

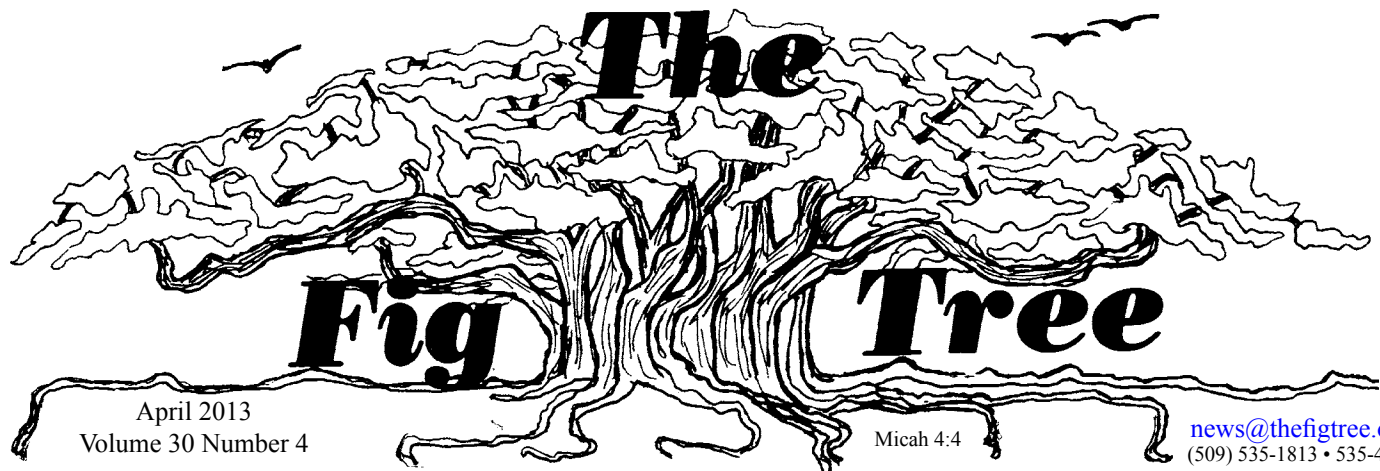
## STORIES INSIDE

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

# Global dimension revives art project

By Mary Stamp

For 20 years Gonzaga Preparatory School art teacher Frankie White had ceramics and sculpture students create bowls and then serve home-made soup.

Students, faculty, staff and parents donated \$5 for a bowl of soup. Then they took the bowls home to remind them of people who are hungry. Donations went to Second Harvest network of food banks.

Frankie had heard about the Empty Bowls concept and learned there is an international organization with that name. She adapted the idea and developed it independently in connection with Second Harvest.

Part of the experience was to make the bowl as a piece of art that communicates, and the other part was the hospitality of students serving the soup.

Frankie, however, took a break from that project the last two years, looking for a way to add a global dimension. Scott Cooper, director of Parish Social Ministries of Catholic Charities, was seeking a new way to raise funds for Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl program.

"We wanted to take the idea of making bowls to the next level to educate students about poverty



Frankie White, left, checks senior Alex Barry's platter depicting medical work in Haiti.

and hunger globally, as well as in Spokane," Frankie said.

Scott asked her to have students create bowls in the size, shape, imagery, symbolism, colors and designs of countries where Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl program serves.

After they auction the bowls on E-bay, they will send funds to CRS Rice Bowl. A percentage stays locally for grants to address food security in Eastern Washington.

The E-bay store on E. 29th Ave. at Lincoln Heights has set up a web page, photographed the bowls and offered them for bidding.

Catholic Relief Services sought an added dimension to its annual Lenten fund raiser that "would go beyond the perennial problem of tapping funds from the same people," Scott said. "Similarly, Gonzaga Prep students were often appealing to the same people with their fund raiser."

Frankie, who has taught art there since 1981, said at its high point the Empty Bowls project produced 150 bowls. It had dwindled to 85.

Scott talked with the students about the background of Catholic Relief Services.

So each student chose a country

*Continued on page 3*

## Women who resisted Nazis light candles, Tony Stewart speaks for Yom HaShoah

Carla Peperzak, who grew up in Holland and settled in Spokane in 2004, and Michelle Culbertson, who grew up in Belgium and settled in Spokane in 1959, have not met, but each was part of the resistance in their countries after the Nazi German invasions of their homelands in 1940.

During the Yom HaShoah service at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 7, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., Carla will light a candle as a Holocaust survivor and Michelle will light the candle for the "righteous among the nations" for her role in the resistance to protect

Jewish people from being taken to concentration camps during the Holocaust.

Through their years in the resistance, and their years of silence about what they did, both women have believed that it is crucial to respect people from different races, cultures and religions.

Although Carla's ancestors were all Dutch and Michelle's all French-speaking Belgians, both are proud that, because they and their children lived and traveled abroad, their grandchildren are multi-racial and multi-cultural.

Carla's grandchildren have

parents with heritages from Iran, Puerto Rico and India.

"Our family gatherings are like a mini-United Nations," she said.

Michelle's daughter Denise, married a Hawaiian, so her two grandchildren are a mix of Belgian, Norwegian, English, Irish, Scottish, Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese and Korean. Her great-grandson is also German and Russian.

When Denise helped at the Christmas Bureau in December, she met a Jewish couple and told about her mother's background.

"When they invited me to light a candle for people in the resistance, I agreed," Michelle said. "It's an honor."

At the 2013 Yom HaShoah Spokane Community Observance, Tony Stewart, a founding member of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, will speak on "Resistance to Genocide."

A professor of political science at North Idaho College for 40 years, he has challenged hate in the region through the task

*Continued on page 7*

## Chelan church welcomes vets with vacation-retreat

The Rev. Paul Palumbo of Lake Chelan Lutheran Church might seem to be an unlikely person for a ministry of welcoming veterans home and forgiving them, to release them from what he calls the "moral injury" they carry because of what they did in war.

That and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome often make veterans disqualify themselves from enjoying their lives, he said.

His church's Honorable Welcome Home program is a new twist to his commitment to social justice and peacemaking.

"It's ironic that God is calling me into this ministry. I always have said, 'Don't send anyone to war,' but I had not welcomed vets back," Paul said.

Simply in celebrating the vets and liking them, the people of Chelan open them to forgiveness.

"When we started, we did not know the profound effect that would have. We just thought it was a nice idea," said Paul.

Now he believes peacemaking includes both resistance to war and welcoming veterans back without blaming them.

Paul has also been doing a weekly peace and justice witness. At noon every Friday since Sept. 11, 2001, he has stood with one or two others outside the Lake Chelan post office with signs inviting people to work and pray for peace.

Sometimes others join them.

"At first, the community did not know what to do with us," he said. "Now I invite people to come pray with us for peace. People come and go."

Paul helped his church start the Honorable Welcome Home program to give veterans the welcome home they may not yet

*Continued on page 5*

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

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CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111  
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

#### WCC leader welcomes new archbishop, pope

The World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, attended the enthronement of Archbishop Justin Welby at Canterbury Cathedral in England on March 21, two days after attending the Mass in which Pope Francis was installed as the new pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church at the Vatican in Rome. In both cases, he joined church leaders, political figures, heads of faith communities and church members.

Archbishop Justin Welby, the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, is spiritual leader of the global Anglican Communion of 80 million Christians in 44 member churches. In late 2012, the former bishop of Durham was appointed primate of the Church of England.

"We hope Anglican churches will continue to contribute to the ecumenical movement," said Olav. "We look forward to building on our mutual relations and strengthening our efforts for peace, justice, reconciliation and inter-religious dialogue."

At his inauguration, Archbishop Welby stressed the importance of reconciliation and peace, reflecting on the role that the Christian churches have played in transforming society in England and around the world: "We are called to step out of the comfort of our own traditions and places, and go into the waves, reaching for the hand of Christ," he said.

#### Ecumenical presence at papal installation

Ecumenical leaders present at the installation of Pope Francis included Bartholomew I, the first Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople to attend a papal installation since the schism of 1054.

Olav also attended the event to express "the WCC's collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church, as well as our mutual commitment to church unity and the ecumenical movement."

"In close collaboration with Pope Francis, we look forward to building on this positive relationship with the Catholic Church that has been nurtured so carefully in the past," he said in his letter to the new pope on March 13.

Olav assured Pope Francis of his prayers. "Participating in common prayer to mark the start of Francis's papacy highlights the ecumenical dimension of our shared spiritual life, the heart of what we share as Christians. Let us use this opportunity to pray for and with Pope Francis to reconfirm that we need one another, to address the challenges of the world in our time."

#### Global data upend picture of Christian trends

Despite a century-long decline, religious affiliation has shown a marked resurgence globally since 1970. Both Christianity and Islam make up growing segments of the world's population. Africa and China have witnessed marked religious change.

Religious demographer Todd Johnson shared his findings March 13 at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, offering an overview of religious identity and trends in world Christianity since 1910.

Todd is associate professor of global Christianity and director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Massachusetts. He is co-author of resources in the field of religious demography.

Resurgence of several religious traditions has caused new interest among scholars. The CSGC has a million documents and draws on censuses, polls, interviews and religious organizations for data on religious affiliation trends from 1910 to 2010. The data confirm the southward shift in Christianity's center and other trends.

It shows that globally, religious affiliation is growing—12 percent claimed no affiliation in 2010, versus 20 percent in 1970. Presently Christians are 33 percent of the world's population, and Muslims, 22 percent, up from 12.6 in 1910. Christians in the Global North were 80 percent of Christians in 1910, but now are less than 40 percent. Chinese folk religion since 1949 declined from 22 to 6 percent of China's population and is matched by a resurgence of other religions. Animist and indigenous traditions are strong but have dramatically declined among African and Asian populations. Africa has witnessed strong growth in Christian affiliation from 9 to 47.9 percent.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### CROP Walk raises funds and awareness

The 35th annual Spokane CROP Hunger Walk begins at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at the Spokane Community College Lair, following registration at noon.

Walkers, who gather pledges from sponsors, will follow the Centennial Trail for either a 5K route or a 10K route to Mission Park and back to help feed people in Spokane through Family Promise of Spokane, Greater Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels and Sec-

ond Harvest. It also raises funds to help feed people worldwide through Church World Service.

"The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds to fight hunger locally and globally," said local walk committee chair Randy Goss. "It's the longest-running walk in the Northwest and supports the work of several local agencies helping those who are hungry."

Over the years, many have looked at the CROP Walk as a

preparation for Bloomsday, which is one week following the CROP Hunger Walk.

"Our continuing theme is 'Ending Hunger One Step at a Time'," Randy said.

There will be entertainment at the Spokane Community College Campus before the CROP Walk.

For information, call 747-5487, email [Goss301@gmail.com](mailto:Goss301@gmail.com) or [facebook.com/pages/Crop-Walk-Spokane/246377795753](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Crop-Walk-Spokane/246377795753)

### Hate Studies, Criminal Justice events combine

The third International Conference on Hate Studies and the second Conference on Race and the Criminal Justice System coincide April 18 to 20 at the Gonzaga Law School as the Pursuit of Justice Conference on "Understanding Hatred, Confronting Intolerance and Eliminating Inequality."

Sponsored by Gonzaga's School of Law and Institute for Hate Studies, with the Washington State Task Force on Race and the Criminal Justice System, the conference is an interdisciplinary forum on hate and social problems.

It will align fear and ignorance of the "other" with how these

conditions manifest themselves in hatred, intolerance and inequality, especially relating to the pursuit of justice and racial inequality in the criminal justice system.

The event is for educators, attorneys, human rights leaders, community organizers, journalists, global citizens, and government, non-government and faith entities, said John Shuford, director of the Hate Studies Institute.

Speakers include Paul Butler, professor at Georgetown University Law Center and Jack Levin, professor of sociology and criminology, and co-director of the Center on Violence and Conflict

at Northeastern University.

Other speakers are documentary filmmaker S. Leo Chiang; Terri Givins, government professor at the University of Texas; Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzalez; Ryan Haygood of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Ken Stern of the American Jewish Committee; Spokane Police Chief Frank Straub; other judges plus sociology and law professors.

For information, call 313-3665, email [hatestudies@gonzaga.edu](mailto:hatestudies@gonzaga.edu) or visit [gonzaga.edu/Academics/hate-studies/conferences-events/default.asp](http://gonzaga.edu/Academics/hate-studies/conferences-events/default.asp).

### Genocide Watch head speaks at banquet

Gregory Stanton of the international Genocide Watch is keynote speaker for the annual Human Rights Banquet of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations at 5 p.m., Monday, April 22, at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn in Coeur d'Alene.

The event, held with the Human Rights Education Institute (HREI), will address "Ending Genocide: Local Action Is the Best Way to Prevent Atrocities."

Gregory will tell how local movements defeated the Aryan

Nations in the Inland Northwest, dictators in Yugoslavia and Liberia, and the Soviet Union.

He is professor of genocide studies and prevention at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., and taught human rights from 2003 to 2009 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va. In 1999, he founded Genocide Watch and the International Campaign to End Genocide, after serving seven years in the U.S. State Department. He helped draft United

Nations resolutions creating a tribunal in Rwanda, a commission of inquiry in Burundi and the Central African Arms Flow Commission.

The task force will present its Civil Rights Awards and recognize four North Idaho College minority scholarship recipients.

Board president Christie Wood said: "The banquet is an annual reminder of the need to unite people in support of human rights and human dignity," along with raising funds for the HREI.

For information, call 208-765-3932.

### Pax Christi event features peace activist

Peace activist Rosalie Riegle is the featured speaker at a conference with national leaders of Pax Christi, the Catholic peace movement, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, May 4, at St. Joseph Parish at 4521 N. Arden Rd. in Otis Orchards.

The event will gather people to pray and work for peace in the Northwest to strengthen communication on the spirituality of nonviolence and peacemaking; disarmament, demilitarization

and reconciliation with justice; economic and interracial justice, and human rights and global restoration.

Rosalie, the author of *Doing Time for Peace: Resistance, Family and Community* and *Crossing the Line: Nonviolent Resisters Speak Out for Peace*, taught English for 33 years at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan and helped found two Catholic Worker houses in Saginaw, Mich.

While writing a portrait of

Dorothy Day, Catholic Worker co-founder, she moved into nonviolent resistance to the Vietnam War.

Vigils and rallies she organized and joined made a difference, so she continues to challenge nuclear weapons, war taxes and current wars, and train war resisters. Now the grandmother of six, she hopes to help make the world better for them, working both within and outside the system.

For information, call 358-4273 or email [scooper@ccspokane.org](mailto:scooper@ccspokane.org).

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### Martin Luther King Jr Family Outreach Center Annual Benefit Breakfast

featuring keynote speaker

'96 Olympic Gold Medalist Dan O'Brien

Thursday, April 18 - 7:30 to 9 a.m.

The Convention Center - Riverside Exhibit Hall D  
334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

RSVP - [www.mlksokane.org](http://www.mlksokane.org)

To sponsor the event - call Freda Gandy 455-8722  
[fgandy@mlksokane.org](mailto:fgandy@mlksokane.org)



**Jane Goodall is Gonzaga University speaker**

As part of Gonzaga University's 125th anniversary celebration, its Presidential Speaker Series features primatologist and conservationist Jane Goodall. She will talk on "Making a Difference: An Evening with Dr. Jane Goodall" at 7 p.m., Monday, April 9, at McCarthey Athletic Center. She will discuss her chimpanzee behavioral research in Tanzania and reasons for hope in these complex times. For information, call 313-3572, e-mail [ruff@gonzaga.edu](mailto:ruff@gonzaga.edu) or visit [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org).

**Bill Robinson speaks at Spokane City Forum**

Bill Robinson, president emeritus of Whitworth University, will speak on "Building a Culture of Trust" for the Spokane City Forum at 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, April 17, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar. He now writes and speaks on leadership, organizational culture and communication in corporate, nonprofit and ministry settings. For information, call 777-1555.

**Great Decisions lectures explore global issues**

Great Decisions lectures are scheduled at 7:30 p.m., two Thursdays of April in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University.

On April 18, Regina Yan, 1982 graduate of Whitworth and chief operating officer of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., will discuss "Humanitarian Intervention."

On April 25, Eugene Bempong Nyantakyi and Ryan Knight will speak on "China in Africa." Eugene, a visiting professor of economics at Whitworth, is an expert in development, trade and finance. Ryan, a Whitworth student, studied in China and Tanzania. For information, call 777-4937.

**Organists' guild offers concert April 23**

The Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a concert, "Organ Plus," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway. Organists Janet Ahrend, Helen Byrne, Floyd Czoski, Rose Dempsey, Chris Nelson and Carolyn Payne will perform with soloists and small groups—Leonard Byrne, tuba, cimbasso, serpent and alp horn; Andrea Dawson, soprano, and Drew Olso, tenor; Gerry Fairchild, violin; Chris Nelson, piano; Margaret Redmond, oboe; Robert Collins, baritone; Kathleen Czoski, cello, and The Celestial Strings. For information, call 535-7145 or email [thepaynes@comcast.net](mailto:thepaynes@comcast.net).

**St. Joseph Parish sponsors Fair Trade Event**

St. Joseph Catholic Parish is sponsoring a Fair Trade Event from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, April 27, and from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday, April 28 at the church, 4521 N. Arden Rd. in Otis Orchards. Fair-trade vendors will offer gifts, coffee, handicrafts, clothing, food and other products. Sales help build a more just economy that benefits people and the planet. For information, call 358-4273 or visit [www.stjoeparish.org](http://www.stjoeparish.org).

**Earth Day events scheduled in Inland NW**

Earth Day Spokane's "Celebration of Our Environment and Community" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 20, on Main Ave. between Division and Browne in Spokane.

The street fair includes community leaders, street performers, local music, spoken word, local food, children's activities and opportunities to learn about area environmental groups under the theme, "Be Green, Keep it Clean." Michael Moon Bear will lead the Procession of the Species parade.

The 2013 event honors the legacy of past Earth Day events, while taking seriously the need for a radical shift to self-responsibility to help solve some of our planet's main concerns," said Matthew West of The Lands Council.

While street parking is available, with Saturday meter rates applying, attendees are encouraged to commute by mass transit or alternative transportation.

Earth Day Spokane is striving to be a near zero-waste event, with volunteers on hand to assist in recycling and composting collection.

Sponsors include The Lands Council, Kohls, Spokane Riverkeeper, Community Building Foundation, and Community Building/Saranac and Sustainable Works.

For information, call 209-2407 or email [mwest@landscouncil.org](mailto:mwest@landscouncil.org).

*Earth Day celebrations in other area communities include the following:*

**The Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute** is offering several Earth Day projects. For information, visit [pcei.org/calendar.htm](http://pcei.org/calendar.htm).

**The Coeur d'Alene Earth Day Fair** will be from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, April 21, at the Coeur d'Alene Library Community Room, 702 E. Front St. For information, visit [kealliance.org/earth-day-fair](http://kealliance.org/earth-day-fair).

**Sandpoint Earth Days** are April 19 to 22, with the Earth Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday at the Forrest M. Bird Charter High School, 614 S. Madison. For information, call 208-597-7188 or visit [www.facebook.com/sandpointannualearthday](http://www.facebook.com/sandpointannualearthday).

**Mid Columbia Earth Month** in the Tri Cities is a time to try out new personal habits to benefit the environment—recycle, reduce

garbage, organize or join a community clean-up, reuse items.

For information, visit [earth-monthmc.org](http://earth-monthmc.org).

**Ellensburg's Earth Day Family Festival** is from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 20, at the Museum. For information, visit [www.cwu.edu/museum/earth-day-family-festival](http://www.cwu.edu/museum/earth-day-family-festival).

**Lake Chelan's Earth Day Fair** is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 20, at Riverwalk Park.

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**Upcoming Programs**

<p><b>Simplify Life; Magnify Living; Biking as a Contemplative Practice</b> <b>Saturday, May 11, 2013</b> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm <b>Facilitator: Patricia Novak, OSF</b> Get a new perspective on an activity you enjoy. Whether you are an avid biker or someone who enjoys a bike ride for leisure, this retreat day offers a contemplative outlook to bike riding. There will be time for prayer, reflection, a bike ride and sharing with others about the meditative side of cycling. <b>Suggested Donation: \$25.00</b> Bring your bike and a sack lunch coffee and tea are provided.</p>	<p><b>Women's Cancer Survivor Retreat</b> <b>May 17-19, 2013</b> <b>Facilitator: Patricia Novak, OSF</b> Pamper yourself and share with other survivors. Join us for a weekend of relaxation, meditation, rest, presentation, sharing and more. You will even be treated to a massage and reflexology treatment as part of this one of a kind weekend. Limited to ten people. Begins 7:00PM Friday to Sunday 1:00PM <b>Cost: \$195 - Scholarships available</b> <b>RSVP TODAY</b></p>
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**RSVP-(509) 483-6495 \* [www.SJFOnline.org](http://www.SJFOnline.org)**

**Art connects students to faith**

Continued from page 1 where Catholic Relief Services works. They did research about the countries to select colors, symbols and designs that represented CRS work there.

Frankie, a graduate of the Holy Names Academy in Spokane, earned a bachelor's degree in art in 1974 and a master's in art education in 1982, both at Gonzaga.


"I believe in the artist as a witness and encourage students to use art to promote spiritual beliefs," said Frankie, a eucharistic minister at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. "I hope students see that an artist can engage in artistic

expression and use art as a springboard for prayer."

She also leads a spring retreat, teaching photography as a way "to discover God's beauty in the world around and capture God's face in a moment that connects the artist with the divine."

Frankie teaches painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, photography, computer graphics and a broad range of art. Students can study four years of art.

For information, call 448-4777 or email [fwhite@gprep.com](mailto:fwhite@gprep.com).



**The Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents:**


**Organ Plus! Concert**

featuring Spokane organists and soloists to showcase music for voice, strings woodwinds and brass

**7 p.m. Tuesday April 23**

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
1428 W. Broadway

Reception following  
Suggested donation \$5  
All are invited!



**Join in a dialogue on peace & justice with national leaders in the Catholic peace movement**

**Saturday, May 4**  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
St. Joseph Parish - 4521 N. Arden Rd. Otis Orchards

featuring **Rosalie Riegle**  
Author of *Doing Time for Peace: Resistance, Family & Community* and *Crossing the Line: Nonviolent Resisters Speak out for Peace*

Learn about priorities:

- Spirituality of Nonviolence & Peacemaking
- Disarmament, Demilitarization & Reconciliation with Justice
- Economic and Interracial Justice in the U.S.
- Human Rights and Global Restoration

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[scooper@ccspokane.org](mailto:scooper@ccspokane.org)


**SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS**  
with Spokane Bahá'ís

**Wednesday, April 3**  
'Women and men have been and always will be equal in the sight of God'

**Wednesday, May 1**  
'The light of men is justice'

All are welcome

5:15 p.m. first Wednesdays at  
Chairs Coffee  
113 W. Indiana St.  
[www.spokanebahais.org](http://www.spokanebahais.org)



**Teaching the Holocaust**

**Wednesday, April 24 • 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
Human Rights Education Institute  
414 W. Mullan Rd. • Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

- Gain strategies, activities and methods for teaching the Holocaust
- Learn U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum guidelines
- Tour the Human Rights Education Institute
- Discover powerful educational resources
- Teach your students on an important historical event and its relevance to different areas

<p><b>WORKSHOP LEADERS</b> <b>Brad Veile</b> teaches U.S., world and Native American history, humanitarian law and ethnic issues at Lakeside High School - a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Teacher Fellow <b>Thomas Carter</b> brings more than 20 years of experience in education, business development and training as executive director of the HREI - a leader and innovator in behavioral education.</p>	<p>For more information <b>HREI: 208-292-2359</b> <a href="mailto:info@hrei.org">info@hrei.org</a> <b>Brad Veile</b> <b>509-283-2279</b> <a href="mailto:veile.brad@lakesidesch.org">veile.brad@lakesidesch.org</a></p>
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# Living in L'Arche community engenders appreciation of relationships

By Deidre Jacobson

Belief in the inner beauty of each human being is at the heart of L'Arche communities, said Lura Southerland, director of L'Arche Spokane since 2008.

In the Logan neighborhood, 12 "core members," adults with developmental disabilities such as Down's syndrome, live in community with each other and three assistants in two adult assisted-living homes that are among 137 communities in 40 countries under the International Federation of L'Arche. In the western world, communities are predominantly Christian. In other areas, they are ecumenical and interfaith.

"They are God's angels, sent to bring some joy and fun to the world, and to teach 'intelligent' people, who are serious much of the time, to forgive and enjoy each other," said Lura, a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

"We do not have the wisdom to know which life will be a gift and which life will not," she said. "As Christians, we must see every life as unique and valuable."

The international federation helps communities create and develop homes, programs and networks, in which people with and without intellectual disabilities live, work, play and pray together.

Core members, persons with disabilities, are the heart or "core" of communities. Assistants are live-in staff, who share life with them and receive a stipend.

L'Arche's philosophy is summed up in its slogan: "Relationship, Transformation, Sign," said Lura.

"Through mutual relationships that come from living together, people are transformed. Through transformation, we become a sign of peace and a sign of hope that all different kinds of people can live together peacefully," she said.

Lura, who has seen faces of many people with Down's syndrome—slanted eyes, flat nose and small mouth—found it profound to see that face on Mexican, African and Middle Eastern faces, when she and core member Kevin Vandeventer attended the General Assembly of the International Federation of L'Arche in Atlanta, Ga., in June 2012.

"Members of almost every community around the world made the journey there," said Lura. "Kevin found it meaningful that he belongs to something bigger than Spokane."

She returned inspired to help create "a more human society," as she and Kevin realized they are part of a family around the world.

L'Arche, a French term, means The Ark. In the Bible, it refers to the vessel Noah built at God's command to save himself, his family and the world's animals from a worldwide deluge. An ark is also a place of safety and refuge, in which people share their lives in mutual relationship, she said.



Lura Southerland and Kevin Vandeventer Photo by Deidre Jacobson

In that context, L'Arche seeks to be a sign of hope.

Lura has worked with people with disabilities for more than 20 years. Raised Lutheran in Great Falls, Mont., she began worshipping at a Catholic Church while attending Montana State University and began working at a Catholic church in Havre.

In 1987, her brother came to Gonzaga University and told her about the L'Arche community in Spokane, founded in 1976 by Sister of the Holy Names Mary Hurley at a farm in Mead.

Lura visited and joined the community for a year.

In 1989, L'Arche Spokane bought the two houses in Logan neighborhood near Gonzaga to be closer to services. Men and women live together in each house.

After marrying and while working for 18 years providing services for disabled people through SL Start, a program serving disabled children and adults in Washington and Idaho, Lura continued to volunteer with L'Arche.

Since coming to L'Arche Spokane in 1988, Lura said she found herself by living in community.

"The relationships I have experienced have transformed how I look at life," Lura said. "Peace in the world has to begin with peace with the people we live with."

With nine people living together in a house, she said, the residents will connect with some and dislike others.

"Our commitment to find that common ground with those we dislike is where the work is," she said. "This is where our Christian faith is vital. Jesus asks us to love each other. It is the hardest thing for us to do, and yet it is the thing

that brings the most reward.

"It is both really hard and really good," said Lura.

L'Arche "celebrates the unique value of every person and recognizes our need for one another."

Its mission is also to "make known the gifts of people with intellectual disabilities." For example, core member Sean often conducts the choir at the 11 a.m., Sunday Mass at St. Aloysius.

"Sean has a beautiful love of music and a tremendous gift of welcome," said Lura, telling of meeting him when she was a new assistant in 1988, in the community just two months.

She went away for four days, came home and walked in the door. Sean was watching TV as he often does. He stood up, ran to her and hugged her. Lura was surprised at his welcome. She didn't know Sean that well, but he had accepted her into his life. He had missed her while she was gone.

That experience of the gift of welcome taught her an important lesson. Now she wants to put a similar "look of welcome" on her face when others come into her home or her office.

"That look of welcome can change the interaction that follows," she said of the lesson she learned from Sean, a man whom many may dismiss as not having anything to offer to the world.

"So many of the people I have worked with have taught me lessons of life about forgiveness, genuine joy, passion for fun and the power of being loved for who we are," Lura said.

Her work with L'Arche has inspired her to talk more about the "gift of life."

Today, she said, Wikipedia

says that more than 90 percent of unborn babies with Down's syndrome in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe are aborted.

"This is tragic because people do this believing these babies will be a burden to their family or will have nothing to offer the world," she said. "Both of these beliefs are so untrue. Families say the person with disabilities bonds their family together, that their families have more love in them because of the care needed by the disabled person.

"They teach us to live closer to the heart, because our intelligence can interfere with our giving and receiving the gift of forgiveness. People with disabilities share readily, helping us accept ourselves and each other just where and as we are," she said. "Joy goes down to the toes over the simplest things.

"We grow, learn and heal with the disabled," she added. "L'Arche teaches us about our own littleness and gives us the ability to recognize our need for each other."

Lura believes L'Arche is the work she is supposed to do.

"It has taught me how to treat people. I've learned I need God. When we pray for people, we look deeper. When we care for people who can't communicate, we learn how to know what they are saying without words," she said.

It is a challenge to keep the houses fully staffed. Through the L'Arche USA website, L'Arche Spokane learns about AmeriCorps volunteers and other people around the country interested in working as assistants. She also recruits at Gonzaga University and Whitworth University.

Lura asks assistants to commit to one year and hopes they stay for two years.

The volunteers are drawn to L'Arche's mission and like Lura, soon learn they receive more than they give.

L'Arche welcomes the public each month at a community potluck, an opportunity for people to visit, share a meal and be a part of the community. The meals are at 5:30 p.m. on second Wednesdays at O'Malley Hall at St. Aloysius.

For information, call 483-0438, email info@larcheofspokane.org or visit [www.larcheofspokane.org](http://www.larcheofspokane.org).

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# Church discovers how profound it is to offer forgiveness to veterans

*Continued from page 1*  
have experienced.

Paul said the idea for the welcoming program for veterans came to him after two friends visited one summer to hike in the Cascades and enjoy the area. One stayed eight days.

**One friend was burned out** from his work as a pastor and the other from work in affordable housing. After they went home, their wives called to thank Paul for the healing they saw in their husbands.

Then Paul met a member's son-in-law, an army chaplain in Iraq, and began thinking about inviting veterans to come for vacation-retreats.

"He needed what I had done with my friends, but was not ready for the idea," Paul said. "He was still in the thick of it."

Paul shared the idea with a Vietnam vet, who said Iraq vets are "too hot in the fight-or-flight mode and need to wait."

**Two years ago, a therapist** in Wenatchee referred three Iraq vets. Only one stayed. The therapist suggested working with Vietnam vets. Paul said that for Vietnam vets, it has been 40 years and they are ready to accept the possibility of hospitality.

"They are still processing their experience, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and moral injury," he said.

Partnering with the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion and the community, Lake Chelan Lutheran Church has developed a process for bringing three to six vets at a time to a house in Chelan to "enjoy five days on us," Paul said.

Members of the church and community provide funds so vets can take the Lady of the Lake to Stehakin, go to a spa for a massage, go fishing, visit a winery, go

out to dinner and more.

"Chelan merchants celebrate the vets as human beings, giving them the welcome they deserved when they came home," he said.

**Paul told of three Vietnam vets** coming with their spouses.

"The spouses were like lenses to help us see things," he said.

For example, after tasting wine at the winery, the owner gave each a bottle and said, "Thank you for your service." One wife said, "This never happens. It was a powerful moment."

A woman in the community heard about the project and offered a second house she had. When she had to sell it, someone else donated a house to use.

Now a team of people from the church helps each time. One woman, who is the age of Vietnam vets, is hostess and enjoys bantering with them.

Six groups of four vets have come through. The opportunities are offered three times a year.

"It's expensive. We can't ask merchants to provide dinner every time if it's too frequent," Paul said. "It costs about \$2,000 for each event, and we don't want the veterans to pay for anything."

**"We stumbled on this program** as a way to bring incredible healing, especially healing for moral injury," he said. "Many did things and have told no one, because they consider what they did so horrible that people would hate them. They do not think they are allowed to go

out and enjoy life or do things that many others take for granted."

For many, it's the first time they have done such activities since returning.

One vet recently told his therapist he felt the best he had felt in years, Paul said. After the five days in Chelan, he began to invite people to his home for dinner. It was the first time anyone had come to his house except his family.

Paul, who has been pastor in Chelan for 15 years, came after serving 10 years as Lutheran pastor of an African American church in Durham, N.C.

He grew up in Maryland and served a church in North Carolina after seminary.

**When he was called** to the church in Chelan, he found a 60-year-old congregation with riches.

Benedictines flood the church with prayer. Musicians share their talents. Church members help at a teen center, a tutoring program, the food bank and the Habitat for Humanity store.

Paul said there are many teachers. Several members who are contractors choose to build affordable housing.

There are 12 other churches in the community of 5,000 people, which doubles in the summer and has many empty homes in the winter. While many go South, a few couples in the church are now staying in the area all year.

**The common thread** of Lake Chelan Lutheran Church's ministries is caring for people on the margins, Paul said.

Last year, the therapist in Wenatchee invited Paul to speak at an annual banquet

that gathers veterans.

"When I finished talking, a line of men came up crying, saying they could not believe God could forgive them for what they did," Paul said.

"Yes, God can," he told a vet, grabbing his shoulders and repeating, "Yes, God forgives you. Your sins are forgiven."

He said many vets just need forgiveness.

**Paul told of a man he met** 20 years ago in Durham. The man wanted nothing to do with the church, but came for Christmas and Easter with his wife. Five years later, the wife invited Paul to come to their home and visit her husband. He went, but talked only with the wife. Two years later, the man called and invited him to come.

He showed Paul a room that was a shrine to his best friend. They had been waiting for a helicopter to pick them up to go home, but a sniper killed his friend. The man went berserk, saying and doing "horrible things."

His wife realized he needed to confess it, to tell someone.

"To give the word and truth of forgiveness reassures that whatever you have done can be forgiven. It is a powerful force," Paul said.

**"We have to be willing to go** with people, to hear the horrible stuff they did and not pass judgment," he said. "I'm still unsure what happens, but I know that the vets have said their lives are more open and they are able to do more, enjoy more."

"We simply use the church's power to forgive to help veterans know they are welcomed home," he said.

For information, call 682-9063 or email [palumbos@msn.com](mailto:palumbos@msn.com).

**'We stumbled on this program as a way to bring incredible healing.'**

## Spokane's NAACP opens new office

The Spokane Chapter of the NAACP will use a \$4,200 Leadership Development Children of the Dream grant for computers in their new office at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct.

They will help people apply for state assistance and services from the Department of Social and Health Services.

James Wilburn Jr., the local president, said the chapter is recruiting volunteers to staff the office and more members to address racism, prejudice and inequities in the criminal justice system.

Monthly meetings are at 7 p.m., third Mondays at Emmanuel center. For information, call 443-3253.

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# Resistance to the Holocaust in Belgium was 'the moral thing' to do

For Michelle Culbertson, there's nothing remarkable about what she did as a teenager to help with the resistance in Belgium after troops from Nazi Germany invaded in May 1940.

"What's important in life is that it's the moral thing to do what you can to protect the innocent and persecuted. We are to do that if we are to call ourselves human beings," she said.

"I do not tolerate discrimination, nor do my children. I did not know about discrimination until the troops rounded up Jews," she said. "Whether it's American Indians, Jews, or any race or faith, I taught my children not to discriminate."

"I used to keep my background secret, but people were curious because of my accent and would ask," she said. "In the 1950s, when I told about concentration camps in Germany, people did not want to believe it. They thought the reports were exaggerated. Now enough has been written that more people are aware."

Because of misconceptions about Europe and Belgium, such as assumptions that Europeans were poor, she urges people to travel to Europe and elsewhere to see how people live.

"We embrace every culture," she said, noting that her daughters have friends in Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, France, Belgium and other countries.

Michelle did not talk much about what she experienced and did, partly because those in the resistance could not safely tell anyone at the time and partly because after she married an American, moved Eastern Washington and settled in Spokane in 1959, few Americans wanted to believe there had been atrocities committed in concentration camps in Germany.

For countries west of Germany, World War II began in 1940. Michelle was in ninth grade, living in Courcelles, Belgium, where her ancestors had lived for centuries.

The densely populated country had 10.5 million people living in an area the size of Maryland. Contrary to assumptions that Europe was backward, she said her family had a big house with electricity, running water and a gas stove.

She took the streetcar to school in Charleroi, where she had some Jewish classmates.

"I remember watching them study Hebrew," she said.

Belgium was 90 percent Catholic, plus Protestants, Jews and people like her family, who had no religious affiliation.

"When Germans came and rounded up Jews to send them to



Michelle Culbertson is honored to be lighting a candle on behalf of people in the resistance.

concentration camps, my mother's sister brought in two Jewish families and hid them until they found a place in the country," Michelle said.

One of them was a woman who gave birth in a hospital just after the invasion. Her husband had gone across the street to buy some food and was picked up.

"Someone sold out the family. He was sent to Germany to a concentration camp," she said. "My aunt asked us to help feed the mother. We were on rations immediately and shared our own rations. We needed several families to help provide food."

In 1939, after Germans invaded Poland, her family expected Belgium would be invaded. So they began buying 50-kilo sacks of flour, sugar and other basics to store in their basement.

"My parents and grandparents remembered the rationing in World War I," she said.

In addition to their stock of food, they bought food on the black market. Those who could not do that were hungry, because after farmers turned in their quotas of food to the occupiers, they sold the rest on the black market, where there was no set price.

The rations were barely enough to survive.

Michelle said one girl at another school was sick because she was so hungry she had eaten boiled potato skins.

A man whose children were hungry had crawled into a farmer's field to take potatoes. The farmer shot him.

During the invasion in May 1940, she and her family hid in their cellar for a week. They heard tanks rolling on the cobblestone streets. When they came out, the German Nazi troops were in control.

"Everyone had to turn in firearms, but my mother did not turn

in hers. She hid it in the springs of an old chair," Michelle said.

Her sister's husband was in the resistance, so her mother gave him the gun.

The SS rounded up and sent Belgian men to Germany as forced labor to replace German men fighting on the Russian front.

Farmers hid Jews and men, including her mother's nephew.

"My cousin was in a group of men ready to go to Germany. Standing on the platform, he saw a train behind him leaving. He jumped on it to escape and hid," she said. "Then he stayed with us for a while."

Michelle thinks neighbors hid some people, because she saw people come out at night for fresh air.

"Our home was declared a safe home. A Belgian colonel on the run hid in our house. We never knew the names of people who came, slept and were gone the next day, so we couldn't tell about them," she said.

"We never talked about what we did with our relatives or grandparents," she said, "because anyone who was captured and tortured might tell who fed or hid people."

Near the end of the war in 1944, unmarried women were sent to work in Germany.

Having completed school, Michelle, 17, was in danger, but a family friend who was an architect hired her as a secretary. She answered phones in his office.

He was a captain in the resistance, so there were hand grenades and military maps hidden behind stacks of paper.

One day, an inspector came to check the food stamp office downstairs, which created false identities for people. He found the papers.

"We were on the same phone line, so when he went to call to

report what he found, I had the phone off the hook. Some employees bought his silence. If he had reported what was happening, we would have all been taken," Michelle said.

"While many were in the resistance, some had no scruples and collaborated. It was good for them then, but not after war," she said.

Belgians were angry, because three weeks before liberation, collaborators rounded up priests, the head of the Red Cross and doctors, and shot them near her home.

"These were the people we needed most at the time," she said.

Later, collaborators were rounded up, their heads were

shaven, they were marched down the streets and jeered, and they went to prison," she said. "There were too many collaborators."

Michelle was disappointed that her first grade teacher was a collaborator.

"Most people were afraid much of the time, never knowing what would happen next," she said. "Sometimes one person in a family was a collaborator, and others were not."

Michelle said there were many heroes among Jews and people in the resistance. The things they did required much courage and self-sacrifice.

"The resistance blew up enemy installations and railroad depots," she said of efforts to destroy weapons and block transportation. "We had to destroy installations before D-Day."

People in England told the resistance what to do. When the resistance acted, there were reprisals for everyone: curfews, cuts to rations and rounding up people.

Michelle met her husband, who he was in the U.S. Air Force, stationed near her home.

Five months after he was discharged late in 1945, she came to the United States in March 1946.

Over the years, Michelle went home to Belgium every other year to see her mother, sister, brother-in-law and nephew. Her nephew is the only one still living there now.

For information, call 466-2768 or email [apele@icloud.com](mailto:apele@icloud.com).



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# People in Dutch underground risked their own safety to protect others

After graduating from high school in 1940, Carla Peperzak's life changed from teenage parties, Hebrew school and association with Jewish family and friends in Amsterdam. German troops invaded in May.

Dutch Jews, used to Holland's tolerance, at first thought it wouldn't be bad, but in 1941, her father arranged with an attorney for her and her sister to have ID cards without a "J" for Jewish, because their mother grew up Catholic. He had a "J," had to wear a star and lost his business.

"He always lived in fear and stayed at home," Carla said.

Her late husband, Paul, whom she met after the war, was not a Jew, but like 80 percent of university students had refused to sign a loyalty oath. He worked for a farmer to avoid being sent—as many men were—to Germany as forced labor.

"We did not see young men on the streets," Carla said.

In July 1942, German troops began picking up people off the streets and people went into hiding from then to the end of the war in May 1945.

"The resistance formed soon after the invasion," she said.

Carla joined the underground movement when her father's brother asked her to help him, his wife and two children hide. She asked a neighbor she trusted to help her find a place for them. After that, she was in the network.

They needed new IDs. So Carla began helping the resistance prepare IDs. Forms printed in England were dropped at night in fields by small, low-flying planes, piloted or navigated by Dutch people who had fled to England. They knew the countryside. By radio, they arranged the airdrops.

"We took people's pictures in photo machines on the streets. I had a machine to make thumbprints and an official seal. We changed people's names, keeping their initials in case they had a ring or handkerchief with initials. I made new ID cards before people went into hiding. Some who did not look Jewish used the cards and did not go into hiding.

Carla knew if she was caught, she would be shot or taken to a concentration camp.

"I was young, as most in the underground, and I did not think a lot about that," she said. "I was grateful not to have a 'J' on my ID, and I wanted to help people."

Another uncle was caught and taken to the transfer camp at Westerbork. He worked in the hospital there for more than a year. When his wife and son were put on a train, he went with them.

"That was the last we saw of



Carla Peperzak, who helped family and strangers, displays copies of her ID card and ration cards on her desk.

them," Carla said.

"Some who were taken sent a card back to family in Holland to say, 'We are okay.' That was to throw relatives off," she said.

One of her father's sisters was taken with two small children. Several months after another sister's husband was picked up in Rotterdam, where they lived, the sister and her five children were picked up.

"I learned she was on her way to Westerbork. The train would stop in Amsterdam. Through the resistance, I had a German nurse's uniform and passport. At the station, I found her and took her two-year-old. When I was stopped, I just said, 'My boy is sick.'"

Although she rescued her cousin, her parents couldn't take him. He went into hiding, moving from one place to another. After the war, her parents took him, but because he had been moved around and not been loved, he lied, stole and did not want to go to school.

"My parents struggled with him the rest of their lives," she said.

Another time, Carla took a pregnant friend, whose husband had been deported, to the hospital to give birth. The SS (Schutzstaffel troops) came to her house and learned she was at the hospital. Friends called to warn her. She fled without the baby. The SS took the baby and her boy.

Carla learned the baby was in the hospital at Westerbork. After two weeks, the mother gave herself up and was taken with the children to Bergen Belsen. They returned after the war. She died three months later of cancer and her sister-in-law took the children.

Carla used the underground's mimeograph. While Dutch newspapers ran German news, the underground had radios and heard news from London at night. Once

a week, she published a newspaper, which the underground passed out so people knew what was happening in the war.

When people went into hiding, they needed ration cards. Some in the resistance stole ration cards from distribution centers, and some cards came from England.

"Some people went to friends for what they expected would be a day, two weeks or a month. Imagine living two-and-a-half years in an attic, only coming out at night. Think of the host and hostess who had people in the house," she said. "The SS paid people 75 guilders to turn in Jews."

Carla did not tell her parents what she was doing.

"It was too dangerous," she said. "Sometimes I had to lay low or hide for a few days, not knowing what the Nazis knew."

After graduating, Carla went to a private academy for a 36-month course to be a medical technologist. She did not need to sign a loyalty oath. Her work in the resistance gave her little time to study or attend classes, so she failed some exams. When she graduated, she worked with a doctor two days a week, then at a camp for Dutch Nazis and then

for the army nurses corps.

In the resistance, Carla worked in a cluster of 12. There were many clusters. Most were men. Few were Jewish. They only went by first names, often not their real names. She knew only a friend from the academy and a cousin on her mother's side in the underground.

"Many Dutch Jews were Dutch first. Some were just Jewish ethnically, others were ethnic and religious," said Carla, who went to Hebrew school with Anne Frank's sister, Margot. Her family lived a block away.

Carla's brother-in-law fled through Belgium, France and Spain. He went to Cuba and then New York, where he joined the Canadian army's Dutch division and went to England to fix planes.

Of 150,000 Jews in Holland before the war, only 20,000 remained. Some went into hiding. Some had fled. Some did not come back. She estimates that about 3,000 helped with the resistance. The percentage of Dutch Jews killed was the highest in all of Europe.

"For years, I did not talk about or think about my experience. I did not even tell my children," she said. "I forgot much, but now I know it's important to talk."

Now her motivation is to tell people to help them.

Carla, 89, met her husband in 1947. In 1948, they came to the United States when he accepted a scholarship to study agriculture.

"Once the war ended, it was a relief, and we wanted to leave Europe, afraid the Communists would take over," she said.

After his studies and five years in Liberia, West Africa, Paul earned a doctoral degree in tropical agriculture. They moved to Hawaii, became U.S. citizens in 1958, and then went to Thailand where he worked with international organizations.

Paul was not Jewish, and Carla did not want anything to do with Judaism for 25 years.

"I tried not to think about the war years. In Honolulu, we went

to 'The Diary of Anne Frank,' and I couldn't take it. I had to leave after the first act. Few talked about the Holocaust until the 1980s," she said.

"Eventually, I felt homesick and started going to a Reform synagogue in Washington, D.C., when Paul worked with the World Bank," she said.

When he retired, they settled in Colorado Springs, central for visiting grandchildren. Paul began attending the synagogue there with her until he died in 2001.

The first time she spoke about her experiences was to talk about Anne Frank at her grandchildren's school in Spokane, after she moved here in 2004.

Friendships with Germans in Washington, D.C. and Colorado Springs helped Carla overcome her hesitancy about Germans.

"I'm not over it," she admitted. "I do not hate or fear Germans any more, but I do not like to be reminded of what happened."

However, after Eva Lassman, the region's Holocaust educator for many years, died in 2011, Carla knew someone had to continue to educate people. Now she speaks in elementary, middle and high schools in Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

"I automatically came into the resistance. I could do it, so I did it. There was a need, and I was able to fill the need," Carla said. "Human nature is about caring. Most people are not selfish."

"I was afraid, but not afraid enough not to do it," she said. "Others also risked their lives. We needed to protect people. I did what I could to help."

Carla is a member of Spokane's Reform congregation, Emanu-El, and participates with Temple Beth Shalom, such as in planning Yom HaShoah.

For information, call 532-1037 or email copeperzak@gmail.com.



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## Yom HaShoah service is April 7

Continued from page 1

force as it has confronted white supremacists and other forms of bigotry in the region.

The observance includes reading the winning middle and high school entries in the Eva Lassman Memorial Creative Writing Contest. The theme was chosen so students would learn about resistance to the Holocaust, in which

Nazis exterminated 6 million Jews and 5 million other people, including Romani, Communists, disabled people, homosexuals and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Despite odds, people did resist. Essay writers also address ways to prevent genocide and hatred, and how to support people who suffer.

For information, call 747-3044 or visit [spokanetbs.org](http://spokanetbs.org).

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# North Idaho foster family program involves congregations, birth families

By Kaye Hult

To support North Idaho's hard-to-place foster children, their birth families and foster families through partnering with faith communities, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare initiated a new program, One Church, One Child (OCOC), a year ago. Jennifer Bokma is developing the program on a one-year contract.

"The goal of the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) is reunification," she said. "While placing a child in foster care may be appropriate, the hope is that the children can go back to their families as soon as possible."

Along with recruiting individuals and families in 37 faith communities to be licensed foster parents and/or adoptive parents, she offers families training in communication and resources. Social workers make referrals.

Jennifer asks congregations to recruit foster families and help them meet needs of foster children and their birth families. That support helps increase positive outcomes for these children, she said.

One goal is to have a 10 percent increase in the number of foster parents by 2014. The program is close to that goal now, she said.

A second goal is to have better outcomes for the children aging out of foster care at age 18.

For her orientation in May 2012, Jennifer took a Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) course, developed by the Child Welfare League of America.

The course strengthens the quality of family foster care and adoption services by developing resources for foster and adoptive families as partners in child protection.

During the course, she met Heidi and Randy, parents of a blended family with six children. They felt called by God to be foster parents. They had thought about being foster parents, but thought it would be after their six children were grown.

Two years ago, after an evangelist held a revival at their church, New Life Community Church in Rathdrum, the couple decided to "put our feet to what was happening in our hearts."

Because their finances made them ineligible to adopt, they looked at foster care. They talked with each other and their children, and they prayed.

"Through the Holy Spirit's leading, it became clear that foster



Jennifer Bokma and Heidi Photo by Kaye Hult

care was our calling," said Heidi, who delivered their application to DHW on Valentine's Day 2012.

The DHW sent them to the five-week PRIDE course. They learned about the types of interactions they might have with a child's biological parents, and about effects of abuse and drug abuse on foster children. They expected a six-week wait, but had a call the next day.

"That shows how much need there is for foster parents," Heidi said. "The need is great in Kootenai County, and even greater in the more rural Shoshone County."

In less than a year, she and Randy have had five placements, all from families with drug issues. The current child, "Nathaniel" is medically fragile, requiring round-the-clock care. His mother is in jail. As positive people who believe in the Holy Spirit's healing power, they do not let Nathaniel's illness define him.

"We're committed to him for as long as he is in our home," Heidi said. "We love him as we love all the children placed here, even those placed with us just a few days or weeks. One child spent the time in a neo-natal intensive care unit, and I visited there every day."

"Fostering is hard, not romantic. We couldn't have done it without our church," she affirmed.

When they met at the PRIDE class, Jennifer told Heidi about One Church, One Child, and they opted to involve their church.

New Life's support exemplifies how churches can help a foster family. One member, Una Hamilton, runs the church's clothing closet, open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesdays. The church's We've Got Stuff ministry

provides necessities for families transitioning from homelessness into apartments—beds, dressers, silverware, plates and utensils.

The church's associate pastor, David Warnick, is glad that Heidi and others in the congregation "have chosen to reach out through the mission of foster care." He teaches that everyone has their oikos or personal sphere of influence, where they are called to do ministry.

When Jennifer learned Heidi and Randy did not have a camera to take photos of Nathaniel, she connected them with an organization that would provide one, so his birth mother and biological family can keep connected to him.

Last year, when New Life Community Church held Orphan Sunday, Jennifer provided a "Heart Gallery," a display of professional photographs of youth who are free to be adopted.

The adoption rate for those youth is 87 percent, she said—higher than normal. When children leave the Heart Gallery, they receive their portraits.

Soon, she will circulate the gallery at the women's Bible study, and then through Region I Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints churches.

One Church, One Child in Idaho is part of the national One Church, One Child, founded in 1980 by Fr. George Clements in Chicago. There, the program primarily served African-American families. Idaho's program includes older youth, sibling groups and children with special needs.

Jennifer's position came about through a grant from the Corporation for National Community Service. The three-year grant can be

extended, but she will soon leave, and another person will take her place for the second year.

As a girl, she said, she was "shy but observant, aware of injustice and wanting to help right it. I used to befriend the unfriended," she said.

"Growing up Southern Baptist, I would preach to everyone about how they needed to live. Then I went to a liberal arts college and moved away from that," she said.

After college, she worked in the nonprofit sector, and for a while coordinated "Wednesday's Child" on KXLY Radio with Robin Nance, who interviewed children available to be adopted.

Jennifer, who attends Lake City Community Church with her children, took seven years off to take care of her own children, and then worked in mental health programs before coming to DHW's One Church One Child.

She believes people should treat each other fairly, as they want to be treated, without being judgmental.

Her year has helped her realize "there's something bigger than me. I know God loves me and

that matters. "If we feel how much God loves us, we can pass it on to others," she said.

Jennifer values the OCOC program's helping people connect the dots and create supportive partnerships.

For information, call 208-665-8843 or visit [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/AdoptionFosterCareHome/OneChurchOneChild/tabid/2171/Default.aspx](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/AdoptionFosterCareHome/OneChurchOneChild/tabid/2171/Default.aspx).

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# Attorney helps people with disabilities apply for state programs, SSI

Changes in program names, eligibility requirements and application processes confuse and frustrate people with mental and physical disabilities as they seek to access the support they need. So some give up.

Spokane attorney Rose Wear has brought the Homeless Outreach Providing Empowerment (HOPE) program to Spokane to assist people applying for Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) applications.

She works for Chihak & Associates, a disability law firm with offices in Spokane and Seattle. It began the pro bono HOPE program four years ago.

"Many people I work with suffer physical or mental health impairments. Given that applying for Social Security can take nearly two hours, many are simply unable to apply on their own," Rose said. "They can hit a question, become disoriented and give up unless someone helps them."

Rose helps people apply for benefits if there is a question about the status of their claim or they are denied. She helps do follow up and appeals.

The State Disability Assistance has now changed from being called General Assistance-Unemployable to ABD for Aged, Blind and Disabled.

Rose said the short-term, stop-gap state DSHS programs are for people applying for or waiting to be accepted on Social Security or SSI. They provide \$197 a month. People who do not apply, miss a step or do not complete the application process can lose that assistance and medical coverage.

"It takes four to six weeks to be approved for state benefits, but three to 18 months to be approved



Rose Wear provides pro bono assistance at four locations.

for Social Security," said Rose, who began working for Chihak & Associates in Spokane last April. She has office hours at Women's Hearth, 920 W. Second; House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific; Spokane Valley Partners, 10814 E. Broadway, and her office at 505 W. Riverside, Suite 506.

At the agencies where she assists people, the protocol differs.

At House of Charity, a shelter for homeless men, people sign up beginning at 7:30 a.m. Some days she sees three and other days 12.

At the Women's Hearth, a women's drop-in center downtown, she maintains an appointment list with the assistance of staff.

At Spokane Valley Partners, a multi-service center, people drop by to see her when they come for food, clothing or other assistance.

She also does trainings for social service and medical providers in Spokane, Yakima and Wenatchee to help them understand the system and know what is helpful and what is harmful to put in applicants' health notes.

She is also will train congre-

gations and community groups, tailoring sessions to their needs.

Rose, who grew up Catholic in Coeur d'Alene, completed a degree in political science in 2005 at Gonzaga University and graduated from the Gonzaga Law School in 2009.

"I wanted to help people and chose to do it through law," she said. "Despite some negative images of lawyers, we can do good through cases that can change the world for the better."

From 2010 to June 2012, she worked on the state's Unemployment Law Project before starting with Chihak and Associates.

"John Chihak is committed to public service law and wants to help people, so the Seattle office includes a full-time social worker," Rose said.

"My parents taught me to be grateful for what I have," she said. "I believe that, when we are given resources or opportunities

that others don't have, we have an obligation to help people who are less fortunate."

She has helped some clients receive benefits in three months and find stable housing. One woman was able to have surgery she needed.

Those who are denied know they can come back, and Rose will help them appeal, so they are less likely to give up. The program also provides referrals to social services for non-disability needs.

Through the Spokane Valley Lawyers Program and the Spokane County Bar Association, she helps match people with attorneys who will help them for free.

Rose listed several legal assistance programs in Spokane:

- 1) Justice Night from 5 to 7 p.m., first Tuesdays in the Community Building lobby, 35 W. Main Ave., gives free legal advice and referrals on many issues.
- 2) Volunteer Lawyer's Program attorneys help people on non-criminal legal needs. Clients can call from 1 to 5 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays at 324-0144.
- 3) CLEAR is a nonprofit legal referral and advice service available from 9:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m., weekdays at 888-201-1014.
- 4) Gonzaga Law School's

Legal Assistance Clinic serves low-income people older than 60. It can be reached at 313-5791.

Some just need to know what steps to take. Others need support through the whole process.

"It takes a village to help people navigate through the system of multiple providers. It's refreshing to see the collaboration of agencies," said Rose.

She has learned that because law is open to interpretation, it involves counseling people.

"I thought I had decided not to be a counselor," she said, "but to do this work, I need to listen to people to help them find the resources they need."

For information, call 321-1249, email [rose@wadisability.com](mailto:rose@wadisability.com) or visit [www.wadisability.com](http://www.wadisability.com).

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A new Gonzaga University School of Law program provides low-cost family law help as 12 students partner with attorneys from the Spokane County Bar's Volunteer Lawyers Program. With family law one of the highest demand areas, the volunteer lawyers program assists with hundreds of cases each year.

Family Law Attorney and Student Help (FLASH) is a pilot program launched this year by Gonzaga's Center for Law In Public Service (CLIPS) to offer pro bono legal assistance while giving law students hands-on training in an often overlooked area of law.

The program increases the availability of free or low-cost family law, said Matt Fischer, an attorney who leads student-training sessions while students work with cases that impact the community.

"The students' commitment to increasing access to justice early in their careers positions them well as they transition into the practice," said Catherine Brown, director of the CLIPS program.

Individuals needing help from the Volunteer Lawyers Program apply through the Northwest Justice Project's intake and referral service (CLEAR) at <http://nwjustice.org/get-legal-help>. For information, call 313-3771 or e-mail [aparrish@lawschool.gonzaga.edu](mailto:aparrish@lawschool.gonzaga.edu).

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# Making connections is about people power, sharing that empowers

It takes people to make connections. Readers who become sponsors have helped us make connections for 29 years.

The ecumenical and interfaith content in our monthly newspaper, website, social media, annual resource directory and face-to-face gatherings is about people connecting—sharing ideas, insights, projects, ministries of caring, faith and values.

Ecumenical means we are connected with God's whole inhabited earth. Some folks live faithfully, and some don't. When some media play on the worst of human actions related to faith—the sensational, unusual, sexy, conflicts that divide people—it makes faith seem invalid.

Making connections with people who are making a difference empowers us to find our calling. We connect people with stories about the best of human nature, the creative ways people serve. Despite people who do devastating things, many people do miraculous things, bringing healing, protection, reconciliation and restoration. It's human nature to seek solutions, relation-

ships, justice and peace. It's incredible the innovative solutions people of this region to develop. Our media share stories of those solutions, kind acts and risky resistance.

We engage people, spark thinking and invite action so people step beyond being traumatized or paralyzed as victims or bystanders of injustice.

In this issue, we raise awareness on such issues as protecting children, foster care, legal services, L'Arche communities, veterans' struggles and resisting genocide. Themes of welcoming, partnering, caring, forgiving, empowering, understanding, respecting and serving connect the stories.

Events share many efforts to overcome hate and prejudice, to end sexual assaults, to feed the hungry, to nurture children, to learn about global issues, to shop responsibly, to act nonviolently and to care for the earth.

Food banks and feeding programs seek to meet increasing hunger needs. Urban and rural communities from the Cascades to Montana intersect with farmers' markets and community gardens.

Connections in print and online are clear. Each story ends with a phone number, email or website to help people connect. Directory listings invite people to connect on common concerns and interests.

Often people share something with me, and I become a resource, connecting them with someone I interviewed.

Being interfaith, we have differences, but we also share common ground. We connect people to gain insights across our faiths and across the many places we are on our journeys with our faith and values.

Making connections is also about the "Aha!" of connecting ideas. What I see in a story may not be what others see as their lives and faith journeys intersect with the content. It's in God's hands.

Making connections empowers us to speak in solidarity with victims, to empower them to move from survival to share their stories and educate others to keep the cycle of caring going.

The Benefit Breakfast and Lunch are times to gather to share who we are and

to build our base of support. About 350 attended, donating \$17,540 of \$18,500 budgeted. We also have \$15,000 budgeted to come from sponsors, who give throughout the year. We have also set a goal to raise a \$30,000 for our 30th year, to build a legacy fund to support additional staff.

We celebrate our story sharers, sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, board, planners, readers and circulation boosters.

We hope our stories help people think, reflect and connect, so they can be voices of hope in their settings. We hope our readers are inspired to spread excitement about our media with others. Anyone can share extra copies of The Fig Tree, Resource Directories or brochures to introduce The Fig Tree to others. The "Making Connections" video is available at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org).

Through The Fig Tree, we multiply voices to spread more action-inspiring hope. We hope readers will help us multiply our reach and expand readership. Making connections is about people power.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Benefit Speakers

## Sounding Board

Making Connections

### Benefit speakers report how Fig Tree helps them make connections

*The Fig Tree is more than words on a page. It is flesh and blood in our community, said the Rev. Kevin Dow, pastor of Highland Park United Methodist Church and Fig Tree board member, as he introduced speakers during The Fig Tree's 2013 Benefit Breakfast March 13. Their presentations follow. Lunch talks will be in May.*

#### Denise Attwood - Ganesh Himal Trading Co.

When my husband and I started our career in fair trade in 1984, we looked into many quizzical faces as we described how we wanted to create a fair-trade business that would partner with marginalized people in Nepal, provide them with fair wages and long-term trading relationships that would allow them what we all want: the ability to have stability in their lives, to educate their children, to be able to make choices and to care for their communities.



**Sometimes it's hard to connect** with the interested and concerned people. How do you make the connections? How do you find your people, support base and volunteers. If you're lucky, you find The Fig Tree, and that's what happened to us and the fair trade movement in Spokane.

**If you heard about fair trade** in Spokane, it's likely you either heard it from my mom, Joy Attwood, or you read about it in The Fig Tree, which has been reporting about the importance of fair trade since the early 1990s. The Fig Tree has written numerous informative, in depth articles about fair trade, not only on our business but on the many fair trade events and businesses that have grown in the Spokane area.

**The Fig Tree has given area readers** the tools to educate themselves on why and how they can become involved in this movement. They have not only connected us to each other, but also connected us to the Spokane community and the greater world.

Those at The Fig Tree know the community so intimately that they can find stories that aren't even formed yet and help bring them into bloom and to fruition.

**Last October, Mary Stamp called**, asking what Ganesh Himal was up to. It happened that I had an idea a few days before that I had not yet put together.

I told Mary that earlier in the year when I was in Nepal I had had my heart broken. For years our business has provided three-year scholarships so artisans could keep their children in school. When we asked two of the girls who had received scholar-

ships how they liked school their faces lit up telling about school. When we asked what they wanted to do after school, their faces dropped and they said, "We don't know. Our scholarships are finished and we don't know if we will be able to go back to school."

I had to hold back tears, because I could see the potential of these girls.

**So I pondered what to do** and I came up with this idea. It takes only \$5 a month to come up with scholarships for 160 girls who receive them.

Anyone could give \$5. So I called it the Power of Five. I explained this to Mary. Two weeks later The Fig Tree published a story: "Ganesh Himal launches scholarship project to support education for girls in Nepal." Mary described the plan of how \$5 bookmarks would raise funds for scholarships. Not only did The Fig Tree spur us into action, but before we could print bookmarks, a reader from Cheney came to Kizuri to pick up a packet before they were available.

Two weeks ago, I was in Nepal and delivered \$7,300 for the scholarship fund. Now the Power of 5 is well on its way to providing girls with scholarships for all 10 years of their schooling.

**Because of The Fig Tree, there are** far fewer quizzical faces when I describe fair trade with Nepal. There are many more supporters of this movement in the Inland Northwest and there are 160 girls in Nepal whose futures are brighter. That to me is connection.

#### Jan Martinez - Christ Kitchen

Mary Stamp started The Fig Tree working out of her home on a shoestring budget. As I was beginning Christ Kitchen, she was my hero. If she could do it, I might be able to do it, too.

Before Christ Kitchen started, The Fig Tree covered Christ Clinic, a medical clinic for the working poor in Spokane, and people began learning about services for uninsured people. In 1993, I began as a therapist at the clinic and saw women who were from tough and hurting backgrounds, and also extremely isolated.

**Connections were not a part** of their lives. We started a Bible study and a small job training project to bring women into connection. In 1988, we started with one product, pinto beans—still one of our products—and two women from Christ Clinic.

Slowly in the last 15 years we have

grown to 38 women in poverty preparing 39 products we sell throughout the nation.

**The Fig Tree began covering** our little progress as we started this business of selling beans so God could work at the big business of saving lives. Our advertising budget since 1988 has been zero.

**The Fig Tree has connected** our ministry and products with the community. People have discovered us. It has covered our functions, our women's transformation and our ministries' growth. Selling products supports our ministry. Starting as a therapist I had no idea how to sell beans. The Fig Tree has connected us with the community.

So Christ Clinic and Christ Kitchen are grateful for The Fig Tree's ability to see how it could help us, even before we could see it. We are indebted to you.

#### Peggie Troutt - Calvary Soup Kitchen

I am here to share about the connections Calvary Soup Kitchen has made since we have been in operation for three and a half years. From the first article The Fig Tree wrote, we have been getting volunteers monthly, referencing that they read the article in The Fig Tree and want to support us. It has been three years, and volunteers still mention the 2010 article and the most recent article written in January.

**We've made connections** with other church groups, auxiliaries, youth groups, young adults, women's ministries and students from elementary through college.

Many parents bring their children to teach them early about serving in the community. Many say they read about Calvary Soup Kitchen in The Fig Tree. These connections are like leaves that keep growing into beautiful relationships. Many volunteers have become friends and look forward to returning and scheduling on the same dates as their new friends. Some have come and recognized friends they have not seen for years.

**See what The Fig Tree has done** just by sharing with the community what's out there and needing support.

I know much of the community reads The Fig Tree because when donations come in or I get emails, reference is made about seeing the article in The Fig Tree.

We owe much of our success to The Fig Tree. We thank them for their service to the Spokane community. Calvary Soup Kitchen has gone from serving five meals the first Saturday to having served a total of

more than 13,000 meals in the little house next to Calvary Baptist Church.

**Many thought that could not be done.** It takes faith and prayers to keep these ministries going, and I'm sure it takes faith and prayers to keep The Fig Tree going. We thank you for your work to get the word out about faith-driven ministries.

#### John Osborn - Sierra Club and VA Medical Center

At one time, we published using typewriters, press type and light tables. Technology has changed over time and opportunities to create that rough draft of history are more powerful now than before. We often underestimate the amount of the work and labor of love that goes into a periodical that records news.

As a physician and conservationist, I recognize the moral foundation in caring for others and caring for creation.

**The Fig Tree helps underscore** moral connections in both areas—caring for people at the end of life and dealing with ethical conflicts that arise, or caring to restore the Spokane River and acting to remedy the enormous pollution burden in our river. In my work, I have carried the Catholic bishop's Pastoral Letter on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., going office to office, underscoring for policy makers the ethical underpinnings of decisions. Often decisions about water and pollution are seen through the lenses of short-term economics or sheer political power. A message of the Pastoral Letter—and indeed The Fig Tree—is that decisions about water are also moral decisions.

**Those moral connections** at the bedside and streamside are important. Two words Mary used, one is "empowering" and the second is "caring." I would say The Fig Tree, while it makes connections, also empowers with stories giving warning and caring.

**An article in March uplifts** Patty Martin. I know the struggles she faces in a small farming town dealing with data centers of large companies and the diesel particulates from backup generators for the centers.

To tell that story is empowering to Patty, who is singlehandedly challenging air quality rules issued by the Department of Ecology that allowed for the diesel generators. Telling her story is an act of caring by The Fig Tree. As you think about the connections, also think about what The Fig Tree is doing to empower people, and through that empowerment, caring.





## MLK Center plans fund-raising breakfast

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center Annual Benefit Breakfast, featuring keynote speaker Olympic gold medalist Dan O'Brien will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Thursday, April 18, at the Convention Center's Riverside Exhibit Hall D, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Dan won the medal in 1996 as the first American winner in the decathlon since 1976.

Adopted at the age of two and raised with seven other children of racially mixed backgrounds, he overcame adversities throughout his life with self-determination and commitment to become one of the most successful athletes in the history of sports. He is now a motivational speaker.

Freda Gandy, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, said the event is

still seeking sponsors. The center is the 2013 official Bloomsday charity.

For information, call 455-8722, email [fgandy@mlkspokane.org](mailto:fgandy@mlkspokane.org) or visit [mlkspokane.org](http://mlkspokane.org).

## Calendar of Events

- Apr 4-5 • "Biology and the God of Abraham," Faith and Reason Institute lectures, Bill Carroll of Oxford, Thursday, Barbieri Courtroom, Gonzaga Law School, 7 p.m., Friday, College Hall, 4 p.m., 313-6398
- Apr 5 • **Benefit Concert for World Relief**, Crème Tangerine Band, Bing Crosby Theater, 6:30 p.m., [bingcrosbytheater.com/events/347/world-relief-spokane-presents-creme-tangerine](http://bingcrosbytheater.com/events/347/world-relief-spokane-presents-creme-tangerine)
- Apr 6-27 • **Clothesline Project**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Riverpark Square
- Apr 7 • **Yom HaShoah**, Holocaust observance, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 7 p.m., 747-3044
- **What Does the Holocaust Mean to You?** Andrea Lieber, of Dickinson College, Foley Teleconference Room, Gonzaga, 5:30 p.m., 313-6788
- Apr 8 • **"Reconfiguring Jewish Female Space in Judaism,"** Andea Lieber, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m. 313-6788
- Apr 8-13 • **American Indian Heritage Week**, North Idaho College, [nic.edu/events](http://nic.edu/events)
- Apr 8-14 • **Annual Get Lit!** <http://outreach.ewu.edu/getlit>
- Apr 9 • **Women and the Wage Gap:** Not Celebrating Equal Pay Day, workshop, 207 Monroe, Eastern Washington University, 1 p.m., 359-2898
- **Jane Goodall**, McCarthy Center, Gonzaga, 7 p.m.
- Apr 10 • **Our Kids: Our Business**, Convention Center, luncheon 11:30 a.m., training 1:30 to 5 p.m., [ourkidsspokane.org](http://ourkidsspokane.org)
- Apr 11 • **"Girl Rising: One Girl with Courage Is a Revolution,"** documentary, Northwest Peace Corps Association, AMC Riverpark Square, 808 W. Main, 5 p.m., <http://gathr.us/screening/2272>
- Apr 13 • **The Rite of Spring at 100**, composer Donivan Johnson, Ballet by Igor Stravinsky, Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 E. First Ave, 3 p.m., 363-5344, [rebecca.bishop@northwestmuseum.org](mailto:rebecca.bishop@northwestmuseum.org)
- **Annual Lu'au**, "Tour of the Islands," Fieldhouse, Whitworth University, 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. entertainment, [agaspar13@my.whitworth.edu](mailto:agaspar13@my.whitworth.edu)
- Apr 15 • **Global Day of Action on Military Spending**, [slichty@pjals.org](mailto:slichty@pjals.org), [pjals.org](http://pjals.org)
- **NAACP**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 7 p.m.
- Apr 16 • **"Animal Perfection in an Imperfect World,"** Michael Tkacz of Gonzaga University, Foley Teleconference Room, Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 592-0377
- Apr 17 • **Bill Robinson**, Spokane City Forum, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 11:45 a.m., 777-1555
- **"Darwin, Human Distinctiveness and Human Dignity,"** David Calhoun, Foley Teleconference Room, Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 592-0377
- **"Invisible War,"** Downtown Spokane Public Library, 5:15 p.m.
- Apr 18 • **"The Pilgrim's Guide to the Galaxy,"** Chris Baglow of the Notre Dame Seminary, Jepsen at Gonzaga, 7 p.m., 592-0377
- **Spring Service Fair**, Eastern Washington University Office of Community Engagement, Multipurpose Room PUB, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 359-2792, [mayers1@ewu.edu](mailto:mayers1@ewu.edu)
- **"Humanitarian Intervention,"** Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Benefit Breakfast**, Dan O'Brien, Olympic Gold Medalist, Convention Center Riverside Exhibit Hall D, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 7:30 a.m., [mlkspokane.org](http://mlkspokane.org)
- **Renew 2013, "Changed from the Inside Out,"** David Meece Concert benefit for Christ Clinic and Christ Kitchen, Lincoln Center, 1319 N. Lincoln, 7 p.m., [cckrenew.org](http://cckrenew.org), 325-0393
- Apr 18-20 • **Pursuit of Justice Conference:** "Understanding Hatred, Confronting Intolerance, Eliminating Inequality," Gonzaga Law School and other venues at Gonzaga, 313-3665
- Apr 20-28 • **Japan Week** activities in Spokane, opening ceremony, Riverpark Square, 808 W. Main, Saturday, noon, [japanweekspokane.com](http://japanweekspokane.com)
- Apr 20 • **Earth Day Spokane**, Main Street between Browne and Division, Spokane, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., [earthdaysspokane.org](http://earthdaysspokane.org)
- Apr 21 • **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**, 9 a.m., [komeneasternwashington.org](http://komeneasternwashington.org)
- Apr 22 • **Human Rights Banquet**, Gregory Stanton of Genocide Watch, Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, Coeur d'Alene Inn, 414 W. Appleway, 5 p.m., 208-765-3932, [www.idahohumanrights.org](http://www.idahohumanrights.org)
- Apr 23 • **Organ Plus Concert**, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 4 p.m.
- Apr 24 • **"The Invisible War,"** documentary on rape in the military, 207 Monroe Hall, EWU, Cheney, 1 p.m., 359-2898, [cvines@ewu.edu](mailto:cvines@ewu.edu)
- **"Teaching the Holocaust,"** Human Rights Education Institute, 414 W. Mullan Rd., Coeur d'Alene, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 208-292-2359
- Apr 25 • **"China in Africa,"** Eugene Bempong Nyantakyi, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7:30 p.m., 777-4937
- Apr 26 • **Discovering Resiliency Rally**, Mobius Science Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 26, 27 • **Stand Against Racism**, YWCA Spokane and Washington State University, 326-1190, [pattyw@ywcaspokane.org](mailto:pattyw@ywcaspokane.org)
- Apr 27 • **International & Intercultural Communication**, Claudia Bucciferro, visiting professor at Gonzaga University, Little Garden Café, 2901 W. Northwest Blvd., 11 a.m., 313-3572, [ruff@gonzaga.edu](mailto:ruff@gonzaga.edu)
- Apr 27-28 • **Fair Trade Event**, St. Joseph's Parish, 4521 N. Amber, Otis Orchards
- Apr 28 • **CROP Walk**, Spokane Community College Lair, noon, 747-5487
- May 1 • **Fig Tree Distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 14th, 9 a.m.
- May 2 • **Fig Tree Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m.

## SAFeT events inform public on sexual assault

The Sexual Assault and Family Trauma (SAFeT) Response Center has organized events in recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).

For the First Friday Art Walk in Spokane, masks made by survivors of sexual violence will be displayed at galleries, bars and restaurants downtown. For information, visit the Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) in Spokane Facebook.

April 6 to 27 at Riverpark Square, The Clothesline Project will display T-shirts decorated by individuals affected by violence.

At 5:15 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, "The Invisible War," a 2012 Oscar nominated documentary on military sexual assault, will be shown at the Downtown Spokane Public Library.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 26, there will be a Discovering Resiliency rally to celebrate survivors of child abuse and their caregivers at Mobius Science Center.

SAAM is an opportunity to address the effects sexual violence has on society, said Mark Kloehn of LCSNW. This year's campaign focuses on healthy childhood development to prevent child abuse.

The SAFeT Response Center, a program of LCSNW, provides a 24-hour sexual assault crisis line, 624-RAPE (7273).

For information, call 343-5071 or email [mkloehn@lcsnw.org](mailto:mkloehn@lcsnw.org).



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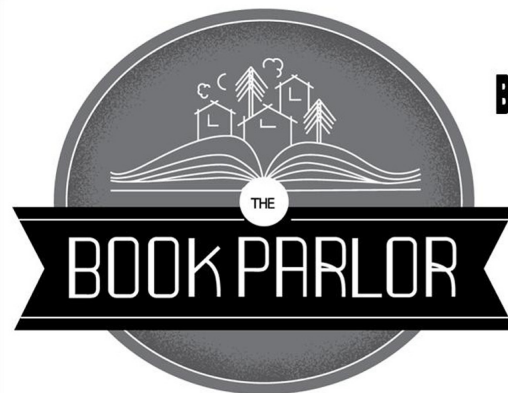
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## Crisis nursery's ongoing work meshes with Our Kid: Our Business

By Evanne Montoya

As Our Kids: Our Business focuses on the role of the community to give children a safe, strong start in life, Amy Knapton, executive director of Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, emphasizes that everyone has a stake in children's lives, and each person can play a positive role.

Our Kids: Our Business (OKOB) began in 2007, when Steven Smith, then editor of the Spokesman-Review, approached people in social service agencies with a plan for April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. He offered one story a day on topics such as the impact of child abuse and neglect, programs to combat it and success stories.

**Media provided coverage,** but found that the daily articles overwhelmed readers, Amy noted.

Leaders in the social agencies met to decide how to complement the news coverage with events. The Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery became involved.

"It was an opportunity to spread the word about what our families and children face," she said.

The program fell under the Spokane Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Council (SPO-CAN), a coalition of organizations, individuals and businesses that seek to prevent child abuse and neglect. Formed in 1987 as the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, it changed its name in 1988.

**Organizers chose the name** Our Kids: Our Business and a pinwheel logo as a symbol of childhood innocence—a toy children love to play with.

The pinwheel shifts the focus from the pain and sadness of abuse, represented by the month's blue ribbon symbol, to every child's right to be healthy and successful.

OKOB events raise awareness in the community so people act.

"It's not just about our partners, social service providers or educators," Amy said, "Who will lead our community—be our mayor, our doctors and our lawyers? We all have a stake in being sure our children grow up healthy."

**This year Robin Karr-Morse,** author of *Ghosts from the Nursery* and *Scared Sick* will share her research on effects of adverse childhood experiences at the 11:30 a.m. luncheon and training from 1:30 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 10, at the Spokane Convention Center.

Robin says traumatic experiences in childhood affect health. Often society sets after-the-fact solutions and invests in larger prisons, she said.

"If we give children support and resources they need, will they be okay?" asked Amy. "Children



Amy Knapton says pinwheels on nursery porch are way to welcome.

need a fair start so they come to school ready to learn with their stomachs full, a place to sleep at night and freedom from violence at home.

"How do we involve our legislators, city council and business leaders to invest in the outcomes for our children?" she asked.

**Investing in children** as individuals can have an impact, she said. People can be the support system for children through the neighborhood, church or school.

Mentoring a child an hour a week, volunteering to read at a school or helping a neighborhood parent are ways anyone can help.

Even small actions, such as encouraging a parent in a grocery store, can help. Parents tend to be hard on themselves when they have a child having a tantrum in a store. They assume the world is looking at them and judging,

when the stares may mean, "Oh, I remember those days."

Showing support in that situation can affirm a parent. Amy suggests asking the child what's going on or saying to the mother, "Hang in, we've all been there."

"Never underestimate the power of what we can do as individuals," she said.

**Amy's story of serving children** is a testament to that power.

She grew up in a family of faith and has held onto that faith, believing God led her into social work and her current position.

She moved often, but called Montana home, attending the University of Montana in Missoula, first majoring in business. That program did not fit.

While trying to figure out what she wanted, she volunteered for Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

In the interview, she became

intrigued with the interviewer's job and thought social work sounded interesting. She found it a natural fit.

After earning a bachelor's in social work in 1996, Amy moved to Spokane. A former supervisor in her undergraduate work had been a social worker at the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, so Amy applied there, thinking graveyard shifts at the nursery would be a short-term job.

**She found God** had different plans. One Sunday she added a shift, hoping to interact with the children more, because night shifts rarely give that opportunity. A new mother called, asking to bring in her child with autism.

"Because of confidentiality, a family doesn't usually come into the nursery, but we had no children that day, so we let her come and stay four hours until she felt comfortable," Amy said.

This mother dispelled Amy's ideas about who uses a crisis nursery. She had a husband, stayed at home and had a support system, but did not have a place to bring her child for a break.

After conversing, the woman left with her child, promising to return if she needed help. A month later she came. When Amy talked about her initial visit, she said she had intended to leave her son and commit suicide.

**"That was my 'Aha' moment,"** Amy said. "The nursery is more than just keeping children safe. We're about the whole family."

That moment made her feel there was a reason she was there. As Amy went from graveyard

shift to executive director, she earned her master's in social work at Walla Walla University.

While the nursery is not a faith-based organization, Amy often meets informally with team members to pray and believes in the power of prayer.

"That's why I can do this position," she said. "It's not me making this place successful, but somebody else has control over that. I just do God's work."

**At the nursery, Amy sees** firsthand its impact on children from birth to six and their families. Some return to say thank you.

One woman, who came to the nursery as the child of a single, working mother, returned three years ago, when she was 18, and said, "I want you to know that some of the happiest memories of my childhood were here."

Amy said the nursery pulls children out of stress, anxiety and whatever is happening in the family to have a good time in a safe place.

A single father of three returns each year with a Christmas card picture of him and his children.

"We helped him through a hard time," Amy said.

No matter the parents' circumstance, the nursery receives and supports them.

**"For parents, we're a place** of release and safety, meeting them with non-judgmental, open arms," she said.

"It's a place to feel surrounded by friends and family," she said.

For information call 535-3155, email [amy@vanessabehan.org](mailto:amy@vanessabehan.org) or visit [www.ourkidsspokane.org](http://www.ourkidsspokane.org).

One of these women  
is terminally ill.  
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