

34TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Stories inside

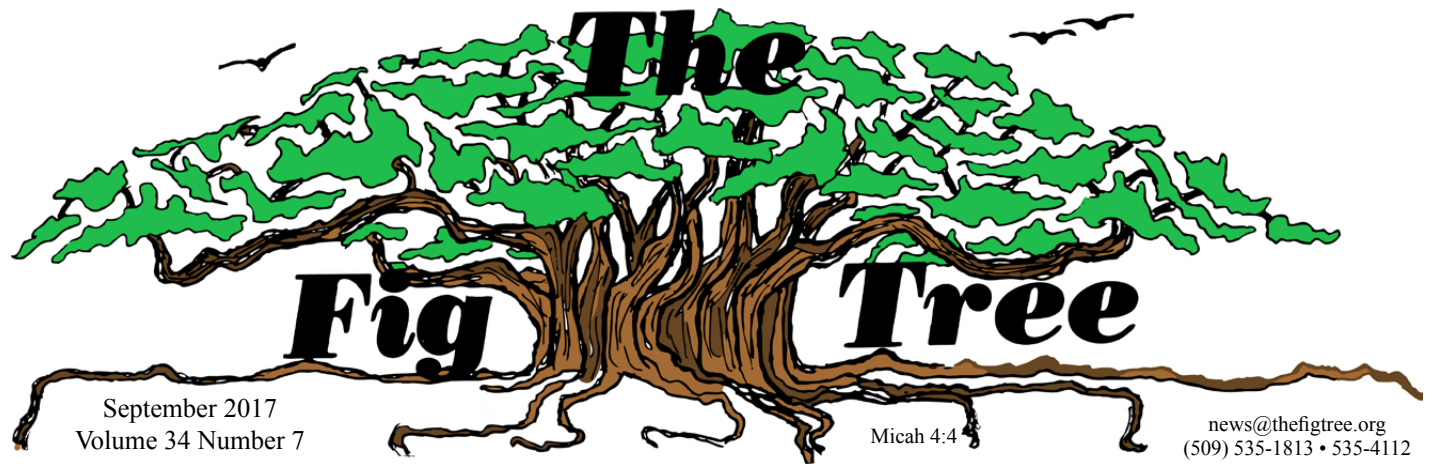
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CALENDAR ON PAGE 11 FEATURES 50+ EVENTS



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

# May inspiring moments inspire every day

By Mary Stamp - Commentary

The eclipse moments of our lives set us in awe, reminding us of how small we are in the vast universe God created. Last month's eclipse or partial eclipse may have drawn people to a common gaze toward the heavens, but there were also the experiences that surrounded us with images of the eclipse's progress and waning on our sidewalks and lawns through the leaves, which served as pinhole cameras reversing and capturing the image.

The wonders of life—be it the birth of a baby, a sunset or sunrise, the reflection of clouds and sky on the satiny ripples of a river or lake, the might of waterfalls—the wonders of creation are around us, calling us to take responsibility for the history happening around us.

Yes, history keeps happening. We can feel helpless watching it, or we can take responsibility, entering into the waters to cause ripples.

If we don't like abuse, hate, violence, torture, war, injustice, inequality, we can step into the waters so our story becomes part of what shapes history. We are called as people of faith to be more than blown in the wind. We are called to face the winds of oppression and stand against the tide of evil, not



Eclipse images projected through leaves onto sidewalk near Mary Stamp's home.

silently accept it.

History happens. It comes and goes. It need not overwhelm us into silence, but being aware it is temporary, we can act to influence the tide of opinion, bending the arc of justice toward loving community.

The eclipse reflected through the leaves onto the sidewalk beside my home where everyday people walk in the summer; where we rake fall leaves; where we shovel snow; where we set out the garbage and recycling; where maple tree seed pods will fall again next spring.

Will we remember the moments of awe to let them inspire us through the times of challenge?

In these times, we need to keep our eyes on what is happening around us, attuned to the flow of history. Will we let history repeat itself? Will we speak up? Will we see truth or succumb to a sea of lies in our everyday lives, in our nation and in our world?

Will we let the moment of awe remind us of our place in the universe and our responsibility to heed the call to help bend the arc of history toward justice?

Will we be part of the force for healing, reconciliation and peace?

Will we let love overcome hate in our lives and communities?

## Spokane participates in Compassion Games

The national 2017 Global Unity Compassion Games include activities from Sept. 9 to 24.

Spokane's Compassion Games open with a "Know Your Neighbor Dinner" for native-born, immigrant and refugee neighbors with a performance by the Neema African Refugee Children's Choir.

The event, co-sponsored by One Peace Many Paths and World Relief, will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11 at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook St. Those coming are asked to bring items to donate to World Relief: trash bags, baby wipes, baby diapers sizes 2 to 4, toilet paper and laundry detergent.

The Imagine Spokane Forum and Resource Fair, "Working Together Toward a More Compassionate Community," will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet, co-sponsored by Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies and SNAP.

Participants will explore their vision for a better Spokane in terms of creating a just, safe and inclusive community.

Breakout sessions are on overcoming stereotypes and innovative approaches to poverty and justice in Spokane. It includes the premiere showing of SNAP's "A

Walk in Poverty" documentary.

The World Peace Flag Ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, also at the Hemmingson Center, co-sponsored by Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies and Pax Christi.

The ceremony presents flags of all nations with a declaration of peace for each nation. The Neema African Refugee Children's Choir will also perform.

Other events include:

- Fall Clean Up of Drumheller Springs, a sacred Native American site, starts at 9 a.m., Sept. 11 at W. Euclid Ave and N. Ash Pl.

- There are opportunities to package food at Northwest Harvest, 3808 N. Sullivan Rd., 15-K: from 12 noon to 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, and from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Sept. 18. Call to sign up.

- World Day of Prayer: Peace in the Midst Labyrinth Walk and Food Drive will be from 6 to 8 p.m., Sept. 14, at Unity Spiritual Center, 29th and Bernard. Participants will bring food for Northwest Harvest.

- Three YMCA events are posted at ymcaspokane.org.

For information, call 536-2811 or visit onepeacemanypaths.org.

## Community partners help underwrite costs for 2017-18 Directory

The Fig Tree has raised pledges and donations of more than \$9,000 so far through its new and ongoing Resource Directory Community Partners Program to help expand and distribute the 2017-18 Resource Directory and to cover the cost of publishing 2,500 more copies than in 2016.

Community partners who responded before the deadline had their logos included on the front cover of the directory. Some preferred to be anonymous.

Among those included on the cover are the Empire Community Foundation which gave a grant of \$3,000.

The Arc was recognized for its in-kind gift of delivering more than 5,000 of 7,800 bulk deliveries.

Second Harvest, Banner Bank, Catholic Charities of Spokane, Washington Trust Bank and the Martin Luther King Junior Family Outreach Center gave donations of \$500 to \$1,000.

Community partners enrich the quality of life in the region by helping service providers connect with each other and helping people in need gain access to resources that can change their lives, said directory editor Malcolm Haworth.

The Fig Tree published 14,500 copies of the 2017-18 directory, up from 12,000 copies in 2016-17. Additional copies are available for additional distribution partners to share with their staff, volunteers and clients.

Because the Resource Directory is comprehensive, people

Continued on page 2

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## Religion News Briefs Around the World

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### 122 nations act to ban nuclear weapons on July 7

Nuclear weapons have always been seen as deeply immoral. Now, after years of work, 122 governments have adopted a treaty that makes them completely illegal, which nuclear powers have failed to do. The July 7 decision at the United Nations bans the manufacture, possession and use of nuclear weapons and provides pathways for their eventual elimination.

World Council of Churches' members are among the many groups and governments who have been working towards this new international law for the past six years.

"I welcome this treaty with thanksgiving. It is designed to protect all countries and the planet that is our home. It could ultimately save millions of lives," said the WCC general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit. "The WCC called for this treaty at its Assembly in South Korea in 2013. We vowed there to live in ways that protect life and creation, not in fear, protected by nuclear weapons."

The new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons recognizes that "the catastrophic consequences" of nuclear weapons "cannot be adequately addressed, transcend national boundaries, pose grave implications for human survival" and are the responsibility of all states.

The nine countries with nuclear weapons and 30 countries sheltered by U.S nuclear deterrence boycotted the month-long treaty negotiations and largely opposed years of preparatory work.

"The treaty and the process which led to it has taken the international debate over nuclear weapons beyond the narrow self-serving perspectives of military strategy and political influence to the wider domain of humanitarian principle and fundamental ethics, where the moral imperative against nuclear weapons is clear and categorical," said WCC international affairs director Peter Prove.

The nuclear ban treaty requires states to assist victims of nuclear weapons use and testing, and provide environmental remediation for areas contaminated by radiation.

"It acknowledges the unconscionable suffering of those affected by nuclear weapons use and testing. It sets a course to ensure nuclear weapons will never be used under any circumstances," said Emily Welty, vice moderator of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), noting that the WCC has accompanied the process and highlighted voices of the hibakusha (Japanese survivors) and indigenous groups who cry out for justice.

Emily, other members of the CCIA and members of the WCC Ecumenical Peace Advocacy Network advocated for the negotiations and for many human-centered provisions. The treaty calls attention, for example, to the "disproportionate impact" of ionizing radiation on women and girls, based on long-neglected evidence from the Marshall Islands and other areas used for nuclear tests.

"This treaty will have an impact on all states, whether they join immediately or not, by stigmatizing nuclear weapons and making their continued maintenance, development and possession unacceptable," declared the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which is playing a key role. Its more than 400 partners include the WCC.

It puts nuclear weapons in the same category as other indiscriminate, inhumane weapons, such as chemical weapons and biological weapons, anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions. It ends a peculiar exception—that the worst weapon of mass destruction, is the only weapon of mass destruction not expressly prohibited. It fills a gap in the law created and sustained by the ways in which nuclear powers have used their international power and influence.

"Recent events that have seen North Korea testing such weapons starkly brought our campaign and advocacy against these weapons into focus," said CCIA commissioner Masimba Kuchera of Zimbabwe. "Even those who have stockpiled nuclear weapons are afraid someone may pull the trigger first. Having no country own these weapons is the best insurance against irreversible destruction. Christianity and all faiths are premised on loving one another."

"Churches now have an opportunity to help with the next step," the WCC general secretary said. "We can urge our governments to sign and ratify the treaty and then see it is implemented."

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Fig Tree continues to recruit partners

Continued from page 1

using it for one need, may have multiple needs or family members with other needs. One service provider said he gives it to heads of extended families.

While the directory is available online, directory users like print copies. Service providers can go through it while sitting beside clients.

"Underwriting partners may help support bulk orders for a particular agency or demographic," said Malcolm, adding that recruitment of partners will continue.

Those supporting 10 to 50 cop-

ies will be invited to donate \$5 a copy and those supporting 50 copies or more, may donate \$4 a copy.

There are also opportunities for "general underwriting partners" to give \$500 or gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,500.

More than 1,300 congregations and 2,500 social service agencies are included in the directory and distribute it.

The Resource Directory is also distributed and used by food banks, homeless programs, community centers, senior services, childcare and preschool centers, public schools, colleges and uni-

versities and more.

The print circulation this year is supplemented by about 48,000 page views per month online.

The directory includes services offered by nonprofit and faith communities, government agencies, and advocacy groups providing human services and health care, services for children, families, seniors, veterans and more, and information on environmental and justice education and advocacy.

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

### Faith Action Network sets Pullman, Spokane events

The Faith Action Network (FAN) is planning events Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7 to 8, in Eastern Washington, meeting with social justice advocates about current issues and discussing ways to more effectively collaborate.

From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday Oct. 7, the Rev. Paul Benz, FAN co-director, will facilitate and lead a workshop at Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus Ave., in Pullman. Lunch will be served.

This workshop will involve discussion about the issues FAN is working on at the state and federal levels. It is also an opportunity to hear from and discuss with local advocates the issues they are

working on in Pullman and around the area.

"We will be considering how better to influence the political power brokers," said Paul.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m., Sunday Oct. 8, Paul will be present for the annual Faith Action Network's Spokane area Cluster gathering, which will be held at Spokane Unitarian church at 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

Paul will give an update on the issues FAN is working on and will hear from each faith community about issues of concern. Participants will also discuss ways to collaborate better on issues of common concern.

The 2017 State Legislative Ses-

sion reports for the 10 policy bills and operating budget wins Eastern Washington advocates helped make possible are at fanwa.org/legislative-agenda.

They include a no-contact order, an extension of the statute of limitations for victims of human trafficking; workforce classes in state prisons; two years of vocational education for TANF recipients; establishing a family and medical leave program; and use of solar energy tax incentives to promote sustainable, local renewable energy.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or email fan@fanwa.org. For information on FAN's current work, visit www.fanwa.org.

### Secular Franciscan group plans a September retreat

The Secular Franciscans of the Troubadours of Peace Region for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska and other members of the greater Franciscan family, and other people whose lives have been touched by the hearts

of Francis and Clare of Assisi will join in their regional retreat weekend, "Chiara de Dios - Clare of God," from Friday to Sunday, Sept. 22 to 24, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.

The retreat will be guided by Sr. Loretta Schaff, OSF, a Spokane-born, Franciscan sister for more than 50 years, liturgist and scholar of St. Clare.

For information, call 991-7937 or email dadaniel@comcast.net.

### Groups will join in river clean-up

Conservation groups, businesses, clubs, schools, churches and the public will join in the 14th annual Spokane River Clean-up at 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16 in Spokane Valley, the University District, the Downtown River Gorge, High Bridge Park and People's Park.

Last year, more than 600 volunteers removed more than 4 tons of debris from the shoreline, said Lindsay Box, organizer.

For information, call 209-2851 or email lbox@landscouncil.org.

### Spokane Riverkeeper benefit on Oct. 13 will highlight year's accomplishments

Spokane Riverkeeper's annual fundraiser, "Spoken River," will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13, at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute.

It will incorporate our love for art into an evening of river-focused works by local authors Maya Zeller, Shawn Vestal, and

Jack Nisbet.

Participants will learn about Riverkeeper action in a reality show, "Keeping up with the Keeper" with photography by Silver Bow Flyshop's Michael Visintainer highlighting its work.

For information, email jerry@cforjustice.org.

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## Second Harvest hosts Partner Agency Conference

Second Harvest plans several events for Hunger Action Month.

• For the first time, its annual Partner Agency Conference, which is from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, will be held at its Distribution Center, 1234 E. Front. It is there so the agencies can see the warehouse, volunteer center and kitchen.

This conference brings charitable food organizations together to network and share ideas through Second Harvest, a Feeding America affiliate that distributes more than 2 million pounds of food a month to people in need in the region, said Julie Humphries, community relations manager.

Participating agencies connect with each other and take home ideas they can implement on how to get the most out of volunteers, food safety standards, streamlining distribution and more.

Agency representatives can attend workshops, check out the resource fair and build relationships with Second Harvest staff.

• Another event is Thursday,

Sept. 15, at the Spokane Convention Center, when Second Harvest and United Way of Spokane are collaborating on "Make a Meal for Many: A Day of Action" with 600 volunteers being recruited to sort and bag pallets of 10-bean veggie chili mix, potatoes and onions into individual and family-sized portions to feed 140,000 people.

"The packaging will allow for greater customer choice for families at local food banks," said Julie.

Each bag will contain a recipe card for the chili. The food packaged that day is the base for the chili and other food items that can be picked up at local food banks.

United Way secured fresh products for the 10-bean veggie chili. Second Harvest will distribute it to its 250 partner food banks and pantries throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

"One in eight people, including one in five children in our region experiences hunger on a regular basis," said Julie.

"The Make a Meal for Many

Day of Action will highlight the need for communities to come together, take action and be part of the hunger solution," she said.

• The national Feeding America, domestic hunger-relief charity has designated September as Hunger Action Month, an awareness campaign to mobilize the public to take action to end hunger.

"It will bring attention to food insecurity in the United States and Inland Northwest," Julie said. "We ask people to consider how an empty stomach keeps people from reaching their full potential.

"The feeling of running on empty is a reality for 42 million Americans," she said. "The campaign logo is an empty plate."

• In September, Second Harvest, which relies on private donations, continues to offer classes in its kitchen. Some are fee classes, which help fund other classes that are free to people in need.

For information, call 534-6678, email [agencyconference@2-harvest.org](mailto:agencyconference@2-harvest.org) or visit [secondharvest-kitchen.org](http://secondharvest-kitchen.org).



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## PJALS co-sponsors torture education events

The Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) celebrates settlement of the lawsuit against two Spokane-based psychologists who helped design the CIA's torture program, said Liz Moore, PJALS director.

"The lawsuit was brought on behalf of three men tortured and experimented on, using methods psychologists James Mitchell and John "Bruce" Jessen developed," she said. "Suleiman Abdullah Salim, Mohamed Ahmed Ben Soud and the family of Gul Rahman, who froze to death in a secret CIA prison, have shown that torturers must face consequences for violating human rights and international law.

"Our values of nonviolence, integrity and justice for all call us to respect the inherent dignity of every human being," Liz explained.

Because the current President supports torture, PJALS urges Congress to oppose torture in all forms. It has seen the trial and settlement as an opportunity to educate the community about why torture is wrong, its impact on victims and global human rights,

PJALS is helping sponsor two events in September.

• One, "The Legal Obligation to Prevent and Prosecute Torture," is from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the Gonzaga University School of Law, 721 N Cincinnati St.

Juan Mendez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture from 2010 to 2016, will speak. He is an advocate for enforcing international and national laws against torture and professor of human rights law at Washington College of Law in Washington, DC.

Responders are Lisa Hajjar, professor of sociology at the University of California in Santa Barbara, and Upendra Acharya: associate professor at Gonzaga University Law School.

• Curt Goering, executive director at the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) and former chief operating officer at Amnesty International USA, will speak on "Why Torture Is Wrong," at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St.

He will address the moral and legal obligation to rehabilitate

torture survivors, consequences of torture for victims and how torture controls individuals and communities.

Responding is the Rev. Rich Lang, Seattle District Superintendent in the Pacific Northwest United Methodist Conference and a former pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Spokane.

Event co-sponsors are the Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture, National Religious Campaign Against Torture; Center for Victims of Torture; Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane; Veterans for Peace, Spokane chapter; Amnesty International Puget Sound; Western Washington and Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation.


For information, call 838-7870 or email [lmoore@pjals.org](mailto:lmoore@pjals.org).

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Joe Leven - co-founder Southern Poverty Law Center

**5 p.m. Friday Banquet Dinner - 'With Liberty & Justice for All' - \$50**  
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**7 p.m. Saturday - 'Responding to Hate & Cyber-Terrorism: Lessons from Whitefish MT' - Rabbi Francine Roston - \$10**

**Friday and Saturday Conference**  
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[gonzaga.edu/hate studies](http://gonzaga.edu/hate studies)



# In gratitude, food bank recipients often become donors and volunteers

Five of the 80 full-time staff of Northwest Harvest statewide work in Spokane's 13,000-square-foot warehouse at 3808 N. Sullivan 15-K. Northwest Harvest began delivering food in Eastern Washington 15 years ago at the request of several food banks.

Julie Delaney was hired 10 years ago and worked from her home for three years until they moved into the warehouse. As statewide director of community engagement, she also works at the Yakima warehouse and the headquarters in Seattle.

Julie said those who use food banks appreciate people's generosity and often become donors and volunteers, because they know how important it was for them to have help when they needed it.

**Volunteers, who give** 100,000 hours a year statewide, come as individuals or as companies, churches or sports teams to the warehouse for two-hour shifts.

Katie Huckabee, volunteer coordinator, organizes and schedules the volunteer projects in the food repackaging area for up to 30 volunteers and in the center of the warehouse for up to 50 volunteers during holiday food drives.

- Volunteers help transfer fruits or vegetables from pallets into 15-pound boxes food banks set out so clients can select produce.

- They scoop rice, dried beans, oats, pasta and other dry foods from 50-pound bags into one-pound bags.

- They sort donated food, checking expiration dates and damage.

- They also put labels on unlabeled canned goods Delmonte donates because of overproduction or expiration dates. Codes imprinted on can tops help volunteers identify contents.

Northwest Harvest in Spokane picks up truckloads of cans from its warehouse in Yakima, where Delmonte has a plant.

**"Most food we distribute** comes from outside our area through our statewide agency," Julie said.

For example, Northwest Harvest partners with potato and onion growers in Quincy and Moses Lake. Farmers donate potatoes or onions if they are the wrong size or if the harvest is too plentiful. They are free if they are donated



**Julie Delaney**

off the field unpackaged, because it saves the farmers storage or dumping fees, Julie said. If produce is packaged and in a cooling house, Northwest Harvest pays minimal packaging fees, so farmers do not have to absorb a loss.

**One of its initiatives** is its "3 Squares" backpack program for Spokane Public Schools elementary children facing hunger on weekends, she said.

Teachers and counselors at six schools select 24 children to receive two packages of food, one for Saturday and one for Sunday. Each package contains food for three meals. Northwest Harvest offers six menus that rotate every three weeks. It buys the food to assure it is the right quantity and nutritional content.

The program serves about 250 children a week at a cost of \$7,000 per school.

"We hear success stories. Once families are on their feet with jobs, parents may say they no longer need the food and we should give it to someone else. Schools have waiting lists," Julie said.

Aware their outreach is limited, Northwest Harvest teaches churches, food banks and agencies how to do the backpack program.

"The name, 3 Squares, is based on every child needing three square meals a day," she said.

**Julie grew up** in the Tri-Cities and came to Spokane to study at Eastern Washington University to be an interpreter for deaf people. She graduated in 1998, worked 10 years in technology and took time off to raise her children before working with Northwest Harvest.

At first, Northwest Harvest

brought food in one semi-truck from Seattle to eight food banks and meal programs. Now the Spokane warehouse supports 27 programs in Whitman, Adams, Spokane, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Ferry counties.

**Northwest Harvest**, which started in 1967—50 years ago—in Seattle, serves 380 food banks and meal programs across the state. Many food banks they serve also receive food from Second Harvest.

Julie said Northwest Harvest is privately funded, receiving gifts averaging \$10 to \$250 from individuals and organizations. It also receives grants from foundations.

"We accept no government funding, because we don't want to ask people about their situations or eligibility. Private funding eliminates requirements that come with federal funding," she said.

"People who come to a food bank are hungry. It's not our role to judge them," Julie said.

Some food banks have special shelves, refrigerators and freezers for Northwest Harvest food, because it can be given to anyone, Julie said.

**Each food bank has** its own style, she added. Most have limited hours and days, but the Salvation Army and Spokane Valley Partners are open every day. Because some rural food banks are open just once a month, they

give out more food each time.

Some food banks let clients choose food like at a grocery store. Others give pre-filled boxes.

In addition to providing nutritious food to hungry people statewide, she said that Northwest Harvest also fights to eliminate hunger by advocating for public policy through its Seattle office.

"We seek to set clients on their feet by protecting funding for the most vulnerable people," Julie said.

**Often people coming** to food banks are overwhelmed, "trying to dig out of an endless hole," she said. "They need to receive help and resources one step at a time."

Julie first attended a Baptist church with her family and then they joined a Four Square Church. She now attends Life Center in Spokane.

**"There's a strong connection** between what God says in the Bible about those with resources in abundance needing to care for our neighbors," she said.

Julie said she seeks to teach her children "to live selfless lives and look for ways to help others, because in helping others, we receive more than we give."

For information, call 891-7012 or email [julied@northwestharvest.org](mailto:julied@northwestharvest.org).

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6	\$4,120	\$5,493
7	\$4,643	\$6,190
8	\$5,165	\$6,887





# Kristen Kuempel will be installed as Lutheran synod's next bishop

Kristen Kuempel, whose ministry at First Lutheran Church in Kennewick included engaging in difficult conversations, involving young families and thinking outside the box, is stepping into a new adventure in ministry in September.

She will be installed as the Bishop of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E 24th Ave.

The national ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside over the service, which includes a joint choir singing an anthem written for the installation by Twin Cities hymn writer David Haas.

The anthem, "What Can I Leave Behind," is on what it means to take up the cross and follow Christ.

Kristen has been preparing for becoming bishop since she was elected in May at the Synod Assembly. She has been meeting people in the synod.

Previously she served two years as the at-large clergy representative on the Synod Council and served on planning and program committees for Lutherhaven.

"I discerned my call to ministry at Lutherhaven in 1996. I was a camper, then a counselor, then spent a year on staff and now I'm a parent of two campers—daughters Linnea, 13, and Sarah, 10," said Kristen.

Born in Spokane, she earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 in developmental psychology at Eastern Washington University. She met her husband, Matthew, at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., where they graduated in 2002.

For three years, she served three small-town Kansas congregations in the Central States Synod, while her husband served two congregations in the next county.

Kristen went "on leave from call," not serving a church, while Matthew completed a doctoral degree at Luther Seminary. In 2007, they moved to Richland, where he was Benton County Jail chaplain.

In 2009, she began serving First Lutheran in Kennewick, and Matthew became associate area director for Lutheran Community Services in Tri-Cities.

Because her role as bishop will involve travel and because of Matthew's work and their daughters' schooling, Kristen will work out of an office in her home in Kennewick.

She plans to come on a regular



**Bishop Kristen Kuempel served First Lutheran in Kennewick.**

basis to be at the synod office, which will stay in Spokane.

Kristen said her ministry at First Lutheran gave her gifts that will help her as bishop.

"The greatest asset of that church is its people. Over the years, we learned to have difficult conversations in which people felt heard because members were caring and respectful. They were invested in their relationships with each other," she said.

One conversation occurred in the year after Washington passed the law to permit same sex marriage.

A long-time member asked if she would perform a wedding for him and his partner in the church. The church took time over a year to engage in conversations and eventually decided to allow same sex marriages in the sanctuary.

"We lost a few people, but most who disagreed stayed because of the caring relationships they had," she said.

In the ELCA, decisions about same-sex marriage are made by local congregations, not the national church.

Kristen said about half of the 150 people attending First Lutheran, which was founded in 1904, are under the age of 50.

"Many people think having young families is a silver bullet to solving a church's problems, but young families have different giving and attendance patterns than older families," she said. "They give and come less."

Having young families and children in worship means there is the murmur of "kid noise," or a child may stand beside the pastor during communion.

"We stopped having children's church, so children could be in worship," she said.

A group works with the direc-

tor of children, youth and family ministries to make worship interactive, rather than giving children "church bags" with coloring and quiet activities. Instead, they seek to involve children—using a felt communion set or having a scavenger hunt to look for a dove in the stained glass window.

While numbers at Sunday School before worship are low, there may be two to 25 children in worship.

Kristen's version of a children's sermon was a mystery box. She would give a child a scripture and the shoebox ask the child to bring something about the scripture. One did a clay diorama of Jesus walking on the water.

She also would ask the children how God was with them during the week.

First Lutheran taught Kristen "the blessing that comes from mutual consolation of the saints." Members comforted and challenged her. She, as pastor, comforted and challenged them.

"We challenged each other honestly from relationships of love and respect, so challenge was an opportunity for greater ministry together," she said.

Kristen urges mainline churches to step out and try new things.

First Lutheran did that by joining in the national ELCA Day of Service, "Our God's Work, Our Hands," the second weekend of September. They joined with three ELCA congregations and Pasco Lutheran Latino Ministry.

Members sorted food with Second Harvest, put together school kits, and made layettes and quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and helped with painting and maintenance for LCS. They closed the day with a joint bilingual service in a park.

"We stepped out to work to-

gether," she said.

As Kristen has been stepping into her new ministry as bishop, she said, "I am taking the next step in confidence, believing that God's Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

In the synod's discerning process that was part of calling a new bishop, Kristen heard that congregations want to be more in relationship with each other as Lutherans and with the synod.

She plans to use social media and technology to connect congregations, rather than jumping in a car to drive eight hours.

She will serve 92 congregations and three outdoor ministry sites from the Cascades to the eastern Idaho border, plus three congregations in Wyoming. The three outdoor ministry sites are Lutherhaven, Luther Heights near Sun Valley and Holden Village.

Kristen believes outdoor ministries and campus ministries are

important ways to lift up new leadership and build relationships in the church.

Outdoor ministry was formative for her, and campus ministry was formative for her husband.

"Economic realities have hit both ministries hard, so we will explore how to support them," she said. "God calls us not to survive but to thrive."

"God gives us all we need even if we may not think it looks like enough, but with God, it is abundant. We need to look at what we have as plenty to do what God needs. We tend to go into a scarcity mode, but God has blessed us abundantly," said Kristen, who said she will foster synod and ecumenical relationships, because "the more we cooperate and work together, the more abundance we find."

For information, call 838-9871 or email [bishop@ewaidssynod.org](mailto:bishop@ewaidssynod.org).

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# Nation needs Unity in the Community celebration of diversity

Empowerment coach Dennis Mitchell, morning emcee for multicultural Unity in the Community celebration and resource fair, said the annual event that brings diverse people together is unique.

"We should let everyone know that Unity in the Community makes a difference," Dennis said. "We should take this on the road. The country needs this."

He recognized founding organizer, the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a former director, Ben Cabildo.

Co-organizers Mareesa Henderson and April Anderson said that Unity in the Community is a labor of love. Mareesa thanked sponsors who gave school supplies and made the event possible.

"It's wonderful to celebrate diversity in the community," Mareesa said, noting that 24 countries were represented in the Cultural Village. Children went to booths with "passports" they had stamped as they learned about the languages, locations, cultures and customs of the countries.

Speaker Washington Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzales of Olympia said his passion is to open access to the justice system for more people by a system of interpreters, speakers of Japanese, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

"We have diversity on the supreme court with six women justices, a supermajority. It's important for girls and boys to see women as justices so they can adjust their stereotypes," he said.

"Diversity makes us stronger. We make better decisions as a nation when we listen to different points of view," Steven said. "It makes the nation stronger."

He takes the message that there is strength in diversity to school civics classes on the rule of law and importance of justice for all.



Emcee Dennis Mitchell and Justice Steven Gonzales interact.



Morning Star Baptist Churches Children's Choir performs.



NEEMA choir of African refugees sings.

"It's critical for everyone to feel the justice system is available to them," Steven said.

Access to interpretation means anyone can understand what is said in court, so a witness can testify and a defendant can understand what is said.

"We need to make sure hate and

bigotry do not come in the way of loving everyone," Steven said.

During the day, different groups performed.

The Morning Star Baptist Church's Children's Choir sang messages in several songs:

"Super God, super me, super possibilities." "Justice for us.

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They held up posters in one song: "No H8!" (No Hate!) "Break the silence, break the chains." "Your silence does not protect you." "Yes, we can."

They sang about the many colors of God's love.

NEEMA choir of refugees from African countries sang in English and native languages:

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## Habitat Store marks its 17th anniversary

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane's Store celebrated its 17th anniversary on Aug. 26.

The store sells new and gently used items, and Habitat for Humanity families benefit because proceeds of sales support efforts to build safe, decent, affordable homes.

The Habitat Store reuses, repurposes and recycles donated merchandise, promoting environmental sustainability and providing a long-term financial

resource for Habitat for Humanity, Michelle Girardot, CEO of Habitat-Spokane.

This year, the store has saved more than 270,000 pounds of material from entering landfills. In 17 years, the store has funded more than 20 homes.

The Spokane store sells home improvement product, cabinets, furniture, appliances and more. It generates awareness, prevents waste and increases Habitat's ability to serve more families in

need, she added.

In 17 years, it has raised more than \$3 million to build Spokane homes.

With more than 800 stores in three countries, Habitat stores sell items at an affordable rate, she said.

The store is also a retraining location for several programs, helping people learn skills and gain employment.

For information, call 534-2552 or visit [habitat-spokane.org](http://habitat-spokane.org).

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# March for Justice invites community to begin a ‘journey for justice’

The Spokane Minister’s Fellowship, Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) and Spokane NAACP held a March for Racial Justice June 17 at Liberty Park in the East Central neighborhood of Spokane, gathering speakers and nearly 300 people concerned about racial disparities in Spokane.

“We are on a journey for justice, said the Rev. Walter Kendricks, president of the Spokane Minister’s Fellowship and pastor at Morning Star Baptist Church, who helped organize the march.

The march was held to highlight the community’s displeasure with the May 11 verdict in the Edward Bushnell trial, to address ongoing racial disparities, and to demand justice and racial equity in the criminal justice system, he said.

A jury rejected first-degree murder, second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter charges for the 2015 shooting of William Poindexter and ruled it self-defense for Bushnell to shoot Poindexter in the back as he was walking away, he said.

“The Minister’s Fellowship and SCAR believe the verdict was not isolated, but part of a broken criminal justice system, riddled with racial disparities,” said Walter.

**He and others summarized** Spokane’s racial disparities:

- The Spokane Police Department’s Annual Use of Force Report said 33 percent of 2016 incidents involved African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanic people.

- There is racial disparity in officer stops, searches and arrests, says the March 2017 report on Officer Contacts with Civilians and Race in the City of Spokane. African Americans, Native Americans, Middle Easterners and Pacific Islanders were stopped more than whites.

In Spokane, African Americans and Native Americans are significantly more likely to experience officer-initiated contacts, and to be searched or arrested, in contrast with other racial groups.

- There are also racial disparities in jail confinement rates.

According to the W. Haywood Burns Institute SCLJC Presentation last July, in Spokane County,



**Randy Corradine, top left, Kitara Johnson, top right, Jackie Vaughn, right**

for every White adult detained, seven Blacks and six Native Americans were detained in 2014.

In Spokane County, 18 Whites, 130 Blacks and 30 Latinos per 1,000 people in the population were detained, Walter reported.

- There is also racial disparity in school arrests. In the 2016 to 2017 school year as of February, 52 percent of Spokane public school arrests were children of color.

Several other leaders spoke at the march.

**Jackie Vaughn of Seattle** called for letting those affected by violence, inequities and injustice lead.

“If we create action it should be rooted with those affected,” she said. “The personal is political. My father, like 60 percent of African American men since the 1960s, spent time in the prison industrial complex.”

**Randy Corradine** gave a rap on “Black Out,” which he wrote after an experience of being profiled by police, accused of running a stop sign. When he was told the conversation was recorded, he felt terrorized.

“What do I do in a moment when I am a victim of blackness?” he asked, beginning his rap:

“Blacking out in white spaces. There are too many black faces dying, too many in prison, too many families broken, too many mothers crying, too many girls lost, too many missing, too many blacks in prison. ‘Stop killing us,’ is not a new plea,” he rapped.

While there may not be sheets and trees today, he said institutions internalize ways whites terrorize black lives, and “there are new slave chains chaining us to



the old ways,” he rapped.

**Kurtis Robinson**, the new president of the Spokane NAACP, thanked the Poindexter family for “allowing us to use his killing and their pain as a platform to call people to work to change a broken system.

“It’s time to put aside our differences and learn how to come together to challenge what is rampant in our communities and government,” he said. “The Almighty is not pleased with what is happening. Walking with Jesus,

the Nazarene, we cannot shy away from entering places of power and holding people accountable. Jesus spoke up and acted. He expressed displeasure with people, organizations and institutions.

“We are about standing up for each other, for justice, for equity and for equality. I will not stand aside any more. Christians can’t afford to do that. We owe it to the next generation,” Kurtis said.

“We can, will and must come together and continue to come together to move communities forward,” he said. “We need each other. We need to stop letting the system derail us, separate us, segregate us. We need to continue to step forward collectively. We cannot, must not and will not quit.”

**Sandy Williams**, editor of The Black Lens, said she had been overcome in the courtroom with the acquittal based on self-defense of a white man, who shot a black man in the back after trying to stop him from beating his girlfriend. She felt she could not speak at the march she helped organize, but she woke that day with a message.

“In Spokane we do not think we see color. They might see color in communities that killed Trayvon Martin in Florida, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Eric Garner in Brooklyn, Franklin Gray and Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Philando Castillo in Minnesota, or Sandra Brand in

Waller County Jail,” she said.

People in Spokane may think Spokane does not see color—black, Native American, Latino—but people of color are stopped and detained more, police use force against them more, and schools discipline children of color more often, Sandra said.

In Spokane County, blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans are more likely to live in poverty and have a higher mortality rate, she said. Spokane boards, elected officials, decision makers and courts are white, she said.

“When William Poindexter was shot in the back by a white man on a skate board carrying a gun and knives, and claiming self-defense, the jury did not see color,” said Sandra.

“Maybe Spokane needs to start to see color,” she said.

**Kitara Johnson** found it hard to sing in the face of injustice, but chose a 1964 civil rights song by Sam Cooke, “A Change Is Gonna Come,” with the promise it would be “a long time coming, but change is gonna come.” Knowing that, she said, “makes us able to carry on.”

Marchers walked to 5th and Altamont, where the shooting occurred and returned to Liberty Park for a Juneteenth Barbecue.

For information, call 534-4878 or 209-2425 or email wkendricks@outlook.com.

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# Woman's story of abuse helps other women identify common threads

Helped by hearing the story of another woman who experienced abuse, Tammy Schreven now finds healing in sharing her story of abuse in 29 years of marriage to a man with narcissistic personality disorder.

Her goal is to help other women who have experienced abuse know that there is life after abuse, and share steps that can be helpful for their healing, recovery and empowerment. At last year's WHEN conference, Tammy first shared her story. This year she will share more about her healing.

She will give a workshop at the Women's Healing and Empowerment Network's "Being There Conference" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30. It's a Christian forum for women, and men to engage in discussions to create an abuse-free community.

**The 2017 Conference theme** is "Healing, Recovery and Empowerment from Narcissistic Relationships and Spiritual Abuse." It will be held at Hillyard Baptist Church, 2121 E. Wabash in Spokane.

Other speakers are:

- Mable Dunbar, founder and president of the Women's Healing and Empowerment Network (WHEN), is a cognitive behavioral therapist, domestic violence counselor and crisis intervention specialist. Her presentation for women is on "Signs of a Spiritual Abusive Church or Ministry."

- Colin Dunbar, pastor, evangelist, church builder and ministerial director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is a volunteer chaplain for WHEN. He will speak to women and men at the closing session on "No More Excuses for Spiritual Abuse: Healing, Wholeness and Empowerment."

- Gil Escandon, a physician who has worked at various Spokane medical facilities, taught at the University of Washington Medical School and headed psychiatry at Spokane County Jail, now does psychiatric work with a Native American Project. His sessions for men are on "Making of a Narcissist and Spiritual Abuse" and "Steps to Healing, Recovery and Empowerment."

- Jon Mundall, a physician in nutritional or functional medicine in Connell and Spokane, focuses



Tammy Schreven finds empowerment in sharing her story.

on immune system disorders, nutritional therapies and clinical toxicology. He will lead a session for men on "Warning Signs of a Spiritual Abuser."

**In a recent interview**, Tammy said she grew up in a loving family in Loveland, Colo. attending a church school and home schooled. She studied accounting at community college in Fort Collins.

After she and her husband married, he was pastor at a church in Kansas City. In 1988, they moved outside Colville, where they lived 28 years.

He first gave evangelism presentations and later did motivational speaking in the United States, Canada, England, Eastern Europe, Africa, New Zealand, Australia and India. She traveled with him many years. When their daughter was four, Tammy stayed home more because life with him was becoming difficult, she said.

Tammy, whose Crohn's disease was aggravated by stress, traveled with him from 1986 to 2003 and eventually did accounting at home for their nonprofit. Her parents and sister moved to Colville.

"We only attended church occasionally. He kept me isolated from friends and family," said Tammy.

Her husband told her so many lies, that she was confused. He lambasted her or would not speak to her for days for a small "mistake," and then showered her with love, flowers and dinner.

"I thought I was the problem, but I finally realized I would never be able to please him," she said. "I lived in a fog and could not think clearly except when he was away.

"I did not tell family or friends, because he was high profile in our denomination and because he could switch to being loving," she said. "My parents and others said they were praying for me and feared he would kill me. I had no dreams or goals."

**In 2012, her husband** was diagnosed with narcissistic personality disorder after she and her daughter fled to a safe house on advice of a counselor in Colville.

During a month at the safe house, she filed for a separation, but her daughter had to visit him.

When Tammy read what narcissistic personality disorder is, she sat at her computer and sobbed. There was a name for what she was living with. A narcissist has an inflated sense of self-importance, a need for admiration, a lack of empathy for others and an inability to function in relationships.

She realized she and her daughter did not need to live with the manipulation, lies, physical and emotional abuse they experienced.

Two months after she left her husband, he committed suicide. After that, she had forensics done on his computer and found he led a double life and was unfaithful to her with scores of women for many years,

To help women who have lived with husbands/partners with narcissistic personality disorder and abuse, she started a ministry called Haven of Hope.

"I'm not a counselor, but I have walked the journey. I point them to resources and help them find counselors," said Tammy, who mostly talks with women on the phone and face-to-face.

One woman she helped now has an associate degree and dreams.

Tammy now sells life insurance and does accounting for nonprofits along with helping women.

She plans to share her story in a book and hopes to share it at Rotary Clubs to let lawyers and judges know how dangerous it can be for them to send a child to the home of a parent with narcissistic personality disorder.

Her daughter was scheduled to be with her father the weekend he took his life, except her husband's

brother convinced her lawyer he was dangerous.

**Tammy is thankful** for support from her church in Colville. When she moved, 20 church members helped. She is also grateful that most of her husband's family understood and have been supportive.

For information, call 323-2123, email [whennetwork@gmail.com](mailto:whennetwork@gmail.com) or visit [whennetwork.com](http://whennetwork.com).

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## Partnering for Progress marks decade in Kenya

Partnering for Progress will celebrate a decade of work in Kenya at its Annual Into Africa Auction at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel.

African dishes and western food will be served. The evening's

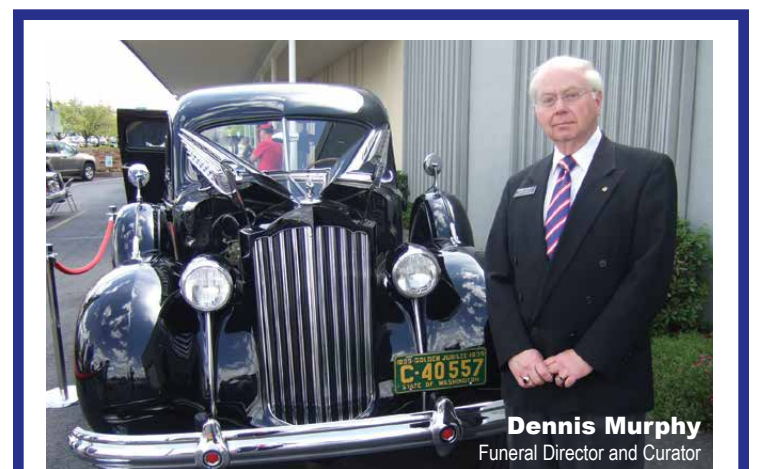
emcees will be Kalae Chock and Sean Owsley, anchors of KHQ's weekday Wakeup Show. Jeff Owens is the auctioneer.

Partnering for Progress has focused on health care, sanitation, education and economic develop-

ment in rural Kenya for a decade.

Proceeds from the auction go to support P4P's continuing programs.

For information, call 720-8408 or visit [partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction](http://partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction).



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The Ministry Institute - 405 E. Sinto  
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The Ministry Institute (TMI) invites you to **pray for our world** with music, readings and silence in the style of Holden Village and Taizé prayer.

**Spirituality Seminars** with Kathy Finley will begin in October at TMI. For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or [bartletts@gonzaga.edu](mailto:bartletts@gonzaga.edu).

**We welcome you to join us for reflection and contemplation.**



## Hate Studies event seeks to engage communities

Speakers and workshops for the fourth interdisciplinary International Conference on Hate Studies from Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 19 to 21, in Hemmingson Center at Gonzaga University will discuss, "Engaging with Communities for Justice."

Kristine Hoover, director of the Institute for Hate Studies at Gonzaga for the past year, said several fall events will look at how university resources can support community partners as they address hate and healing locally and globally.

She spoke of the need to recognize the different "language" of academics and community partners.

The Compassion Games "Imagine Spokane Forum" on Saturday, Sept. 16, and the United Nations' International Day of Peace Thursday, Sept. 21, will set the stage.

The Gonzaga Center for Public Humanities is sponsoring a lecture by scholar, author and activist Angela Davis on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Gonzaga faculty and students will give presentations in October and November leading into International Education Week Nov. 13 to 17.

On Nov. 20 to 21, the GU Southern Poverty Law Center Student Chapter, the Institute for Hate Studies and the Spokane community are sponsoring, "Pledge to Take a Stand" against hate, injustice and intolerance.

The International Conference opens at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 19, with the documentary, "13th," at the Hemmingson Auditorium. The film explores the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States related to the 13th Amendment that prohibits slavery.

The conference seeks to analyze and combat hatred in its various manifestations to build community committed to peace, human rights and justice.

Co-sponsors with the Institute for Hate Studies are the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force and the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations.

From 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20, is Community Partner Day, focusing on human rights needs of community partners.

Keynote speakers are Jennifer Schweppe of Limerick, Ireland, co-director of the International Network on Hate Studies, and Joe

Leven, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971.

At an evening banquet, Idaho State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb of Boise will speak on "With Justice for All."

Saturday closes with a keynote address at 7 p.m. in the Hemmingson Center by Rabbi Francine Roston of the Glacier Jewish Community B-nai Shalom of Flathead, Mont., speaking on "Responding to Hate and Cyber-Terrorism: Lessons from Whitefish, Mont." That community responded to harassment and threats from a neo-Nazi website with a campaign of "Love Lives Here" posters and a "Love Not Hate" rally.

There will be workshops Friday and Saturday.

Kristine, who has been on the GU faculty for eight years, said a university is a place for free speech, dialogue, listening and learning from and with one another: "As a Jesuit university in our geographic location, Gonzaga has a commitment to equality and justice for all, valuing humanity and difficult conversations."

For information, call 313-3662 or email [gihs@gonzaga.edu](mailto:gihs@gonzaga.edu).

## Transitions builds cottages, sets benefits

Community leaders, contractors, and Transitions board members and staff broke ground Aug. 8 for 24 Home Yard Cottages as part of Transitions' permanent supportive housing program.

Spokane's cottage housing ordinance made the energy-efficient cottages, which are from 475 to 1,000 square feet, possible.

Plans for the cottages came from listening to people who live in affordable housing, including some at The Women's Hearth and

participants said Edie Rice-Sauer, Transitions executive director.

She said Transitions programs seek to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane.

Construction for the project officially starts in September with completion by the fall of 2018.

The People Who Care benefits will be on Thursday, Oct. 5, with the Breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., and the Lunch from noon to 1 p.m., at Hotel RL by Red Lion

Spokane at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr.

New Leaf Bakery in planning the New Leaf Bakery Experience from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 3104 W. Ft Wright Dr., an opportunity to learn about the job training program by observing trainees as they prepare a large order and do an educational exercise.

For information, call 328-6702 or email [mreinbold@help4women.org](mailto:mreinbold@help4women.org).

## YWCA honors seven women of achievement

YWCA Spokane will honor seven women at the Women of Achievement Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 28, at The Davenport Grand Hotel.

Over 35 years, YWCA Spokane has honored more than 200 women who embody its mission to eliminate racism and empower women. The 2017 winners are:

- Gina Freuen, artist, retired from Gonzaga University Art Department and co-founder of ArtFest, for arts and culture;
- Kristin Goff, owner of Wendle Motors, for business and industry;
- Juliana Christine Matthews Repp, attorney, for the Carl Maxey racial and social justice award;
- Mary DeLateur, retired clinical social worker, for community enhancement;

• Patricia O'Connell Killen, academic vice president at Gonzaga University, for education;

• Heather Rosentrater, vice president of energy delivery with Avista Utilities, for the science, technology and environment, and

• Ellen Robey, community volunteer, former chair of Friends of the Davenport, for the lifetime

achievement award.

The speaker, Janus Latus, is author of *If I Am Missing or Dead*, a memoir on her sister's death by domestic violence. The book broke the chain of silence about domestic abuse in her family.

The YWCA uses proceeds for families impacted by abuse.

For information, call 326-1190.

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### 'The Legal Obligation to Prevent and Prosecute Torture'

Wednesday, Sept. 6

5 to 7 p.m. - Gonzaga School of Law - 721 N. Cincinnati

Juan Mendez - UN Special Rapporteur on Torture 2010-2016

Responders: Lisa Jajjar University of California Santa Barbara  
Upendra Acharya, Gonzaga School of Law

### 'Why Torture Is Wrong'


Saturday, Sept. 9

7 p.m. - Lincoln Center - 1316 N. Lincoln St.

Curt Goering - executive director  
Center for Victims of Torture

Responder: Rich Lang, Seattle District Superintendent  
Pacific Northwest United Methodist Conference

For information, call 838-7870 • [pjals.org](http://pjals.org)



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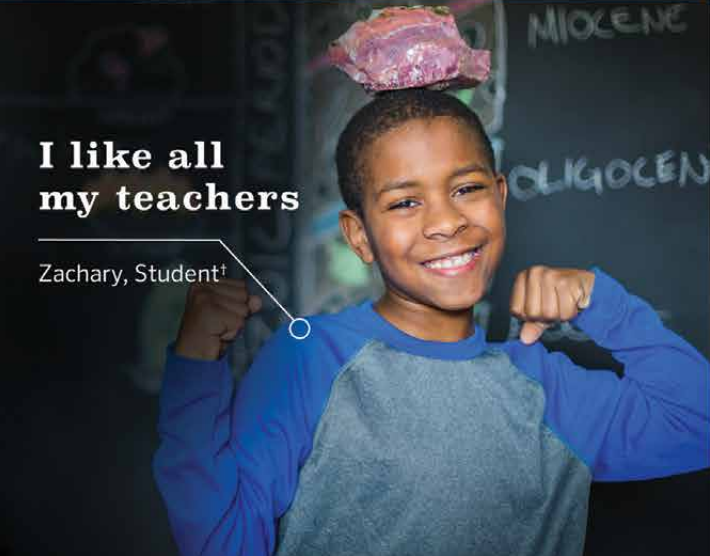
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## How do we live in these times? We need to *be* a good story

How do I hold myself in these times?

When I was a young Sister, I saw a quote that holds much wisdom. I try to live within it these days: "That the birds of worry and care fly about your head, this you cannot prevent. That they build nests in your hair, this you can prevent."

Today, I have to be so much more mindful of living what I say I believe, of maintaining my authenticity. I believe that I am connected to and a part of all creation, and that every bit of creation tells me something about the Divine.

I believe that people are wired for good, that we all do the best we can. Sometimes I ask myself, "Why would a good, rational person say, do, act in this way?" Usually I can find an answer, even for myself.

So how do I live in today's climate and stay true to the person I am and am working to become? How indeed?!

I pray for our leaders.

I pray for the followers and the protesters (of which I am one).

I try not to gobble up every bad thing that is said or done about or by the administra-

tion, not to rejoice and hope they fail.

I try to limit my conversations to the least ambiguous, if not positive, comments.

If I am true to myself, I have to own my connection with every person. I have to know my boundaries but keep them permeable—light and love and peace in, light and love and peace out.

I try, but I still watch MSNBC, not Fox news. It does occur to me that watching commentaries from another viewpoint may help me to strengthen my resolve to open my heart and mind. That seems a risk

worth considering. It also seems important to savor good stories of people doing good things, just things, kind and inclusive things. I have heard that holding a thought or idea for 15 seconds increases the likelihood that it will be retained, so I do take time to savor the good stories.

Perhaps the important thing is to *be* a good story. In imitation of a long ago itinerant preacher of Good News in the midst of political unrest, I try.

Mary Ann Farley, SNJM  
Contributing Editor

## This is a time to find possibilities even when the worst has happened

What a time this has been nationally and internationally! The main news stories have been painful to take in. How is this playing out in our congregations? How is it playing out for us personally?

When I recently shared my fears and frustrations with a friend in her 80s, she remarked that she is surprised at how calm she feels, despite the chaos. She said she

has lived through the Depression, WWII, Vietnam, Civil Rights, 9/11, and so much more, along with plenty of personal or family losses and changes and challenges.

In those instances, life has gone on. We have come out on the other side, still able to carry on and strive to create a good, positive life for ourselves and those around us.

Although I'm younger, my experience is

the same. I find the sun has always come up on a new day filled with possibility, even when the worst has happened.

In reflecting on our conversation, as well as recent conversations at my church, the word "trust" has come to the forefront: trust in the basic goodness at the center of all existence, and trust in the Presence of the Source of all our Being.

To be sure, that trust ebbs and flows, and the recent incidents have strongly challenged it, but it still holds fast.

This is a time for us to hold tight to our covenant relationship, that we may find strength in our unity of belief that God is Love, and in our purpose to build a world where peace and justice rule.

Kaye Hult – Editorial team

Excerpts &amp; Summaries

## Sounding Board

Faith Leaders' Comments

## U.S. faith leaders speak out on Aug. 12 violence in Charlottesville

Here are excerpts from several.

**The Presbyterian Church (USA)** reaffirms its condemnation of white supremacy and racism, names them as sin, and renews its commitment to disrupt them and work for justice and equity. We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism.

Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, the Bible's message is a consistent and insistent witness to God's love for diversity and justice. White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God's intention for humanity.

We acknowledge the church's complicity in creating white supremacy and racism. We confess the church's failure to challenge and disrupt them. Too often we have accepted the status quo and stood silent in face of injustice and oppression. May our commitment to live the good news lead us to stand, speak and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.

**The Rev. Herbert Nelson, II - Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**, stands against all forms of hatred and discrimination. We believe that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be—blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination.

The ELCA's social statement, "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture," states: "Racism—a mix of power, privilege and prejudice—is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God's creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments church and society."

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton calls us "to stand up firmly against racism and anti-Semitism, show up for and advocate with others. Jesus, who makes visible those who are invisible, is already there. We need to show up, and we need to listen in each of our communities."

The ELCA belongs to Christ's church universal, which has a place for everyone. The job of Christ's people today is to celebrate the diversity of God's creative work and embrace all people in the spirit of love.

**The Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Jan Edmiston - Co-Moderators 2016 ELCA General Assembly**

**White supremacists** such as the neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan are filled with racism and hate. They should not be

listened to by any follower of Jesus Christ.

God loves everyone the same. Jesus Christ died for the sins of everyone. Every person is equal to all others because God created each of us in God's image.

For anyone, regardless of skin color or ethnicity, to disdain another human being because of race is as un-Christlike as can be. Christians must reject and repudiate such alt-right groups and work for peace and goodwill among all people.

**Steve Gaines, president - Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis**

**We cannot take** backward steps fueled by hatred. We cannot be silent when the humanity of black persons is being assaulted and terrorized. 1 John 4:20 says: "Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."

So let us love one another as we love God. With such love, we are compelled to stand for justice and walk in peace.

**Terri Hord Owens - Disciples of Christ General Minister and President**

**We join our 22** sponsoring communities and the Catholic Bishops standing against the racism and violence in Charlottesville. We believe in a spirit of nonviolence, pray for those who were injured and mourn those who died.

White supremacy and neo-Nazism are antithetical to teachings of Jesus who called for us to love one another. We remain dedicated to confronting issues of racism and privilege within ourselves, examining how prejudice impacts our institutions, and challenging those who do not believe racism still plagues our nation. We pray for a conversion in those who hold hatred in their hearts, and vow to go beyond prayer to address systemic racism, xenophobia, sexism, bigotry and violence in our world.

**Interfaith Center for Justice and Peace**

**We strongly condemn** the acts of violent hatred expressed by the white supremacists, Neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members. We confess that the events of Charlottesville are systemic, communal expressions of white privilege and racism that continue to pervade our nation's spiritual ethos. If we only condemn the acts of Aug. 12, without condemning roots of racism, which perpetuate discrimination in our schools, justice, business and healthcare systems, then we have sinned as well.

We must work toward the Kin-dom of

Heaven here on earth now for the sake of a just world for all. We do this by committing to follow the ways of Jesus, who stood with the oppressed, spoke out against political and religious powers, and courageously embodied a just world for all.

**United Church of Christ officers and Conference Ministers**

**In this moment**—when the stain of bigotry has again covered our land, when hope seems far away, and when we must now remember new martyrs of the way of love—like young Heather Heyer—it helps to remember the wisdom of martyrs who have gone before. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book asks "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?"

A moment of crisis is always a moment of decision. Where do we go from here? Chaos? Indifference? Avoidance? Business as usual? Or Beloved Community?

The teachings, Spirit, Person, life, death and resurrection of Jesus have shown us the way through the chaos to true community as God has intended from the beginning.

Through the way of love, he has shown us the way to be right and reconciled with the God and Creator of us all. In so doing, Jesus has shown us the way to become the Beloved Community of God.

**The Most Rev. Michael Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church**

**Let there be no excuses** or political justification for the evil that was on full display in Charlottesville. Nor, let us forget that many such displays of white supremacy, racism and hatred go un-reported or under-reported. White supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies are abhorrent and inconsistent with Christian faith.

Jesus called his followers to "love your neighbor." This spiritual imperative means all neighbors without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. Paul taught that "enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions and factions" are among many works of the flesh that are antithetical to the kingdom of God. The works of the Spirit lead to peace-making and God's kingdom.

United Methodist Social Principles affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other.

We share collective responsibility to restore health to communities. We share collective responsibility, as followers of the Prince of Peace, to create non-violent communities where people with different political and religious views respect each other.

We share responsibility to articulate the vision of the Beloved Community where no

person feels endangered on account of their social, racial or cultural identity.

**Bishop Bruce Ough, President United Methodist Council of Bishops**

**We are deeply disturbed** by the violence and hate that descended on Charlottesville.

As Christians and followers of Jesus we stand with Jesus, and we stand against the white supremacist groups that spread racism and violence. We pray for the day when all of God's children, of all races, treat each other with love and respect rather than bias and hate.

**Daniel Jackson & G. Alexander Bryant, president & executive secretary Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America**

**The white supremacist** demonstrations in Charlottesville cannot be ignored. Let us encourage our pastors to remind our membership that ABCUSA stands for the full equality of all Americans and rejects every version of racial prejudice and specifically, the contemporary ugly resurgence of so-called "white nationalism."

**The Rev. Lee Spitzer - General Secretary - American Baptist Churches USA**

**It can be easy** to be caught up in a highly charged, polarized climate of divisiveness, fueled by anger and fear. How do we New Thought practitioners respond? Imagine if our spiritual principles could help with the emergence of a kinder, more compassionate world. If so, how might we be a part of bringing that forth? Poet Rumi said: "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

What actions can we take to support movement beyond the great divide of separation and fear, and help us find our way to that field? Can we assist in facilitating the emergence of something new and greater? What are we being called to be and do?

**The Revs. Gary and Jane Simmons - Unity Church South**

**It saddens us** that our nation has been disturbed with hatred and violence. The display of division in Charlottesville has shaken every facet of our society. May the men and women of our great country unite in the true spirit of America. The clergy and faithful of the our church, join me in condemning such acts of violence. We offer our prayers for those who have been injured, and for the tragic loss of life. We continue in the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and stand united with all Americans.

**Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church**



# Calendar of Events

- Aug 31-Sept 4** • **Pig Out in the Park**, food booths and free concerts, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., spokanepigout.com
- Sept 1** • **Vision for Peace & Justice Sign Waving** at Main and Browne, 35 W. Main, 4:30 p.m., pjals.org
- **Alfredo Arreguin**, Mexican-American artist, Marmot Art Space, 1206 W. Summit Pkwy, Kendall Yards, 5 to 8 p.m., facebook.com/marmotartspace
- Sept 5, 19** • **Showing up for Racial Justice Committee**, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 6** • **"The Legal Obligation to Prevent & Prosecute Torture,"** Juan Mendez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Gonzaga University School of Law, 721 N. Cincinnati, 5 to 7 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 6-Nov 22** • **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family Education Program**, Opportunity Presbyterian Church, address, 6:30 to 9 p.m., 838-5515, namispokane.org
- Sept 7** • **Spokane Faith Leaders Kickoff** for the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, Earth Ministry, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 624-3191
- Sept 7, 21** • **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 8-9** • **Free the Snake Flotilla**, Earth Ministry/WAIPL and Save Our Wild Salmon, Chief Timothy Park, Clarkston
- **One Heart Native Arts and Film Festival**, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, Friday at 6 p.m., Saturday at 10:30 a.m., 227-7638, oneheartfestival.org
- Sept 9** • **"Why Torture is Wrong,"** Curt Goering of Center for Victims of Torture, Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., 7 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 9-10** • **Spokane Studio Art Tour** 24 artists at three studios: Janie Edwards at 404 W. Graves; Vicki West at 9906 Comanche, and Dian Zahner at 5323 W. Woodview Ct.
- Sept 9, 12** • **Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's "The Vietnam War,"** preview of KSPS film series that begins Sept. 17, Spokane County Public Library Medical Library, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Sept 9-Dec 2** • **NAMI Family-to-Family Program**, Sacred Heart Medical Center, 9:30 to noon, 838-5515, namispokane.org
- Sept 10** • **Grandparent's Day lunch, auction and Grandparent of the Year**, South Side Senior Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave., 1 to 4 p.m., 924-6976, s.schermer@q.com
- **SpokeFest 2017** with nine- and 21-mile loops, Bike Safeto Rodeo, Kendall Yards, 8 a.m., spokefest.org
- Sept 10-16** • **World Suicide Prevention Week**, www.failsaveforlife.org
- Sept 11** • **"Know Your Neighbor Dinner,"** One Peace Many Paths and World Relief, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 536-2811, onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com
- **Fall Clean Up of Drumheller Springs**, W. Euclid and N. Ash, 9 a.m.
- Sept 12** • **350 Spokane**, first local, public meeting for climate activists' group, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 14** • **World Day of Prayer**, "Peace in the Midst Labyrinth Walk and Food Drive," Unity Spiritual Center, 29th and Bernard, 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Justice Night walk-in legal clinic**, Center for Justice, 35 W. Main, 835-5211
- Sept 14 & 18** • **Package food at Northwest Harvest**, 3808 N. Sullivan Rd, 15-K, 891-7012
- Sept 15** • **"Ready the Harvest"** workshop, Fr. Mike Savelesky, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd, 8 to 9:30 a.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference Planning Meeting**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 10 a.m., 535-1813
- Sept 16** • **Imagine Spokane Forum and Resource Fair**, "Working Together Toward a More Compassionate Community, Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 536-2811
- **Installation of Kirsten Kuempel** as Bishop of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 2 p.m., 838-9871
- Sept 18** • **NAMI Peer-to-Peer 10 Week Recovery Course** begins, 838-5515office@namispokane.org
- **NAACP Meeting**, 35 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- **The Language House**, Spanish Classes, 496-1389, thelanguagehouse17@gmail.com
- Sept 19** • **Whitworth President's Leadership Forum**, Michael Lewis, financial journalist and author, Spokane Convention Center, noon to 1:30 p.m., 777-3449 or whitworth.edu/leadershipforum
- Sept 20** • **A New Leaf Experience**, a small taste of the training of participants, New Leaf Training Kitchen, 3104 W. Fort Wright Dr., 994-9560
- **Silent Day of Prayer**, "How the Sacraments Fulfill Our Spiritual Needs," Fr. Patrick Baraza, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224,
- Sept 21** • **Second Harvest Partner Agency Conference**, Second Harvest Distribution Center, 1234 E. Front, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 534-6678, 2-harvest.org
- **Caring for Kids benefit** for children and families served by Catholic Charities and Morning Star Foundation, Historic Davenport Hotel, 5 to 7 p.m., 358-4254, catholiccharitiesspokane.org
- **World Peace Flag Ceremony**, Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet, 7 p.m., 536-2811
- Sept 22-24** • **Valleyfest**, Mirabeau Point Park, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, valleyfest.org
- Sept 26** • **2017 Dinner Series on Historical Connections**, "The Catholic Church in America," Bishop Thomas Daly of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Sept 27** • **Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.org
- **"West Side Story" Civic Theatre Benefit**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest and Lutheran Campus Ministry of Eastern Washington, 1020 N. Howard, 6 p.m. social hour, 7:30 p.m. curtain, 343-5020
- Sept 28** • **YWCA Women of Achievement Impact Luncheon**, Davenport Grand Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 326-1190, ywcaspokane.org.
- Sept 28-30** • **Greek Festival Dinner**, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, 1703 N. Washington, 328-9310, holytrinityspokane.org/festival.html
- Sept 29-30** • **Inland NW Mobile-Pack Event**, Feed My Starving Children, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3606 S. Old Shafer Rd., 994-3016
- Sept 29-Oct 1** • **Calming Anxiety Weekend Retreat**, "Stop Worrying and Start Living, Gary Zimak, EWTN speaker, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1124
- Sept 30** • **"Being There Conference: Healing, Recovery and Empowerment from Narcissistic Relationships and Spiritual Abuse,"** Women's Healing and Empowerment Network, Hillyard Baptist Church, 2121 E. Wabash, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 323-2123, info@whennetwork.com
- **Fiesta Spokane Heritage Festival**, Wall St. between Spokane Falls Blvd. and Main St., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., latinohopefoundation.org/Hispanic-heritage-festival.html
- Oct 1** • **Blessing of the Animals** for St. Francis Day, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th and Grand, 10:45 a.m.
- Oct 2-8** • **"Living as a Monk in Everyday Life,"** Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, 208-962-2000
- Oct 4** • **Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m.
- Oct 5** • **Fig Tree Benefit Planning and Board Meetings**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon for benefit and 1 p.m. for board, 535-1813
- **"Rising Together,"** Krista Foundation Annual Breakfast, Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center, 7:30 a.m., jessica@kristafoundation.org
- Oct 7** • **Faith Action Network**, Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 5 • **Mennonite Country Auction and Sale**, Menno Mennonite Church near Ritzville, mennomennonite.org
- **Art Festival**, Origin church, 5115 S. Freya St., noon to 4 p.m.

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### Imagine Spokane Forum and Resource Fair

"Working Together Toward a More Compassionate Community"

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 16 - Gonzaga Hemmingson Center

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### World Peace Flag Ceremony

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21 - Gonzaga Hemmingson Center

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For more information, visit [www.OnePeaceManyPaths.org](http://www.OnePeaceManyPaths.org)

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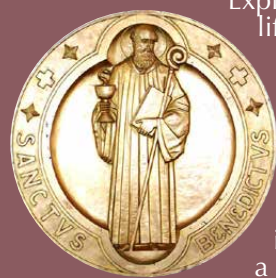
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Spirit Center retreats at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID 208-962-2000, [www.Spirit-Center.org](http://www.Spirit-Center.org)

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# Local Feed My Starving Children recruits volunteers to fill MannaPacks

By Mark Kinney

If it weren't for an eight-year-old girl's birthday party, Charles Brondos might never have heard of Feed My Starving Children.

In 2008, the retired Spokane neurologist and his wife, Virginia, were traveling in Illinois, where he grew up in West Frankfort, when friends told them that their granddaughter decided to forego a traditional birthday and instead invite friends to help her pack meals at the Feed My Starving Children packing center in Aurora, Ill.

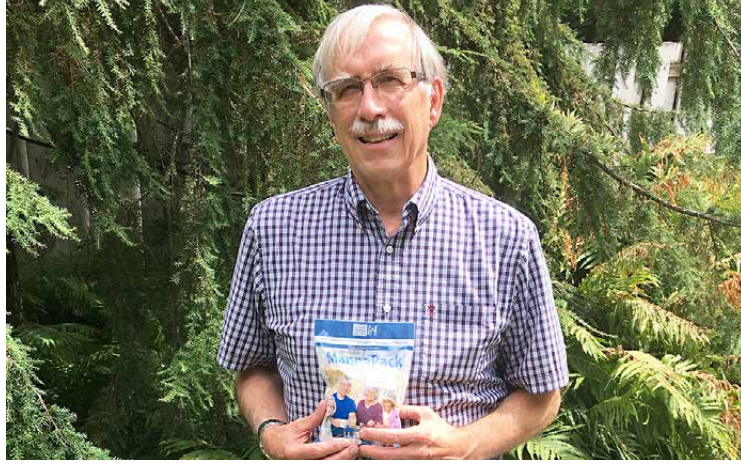
Inspired by her generosity, Charles decided to learn about the organization that supplies food for malnourished children worldwide.

"I learned it not only had fixed packing sites, but also we could bring a 'MobilePack' to Spokane," he said.

A MobilePack is an operation with multiple packing stations, where teams of volunteers come together to pack MannaPacks, that are sealed and boxed for shipment where they are needed.

MannaPacks are "culturally neutral." The original recipe is vitamin-packed flavoring, dried vegetables, soy protein and rice. A baby food recipe for children seven to 12 months contains vitamin packed sweet potato flavoring, potato granules and soy flour. A pack for people suffering diarrhea, a leading killer, includes a sweet potato flavored vitamin mix to help in re-hydration, potato granules and soy flour.

A tractor trailer arrives at the MobilePack site the day prior to the packing event, loaded to replicate a fixed packing site, includ-



Charles Brondos shows a Manna Pack.

ing raw food ingredients in bulk.

"Feed My Starving Children also sends trained staff members to assist with setup and the event itself, and to ensure standards are maintained," Charles said.

With a leadership team of friends and community volunteers, Charles first applied to bring a MobilePack event to Spokane in February, 2015.

"There was a date available in mid-August that year. We took it knowing our time to organize and fundraise would be short," he said.

The team's first year goal was to organize 600 volunteers to pack 100,000 meals. They exceeded the goal by about 100 volunteers and 8,000 meals.

A similar group Charles led staged another MobilePack event in 2016 and 700 volunteers packed more than 124,000 meals.

Many lessons were learned at the initial event, including about the quantity of cookies needed to feed the volunteers. The hospital-ity team baked more than 1,900

cookies to serve to the volunteers.

Charles and his wife recently traveled to Minneapolis for a Feed My Starving Children Host Summit, where they learned the national organization revised its 2017 meal goal upward from 305 to 315 million meals to cover the increasing global need.

"It was inspiring to be among other hosts to share ideas and learn about the national organization," he said.

Charles' team is staging another Mobile Pack event this fall and has set a goal of packing more than 200,000 meals, up from the original goal of 130,000.

"The need is especially great this year because of war and starvation in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria," Charles said. "More than 20,000 children face imminent starvation in those areas, so the national organization challenged us to increase our goal."

This year's Inland NW Mobile-Pack event will be at Redeemer

Lutheran Church, 3606 S. Old Shaver Rd, Spokane Valley on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 29 and 30. It will require 900 volunteers.

There are two packing sessions on Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m., and three shifts on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m.

Charles said church youth groups are encouraged to attend Friday evening sessions.

Besides organizing logistics of the event, the local leadership team raises funds to purchase the number of meals packed.

"Each MannaPack costs 22 cents to make," he said, "so we need to raise about \$45,000 to cover this year's costs."

The leadership team has been raising funds with churches, businesses and prior-year donors.

"We didn't know what to expect in terms of fundraising the first year," he said, "but the national leadership assured us fundraising would not be a problem and it wasn't. I'm confident the need will be met this year, too."

Charles describes participating in a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event as "two-hour mission trip without much travel required."

He said packing sessions are "boisterous," and teams are encouraged to call out each time a case of meals is packed.

"Sessions typically start quietly as teams build processes," he said, "but excitement builds as they go along and volunteers become more vocal by the end of the sessions. It's a joy to witness."

Charles, who grew up attending a Slovak Lutheran Church with his family, studied at Valparaiso University (where he met his wife), Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago.

After a year internship in Michigan, he was an Army doctor in Korea for a year, accepted even though he had polio when he was eight-months old. In Korea, he saw the hardship many people endure in their daily lives.

After a neurology residency at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, he, his wife and two children, moved to Spokane where he was in private practice from 1974 until retiring in 2007.

In addition to Feed My Starving Children, Charles is a weekly volunteer doing client intake at Mission Community Outreach Center, is a member of Pages of Harmony and is in the Stephen Ministry at his church, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

Charles, who was a church coordinator for about eight years with Family Promise, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network, caring for homeless families within the church on a rotating 12-week basis.

"We cared for a family for a week at the church, providing meals and support," he said.

Families slept overnight in the church with members and returned to a day center in the morning. Charles enjoyed talking with families and encouraging them.

"We prayed with them for their needs to be met and for them to be restored to a home," he said.

Charles would like to see Feed My Starving Children become an annual event and he hopes to fill an entire semi-trailer next year.

"That would mean we would pack 272,000 meals on 35 pallets," he said, "which would require more packing shifts, more volunteers and a larger space to stage the event."

He admitted he initially considered that a daunting goal until he was informed that several churches routinely pack more than a million meals at their events.

"Registration is open now," he said, "and we already have interest from numerous church groups, and we expect a group of 20 people from Fairchild AFB, too."

Charles said children as young as five years old can participate.

"We've had entire stations filled by a single family," he said.

He plans to continue to lead the planning team as long as he is able because of Jesus' call in Matthew's Gospel to feed the hungry.

"We are called to serve the world and this is one way of doing it, he said. "We are feeding God's children in body and spirit.

"Without food children can't learn," Charles said. "With this food, healthy children at least have a chance in life."

For information, call 994-3016, visit <https://tinyurl.com/fmcsinlandnw> or find on Facebook.

## Mill Canyon residents organize to protect air and water

Concerned about proposals to spread municipal sewage sludge, called "bio-solids," on nearby farm land, residents and farmers in Mill Canyon, 35 miles west of Spokane, have organized Protect Mill Canyon Watershed to protect the area's air, and its drinking and irrigation water.

"Scientists are divided on the safety," said canyon resident and landowner Morton Alexander, "but the state Department of Ecology (DOE) only thinly regulates it. We can't just sit by as sewage from unknown sources, with unknown contaminants, is trucked in and dumped here."

Residents are organizing because one farm seeks a DOE permit to apply bio-solids to its grain fields above the canyon and its waterways.

Residents tend commercial and amateur organic farms and gardens. Some have been organic for more than 50 years.

Tolstoy Farm, one of the region's oldest organic farms, supplies produce to hundreds of customers in Spokane and Davenport. Certified organic for nearly 20 years, it helped create the Spokane Farmer's Market and was early in

introducing fresh, local, organic produce to Spokane, said Morton.

Its irrigation source is not downstream from the farm seeking to use bio-solids, but they are concerned about the effect to neighbors' land and water.

"No farm exists in a bubble," said Tolstoy organic farmer Timothy Pellow. "The national organic regulations say an organic farmer is responsible for all materials applied to our fields.

"Our commitment to healthy organic land stewardship makes

our business thrive," he said. "It is important to our customers that our soils and food not be contaminated by us or others."

Sierra Club, Columbia Institute for Water Policy, Northwest Fund for the Environment support Mill Canyon neighbors' challenge to the DOE not to grant a permit.

"If the permit is denied, it will set a precedent to protect other rural communities," said Morton.

For information, call 624-6855, email [farmchrys@gmail.com](mailto:farmchrys@gmail.com) or visit [protectmillioncanyon.org](http://protectmillioncanyon.org).



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