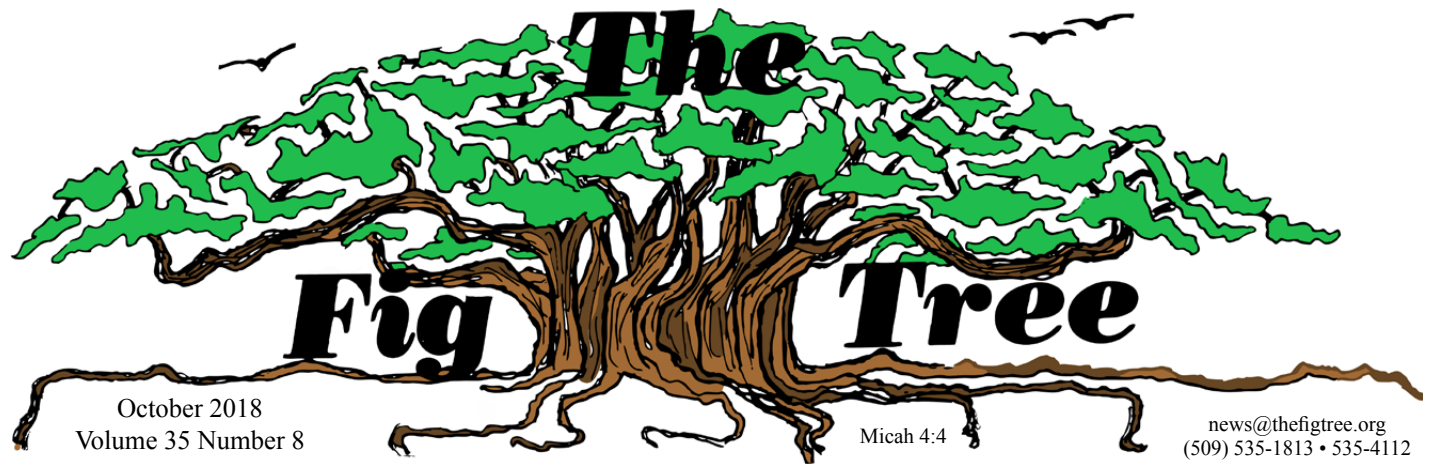


35TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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CALENDAR ON PAGE 11
FEATURES 60+ EVENTS



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

Kizuri brings world to Spokane

By Mary Stamp

Kizuri owner Kim Harmson thinks of the store in the Community Building in Spokane as social justice and serving people she loves, more than as a retail business selling global fair-trade, earth-friendly, local gifts, clothing and more.

"It's about relationships that make the world run differently," said Kim, reflecting on her 10 years in business and plans for celebrating the anniversary in October.

"We are committed to fair-trade principles, environmentally responsible business practices and giving back to our community," she said.

Running Kizuri, Kim can stay true to her values in a way that benefits Spokane and the global community.

"I love supporting projects that improve lives of women and girls in developing countries and at the same time provide customers with beautiful and useful items," she said.

Kim keeps her costs low to benefit the local economy and allow artisans to have more income.

To celebrate the anniversary and the people who make Kizuri "a vibrant, successful endeavor," she



Wearing a fair trade headband, earrings and sweater, Kim Harmson is standing beside a display of LaChamba cookware from Colombia.

plans to give back 10 percent of the sales for the month of October, with five percent going to Conscious Connections to Educate Girls in Nepal and five percent to Spokane RiverKeeper.

Kim expects to offer other ways to celebrate along the way, like give-aways and other events.

This fall, Kizuri will also have a booth in Jubilee International Marketplace at First Presbyterian Church on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2 and 3, and will help Ganesh Himal Trading host the annual Festival of Fair Trade on Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 22 to 24.

Kim and Jeff, now her husband, passed through Spokane in 1980 while on a two-month bike trip from Seattle to San Diego. Prior to that, they sold everything and left Chicago with no jobs, uncertain where they would end up. They were impressed with Spokane and stayed a few days to explore. Ultimately, they returned to make Spokane their home.

She made lifelong friends working two and a half years at the Onion Bar and Grill, while Jeff studied echocardiography at Spokane Community College. He has worked 35 years at Sacred Heart as

Continued on page 4

Colville pastor has long been involved in ecumenical, interfaith advocacy

For the last two years, Jim CastroLang, part-time pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Colville, has found an outlet for his call to ministry at the intersection of faith and advocacy through serving on the Faith Action Network (FAN) Board of Directors.

Involvement in ecumenical and interfaith advocacy is not new to him. In the 1990s, he was on the board of the Washington Association of Churches, which merged with the Lutheran Public Policy Office in 2011 to form FAN as a statewide interfaith movement to

promote the common good.

"We leverage the influence and passion of the interfaith community to advocate for a just society," he said. "Christians, Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims and people of other faiths comprise a growing network of more than 140 communities and more than 6,800 individuals across Washington that believe advocacy and justice work are part of our religious calling."

Jim said FAN provides "a persistent moral voice and visible public witness committed to compassion and inclusiveness, improving the quality of life for

people in the state."

While it receives some denominational support, FAN relies on donations from individuals, businesses and local churches, so he is organizing an Eastern Washington opportunity for people to learn about and support FAN by streaming a live feed of FAN's Annual Dinner, which raises a third of its budget, to the Glover House in Spokane. In Renton, nearly 500 supporters will gather at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18.

In Spokane, Jim expects 30 to 50 will hear the keynote and other speakers there, as well as local speakers.

Live streaming technology brings Jim's computer and tech savvy into play. He attends many bimonthly FAN Board meetings by Zoom video conferencing. He is committed to making online meeting tools more stable and training people to include those who are not in the room.

Bringing FAN's Annual Dinner to Spokane is part of an effort to expand to Eastern Washington what happens on the West Side

Continued on page 9

Decade anniversary will assess progress towards a just community

What has been achieved in building a just community of women and men? What must still be done? How can ecumenical collaboration be strengthened in reading the signs of the times in order to map the future direction of work?

The World Council of Churches (WCC) fellowship and ecumenical partners will gather in an inter-generational setting seeking answers to these questions through a global consultation in Jamaica, Oct. 2 to 5, that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Hosted by the Jamaica Council of Churches, it will be held in the context of the WCC's 70th anniversary, its ongoing Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, and the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, said the WCC Press Center.

By the end of the gathering, participants will share a vision statement for moving towards a just community of women and men in church and society. The consultation will focus its activities around celebrating the gifts, visiting the wounds and transforming injustices in the relationships between women and men in the church since 1998.

Participants will highlight the four priority topics for the decade: violence against women in various forms, women's full and creative participation in the church's life, the effect of the global economic crisis on women, and the impact of racism and xenophobia on women.

For information, visit oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news.



Photo by Albin Hillert/WCC

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In Nigeria, 'let us walk with our heads high'

As tens of thousands of people watched from offices, shops and the sides of the road, the Thursdays in Black "street walk" made its way through Abuja, Nigeria, the afternoon of August 23.

Nearly 150 young people came out to support the campaign, seeking a world without rape and violence. They represented the Presbyterian Young People's Association of Nigeria, the youth wing of Christian Council of Nigeria, the First Initiative Family Integration Relief and Societal Transformation Initiatives, and the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. Many represented themselves, their communities and their families.

As the Rev. Ikechukwu Anaga addressed young people and media, the rain seemed to fall even harder. "Do not pay attention to the rain, because it will not stop us," he said. "We may get drenched in it, but our voices under the rains will re-echo in the hearts of perpetrators of rape and violence, and they will turn a new leaf."

The walk was held for young people and generations unborn. "When the issues of rape and every form of violence, especially against our women and girls, are reduced to the barest minimum and perpetrators brought to book, our world will be a better place for our generation and generations unborn," he said.

"We must make a statement that every form of gender-based violence entrenched in our cultures and systems must be revisited and expunged. Since we are in Abuja and the seat of power in Nigeria, the policy makers could hear our voices and do the needful."

The walk was also supported by the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy.

Global conference said humans are equal in dignity

Participants at the conference "Xenophobia, Racism and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration" released a message on Sept. 19 that affirms and upholds the institution of asylum for those fleeing from war, persecution or natural disaster, and invokes respect for the rights for all people on the move.

The conference, held in Rome, was organized jointly by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"Conscious of a rise in xenophobic and racist reactions to refugees and migrants, we have striven to describe, analyze, understand and address the exclusion, marginalization, stigmatization and criminalization of migrants and refugees, and the justifications for these attitudes and discourses which now exist in several different parts of the world, even within the churches," reads the message.

The message also acknowledges that migration—the movement of people—is an inherent feature of the human condition. "It belongs to the whole history of humanity—past, present and future—and the entire biblical narrative," it says.

Conference participants acknowledged that recent drivers of forced displacement and migration have included unresolved brutal conflicts and the lingering consequences of global economic crisis and austerity policies, as well as other root causes such as extreme poverty, food insecurity, lack of opportunity and insecurity.

The message continues: "The churches and all Christians have the mission to proclaim that every human being is worthy of respect and protection. The churches are also called to live out, on a daily basis, the welcome of the stranger but also the protection and the mutual encouragement to all—each in the diversity of their origins and history—to participate according to their own talents in the building of a society that seeks peaceful well-being in equality and rejects all discrimination."

New students welcomed at WCC Bossey Ecumenical Institute

Fr. Ioan Sauca, director of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, and deputy general secretary, welcomed 31 students from diverse countries and traditions for the new academic year 2018-2019. On their first day, students and faculty prayed that their encounter and study, listening and speaking gives space for God's love to grow among them.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

30th Jubilee Marketplace is Nov. 2 and 3

For the 30th year, First Presbyterian Church will present the Jubilee International Marketplace which offers fair-traded hand-crafts from around the world.

Proceeds go to the artisans who made the items and the vendors.

Jubilee will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 2, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3, at the church, 318 S. Cedar.

Items sold at Jubilee include baskets, jewelry, Christmas décor, food, gifts, folk art, clothing, accessories, textiles and more.

"Founded in Nov. 1998 as an Alternative Christmas Sale, it's

an opportunity to support fair trade artisans with a living wage," said Myra Watts, communications coordinator.

"The sale promotes alternative shopping that offers empowerment, justice and dignity for people worldwide, especially in developing countries," she said.

Thousands of shoppers select from about 30 vendors that fill the church's gym and fellowship hall.

Mary and John Frankhauser, two of the founding volunteers, continue to organize the event as part of their commitment to the biblical understanding of jubilee

in Deut. 15 and Lev. 25, which celebrate God's provision for the whole community and jubilee as a model for sustainable society in which members are not to acquire an overabundance of resources that permanently impoverish others.

In fair trade, artisans earn a living wage and have a long-term relationship with the buyer to build stability in vulnerable areas. Through fair trade, people have food, schools and medical care.

Fair trade is about justice. For information, call 747-1058 or visit spokanefpc.org.

Faith Action Network plans Cluster Meeting

The Faith Action Network is planning to hold a Cluster Meeting from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28, at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 2715 S. Ray.

The gathering is an opportunity for Spokane members of FAN's Network of Advocating Faith Communities to build relation-

ships, hear advocacy updates and strategize for advocacy plans and events in the coming year.

In Eastern Washington, the advocating faith communities—among more than 140 in the state—include All Saints Lutheran, Bethany Presbyterian, Salem Lutheran, Spokane Friends

Meeting, the Unitarian Universalist Church and West Central Episcopal Mission in Spokane; Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman, and Shekinah Community Church in Clarkston.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or visit fanwa.org.

UN Day event looks at issues in Colombia

Stacy Taninchev, associate professor in political science at Gonzaga University, will be the speaker for the 2018 United Nations Day Celebration, at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Wolff Auditorium in GU's Jepson Center.

She will speak on "Colombia in

the United Nations."

The Gonzaga's Model United Nations requested to and did represent Colombia at the National Model UN conference in New York in 2018 because of Gonzaga's focus on developing their partnership with the Pontifica

Universidad Javeriana (PUJ) in Cali, Colombia.

Stacy, who is the GU Model UN faculty advisor, spent five weeks at PUJ-Cali in the summer of 2017.

For information, call 313-3610 or email taninchev@gonzaga.edu.

Mayan painter shares skills in a benefit

Amigas de Corazon will host a Paint and Sip class as a benefit with Mayan Artist Benedicto Ixtamer from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4, at 2007 E. Upriver Dr.

Benedicto will give participants an opportunity to explore typical Mayan art techniques, while benefiting the work of two nonprofits.

The beneficiaries are Amigas de Corazon—Corazon Scarves—which empowers and supports Guatemalan weavers and their families by economic, community and educational development, and Benedicto's nonprofit, Funds for My School, which assists children from his village in San Juan La Laguna, Guatemala, to attend and succeed in school.

Benedicto's paintings will also be for sale. Supplies, a beverage and light snacks are included. The event is limited to 25.

Benedicto's home is on Lake Atitlán in the volcanic Guatemalan highlands, where his family is in the coffee business. He is also director of a Spanish school there.

He has displayed his work at U.S. venues from 2004 to 2015, including at Jubilee at First Presbyterian in Spokane. His story is in the December 2014 Fig Tree.

From an early age, Benedicto discovered his talent drawing on cardboard and school notebooks. Later, his father gave him three oil colors and one brush as a gift. With those he developed his art.

After he and his three brothers

worked in the fields, they picked flowers, leaves and bark to make natural dyes for their mother's textiles. Benedicto often paints on her textiles, using traditional Mayan art. Today he paints in different styles showing everyday life.

Debbie Dupey, founder of Corazon Scarves/Amigas de Corazon, is available for presentations or private sales about Amigas de Corazon and the work they do in Guatemala, as well as Corazon journeys to meet the weavers.

For information, call 714-8928, email debbieacorazon@gmail.com or visit www.corazonscarves.com.



Faith Action Network (FAN)

a statewide, interfaith movement for the common good invites you to the

First Annual Spokane FAN Dinner
Sunday, Nov. 18 - doors open 4:30 PM
The Glover Mansion, 321 W. 8th Ave. Spokane

We will link by livestream to the FAN Annual Dinner in Renton and also provide some local perspectives. Help FAN leverage the influence and passion of the interfaith community to advocate for a just society!

For tickets and sponsorship: <http://bit.ly.SpokaneFANDinner>
More information: Spokane@fanwa.org

Connect with FAN at Eastern WA Cluster Meeting
Sunday, Oct. 28, 2-4 pm, at Bethany Presbyterian Church
2607 S. Ray St., Spokane
RSVP at <http://bit.ly/SpokaneClusterRSVP>

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Temple offers presentation on 'Jewish Beginnings'

Temple Beth Shalom and Congregation Emanu-El invite the general Spokane community for a special presentation, "Jewish Beginnings," at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at 1322 E. 30th Ave.

Two volumes discovered in a safe in the old Odd Fellows building on First Avenue several years ago will be on display, said Larry Grossman, temple archivist. These volumes contain the actual minutes from 1890 of Congregation Emanu-El up to 1930. It includes the story of Congregation Emanu-El's members struggling to plan the building of a Synagogue, which, when it was built in 1892, was the first Synagogue built in the State of Washington, Larry said.

Jim Kershner, author, historian and journalist for the Spokesman Review, will be the presenter of the history of Spokane Jewry—from early pioneers, to those Jews who arrived from Europe at the turn of the 20 century, up to the present.

For information, call 747-3304 or visit spokanetbs.org.

Civil rights activist speaks at NAACP Banquet

Civil rights activist Elmer Dixon will speak on "Defeat Hate-Vote" at the 99th annual Freedom Fund Banquet of Spokane's Chapter of the NAACP. The event begins with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by the banquet and program at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Northern Quest Casino, 100 Hayford Rd. in Airway Heights.

Educated in public administration, Elmer has 30 years experience as a manager and trainer. He is a diversity consultant, leading teams, facilitating and implementing strategic plans for organizations, and training in multi-cultural communication, team building and conflict management.

He moved from Chicago to Seattle at the age of seven when his father began working at Boeing. At Garfield High School in Seattle, he organized a Black Student Union in 1968, the year his brother Aaron co-founded the Seattle Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Elmer served as the party's breakfast program coordinator. He continued the breakfast and health clinic until 1976.

For information, call 838-2605 or email spokanenaacp@gmail.com.

2018-19 is Eckart Preu's final season in Spokane

The Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) in Maine announced in August that Eckart Preu, who is in his 15th season with the Spokane Symphony, is their new music director.

For Portland's 2019-20 season, he will conduct classical, pops and "Magic of Christmas," beginning with two concerts in January.

While he serves as the PSO's music director designate for the 2018-19 season, he spends his final season as music director of the Spokane Symphony, which began its 73rd season in September. Eckart will conduct five of the 10 classical concerts in the 2018-19 season, giving pre-concert talks an hour before each performance.

The "Final Five" finalists for music director in Spokane will conduct the other five classical concerts. A new director will be announced in May 2019.

In addition to Spokane and Portland, Eckart is music director of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra in California, and music director of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra in the summer.

For information, call 842-2943 or visit spokanesymphony.org.

Gonzaga hosts School Safety Forum

Kristina Anderson, founder of the Koshka Foundation, will present an address and moderate discussion of a panel of K-12 professionals for the School Safety Forum hosted by Gonzaga University's Schools of Education and Law, beginning at 4:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8, at the Hemmingson Center.

"Shared Responsibility for a Safer Future" is the theme for the community forum that will explore ways members of the education community can contribute to safe learning environments.

She is an international advocate in bystander intervention, active shooter response and violence prevention in schools, workplaces and public spaces. An injured survivor of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, which claimed 32 lives, she speaks across the U.S.

"Whether it's open acts of violence, increasing rates of suicide, bullying, microaggressions or mean-spiritedness, violence in educational settings impacts everyone," said Vincent Alfonso, dean of GU's education school. "Privacy laws, the Second Amendment and other legal regulations can permit expressions of violence to continue and escalate," said Jacob Rooksby of GU's Law School.

For information, call 313-3495 or email whitej2@gonzaga.edu.

New center will honor Carl Maxey legacy

By Sandra Williams
The Black Lens

Friends of the Black Lens, a small, African American led, non-profit organization, embarked on a mission a few months ago, to purchase and reclaim a building on 5th Avenue in Spokane's East Central neighborhood and turn it into a cultural center that will honor the life and legacy of Carl Maxey, Spokane's first Black attorney.

After a whirlwind, eight-week capital campaign that raised nearly \$100,000 in contributions from the Spokane community and from private donors, the Friends of the Black Lens Board closed on the building the morning of August 3, 2018 in a historic sale that filled the room with both laughter and tears.

To thank people for the overwhelming support that they received, Friends of the Black Lens hosted a community open house on Saturday, Sept. 15, in the building that will become the Carl Maxey Center.

About 100 friends, neighbors, donors and community members visited the Center for the three-hour open house to tour the build-



At the open house, Cynthia Bracey-Coleman writes visions.

Photo courtesy of Sandra Williams

ing, share cake and punch, meet the Friends of the Black Lens Board members and offer their thoughts about what programs and activities should be included in the renovated building.

The vision for the Carl Maxey Center is that it will be an inspiring, interactive and technologically advanced hub that will be a transformative force in the East Central neighborhood by focusing on social and racial justice, education and advocacy, economic and workforce development, and cultural enrichment, with a goal of uplifting and empowering the community from the inside out. The center will offer all of Spo-

kane the opportunity to celebrate the richness of the African American experience and to interact and make connections with each other in an environment that is uniquely African American.

As Friends of The Black Lens moves forward with the remodeling phase of the building, they are starting the process by hosting a Community Focus Group from 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Carl Maxey Center building, 3116 E. 5th Ave. The Spokane community is invited to join a discussion on what the priorities should be for the Center.

For information visit carlmaxeycenter.org.

5th annual Oktoberfest
German beer • local brats • live music
4-6 p.m. October 13, 2018
1912 Center Great Room
412 E. Third St., Moscow ID
Serving local bratwurst and rolls, plus sides and desserts
\$15 suggested donation per person
\$50 suggested donation for immediate family
Free for 5 and under
Benefitting Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Idaho
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SATURDAY, Oct. 6
11 am to 3 pm
Serving different entrees \$5 each
curry rice, tempura, kalua pork, yakisoba noodles, Filipino food, teriyaki chicken wings, beef bowl, inarizushi
baked goods, crafts
Highland Park United Methodist Church
611 S. Garfield
cash or credit cards
For information call 535-2687

Fall Harvest Dinner
Saturday, Nov. 10
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
115 N. Raymond
COST
\$12 adults
\$6 under 12
924-7262
Supports World Mission

Bazaars
Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Auctions & Meals
The Fig Tree will run another event section in Nov & Dec issues
Cost: \$14/col. inch

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 3 - 9 am-3 pm
2733 W Northwest Blvd
Country Store with baked goods, lots of unique and handcrafted items, and Peanut Butter Peanut Brittle

SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR
Proceeds benefit local charities
SATURDAY, Nov. 3
Bazaar 9:30 am - 1 pm
Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am
Central Lutheran Church
512 S. Bernard (5th & Bernard)
Lefse, Holiday & Scandinavian Cookies, Flatbread, Meatballs & Crafts
Lefse & cookie preorders
Oct 1-22 - 509-624-9233

FALL FESTIVAL BAZAAR
Saturday, Oct 27
9 am - 2 pm
lelse, bean soup mix, plants, baked goods, crafts, Grannie's Attic & more
Prince of Peace Lutheran
8441 N. Indian Trail Rd.
Spokane

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon
Saturday, Nov 3 • 9 am -3 pm
Crafts, Baked Goods, Raffle Basket, Holiday Decorating & White Elephant
Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran
639 Elm Street

St. Paul's Episcopal Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 3
9 am - 3 pm • 625 C St. - Cheney
raffle • crafts • baked goods
• gently used collectibles •

A Completely Bazaar Day in Cheney
Saturday, Nov. 3
Loads of craft and baked goods
Come for breakfast, stay for lunch
Raffle prizes, White Elephant gifts
Visit all four churches!!!

Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!
Cheney United Methodist Church
crafts, baked goods and a gift shop designed for children
Saturday, Nov. 3 • 9 am-3 pm
4th & G St. - Cheney WA

Cheney Congregational Church Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 3
9 am - 2 pm • 11 am - 1 pm lunch
Crafts, Silent Auction, Raffle
423 N. 6th - Cheney

Bazaar & Bake Sale
St. Mark's Lutheran
316 E. 24th Ave.
Grand Blvd. & 24th
9 am - 2 pm
Saturday, Nov. 3
Coffee bar, bake sale, quality seconds and crafts

90th annual Christmas Faire & Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 10
9:30 am - 3 pm
Cathedral of St. John
127 E. 12th Ave.
Free admission
Champagne mustard, jam & cookies, ornaments gifts for everyone.
Vintage treasures
Lunch: soup, rolls, pie
Visit with St. Nicholas Child care & crafts

JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE
Supporting Fair Trade for 30 years
Join the celebration of **Fairly Traded Handcrafts** from around the world
Friday, November 2, Saturday, November 3
10 am -7 pm & 9 am - 4 pm
First Presbyterian Church | 318 S. Cedar
(located at the Maple St. exit from 1-90, downtown Spokane)
For more information, visit www.spokaneipc.org

Fair trade store celebrates 10 years of impacting lives globally

continued from page 1
a cardiac sonographer.

For eight years while their children Kendra, now 35, and Isaac, 32, were in school, she taught at the Manito Parent Co-op. Later she studied educational kinesiology—to understand how young children learn through movement. Then she did trainings for school districts throughout the state of Washington.

While Kim was teaching, Denise Attwood of Ganesh Himal Trading invited her to work with their fair trade wholesale business.

Kim happily accepted. Eight years later when she went to work one day, Denise told her that Global Folk Art was closing. Denise wondered how to keep fair trade alive in Spokane.

"I'll do it," Kim said.

By then, she was passionate about fair trade and had connections from talking with fair trade people around the country.

Global Folk Art went out of business, and Kim started from scratch.

Global Folk Art had started in 1980 through the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. It was a nonprofit run by a board, a part-time manager and volunteers.

Kim decided to be for-profit, not nonprofit, so she could make decisions when needed, not wait for a board to decide, which she said is a hard way to run this kind of business.

"I can't imagine running a successful store without knowing your customers and keeping your finger on the pulse," she said.

The first year, she worked six days a week. Then she hired Jennifer Olson, who has worked with her for nine years. They take turns so each has time off.

Naming the store Kizuri, which means "good" in Swahili, Kim started with the help of nine investors from Spokane. She never had to go to a bank. With the startup funds, she bought inventory and remodeled. She has kept in touch with her investors

over the years and still occasionally taps into their expertise.

"All have now been paid off," she said. "Many were paid off by the end of the first year. All major investors but one were paid off in three years.

"I own it debt free now," she said, "but really everyone owns it. My inspiration comes from customers, artisans and wholesalers. It's a collaborative effort, not just me. I'm the orchestrator."

Much has changed in 10 years. Fair trade continues to grow and evolve in a positive manner, Kim said, adding that the young people involved with fair trade today inspire her.

"Their interest spurs fashionable accessories and clothing styles. Dresses are still made from traditional fabrics with hand-stitched accents, but designed with pockets that thrill women," she said.

"A continually growing commitment to the environment results in using many reclaimed or re-purposed materials for production," she said. "Recycled cotton sari fabrics are transformed into colorful blankets. Tires, which were once burned creating oppressive pollution in overcrowded cities, are now transformed into hip purses and message bags."

A new item at Kizuri is jewelry made by women in Ethiopia, who have been exiled from their villages because they have AIDS or fistula. These women have been told for much of their lives that they are worthless, Kim said.

Working with two young women from Minneapolis, these women melt bullet casings from the Eritrean-Ethiopian war "into stunning jewelry," said Kim, who learned about it several months ago on a Facebook chat with other fair-trade store owners. She has reordered items five times already. Now the women earn eight times Ethiopia's minimum wage. Some can pay for medical treatment.

Last year, Kim and Jeff went for the first time to Nepal, traveling a month with Rick and Denise

of Ganesh Himal, visiting artisans whose products are in Kizuri. Ganesh Himal, which supplies Nepalese items, is one of the top wholesale suppliers for Kizuri.

"We visited with women who make felted dryer balls and flowers for Ganesh and Kizuri," Kim said. "The women make a livable wage, which enables them to send their children to school, save for their families and access medical treatment.

"It has positively impacted the lives of 15 women in Kathmandu, who work in community with friends," Kim said.

They also visited tailors, jewelry makers, women artisans who make handmade paper and Ram Shekhar, a skilled traditional blockprinter in the ancient city of Bhaktapur.

After visiting in Kathmandu, they went with six others on a 16-day trek in the Tsum Valley near Tibet, a sacred valley, which just recently opened to trekkers. Soon the Chinese government will put a road through the remote area. They came as strangers into villages, and families invited them into their homes for tea.

"It was life changing. Nepalese have a kind and generous spirit," Kim said.

In March, she and her daughter, Kendra, went on a mother-daughter trip to Cambodia that included visiting an artisan workshop.

Kim also visited Rwanda twice with her husband, who went with Healing Hearts Northwest. At a village near Kigali, she spent a day with three women basket weavers.

Because they did not speak English, a 23-year-old man came to translate. Through the day, they visited their water source, cooked lunch and talked about marriage, children, divorce and religion. It changed the interpreter's feelings about Rwandan women.

Kim has also been to Belize, Colombia, Argentina, Slovenia and Mexico.

"There are still so many places to visit," said Kim, 62, anticipating traveling more in retirement. She imagines someone will present themselves one day and say, "I want to do this."

Kim is not a member of the Fair Trade Federation because only a certain percent can be non-fair-trade—not from developing countries—and Kim offers locally made soap, candles and cards and other things made in the U.S. under fair-trade principles.

One long-time customer came in saying she "saved" him each year, because he buys a gift for his wife's September birthday there. The first year, she didn't open until Oct. 2, but let him in early to buy a tunic. He paid after she was set up for business.

"It's fun because people come back again and again. It's sometimes like a party. Customers share stories of their adventures and families, and sometimes tell of artisans they have met on their travels," Kim said.

For information, call 464-7677 or email kimharmson@hotmail.com, or visit kizurispokane.wordpress.com.

com, or visit kizurispokane.wordpress.com.

Spokane's Jewish Beginnings Friday, Oct. 12

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Kershner

author, historian and journalist for the Spokesman-Review

A very special evening is planned to celebrate our Spokane Jewish History and for the first time some Jewish books from the 1890s will be on display.

7:30 p.m.
presentation starts

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Symposium speaker focus is immigration

The speaker for the 2018 Roger Williams Symposium of the Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman, religion professor, author and scholar-activist Miguel De La Torre will speak on "The Death of U.S. Christianity," "Was Jesus a Racist?" and immigration.

His first lecture is at 7 p.m., Sat-

urday, Oct. 13, at the Ensminger Pavilion, 455 Lincoln Dr. He will preach at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus St.

He will lead a workshop on immigration from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday at St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way.

Miguel will give a lecture on immigration through the Thomas Foley Institute at WSU at noon, Monday, Oct. 15, in room 316 of Bryan Hall.

Miguel is a professor of social ethics and Latinx studies at Iliff School of Theology in Denver.

For information, email paulitz@wsu.edu.

Monthly calendar spreads awareness of activities of diverse cultures

Since 2008, Yvonne Montoya Zamora has prepared a community cultural diversity calendar for Spokane.

She began doing it as part of her work in human resources at Washington State University (WSU)-Spokane where part of her role was to recruit and retain diverse faculty and staff.

Yvonne, who retired last winter, emails the calendar to about 100 people, and plans to continue doing it at least another year.

Her calendar has been a source of calendar items for The Fig Tree, which shares its calendar with her.

The calendar includes Spokane events, national and international celebrations, and resources and organizations of different cultural groups in Spokane. In September, she focused on Hispanic groups.

Yvonne, who is Mestiza—of mixed Spanish and Native American ancestry—is named in the Spanish traditional way with her father’s name, Montoya, and mother’s name, Zamora. She grew up in Albuquerque, N.M., where the majority of her family still live.

She graduated from the University of Albuquerque, a private Catholic College where she and her husband, John Murphy, earned degrees in criminology in 1976. They married in 1977. He came to Washington State University to complete a master’s in criminal justice and then worked for the WSU police. In 1984, he accepted a promotion and moved to the Eastern Washington University (EWU) police department in Cheney, retiring 10 years ago. They raised their two children there.

Yvonne worked five years in another department before working in human resources with EWU 10 years, Community Colleges of Spokane eight years and WSU Spokane 10 years.

Along with classification, compensation, recruitment, advertising positions, employee relations and other tasks, she was to foster diversity and inclusion.

The idea for the cultural calendar arose when she served on the Chamber of Commerce Workforce Diversity Committee and The Task Force on Race Relations. They shared activities



Yvonne Montoya Zamora continues calendar in retirement.

and thought it would be good to have a calendar with events from diverse communities.

Her work at WSU Spokane by then had grown into being the diversity initiatives coordinator, coordinating diversity and inclusion with human resources functions, as the economy dropped in 2008 and WSU was doing less hiring.

Initially, she sent the multicultural calendar by email to WSU employees. They forwarded it to colleagues and friends. She invited diverse communities to tell her about events.

Yvonne enjoys discovering how much diversity there is.

“There are pockets all over Spokane, but it’s not visible,” she said. “There are many events. We are more diverse than we think based on the demographic numbers. Communities of color, multicultural and multi-ethnic communities are strong and engaged.”

In Spokane County, she said, communities of color are about 13 percent of the population. The Hispanic community is about 5 percent and growing.

The cultural communities use technology, Facebook and websites to connect. That’s where she finds what is going on. They want the wider community to know they are invited to attend the events, Yvonne said.

In September, she included events offered by the Spokane City and County libraries for Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Over many years during that period, Mexico and countries in Central and South America gained independence from Spain.

Yvonne is active in the Hispanic/Latinx community. In addition to editing the Hispanic Business and Professional Association (HBPA) newsletter twice a month, she is part of an HBPA group partnering with the Spokane Regional Health District on a grant from Empire Health Foundation and Providence Health Services to do a health survey of the Latinx community.

The group asked the community what they want to know about health issues, are composing survey questions and plan to distribute it in the Latinx community from Nov. 1 to mid-December, hoping 500 will respond.

Questions focus on youth care, mental health care, diabetes services and other health care issues defined by Latinx stakeholders.

Yvonne is also helping plan a Hispanic celebration of the Day of the Dead, Dia de los Muertos, on Friday Nov. 3, at Hazen & Jaeger, 1300 N. Pines. The day honors loved ones who have passed.

There will be activities for children and adults, with music

by Mariachi Las Aguilas from the EWU Music Department and placing photos of family and friends who have passed on the altar.

Another annual Hispanic event is Viva Vino and Brew, an auction fundraiser in February at the Shriners Event Center. It raises \$8,000 to \$10,000 for scholarships for Hispanic high school and college students.

In 2018, 13 scholarships were given in Spokane County and one to a Wenatchee high school student coming to EWU and playing in the Mariachi band.

Yvonne’s understanding of her Mestizo heritage—as well as diversity, inclusion and equity—expanded after a 2006 three-week internship with the Summer Institute for Intercultural Communication.

The institute told the 36 interns from China, Japan, the U.S., Canada, Iran, Ireland and other countries that to be effective in multiculturalism and intercultural communication, they needed to understand their own genealogy.

Until then, she considered herself Mestiza, expressed in the hierarchy of the times as Spanish New Mexican, Mexican American and Mescalero Apache and Pueblo. Results from a recent DNA test show a different order—Native American (Mescalero Apache and Pueblo), Portuguese and Spanish.

Yvonne had been jealous she had no family in Mexico, as many Latinx in Spokane do.

Since retiring, she traced her ancestors beyond the 1800s to the 1600s, when New Spain included what is now New Mexico.

When Mexico gained independence in 1821, New Mexico was considered Northern Mexico. It became New Mexico after the

Mexican-American War—the American-Mexican War as she calls it—when the area where her ancestors lived in present-day New Mexico became part of the U.S.

“We did not come to the U.S. from Mexico, but the U.S. came to us,” Yvonne said. “In New Mexico at that time, many people were a mix of Pueblo, Apache, Navajo, other indigenous communities and Spanish, a different mix than in Texas, Arizona and California, because both cultures were more entwined.”

Her husband is German Irish. Their children, Kim Richards and Ashley Murphy, continue to intermix within their various cultures.

As Yvonne explores her roots, she is learning names of people left out of history books. For example, as a teen, she had heard in her family of the Navajo Code Talkers in World War II, but their story was lost until recent years.

So Yvonne, who is on the Spokane NAACP education committee, is helping plan a “Hidden History Bowl” Saturday, April 20, 2019, at the downtown library with Spokane and Mead high school students.

“Much history for communities of color is left out of history books,” she said. “I love history and grew up exposed to the one-sided history those in power wanted us to know. For example, in New Mexico, we did not read of Cesar Chavez’s work with farm workers.”

Yvonne shares what she learns of her history with her five grandchildren, ranging from ages three to 18.

For information, call 979-8590 or email yvonnecmz04@gmail.com.

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Offerings for Fall/Winter 2018

Prayer for the Healing of the Nations, Thursday at 4:15 PM in The Ministry Institute Chapel, 405 E. Sinto, two blocks North of St. Aloysius Church. Through October, we will be using a special prayer service asking for God’s healing touch on all the nations of the world. The Ministry Institute (TMI) invites you to pray with music, readings and silence in the style of Taizé. (Free – ALL ARE WELCOME!)

Spirituality 101 Seminars with Kathy Finley begin October 1, Mondays from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Six seminars for \$70, individual sessions \$15 each. Limited scholarships available.

Soul Mask: A Portrait of Your True Self
October 26-27, Friday 7 – 9 PM, Saturday 10 AM – 3 PM

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SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 8 – Advent Day of Prayer with Sr. Patricia Novak. Details to follow.

For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu. We invite you to join us for reflection, education and contemplation.

Board member gives Faith Action Network presence in Eastern Washington

continued from page 1

to influence the State Legislature in Olympia and to educate people on community and state issues.

Jim said FAN is different from the early ecumenical model of sharing faith to find unity.

“We honor our faith traditions, and assume our faiths call us to be involved in common work to affect legislation in Olympia, to help people connect their faith with what is happening at the state and federal levels,” he said.

“It’s important for the faith community to be at events, to stand beside people who care, to do community organizing,” he said. “We partner with organizations working for the same goals. We can advocate for and endorse initiatives and bills, but cannot give financial support.”

Jim said that FAN has always been involved with issues related to poverty and people who live on the edge.

“We are involved with immigration issues,” he said. “We work quietly behind the scenes as well as in the spotlight. We engage people to empower them to be part of action.”

FAN also has a presence at gatherings, discussions and marches, Jim said, so the goal is to have a more visible presence in Eastern Washington beyond activists who participate in fall and spring clusters and summits to help shape the issue priorities.

He represents FAN on the planning committee for the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference organized with The Fig Tree, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, the United Methodist District, the NAACP, Earth Ministry and others.

“That’s now the biggest moment of FAN visibility on this side,” Jim said.

He is also FAN representative on Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, which organized partly around the Poor People’s Campaign.

“People are engaged through their faith communities because their religious traditions compel them to go into society to make it a better place for everyone,” Jim said. “We partner because we believe God created the universe and humanity for the common good. When a group or individual is denied opportunities, it is our moral responsibility to right that wrong.”

FAN programs educate people on issues of economic, racial, social and environmental justice; build relationships to organize communities; monitor and advocate for local, state and national legislation; join in public witness with coalition partners to stand



Jim CastroLang connects faith with advocacy.

against injustice in the public square, and share resources statewide.

Jim has been in ministry since his ordination as a Catholic priest in Colorado. In 1992, his ordination was recognized in the United Church of Christ.

“All I do in the political realm is out of my passion and commitment as a person of faith,” he said.

When he lived in Olympia, he chaired the Associated Ministries of Thurston County Board, and in Nebraska was on the Nebraska Council of Churches Board.

“My faith compels me to work across religious traditions to make this a better, more just society,” he said, noting that the “centerpiece of the UCC goal for maturing in faith is not to seek to be in heaven in another world but to make real the heaven God intended here in our midst on earth.”

Growing up, Jim lived in New York City, Baltimore suburbs and Southern California. He moved to Denver when he was 15, was in seminary after high school for eight years before being ordained as a priest in 1981 in the Archdiocese of Denver.

In 1982, while struggling with leaving the priesthood, he was drawn to the Northwest by the ministry of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen in Seattle. He and his future wife, Andy, came to Seattle for “space” to discern.

Jim was in Concerned Catholics, advocating for Hunthausen while the Vatican investigated

him from 1985 to 1987. In 1985, he and Andy, whom he had fallen in love with in Colorado, were working in lay positions in Catholic churches. Then they began attending the United Churches of Olympia. They married in 1985.

“After finding the UCC, we haven’t looked back,” said Jim, who was mentored for more than a year by a pastor on the UCC Committee on Ministry.

Andy went on staff with United Churches of Olympia, and decided to go to San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1995. After a year, Jim and their two children moved to the Bay area, where he was half-time interim pastor at South Berkeley Community UCC and worked with an internet security startup company, becoming vice president of operations in two years.

Jim, who had his first computer in 1984, had worked at an Apple Store in North Seattle.

In Olympia, he worked six years with the Department of Social and Health Services information systems, digging into use of technology with real people and organizations.

While Andy served four years as a pastor in Nebraska, he continued to consult with the Bay area internet company.

Since Andy was called as pastor at Westminster UCC in Spokane in 2002, Jim has found various opportunities. He was interim pastor two years, commuting to First Congregational UCC in Walla

Walla. For two years, he was interim pastor at Zion Philadelphia UCC in Ritzville, worked for a year-and-a-half at a cell phone store, covered during a sabbatical leave for Veradale UCC’s pastor and, for nine years, has been part-time pastor at Colville.

The Colville church, he said, has been a church in transition, identifying as a progressive church and voice in town, and learning how to be that voice without alienating people.

Now “semi-retired”—working 16 rather than 20 hours a week in Colville—Jim fills his calendar with the FAN Board, the Stewardship Committee of the Pacific

Northwest UCC Conference, and child care as grandpa one day a week.

For information, call 998-7203, 206-625-9790, email spokane@fanwa.org, or visit bit.ly/SpokaneFANdinner.



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Nonviolent Communication skills help people connect with empathy

“Nonviolent Communication” practitioners Mark Hamlin and Susan Burns find that people attending workshops and practice groups learn how to have a “valuable connection” with each other, one of empathy, support and clarity.

It’s a shift from the typical approaches to “convince” people of an opinion or behavior through blame, shame or demonizing. It’s about listening to discern common needs and values.

Susan said her view has progressed from “a narrow sense of right and wrong.” She was drawn to nonviolent communication, which does not use filters of good-bad, but looks for connections with others that honor their needs.

“Realizing everyone comes out of their needs helps me understand and connect with them,” she said. “It frees me from our culture of judgment.”

“Empathy is key,” said Susan. “It’s being able to give and receive without one feeling sorry for another or trying to fix the other. We don’t learn it in our culture.

“It is important to feel heard. It works in politics. Listening is what we need in politics,” she said. “I used to think that people were like me and just needed more information, so I just needed to explain clearly what I meant. I now realize that in order to connect, I want to listen for met and unmet needs, not change their minds.”

Mark believes Nonviolent Communication also means not being reactive to fear or anger.

“To hear the underlying needs is important,” he said.

“We want to create a world that works for everyone,” said Susan, who believes nonviolent communication will do that by helping people know they are heard and matter.

“One concept of the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) program is that everyone is trying to do the best they can,” said Mark.

Instead of demonizing others, he suggests understanding their needs and realizing the commonality of needs.

For example, Susan said she realizes that with the gun rights issue, many believe everyone should have guns and others believe differently. Both may come from a common need for safety, but each has different strategies for how to meet the needs.

Too often we tend to believe that resources are scarce, and that if others get what they want, we will get less,” she said.

Underlying premises of nonviolent communication are:

- All actions are attempts to meet needs.
- Human needs are universal.



Mark Hamlin and Susan Burns teach Nonviolent Communication.

- Everyone’s needs matter equally.
- Feelings result from needs being met or unmet.
- Human beings inherently enjoy giving to others.
- We have the capacity to choose how we think, communicate and act.
- In a world of abundance—not scarcity—there are many strategies to fulfill needs.

Intentions of Nonviolent Communication include taking responsibility for one’s feelings and actions, focusing on connection, concern for everyone’s needs, speaking from the heart, hearing with empathy and using force only to protect.

Susan, who earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Eastern Washington University in 1971, taught elementary school and District 81’s Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience (APPLE) program for 34 years before retiring. She still likes to teach, does encaustic art—with beeswax and oils—and teaches Nonviolent Communication.

She said that a year before the last Presidential election, she and some women friends were talking.

“It became a heated discussion about what was going on politically,” she said. “I was shocked because we seemed to agree about politics in the past.”

She remembered taking a Nonviolent Communication workshop—now seven years ago—at the Unitarian Universalist Church and realized it might help her and her friends. Now they meet in an intentional NVC practice group.

“As we looked at our values and needs, we realized we had

different strategies for meeting our needs,” Susan said. “We don’t have to agree with a person’s behaviors or opinions.”

For her, the process not only is about relationships with others but also helps her clarify why she does what she does.

“When I am happy, frustrated or anxious, I ask what is going on. I am getting something I need or I need something I’m not getting. It gives me personal power to look at my needs and what is behind them,” Susan said.

Valuing diversity and equity, nonviolent communication challenges her to look at her values.

“I value being able to trust that people are speaking their truth,” said Susan, whose mother, now 92, instilled that value in Susan as she grew up in Spokane.

Mark’s roots are also in Spokane, but his parents met at Gonzaga University, and then moved around the world, living in Asia, Europe and on both U.S. coasts before he graduated from high school in Memphis, Tenn., where he experienced racial integration of the school for his senior year. He has also traveled to many countries since moving to Spokane in 1971 to attend Gonzaga University.

He studied psychology, sociology, computer programming and engineering, and five years ago completed an online degree in applied behavioral science.

Over the 30 years between his early studies and today, he worked as a computer technician and consultant, in architecture and construction—25 years as a general contractor building sustainable custom homes in his

business, Sustainable Structures, which he closed last year.

Now he, Susan and two others have started a nonprofit, The Language of Connection, to “build bridges” with Nonviolent Communication.

For nearly four years, he has also worked with Susan’s sister, Kathy Ducrest, to teach Nonviolent Communication at the Airway Heights Correction Center and with the Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center.

Mark became involved in the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. He served on the steering committee for several years before deciding to find other ways to contribute, choosing a way to teach nonviolence before deciding about six years ago to pursue learning and teaching Nonviolent Communication.

He read Marshall Rosenberg’s book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, and other related books, finding them aligned with his values and philosophy.

“Nonviolence is a peaceful, kind way of living that has positive impact on other people and the environment,” he said. “It fits with my commitment to sustainable building practices and connecting with people of other cultures and walks of life.

“Through travel, I have had a taste of other cultures and believe we are much alike all over. I value diversity. I like to hear other’s perspectives,” he said. “Nonviolent Communication helps me develop my beliefs and be challenged.”

In the prison, participation of inmates in groups is voluntary. About 20 men attend Friday nights for introductory sessions and about 10 to 15 attend on Saturday mornings for intermediate

sessions like practice groups.

“It’s inspiring to see how well the men respond to finding out things they did not know about nonviolent communication and learning a vocabulary of feelings and needs,” he said.

“It affirms that people can change,” Mark said. “It helps people live more peaceful, functioning lives in prison and after they are released. It has been found to contribute to reducing recidivism.”

While the program is not specifically religious, he said it fits with all religions. Certified trainers around the world come from many religious backgrounds.

Mark’s study of religion as a teen led him to realize he was spiritual in a broader sense. While in high school, a priest friend reinforced his journey to understand life rather than just follow a doctrine.

Mark and Susan facilitate workshops and practice groups.

“We need support and practice to communicate with those we love,” Susan said.

Now as parents and grandparents, Mark and Susan plan to bring certified trainers to lead workshops in schools to support teachers, administrators and parents.

“Society’s future and future life on this planet depend on non-violent communication,” he said.

“We want educators to learn the process and skills, so we plan to offer workshops to teachers who need continuing education credits, and can use more tools to help them communicate and deal with conflicts productively to provide a safe space for students.”

“There will always be conflicts in schools. Nonviolent Communication skills can help make conflict productive,” he said.

For information, call 999-9759 or 701-0888 or email hamlinmr@comcast.net or susaniburns@comcast.net.

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Women's potlucks raise funds for different projects abroad each month

By Kaye Hult

On a Tuesday evening in September, 32 women gathered at Q'emiln Park's Grand Pavilion in Post Falls for a joint meeting of the Spokane Valley and Hayden chapters of Dining for Women (DFW). Ten of them were guests interested in learning more about DFW.

They shared a potluck supper, where the main dish was a recipe from Malawi, the country about which they would learn in the meeting.

Judy Bacon, who helped found the Spokane Valley chapter with then co-leader Cheri Susens, introduced a video on the GAIA (Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance) program in Malawi, which the women's donations would support.

She said their donations would be pooled with those of chapters throughout the U.S. to support GAIA's work. Next month, she said, their donations would go to another program in another part of the world that would make lasting change in the lives of the women and children being served.

"DFW is a national collective giving circle, probably the largest in the U.S., if not in the world," she said. "This nonprofit has more than 8,000 members in this country. We have more than 400 chapters, maybe 450."

The next day, Judy saw that donations from the Spokane Valley Chapter and guests totaled more than \$600 to benefit GAIA projects, with Hayden's not tallied.

She learned about Dining for Women when, newly retired from teaching, she moved from Coeur d'Alene to Boise.

A friend told her, "I've been going to a group I think you'd really like." Judy found it to be a group of like-minded progressive women. She liked that it enabled her to do a little bit of charitable giving internationally.

"I wanted to donate to an international cause," she said, "but I didn't know who to trust."

She learned how carefully DFW vets organizations it supports.

"DFW's individual monthly grants nationally never exceed \$50,000," she explained. A committee of women from all over the U.S. read grant applications. Using strict guidelines, they pick 12 of about 200 applications submitted.

"The impact is that a little goes a long, long way," she said.

Last year, DFW donated about \$1 million. Each grant must make lasting change in the lives of women and children. The organization sends detailed reports on the progress.

"We don't fund political or religious organizations," she continued. "We have no ulterior motive for our giving."

DFW is focused on not disrupting a culture. They seek projects that are done by and wanted by the women.

Seventy-five percent of the 1.3 billion people in extreme poverty, of the 7.5 billion people in the world, are women and children, Judy said.

World Bank studies show that women reinvest 90 percent of their income back into the family for educating, feeding and health care, while men reinvest only 40 percent of financial aid this way.

"DFW supports organizations in developing countries because 85 percent of American charity



Judy Bacon

stays in the U.S. Of the remaining 15 percent, almost all comes from private foundations, not individuals. Resources in the U.S. are superior to those in developing countries, yet our foreign aid is skimpy," Judy said.

Dining for Women came about 15 years ago, when Marcia Wallace, a former nurse in Greenhill, S.C., and her next door neighbor, Barbara Collins, an expert on nonprofits, began talking.

Marcia was looking for a group that benefited women and children. She had heard about a group, Women to Women, that did something like that.

Marcia's birthday was coming up. She invited her friends to come and, instead of their going out to dinner, they shared a potluck meal and donated what they would have spent on a meal to a cause for women and children.

While they began by donating locally, they decided they would make the biggest impact by doing international philanthropy, because poverty in developing countries is so extreme and the resources so limited, Judy said.

The GAIA project in Malawi empowers young women, a guiding principle of Dining for Women's work. According to the GAIA website, part of their program is to give women and girls a university education and then train them to be nurses. Many of these young women are orphaned heads of households, caring for siblings. The number of nurses in Malawi has been heavily depleted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic there.

The students agree to serve as nurses for the same number of years they were sponsored. Now, 10 percent of Malawi's nurses are GAIA scholars. Ninety-nine percent choose to remain in Malawi for their entire career. By the time they retire, each will have served more than 3,000 patients, according to the GAIA website.

When Judy moved to Spokane Valley two and a half years ago, she was asked to mentor the DFW groups in Boise, Spokane and Hayden, she said.

"That lasted about a year. Then they found someone to mentor in Boise," she said, "and Tami Savage became the mentor in North Idaho."

The Hayden chapter has existed for six years.

Judy said she will soon retire from mentoring, but will continue on as a co-leader for Spokane Valley.

Judy grew up in Portland, Ore. At the University of Oregon, she studied teaching and philosophy, graduating in 1960 with a bachelor's in education and a teaching certificate.

Her first teaching post was in Sisters, Ore., where she taught all four years of English, plus first year French. She directed the school plays as well.

"I became a master of the two-minute lesson plan," she said, "and I could see the high school in a microcosm, because there were only five faculty."

She also taught high school in Portland for three years. She taught in other small and large high schools in Oregon. She also taught in California and Idaho.

In 1971, she came to Coeur d'Alene where she taught seventh grade English for 27 years.

While teaching and parenting took up most of her time, she was active in community theater, the teachers' union and the Kootenai County Task Force for Human Relations. Once she retired from teaching and moved to Boise, she began volunteering as a CASA (court appointed special advocate). The position allowed her to be the eyes and ears of the judge in cases of child custody.

"It was good to advocate for these children in court and protect them from neglect and abuse," said Judy, who found her work as a CASA to be a good way to use her teaching and writing skills. She had to write convincing reports to the judge, after having spent hours in investigation. She was working as a CASA when she met the friend who told her she would like DFW.

"The world isn't just about hav-

ing a good time," she reflected. "You can't let the world go to hell in a handbasket."

"I like to be the change that I'd like to see happen. I like organizing things and putting them in order. I like to iron, to get the wrinkles out," she said.

In October, Judy plans to travel to Guatemala with a DFW group. They'll see three projects funded by DFW in the past.

Several times at the September meeting in Post Falls, the invitation was extended to begin a new DFW chapter in Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls or Sandpoint. It costs only \$50 to begin a chapter, the amount required to register it.

Judy said that at each meet-

ing women share the Dining for Women Affirmation that when they gather to share food, they "share something of themselves." They recognize the associations of food, life and nurture shared by women in all cultures of the world.

"We express the hope that our collective efforts will make a life-changing transformation within ourselves, and with the women and children whose lives we touch," the affirmation continues, closing with: "May we honor the power within us as women and may we one day feast together in a world of peace and global understanding."

For information, call 208-641-5539 or email jhyatt38@gmail.com.

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Partners International connects with local leaders to serve people

On a world map at the entry of the Partners International headquarters at 1119 E. Westview Ct. in North Spokane, pins dot Africa, the Middle East and Southern Asia across the 10th to 40th parallels, where it partners with local ministries in “unreached areas” of the world.

Larry Andrews, who has been president and CEO for five of its 75 years, brought skills from a 27-year career as an executive with Procter & Gamble and then with Hewlett-Packard.

Larry’s faith pilgrimage took him from the Catholic Church, out of the church and back into church in college, where he devoted his life to serving Jesus. He realized “God has a purpose for every human being,” including him.

Through the years, he has been actively involved with different church ministries—small groups, church plants, home Bible studies, worship teams and Sunday school.

“God always has a place for us to serve,” he said.

Feeling that God was calling him out of the business world, Larry retired early to seek his specific calling in ministry. He felt such a call to serve as an executive in a global missions organization that had a Luke 4:18 focus to proclaim the Gospel to the poor, bring freedom to the captives and set the oppressed free.

After six months of prayer and discernment, Larry said, “the Lord led me to serve with Partners International as their chief executive.

“God took 28 years to prepare me to use my business experience in the mission world,” he said.

Partners International’s ministry reaches “the most oppressive places to be a Christian and the areas of the world that have no Christian presence,” said Larry. “We do not send missionaries from the West to these ‘difficult areas,’ but instead partner with indigenous leaders, empowering the calling they have to reach their own people with the Gospel. Our vision is that local ministries in the least-reached, least-resourced nations will be proclaiming the Gospel to every person and building a thriving church for every person.

“Areas not yet reached are difficult areas, where Christians are persecuted and laws criminalize proselytizing,” Larry said. “Every week, we pray for ministers who face significant persecution. We learn what it means to serve Jesus in a persecuted environment.

“We believe the church in the West is to be in relationship with and serve the vision of local ministries, not prescribe how a local mission is to work,” said Larry.

Partners International was con-



Larry Andrews leads Partners International in its 75th year.

roversial when it started with that emphasis.

It began when foreign Protestant missionaries were kicked out of China in World War II. Duncan McRoberts, one of the last missionaries to leave, believed his Chinese brothers and sisters could reach their own people for Christ.

In 1943, several businessmen met with him in Seattle to discuss how ministry could continue by investing in local Chinese people who were part of their communities. They formed the China Native Evangelistic Crusade (CNEC), partnering with the ministry of the Rev. Calvin Chao.

By 1949, CNEC sponsored 150 evangelists, helped start two Bible colleges, a seminary and student ministry from an office in Hong Kong. In 1953, its office moved to Menlo Park, Calif. With 500 ministry partners in China, Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America and South Asia, it changed the name to Christian Nationals Evangelism Commission.

By the 1970s, it had 1,250 indigenous ministry workers, 12,500 sponsored children and expanded to Bangladesh and Indonesia, and other Muslim areas.

In the 1980s, CNEC changed its name to Partners International.

Since 1995, ministry workers have presented the Gospel 7.7 billion times, reached 1.5 billion new believers, trained more than 400,000 leaders, started nearly 37,000 new churches and small groups, and provided disaster relief and community development to more than 5 billion people, he said.

Because many were evangelizing in Latin America, South Africa and parts of the world with strong local Christian support and churches, Partners International left those areas.

Since the 1980s, the focus has been on North and Central Africa, the Middle East and Southern Asia, where three billion people have not heard the Gospel, he said.

When he came in 2013, Partners International, which had moved to Spokane in 2001, was struggling. The first three years, Larry traveled to learn about the ministry. He visited 58 partners worldwide, plus western foundations, churches and individuals.

Part of Partners International’s mission is to connect U.S. churches, individuals and foundations with its ministry partners. In Eastern Washington and North Idaho, about 50 churches participate.

These connections build relationships so individuals and churches “have a personal expression of making disciples of every tongue, tribe and nation,” he said.

For example, North Church on Division, where Larry is an elder, has for three years “had a heart” for Northern Sumatra and connects with a ministry partner in Sumatra. They sent a short-term team there to build relationships, and minister to Muslims and Christians, at their request, by teaching English.

“In the U.S., having mission partners with relationships over a long time establishes a mission heart. I have seen churches change as they are more involved with God’s work in the world,” Larry said. “Those who have gone overseas have had their life perspectives enriched and deepened.”

“We serve Christ best by being in relationship with other mission organizations. We need to do more together than alone,” Larry said. “We are part of God’s family and belong together not splintered. We can connect around Jesus’ mission to make disciples of the whole world.”

“Partner relationships involve prayer, financial and non-financial assistance,” he said.

Because ministry partners need financial acumen, Partners International arranged for a CPA to go to the Middle East to help three ministries with accounting.

Even in areas of persecution,

he believes “the future of the church is amazing. God’s church will prevail as we together help ministry partners thrive.

Beyond preaching the Gospel to establish churches, he said tangible, holistic outreach is effective.

“It’s not about asking people to simply evangelize, but about showing love to the poor, reaching the whole person economically and spiritually—reconciling the whole human being,” he said.

One partner brought food assistance to Ebola victims in Guinea, when tourists stopped coming and international organizations repatriated staff. They educated people on prevention and provided hygiene kits.

Partners International recently raised \$72,500 to send a shipping container with \$13 million in donated medicines—antibiotics, ointments, aspirin and more—to Senegal. The medicines are for a hospital there that serves the poor.

Partners international also empowers women and children through micro-loans, schools and community development.

In Muslim areas of Indonesia, Larry said they gain access to villages by addressing women’s health and illiteracy, establishing libraries, bringing books and courses on women’s health.

“It’s about loving Muslims into relationship with Jesus by serving in practical ways that meet needs,” Larry said. “Jesus preached God’s kingdom by healing the sick and serving the poor.

“When we show love in a tan-

gible way to address a specific need, the Gospel transforms communities,” he said.

“Partners has taught me what it means to serve Christ,” he said. “Our ministry model stretches our hearts to see God’s heart.”

For information call 343-4000 or email larrya@partnersintl.org.

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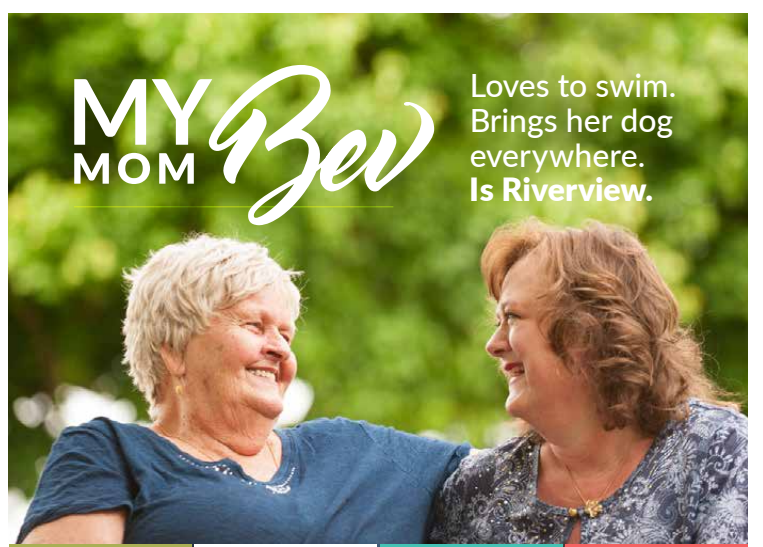
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Faith community always ready for immediate/long-term roles in disasters

The network of faith-based disaster relief, response, long-term recovery and preparation stretches around the world, the United States and into every neighborhood. It is in place to respond after not only hurricanes and floods, but also earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tidal waves, mudslides, wildfires, refugee migrations and wars.

In every locality, people in congregations are ready to offer their buildings, resources, organizing skills, connections and volunteers to meet immediate needs of disaster victims for food, shelter, clothing and medical care, usually working in collaboration with the Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other emergency responders. The wider network knows each other's roles and strengths.

As people in Houston, Florida, Puerto Rico, The Virgin Islands and Georgia still recover from 2017 hurricanes, others in the Carolinas were flooded by Hurricane Florence, Typhoon Mangkhut cut across the Philippines into Southern China, the 2018 wildfire season cleanup was still underway and Rohingya refugees still suffer.

There's always a new natural or human caused disaster. There are always people ready to step up to help, even after the wind-

blown, rain-soaked reporters of "monster storms" move to the next big story.

A visit to websites of various churches and faiths reveals new and ongoing efforts. While media attention stirs donations immediately, much of the long-term recovery efforts fall to the faith groups' regular giving, special appeals and volunteer teams.

For example, a recent appeal in the email newsletter of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest suggested how to give to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and offered ideas on how individuals and congregations might help families who have lost everything.

Annual appeals of eight Protestant denominations in One Great Hour of Sharing/Week of Compassion goes to empowerment/development and disaster relief.

For example, American Baptists are sending 11 volunteer teams from September to December, and 17 teams have registered for 2019 to help in Puerto Rico.

Church World Service, an ecumenical, cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions provides ongoing self-help, development, disaster relief and refugee assistance. It has congregations prepare hygiene kits, emergency

cleanup buckets and school kits, so they are ready to distribute as needed.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) emergency staff in the Caribbean are working with Caritas partners to distribute emergency supplies in communities hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean. Catholic Charities assists with disasters in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Episcopal Relief and Development, and church partners assist in long-term recovery, rebuilding homes, businesses and infrastructures and restoring power. Its short-term relief includes housing assistance, medical supplies, gas and gift cards, so people can make purchases to support the local economy. It works through dioceses in the affected areas.

The faith community not only helps rebuild uninsured housing, but also provides emotional care for caregivers and help with volunteer management, networking and advocacy. The long-term response is usually delegated to faith groups that have a presence in disaster areas, coordinated with local church volunteers in the U.S., often through Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters, which form local VOADS.

Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with congregations, synods, social service organizations and others who know local needs and how to address them in relevant, effective ways, accompanying survivors as communities are rebuilt. It provides emergency salary support and respite relief for pastors, so they can provide pastoral care to their congregations and communities.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offers "Stories of Hope" to celebrate "Christ's love and God's transformational power" at work through volunteer work teams, those offering hospitality and assistance, to encourage those who serve and strengthen those who are recovering.

United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, Foursquare, Orthodox, Jewish, Reformed Church in America, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist websites visited told similar stories of how they are regularly ready to help with response and rebuilding.

Hurricanes, tsunamis and devastating fires may be short-lived, but their effects linger for many years. Faith communities are there to walk alongside people.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Holy Names Sisters celebrate their 175 years of working for justice

"I am convinced that gospel courage, Christian daring and the political will to change the unjust structures of society are growing. I am convinced that justice is increasing."
Liliane Bourdeau (SM) #SNJM-175th Anniversary Year

Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, saw a need to provide educational opportunities for children whose needs for schooling were not being met. So she gathered a few friends and started a school. She also started a religious congregation dedicated to educating the people of God, especially girls. This happened in Longueuil, Quebec, 175 years ago.

This year we celebrate the hundreds of Sister-teachers and thousands of children on every continent who have been part of our journey and let us be part of theirs.

On our special feast days, we invite all who wish to join our entire congregation in some service or justice action.

Blessed Marie Rose's feast day is Oct. 6. On or near that day, hundreds of Sisters, our Associates and friends will be offering some type of service.

Our congregational foci are trafficking in women and children, water, immigrants and refugees. So anything in those areas would align with our corporate stands.

Some might write a letter to advocate for

justice, or a note to someone just to honor a connection.

One group of Sisters is gathering to cut out fabric for a woman who sews baby clothes for a women's and children's shelter. SNJMs co-sponsored the Compassion Games covered in the last issue.

SNJMs have attended city council meetings to advocate toward making Spokane a nuclear weapons free city and to replace fossil fuels by renewables by 2030.

One will be a presenter at a retreat for people seeking to deepen their spirituality. See! The spectrum is broad!

When we act together with love and compassion toward justice in our world, it

happens! Not all at once, but over time, the level of justice rises, becomes contagious, gathers others.

The Fig Tree is full of such stories! That is why we read it. We want to be part of creating the greater good.

So, as you live your story, I invite you to be a part of our story on or near Oct. 6 by choosing a service project.

The opening quote suggests that justice is increasing. These days, I find the following quote from British statesman John Lubbock inspirational: "What we see depends mainly on what we look for."

Mary Ann Farley - SNJM
Fig Tree Editorial Team

Report submitted

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

Faith and refugee groups challenge low numbers for refugee admissions

World Relief's Spokane office is disappointed that the administration chose to set the maximum number of refugees who can be resettled to the United States at a historically low 30,000. World Relief spent much of August and early September advocating for the administration to allow at least 75,000 refugees to find safety and rebuild their lives in the United States.

Despite overwhelming evidence that refugee resettlement is good for our economy, good for our nation's foreign relations, and is central to America's values, I am disappointed to see that our government is turning its back on refugees.

The President's refugee determination follows the United Nations' recent finding that the number of refugees worldwide increased to 25.4 million people in 2017, an increase of 2.9 million over the previous year.

This is the time where America should be stepping up to lead in addressing the tremendous surge of persecuted people around the world by providing diplomatic solutions, humanitarian aid, and resettlement for at least a small fraction of the world's most vulnerable people.

The new limits on refugee resettlement will begin to take effect on Oct. 1, 2018 and continue until Sept. 30, 2019. Historically, the U.S. has welcomed an average of 82,433 refugees since the refugee act of 1980.

Spokane has seen a 60 percent reduction in refugee resettlement in 2018. After resettling nearly 600 refugees in 2016, the city will welcome just over 220 refugees two years later. The lower admissions ceiling may continue that precipitous drop.

This repeated reduction in the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. is incredibly troubling.

Not only is it a continuation of a series of unprecedented attacks on our American values and on the humanitarian nature of the refugee resettlement program, but it falls far short of helping the large number of vulnerable people around the world. This is just another step in the systematic dismantling of a program that exists to shelter people who need our support and protection. America can do better, said World Relief CEO Tim Breene.

We are concerned for dozens of families who were resettled in Spokane and are hoping to be reunited with brothers, sisters, spouses, parents, and children.

Since the local World Relief office opened in 1992, we have welcomed more than 10,000 refugees to the Inland Northwest. Even as the number of refugees resettled fell in 2017, World Relief Spokane served more than 1,500 refugees and immigrants during the calendar year.

Mark Finney
Spokane's office director
World Relief

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest online newsletter recently invited members to join in advocating for a higher refugee resettlement ceiling for fiscal year 2019 by signing on to a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is a member of a Presbyterian church in Wichita, Kans., and a members of the cabinet advocating for a higher refugee ceiling.

The letter is intended to bolster his efforts. There is a strong biblical basis for

extending hospitality to foreigners and strangers, and this letter is a tangible way to practice this kind of hospitality toward refugees.

When the flow of all refugees is dramatically decreased it impacts brothers and sisters in Christ who have been designated as refugees because of their commitment to following Jesus and therefore have been persecuted for their faith. Refugee is a distinct legal designation and those who are resettled in the U.S. have been carefully vetted to ensure safety and security.

Katie McKinstry - administrator

Excerpts from the letter to Mike Pompeo:

We encourage you to ensure that the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program continues to provide a robust opportunity for those persecuted for their faith abroad and denied religious liberty to find safety and freedom in our country. We ask you to urge President Trump to set the refugee ceiling for FY19 at 75,000 or higher. As evangelical Christians, religious liberty and the security of persecuted Christian brothers and sisters around the world are important to us.

During the Reformation in the 16th century, Reformed pastors and Christians were the target of persecution that forced some of our founding fathers to flee their countries. Because we know you share this commitment to advancing religious liberty and security, we ask you to use your power and position to advocate for those who are among the most vulnerable in our world: refugees, especially those who have lost their homes and countries due to their deeply held faith. Though we believe the U.S. should welcome those persecuted for

any faith, of special concern are Christians who are persecuted for following Jesus.

We believe the Bible calls us as Christians to extend hospitality to the stranger and to bless those who are persecuted. Jesus says that we serve Him when we welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:40), and in His most famous sermon He says "blessed are those who are persecuted" (Matthew 5:10). In the Old Testament, there is a strong, repeated call to welcome and love the foreigner who has no home because God had mercy on Israel and freed them when they were foreigners in Egypt.

The U.S. has been blessed with resources to welcome those who are persecuted. We are concerned that current U.S. policy toward refugees limits the flow of Christians and other persecuted religious minorities. According to the State Department's Refugee Processing Center, in 2016, 1,966 persecuted Christian refugees were resettled from Iraq. Halfway through 2018, only 14 had been resettled, a 98.6 percent decline. The number of Yezidis who were resettled declined from 524 in 2016 to zero in the first half of 2018.

In Burma, 70 percent of 150,249 Burmese refugees admitted between 2008 and 2017 were Christians, and 11.5 percent were Muslims. Both face persecution. This year, there has been nearly a 77 percent decline in Burmese Christian refugees resettled compared to 2016. When the flow of refugees is limited by a historically low refugee ceiling and by slowed or halted processing, persecuted Christians and people of other faiths suffer.

We believe we can do better to provide freedom and security to refugees.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 1-29** • **Mondays: Spirituality 101 Seminars** with Kathy Finley, The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., 313-5765
- Oct 2** • **Transitions "People Who Care"** Breakfast and Lunch, "Respect for Human Dignity," Centennial Hotel Spokane (formerly Hotel RL), 303 W. North River Dr., 7 and 11:30 a.m., 358-6702, help4women.org
- **Immigration and Acculturation**, Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Whitworth professor, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 3** • **MLK Jr Annual Luncheon Benefit** for Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center at East Central Community Center, diversity educator Shari Clarke, DoubleTree, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct., noon to 1 p.m., dmorales@mlkspokane.org
- Oct 4** • **Caffe Affogato Community Day** Benefiting PJALS, Saranac Commons, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon**, Gloria Norris speaker, Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 326-1190, ywcaspokane.org
- **Fig Tree Board**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 to 3 p.m.
- Oct 4, 18** • **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m. 838-7870
- Oct 5** • **Bilingual Storytime** for National Heritage Month, Indian Trail Library, 4909 W. Barnes Rd., 10:30 a.m.
- Oct 6** • **South Asia Cultural Assn.** of Spokane, "Melodious Waves," Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6 to 9 p.m., 467-5558, sacaspokane@gmail.com
- **KPBX Kids Concert**, The Willows Play Peter, Paul and Mary, Riverpark Square, 1 p.m., 328-5729
- **Mayan Weaving and Culture Presentation**, Maria Cuc Jiatz a Maya Kakchikel, Indian Trail Library, 4909 W. Barnes Rd., 3 to 5 p.m.,
- **"What Happened in Puerto Rico: Before and After Hurricanes Irma and Maria,"** Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m.
- Oct 6-Nov 10** • **See Page 3 for Bazaars and Dinners**
- Oct 7** • **"Working with Unwanted Thoughts and Emotions,"** Sharing the Dharma Day, Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Ln., Newport, 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., 509-447-5549
- Oct 8** • **School Safety Forum**, "Shared Responsibility for a Safer Future," Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga University, 4:30 p.m., 313-3495, whitej2@gonzaga.edu
- Oct 8, 9** • **"The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu,"** Fred Stahl, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 9** • **"Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Information Night,"** Lutheran Community Services Northwest, 210 W. Sprague, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 343-5018
- **Spokane Coalition of Color Candidate Forum**, Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene, 6 p.m.
- **"Silencing Dissent: How Freedom of the Press Is Threatened in Honduras,"** Jennifer Avila, Witness for Peace Tour, Weyerhaeuser, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-1000
- **"Critical Race Theory Today,"** David Theo Goldberg, Hemmingson Center at Gonzaga, 7 p.m.
- Oct 10** • **Hispanic Business/Professional Association Luncheon**, Perkins, Division & Olive St., 11:30 a.m.
- **Young Activist Leaders Program Open House and Info Session**, 35 W. Main, 5 to 6 p.m. 838-7870
- **The Face of Migrant Labor** in Washington State, Martin Meraz-Garcia of EWU, Downtown Library, 906 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 11** • **Silent Day of Prayer**, "Vatican II and the Gift of Sacred Scripture: The Distinctive Character of a Catholic Interpretation of Scriptures," Fr. Pat Hartin, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- **Oktoberfest, Lutheran Campus Ministry**, University of Idaho, 1812 Center, 412 E. Third, Moscow, 4 to 6 p.m., 208-882-2536
- Oct 11, 25** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7879
- Oct 12** • **Gonzaga University Institute for Hate Studies 20th Anniversary**, Nadine Stossen, "Hate: Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship," local panel, Hemmingson at Gonzaga, 6 to 8 p.m.
- **"Spokane's Jewish Beginnings,"** Jim Kershner, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave, 7:30 p.m., 747-3304
- Oct 13** • **Latino Hope Foundation Encanto Gala Dinner and Community Leadership Awards**, Spokane Convention Center, 5:30 p.m., latinohopefoundation.org
- **Partnering for Progress Into Africa Auction and Dinner**, Nereah Obura of Partnering for Progress Kenya Program, Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan, 5:30 p.m., 720-8408, partneringforprogress.org
- Oct 13-15** • **Roger Williams Symposium** with Miguel De La Torre, details at interfaith-house.com/events/symposium
- Oct 14** • **Classes: "Living Judaism,"** 9:30-10:45 a.m., "Beginning Hebrew," 11 a.m. to noon, Temple Beth Shalom, 747-3304, spokanetbs.org
- Oct 15** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, 25 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- Oct 16** • **Mariachi Music with Mariachi Las Aguilas** of Eastern Washington University, Downtown Library, 6 p.m.
- Oct 17** • **Adserveo Volunteer Expo**, Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 329-4307, suzied@kxly.com
- Oct 18** • **Baha'i Fireside Discussions**, Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main, 7 p.m.
- Oct 19-20** • **Turner Memorial Lectures**, "Rewilding the Image of God," Mary DeJong, urban naturalist, Englewood Christian Church, 511 N. 44th, Yakima, 253-893-7202
- **"One Heart Native Arts & Film Festival**, Buffy Sainte Marie Live in Concert Friday, films, music and more, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 5:30 p.m., Friday, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, oneheartfestival.org
- Oct 19-21** • **Beginning Experience Weekend**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 534-1797, beginningexperienceofspokane.us
- Oct 20** • **"I See Me: Multicultural Stories Class,"** Elmer Dixon, Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E Main, 10 a.m.
- **Holistic Festival**, CenterPlace at Mirabeau Point Park, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 468-9001, holisticfestivals.com
- **"Coco," Film and Discussion** of Dia de los Muertes, Downtown Library, 906 W. Main, 2 to 4:30 p.m.
- **Spokane NAACP 99th Freedom Fund Banquet**, "Defeat Hate-Vote!" Elmer Dixon, civil rights leader, Northern Quest Casino and Resort, Airway Heights, 6 p.m., Facebook:Spokane.naacp
- Oct 20, 25, 26, 27, 28** • **African Children's Choir Performances**, Saturday: Christian Life Assembly Church, 302 S. Park St., in St. John, 10:30 a.m., 509-648-3840; Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 4224 E. Fourth, 7 p.m., 328-1099; Thursday at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone, 7 p.m., 313-5896; Friday, Spokane Classical Christian School, 7111 N. Nine Mile Rd, 7 p.m., 325-2252; Saturday, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 7 p.m., 624-7992; Sunday, Valley Assembly, 15618 E. Broadway, 6:30 p.m., 924-0466
- Oct 23** • **"Contesting Silences and Memories: Trauma and Transitional Justice in Post-Dictatorial Argentina, Chile and Uruguay**, Natalia Ruis-Rubio from EWU, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 24** • **PJALS Member Potluck and Voting Party**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 to 8 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 22-25** • **Spiritual Directors' Retreat: "Reaching Across Cultures,"** Spirit Center, Monastery of St Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000, Spirit-Center.org
- Oct 26** • **"Wailing Black Women in Media & the Public Square,"** Wolff Auditorium, Jepson, Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 313-5927
- Oct 26-27** • **Soul Mask: A Portrait of Your True Self,"** Kathy Villemure, The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, Friday 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 313-5765
- Oct 27** • **Fall Compost Fair and Leaf Festival**, John Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6580, spokanecountysolidwaste.org
- **United Nations Day Celebration**, "Colombia in the United Nations," Stacy Taninchev, associate professor in political science, Jepson Center at Gonzaga, 2 p.m., 313-3610, taninchev@gonzaga.edu
- Oct 28** • **Faith Action Network Cluster Meeting**, Bethany Presbyterian, 2715 S. Ray, 2 to 4 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org
- **Spokane Valley United Methodist Mission & Service Team** serves free lunch, 12:30 p.m., 115. N. Raymond
- Oct 31** • **Closing day for Spokane Farmers' Market**, 20 W. 5th, Ave., 509-995-0812, spokanefarmersmarket.org
- **Fig Tree mailing and distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813,
- Nov 1** • **Fig Tree benefit/development and board meetings**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., benefit/development at noon, board 1 p.m., 535-1813, mary@thefigtree.org



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Institute focuses on deeper understandings of roots, complexity of hate

Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies marks its 20th year in October with a reception, speaker and panel discussion.

From 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center Ballroom, there will be an evening recognizing "20/20 Vision: Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies from 1998-2020."

The event will recognize the foresight of the founding members of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies on its 20th anniversary, said Kristine Hoover, director.

Streaming from Washington, D.C., Nadine Strossen, author of the book, *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship*, will speak.

Nadine was the youngest president and first woman president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), serving from 1991 to 2008. She is now the John Marshall Harlan II professor of law at New York University.

The program begins at 6 p.m. with an experiential reception created by student interns, sharing stories published in the media of real people in the Inland Northwest who have been targeted by hate and who have overcome the hatred. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a recognition of the institute's founders—Karen Hardwood, Raymond Reyes, Bill Wassmuth, Ken Stern, James Beebe, Bob Bartlett and George Critchlow.

After Nadine talks, a panel will look at the Jesuit concepts of deep listening, and the perspectives and tensions between caring and free speech. Panelists include George Critchlow, emeritus faculty with Gonzaga's Law School and Joan



Kristine Hoover announces event for institute's 20th year.

Iva Fawcett, assistant dean for diversity, inclusion and cultural engagement at Gonzaga.

Kristine said the institute held its first formal meeting on Oct. 20, 1998 because of incidents in which African-American GU law students were targeted with vile emails.

"The university felt a need to be better prepared to respond, so in October 1998, the Institute for Take Action Against Hate started educational and research programs," she said.

"The vision has always been to focus on a deeper understanding of the roots of hate and its complexity through a multidisciplinary approach," she said.

That meant looking at why people hate through a psychological lens, a sociology perspective, and understanding of criminal justice and other disciplines including law. The goal was to look at the challenges holistically.

Research and education are

central to the institute's work.

Over the years, Spokane has had active community organizations that promote justice and equality, so today Kristine said the institute sees its role as complementing and supporting the direct work of these organizations through research, in addition to GU's commitment to student formation to develop leaders to work for the common good.

About five years ago, the institute offered for two years a class on "Why People Hate." It was popular and filled in two days after it was offered.

This summer, a graduate-level class on "Contemporary Leadership Strategies to Counteract Hate" was added, along with a decision by the university to offer a minor in solidarity and social justice that has been in place for several years.

Kristine started as the director in 2016. Since then, the Institute for Hate Studies has focused on better understanding community needs and the potential for integrating research with actions the community takes.

It has held conferences inviting practitioners, academics, students and professionals to share ideas on

what works and what is needed. The next international conference will be April 2 to 4 at Gonzaga on "Building Peace through Kindness, Dialogue and Forgiveness."

Another ongoing outlet is the latest *Journal of Hate Studies*, which shares research and knowledge on how to address hate groups and define the community as committed to justice and equality, rather than define it by acts of hate that happen, Kristine said.

"Our area has expertise to share," she said. "This region is a place where the alt-right has experimented with different strategies over the decades and we have been responding.

"We need resiliency to continue addressing this challenge. We cannot think we have done the work and are now done," she said. "The alt-right and white supremacists do new things, so we need to be aware of what white nationalism is and that white supremacy comes in suits and ties, not just in klan robes.

"Active participation in democracy is critical, because the alt-right is working to be part of the system," she said.

Kristine said that it's important for people to be aware of the agenda at a deeper level and "not allow for reframing to confuse us and how we define our political parties."

People cannot be complacent. They need to do their homework about what people who are running for office stand for.

"We need to be informed voters," she said.

Kristine said a significant component of her work is about being in relationship, accompanying people who feel threatened and helping people learn about different religious and cultural practices, so they are aware of different points of view and do not break into echo chambers.

A question she ponders is wondering about the hypocrisy of sliding into hating haters.

One resource offers stories. Sally Kohn's book, *The Opposite of Hate: A Field Guide to Repairing Our Humanity*, shares stories of people recognizing that all people are engaged in "othering"—thinking of others as less deserving or less than human, or our own ideas of ourselves being more deserving than others—starting with early attitudes before they reach the level of hate crimes.

"We need to reflect on ourselves when we think someone is less worthy than ourselves," she said. "How do we feel about people our children are in school with, who moves next door or what our neighbor wears. We make assumptions without getting to know individuals as human beings."

Kristine said compassion is important in helping people see each other as human beings, understanding that each acts out of a desire to do good and protect their families.

She told of an example from the Palestinian Israeli conflict of someone who had lost family members and seen children die, but realized that continuing to hate was not the answer.

She also told of a boy who decided that on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, he would post as many racial slurs as possible. Those who engaged him did so with kindness and King's quotes on nonviolence. He was able to see "the other" as a human being.

"Through our exchanges, we have the burden to turn the other cheek, but it's hard when we feel threatened," she said. "It's difficult work we are called to do, to respond with nonviolence so hate does not escalate."

For information, call 313-3665 or email gihs@gonzaga.edu.

South Asian Concert will be Oct. 6

The South Asia Cultural Association of Spokane is presenting an evening of classical music with Ranga Tharanga performing "Melodious Waves" from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6, at Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard St.

Performers include Sivarama

Rao on sitar, Raghavendra Rao on violin, Saraswathi Ranganathan on veena, Venkates on tabla and Raghavan Sai on mridangam.

A light Indian vegetarian dinner may be purchased starting at 5 p.m.

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