

35TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FEATURES 50+ EVENTS



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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest
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Hunger today arises from chronic poverty

By Mary Stamp

As president and CEO of Second Harvest and now 25 years in food bank and feeding-the-hungry services, Jason Clark expected there should have been a major drop in the numbers of people they serve, given the improvement in the economy in recent years.

"Instead, there is a shift in who comes to neighborhood food pantries," he said. "Ten years ago, it was families in short-term economic crises, running out of reserve funds because their car broke down or they had another unexpected emergency.

"Now we serve families who are chronically in poverty, coming 10 to 12 times a year," he said.

In some cases, they receive public benefits, but many do not.

Jason said the majority of those coming to food pantries and meal programs are grayer and younger.

Second Harvest distributes 30 million pounds of foods to pantries and meal programs—about 90 percent of its distribution. Now about 10 percent goes out in its Mobile Food Bank program on two trucks going to high-needs areas.

Second Harvest's programs also include nutrition education and cooking to help hungry people be



Julie Humphries and Jason Clark of Second Harvest show one 2,000-pound bag of potatoes to be repackaged by volunteers to three- or five-pound sacks for families.

more self-sufficient and use the food products more effectively.

With the Farm Bill pending in Congress, Jason said there could be "massive changes" to hunger programs—affecting food stamps and USDA commodities. There are different bills in the House and Senate, leaving those who feed hungry people uncertain about what the reconciliation bill will include.

Other factors affecting service are a 30 percent increase in transportation costs, a driver shortage and new federal regulations on trucking.

Tariffs will also affect farmers, even with talk of using USDA buying farm products to reduce the impact of tariffs.

Changes in tax laws bring uncertainty about how much donors will give. Private donors provide the majority of support. Jason expects most will donate as they have done because they are engaged, but some may make different decisions because the tax deduction is one—but not the only—consideration in what they give.

He expects to see effects of the tax laws in the next two years. Some tax advisors suggest people "bunch" giving in one year so they

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Northwest and Montana Disciples regions combine, explore new options

The Northwest Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted in May to create a new region combining with the Montana Region by January 2020.

That is just one of many ways the Disciples on the local, regional and national levels are re-evaluating their structures and ministries to create "new possibilities" for the churches.

Sandy Messick, the regional minister and president, said the regional change will involve legal decisions, but more important, finding how 48 congregations in

Alaska, Washington and North Idaho will partner with 11 congregations in Montana.

"As we merge regions, we will evaluate what a region is, eliminate duplicate structures and find how congregations can resource each other and build relationships," said Sandy, who has been Northwest Regional minister for nine years.

After 16 years as the Montana Region executive minister, Ruth Fletcher retired in August.

"We are writing plans in pencil, so we can be ready to change," said Sandy, noting natural ties

among congregations sheltering families through Family Promise.

Sandy, who spends up to half a month away from home, sees her role as facilitating connections rather than being *the one* to bring wisdom to congregations.

"The challenge is not to increase time away as we cover additional territory," she said. "I am learning to do ministry through technology and video conferencing, after establishing relationships face-to-face."

In 1985, she earned a bachelor's in communication at San Diego State University—where she grew up—and went to Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, graduating in 1990.

She met her husband, Tom, there. After they served four United Methodist Churches one year in Central Illinois, Tom entered business. Sandy served churches in Southern Indiana, North Carolina where Tom grew up, and Pennsylvania. He began working with Premera/Blue Cross, which brought him to Spokane in 2000.

Sandy did pulpit-supply preach-
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Preparing directory involves many people

Volunteers and staff help with details of research and editing that make it possible to publish the updated Resource Directory each year.

This year volunteers Johnny Fulfer and Marian Beaumier joined staff editors Sara Weaver, Lorna Kropp and Mary Stamp to help with editing and proofreading.

Suzanne Lester volunteered late in the process to help directory editor Malcolm Haworth, who appreciated the skill she brought from work experience in social services.

"She offered helped us with last-minute research needs in areas of support groups, ministries, government agencies and other listings," Malcolm said.

Not only does the directory inform people of where to find food, housing, shelter, renters advocacy, veterans services, health care options, family respite, senior programs, spiritual care, job training, education assistance and other services, there's more to the directory, but also it offers other resources.

- Where can one call with a non-emergency to reach police?
- Where can one call if a spam jeopardizes one's identity?
- Where can one call to volunteer?
- Where can one call to go canoeing or kayaking?
- Where can one call to advocate for justice?

"In June, we fielded many calls forwarded from 211, exceeding calls the previous 11 years," said Malcolm. "They were from people needing emergency assistance, rental assistance, utility assistance and gas vouchers."

The many calls to The Fig Tree since publishing also indicate that the directory is highly prized and in demand.

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Around the World

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Youth celebrate World Council of Churches' 70th

Local and international youth gathered in late August in the Netherlands for the 70th anniversary of the WCC. Meeting under the theme of "On the Move," a group of about 24 youth from the Netherlands and across the globe spent three days together...

Sisay Obsie, a young deacon in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which was one of the founding members of the WCC in 1948, said that to him, the cumulative knowledge of the many youth currently gathered in the Netherlands is a key to strengthening the church.

Mgrdich Amroian, who has lived in the Netherlands since 2015, arriving as a Syrian refugee from Aleppo, continues, "What is interesting to me being here with other Christian youth is to find out how they are living as Christian communities in their lands..."

Reflecting on the WCC's 70th anniversary, Amroian adds, "the WCC is a community of churches around the world. If we can be one body in Christ, then I believe we have a bright future together, and also with our youth. Without this community, it will be difficult to see a bright future together."

Through pilgrim walks, prayers, song, dance and bibliodrama, youth explored what it means to be young pilgrims in the ecumenical movement today, particularly in view of the WCC's Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace...

"I believe we need to know and learn about our history and our inheritance too," says Euna Cho, a student at the Busan Presbyterian Seminary in South Korea. "We cannot always judge our country by how it looks now. If we study our inheritance, we can become proud of our country, and start to dream. Then we can start to do practical things..."

WCC's First Assembly drew 351 delegates

Odair Pedrosa Mateus, director of the WCC's Faith and Order Commission, gave a flavor of the First Assembly of the WCC. A crowd gathered outside the New Church in Amsterdam, which was built at the end of the 14th century and dedicated in 1409.

A procession moved slowly through the church. Clergy wore official garments. Black prevailed but many from the East added color. Many lay people wore national costumes. Professors wore academic gowns and hoods in different colors.

The congregation, gathering what a WCC text of 1948 described as "the faces of all the races of mankind," sang in French "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," to a well-known tune.

In its music, the service expressed a diversity founded on the experience of oneness in Christ and the resolve to covenant in repentance for division, and for renewal and visible unity.

Prayer framed Amsterdam 1948. Opening and closing services pointed to a real though imperfect fellowship in Christ, despite church divisions. Common to the spiritual life of the assembly was a focus on confessing sin for persisting division inseparable from the resolve to covenant for renewal and unity.

The first WCC assembly was not as representative of the Christian oikoumene as its organizers dreamed of, prayed and worked for. Orthodox in Soviet-bloc countries and Roman Catholics did not participate, and few delegates from the "younger" churches emerging from decolonization left their voice unheard.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Community partners expand directory reach

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The directory connects people with resource agencies that will help move them from crises or poverty to improve their lives, so eventually they can be part of serving the community.

The directory is funded by its 104 advertisers, covering about \$29,000 in expenses. It is also funded by community partners who—so far this year—have committed to \$8,000 in support.

This year, both The Arc of Spokane and Second Harvest provided vehicles and volunteer drivers to deliver bulk quantities

of directories to about 40 outlets each. The Arc delivered 1,650 copies and Second Harvest, 1,100.

In addition to copies that went out by mail, there are still about 5,000 copies to go out, about 600 with Fig Tree bulk deliveries.

Community Partners for 2018 so far are Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, Banner Bank, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, the Community Building Foundation, the Department of Social and Health Services, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho, the

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Thrivent, and Unify Health clinics.

More agencies and businesses can join these partners to help underwrite 2018 costs.

This year, The Fig Tree published 16,000 copies, up from 14,500 in 2017 and 12,000 in 2016, increasing costs of printing and distributing the copies.

Malcolm is now updating listings for the online version.

For information, call 535-1813 or email corrections and new listings to resourcedirectory@thefigtree.org.

Art exhibit addresses children at the border

The art committee of St. David's Episcopal Church in Spokane is presenting, "Blessing the Children," a thought-provoking collection of 13 art works by five church members, and other artists, in response to the recent separation of children from their parents at the Mexican border.

Pieces include a Madonna painted by a Masaai artist from Kenya, Native American children, a 3-D ceramic glaze on copper depicting a fence and showing half a child's face with a tear and

an encaustic painting with hot wax incorporating a photo of indigenous children from Guatemala.

The exhibit opens with a prayer for the children at 5 p.m., and viewing until 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 5, at the church, 7315 N. Wall St.

"I did an art piece in response to the border crisis. It went from there. I wanted such art to be seen so that the needs of children are respected," said Mary Ann Sinclair of the art committee.

Artists will be present, and there will be written artist state-

ments about the pieces, plus information on where people can donate to help the children.

"If you show something, you need to offer an avenue for people to respond. Art is a medium for messages," said Mary Ann, who did commercial art but now focuses on spiritual art.

A five-member art committee was formed to provide inspirational art around the church.

For information, call 951-5217 or 466-3100 or email sinclairswildroserranch@gmail.com.

Panel discusses hate groups, bias and action

"Hate Groups, Bias, and Action Steps: A Panel on Race and Ethnicity" will be presented from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 4521 N. Arden Rd. in Otis Orchards.

"Serious issues and tensions in our society today are again presenting us with the opportunity to understand the underlying causes of bias, 'us versus them' thinking, fear and hate," said organizer Teresa McCann, religious education coordinator at the parish.

The panel will be composed of speakers from local universities with presentations on hate groups, implicit bias and Catholic social teaching.

Resources and representatives from local human rights and diversity organizations will be available for follow up information and opportunities.

"The Catholic Church teaches that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. How do we move forward to protect human dignity and build healthy com-

munities and create a more just society?" she said.

Panelists include Gonzaga faculty members Joan Braune in philosophy, Tracy Simmons in communication studies and Nicole Herrera with Center for Civil and Human Rights, plus

members from Eastern Washington University.

The event is sponsored by St. Joseph Charity and Justice Committee for the community and the Gonzaga Hate Studies Institute.

For information, call 926-7133 or email info@stjoeparish.org.

The Arc of Spokane advertisement listing services like Advocacy, Family Support, Individual Advocacy, Community Center, Home Ownership, Partnership 4 Safety, Supported Employment, Financial Management, Community Access, Supported Living. Includes phone number 328-6326 and website www.arc-spokane.org.

2018 Spokane Global Compassion Games advertisement for September 8 to 23. Lists events like Horse Massacre Healing Event, 4th Annual World Peace Flag Ceremony, Earth and Spirit Festival, Service Projects, and food sort at Northwest Harvest.

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Law School offers conference on civil, human rights

Gonzaga University School of Law will launch the Center for Civil and Human Rights with an all-day conference on “The Pursuit of Justice: Law, Leadership, and the Role of the Civil Rights Activist” on Friday, Sept. 28, at the law school.

The conference, which will address evolving approaches to civil and human rights, includes three panel presentations, a lunchtime keynote and a dinner keynote, said Nicole Herrera, assistant director of the center. Keynoters are Justice Mary Yu of the Washington State Supreme Court at the lunch and Harvard Law School professor Kenneth Mack at the dinner. Panels are on confronting bias in the criminal justice system, interdisciplinary avenues to justice and the future of social justice lawyering.”

For information, call 313-3774.

GU hosts forum on school safety

Gonzaga’s School of Education and School of Law are hosting a community forum to address issues of school safety and how to make schools safe environments for all children to learn. “School Safety: Shared Responsibility for a Safer Future” will be held from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8, at the Hemmingson Center.

Honduran journalist visits region in October

During a two-week tour with Witness for Peace Northwest, Honduran journalist, artist and documentary filmmaker, Jennifer Ávila will give presentations on “The Silencing of Dissent: How Freedom of the Press is Threatened in Honduras.”

One will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8, at the Human Rights Education Institute (HREI), 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr. in Coeur d’Alene, sponsored by HREI and Emerge.

The second is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University, sponsored by the World Languages and Cultures Department and the Whitworth Speakers and Artists Program.

Jennifer Ávila, spent six years at Radio Progreso, a bulwark of freedom of expression in an increasingly hostile environment for journalism. She co-founded Contra Corriente in 2017, said Kris Hannigan-Luther of Witness for Peace Northwest.

“Her work, shown in international film festivals, represents documentation of ways U.S. and Honduran policy from deportations to mega-projects affects vulnerable Hondurans,” said Kris.

For information, call 208-771-3527, email kris@witnessforpeace.org or visit witnessforpeace.org/northwest/.

Partnering for Progress presents Kenyan speaker

Partnering for Progress (P4P) Kenya’s program coordinator, Nereah Obura, a woman at the forefront of female empowerment in Kenya, will be in Spokane in Oct. 7 to 17, speaking to schools and community groups.

At P4P’s annual fundraiser, “Into Africa” Auction and Dinner, at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane Valley, Nereah, who has bachelor’s degrees in economics and sociology from Kenyatta University, will share stories of her work with women.

For 10 years, P4P has organized medical teams to travel to Kenya biannually. More than 100 volunteers from around the Northwest have gone to Kenya for self-funded, week-long service trips. Its mission also includes safe drinking water, high school scholarships and economic development.

For information, call 435-5004 or 720-8408 or visit partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction.

Shoshone residents may test soil samples Sept. 15

Residents of Shoshone County may bring three samples of their soil to test for lead at a soilSHOP (Screening, Health, Outreach and Partnership) workshop from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept 15, at 858 Commerce Dr. in Smelterville, Idaho.

As part of Shoshone Medical Center’s 8th Annual Kids Health and Safety Fair, the workshop will present tips for avoiding lead exposure, for gardening safely and for understanding blood lead levels, said Barbara Miller of the Silver Valley Community Resource Center.

For information 208-784-8891 or 800-424-4372, ext. 0530, or visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/soilshop/faq.html>.

Spokane Valley organizes a ‘Connect’ event

The First Annual Spokane Valley Connect will be held from 2 to 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14, at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, 202 N Pines Rd.

Modeled after the successful annual Spokane Homeless Connect, this event will offer an afternoon of one-stop shopping to meet a variety of needs.

The goal of the Connect is to empower attendees to easily access community resources, said Aileen Luppert, chair of the Spokane Valley Connect Organizing Committee.

Thirty participating agencies will offer youth sports physicals with CHAS, a free meal, DSHS services, health and wellness ser-

vices, family and youth services, veteran services, employment services, medical and dental screenings, personal care items, clothing, housing and energy assistance and more.

Statistics indicating the need for improved resources in the greater Spokane Valley prompted the Connect. Of the 21,678 students in Spokane Valley and its school districts in 2016, 9,366—42 percent—received free or reduced lunches. More than 800 were experiencing hunger and homelessness, which make it hard to learn.

Veterans and elderly people are also struggling. Spokane County’s 2017 Point in Time count showed a 13 percent increase from 2016 in

unsheltered veterans. In addition, 8.9 percent of the area’s elderly live below state and federal poverty guidelines.

The Spokane Valley Connect is jointly sponsored by the Greater Valley Support Network (GVSN) and Spokane Valley Partners (SVP).

The GVSN is a coalition of school districts, nonprofits, churches, faith-based organizations and social service agencies seeking to help relieve the impact of hunger and homelessness. SVP is a comprehensive source of social services, serving more than 70,000 people.

For information, call 893-8416 or email aluppert@sclcd.org.

Flotilla planned for Snake River at Clarkston

Hundreds of boaters, paddlers, anglers and advocates will gather Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8, at Chief Timothy State Park in Clarkston for the fourth annual Free the Snake Flotilla, calling for removal of four Snake River dams “to restore the lower river and protect its endangered wild salmon and steelhead,” said Spokane Riverkeeper Jerry White Jr.

“This year’s paddle will highlight the canoe families of the Columbia basin who have resurrected their tribes’ canoe culture by learning to carve and paddle dugout canoes,” he said.

Tribal paddlers will travel through the heart of Lewiston, joined by Winona LaDuke—a national advocate for tribal rights and the environment—on their way to Chief Timothy Park where they will join a rally on the water.

Last year more than 400 people from the Northwest came. This year, salmon and orca advocates, tribal members, anglers and river advocates will gather again, Jerry said.

The weekend includes outdoor activities, food, music and education from 4 to 10 p.m., Friday.

At 8 a.m., Saturday, participants will meet at the Chief Timothy Park boat launch parking lot to launch boats at 10 a.m., returning at 3 p.m., before Winona speaks at 5 p.m. at the park.

Supporters of the Free the Snake Flotilla include Save Our Wild Salmon, Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment, Friends of the Clearwater, Honor the Earth, Spokane Riverkeeper, EarthJustice, Sierra Club, Greater Hells Canyon Council, Row Adventures, Eco Depot and citizens.

YWCA luncheon speaker addresses domestic abuse

Author and filmmaker Gloria Norris is the keynote speaker for the YWCA of Spokane’s 36th annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Davenport Grand Hotel.

Her memoir, *KooKooLand*, describes her unconventional childhood, complicated by an abusive father. She tells how she survived family trauma and economic hardship. She speaks on domestic violence, mental health, the prescription-drug epidemic, white working-class despair and the salvation that education pro-

vides for children like her.

She began in New York as an assistant to film directors Brian De Palma, Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen. Later in Los Angeles, she worked as a screenwriter and independent producer.

She gives voice to the trauma of many children subjected to family violence and adverse childhood experiences, said Regina Malveaux, YWCA Spokane CEO.

The event celebrates local women who embody YWCA Spokane’s mission of eliminating

racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. It raises awareness about domestic violence and raises funds for YWCA services.


YWCA Spokane recognizes nine 2018 Women of Achievement Award Honorees for their contributions, mobilizes guests to participate in solutions and sends the message it cares.

Information on honorees is at ywcaspokane.org/2018-woa-honoree-bios. For information, call 326-1190.

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Jennifer Ávila
‘Silencing Dissent: How Freedom of the Press Is Threatened in Honduras’
 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8
 Human Rights Education Institute - Coeur d’Alene
 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9
 Weyerhaeuser Hall - Whitworth University
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New taxes, tariffs, transportation laws affect food donations, delivery

Continued from page 1
have enough for a deduction.

"We don't know what will affect donors' behavior," he said. "Many nonprofits are discussing that. Will it mean five percent less? Will it unlock more giving?"

Jason said the fiscal year ending in June was a "roller coaster," making it hard to plan, but Second Harvest "stays message focused and keeps going," because "hunger is unacceptable."

The faith community, which hosts many food pantries and programs, have struggled as members and volunteers face struggles, but "faith is the reason many keep giving," he said.

Jason, who began at Second Harvest in Spokane in 2002, grew up in St. Joseph, Mo., where he began work in a food bank in 1993.

"I am grateful to be involved in something that has an amazing message, serves people every day and makes a difference right away," he said. "It's common sense that if you feed children, seniors or anyone, they will do better."

Commenting on his Lutheran

roots, he said, "that DNA is built in, giving me a sense of service, participation and caring about community."

Jason said about 80 percent of food bank work is supported by private funding from individuals, businesses, faith communities and community organizations.

"The average donation that keeps us running is \$98," he said. "The instability is in larger gifts that have an outside impact if they do not come in. We are an immediate-needs organization. We do not sit on a \$20 million endowment."

In June, a matching grant totaling \$148,000 from CenturyLink was met, said Jason, adding those larger funding opportunities are critical to allow Second Harvest to get food where it's most needed.

"The throttle on our system is our ability to move and transport food. We receive fresh produce from area growers that we then must have the capacity to package and distribute to neighborhood outlets," he said.

Jason said Second Harvest also seeks donations of packaging—cardboard boxes and plastic

bags—to repackage donations. For example, a 2,000-pound load of potatoes is packaged into three or five pound bags that a family can use. With more packaging, Second Harvest could distribute more food in the 26 counties it serves.

In the volunteer sort room, 40,000 pounds of potatoes awaited a shift with some of the 8,000 volunteers a year who help Second Harvest in both its Spokane and Pasco distribution centers.

"Volunteers are excited to be able to give to someone and to the community," said Julie Humphreys, community relations manager. "We have no shortage of volunteers. People want to engage themselves, their groups and their companies."

September is Hunger Action Month in the national Feeding American network that includes Second Harvest.

"There is hunger in every community, and volunteers can help by donating their time," she said.

During part of the month, the smokestacks of the old Steam Plant in downtown Spokane will be lit in orange light to remind

people of their hungry neighbors.

"One in seven people in Spokane, one in eight in the Inland Northwest, including one in five children, are food insecure, not knowing where their next meal is coming from," she said.

"Lines at the mobile food banks make it real for me," said Jason. "Many people are underemployed. It's easy to forget how expensive it is to live in America."

To expand the beyond two trucks for the new Mobile Market, the Spokane Transit Authority donated a bus last year. With donations, Second Harvest retrofitted the bus and turned it into a portable grocery store with refrigeration and shelving.

"We will soon take it into neighborhoods with specific needs," he said.

While the Mobile Markets have gone to schools and church parking lots, the retrofitted bus will go to targeted areas like Hillyard and Northeast Spokane.

People will experience the Mobile Market bus like making choices in grocery shopping. Nutrition ambassadors will offer samples and demonstrate how to prepare the foods.

"Many people face barriers to going to food pantries, one being transportation," Julie said. "We hope to do 90 visits with the bus the first year."

Second Harvest has done Mobile Markets since 2006 with two semi-trucks bringing 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of food to schools, community centers and church parking lots.

Mobile Markets provide fresh

food to feed 250 to 300 families each time, said Julie. Several go out each week—about 200 a year.

Mobile Markets require no proof of residency or income, in contrast with food banks that may set standards to serve a particular neighborhood, have income requirements and may limit the number of times people can come.

Mobile Markets only ask for a phone number to track food in case of a recall.

"Because our the Mobile Market on the bus is set up so people can choose what they want to take, rather than picking up a prepared box of food at a food pantry, they are more likely to cook and eat the foods they receive," Julie said.

According to recent studies, about 30 to 40 percent of food is wasted. Feeding America rescues food from farmers, manufacturers and businesses.

Hunger Action Month in September highlights the need and asks people to be part of the solution to hunger by being aware, donating, volunteering or advocating, Julie said.

Second Harvest, which began in Spokane in 1971, also offers Bite2GO, weekend food packs in area schools; a School Pantry program for students and families, and The Kitchen, which teaches scratch cooking and nutrition.

Second Harvest supplies 2 million pounds of food each month to 250 food banks and meal centers, the Mobile Markets and other programs, feeding 55,000 people a week.

For information, call 534-6678 or visit 2-harvest.org.

Religion professor speaks for WSU symposium

Religion professor, author and scholar-activist Miguel De La Torre is the speaker for the 2018 Roger Williams Symposium of the Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman.

He will speak on "The Death of U.S. Christianity" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Ensminger Pavilion, 455 Lincoln Dr.

He will preach on "Was Jesus a Racist?" 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 and show his film,

"Trail of Hope and Terror" at 2 p.m., Sunday at St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium.

His lecture on immigration, sponsored by the Thomas Foley Institute at WSU, is at noon, Monday, Oct. 15, in Bryan Hall.

Miguel, who is a professor of social ethics and Latinx studies at Illiff School of Theology in Denver, is an ordained Southern Baptist minister. He is active in social justice issues especially immigration and Hispanic issues.

In 2012, he was president of the Society of Christian Ethics and from 2012 to 2017 was officer for the Society of Race, Ethnicity

and Religion. In addition to teaching in Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, Germany and Costa Rica, he has taken students on immersion classes to Cuba and to walk migrant trails on the Mexico/U.S. border.

His books include *Embracing Hopelessness* and *Faith and Resistance in the Age of Trump*.

Organizers are Timothy Paulitz, chair of the Common Ministry at WSU Roger Williams Symposium Committee, and Steve Van Kuiken, pastor at Community Congregational UCC in Pullman.

For information, email paulitz@wsu.edu.



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Bi-cultural identity at core of Ingrid Sub Cuc's work in Spokane

By Kimberly Meinecke

Ingrid Sub Cuc knows and understands that, though it is a hard job, she is the one who travels between two worlds.

She has to "put on the different hats" without betraying the community or herself, and what she stands for, as she stands on the bridge between cultures, in her dual identity as an indigenous Maya woman who lives in Spokane.

In doing so, she will be using the gift of her identity to help others to connect well and build community for a stronger, more just world. Ingrid knows she belongs in community. More specifically, she forges a way to create networks and belonging wherever she lives and works, not just for herself but for others also seeking connection.

The question of identity is central for most humans: "Who are we? From where do we come? What is important to us? How do we connect with those around us who are similar to us or different from us?"

For Ingrid, these questions came to the forefront when she moved to Spokane as a pre-teen with her family. She came to the United States from her village and region in central Guatemala, speaking both Spanish and Kaqchikel, but not English.

As an indigenous person from Guatemala, she discovered that she could identify as either Latina or Native American.

Ingrid had to learn how to fit in and who she was in this new place with a new language, customs, school system and clothing.

Because she had come "from a place where I was deeply rooted in my identity as an indigenous person through traditions and language," she was prepared for the challenge. In that region, at least 90 percent of the population is indigenous.

Teachers, other students and her family helped her and her sister to learn English, and navigate other cultural and geographic situations. For example, in her Guatemalan village, she never needed winter clothing for the cold and snow. Plus, she and her sister visited the Spokane Public Library to learn and to read so often, it was like they lived there. Through this major transition in her teen years, Ingrid learned to live, function and do well in the United States.

Even though she was connected to school, to churches and with



Ingrid Sub Cuc blends two cultures and worlds.

family members, she had lingering concerns.

"Because I had to adapt so much, I really wasn't sure how my indigenous identity fit into all of this new life forged in Spokane," Ingrid said. "I had to figure out what it meant to be an indigenous Maya woman, living in this world, speaking three languages and doing all these different things."

This question led her to explore her indigenous identity and community more fully as a young adult.

Ingrid graduated from Whitworth University, where she learned about servant leadership and worked with many international students. She studied biology for pre-med.

From 2014 to 2016 after graduating, she moved to Guatemala where she continued to learn about what made up her personal history and identity. She appreciated being back in the place of her childhood, with the people, land, language and identity that she had known so well. She intentionally learned more about the history of Guatemala, the civil wars, dictatorships, indigenous movement and colonization so she could better understand her own history.

After living, working and learning in Guatemala for two years, Ingrid reflected, "I realized that I could only achieve this depth of understanding because I left my community. You don't understand who you are until you leave your community, cement your knowledge about it and then have to defend it."

She discovered that in either place she had lived, Guatemala or Spokane, people around her didn't understand what the other part of

her was about. She had expected that by going back to Guatemala as a young adult, she would "be my full self again."

However, she found that she couldn't fully adapt either here or there because she was truly a combination of two cultures that no one else could fully understand.

In Spokane, Ingrid wasn't really a part of the Latinx community nor of the Native American. Although she explored both possibilities, she concluded with the rhetorical question, "How many indigenous Maya women are there in the United States? Are they working to reconcile their various identities as do I?"

In Guatemala, where she connected with indigenous Maya women who were steeped in their traditions, practices and customs, Ingrid concluded that these women "were strong, very strong, but they have a limited perception of the outside world that so often interrupted their way of life."

Reconciling these two sets of roots and backgrounds has become Ingrid's life work. Speaking about these two cultures, how they can intersect and learn from each other has become her work, as she can speak about these cultures, be heard and respected.

Ingrid is still learning how this will unfold for her in whatever task, job or context she may be.

However, she knows that she is an interpreter, a cultural translator. Her sense of identity is now centered in the roles as communicator, bridge builder and ambassador to help people understand one another.

Back in Spokane now, Ingrid has worked with local organizations as a community advocate

to improve health care access for the Native American and Latinx communities in the Spokane area.

Next for her is to continue to learn, through work on a doctoral degree in public health, and to focus her service with indigenous health systems.

Ingrid's goal is to help indigenous communities take ownership of their identity, traditions and direction in health care. She will use her own experience in navigating and drawing upon multiple sources of identity to assist others to find their own voice and to stand up for what is important and valued, even if that seems counterintuitive to larger systems.

Because of her development and learning about herself and her communities, Ingrid firmly believes that there is a path for speaking up and being heard.

"Our story has always ever been told by a colonizing point of view.

It hasn't been told by people like us," Ingrid pointed out.

"This is a time in history where we, as indigenous women, have achieved by Western standards the education and credibility to take ownership of our identity and our culture," she said. "We are the ones who can speak about our cultures and identities in a way that is respectful and honors our ancestors."

For information, email subcucie14@gmail.com.

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New time for churches is time to walk in wilderness by faith, not sight

Continued from page 1

ing and was pastor at North Hill Christian Church until 2004, when Premera moved Tom to Mountlake Terrace. She was interim pastor three years at University Christian, and in 2009 became the regional minister.

In 2010, the region closed its regional office and staff worked out of their homes.

"With no office, some wondered if we were still a region, but the office is not the region," Sandy said. "The full-time office manager, three part-time staff and I meet monthly and one-to-one."

In 2017, after Bellevue Christian Church decided to close and sold its building, it designated gifts to support the part-time regional staff—a technology coordinator, a new church coordinator, and a youth and family coordinator.

As regional minister, Sandy supports pastors and congregations, provides oversight to clergy, is the region's corporate officer and represents the region in the wider church.

"Many congregations are struggling to decide what to let go of to live for the future," she said. "Congregations and clergy need support, resources and partners."

She encourages clergy to meet with peer groups and finds grants for some to have sabbaticals.

About 75 percent of clergy work full time, but may not be paid an adequate salary, she said.

"We help congregations evaluate their resources and consider if their buildings are too big for their needs," Sandy said. "What some are finding is generating exciting life for them."

"We have evolved from talking about church growth, revitalization, transformation and being missional. All were offered as magic pills to make a church grow," said Sandy. "We are in a different time culturally. Church life is not about a formula that works everywhere. It's about learning the church's context and neighborhood, and what God is doing there."

"Many feel called to connect with their neighborhoods, not to bring people in, but to reach out, network and participate in what God is doing," Sandy said. "Some are finding new ministries."

After a brief worship on fifth Sundays at First Christian in Bellingham, members work in community gardens, visit people or sort clothing at a clothing bank.

"As a byproduct, some new people come to church because they encountered the church in the world and want to be part of a church engaged in the world," Sandy said.

Several churches are shelter-



Sandy Messick helps guide two regions to become one.

ing and feeding homeless people through Family Promise—United Church of Moscow, First Christian in Clarkston, and North Hill and Country Homes in Spokane.

The National Disciples of Christ Benevolent Association, in partnership with the Northwest Region, North Hills Christian Church and Country Homes Christian Church, is bringing XPLOR, a program for young adults to live in community from September through June, connect 10 hours a week with a congregation, and do advocacy and justice work as interns with Transitions, the YWCA, Family Promise and Northwest Fair Housing.

Those are just a few ways churches are different than in the 1950s and 1960s.

"What happens in different places will be different. We need to let die the idea that church needs to be the way it has been," she said. "We need to try new things without a clear path, knowing that God will go before us."

Sandy said these times are not the only times the church has changed. Previously, Disciples did not have paid clergy, and many churches had parsonages.

With parsonages, Creston and Chelan can draw full-time ministers. Creston Christian embraces its role as the only church in that town. It is one of the top ten in the region giving to the Disciples Mission Fund.

"If urban churches had parsonages, might they be able to afford full-time ministers?" Sandy asked.

"What is essential to who we are as a faith community and what do we need to let go of so those

things can live?" Sandy asked.

A new church in Everett, Our Common Table, has an UnSunday School at Saturday brunches in homes, a First Sunday community worship, Our Common Ground hospitality Tuesdays and Thursdays to neighbors experiencing poverty, addiction and mental "unhealth," and a second Wednesday Theology Pub for discussions.

A Samoan Disciples congregation meets at Country Homes in Spokane. They gather to maintain their cultural life, teaching traditional dances and Samoan language. About 40 people come.

Some traditional churches are trying different forms of worship and outreach. Some give up buildings. Some use their buildings in different ways. Some are merging. Some share their buildings with other congregations.

As churches share space, they often partner to do things together.

North Hill Christian has shared its space with a Ukrainian Church for a year. On Bloomsday, they held a joint afternoon worship.

A Presbyterian pastor, Scott Kinder Pyle, serves the Origin church. A Disciples pastor, Jim Burford, has served Emmanuel Presbyterian Church many years.

Some have praise bands, while others find traditional worship and organ music still draw.

Sandy said sometimes at regional and denomination meetings turf wars about how to use funds may divide people.

William Barber, a Disciples pastor and co-organizer of the Poor People's Campaign, recently entered a discussion on structure and funding.

"It's not important," he said.

"Out there, children are starving." That turned the conversation.

"We need prophetic voices to turn conversations on organizational bureaucracy to conversations on what the church is to be about," Sandy said.

"It's a time in the wilderness. It can be scary. We need to walk in faith, not sight. We need to keep moving and trust good will emerge," she said.

For information, call 206-817-7163 or email ssmessick@disciplesnw.org.

Two regions hold retreat

"Becoming One" is the theme of the 2018 Common Table Retreat for the Northwest and Montana Regions of the Disciples of Christ on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7 to 8, at Twinlow Retreat Center in Rathdrum.

Members from both regions will gather as they form the new regional body, meeting each other and thinking about the structure, staffing and naming the new body.

For information, visit <https://disciplesnw.org/2018commontable>.

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UN Sustainable Development Goals are the world's 'to do' list

An associate with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for 33 years, Sally Duffy shares the sisters' long-standing commitment to the environment and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Sally Duffy helps organize Sept. 22 panel discussion

Holy Names sisters are among 21 religious women's organizations in UNANIMA, a UN non-governmental organization representing women in 80 countries.

As a global thinker following threads of history, Sally sees this as a time of fast changes. For example, the internet, which connects people, has also become a weapon and security threat.

"What is happening today is happening on our home ground, happening to all of us," she said.

"Environmentally we must be ready for more heat, fires and weather events from climate change. We need to work together among ourselves locally and with others globally," said Sally.

She pointed to the city council recently passing a resolution for Spokane to turn to renewable energy resources as an example of acting globally. She sees this as in the tradition of Spokane coming together to lead the world on the environment with Expo '74 not quite 50 years ago.

As to acting locally, she draws inspiration from her childhood. Growing up on Sharp in the Gonzaga neighborhood, one of six children, she said family and

ing quietly to point the world to the future and prepare for it," she said, noting that Catholic social teaching fits the SDGs. Both require continued effort.

The UN's Millennium Development Goals, established in 2000, brought many changes in 15 years: the number of people living in extreme poverty and those without access to clean water was cut in half, and diseases such as malaria and AIDS, have been drastically reduced, she said.

"When people get together to do something, the money appears," she said, referring to funding by Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and others who care.

"The global SDGs are the best news on the planet," Sally said. "They draw funds around innovative projects. We have the ingenuity to make things happen."

"The global goals are comprehensive, but simple. They are about all people on the planet living in prosperity," she said. "They are about economic development not charity. They are about right relationship between people, species, water, air and land."

With people aware everything is interconnected, Sally said, "it's a magnificent time to be alive."

Goals are being implemented in such places as New York, San Jose, Tampa and Baltimore by city and county governments working with citizens, universities and other players, and gaining access

choices of each person, each community, each country, and each business and organization. Each of us influences the choices of others," she said.

"This is a time for unity in diversity, for thinking globally while acting locally, for using our fear to motivate us to action, and for realizing the undeniable connectedness of all people around the globe along with every form of life on earth," she said.

The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by 193 nations, plus cities and agencies around the world.

They were formulated through a transparent, inclusive, consultative process, involving civic organizations, governments, faith groups, scientists, specialists, businesses—more than 7 million citizens, including many in Spokane.

"The goals have been called the world's 'to do list' from now until 2030, and they are designed to ensure safety, justice and peace, without weapons," Sally said.

"The greater Spokane area has been working on sustainability issues for many years. The goals help amplify and augment a positive movement in the Greater Spokane area, creating synergy, efficiency, funding potential and growth," she said.

In a recent report ranking 100 large U.S. cities on the SDGs, Spokane ranked 26th.

For information, call 951-8551 or email sallykduffy@gmail.com.

Compassion Games offer time to remember, reflect

One Peace, Many Paths is planning ways for people in Spokane to join in the 2018 Global Unity Compassion Games from Sept. 8 to 23. Events, service projects and individual actions will encourage people to be intentional in showing kindness and compassion to themselves, others, animals and earth, said Joan Broeckling, coordinator.

The Spokane Games open with the Horse Massacre Healing Ceremony, at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Spokane Tribal Gathering Place by the City Hall.

The ceremony will honor the horses and tribes who suffered in the massacre of Indian horses by the U.S. Army 160 years ago.

"It will affirm indigenous rights and declare our community's intention to work for the well-being of all of its citizens," she said.

Along with drumming, prayers and blessing horses, the city will dedicate a Peace Pole.

An Earth and Spirit Festival will be held Sept. 21 and 22.

Co-sponsored by One Peace, Many Paths, Gonzaga University, Unity Spiritual Center and Sisters of the Holy Names—the festival

opens at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center with the World Peace Flag ceremony that blesses each nation.

From 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at Unity, 2900 S. Bernard, there will be panel discussions and presentations on sustainability, children's activities, art, music, a resource fair and an Autumn Equinox celebration.

A panel of civic leaders on "Building a Sustainable Spokane" will explore implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals as "a catalyst to create a more sustainable, healthy city and region," said Holy Names associate Sally Duffy.

Panelists are Ryan Oelrich of Priority Spokane; Patrick Jones of Eastern Washington University's Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis and Spokane Community Indicators; Kitty Klitzke of Futurewise, and Ben Stuckart of the Spokane City Council.

Other workshops are "Tapping the Well Within," "Local Sustainability Project Spotlight," Haystack Heights Cohousing and Spokane County Solid Waste/

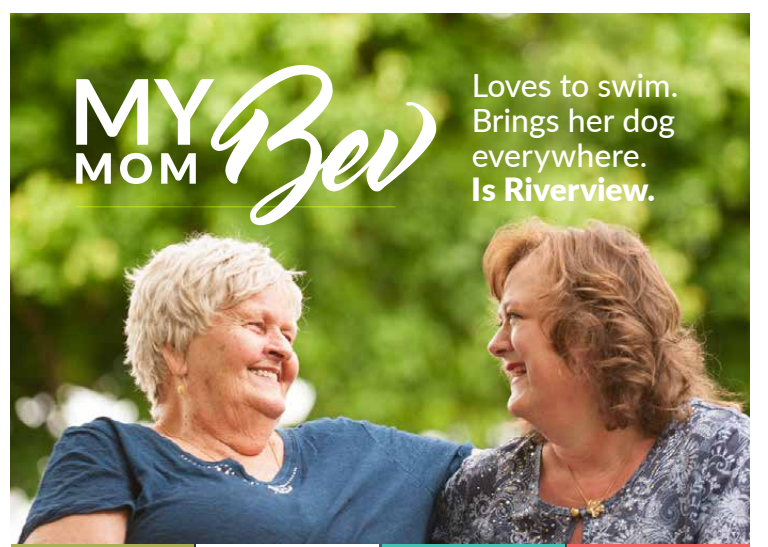
Recycling, "Native American Spirituality" and "Healing with Horses Healing Demonstration."

An interfaith panel on "Stewarding the Earth" will include representatives of the Sikh Community, Seventh Day Adventist, Soka Gakkai International (Buddhist) and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Other events include local sustainability projects, faith communities' environmental actions, and Native American spirituality and other healing processes.

One Peace, Many Paths has connected with community agencies to offer service projects: 1) Fall Cleanup at Drumheller Springs Park, a Native American site; 2) food sorting at Northwest Harvest Distribution Center from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, or noon to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, and 3) joining the Riverkeepers Spokane River Cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 15.

For information, call 536-2811, email onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com or RSVP for an event or service project at the Compassion Games Spokane Facebook page.



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Workshop on violence geared for Latinx

Hanncel Sanchez recently formed the nonprofit Mujeres in Action (MiA)—Women in Action—to educate and advocate for the Latinx—a gender inclusive term for Latina and Latino—community about violence against women and children in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way.



Hanncel Sanchez reaches out to Latinx community.

She is partnering with Lutheran Community Services (LCS) and the YWCA on a presentation, “Breaking the Silence: Violence in the Family”—“Rompe el Silencio: Violencia en la Familia”—from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26 at the Philanthropy Center, 1020 W. Riverside Ave.

It is co-sponsored by the Hispanic Business and Professional Association.

The keynote speaker is Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, director of multicultural affairs for the City of Spokane.

Workshop leaders are an immigration attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, an LCS representative, a YWCA domestic violence advocate and a survivor.

Hanncel was 13 when she came with her parents from Venezuela in 2002, first living with family in New York City and then moving to Orlando, Fla. Her father was a roofer, and her mother cleaned vacation villas.

For Christmas 2013, she and her husband participated when their church, Iglesia el Calvario, gathered gifts for children and women at a women’s shelter.

“I was amazed that such a small gesture would bring such joy to children and mothers,” said Hanncel.

After graduating from high school in 2007, she received funding for a year-and-a half of tuition at Seminole State College in Sanford, Fla.

Realizing she and her siblings had no future in Florida, she sold her cleaning business, her husband sold his landscaping business, and they moved in 2014 with her family to Seattle, where the Latino Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) helped her sister and brother qualify for college tuition.

In 2015, also through LEAP, she received funding for tuition at Eastern Washington University. Her parents and siblings stayed in Seattle. She started in February 2016 at Eastern Washington University’s Women and Gender Studies program.

Hanncel did a research project on sexual assault. In 2017, she gave a presentation at a conference in Utah and began volunteering with LCS on victim sexual assault and domestic violence as a crime victim advocate.

“Sexual assault is about power, not about how someone dresses,” she said.

Learning that few Latinx victims came to LCS or the YWCA, Hanncel, who graduates next spring, began a research project on what keeps people from seeking help.

“There is a taboo to talk about gender violence and sexual assault,” she said, adding that immigration status and lack of Spanish resources are other factors.

“God put people in my path,” she said, of LCS, the YWCA and the Comunidad Cristiana de Spokane in Spokane Valley.

In January, she and her husband began attending the church and connecting with more than 200 others in the Latinx community.

Hanncel, who works part-time as a caregiver, is also active in advocating for immigrant rights.

“I feel called by God to be a voice for the voiceless,” she said.

For information, or email miaspokane@gmail.com.

Colin Powell is Leadership Forum speaker

Retired U.S. Army General and former Secretary of State Colin Powell will be Whitworth University President’s Fall Leadership Forum and lunch speaker from noon to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

The Whitworth Forum series brings speakers to Spokane who represent a range of voices, perspectives and ideas to help the community engage in critical thinking, civil discourse and effective action.

For more than 50 years, Powell has been devoted to public service in senior military and diplomatic positions over four presidential administrations.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, he grew up in New York

City and earned a bachelor’s degree in geology at City College of New York. He served in the Army for 35 years, becoming a four-star general.

He served as secretary of state under President George W. Bush, seeking to transform unstable regions and advance economic and social development. He is chair of the board of visitors of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at City College of New York.

He is also founder and chair emeritus of America’s Promise Alliance which seeks to see that children have basic resources to succeed.

For information, call 777-3449 or email iaeventa@whitworth.edu.

Lutherans plan liturgical workshop

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is sponsoring one-day “Hearts, Hands and Voices” workshops in 40 U.S. cities. The Spokane event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

The presenters are Pastor Liv Larson Andrews, pastor of Salem and recipient of the 2018 Emerging Leader Award from the Institute of Liturgical Studies, and Carolyn Payne, organist and choir director at Salem, member of ALCM and co-dean for the Spokane chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The program offers “practical helps for refreshing worship” and new music and worship materials.

For information, call 535-7145.

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Victory Faith Fellowship involves members in prison ministries

Story and photo by Nancy Hill

Challenges in his life led Fred Dent to become Spokane County's Angel Tree church retention and recruitment coordinator, and a volunteer re-entry mentor with Prison Fellowship (PF) ministries.

In both programs, mentors help those who are incarcerated and their families. Prison Fellowship is a Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners and their families.

Fred believes God brought him to this place in his life.

With more than 40 years of helping "restore" men and women who are behind bars, Prison Fellowship also advocates for federal and state criminal justice reforms to transform those responsible for crime, validate those affected by crime and encourage communities to play a role in creating a safe, redemptive and just society.

Although statistics are low because of the stigma of incarceration, Fred said about 2.7 million U.S. children have a parent in prison. When parents go to prison, children need someone to help them deal with feeling abandoned, lonely and ashamed, said Fred, who identifies with those feelings from his experiences growing up.

Most of his life he sang in churches and performed on stages in the United States and internationally. He grew up in Seattle, served six years in the Navy, went to the University of Washington and taught at Highline Community College in South Seattle.

Challenges from childhood affected him. Both his parents were alcoholics. His father left when Fred was seven. Raised by two older sisters and his mother, he said that even though his family looked good on the outside, dysfunction permeated it causing him struggles. He turned to God, joining the church when he was 12 years old.

"My faith has grown stronger along with my personal relationship with Jesus Christ," Fred said. "Jesus has always been leading me."

As an adult, he sought support from Al-Anon, a worldwide fellowship that helps families and friends of alcoholics.

"Through Al-Anon, I learned to 'let go and let God,' to allow the Holy Spirit to heal me," he said.

Taking time off from teaching in winters, he lived in Palm Springs, helping the Al-Anon program at the Hazelden Betty Ford Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment Center there. Fred felt his life was going well.

Years later, after taking part-



Fred Dent

time retirement, he was in court for something he felt he did not do. Fearing additional charges and the possibility of a long sentence, Fred made a plea deal to avoid jail or prison, but the judge threw it out and sent him to prison.

During 29 months in prison at Airway Heights Corrections Center, he noticed that people were released and came back on new charges.

"Folks would transform their lives, accept Jesus and leave prison with the hope and sincere desire not to return," he said. "With no resources, no way to connect to a healthy community of friends and no experience living the life they wanted to live, they were doomed to failure."

Fred believed God put him in prison to help those who were unable to make a successful transition from prison into society.

He learned that years earlier Chuck Colson, a former White House counsel, had a similar revelation when he went to Alabama's Maxwell prison in 1974. He spent seven months there for involvement in the 1972 Watergate scandal. In 1973, he became a Christian.

After his release, Chuck felt led by God to honor his promise to remember prisoners and their families. In 1976, he founded Prison Fellowship.

Now in 120 countries, it is called Prison Fellowship International.

After his release, Fred joined Prison Fellowship. He agrees with the ministry's belief that all people have value, deserve mercy and are loved equally by God. He first was involved with Angel Tree, a Prison Fellowship ministry connecting incarcerated parents with their children at Christmas through a sponsoring church.

Last year, there were 12 participating churches in Spokane County. His church, Victory Faith Fellowship, is one. Collectively, these churches gave gifts to more than 300 children in 2017. His church has 40 volunteers.

Gifts vary. Sometimes people's generosity exceeds requests. The gifts come with a gospel message and a personal message of love from the incarcerated parent. Fred said this act can help build a child's self-esteem by "letting them know they have not been abandoned, they are loved and Jesus loves them, too."

Prison Fellowship also includes the Bridge Church ministry, in which a church member mentors an individual for a year in prison, focusing on life skills and developing a re-entry plan.

When someone is released, a Bridge Church mentor meets him/her at the re-entry point. They work together, step by step, implementing a plan. The goal is for the person released to be accountable to him/herself and establish healthy relationships within a Christian community, said Fred, who also helps with this ministry.

He completed training as a re-entry mentor in July 2017. After his church endorsed him, Prison Fellowship appointed him to mentor a man. A year before his release, Fred learned his background.

"Through approved prison correspondence, we assessed his life skills, developed a re-entry plan and built a relationship," Fred said.

"In the meantime, I received a referral for a woman who needed a place to stay in Spokane to visit her husband at Airway Heights Correction Center," Fred said.

The Prison Fellowship support team found temporary housing. She moved into an apartment owned by Household of Faith transitional housing, another prison ministry at Victory Faith.

Fred met her when she became an Angel Tree volunteer at the church in October 2017. Her three children were nominated by their father to be in the Angel Tree program in Yakima County. Fred arranged for them to be served by Victory Faith. Learning that one child had the same first and last name as the man he was mentoring, Fred realized the man was the woman's husband.

When he was transferred to Brownstone work release for the last six months of his sentence, he began coming to Victory Faith.

"They were happy to be together. Going slow and spending quality time in the church, their relationship grew," Fred said. "The children became

reacquainted with their father.

"With support and prayers, the parents worked out struggles, and are becoming a healthy family," he said. "Both joined the church. I'm sure a welcoming community is part of the reason they come to church, where their love for God and each other grows."

"By the time people go to prison they've lost almost everything," Fred said. "They are spiritually, physically, and emotionally bankrupt. When they come out, they may not have a family or job. Starting over can be overwhelming."

A Bridge Church mentor helps with daily planning, appointments, relationships and more, increasing the chance of success.

"It's about being there when we are needed," he said, "helping them stay on track with plans they set in motion before they

were released. Meanwhile, some awesome friendships develop."

"The entire church supports prison ministry," Fred said, "including Saturday worship."

Fred mentors three men in the Bridge Church program, helps two who are applying for it and mentors five others. Fred's joy is seeing them succeed.

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Everyone has a role in protecting the flow of information for democracy

During late August about 350 U.S. newspapers—there were 1,286 dailies in 2016, down from 1,748 in 1970 according to statista.com—wrote editorials reaffirming the role of the press as crucial to American democracy and defending journalists.

The wave of attacks on the press and journalists has risen with political charges that the mainstream press are “the enemy of the people,” because they purportedly present “fake news” and “alternate facts.”

The editorials on Thursday, Aug. 16, were in response to a call by The Boston Globe to promote freedom of the press in light of frequent attacks on media.

The newspapers ranged from large metropolitan dailies to small town weekly newspapers. Each publication wrote its own editorials, offering varied reflections.

Independent media has a critical role in the political scene, recognized as the fourth estate in a democracy. Not a fourth branch of government, the “fourth estate” refers to the watchdog role of the press in maintaining a democracy and guarding against tyranny.

Autocratic governments seek to shut down news that challenges what a dictator wants people to believe, think and do.

The question is not just what influence will the editorials have on their readers and the public by reminding us of the necessity of the press and its role in maintaining de-

mocracy. The question is, beyond claiming that role, how will media affirm and act on that role in these times.

Will there be more and more relentless investigative reporting? What funding will newspapers and media direct to increase investigative reporting?

In the upcoming campaigns, will media just repeat name-calling or will they explore the candidates similar and different views and track records? How persistent will they be at fact checking?

Will media back off of furthering the “either/or” and win/lost” climate that polarizes thinking, opinions, policies and action? Will they shift from profit-driven accentuation of conflict to draw readers?

Will they shift from the subtle forms of propaganda that promote political agendas and candidates—such as repeating the name of one leader, following every tweet, reporting proposals that are not yet realized—North Korean denuclearization, scrapping the Iran deal, withdrawing from the Climate Accords, “new” trade agreements that may not be real changes?

In their penchant for “chasing” the latest news, how likely are journalists to be misled and complicit in diverting attention from what is happening behind the scenes as they try to keep up with breaking news.

It is a major time for media to be vigilant to traps that play into how they gather news,

decide what is news and compete to scoop other media to prove themselves.

Today’s media scene is more complex with the need for social media platforms to be attentive to hacking and to how entities insert “fake news” to influence votes.

It’s more than the role of media to challenge government excesses. Investigative reporting also means looking into injustices by any entities that cut people out of housing so homelessness rises, that keep wages so low that working people need to use food stamps and visit food banks, that deny services and overcharge people for health care, that institutionalize racial and ethnic bias in the criminal “justice” system, that limit educational opportunities, that drop limits to polluting the air, water and land.

The job of the journalist is endless. The need for informed reporters increases, yet many newspapers continue to trim staff to assure profits. We must support media.

The recent tariffs on Canadian newsprint that increased costs for paper, have been blocked, but media must beware of “bottom-line” journalism of what drives readership, viewership and listeners by fueling anxiety and bombarding audiences with TMI—too much information, especially repeating the same stories in the 24-hour news cycle.

Readers, viewers, listeners and online followers must also know they have a role

in discerning the media content and their own media use. Are “news junkies” more gullible? Does keeping current take too much time from relationships? Do the media sources inform in ways that inspire, rather than inhibit action and involvement in society, politics and government?

Faith communities and educators can keep people aware of history and what is needed to keep democracy vital. Do faith communities give long-term perspectives, understandings and awareness that help people see what’s happening?

Is democracy what people value? Do we value diverse voices or want people to believe and think like us?

Do media encourage us to dig our trenches in the “old wars” ever deeper or do they offer the vision to help us see beyond entrenched divisions that play into the “divide and conquer” designs of authoritarian power seekers?

We all must be watchdogs of government, of government manipulation of media, aware of propaganda techniques, media gullibility and our own gullibility.

May media take responsibility to empower us with investigative journalism and challenges to hate and other forms of bias, and avoid repeating it in ads and news. May we all challenge politicians and leaders respect the role of media in a democracy.

Mary Stamp - Editor



Faith community members speak out at Spokane Valley rally

Photos and Report By Kaye Hult

Several faith leaders were among a coalition of concerned citizens who met in front of Spokane Valley City Hall the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 14, to ask the Spokane Valley City Council to adopt “A Resolution Against White Nationalism.”

The document was created as a way for the council to build on the Diverse City Resolution it adopted in March 2017, saying the city does not tolerate discrimination and is an inclusive city.

The new resolution said the council members stand against racism, particularly white nationalism.

The issue stemmed from a meeting in July of Northwest Grassroots, which invited a known white nationalist to speak. Both Spokane Valley Mayor Rod Higgins and Spokane County treasurer Rob Chase attended. Some Spokane Valley citizens feared this signaled their approval of the white nationalist racist agenda.

The rally was co-led by Leilani DeLong and Joan Braune of Families Against Bigotry (FAB). Leilani also participates in Valley Indivisible Progressives and Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR).

She opened the rally by introducing **the Rev. Jim CastroLang**, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Colville. He also is a member of the local Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC), which formed to support the Poor People’s Campaign and “moments like this.”

Jim reminded those gathered that the land on which they gathered is the sacred land of the Spokane Tribe.

“What we do today in combating hate is not only to remember Charlottesville but also to connect to with so much more going way back,” he said.

Remembering the eruption of hate in Charlottesville last year, when Heather Heyer was killed by a car driven by a neo-Nazi, Jim invited those gathered to join in a moment of silence.

“We are in a troubling time stoking the fear, waving the flames of hate,” he continued. “So we are here to pray for and call on



Participants in the Spokane Valley rally

the Spokane Valley City Council to do the right thing—to denounce hate and clearly commit to working for equality for all.

“We are here to affirm the dignity, respect and wonderfulness of all people—no matter the color of their skin, their faith or no faith, their sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,” Jim said.

He concluded with a call-and-response prayer to remember, repent and repair, adapted from a gathering of faith leaders the previous Sunday in Charlottesville.

Rabbi Tamar Malino, another member of FLLC, then spoke.

She responded to the chant last year in Charlottesville, “Jews will not replace us” and to any in the Spokane area who identified with it.

“We are not here to replace you. We are here to live *with* you, and with *every* person of *every* color, and *every* faith in this nation. We don’t want to replace you, but we do want to replace your hatred with our love, your fear with our hope, your bigotry with

impartiality and fair-mindedness,” she said.

“We want to replace racism and anti-Semitism with the great creed of our country that every person is equal to every other person, and every human being deserves dignity and respect,” Tamar said.

After sharing a prayer, she asked the Spokane Valley City Council to “articulate their ideals, to be an instrument for justice and peace in this community, and for us all to continue together to fight hatred, bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism, wherever we see it: in Spokane County, in Washington state, in the United States and, if we can be so bold, in the whole world.”

The Rev. Rick Matters, an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Spokane, then expressed concern that leaders of white supremacist groups instructed followers not to attend a march in front of the White House the previous weekend. That would make them look like weirdos.

What they are to do is to “blend in, look hip, make friends and infiltrate the political

system.” This way, they can “distort the American Dream.”

Rick called for articulating the true American Dream “of liberty and justice for all, respect and dignity for all, inclusion and compassion for all. Democrat, Republican, Progressive and those who choose not to vote at all need to make clear our American values.

“Silence is the enemy that allows white supremacists to succeed in their agenda of hate and exclusion,” he said.

He asked for politicians to repudiate hate groups and to raise their voices against hate speech.

“We call on politicians of all stripes to take actions that protect and welcome all members of society. Indeed, we call on all members of society to speak out, as we are speaking up, for an inclusive, friendly and just society,” he said.

Rick concluded by thanking Spokane Valley City officials for choosing to place two statues of Native Americans in front of the city hall, honoring them for their care of this land “for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. We ask them to continue in this tradition.”

Leilani then said, “Bold action is needed to correct the perception of Spokane Valley as a center of ignorance and racial discrimination and bigotry.”

She asked the mayor and council to sign the resolution.

Joan, who organized the event with Leilani, led a chant, “Justice now!”

The rally dispersed. More than 50 attended, and many spoke at the council meeting, including people from Northwest Grassroots.

Many urged the mayor and council to sign the anti-white supremacy resolution.

Gary Vandusen of Liberty Lake said people are judged by the company they keep. Citizens and businesses and potential businesses need to know that Spokane Valley is an inclusive community.

For information, email lanidelong@comcast.net. The meeting is online at http://spokanevalley.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=612.

Calendar of Events

- Sept 6** • **Inland NW Wildlife Club program**, American-Italian Club Lodge, 6111 N. Market St., 6 p.m., 487-8552
- Sept 6, 20** • **Peace Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 7** • **Whitworth Ministry Fair**, Hixson, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 777-3275, mpace@whitworth.edu
- Sept 7-8** • **"Love Thy Neighbor: An Ordinary Revival,"** Pacific NW Annual United Methodist Conference, West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean, ordinaryrevival.org
- Sept 8** • **"Military Culture and Understanding Veterans,"** David Millet of Veterans Resource Center at Eastern Washington University, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave, 3:30 p.m.
- Sept 8-9** • **First concerts of the Spokane Symphony's** 72nd season, Eckart Preu's "Farewell Season," with pianist Charlie Albright, "The Bohemian Spirit, Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, 1001 W. Sprague, 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, 624-1200, foxtheaterspokane.org
- **Free the Snake Flotilla**, Chief Timothy State Park, Clarkston, 4 to 10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., flotilla and Winona LaDuke speech, freethesnake.com
- Sept 8-23** • **Spokane Global Unity Compassion Games**
- Sept 9** • **SpokeFest 2018 and SpokeFair**, Kendall Yards, www.spokefest.org
- **Compassion Games Horse Massacre Healing Ceremony**, Spokane Tribal Gathering Place by City Hall, 3 p.m., 536-2811, onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com
- **Bollywood on the Roof PJALS Party**, Pakistani food, music, child friendly, Saranac Rooftop, 25 W. Main, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sept 11** • **"Become a Foster Parent to a Refugee or Migrant Minor**, Lutheran Community Service, 210 W. Sprague, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 343-5018, lcsnw.org
- Sept 12** • **Hispanic Business/Professional Assn.** monthly luncheon "Sabes Qué" Speaker Series, Perkins, Division and Olive, 11:30 a.m.
- **"Hate Groups, Bias and Action Steps: Panel on Race and Ethnicity,"** St. Joseph Parish Hall, 4521 N. Arden Rd., Otis Orchards, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 926-7133, info@stjoeparish.org
- Sept 13** • **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference 2019 Planning**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 2 p.m., 535-4112, pmillen@osfphila.org
- **"Eye Contact: Homeless Art Exhibit and Fundraiser**, Volunteers of America, 525 W. Second Ave., 6 to 9 p.m., 688-1117
- Sept 13, 27** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, 35 W Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Sept 14** • **Spokane Valley Connect**, Opportunity Presbyterian, 202 N. Pines, 2 to 6 p.m., 893-8416, aluppert@sclcd.org
- **Summertime Spiritual Moment**, "The Gospel in a Nutshell: A Kernel of Truth," Fr. Mike Savelesky, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 8 to 9:30 a.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Sept 14-16** • **Liturgy of the Hours Retreat, Fr. Rory Pitstick**. IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Sept 15** • **Riverkeepers Spokane River Cleanup**, downtown, Spokane River Gorge, University District and Spokane Valley, The Lands Council, 9 a.m. to noon, landscouncil.org
- **soilSHOP Soil Screening** for Shoshone County residents, Health and Wellness Center, 858 Commerce Dr, Smelterville, Idaho, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 208-784-8891, rkaetzel@cdc.gov
- **Preserving the Legacies** of Cesar Chavez and la Causa, Ray Rast of Gonzaga University and National Park Services American Latino Heritage Initiative, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m., spokanelibrary.org
- Sept 17** • **Hispanic Heritage Month: History, Diversity and Legacies**, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 18** • **NAACP Monthly Membership Meeting**, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- Sept 19** • **Silent Day of Prayer**, "How to Navigate Prayer in Our Busy Lives, Fr. Mike Kwiatowski, IHRC, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Sept 20** • **"Appetite for Conservation,"** Inland NW Land Conservancy, McGinnity Room, 116 W. Pacific, A4C2018.eventbrite.com
- **Baha'i Fireside Discussions**, Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E Main St., 7 p.m.
- Sept 21** • **Compassion Games Earth and Spirit Festival**, World Peace Flag Ceremony, Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga University, 6:30 p.m., 536-2811
- Sept 21-22** • **24-Hour Retreat on Relieving Anxiety** and Trauma with Nature and Grace, Teresa Warren and Michael E'Esterre, IHRC, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Sept 21-23** • **Valleyfest**, Mirabeau Point Park, 13500 E Mirabeau Pkwy, Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 922-3299, info@valleyfest.org, valleyfest.org
- Sept 22** • **Compassion Games Earth and Spirit Festival**, "Working Towards Spokane's Sustainable Future" panel, resource fair, children's activities, art and music at Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 536-2811
- **"Great Merger 2.0,"** Presbytery Learning Community Gathering, Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 924-4148
- **"The Afro-Latino Connection** in the Costa Chica Region of Mexico," Roberta Wilburn from Whitworth University, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley Ave., 3:30 p.m.
- **River City Youth Ops Garden Party** and Fall Fundraiser, West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean, 703-7433
- Sept 26** • **"Rompe el Silencio: Violencia en la Familia** (Break the Silence: Violence in the Family)" panel, Philanthropy Center, 1020 W. Riverside, 7 p.m., 407-486-1793
- Sept 26-30** • **Icon-Writing Retreat**, "Painting with the Light of God's Glory," Fr. Damian Higgins, IHRC, 448-1224
- Sept 27** • **"Monsanto, PCBs, and the Spokane River,"** workshop with Lee First of Spokane Riverkeeper and Rick Eichstaedt of Gonzaga Law School's Environmental Law and Land Use Clinic, 721 N. Cincinnati St., 6 to 8 p.m., 251-1424, eichstaedt@gonzaga.edu
- Sept 27-29** • **Greek Festival Dinner**, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox, 1703 N. Washington, lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., dinner 4:30 to 8 p.m., 328-9310, holytrinityspokane.org/festival.html
- Sept 28** • **"The Pursuit of Justice: Law, Leadership and the Role of the Civil Rights Activist,"** Gonzaga Law School, 9:30 a.m., 313-3774, Herrera@gonzaga.edu
- **"Empty Bowls,"** benefit for West Central Episcopal Mission, panel on "Partnership" with Bishop Gretchen Rehberg and Dena Carr of River City Youth Ops, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 6 to 9 p.m., 309-6168, genegal@comcast.net
- Sept 28-30** • **Retreat on Everyone's Call** to Holiness, "Everyday God," Fr. Anthony Ciorra, IHRC, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Sept 29** • **Alzheimer's Assn. Walk** to end Alzheimer's, Riverstone Park, 1805 Tilford Ln., Coeur d'Alene, 830 a.m. register, 10 a.m. walk begins, 509-321-4538, alz.org/walk
- **Hands Across the Falls**, Monroe St. Bridge, Celebrating Recovery, 11 a.m., 960-8529, recoverycafe@community-minded.org
- **Hispanic Heritage Fiesta**, Post Street by City Hall, with EWU Ballet Folklorico de Atzlan 11 a.m. to noon, Mariachi Huenachi from 1 to 3 p.m., Los Vigiles from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Milonga from 6 to 8 p.m., latinohopefoundation.org/Hispanic-heritage-festival.html
- Sept 30** • **Spokane Faith Action Network** Fall Cluster, Bethany Presbyterian Church, 27—S. Ray St., 2 p.m., fanwa.org.
- Oct 2-3** • **"Steering Our Lives toward Holiness,"** 24-Hour Retreat, Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, IHRC, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Oct 3** • **The Fig Tree mailing** and delivery, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th and Grand, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Oct 4** • **The Fig Tree**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, noon for development and benefit, 1 to 3 p.m. for board, 535-1813
- **YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon**, Gloria Norris, Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 326-1990, ywcaspokane.org
- **"Starry Night"** benefit for Holy Names Music Center, sip and paint with Spokane artist Stan Miller, The Commons, Mukogawa Fort Wright, 6:30 p.m., 316-9516, hnmc.org
- Oct 5** • **Blessing the Children Art Exhibit**, St. David's Episcopal Church, 7315 N. Wall, 5 to 7 p.m., 951-521
- Oct 6** • **Alzheimer's Assn. Walk** to end Alzheimer's, Riverfront Park-Spokane, 8:30 a.m. register, 10 a.m., walk, 321-4538 or visit alz.org/walk
- Oct 8, 9** • **Honduran journalist**, Jennifer Ávila, "The Silencing of Dissent: How Freedom of the Press Is Threatened in Honduras," Monday at Human Rights Education Institute, 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr., Coeur d'Alene, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday at Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth, 7 p.m., 208-771-3527, kris@witnessforpeace.org



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38th Annual Roger Williams Symposium
October 13, 14, 15, 2018
 featuring **Miguel De La Torre**
 professor of social ethics and Latinx studies at Iliff School of Theology, Denver - author & scholar-activist

7 p.m. Saturday Lecture - 'The Death of U.S. Christianity'
 Enslinger Pavilion, 455 Lincoln Dr., Pullman

10:30 a.m. Sunday - 'Was Jesus a Racist?'
 Community Congregational UCC, 525 NE Campus St., Pullman

2 to 4 p.m., Sunday - Film & Workshop on Immigration 'Trail of Hope and Terror'
 St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman

Noon Monday Lecture - 'Why They Come'
 Lecture sponsored by Thomas Foley Institute - Room 316 Bryan Hall

For details & registration email office@interfaith-house.com

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Inland Journal
 12 p.m. on KPBX 91.1
 3 p.m. on KSFC 91.9
 Thursdays



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Spokane Valley Partners is developing a five-year strategy to serve

By Mark Kinney

As a young man, Cal Coblenz knew he wanted to serve others somehow. Growing up in a Mennonite family in Columbus, Ohio, grandson of an Amish bishop, he foresaw a career in some type of ministry.

Now, in a life that has included a 20-year military career, years in lay and vocational ministry, and five years as a senior center director, Cal serves others as CEO of Spokane Valley Partners (SVP).

“At 18, I felt there was a call on my life but I had no idea how to follow it,” said Cal, who entered the Mennonite Voluntary Service that “takes young people who aren’t locked into a path but want to serve others.”

In Hutchison, Kans., he and seven other young people worked with underprivileged children.

It was an opportunity to experience ministry for one or two years and be in community with others. After a year, even though the Mennonite Church discouraged military service, Cal felt compelled to join the military.

He entered Air Force basic training on his 22nd birthday and was selected for the Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion (SERE) program, which teaches survival skills including escape and evasion tactics.

“I chose a non-combative field that would support and help others,” he said. “I prepared people to survive. I could serve and add a solution.”

Cal served at Fairchild and at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. He and his wife, Teri, who have been married 31 years, served in lay ministry while in the military.

“God put us in ministry throughout our lives, so full-time ministry was always in the back of our minds,” he said.

His last five years in the military, Cal was a lay minister, counseling, teaching and leading ministry at the North Pole Worship Center. After retiring, he became an associate pastor there.

While serving the church for five years, it grew six-fold. Cal and Teri then moved to Houston, where he studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. After that, they decided to do charitable work and return to



Cal Coblenz in the Spokane Valley Partners food bank warehouse.

Teri’s hometown, Spokane, on faith and without jobs.

Cal was hired as CEO at Sinto Senior Activity Center. In July 2017, he became CEO at SVP.

In 1951, 10 Protestant churches founded Spokane Valley Partners to serve the poor. The churches divided responsibilities. One housed the food bank. Another housed the clothing bank. In the late 1980s, the churches formed a nonprofit to bring services under one roof. They bought the current facility at 10814 E. Broadway Ave. and were chartered in July 1990.

“We are not a typical nonprofit with a founder who created a nonprofit to address a need. We were founded by the community and evolved into a stand-alone nonprofit. Over 28 years, it has grown to become the social services hub for the Spokane Valley,” Cal said.

SVP’s services include a food bank, clothing bank, payee services and an emergency assistance program. They recently took on responsibility for the regional diaper bank after Inland NW Baby closed last fall.

“Their board asked us to do the program. We knew there was a need, and the community would support it,” he said.

They inherited enough diapers for two months of supplying enrolled agencies, so they began to raise funds. They received two grants in the first month for \$8,000, and \$10,000 the next month from the National Diaper Bank Network, so they bought 30,000 diapers. They now have about 70,000 diapers but continually seek donations to maintain stock. A recent “Stuff the Bus”

diaper drive netted 15,000 diapers and about \$3,000.

As a regional diaper bank, Spokane Valley Partners also has bulk purchasing power to buy at affordable prices.

SVPs’ clothing bank serves about 600 families monthly. It also maintains a store with professional clothing for job seekers. It’s sponsored by the staffing agency, Humanix. They share clothing with other agencies when they have an abundance of donations.

The food bank serves about 1,500 families monthly with an average of 70 pounds of food. In

15-minute appointments, volunteers help clients make choices as they go through the food bank.

Spokane Valley Partners receives about 500,000 pounds of food annually from Second Harvest and 150,000 pounds from Northwest Harvest, Cal said. Another 850,000 pounds of food comes from food rescue at grocery stores and restaurants, and from local food drives at schools, churches and businesses. The food bank warehouse, remodeled about 10 years ago, operates at capacity.

The food bank also supports Spokane Valley Schools through its Food4Thought program, which provides weekend meals to children who might otherwise go without food. Cal said they provide 50 tons of food annually to Valley students for six weekend meals.

“School counselors tell us that if children don’t eat enough nutritious food on weekends, it can take a couple of days before they eat enough to focus to learn,” he said. “Education helps break the curse of poverty, so we partner with schools to feed children.”

SVP has 13 paid staff and 250 volunteers. It houses several tenant agencies—Valley Fest, SNAP and the Ignite! Theater group.

Cal, who is beginning a doctoral program with George Fox University, and his wife have three married daughters and a son living in the area.

He replaced long-time SVP director, Ken Briggs, who had a vision for Spokane Valley Partners and “established the effective programming we have today,” said Cal, who spent several months learning the operation and the community.

By fall, he started “casting his own vision.” He consulted with community members, leaders and the city council to assess community needs, identify growth opportunities and develop a five-year strategy.

“We’ve been around long enough that we have a community leadership role,” Cal said. “I hope our philosophy of working together as a team of agencies serves the Spokane Valley well in the future.”

For information, call 928-1153 or visit svpart.org.

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The Charity and Justice Committee of St. Joseph Parish presents

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