections, he said.

"We are kept distracted by banal TV dramas, news fiction and shopping," he said, calling people to stand against imperialism, racism and repression.

Mariah McKay of Next Up Spokane, a youth organization, wants to see the 100 who came turn into 1,000 people speaking truth to power.

"There's an education and awareness dilemma," she said.

"We need to connect young peo-

ple on issues and organize so more will show up to protest and vote.

Next Up canvassed neighborhoods to encourage people to vote. It is also building a mobile voter registration bike unit to increase citizen involvement.

The Rev. Deb Conklin, a United Methodist pastor, shared a vignette of a Mexican drawn by the American dream of welcome of immigrants, celebration of diversity and acts of compassion.

"These are things that make America great, but it breaks my heart that so many Americans, even members of my family, want to destroy those values out of their fear and hate," she said. "If we don't put social and economic jus-

tice at the center of our ministry, we are not being Christian. We need to oppose misrepresentations that put people and groups down with hate and division.

"We need to invite friends and family to think about what it means to be a country that truly welcomes immigrants, cares for creation and offers justice and a better life for all, not just the wealthy. We are called to speak out at a critical time to care for the environment," she said.

PJALS organized the event with Code Pink, Progressive Democrats of America, the NAACP, Spokane Veterans for Peace and Peace Action Washington.

For information, call 838-7870.



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Fair trade options offer hope for justice

Continued from page 1
World Conference led to Menonite involvement with what is now Ten Thousand Villages, working with artisans in more than 38 countries.

SERRV began in 1949 when the Church of the Brethren created it to help refugees in post-World War II Europe sell wooden cuckoo clocks from Germany in the United States. In 1960, Church World Service helped establish a U.S. church network to sell SERRV crafts. SERRV works with producer groups and pays them upfront.

CRS contracts with SERRV. Individuals, parishes or community groups can do consignment sales and have one percent of sales go to its Fair Trade Fund.

"I love the idea of fair trade as a tangible, personal connection with the global community," Pam said "It makes sense to help people in their communities receive a fair price for what they produce. People in this region can understand that."

With the CRS ties with SERRV, she said, it's easy to make the faith connection on the dignity of work, the value of every person, care of creation and global solidarity.

"I have a sense of working in relationship with people—rather than we in North America giving to poor neighbors to the South—through a fair and equitable exchange of goods in the marketplace," she said.

For her, it touches the heart of the Catholic Church's teaching about economic justice.

"I am a person of action. My faith needs to be lived, not just kept in a church building. I need to be out in the world," she said.

Pam, who is also active in the Northwest Fair Trade Network, helps bring fair trade festivals to parishes. She encourages parishes, Catholic Charities and the chancery to serve fair trade, shade-grown, organic coffee from CRS coffee-roasting partner Nectar of Life in Spokane Valley. It shares at least two percent of sales with CRS' Fair Trade Fund.

Other CRS partners are Divine Chocolate and Equal Exchange.

"The story of cocoa farming draws concern as we learn children are sold into slavery to harvest cocoa beans used to make candy they could never afford to buy," she said. "Before we bite into chocolate, even fair trade chocolate, we need to realize it is a precious commodity because of all the work that goes into it.

"A popular item for sale at a Work of Human Hands event is organic olive oil from the Holy Land," Pam said. "The story of Sindyanna of Galilee fair trade

olive oil, olive oil soap, spice and honey is a story of peace."

It began as a nonprofit led by women seeking social change in Galilee through land preservation, environmental sustainability and fair trade. It operates through cooperation of Arabs and Jews, to strengthen the economy of Arab Palestinians in Israel and Occupied Territories.

Pam learned at the fall Fair Trade Futures conference that it's becoming harder to certify crafts and commodities.

SERRV is a member of the Fair Trade Federation, which sets principles. Fair Trade USA (formerly Transfair) does most of the certification in the United States, as FLO does in Europe. They and Fair for Life, a new agency, certify food products like coffee, chocolate and sugar, she said.

"The question is how realistic is it to have one central certifying agency in North America, when most products come from the southern hemisphere," she said.

Small organic farmers and craft producers also find it hard to become certified because of what can be an unwieldy and expensive process with FLO or Fair Trade USA. Some products are fair trade but not certified, Pam said, pointing out that "fairly traded" does not necessarily mean it is not a fair trade product.

Fair Trade for Life started to offer a less expensive, more producer friendly certification process, she said.

"For me, if produce is not certified organic but I buy from a local farmer, whom I know and whose farming practices I know, I tend to prefer that over factory-farmed, certified organic food," she said.

"The message is for consumers to be educated so they can vote with their dollars for what they want to support, learning how producers live," Pam said. "As consumers, we need to do our homework. Certification is one way to be assured, but fair trade is nuanced."

Another question is how much of a product needs to be fair trade for it to be certified: Should vanilla ice cream that uses only fair trade vanilla be certified? Should Starbucks, which offers only a small percentage of fair trade coffee, use the certification logo? Should Walmart, which carries only a few fair trade items, claim fair trade certification?

"Should we celebrate that the mainstream is interested in fair trade or will it dilute fair trade? There's no definitive answer yet. It's one of the challenging questions facing the fair trade movement now," Pam said.

For information, call 684-5742.

Fair-trade sales planned

During November, there will be several fair trade sales and festivals in advance of the holiday season.

The Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Festival is set around the Mass schedule at St. Augustine Catholic Parish, 428 W. 19th Ave., 4:30 to 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7.

It will offer crafts and consumable products from SERRV—Work of Human Hands—Nectar of Life, Divine Chocolate and Northwest Fair Trade Network vendors. For information, call 509-684-5742.

• First Presbyterian Church's Jubilee Sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday Nov. 12, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, features fairly traded handcrafts from Ten Thousand Villages, as well as 32 other vendors.

Vendors from the region and church include:

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- Holy Land Ministries
- Hmong Community
- Hope Marketplace
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- Kizuri
- African Baskets
- Likki Tenderhearts
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- Mali Mudcloth
- Maya Earth Coffee
- Moonflower Enterprises
- Native Bead Art
- Rivers of Hope
- Singing Shaman
- Thailand Orphanage
- Two Sisters Boutique
- Zambia Gold Honey

Alternative gifts options include Heifer International, the Stewart Resurrection House and Transitions. For information call 448-0805 or visit www.spokaneffc.org.

• The Fair Trade Festival, sponsored by Ganesh Himal Trading and Kizuri, will be held Friday through Sunday, Nov. 26 to 28, at the Community Building, 35 W. Main.

Vendors include Conosur Imports, Corazon Scarves, Bead for Life, Kizuri, Maya Earth Coffee, Moonflower Enterprises, Singing Shaman Traders and PJALS. For information, call 448-1219.

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Baking led Mark Kadel into mission and now into resettling refugees

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

The symbolism of “breaking bread” to bring people together is not lost on Mark Kadel, the new director of World Relief in Spokane, who transitioned from a job as a baker to helping refugees find a better life.

He came to Spokane early last summer from World Relief’s office in High Point, N.C. He also supervised World Relief offices in Winston/Salem and Durham.

World Relief is the humanitarian, disaster relief, community/economic development and refugee/immigrant services arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, with 24 U.S. offices.

Staff and volunteers welcome newcomers, helping them adjust to U.S. culture, find jobs, learn English, become citizens and build their futures.

“We have resettled about 6,000 refugees in the Inland Northwest in the last 15 years. About 96 percent of our refugees come from countries where the gospel is closed to them,” he said.

The largest groups being settled in Spokane are from Iraq, Burma, Bhutan and African countries.

“Today, there are more than 13 million refugees and more than eight million have lived in camps for more than 10 years,” he said.

Each October, the President announces the number of refugees to be admitted to the country. It was 80,000 for 2010, less than one percent of the world’s refugees, Mark said. As one of 10 agencies that have a contract with the State Department, World Relief resettles nine percent of the eligible refugees through its 24 offices. Each year 500 to 600 people are resettled in Spokane.

World Relief is the only evangelical agency authorized to resettle refugees in the U.S., he said.

Mark brings insights from 22 years of working his way up in a supermarket, willingness to give up everything to live in Albania as a missionary, and awareness of the destitute situations out of which many refugees he serves come.

Raised in Boise, Idaho, he was happy to return to the Northwest when longtime director Linda Unseth retired last spring.

After attending Boise State University studying business management, Mark spent 20 years as a baker with a supermarket chain in Boise—starting out frying donuts and working up to become a supervisor.

At the Stonehouse Evangelical Church, he met his wife Patricia. They married in 1980. They taught Sunday school and led summer camps.

After a 1982 Night of Missions



Mark Kadel is new director of World Relief in Spokane.

presentation by Youth with a Mission, that focused on the need for world missions, Mark and his wife reexamined their contributions as Christians.

“What we heard at the meeting convinced us that we needed to do more than just sit in a pew each week,” Mark said. “God put something in our hearts that night to look at foreign missions.”

With news about Albania on the front pages in the 1990s, Mark learned it was one of the last countries under communism. He was drawn by reports of people suffering, struggling with riots and Stalinism.

In 1992, he contacted a man in Albania and learned there was demand for bread and people to work in bakeries. He sent his resume and soon went to Albania for two weeks. Seeing that people were barely surviving, he felt overwhelmed by their poverty.

Learning that atheism was taught and all religion had been banned since 1967, he was encouraged to find young people open to embracing Christianity because they had not been as indoctrinated as their parents had been.

Mark returned to Boise convinced he wanted to help Albanians. In June 1993, he quit his job at the supermarket. He and his wife sold everything and moved with their children to Albania, working with Helimissions, a Swiss faith organization that provided humanitarian assistance to remote regions of Albania.

“Our home was in a remote, mountainous village of 5,000 in the mostly Muslim Shengjergj region,” he said.

Mark and his family, the only missionaries there, adapted despite challenging living conditions. Sometimes they went for a week or more with no electricity.

He and his wife home-schooled their sons, and learned the language. He set up English courses, distributed Bibles and did community outreach, facing challenges of living in a country that was just rediscovering Christianity.

Many Albanians dreamed of coming to the United States and wondered why the Kadels left to come live and work with them.

“They couldn’t believe we were there because of our faith and commitment to Christianity,” Mark said.

The Kadels were evacuated by Italian marines and British troops because of increasing violence in 1997. When it subsided in a few months, they returned.

Later that year, they moved to Swindon, England, where Mark traveled to and from Albania during the Kosovo war. He helped repatriate refugees, who told him many horrible stories of the war.

In 2000, the Kadels moved to Greece where Mark worked for

the Athens Refugee Center, driving to Albania for two years.

With three sons in the United States, Mark, Patricia and their youngest son moved back to Boise so she could finish college. Mark began working as a case manager with World Relief.

After she earned her degree in 2007, Mark took a job with World Relief in North Carolina before coming to Spokane.

One of his priorities is to raise awareness about World Relief here. He seeks to empower local churches to “add value” to their ministries by welcoming and meeting needs of new refugees.

The staff of 27 in Spokane’s World Relief office reflect the diversity of refugees who have come. About 100 volunteers and interns from local universities support refugees as they transition to life in a new country and community.

A Refugee Simulation program, which started in 2007, reinforces the efforts. The three-hour exper-

ience has participants step into the role of a refugee. It helps school staff, students, churches and nonprofits be aware of and sensitive to the needs, background and cultures of refugee students and their families.

Addressing and preventing human trafficking is another priority. Under his leadership, North Carolina’s World Relief was a leading faith-based agency on this issue. While most Americans think there is no slavery today, he said human trafficking is slavery.

In Spokane, World Relief partners with Lutheran Community Services Northwest, because he believes collaboration and education are key to addressing trafficking. He believes sex trafficking is increasing in Spokane as it is across the nation.

He believes his staff is up to expanding immigration services and addressing human trafficking through World Relief Spokane.

For information, call 232-2814 or email mkadel@wr.org

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Routine schedule introduces new bishop to people, parishes and programs

New to the state and region, Bishop Blase Cupich of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane is following the routine schedule for his office to meet people involved in the life of the church and to learn how they work together.

His early impressions of Spokane's generosity come from attending the Poor Man's Meal at the House of Charity. He was impressed with the turnout and the network of civic leaders, law enforcement and schools working on needs of marginalized people.

"If I am to encourage an aspect of a ministry, I need to know what is happening, so I don't reinvent the wheel but build on what is happening," Bishop Cupich said.

To become acquainted with the people, region, parishes and ministries, he is visiting schools, parishes and confirmations; meeting leaders and groups; attending community events like the Greek Dinner, and relating with life at Gonzaga University.

"I am using the regular flow of the diocese to meet people and learn about institutions," he said, affirming that he is not coming in with any predetermined approach from his former role as bishop in Rapid City, S.D.

His understanding of the ecumenical community here began when faith leaders of the region greeted him at the cathedral after his installation.

"There is clear spiritual goodwill and a desire to work together," he commented.

Bishop Cupich is looking for points of contact for sharing relationships and finding where the faith community can work together for the common good.

In Rapid City, he said he had good ecumenical and interfaith relationships, such as involvement with an ecumenical relief effort in Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Lakota reservation to ease struggles when electricity went out in winds and an ice storm in January.

He sees ecumenical relations in place here and assumes he will join in the collaboration. This fall, he has pre-arranged commitments out of town, including a retreat and work as the Catholic Extension chair of the Mission Committee for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The bishop believes that "the church can bring light to discussion of complex issues as it proposes ideas rather than imposing ideas."

Bishop Cupich cited a document from the Second Vatican Council, "Pastoral Constitution of the Church in Modern Society," which stated that the joys and



Bishop Blase Cupich at his installation as bishop.

hopes, the griefs and anxieties of people today are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

"In saying this, the church wanted to make clear how important it is to engage the entire human family and be respectful of how God is working in the lives of all people today," he said.

"Our day-to-day experiences touch the pulse of what God calls us to be. In the life of the church, we can step back and be reflective," Bishop Cupich said.

"In the hyper-competitive society of winners and losers, the believing community brings a sense that we are all in it together," he said.

He saw that spirit expressed in the way Native Americans in South Dakota say goodbye, by saying, "We are all relatives!"

Bishop Cupich said that phrase expresses a parting reminder of the bonds that bring people together and is a way to assure that the people will continue in partnership.

"The faith community can help us understand that we are bound together," he said. "Often problems in society are approached through the lens of there being winners and losers. We are polarized in politics and society. There are different forms of separation. Society is divided into economic groups or classes, and it is also divided by racism and bigotry."

"We bring to the discussion the light of our own faith tradition," he said. "We are more, not less, when we look out for those who are most in need in society."

The bishop said the ethos and

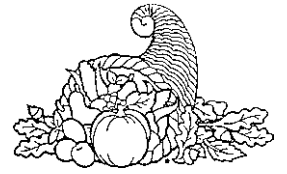
mythology of the highly competitive society are promoted in the prominence of sports, TV game shows and emphasis in international and national politics on winners and losers.

Ordnained a priest in the Omaha Archdiocese where he grew up, he served as a priest, taught high school and worked with the diocese. He has a doctorate in sacred theology focused on sacramental theology from the Catholic Uni-

versity of America in Washington, D.C. He also served as president/rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and as a priest in Omaha before being named bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City in 1998.

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Ken Stern promotes the academic study of hate and its nuances

Citing the recent climate of hate, Ken Stern, a New York attorney and author who serves on Gonzaga University's Hate Studies Institute board, believes the academic field of hate studies can "have a huge impact on a global scale."

The director of the anti-Semitism and extremism division with the American Jewish Committee is on the board because of his commitment to developing testable theories to combat hatred.

"Hate has harmed more people than anything else through human history," said Ken, who was the keynote lecture at the recent "Take Action Against Hate" banquet at Gonzaga University.

"We need to understand it better," said Ken defining hate studies as: "Inquiries into the human capacity to define and then dehumanize or demonize an 'other,' and the processes which inform and give expression to, or can curtail or combat, that capacity."

The need in these times is critical, he believes, listing recent incidents: a New York City gang recently torturing a gay man; anti-Islam sentiments stirred over a mosque near Ground Zero; a pastor threatening to burn the Koran; Iran's President continuing to deny the Holocaust while trying to obtain nuclear weapons and threatening to wipe Israel off the map; a small church spreading their hate of gays, and media coverage of immigration creating animosity toward Hispanics.

Ken wants academic discussion to raise understanding of why some people vilify other people with whom they disagree and to provide effective ways to counter hatred.

For example, at Stanford, when debate on a student petition for the university to divest from Israel became heated, pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel students were shocked at the vitriol unleashed.

"Rather than let it continue, they decided to table the petition and speak openly about their experiences and perceptions. Jewish students gained understanding of what it meant to live in the West Bank and Gaza," he said. Palestinians learned that hearing of a proposed boycott of Israeli goods for many Jewish students was reminiscent of the history of anti-Semitism and boycotts against Jews.

"With any political issue, from immigration to the Middle East, there can be an environment of vilification that starts to be expressed," Ken explained. "Each side feels justice is on their side, and their juices start flowing."

Ken wonders if there is a cor-



Ken Stern comes to Spokane for board meetings.

relation between hatred and how right and virtuous one feels in his or her position.

"I have heard supporters of Israel say things are not so bad for Palestinians. I have seen people who are critical of Israeli policy vilify Israelis. I'm critical of some Israeli policies, too, just as I am of some American policies. People sometimes want to speak to their own side to score points."

He suggests people put themselves in the other's shoes and ask: "What do we have to do so the grandchildren of today's Israelis and Palestinians aren't still killing each other, but have their own national self expression and maybe even cooperation?"

Ken calls for quantifying the cost of hate, adding up the cost of war, the cost of discrimination, the cost of lost production, which result from hate," he said, noting that it's hard to determine a scale by which to measure those costs.

Just as medicine is a combination of the academic fields of biology, chemistry and related fields to address the fact that people have physical illnesses, Ken hopes the academic field of hate studies can pull together knowledge in various academic fields to help reduce the illness of hatred.

Ken, who grew up on the East Coast, graduated from Willamette Law School in Oregon and often came to fish and visit a friend in Spokane before the Aryan Nations came to the region. He previously came to the Northwest to speak at conferences of the former Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

About 10 years ago, Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center came with Ken and met in Unity House at Gonzaga with George Critchlow, Bob Bartlett

and others in the community. At that meeting, the idea for the academic institute arose. Ken offered to serve on the board.

Then he and Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment founder Bill Wassmuth, a former priest active in the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, approached two Northwest universities proposing the idea of hate studies. "Great idea," they said, but asked, "Where's the money?"

"The Gonzaga community saw the need because of community response to threats made to an African-American law student," Ken said. "Gonzaga understood both the importance and the promise of the idea, and began asking how they could help implement it. They established the Institute for Action against Hate, published *The Journal of Hate Studies*, convened an international conference and offered the first interdisciplinary course in any college to look at hatred.

The institute has now helped start to two classes, one in the undergraduate school and the other through the School of Business.

At the second International Conference on Hate Studies in April 2011 in Spokane, Ken expects participants to look at how hate studies can inform governmental and other decisions. Two representatives of the U.S. State Department—one who deals with anti-Semitism and the other with anti-Muslim sentiment—will give keynote addresses.

Ken hopes that in the next 10 years, 10 universities will work with the Hate Studies Institute, and offer their own hate studies courses, concentrations, minors and majors.

In 20 years, he hopes govern-

ment, diplomats, media, NGOs and religious groups will "use the knowledge hate studies produces so they will know at least how not to make it worse and at best how to combat it effectively," he said.

The challenge will become more critical, Ken said, because by 2050 the majority of Americans will be non-white and "we're already seeing how hatred about this demographic change is playing out in the anti-immigrant movement."

His motivation is practical, believing that without academic research and education, few resources will be generated to overcome hate.

"The institute will make us smarter and better," he said.

On an issue like the Middle East, Ken worries that "people talk to themselves" and lack "the capacity to put themselves in another's shoes and imagine themselves as Palestinians or as Israelis.

"Ideologies paint their side as all correct, and the other side as all incorrect," he said, "Some believe Israel is always wrong, so the debate becomes 'how wrong' rather

than looking at complex issues and their impact," said Ken.

"We need to look at the impact of our political passions on each other's communities," he said.

For information, call 212-891-1444 or email sternk@ajc.org

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What 'hidden taxes' do we pay the corporate world when we shop?

Do we really know what we are buying when we shop? As I meander into this topic, playing on the thought of corporations "taxing" us in their costs of doing business, I'm reminded by the editorial below to watch my words.

The lack of disclosure of what corporate entities support which political messages, started me thinking that perhaps we would not want to be "taxed" in our shopping to pay to fund political discourse we don't "buy." For what else are we being "taxed"—as a compulsory assessment (usually to the government but with the talk of privatizing many government services bear with me)—in the cost of doing business included in the prices we pay?

- We know we are paying to buy political influence, in which we have no influence.
- We are assuring a certain level of profit that redistributes wealth to those who invest in the corporations.
- We are paying to cover many \$40,000 payments for each 30-second ad on national TV broadcasts.

- We are paying for pretty packaging to entice us to buy products we didn't know we needed.

- We may be paying for goodwill retailers and others seek to generate by advertising a "sale" or a business practice of donating to charities of their choice or our choice. (I prefer not to run my charitable giving through a corporate entity.)

- We pay to assure that CEOs and top management receive astronomical salaries and bonuses to make executive positions competitive and to retain "quality" people. (Why don't corporations want all levels of their employees to have competitive salaries to keep quality employees loyal and productive?)

In the climate of tax-cut talk—whether to extend tax cuts for the most wealthy and in Washington whether to tax incomes of individuals earning more than \$200,000—wouldn't we rather have the built-into-the-cost-of-doing-business costs in our pockets, rather than the pockets of corporations?

Of course the word used isn't "tax," but seeing that some retailers are advertising 70 to 80 percent sales, I wonder how much of product prices are for such extra costs, rather than the actual cost of producing, transporting, marketing and selling the products.

While there are channels for us to speak out on how government spends our tax dollars—voting, campaigning, writing letters to the editor, going to town hall meetings, signing petitions, joining advocacy networks, making political contributions and writing, phoning or emailing elected officials—we may feel voiceless in face of the land grab through foreclosures and the ever inflating prices as incomes shrink.

There are, however, some channels for influence. Obviously, we can turn more of our shopping dollars for gifts, food, clothing and household items to fair traders, farmers' markets, thrift stores and church bazaars.

We can also educate ourselves and other consumers to vote with our money. That may be by making fewer purchases; by researching what corporations produce

what products and promote what policies; by choosing to buy from producers more in line with our values, and by letting CEOs know we are not buying—maybe even organizing others in boycotting—their products and why.

Along with informing citizens about legislation, a number of advocacy networks now include action alerts to call corporations to be more accountable to the consuming public.

Big givers to new so-called nonprofits that funded some fear-producing, fact-denying political ads this season, clearly wish to remain anonymous, so conscientious consumers do not know what they are really buying when they shop.

We also need to be aware that if government services assuring the general welfare are privatized—as some wish—as a way to reduce spending and the official form of taxes, we may be paying more of another, hidden form of taxes, with a more limited voice and influence.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Language deserves our stewardship in a 'culture of lies'

Bemoaning the coarsening of our culture and the rudeness of much of our discourse is almost a pastime these days.

We have just completed another election season in which we have been beaten over the head with unattractive misuses of our language: lies, twisted terms, exaggerations and innuendo, delivered shrilly or in dire, threatening tones. The primary goal seems to be to make voters angry.

According to many polls, we don't like negative campaigning and ads, but they regularly seem to be worse than the last time. Why? Negative tactics work, especially when repeated endlessly.

However, they don't solve problems, and we have many complex problems in this country that must be faced but are not easily solved.

They require effective and civilized communication and a willingness to be educated.

Too often, what tries to pass as communication amounts to reacting to emotionally loaded words and phrases with irate set pieces that are so predictable that a hearer could write them out before they have been delivered.

We have arrived at this unpleasant juncture over an extended period, and going beyond it will also take time.

Bemoaning can be satisfying, but only as a midpoint where we can draw a deep breath and decide how we go past this verbal train wreck we've created.

Our language deserves our stewardship, according to Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, author of *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*.

Our language is a life-sustaining resource, she says. "Like any other life-sustaining resource, language can be depleted, polluted, contaminated, eroded, and filled with artificial stimulants. Like any other

resource, it needs the protection of those who recognize its value and commit themselves to good stewardship."

She has 12 strategies for stewardship of language.

Some are obvious. Some are not so obvious, and a number of them are practices that we often tell ourselves we should make more time to do. Several call us to be responsible citizens:

- 1) Love words, cherishing language for "its diversity, precision, power to enhance understanding, power to name, power to heal."
- 2) Tell the truth, realizing that truth is often elusive, relational and many-sided.
- 3) Don't tolerate lies.
- 4) Read well, taking in, eating, chewing on, being fed and nourished by the text.
- 5) Stay in conversation, because "conversation, like good reading, nourishes."
- 6) Share both personal and literary sto-

ries about how actions affect lives.

7) Love the long sentence. It can take us on an interesting, unhurried journey.

8) Practice poetry, reading some, memorizing some and writing some.

9) Attend to translation, which includes not only going from one language to another, but also going from one realm of knowledge to another. Making a field of knowledge accessible does not have to mean dumbing it down.

10) Play. "To play with words is to love them, delight in them, honor their possibilities and take them seriously."

11) Pray and practice the presence of God.

12) Cherish silence.

By practicing the stewardship of language we might also find ourselves reaping the fruits of the spirit.

Nancy Minard
Editorial Team

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

The church with all of its failings, warts and problems is what we are called to become a part of in our faith journey. It obviously isn't perfect. If it were, Martin Luther would not have found himself nailing those 95 theses upon the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517.

The church, however, is the place where God's grace is to be proclaimed and experienced. It is the place where we are called to welcome all who come to us to be "in Christ." It is not a place of exclusion but of inclusion.

I am greatly saddened when I see the church or congregations begin to judge who is allowed in and who is out. Luther understood that we are all sinners and none can claim superiority. I believe Jesus put out the welcome mat and said to each of us, "All are welcome."

The Rev. John Hergert
First Lutheran - Pasco

As I write these words, the sound of a child screaming is echoing through the building. One of the students in the school that meets in our basement is having a bad day. A variety of emotional and experiential burdens weigh heavily on her young life and often make it challenging for her and everyone around her. As I listen to the screaming, my heart and prayers go out to her and those who seek to love and care for her.

It is not always easy to be people of God.

We are called to care for one another—not just when it is easy, but also when it seems impossible.

There are people all around us whose lives are filled with pain, burdens and challenges. Not all of them are as easy to recognize as this young girl. Most of us, most of the time, are much less vocal, but the pain is no less real.

So for us to be the arms of God, reaching out in loving embrace, we must pay attention. We must be intentional about watching and listening for the hurts of those with whom we share life on this planet. Sometimes there will be something concrete we can do—pay a bill, offer a ride or provide a meal.

Often there will be absolutely nothing we can do except offer the gift of ourselves. We can pray, listen and simply be present with them. Never doubt that such a gift is vitally important. In such moments, we are nothing less than God's active agents of Love.

May we continue to discover the wonderful ministry of compassion as we seek to be God's faithful people in this place.

The Rev. Roger Lynn
Country Homes Christian

Those attentive to the church calendar know we've entered the last weeks of the church year, a year that ends more than a month before the calendar year ends on New Year's Eve. The last Sunday of our

church year is November 21, when we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. A new year begins the Sunday after that on November 28, Advent 1. That makes Saturday the 27th our church's "New Year's Eve" and seeing it come has put me in a pensive mood, ready to reflect on the year we're finishing.

What a year! What a painful time for so many! War in two theaters, a terrible recession, frustration in politics, and a housing meltdown have sapped our people and left our communities and our congregations pressed down and fearful. All around us difficult questions demand creative answers many feel unprepared to offer. Change comes so rapidly that our electronic gizmos are outmoded as soon as we learn how to operate them! Even then we wonder what they're for when issues so fundamental are in play.

Change has come to congregations as well, and many are feeling the pressure of unemployment or budgets that are not balancing.

In Chicago, our churchwide partners are dealing with a 30 percent reduction in mission support during the last two years and it has made planning a free-falling challenge. Another 60 employees of the ELCA know now that their positions will be gone by February. Along with the other changes our congregations face these days, the times begin to feel "apocalyptic" in scope!

Our readings for the end of November will turn our thoughts to the end-times,

and therefore, to the new beginning God will make. Every human end is a beginning for God and we know that the first promise is that God is present in our midst, the very present incarnation of God in Jesus Christ!

I don't want to seem Pollyannaish, but we have nothing to fear in these hard days. God is at work to redeem every human failure and to usher in the new day that is God's desire for us. As part of a recent Campus Ministry consultation, Pastor Randy Nicolai from WSU reminded us of what theologian Joseph Sittler once said: "The future is bleak and therefore hopeful," and I think that perfectly captures the essence of hope in this hard day.

In the spirit of not being Pollyannaish, it is not true to say this hope is price-less. It is costly in an ultimate sense to Jesus whose very life is given to redeem the hope of God. As Christ's Body in the world, this may be our path as well.

We begin this new church year anticipating the end of the Christ cycle readings (Holy Trinity Sunday, June 19, 2011) with this promise of Jesus from Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Who will we be on that June day? We will be God's and God will be with us.

Bishop Martin Wells
Eastern Washington Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

'Women's Vote' exhibit runs at the MAC

A six-month exhibition, "Women's Votes, Women's Voices," with 200 artifacts, interactive kiosks and oral histories on how Washington women campaigned for suffrage, achieved a voice and influenced territorial and state history, opened on Oct. 30, at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First Ave.

It is the state's main activity celebrating the centennial of Washington women winning the right to vote in 1910. As the fifth state to enact the legislation, its action revitalized the national suffrage movement, which in 1920 won women's voting rights.

Farmers' market begins winter season

The South Perry Farmers' Market begins its winter season indoors from 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays, from Nov. 4 to May, at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S Richard Allen Ct.

The market will feature many summer vendors, plus new artisans, craftspeople and producers offering winter foods grown and raised locally. Food items will include winter storage crops like potatoes, carrots and squash, along with eggs, meat, preserved items, bread and other baked goods.

There will also be community activities during market hours.

The market will sponsor a Winter Bazaar from 9 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Emmanuel Center.

For information, call 509-521-0606 or visit www.thursdaymarket.org.

Author on Islam speaks in Spokane

The World Affairs Council will hold a program on "What Does the Quran Really Say?" at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10, in Room 122 of Phase I Building at Riverpoint Campus Spokane.

Author Lesley Hazleton, a former psychologist and Middle East journalist now living in Seattle, will challenge common judgments and explain contemporary issues related to Islam given that nearly a quarter of the world's population is Muslim. Her books include *The First Muslim* and *After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split*.

For information, visit wacspokane.org.

The exhibit includes artifacts loaned from the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the Susan B. Anthony House, and Rochester, N.Y.'s Historical Society.

The Washington State Historical Society, the MAC and the North-

west Oral History Association are sponsoring the 63rd Pacific Northwest History Conference Wednesday to Friday, Nov. 3 to 5, at the Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post.

For information, call 363-5309 or visit www.washingtonwomen-shistory.org.

Calendar of Events

- Nov 5-Dec 31** • **Peace Corps Folk Art Exhibit**, Express Employment Professionals gallery, 331 W. Main, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, opens with First Friday Art Walk, 5 p.m., 868-0302
- Nov 5-6** • **Basic Lay Speaker Training**, Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond Rd., 838-3085
- Nov 6** • **Filipino Fiesta, Mobius Kids**, River Park Square Lower Level, 808 W. Main, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 674-KIDS
- Nov 6-7** • **CRS Fair Trade Festival**, St. Augustine Catholic Church, 428 W. 19th Ave., 4:30 to 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, 509-684-5742.
- Nov 7** • **Community Celebration** honoring the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Court, 3 to 6 p.m., 535-1645
- **Organ Dedication, Recital, and Reception**, Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway, 3 p.m., 328-6280
- **Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane**, membership meeting, Glover House, 321 W. 8th Ave., 1 p.m., brunch, 2 p.m., meeting, 838-7870
- Nov 8 - 18** • **Honoring Our Veterans and Military Wall**, Washington State University School of Nursing, 103 E. Spokane Falls Blvd., 358-7554
- Nov 10** • **Spokane Hispanic Business Professional Assn.**, Agave Latin Bistro, 830 W. Sprague Ave., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., mikeg@kxly.com
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center Benefit Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m., Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post St., 455-8722
- **"What Does the Quran Really Say?"** Leslie Hazleton, World Affairs Council, Room 122, Phase I Building, Riverpoint Campus, 5 p.m., wacspokane.org
- Nov 11** • **Fig Tree Harvest Auction**, St. John's Cathedral, 12th & Grand, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 535-4112
- Nov 12-13** • **Jubilee International Marketplace**, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 448-0805
- Nov 12-14** • **Retreat for Survivors of Loss of a Loved One to Suicide**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- Nov 13** • **"Kids and Families: People of Faith Advocacy for our Future"**, Lutheran Public Policy Office Forum, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2715 S. Ray St., 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 206-464-4133
- **Women's and Children's Free Restaurant Thanksgiving dinners**, 1620 N. Monroe and 1622 E. Wellesley at Rogers High School, 4 to 7 p.m., 324-1995
- **Mark Stewart Resurrection House Benefit Dinner**, Auctions and Dancing, Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post St., 5:30 p.m., 995-2181
- **Homelessness and Hunger Awareness Week**, see p. 2
- Nov 14-19** • **"Getting to the Heart of Interfaith"**, Common Ministry Roger Williams Symposium, 7 p.m., Monday, CUB 203 Washington State University, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Interfaith House, 720 NE Thatuna, 332-2611
- Nov 15-22** • **Shoebbox Ministry** drop off week, 290-1170
- Nov 16** • **Veterans Panel/Brown Bag Lunch**, Washington State University Spokane, SAC 147, 600 N. Riverpoint Blvd., noon to 1 p.m., 358-7524
- Nov 18** • **"I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas: Ideas for a Sustainable Holiday Season"**, Faith and Environment Network Benefit, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 5:30 p.m., faithandenvironment@gmail.com
- Nov 19** • **Whitworth International Banquet**, HUB at Whitworth, 5:30 p.m., dinner, 7:30 p.m., entertainment, 777-3796
- Nov 20-21** • **Fall Folk Festival**, Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N Greene St., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, 624-5693
- Nov 25** • **Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 10 a.m., 534-1011
- **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** of St. Aloysius Parish, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, noon to 2 p.m., 313-7001
- Nov 26-28** • **Fall Fair Trade Festival**, 35 W. Main, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 464-7677
- Nov 30** • **Rick Steves at Gonzaga University**, Cataldo Hall, 5 p.m., 313-3567 or www.gonzaga.edu/COML
- Dec 1** • **Fig Tree distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Dec 3** • **Fig Tree Board meeting**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., 535-1813

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YWCA recognizes Yvonne Lopez-Morton for her commitment to human rights, diversity and justice

Yvonne Lopez-Morton, associate editor of *The Fig Tree*, sees herself as one voice in many contributing to the health of the community working for racial and social justice.

She received the Carl Maxey Racial Justice Award at the 2010 Women of Achievement Luncheon in October, recognizing her community service, leadership in promoting diversity and dedication to the YWCA's mission of "eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all."

The YWCA said she "embodies a multicultural heritage that motivates her commitment to human rights, volunteerism, justice, faith and peace."

Appointed chair of the Washington State Human Rights Commission by Governor Christine Gregoire in 2007, Yvonne oversees enforcement of state laws against discrimination—investigating civil rights complaints, monitoring emerging issues and providing educational opportunities. She previously was chair of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

Locally, she is on the Spokane County Civil Service Commission and boards of the Women Helping Women Fund and Leadership Spokane.

In her role as associate editor of *The Fig Tree*, she supports diversity through stories about individuals and initiatives in the faith and nonprofit communities that promote unity and encourage action for the common good.

Yvonne also lends her voice on the Washington State University Spokane's President's Advisory Board and the new Leadership Advisory Committee, which honors future women leaders.

Other commitments include the Spokane Hispanic Business Professional Association and the Spokane Minority Advisory and Resource Team.

In partnership with community leaders, Yvonne encourages dialogue that identifies challenges, needs and expectations for the Hispanic community, as well as all communities of color, people with disabilities, women, seniors, gays, faith communities and those in poverty. She supports initiatives that bring the community together



Yvonne Lopez-Morton receives Carl Maxey Racial Justice Award.

to celebrate diverse cultures.

"I can easily be discouraged by the things happening in the world," Yvonne commented, "but I am encouraged every day by working with commissions, community organizations, *The Fig Tree* and individuals who care and who are addressing racism and poverty that keep people from succeeding.

"We're not alone," she said, reinforcing the idea that she is "one of many voices."

At this point in her career, having used her journalism degree in various positions including the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and school district, she said she finds *The Fig Tree* a fit for her passion both as a communicator and as an advocate for social justice.

"My work at *The Fig Tree* is a way to spread the word about what people are doing to address racism and poverty," she said.

With the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, she helps the legislators, organizations and businesses realize how diverse the state is and how important the role of the migrant community is.

"The state needs to understand how immigrants' values coincide with the rest of society," said Yvonne, whose family in New Mexico is Hispanic and French.

On the Human Rights Commission, she addresses policy, communicating about the agency's

decision makers. As president of the Hispanic Business and Professional Association, she helped spread how Hispanics contribute to the business community and provide opportunities to celebrate Hispanic culture.

"Through *The Fig Tree*, I have also learned about the different faith communities," said Yvonne, who is active at St. Ann's parish. "I understand how much work faith communities in the region are doing.

"It's about lifelong learning. With every story, interview and issue of *The Fig Tree*, I learn something new about the many ways people are contributing to human rights," she said. "It reminds me that many voices are contributing to the health of the community, and I'm just one."

For information, call 535-4112 or email yvonne@thefigtree.org.

YWCA honors five more women

Five other Spokane women honored for their service and leadership at the Women of Achievement Luncheon are:

- Holy Names Sister Karen Conlin for arts and culture;
- Barb Beddor, director of Star USA, for professional;
- Margaret Bruya, professor at Washington State University College of Nursing, for health care and science;
- Barb Chamberlain, director of communication at Washington State University, for volunteer service founding Bike to Work Spokane, and
- Francisca Chau, Gonzaga Preparatory School senior, as young woman of achievement.

For more information about the luncheon, call 789-9304 or visit www.ywcaspokane.org.



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