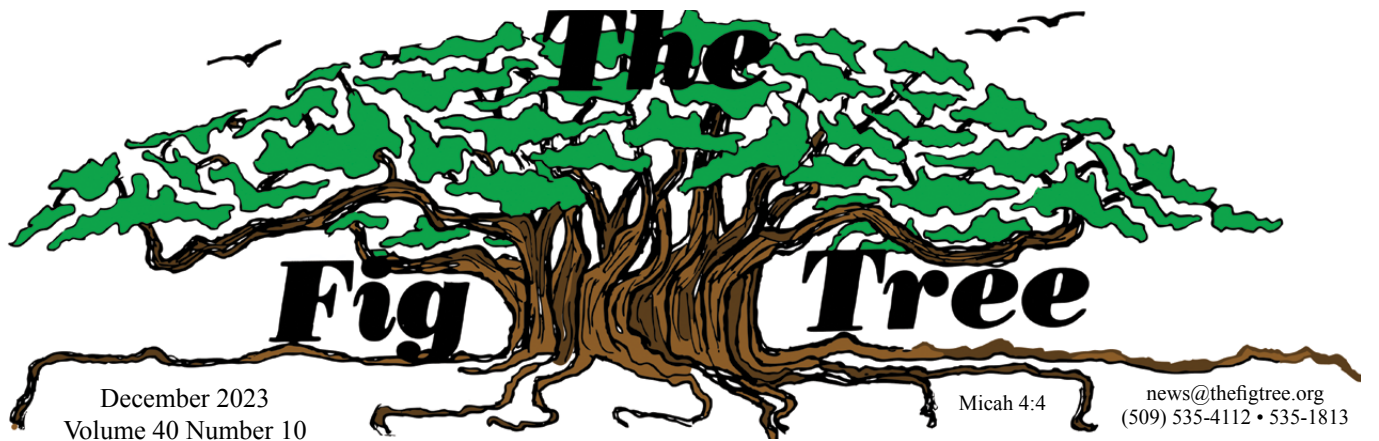


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FEATURES 85 EVENTS



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest
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Pastor establishes legacy in ministry

By Mary Stamp

As Pastor CW (Chet) Andrews approaches his 50th year as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Spokane and his 62nd year in ministry, at 87 he may be the oldest and longest-serving pastor in Spokane when he celebrates that anniversary in May 2024.

In February, Calvary Baptist will celebrate 134 years since it was founded in 1890. One week its founders were sitting in the balcony of First Baptist Church of Spokane Falls and the next week they started their own church. They met in three other locations before settling at 203 E. Third.

It is the oldest African-American church in Spokane and in the state.

Chet, the 14th pastor, has set in place ministry leadership for the future, mentoring and ordaining several in his congregation and family to serve as ministers at Calvary and other churches.

• Son-in-law Amos Atkinson, assistant pastor, was called to ministry and licensed in 2002. He was ordained in 2003. Along with on-the-job training, he studied online at Kaplan University in Florida from 2008 to 2013 and is working on a master's in theology



The Rev. Dr. CW (Chet) Andrews and his wife Doris continue to serve Calvary Baptist.

at Grand Canyon University.

Amos, who served in the military 24 years and has retired from work with the state and with local police, is now also the business and workforce program developer at the Carl Maxey Center.

At Calvary, he is responsible for preaching once a month, counseling and working with deacons, deaconesses, trustees, choirs and the soup kitchen.

• Chet's daughter Lyn Andrews Watkins, associate minister and administrative minister, has been employed as a supervisor with the state's Department of Children, Youth and Families for 24 years. She and her husband, Deacon John Watkins, teach a Wednesday evening Bible study Zoom class.

• Lyn and her cousin, Patanisha Andrews, were mentored by Chet, licensed in 2018 and ordained in August 2020. Patanisha now serves her home church, Second Baptist in Everett.

Lyn prepares the preaching schedule, which also includes deacons. For example, In November, Chet preached the first Sunday, Deacon Gerald Kennedy, the second Sunday, Lyn, the third Sunday and Amos, the fourth

Continued on page 4

Ageism affects health, wellbeing of younger, as well as older adults

Natalie Tauzin's positive experiences with her parents' and grandparents' aging lend insights for her work as healthy aging specialist at the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD), where she seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of older adults.

Recently the SRHD named ageism as an issue affecting people's health.

Natalie valued hearing her grandparents' stories of living in and leaving their homelands,

settling in the U.S. and living through the Depression.

Her paternal grandmother from the Basque area and grandfather from central France met after landing in Los Angeles.

Natalie's maternal grandparents were French Canadian farmers in Ontario.

"Both were resourceful. Their stories helped me understand the past and reminded me when I hit obstacles to be resilient," said Natalie.

"My paternal grandmother,

a storyteller, had a twinkle in her eye as she told about her life as a child and young adult," recalled Natalie, who also feels privileged that her parents kept physically active as they aged, beginning jogging in their 40s and running marathons.

Her parents did their own house cleaning and yard work, living in Los Angeles close to family and friends. At 87, her mother lives in her own home, pays her bills, shops for groceries and does lawn bowling.

"Having personal ties with people from different generations helps dispel ageism," she said. "Equally important is awareness of and self-reflection on ageism as a form of discrimination."

Natalie began working on aging with the SRHD in early 2023. As a registered dietitian with a master's degree in public health from the University of California Los Angeles, she knows that good nutrition and physical activity are just part of what helps people age in a healthy way.

Continued on page 6

'Renewing Our Hope' is conference theme

The 2024 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference gathers multifaith and nonprofit leaders sharing insights on issues on the theme. "Renewing Our Hope for the Future" is the theme they will address in sessions from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, both in person at the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond Rd., and on Zoom.

The first plenary includes young adults from Gonzaga University, Washington State University and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane.

A plenary panel exploring environmental justice and climate change issues includes Naghmana Sherazi of The Lands Council, Tom Soeldner of the Sierra Club and two others.

Morning workshops are understanding hate crimes with the NAACP, refugee/immigrants with the Washington State Immigrant Solidarity Network, health and environment with the Emergency Management of Spokane County, housing issues with the Tenants Union, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium and Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, voting rights and indigenous issues.

Surrounding the hall during lunch, there will be 20 displays.

An afternoon panel features faith leaders including Gen Heywood of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, Sr. Pat Millen OSF of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Karen Stromgren of Muslims for Community Action and support, and Rob McCann, CEO of Catholic Charities.

The final plenary offers briefings on issues before the legislature by Faith Action Network, Washington State Catholic Conference and Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light.

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

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WCC executive committee makes statements

The executive committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) met Nov. 8 to 14 in Abuja, Nigeria, and approved a 2024 budget and plans, and set a Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity. They released four public statements and discussed ways to accompany member churches.

To look at the legacy of nuclear testing and climate change, the WCC held on a pilgrimage to the Marshall Islands Nov. 16 to 24. While nuclear weapons have not been used since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, extensive testing in the Pacific was conducted by the United States, the United Kingdom and France until 1996.

Consequences remained invisible and unaddressed, while victims suffer the impacts on their health and degradation of their environment. Few people have received compensation.

The pilgrimage raises awareness of ongoing impacts and demonstrates solidarity with citizens and member churches. The WCC team hopes to establish support and advocacy strategies, putting needs and priorities of the affected people first. Heading the WCC delegation is Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson of the United Church of Christ in the U.S.

In his report, WCC general secretary Jerry Pillay said, in the struggle for peace and justice in the world, the WCC works for justice, reconciliation and unity: "It is easy to be discouraged and to lose hope in the midst of turbulent experiences and disruptions. Let us continue to work with God to make the world a better place for all people and creation."

The executive committee released four statements.

• **The WCC demands an immediate ceasefire** and opening humanitarian corridors in Palestine and Israel.

"We yearn for peace and for justice, for an end to the seemingly endless cycle of violence and suffering, and for its fundamental root causes to be addressed. We lament the abject failure of the international community and political leaders in the region who did not persist in the search for a sustainable peace founded on justice and mutual respect for the equal human dignity and rights of all, and who kept the cycle of violence turning."

The WCC governing body also lifted before God the suffering and traumatized people in the land of Jesus Christ's birth.

"We highlight the lifelong, potential intergenerational consequences of the terrible trauma that children in both Palestine and Israel are experiencing," the text reads. "We pray for peace in the land, a sustainable and just peace founded at last on recognition and respect for the God-given human dignity and equal human rights of all people—Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Muslims and Christians alike—rather than a false 'peace' imposed by occupation and force of arms which cannot and should not be sustained."

• **The WCC called for an international response** to needs of Nagorno-Karabakh refugees. Armenian people and churches urgently need "a generous international response to the humanitarian needs of refugees who fled from Nagorno-Karabakh, especially women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those without any means of support," the WCC stated after reviewing the report of a WCC visit to Armenia Sept. 18 to 22.

The statement "expresses solidarity with Armenian people and churches" and urges the government of Azerbaijan to guarantee security and equal rights for ethnic Armenian people who remain or decide to return to their homes.

• **The WCC calls on the 28th Conference of the Parties** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in the United Arab Emirates "to courageously address the fossil fuel industry and their responsibility towards people and planet. COP28 is pivotal for the future of the living planet, our common home and for our children and future generations." It calls for climate justice in vulnerable, low-income nations with funding for losses and damages.

• **The WCC also calls for COP28 to rapidly deliver** climate finance to give climate-vulnerable nations and communities a chance to adapt to consequences of climate change. It must provide \$100 billion a year for the Green Climate Fund as grants not loans.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree continues fund drive, sets benefits

As of Thanksgiving, The Fig Tree's 2023 Fall Festival of Sharing, which ran through the end of November, raised more than \$13,200 of its goal of \$20,000 budgeted for sponsors by the end of the year.

The fall drive invites new sponsors and renewing sponsors to donate to support its mission of solutions journalism and resource connections.

The first months of 2024 The Fig Tree will focus on organizing and holding its Benefit Lunch in person from 11:30 to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, and its online Breakfast-time Benefit from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., Wednesday, March 13 on Zoom.

With a business plan like public broadcasting, The Fig Tree relies on the support of donors who give from a \$20 basic sponsorship to a \$2,500 underwriting gift.

Board of Directors members provided \$4,000 in matching gifts to draw the first donors.

For information, visit thefigtree.org/donate.html.

The Fig Tree plans to celebrate 40 years in Spring 2024 at the Benefit events in March and a Gala Anniversary Event from 5 to 8 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at the Cathedral of St. John.

"Sharing Stories: Empowering People" is the theme.

The Fig Tree will share articles on its history, journalism approach, volunteers and staff.

For the Gala, Karen Georgia Thompson, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ and a member of the World Council Central Committee, will share about the unique role of The Fig Tree in ecumenical communications.

The event will include interfaith worship, dinner and a panel of faith leaders discussing the unique role of The Fig Tree in strengthening communication, ecumenism and common action among the churches.

For information, call 535-4112 or visit thefigtree.org.

Daffodils planted around synagogue

During October, members of Congregation Emanu-El and Temple Beth Shalom planted daffodil bulbs around the synagogue as part of the global Holocaust memorial project, "Daffodil Project," reported Leah Berkowitz of the synagogue.

The Daffodil Project is committed to Holocaust and genocide education and awareness through action.

Across the world, synagogues, churches, schools, city parks and botanical gardens planted 861,000 daffodils so far in remembrance of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust.

The yellow color represents the yellow stars Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust and is the color of remembrance, Leah said. Daffodils are resilient, returning each spring

with their bright color signifying hope, renewal and beauty. The daffodils also honor those who survived the Holocaust and went on to build new lives.

When they bloom in the spring they will send a message of hope and resilience so that people will act for a more just world today.

For information, call 747-3304 or visit spokanets.org or thedaffodilproject.net.

Podcast addresses domestic violence

A recent Gathering for Good podcast through the Women Helping Women Fund highlighted Jemma Riedel-Johnson from YWCA, speaking about actions during Domestic Violence Action Month.

Her presentation is at [rss.com/podcasts/whwfspokane/1153642](https://www.whwfspokane.com/podcasts/whwfspokane/1153642).

In addition, the Women Helping Women Fund provides scholarships to Spokane area women

juggling the cost of tuition and childcare while they study at trade schools, in technical programs, or for associate or bachelor degrees at local colleges and universities.

Scholarships from \$1,500 to \$4,000 are based on academic merit, character and financial need.

The scholarships are named for Vivian Winston, who was a pioneer in social justice, who

championed the cause of women and children, served as a member of Spokane's League of Women Voters from its inception in 1948 and was the first woman president of Spokane United Way in 1969.

Scholarship applications are open through Jan. 31, 2024, with recipients notified by early April 2024.

For information, visit [whwfspokane.org/scholars](https://www.whwfspokane.org/scholars).

Riverkeeper announces leadership team

The Spokane Riverkeeper has announced its new leadership team, who begin in January 2024, retaining staff members Katherine (Katie) Thompson, and Jule Schultz, and adding Katelyn Scott.

The new co-leadership team model shares the roles filled by outgoing executive director

Jerry White Jr. as Riverkeeper or Waterkeeper to protect the Spokane River.

Long-time program director, Jule, will assume the role of Waterkeeper and focus on connecting local communities to the Spokane River. He will lead the community science and salmon recovery programs, and manage the growing river cleanup program.

Katelyn, a practicing attorney, who grew up in the Greater Spokane area, will assume the role of water protector and manage the clean water defense and the river flow programs to guide the organization in an age of rapid climate change and threats from

urban expansion. She will use her legal experience to leverage existing law to give the Spokane River a voice at the centers of power.

Katie, who is currently managing director, joins Jule, and Katelyn to form an executive leadership team.

A co-leadership team model will share executive decision-making to maximize the strengths of staff members as Spokane Riverkeeper provides leadership from a team to diversify the organization's skills, knowledge and perspectives.

For information, call 464-7614 or visit spokaneriverkeeper.org.

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Palouse groups present Fair Trade Craft Sale

Just Trade and the Interfaith Connection of the Palouse will present a Fair Trade Craft Sale and Benefit from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, and from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at Simpson United Methodist Church, 325 NE Maple St. in Pullman. Crafts from around the world include jewelry, baskets and musical instruments. Half of the profit will go to the English language instruction fund for refugees in Pullman area.

For information, email nyd@roadrunner.com.

Habitat dedicates home for family Dec. 7

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane will hold a home dedication from noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7, at 5617 E. Union in Spokane. Habitat will present keys for an affordable home to the Alshaar family and the home they helped build will be open to tour.

For information, call 534-2552 or email rsvp@habitat-spokane.org.

First Presbyterian hosts Messiah Sing-a-long

The 2023 Handel's Messiah Sing-a-long at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, will be start at 5:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested.

Reservations are required to join in the Sing-a-long Choir rehearsal from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Music scores will be available. The church has presented Handel's Messiah as a sing-along since 1910, except during the pandemic.

The conductor is church music director Derrick Parker. Soloists will be Heather Parker, soprano; Amanda Glover, alto; Joel Cummings, tenor, and John Frankhauser, bass.

For information, visit spokanefpc.org/messiah. It includes a YouTube link for a livestream of this event.

Harmony Woods staff lead retreat on Dec. 9

"Into Divine Embrace: Letting Go into Your Unfolding" is a retreat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 at Harmony Woods Retreat Center.

The retreat, co-led by Lindsay Daehlin, therapist and Reiki master, and Christi Ortiz, spiritual director and meditation teacher, will be a day of meditation, breathwork, Reiki attunements, QiGong immersion in nature and therapeutic practices.

For information, email lindsay@wellnesstherapiesspokane.com or visit harmonywoods.org/events.

Temple Beth Shalom celebrates Chanukah

Temple Beth Shalom will celebrate a community Chanukah at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1322 E. 30th Ave.

There will be candle lighting, games for kids, adult socializing. They are hosting a drive for gloves, hats, scarves and socks for homeless adults. Reservations requested.

For information, visit spokanetsb.org

German Christmas Service will be Dec. 17

The annual German Christmas Service will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, at 24th and Grand Blvd. in Spokane. The ecumenical service has been held at St. Mark's most years since 1998.

This service features the Concordia Choir singing traditional Christmas selections. The Scripture readings will also be in German, the language that Martin Luther spoke.

The Christmas message will be given in English by Edwin Weber, the pastor at St. Mark's.

Following the service, the German-American Society will serve coffee and cake at 25 W. Third Ave.

For information, call 747-6677.

Fig Tree receives Holy Names Sisters grant

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary U.S.-Ontario (SNJM) awarded a ministry grant of \$3,885 to The Fig Tree for 2023-24.

They funded 40 proposals doing collaborative ministries that reflect their charism and values. That was 18 more than last year, with eight sisters and 10 associates partnering.

The total requests were greater than the amount budgeted, so the funds were apportioned.

The Sisters of the Holy Names

of Jesus and Mary have been a partner with The Fig Tree since its founding in 1984 by the late Bernadine Casey SNJM and Mary Stamp who worked together for many years as co-editors. Sr. Bernadine died in 2006.

Since then other sisters have assisted in different ways, including Mary Ann Farley SNJM, who served on the board, and Catherine Ferguson SNJM, who currently serves on the board, helps with development, volunteers at events, helps with editing

and writes articles.

"We value our partnership in this ministry with the Sisters of the Holy Names throughout the years," said Mary.

"As we approach our 40th anniversary in 2024, we will be sharing more details about that relationship and how important the sisters have been in our existence and our sustenance," she added.

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

Second Harvest seeks monthly donors

Because hunger doesn't happen only during the holidays, Second Harvest Inland Northwest invites the community to join Feed365, a hunger crusade to build a hunger-free community that provides hope for children, families and seniors by assuring nutritious food year-round.

Feed365 invites people to become monthly donors to create a reliable source of year-round funding for healthful, fresh meals.

Those who don't know where their next meal is coming from face uncertainty that can be alleviated by those who eat three

meals a day every day.

Reliable monthly gifts are the lifeblood of many organizations, and Second Harvest is no different, said Shannon Kinney, philanthropy manager.

"Consistent funding allows us to plan, schedule deliveries and pick up donated food, knowing we'll have the fuel to get us there. Consistent funding means Mobile Market free food distributions will serve neighbors in communities throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho, rain or shine. Consistent funding means nutritious food gets into the hands of families turning to food banks for help," she said.

Feed365 provides consistent impact, convenience and efficiency. Monthly donations are a stable source of funding for programs across Second Harvest. There is no need to set reminders or mail in a check; contributions are automatic and convenient, managed through Second Harvest's website.

A reduction in administrative costs ensures a larger portion of gifts can go directly to support hunger relief programs, maximizing efficiency.

For information, call 252-6242, email feed365@2-harvest.org or visit 2-harvest.org/donate-monthly.

Fig Tree speaker heads national church

Karen Georgia Thompson was installed as general minister and president of the United Church of Christ (UCC) on Oct. 20 at Lakewood Congregational in Ohio. She is the first woman to hold this post.

Karen Georgia will be the featured speaker for The Fig Tree's 40th anniversary on Sunday, April 28, at the Cathedral of St. John in Spokane.

Merlyn Hyde Riley, WCC central committee vice-moderator and a pastor, offered a sermon celebrating Karen Georgia as someone called by God into leadership.

"This is a historic moment in the UCC. God has called into leadership an African-American woman, someone from a group of people historically displaced, dispossessed and disenfranchised," she said.

chised," she said.

"Given that oppressors usually believe it is in their interest to maintain the status quo, God is making all things new," she said.

"Barriers are broken down. Domination is set aside. False claims are exposed. Victims are made to conceive of new possibilities," said Merlyn. "The church must provide leadership for the transformation of our world, but transformation is not always quick or easy.

"This may often appear to be an impossibility," she said, "but we should remember that the same God who makes a wave in the sea and gives water in the wilderness continues to be with us."

Karen Georgia responded: "We are the church in all its manifestations. We are but a fraction of what it means and what it is to be the people of God."

For information, visit ucc.org and watch for information on The Fig Tree's 40th anniversary.



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2024 Benefit Events

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Breakfast-Time - Wednesday, March 13
Program: 7:45-8:45 a.m. - Zoom
Featuring recent stories of people whose lives have been transformed by the directory.
There is no charge to attend the event.
Guests are asked to donate to The Fig Tree
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2024 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference
'Renewing Hope for the Future'

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
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PLenary ON THE ENVIRONMENT
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Family active in Calvary Baptist Church's ministry and music

Continued from page 1
Sunday.

• Others on Calvary's ministerial staff are associate ministers, Robert Robinson and Dwan Brown. Robert joined the church 15 years ago, and Dwan has been at Calvary 40 years.

• Chet is now mentoring granddaughter Nydia (Notty) Campbell-Pullom, who is the daughter of his son Kenny.

• Earlier, Chet mentored and ordained his oldest son, Chester Jr. in 2001. Chester earned a doctoral degree in organizational leadership from Keiser University in Fort Lauderdale and a master's in business from Fontbonne University in St. Louis. He is working on a master's in pastoral studies at Huntsville Bible College.

Chester Jr., who has worked with defense contractors since the 1980s, is assistant pastor of Freeman Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Moulton, Ala., near where his father grew up.

• Chet also mentored and ordained into ministry Grant Montoya, who now is an English immersion teacher and active in the Harbin International Christian Fellowship in Harbin, China; Luc Jasmin, who started a bilingual church, Maranatha/Jasmin Ministries, in Spokane, and numerous others.

• In 1989, he ordained Calvary's and Spokane's first African-American woman pastor, Rachell Williams.

As Chet's wife for 64 years, Doris is Calvary's first lady. The couple have 14 great-grandchildren, 14 grandchildren and five adult children, four of whom currently share in the leadership and ministry at Calvary.

Three of their children are active in the church's music ministry. Growing up, they sang together as a family at home—with Darrell on drums and Chester on the piano—and in the church.

Son Darrell, who lives with and cares for his parents, is the chief usher, a trustee and provides building and grounds maintenance.

He sings in the men's chorus along with Kenny, who has a restaurant near Newport, caters for the church and community, and sings for sporting events.

Dana Andrews Atkinson, who married Amos in 2000, is the minister of music. She has been in the church all but 10 years of her life. Shortly after she returned to Spokane in 1994, her father appointed her as music director.

Calvary has no pianist, so accompaniment for songs is with CD music, including recordings her organist-pianist brother Chester sends from Alabama.

The Calvary choir has 12 to 20 singing each Sunday.

"I'm proud of how my family works together in the church," Chet said.

A strong supporter of Chet, Doris said her husband's November sermon was "a wonderful, spirit-filled message that edified the church." She added praises for the music, saying there was "foot stomping and hand clapping" that inspired her "to the point of tears."

Chet, who is still pastoring, but less active, does much counseling by phone from home or going to a restaurant to meet with people to talk, advise and pray.

"He loves people. If they call, he visits on the phone or meets them in person. He's a people person," said Doris. "That's where his heart is, concerned that things go smoothly at the church and soup kitchen."

Attendance has been about the same through the years, about 85 regularly and 100 for special events. During the pandemic, services were on Zoom for two years.

"If the church is open, we

don't always do Zoom, but when we shut the church because of smoke from the summer wildfires, we offered worship for two Sundays on Zoom," Chet said.

Some Sundays it's recorded and on Facebook. Amos said Calvary is buying equipment to offer the service livestream regularly for those who cannot come.

While there are many older people in the congregation, Chet said there are more younger people, and the church is becoming more a mix of Blacks and whites.

"We welcome whoever comes to hear about Christ crucified and work to build God's kingdom," Chet said.

One outreach is a community garden on 50th Ave. Members plant, cultivate, harvest and clean it up, bringing produce to share at the church.

They also share with students from Whitworth University, which has a partnership with Calvary and awarded Chet an honorary doctorate. For 19 years, Chet taught classes there.

Over the years, Calvary also served the poor and marginalized from its storehouse ministry, providing clothing and food out of the former parsonage, where it now runs its weekly soup kitchen.

In the community, Chet has also served in the Spokane Minister's Fellowship and the Police Advisory Committee.

"The Lord has been gracious to us, blessed our work and kept us humble as we work in God's vineyard to build God's Kingdom," said Chet, who grew up the youngest of 17 children of sharecroppers in the Red Hills of Alabama near Selma.

While his family received little from sharecropping, they managed, supplementing with cooking and cleaning work.

"We knew how to survive," he said.

In contrast to Chet, who grew

up in the midst of segregation, Doris moved from New Orleans to Yakima when she was five and attended an integrated school.

They met at church when he moved to Yakima with Western Electric, his employer for about 20 years.

Western moved him to Spokane. Ten years later, he decided to stay here rather than be transferred with Western to New York.

Chet accepted what Calvary could pay over the years. Doris

helped support the family with full-time work at Spokane Falls Community College.

Calvary affiliates with the American Baptist and National Baptist USA denominations, and it spun off Morningstar Missionary Baptist and New Hope Baptist, as well as Maranatha, also making the church's legacy and influence wider than those who come through its doors.

For information, call 294-1636 or visit calvarybaptist-churchspokane.com.

Group recruits churches

Spokane Homeless Coalition invites faith communities to open their buildings to serve as temporary shelters during the coldest days/months. Staff would be by local service providers and volunteers.

The hope would be that participating faith communities could house 10-12 unhoused neighbors. Jewel's Helping Hands and the City of Spokane would handle insurance.

The goal is to keep homeless community members warm and safe, build community, make good use of buildings, collaborate with local service provider staff and volunteers, and maintain simple rules.

Options for participating include sheltering 10-20 people on

coldest days/months, one week a month, allowing safe parking for others, provide food, volunteers, transportation or other basic resources to support other warming center sites.

For information on site set-up and operation, email jewelshelpinghandsspokane@gmail.com. For volunteer and intake coordination, email christian@slihc.org

RANGE Media raise investigative journalism challenges in Spokane

By Mary Stamp

For three-and-a-half years, RANGE Media—a newsletter, website, email stories and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Reddit)—have been doing investigative reporting in Spokane and the greater Inland Northwest with three to five news stories a week.

The full-time team of four plus several freelance writers own RANGE Media as part of the Spokane Workers Cooperative, which assures them a living wage and democratic control of their workplace.

RANGE founder, writer, editor and organizer Luke Baumgarten said the publication seeks to tell stories that build community and civic involvement. He wants writers to have a long-term commitment to Spokane because RANGE is “a media organization for people who love the Inland Northwest and want to make it better.”

RANGE provides coverage that spotlights perspectives of people in marginalized communities.

Luke believes news and access to information are vital for civic engagement and complex conversations needed to move people from disempowerment to hold the powerful accountable.

“RANGE is action-oriented journalism that serves people where they are and gives everyone the tools to demand better,” he said.

Luke’s ideas today about the role of media are a shift from his early years.

He grew up in a working-class family in the country—Chattaroy—and in a culture of not reading newspapers, not being informed about the issues that shaped his community.

“I did not understand the importance of journalism,” he commented.

After graduating from Riverside High School and completing a degree in English in 2003 at Gonzaga University, he did what he called the “rite of passage” of moving to Seattle for a year and then returning to Chattaroy, where he started a blog on arts, culture and music, unsure what was next.

Luke began freelancing for several local newspapers, including the Sandpoint Reader and The Inlander. In 2005, The Inlander hired him to cover music.

In 2008, Luke was editor of The Inlander’s arts and culture section. That same year, he joined Ginger Ewing and some friends to co-found Terrain, which began as a one-night only art event has grown into a major nonprofit consisting of an art



Luke Baumgarten started RANGE Media to offer new voice.

gallery, retail store and many events around Spokane. He is still on the board.

Later in his tenure at the Inlander, he also wrote features on justice issues, including a series on race and ethnicity and an article on smart justice.

In 2012, Luke left The Inlander to join a marketing firm for two years, followed by six months as interim director at Spokane Arts. In 2015, he co-founded Treatment Creative, a marketing company working with businesses, nonprofits and municipalities—people who love Spokane.

“Eventually, I realized I had left a piece of my soul behind when I left journalism,” said Luke, aware that many young journalists leave Spokane. “Working with Terrain, I realized how important community building is and how important Spokane is.”

“I wanted to be a journalist, but I also wanted to pay the bills. I needed to figure out a structure so journalists could thrive working in Spokane,” Luke said.

He believed Spokane needed investigative journalism, but that requires journalists to stay in a community long enough to know it.

Luke set out to create an equitable workplace where journalists could spend their careers.

When the pandemic came and everything shut down, Luke, who was approaching 40, had time on his hands and decided it was a good time to start something.

He borrowed audio equipment to do a podcast and did the first episode in April 2020, a month after things shut down. He interviewed people every two weeks and taught himself the tech to do it.

With the unrest after George Floyd’s killing in Minneapolis, he realized many voices related to Black Lives Matter were not heard in Spokane media. About that time, several national organizations were trying to help build local journalism. So, he decided to turn his hobby into a business. In September 2020, he went to “boot camp for starting local media” and soon started a newsroom.

The second year, Luke wrote a grant and hired Valerie Osier in January 2022 as audience editor and made RANGE a part of the fledgling Spokane Worker’s Cooperative to ensure journalists like Valarie could control their own work lives. By June, they had hired their first full-time reporter, Carl Segerstrom.

“While I report less than I would like, building RANGE is fulfilling,” Luke said. “My days involve editing stories and writing grants, while I work to build support for staff with membership funding. Like National Public Radio, RANGE makes news accessible widely for free and invites readers to support it.”

“As of October, one of our team member is funded by readers,” said Luke.

Two other full-time staff (team members), Alyssa Baheza and Erin Sellers, started in July 2023

to head the civics desk and documenters program.

Much of the 2022 content focused on housing, homelessness and Camp Hope.

“We talk with those closest to the need, like the folks at Camp Hope, asking them what led to their being houseless and why they went to Camp Hope. We also talked with service providers and leaders, but usually, those closest to the need are the last ones interviewed. For us, they are the first ones. Media usually quote the mayor, but we start with those with the least power,” Luke said.

In June 2022, RANGE covered the dangers of the 10-day heat wave for homeless people.

Carl spent much time at Camp Hope, focusing on gaps in resources. Because RANGE is a digital publication, the team had flexibility to cover different aspects about Camp Hope, presenting pictures of why some people there had lost housing recently and why some were homeless for decades.

After Luke and Carl collaborated on a story about embezzlement at a service provider, Luke realized RANGE had already moved into investigative reporting.

Another focus of coverage has been on far right and Christian nationalist movements in Spokane and North Idaho. He forwards articles to media doing national coverage.

Luke said RANGE covers people who do not see themselves in stories about issues that affect their lives. He wants citizens to pay attention to city council, county commission, school board and Homeless Coalition meetings.

RANGE informs people of

what will be discussed at meetings and how they can make public comments. They have “documenters” as eyes and ears present at many public meetings.

“We seek to give people the tools to advocate for themselves,” Luke said. “A community culture is made when people are active in the community. We want Spokane to represent all people here—those who read news and those who don’t, the movers and shakers, and people who are poor, people of color and immigrants.”

“RANGE explains issues to create pathways for people to participate in action and in society so the community will be one where people want to live,” Luke said.

RANGE’s coverage provides “fact-based reporting, going back to sources multiple times,” he said, pleased that Christian nationalists have not called their coverage fake news. “Our work is documentable and shares different points of view.”

Instead of covering an election like a horse race as other media do, “RANGE wrote about the impact of special interest money in elections, helping readers understand how to spot the difference between a candidate’s ad campaign and ads from private interests,” he said.

“I believe objectivity is impossible. People are subjective, so we try to be as fair as we can to all sides,” he said. “We seek to do tough-minded journalism fairly to bridge the divides.”

The website menu reveals the scope of RANGE’s coverage: housing, education, environment, criminal and legal news.

For information, email team@rangemedia.co

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Healthy aging starts in how society is structured, how people learn

Continued from page 1

Beginning with the SRHD 15 years ago in the Women's Infants and Children's (WIC) program, she also worked in the early learning program, started Feed Cheney monthly meals for low-income college students and older adults, and then oversaw a sodium reduction program for large-employer cafeterias in Spokane.

Trust for America's Health recently recognized the Spokane Regional Health District as an "Age Friendly Public Health System" because it implemented the public health process to prioritize the health and well-being of older adults. This year, the SRHD marked the American Society on Aging's Ageism Awareness Day on Oct. 7 to highlight ageism.

"Many people are unaware of their internal biases about age and how prevalent those biases are," said Natalie. "So, the SRHD and community partners are reframing how we talk about aging and promoting representing older adults as enriching the lives of their families and people around them."

Ageism includes stereotypes (how people think), prejudices (how people feel), and discrimination (how people act) towards others or themselves based on expectations related to age, she said.

"It takes many forms, affects people of any age and harms everyone," Natalie continued. "Although it is universal, it is not always taken as seriously as other forms of inequity, even though it exacerbates them."

Citing a 2022 Ohio study of aging and retirement that followed 660 people 50 years and older, she noted that older persons who had positive self-perceptions of aging 20 years earlier lived on average 7.5 years longer than those with less positive self-perceptions of aging.

According to AARP, ageism is widespread in society, in workplaces, in health systems and in underrepresentation and negative stereotypes in media. Images in media affect people subconsciously, influencing attitudes, expectations and behaviors of younger and older people.

SRHD asks its partners, faith communities and the community to help change negative views about aging.

Natalie said a first step is to start a conversation on ageism to build awareness of the prejudice and how it might present itself in various settings.

The World Health Organization's Global Campaign to



Natalie Tauzin addresses biases associated with ageism.

Combat Ageism—at cdn.who.int—offers a guide to engage people in dialogue and recognize how every generation is vital to a community's health, said Natalie.

"Healthy aging starts before birth in how society is structured, how people learn, how people are treated and what historic traumas families have had," she explained.

"We need to look at ageism along with racism, sexism and ableism to see how they intersect. A Black Hispanic woman over 65 from another country potentially faces multiple forms of discrimination. These biases layer on each other to create multiple barriers to accessing services and dignified treatment to enhance healthy aging," Natalie said.

People who do not feel they belong suffer mental and physical health harms.

"If a general practitioner says someone's symptoms are just part of growing old, the patient may suffer, rather than finding medicines, treatments and studies that can help," she said.

She offered some examples.

A 2023 Alzheimer's research study found that 10 years after someone quits smoking, their arteries look like they never smoked, so if they are advised early to quit smoking their bodies can rejuvenate. That study, reported in Neuroscience News, is "Smokers Generally Unaware That Quitting Smoking Will Reduce Risk of Dementia."

A recent study funded by the National Institute of Health showed that hearing aids slow cognitive decline in people with high risk of dementia. With hearing loss, people can become isolated and lack stimulation, accelerating mental loss. People in the study receiving hearing aids had an almost 50 percent

reduction in the rate of cognitive decline over three years compared with those in the health-education study only.

In 2022, the Federal Drug Administration ruled to enable access—without a medical exam, prescription or fitting adjustment by an audiologist—to over-the-counter hearing aids for millions of people with perceived mild to moderate hearing impairment. Family and friends, noticing someone is not tracking conversations, can assist the person to do a free online hearing test. Hearing aids can slow neural degeneration from isolation.

Natalie described some resources of Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW).

- A Dementia Action Collaborative flier suggests congregations can talk about dementia. There are higher rates among African Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics who face discrimination and racism. They experience barriers to the social determinants to health, which include access to medical

care, education, safe housing, living wages and healthy environments.

- There is a need for more geriatric physicians to care for the rising number of older adults.

- The medical field, urban planning and public transportation can learn from and involve older people in shaping their communities and improving their quality of life.

- A local urban planner suggests tailoring spaces for people with dementia. He proposed that Parks and Recreation develop a memory garden, a space with low fences where a caregiver can sit and a person with dementia can safely walk in nature to calm their mind and body.

- ALTCEW has set up memory cafés in public libraries where people with dementia can bring pictures, play music, share stories and socialize.

- Spokane's Canopy Project recognizes the need to plant trees and build houses in ways to protect people, especially elders, from heat waves.

- The ALTCEW website offers programs and volunteer opportunities.

"Ageism manifests throughout life," Natalie said. "Young adults are considered too inexperienced to be hired. Older adults are stereotyped as irrelevant, unable to contribute to society and lacking future goals."

Those stereotypes are amplified by racism, sexism and ableism, she added.

Some physicians may brush off symptoms as signs of aging rather than listening to give a diagnosis.

"The American Society on Aging urges us to recognize ageism, to see how our beliefs as a society and individuals affect prejudices," Natalie said.

"We encourage positive per-

ceptions of aging, challenging media to avoid stereotypical images in commercials and articles. People internalize those images in their identities," she said.

Some may stop doing things they love, decrease interactions and become isolated based on expectations, she said.

Natalie offered some suggestions.

- Congregations can view and discuss YouTube videos by Ashton Applewhite, author of *This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*.

- Congregations can hold intergenerational events to learn how different cultures honor older members.

- The SRHD urges colleges and universities to recruit more students to study geriatric medicine, even though it pays less than cardiology. Many more geriatricians are needed.

Natalie, who grew up Catholic and attends Life Center in Cheney, pointed out that it is important to believe in and be part of something bigger than oneself.

"Faith reassures that life has meaning and involvement in a faith community provides multi-generational extended families," she added.

For information, call 324-1539, email khawkins@srhd.org or visit srhd.org.

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Retired landscaper conducts Handel's Messiah at Music Conservatory

By Kaye Hult

When people ask retired Coeur d'Alene landscaper Kent Kimball, who received a diploma in theology from the University of the South School of Theology (Episcopalian) in May 2020, what language is spoken in heaven, he said they may expect him to say the biblical languages of Latin, Greek or Hebrew.

As a lifelong musician and the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene executive director and concert conductor, Kent gives a different answer.

"The language spoken in heaven is music," he said, explaining how his faith and new theological perspective intertwine with music and arts.

One example is Handel's Messiah.

The Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene will perform The Messiah at 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Schuler Performing Arts Center at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene with a 50-member chorus, 22-member orchestra and four soloists.

"The Messiah is musical ecumenism," said Kent. "The lyrics of every movement come straight from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament."

Those performing come from various Christian denominations—Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, nondenominational and Presbyterian churches. Some of the performers are Jewish, and others are members of other faiths.

Singers come from groups such as Chorale Coeur d'Alene, Spokane Symphonic Chorale, University of Idaho, Eastern Washington University, North Idaho College and local churches.

Orchestra members are from Coeur d'Alene Symphony, Spokane Symphony, North Idaho Philharmonia and conservatory faculty.

The soloists are soprano Madison Leonard, alto Amanda Glover, tenor Tobin Eystone and bass Steven Mortier.

Madison, who grew up in Coeur d'Alene, is a top U.S. and



Music has always been part of Kent Kimball's life.

international opera singer.

The conservatory formed four years ago. Historians Deborah Mitchell and Cindy Nunn helped rally the neighborhood to save an historic building Kootenai County had owned for two years and planned to demolish.

They researched its history, found it was built by the second mayor of Coeur d'Alene and arranged for it to be placed in the National Register of Historic Buildings. They also found information about many notable people who lived there.

When Julienne Dance heard about the efforts to save the building and drove down Government Way to see it, she realized it would be the perfect spot to fulfill her dream to bring a music conservatory to Coeur d'Alene.

A group was formed to bring about this new idea. They formed the conservatory as a 501 (C)(3) nonprofit corporation.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed to sell it to the new conservatory, if they could raise the funds by a certain deadline.

"Less than an hour before the property was to be bulldozed, thanks to strong financial support and intervention by local businessmen and philanthro-

pists Pepper Smock and Steve Widmyer, the property was purchased and leased to the conservatory," Kent said.

The conservatory's mission is to promote musical excellence through quality instruction, performance opportunities, collaborative partnerships and special events, he said.

"We teach kids and adults, all types of music, but mostly classical music," said Kent. "Our students learn the best music from the best teachers around. They have performances before friends, relatives and strangers. We teach guitar, voice, strings, brass, woodwinds, piano, percussion, harp, choir, composition, conducting and music theory. We teach how to read, memorize and improvise music."

Kent joined the conservatory community two years ago, when he stopped by to see what the place was about. He was newly retired from owning and operating K2 Landscaping for 30 years, and a career in the arts—conducting, singing, doing voice-overs, performing in operas, stage plays and movies.

Growing up in Hollywood, he was the son of a newspaper and

magazine publisher and a mother who played piano and organ and composed music.

"Mom exposed me to music and musical theater," he said. "I was on stage when I was five years old. When I was 13, I sang 'You Got Trouble,' from The Music Man both on stage and on television."

His mother was also a church organist and choir director. When Kent was 15, she taught him to conduct using basic conducting patterns so he could conduct the choir.

"As a high school junior in Fallbrook, Calif., I was student conductor and president of the 100-member high school choir," he said.

"Between my junior and senior years, I found a score of the Messiah," he said. "In the summer, I studied closely every piece in the oratorio—53 movements, all directly quoted from the Bible."

That fall, he spoke to the school choir conductor and proposed that the choir perform the Messiah.

The conductor replied, "You're joking!" but later agreed.

Kent went on to study music, urged on by his mother, and business administration, demanded by his father. He attended six colleges and universities, always studying music and business simultaneously. He graduated in 1973 from the University of Southern California.

He entered the Navy as a naval flight officer, navigating flights and singing around the country in the Naval Air Command Choir of Pensacola, Fla.

Kent's career has developed from seeing an opportunity and pursuing it.

After the Navy, he was a sales and marketing executive in communications and computer

hardware for 18 years. Because that made it difficult for him to act and fit music into his life, he formed K2 Landscaping, which gave him a more flexible schedule.

For 20 years, he and his wife owned a rental home near Lake Coeur d'Alene and moved there permanently 13 years ago.

"I became involved at the Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene," he said, "because music has always been profoundly important to me. After developing a secular business for 30 years, I needed something to do during the late autumn and winter of my life. I decided to invest my time in music, in the conservatory and in the future of children."

His landscaping skills came in handy as he helped design and install new landscaping around the exterior of the building when he first became involved, about a year and a half after it opened.

He served as president of the board of directors before becoming executive director five months ago.

Kent also conducts the chancel, handbell and summer choirs at First Presbyterian Church in Coeur d'Alene.

For information, call 208-901-8190 or email info@cdaconservatory.org.

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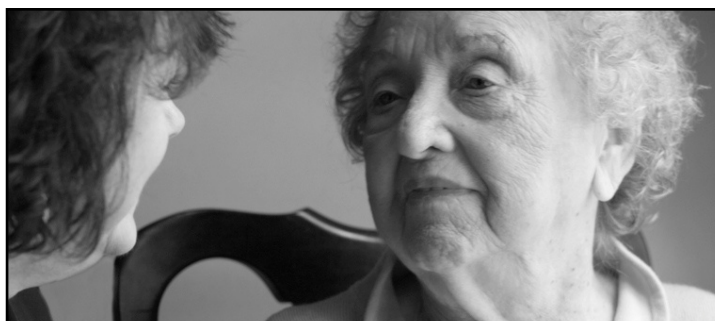
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Life coach shares Interfaith Advent Calendar

For the last six years, Susie Weller, a life and spiritual coach, prepared an Interfaith Advent Calendar.

"I love the Advent season, and we celebrate from Thanksgiving through the New Year the spiritual significance of the season," she said. "I light a candle and start the morning using it for my quiet time alone or with my husband, Mark."

Retired after working 24 years with Community Colleges of Spokane in parenting and life skills education, she has prepared and shared the Advent calendar as a gift with friends, family, her church, Unity Center for Spiritual Growth in Coeur

d'Alene and with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps regionally.

She now offers it for others who would like to use it for their daily practice during Advent.

"It follows Advent's four themes—hope, peace, joy and love—and adds a fourth week to Epiphany on service," she said. "It includes dates for Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa's seven principles."

Examples of reflections are: "Dec. 3: Sustain your hope by centering yourself in a quiet stillness," or "Dec 11: Model the peace and change you wish to see in others."

Susie brings insights to creat-

ing the calendar from her journey.

In 1976, she graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara in religion and communication. She then served as an apostolic volunteer with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters teaching religion at a Catholic girls school in Minnesota. After she served with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (1978 to 1980) as campus minister at Seattle University, she worked with young adults with the Archdiocese of Seattle.

The calendar will be available online at thefigtree.org/2023adventcalendar.pdf.

For information, call 499-1423 or email weller.susie@gmail.com.

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Foundation helps native leaders pass on knowledge and traditions

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

Joaquin Marchand, co-founder and executive director for the L.I.G.H.T. Foundation, recently described the impact of his upbringing and tribal ceremonies related to digging roots, collecting berries, hunting and fishing at a fall Center for Climate, Environment and Society event.

A citizen of the Colville Confederated Tribes from the Sinixt Nation, he served for more than 10 years with Colville Tribes, including in finance, accounting, human resources, health administration and grants management. He has also been involved for many years with conservation groups.

The concept of the rights of nature led Joaquin and his wife, Amelia, to start the L.I.G.H.T. Foundation two years ago. The letters of its name stand for Leadership, Indigenous, Guardian, Honor and Teach.

A growing movement has been encouraged by recent international legal cases to recognize rivers as having “rights of nature,” like a person having the right to live.

“We wanted to create something that would outlast us,” he said.

Joaquin and Amelia established the nonprofit to help tribes advocate for rights to ensure traditions are passed down. They help preserve ancestral lands, food sovereignty, cultural heritage, community involvement, pollinator health, educational opportunities and reciprocal relationships with nature. They especially wanted to fill a gap in knowledge about cultural food and plant preservation.

Both are pursuing doctoral degrees—Amelia in environment and Joaquin in education so he can develop a curriculum to teach and pass on what he has learned.

He is also writing a book about his family heritage and leadership in the Sinixt Nation.

Joaquin, who earned a master’s degree in public administration in 2014 with an emphasis on health organizations and a bachelor’s degree in business in 2011 from Eastern Washington University, believes tribal relationships to first foods mold tribal identity.

“**First foods** in my tribal system were roots, berries, deer, elk and salmon. They are used in everyday life by our ancestors and us. They define who we are and are part of our traditional knowledge transference,” said Joaquin.

When families take their children to dig roots and pick berries, they tell stories reflecting their tribe’s history. Those explana-



Joaquin Marchand started the L.I.G.H.T. Foundation.

Photo courtesy of Joaquin Marchand

tions of the first foods link their understanding of who they are, what they do and what their ancestors did as tribal people.

“They provide opportunities to teach and grow with their children and pass on stories with distinct meanings. Many ceremonies are rooted in practices of collecting roots. Those ceremonies involve water,” he said.

“**Water is the most important symbol.** At the beginning of tribal ceremonies, root feasts, berry ceremonies or Chinook dances, we serve and drink water to purify ourselves, our minds, our bodies and our spirits. At the end of the ceremony, we drink water again to honor and recognize all the other beings, plants, animals and trees that need water to survive,” he explained.

“There is a direct correlation between indigenous culture and spirituality. It is passed on through learned traditions, coyote stories, creationism beliefs and spiritual practices conducted from birth to puberty to death. Ancestral stories connect us with the earth,” said Joaquin.

While brought up Catholic, as he has grown older, he has become more spiritually focused.

“I believe in a higher order. I’m also a math guy. My step-father encouraged me to join Curtillos. In the 1960s and 1970s, that group helped tribal people understand Catholic teaching, become more grounded on our reservations and connect with a spiritual being,” he said.

As a combat veteran who served three tours in the Army, he said, “It’s hard not to believe in heaven if you have already been to hell. War is not something I would wish on anybody.”

Living on the Colville Reservation, he grew up connected with the Columbia River and shared his story about salmon fishing as a child.

“I was taught to fish for salmon with my father, elders and other kids. We’d have a giant salmon pull, snagging salmon as they swim by. There was a wall with 90 concrete steps built by the Corps of Engineers up to the face of the Chief Joseph Dam.

“At nine when I was first being taught how to fish, older fishermen said, “You go to the bottom of the wall, practice and learn. First, recognize the river, pray and just take it in because the current is swift. It comes over the top and you can’t see the salmon, but they are close. You have to just reach out in faith,” he said.

Each step they took to go higher on the wall took more skill, more teaching and more years. Joaquin fished there for almost 34 years. Every year, he’d return and show the elders above him that he knew how to do each of the steps to catch the salmon. They would let him climb a little further up the wall until he finally got to the top.

“In my later years, I finally reached the spot where the elders fished. It was the best fishing spot, at the top corner of those stairs. In retrospect, I see that as a knowledge transference and as how we were taught a way of life,” he said.

The men who were salmon fishing—including his father, who has since passed on—mostly came there, not because they were friends or needed salmon, but to meet about tribal, social and economic issues. There they bonded and had an equal voice.

“It is important to understand, respect and honor our ancestors and those who come before us, when we follow, listen or practice traditions,” Joaquin said.

“I could have been a spoiled brat and fished from the top. To catch fish there was easiest, but that wouldn’t have been right. If we push ahead of our generation, we lose understanding of the steps necessary to respect those who came before us,” he said.

“**Without a system** to respect those who came before us and carry on the structure and gifts they gave to the world, we lose credibility in whatever faith or spirituality we have,” he added.

“We have to understand the foundations and respect elders. Things change over time. If we don’t want to repeat the same mistakes, we need to honor the teaching of elders,” Joaquin said.

Only three of the original

fishermen he remembers watching while growing up are still living. In their honor, he is now like them as he passes on the teachings to his two daughters and nine-year-old son.

“**The relationship** with the water, the salmon and the foods is not just about survival. It is about knowledge transference, respect and a coming-of-age moment that I’ve been blessed with. I hope in future generations we will create a platform and find opportunities for our tribe and other tribes to restore our traditions. The story is hard to tell. It’s bittersweet,” he shared.

“Salmon were important to our people. They are the staple. Before the dams and everything else, tribes would come together at Kettle Falls and fish for an entire summer. It was the meeting place. It was where we would begin and where we would reconcile, solve problems, and perform marriages and ceremonies,” Joaquin said.

For the people, the river and its water are important. Since dams, the salmon have to fight through

so many things. At Bridgeport, the dams stopped the passage of salmon to their original spawning grounds at Kettle Falls.

In the last couple of years, the Colville Confederated Tribes have released some fish from their hatcheries above the dams.

“I don’t know the result, but now that touchstone, relationships and teachings are being threatened, not just by the dam but also by climate change, by toxins like flame retardants, PCBs and heavy metals. Now we can only consume a limited number of fish because contaminants in the water transfer to the salmon.”

Joaquin said the rising temperature of the water is also stopping salmon runs.

“We’ve poured millions of dollars into bringing back the salmon. We continue to fight. It’s been 20 years. That’s how important it is,” he said.

In trying to pass on the knowledge, Joaquin said he sometimes feels like a salmon in the river fighting against dams.

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Priest displays 2,000 nativity scenes he has collected over the years

Fr. Thomas K. Connolly is displaying his collection of nearly 2,000 nativity scenes from around the world from Saturday, Nov. 26 to Dec. 10, at St. Mary's Presentation Catholic Parish in Deer Park.

His interest in nativity scenes started when he was in the ninth grade and gave his parents a nativity scene. Then in the 1970s, he gave them a Hummel nativity scene.

Later, when he was working for 11 years as a civilian doing theater programs with the military in South Korea, his parents visited and bought a nativity scene from a wood carver.

"Those were handed down to me after they passed away," said Fr. Tom.

In his travels around the world, he collected nativity scenes from South Korea, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Easter Island, Fiji, Tahiti, Nepal, India, Burma, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Greece, Germany, France, Ukraine, Russia and more.

His interest over the years has been seeing how different cultures have "embraced this awesome occasion in history, the birth of Jesus, and how we each see it in our own eyes. Africans see it as Africans, and Europeans see it as Europeans. Each culture embraces this event and makes it something they can relate to," said Tom.

One nativity set from France has the holy family, shepherds and kings looking like they are from the Holy Land, but other figures represent people dressed from the different provinces of France.

"Some represent the concept of Jesus coming to us, not us coming to him, showing other figures going about their daily lives," he observed.

Some are more than two feet tall, and others are two inches tall.

Another is a gift from Iran, handmade by Iranian women with all the figures in traditional costumes of the regions. Part of the interest in that nativity scene is the story of how it made it out of Iran.

"Some are beautiful, exquisite and detailed. Others are plain and simple, but all present the birth of Christ, which is what makes them wonderful," said Fr. Tom.

There are a couple of olive wood scenes from Jerusalem, some chalk ones from the 1940s and 1950s, and a Goebel from Germany in the 1950s.

"A Fontanini set from Italy includes an immense village," he mentioned.

Some of the scenes from Af-



Fr. Thomas K. Connolly collects nativity scenes.

from 1996 to 2000 in Rome and entered the priesthood when he was 38, has served at the parish in Deer Park for six years.

"When I was first ordained in 2000 and serving at St. Mary's in Spokane Valley, we did a nativity display for a weekend. Everyone from the parish brought in their nativity scenes. My collection took up three tables."

Fr. Tom has shared his growing display over the years with the parishes he has served, including St. Mary's which he served simultaneously with St. Joseph in Rockford; St. Charles Borromeo in Spokane, which

he served simultaneously with Assumption, and St. Mary's Presentation in Deer Park, which he serves along with St. Joseph's in Colbert.

The display will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Mass at 6 p.m. on Sundays.

For information, call 276-2948, or email tconnolly@dioceseofspokane.org.

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rica portray figures who are holy or intelligent with bigger heads.

One set from Costco is dear to him because it was given by students and faculty at Holy Family School in Clarkston when he was pastor there.

He estimates that the display will take 80 six-foot tables.

Fr. Tom, who studied theology

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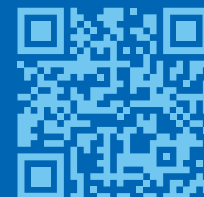
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Crisis counselor forms Mental Health Aware to fill gaps in services

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

The intersection of her son's mental illness, addiction and suicide with her medical career led Jolie Knight to start Mental Health Aware (MHA), Speakout, Speakup, a nonprofit that seeks to address the gaps in services, especially for youth and young adults.

As a crisis response counselor, Jolie saw gaps in the mental health industry, especially as her son was going in and out of psych wards. That did not prevent him from taking his life in November 2020.

She decided to form a nonprofit to empower people to build awareness of mental health and suicide, and to help people find appropriate therapy and resources.

Jolie started MHA in the midst of COVID with the support of several community partners.

It connects people with agencies that provide resources to address addiction, mental health, housing, food, clothing, education and employment.

Jolie could have let depression sink in from grief over losing her son, but now she is turning her pain into power by building and working with other organizations that share her mission and goals of helping people alleviate mental health struggles and suicidal thoughts.

"I'm allowing myself to grieve through the process and acknowledge my experience," Jolie said, noting that too often people try to act like the trauma did not happen.

"That's unhealthy and would not address mental health for anybody. Mental health is about keeping our minds healthy," said Jolie, who is also certified in behavioral health, suicide prevention, housing assistance and peer counseling.

Raised in a Christian household, she uses her faith background in this work. A copy of Daily Bread devotions sits on her desk. She doesn't push them but wants people to know about the Lord.

With her faith, she knows that there is hope.

"Seeing that the things we do can help us hold on reminds me that things are going to get better," she said.

The first thing Jolie does every morning is to watch a spiritual show to set her mind and soul right, so she stays strong for herself, her family and others.

"My faith leads me from losing my son to understanding that there has to be something better. There have to be ways we can do the programs better to help others," said Jolie.



Jolie Knight helps empower people struggling with mental health.

"I'm transparent about it. If people ask, I share what happened. It keeps me strong. If I didn't keep my faith, I would be lost," she commented, aware that some who experience loss and grief try to deal with those feelings by turning to drugs or alcohol.

When she is unsure or stressed about what she is doing or what decision to make, she asks God, "What should I do?" Then she leaves it in God's hands and every time feels directed to do what she needs to do.

"When people walk through my door, I don't judge them. I'm going to serve all people and give them respect," she said. "That comes from my belief that I am to love my neighbor."

One of the first partners of Mental Health Aware was Sarah McNew of West Spokane Wellness. She offered Jolie connections and resources for youth related to prevention, housing, mental health and substance use.

Volunteers of America provided Jolie with training in housing and helped MHA find grants for homeless youth.

Other partners, like Catholic Charities and SNAP, have provided resources and trainings.

"I initially started MHA for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Gradually I added programs related to direct needs, such as housing and overdose prevention," Jolie said.

Then the fentanyl epidemic was added to Spokane's drug epidemic.

She asks clients, staff and volunteers for ideas, evaluations and visions.

"It's not just about me and my vision. It's their input on how we can help people help others," Jolie said.

Some programs are merging through wraparound services, rather than placing someone in housing without addressing their mental struggles or teaching them about budgeting.

MHA has received a city contract for its new Host Homes program to place individuals in caring homes.

"Most clients find us through social media and word of mouth through our partners," Jolie said.

One woman came to her as Jolie was on her way to an appointment. Something told Jolie to go back. She did. There was a woman holding a little dog with an ear hematoma that had blown up like a balloon. As the dog was shaking, Jolie realized it was septic and very sick. The woman was crying.

Jolie asked the woman to walk with her to a nearby store, where she bought water for her and dog food for the dog. Still in tears, the woman said that usually people ignored her and kept walking. Because Jolie created a safe space and empathetically listened to her trauma, the woman said, "I've never felt at home, so never had the desire to get sober."

Subsequently, she responded to MHA's assistance.

"We are still working on some things, but it makes me happy that we were starting in a place where ultimately it was her choice," Jolie said. "When we see someone who is impacted, when we hear somebody verbalize their trauma, we need to believe them."

The orientation of MHA is to go the extra step of just sitting down and having a conversation on the front steps over water, coffee or tea, getting to know a person so they feel they are more than another number.

"We just listen to learn who they are and whatever they want to share at that point," Jolie said.

She finds it awkward to start with intake and paperwork, because the person may not even know if they want to participate in the programs.

Relationships become the motivation.

Jolie said that often when clients are on their feet they come back and volunteer to help and donate.

"People are flabbergasted that I don't charge for mental health services. They're surprised that some volunteer their time," Jolie said.

At first people may not think they need regular counseling because they don't want to share the bad stuff. We encourage them to celebrate the good stuff, a new dog, new shirt or new friends. We build on that," she explained.

Mental Health Aware is launching its Host Homes Program for youth ages 12 to 17 and

young adults ages 18 to 24 with a focus on people of color and LGBTQ+ people.

They are recruiting caring individuals to open their homes as safe short-term welcoming spaces to shield, shelter and nurture young people who are homeless and in need of support for up to six months. In that time the hope is for them to repair fractured relationships with family or decide on other housing options with a case manager.

MHA does a background check and a safety check on those who offer host homes. The youth connect with MHA's regular programs for support.

"Host homes ideally provide protection, ensure education, give inspiration, communicate effectively, commit to the process and length of the program and celebrate the young person's accomplishments," said Jolie.

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Barber makes a difference by helping people look good so they feel good

By Kaye Hult

It only takes one person to make a difference in another's life.

Each week, Paul Nemeč, a barber with Bulwark Barbershop in Coeur d'Alene, makes a difference every time he goes out as Paul Nemeč, Street Thug Barber.

He goes to events, such as the Housing Resource Fair at McEuen Park in September, where, at no charge, he cuts the hair of those who can't afford to go to a barber.

"What better way to help people than to help them look their best?" he asks. "Look good, feel good."

For a while, between 2018 and when COVID hit, he donated time at one of St Vincent de Paul's men's shelters in Coeur d'Alene.

Residents were in transition from troubled times back into more normal lives. Perhaps they were preparing for a job interview, so they could earn the money to find permanent housing. Perhaps they were seeking to rekindle their relationship with their spouse or child.

"It's amazing, if I can help someone get out of their home to work for an employer," he thought.

"Often, the first thing people notice is how someone's face and hair look. One can tell about a person that way," Paul said.

"I began going to the men's shelter every week. Sometimes 15 or 30 people would line up," he said.

Paul had been a barber for a year when he began donating time as a Street Thug Barber.

"When I first started, there was a homeless man reintegrating into society," he remembered. "He insisted on paying me, but I refused, though he tried several times.

"When I saw him three years later, I didn't recognize him. He made an appointment for a cut at Bulwark Barbers," Paul said.

"The haircut three years earlier had helped him to find a job. Now he's a regular paying customer," Paul said. "I saw him at a low point in his life. Now he stands four inches taller. His smile lights up a room. He has his life back. I was able to help with that."

Paul comes from Coeur d'Alene. He lived on the outskirts while growing up.

"My parents weren't religious," he said. "My mother was from the South. My father was from Seattle. Both were science-minded and in medical fields. I did not grow up going to church.

"However, the Coeur d'Alene schools were not up to my parents' standards, so they sent me to St. John Vianney School in Spokane," he said. "I loved it! I gained faith there. I loved going to Mass. I loved the respect I saw at a Mass."



Paul Nemeč found he could help people as a barber.

Paul believes he was led to St. John Vianney. When his family moved to Hayden, he began attending public school, "where I got into mischief and trouble," he said.

Trouble led him to the Mental Health Court in Kootenai County, under Judge John Mitchell. Paul credits the judge with helping him turn his life around.

Paul graduated from Lake City High School in 2006. While he did not want to continue schooling, he did.

He began peer counseling others with addictions through ACES Community Services, a mental health support center in Coeur d'Alene.

"I became an Idaho peer support specialist," he said. "As I counseled people, I saw changes in their lives. I did that for about a year but was not making enough money."

The brother of his girlfriend—later his wife—owned a barbershop and wanted to expand from two to four chairs. He suggested that Paul go to barber school and work with him.

Once Paul ran the numbers on income for barbers, he accepted the offer.

"I could make a living and still give back to the community," he said. "I could make my own hours and have time to help others.

"A barber is a counselor who can cut hair," Paul commented.

While he was in barber school in Coeur d'Alene, he saw a page on social media from British Columbia about an organization where people were cutting people's hair in an area that had many homeless people.

A husband and wife, Cameron and Jen Sterling, started it. They called themselves Street Thug Barbers.

"My heart sang at that point," Paul said.

When he finished barber

school in 2017, he began working at Bulwark Barbers.

"I reached out to the nonprofit in Canada and said I wanted to be a part of it," he said. "They were hesitant. They suggested I try it first and see what I thought. Many people have tried this work and backed off.

"That's when I contacted Janet Brock at St. Vincent de Paul and began donating my time with them. Before that, I never felt like I was contributing or a benefit to the community," he continued.

"I had gone to a Catholic private school and learned about benevolence but had never before felt needed or found a place where my skills could be utilized for good.

He contacted the Sterlings again, reporting on his experience with St. Vincent de Paul.

"My chapter became the fifth Street Thug Barber chapter, Street Thug Idaho, after the original in British Columbia, and Portland, Ore., Ireland and Thailand.

"I was under the impression it would be a local chain," Paul said. "Instead, this is like a family of seven or eight barbers who love what they do and go out to help in their communities. I love being a part of something bigger than myself."

Cameron and Jen created a logo for their nonprofit in which the word THUG has the letter T X'd out, so what is clearly seen is the word "HUG," and then the word "Life" underneath. Often, Street Thug barbers end up sharing hugs with those they serve, Paul said.

Cameron had been addicted to opiates. He called it a "runnin' and gunnin' lifestyle." In order not to lose his relationship with Jen, he turned his life around. That's when they created the logo.

"If people give more away

rather than taking for themselves, they'll be in a better position overall," Cameron says.

Paul agrees.

"Anybody is one situation away from being homeless or one decision away from changing for the positive," he said.

"My mother used to say, 'You can't run away forever. Life will catch up with your decisions,'" Paul added.

He and his family continue church involvement, attending Our Place in Hayden.

"God led me to barbering," he said. "I get to give testimony. I get to help people. I get to listen!

"I haven't taken new clients for maybe three years," he said. "I have the same clientele that I did when I started. It's more than a haircut when relationships are built. I keep confidentiality.

I never thought I'd develop the clientele that I have."

Since COVID has lifted, Paul mostly goes out to volunteer to cut hair at events on request, perhaps six or seven times a year, rather than going somewhere at a set place or time.

"People have to stay humble," he reflected. "Barbering keeps me humble. Everybody needs haircuts.

"I believe I was led to St John Vianney and Catholicism, so the purpose of my life has been steered into these avenues where God is present," he said.

"The majority of my life now is helping people. It's important. In today's world, people need that kind of help," Paul affirmed.

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Catholic Charities firm on its commitment to serve immigrants, poor

Catholic Charities is often involved in controversy because it is controversial to serve the poor, pointed out Rob McCann, who has been CEO of Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington for nearly 24 years.

“That’s what Christ did, and it got him killed, but Catholic Charities does not shy away from its social obligation to serve the poor,” he said. “It’s what we are called to do.

“Our motto with people who are struggling is that love always wins. We learn to love from Christ. Love is what we show the poor. Love is what we learn from the poor,” Rob continued, noting, “We also learn how resilient people are.

“When Jesus was on the earth, Jesus related with the poor, he hung out with people who were struggling, people with great needs, not those who had their lives perfectly put together,” he added. “Jesus walked with the lepers, the strangers and the possessed. That’s who Catholic Charities walks with.

“If someone is struggling, we will serve them,” he said. “We need to love and serve the poor, not be angry at them.

“I am worried that some in the community think that all the poor are criminals, addicts or mentally ill,” he said, asserting that notion is counter to his experience of people who are poor.

The biggest concern Catholic Charities seeks to address in its communications in media, speeches and writings is the public perception of the poor as being unworthy of care, as if they deserve the poverty they experience.

Rob sees a growing movement to vilify and criminalize the poor, moving from a country known for its “War on Poverty” to one with a war *against* the poor.

“Every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. No one deserves to be poor. No one learned to be poor. That’s nonsense to those of us at Catholic Charities,” Rob said. “Every human being has intrinsic value.”

Countering the perception of some, he finds that no one is happy to be poor or have their life be in chaos.

Sometimes people suggest to Rob that if Catholic Charities stopped feeding or housing people there would no longer be hungry or homeless people.

“In what we do, we promote Catholic social teachings. We speak the truth to such challenges. We speak the truth to power. We speak truth to hate,” Rob said. “We do not want people to fear.”

Recently there was a post on social media threatening Catholic Charities because of its work on immigration.

“Immigration is a sentinel issue today. Catholic Charities throughout my lifetime has



Rob McCann has served Catholic Charities in Eastern Washington for nearly 24 years.

Photo courtesy of Catholic Charities

resettled refugees and served people through its immigration programs,” he said. “With the ideological divide in recent years, our work has become more controversial.”

Discussion and debates related to immigrants and immigration have devolved to more hate speech against immigrants.

Rob said the recent threat is not against most of Catholic Charities’ 480 employees in Eastern Washington, but because of the report he has talked with staff.

“Realistically, there is a safety issue for everyone in the U.S. with the rise in mass shootings and related hate acts, speech and crimes,” he commented.

As a result, in the last four years, Catholic Charities has been proactive, expanding from one to 27 security staff, spending \$1 million a year on security for employees, volunteers and clients in its 102 locations.

“We are dealing with behavioral health and criminal issues, so it is important that we provide robust security for our staff, just as Providence and Gonzaga University do,” Rob explained.

Clients may see the security team. Most welcome that Catholic Charities is concerned about their safety without setting up a quasi-police or military presence, he said, noting that most know security staff are there and are happy they are there.

Rob pointed out the necessity of security staff because of the increase in drug trafficking, human trafficking, guns, weapons and people who choose violence.

Before he came to Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Rob spent four years as a program evaluator with Catholic Relief Services in Africa, Asia and Latin America. That followed two years serving with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) in rural Oregon and North Central Mexico. JVC has a reputation for “ruining volunteers for life,”

by instilling a commitment to justice, said Rob, noting that it led him to work in Catholic social services.

A native of New York City, born and raised Catholic, Rob graduated from Fairfield University, a Jesuit school in Connecticut, in 1991.

When Rob came to Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington in 1999, there were 41 staff, compared with 480 today. When he started, there were nine apartment complexes. Now there are 67. When he started, the annual budget was \$4 million. Now it is \$50 million with 60 percent of funding from government sources and 40 percent from private philanthropy, raised at the Christmas Collection in December, the Gala in May and year-round donations from individuals, groups and corporations.

Along with the growth in homelessness from a lack of affordable housing, an increase in rents, low and non-livable wages and a lack of mental health treatment, Catholic Charities has worked to provide housing.

“Catholic Charities goes to marginalized people in places no one goes. We provide a voice for the voiceless and make visible the invisible,” Rob said. “We have continued to do that through the 30-year career of Donna Hanson and her predecessors as CEOs of Catholic Charities.

“We provide 3,000 units of housing in Eastern Washington, and 5,000 men, women and children will put their heads on Catholic Charities pillows tonight in Eastern Washington,” he said.

Those units provide housing for families, farmworkers, seniors, veterans, disabled and homeless individuals and families.

Catholic Charities has been a leader in building housing since the 1960s, and has been building housing for the homeless since 2012. Funding to build housing for the homeless is available through the tax credit program in Washington.

“It would not be possible to raise the \$20 million needed to build a housing complex with private funding alone,” said Rob.

He supports the effort to establish a regional homeless authority to coordinate efforts for agencies and to pool city and county funding for homeless people. The authority’s board will decide how best to spend funding for county and city homelessness projects to reduce overlapping services and take decisions from the hands of local governments and politicians to be controlled by a group of professionals.

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington operates 15 pro-

grams overall.

They include CAPA/Prepares, the Christmas Bureau, counseling, Food for All, Home Resources, House of Charity, Housing, Integrated Case Management, Immigration Services, Parish Social Ministry, Rising Strong, Senior Services, St. Anne’s Center, St. Margaret’s Shelter and the Walla Walla regional office.

“Of the 55,000 people we serve, 1,500 are homeless,” said Rob, affirming that 90 percent of clients and 90 percent of staff are not Catholic.

“We serve people based on need, not creed,” he said. “We welcome and serve everyone.

“We work closely with parishes, representing all Catholics in the diocese,” he said.

“Not every parish can open a shelter or soup kitchen, but parishioners want to help, so we rely on support, volunteers and donations from the parishes. CCEW would not exist without them,” said Rob.

“We are proud of the work we are able to do and will never apologize for our work serving

the poor,” Rob said. “Our work may be controversial, but we are proud that we reach out to people in need.”

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington involves more than 6,000 volunteers, serving in different ways in 50 different job descriptions. Every project has multiple jobs for volunteers, he said.

“Our mission is simple—feed the hungry, heal the hurting, welcome the stranger. At Christmas, we invite others to join in supporting that mission,” Rob said about the Christmas Collection.

For information, call 358-4250 or visit cceasternwa.org.

Join us Sundays

at 9:15 & 11 a.m.
or watch our live stream
www.uuspokane.org

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December 13, 2023
At 5:00 PM
Feris High School
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Space is limited! Call our offices to register for the class
509-558-9359

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DECEMBER 16
2PM - 10PM

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WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY CENTER

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

2023

Catholic Charities serves over 55,000 people in need each year. Last year:

- 6,200 essential behavioral health services were provided
- 771 people were successfully exited from homelessness
- 8,170 seniors received over \$70k in farmers market vouchers
- 2,873 individuals were compassionately diverted from homelessness

Please consider making a donation to the Catholic Charities Christmas Collection today.

www.cceasternwa.org/donate

Donate now with your phone by scanning the QR code.

Spokane Transit Authority announces the 2023 Section 5310 Call for Projects!

Details at spokanetransit.com/public-notice

Final Project Applications due 5 p.m., Dec. 8, 2023.

For more information on the Section 5310 program, visit spokanetransit.com/section-5310-program. For questions, contact program staff at Section5310@spokanetransit.com.

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Former Fig Tree editing team member, Sara Weaver, died Nov. 18

Sara Weaver, who started editing with The Fig Tree in 2007 under a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Fund to involve people in nonprofit projects, died Saturday, Nov. 18, at the age of 82.

We pause to remember and celebrate her contribution to the quality of The Fig Tree and the Resource Directory over her years of service with us from June 2007 to June 2020.

She had retired from working in retail in Spokane in 2003 and was looking for options to supplement her income.

In 2014, during the 30th anniversary of The Fig Tree, Sara commented that she continued to work with the publications because she “was astounded by how many people are doing so many good things.”

“It makes me feel useful, in contrast to my years of work in retail,” she added.

Sara earned a bachelor’s degree in religion and philosophy at Bridgewater College in Virginia before going on to



Sara Weaver was on the editorial team of The Fig Tree.

Bethany Theological Seminary in Oakbrook, Ill., where she was the only woman in the master-of-divinity program at the Church of the Brethren seminary. In 1968, she completed the degree.

She married a classmate, Jim Weaver, and went with him for his studies and work as a pastor and librarian in McPherson, Kans., Roanoke, Va., Bloomington, Ind., and Marion, Ohio. In 1974, they came to Spokane, where he was associate librarian at Whitworth University.

In college, she had started to major in English, but changed when she felt called to study theology with the goal of teaching at a college or seminary. Her work with The Fig Tree combined both those interests and skills, improving our accuracy.

Sara began working in retail during seminary.

In Spokane, she began attending Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) in 1980 and was involved with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC, serving on the worship and

spiritual life, nominations, and church and ministry committees.

Sara preached and taught at her own church and at other churches.

“Sara was a valued member of The Fig Tree editing team, assisting both with the newspaper three times an issue—third Fridays, fourth Mondays and fourth Thursdays—and the primary editor for the Resource Directory for many years,” said Mary.

“Because we edited until COVID at my dining room table, she was regularly present in my home and claimed my grandchildren as her grandchildren, too,” she said. “They also claimed her as family.”

One of Sara’s two daughters, Mary, said that even though Sara did not have much money, she gave a little bit to many organizations.

“Her last gift was to Tom’s Turkey Drive,” Mary said.

Her service will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Westminster UCC at 411 S. Washington.

Faith Action Network speakers express hope they find working together

For the Faith Action Network’s Annual Dinner, 340 were in Renton, 70 in Spokane and 60 online, raising funds to empower the statewide, multifaith advocacy effort.

Several quotes marked the occasion.

“We work together so justice and equality can be realized in our communities,” said Elise DeGooyer, FAN executive director.

“Hang on to the relationships we have

built to care for one another especially when we disagree and especially as demagogery is a rising threat,” said FAN chair Carol Jensen.

“Don’t give in to cynicism as we work to defeat injustice,” said Rabbi Jason Levine.

“Amplify your voices to create power to change. We are stronger together,” Kristin Ang, policy engagement director for FAN, telling of wins with gun responsibility, health equity and repealing the

death penalty. “When challenges seem insurmountable, with shared values we can build a brighter, more hopeful future for all.”

Brianna Dilts, new Eastern Washington organizer, spoke of FAN’s message of hope and solidarity in facing injustice.

Jess Ingman, North Central Washington organizer, is energized by faith-based organizing and relationships connecting justice and spirituality.

My-Linh Thai, 41st district representative in the Washington State Legislature, came to the U.S. from Vietnam in 1983 speaking no English. She spoke of her Buddhist upbringing and appreciation for multifaith cooperation. She said: “Hope requires willpower to create pathways to achieve the goal. Hope is a gift we give each other. Hope is action that requires work. When we work together we bring change for all.”



Cameron Conner compares worker co-ops in Spokane and Spain

By Cameron Conner – Special Column written from three months as a Watson Fellow in Barcelona, Spain. His next reports will be from Great Britain.

Many Spokane locals know the red awning and wooden windmill that greet visitors to the Great Harvest Bread Co. For decades, this haven of fresh-baked bread and family-owned farming has been a local icon of small business on the south side of the city.

Last year, Great Harvest became the latest member of the Spokane Workers Cooperative.

Joining the ranks of other local co-ops like RANGE Media, Treatment Creative and Ron Morris Heating and Air, Great Harvest is worker-owned and part of a network expanding the social and economic impact of cooperatively-owned businesses in Spokane.

The growing cooperative movement in the U.S.—spearheaded by groups like the Spokane Workers Cooperative—represents an important opportunity for the future of community organizing.

Just like churches, schools or community-managed social centers, co-ops like Great Harvest are another way people build organized power and address challenges facing their communities—be it with fair pay, sustainable agricultural practices or healthy food.

In a recent conversation, the co-founder of the Spokane Workers Cooperative, Joel Wilkerson, recently discussed the intersection of the cooperative movement and community organizing, starting with a definition of a cooperative business.

Like any community-organizing institution, he said that a co-op is owned and run by a group of local people to meet a

shared need. A co-op is usually composed of workers, customers or suppliers in a business.

Ensuring workers have a voice in decision-making means they can advocate for safe working conditions and fair pay. Customers can use their say to make sure the business is investing in the local area. Suppliers such as farmers or ranchers can come together through co-ops to compete with larger corporations.

Because most of these member-owners are also residents in the community, co-ops are good at investing locally and responding to their community’s economic or social needs.

The Spokane Workers Cooperative pays a living wage as a minimum for all workers. It is 22 percent higher than the national median wage, said Joel, who was open about the uphill battles of building cooperatives in Eastern Washington.

“The idea of worker ownership isn’t part of our culture in the U.S.,” he admitted. “Teaching people how to run and manage a cooperatively owned business requires a paradigm shift about what a business can be.”

While groups like the Spokane Workers Cooperative may still be fighting for full recognition in the U.S., they are a common practice in many parts of Europe and South America.

In Barcelona, Spain, consumers and employees have been using the cooperative model to improve corporate accountability and resiliency since before Spain was even a country.

Today, there are more than 860 cooperatives in Barcelona. In Catalonia, an estimated nine percent of GDP is generated every year by cooperatives.

Their vision goes beyond “business as usual.”

Ruben Medina is a coordinator for Impuls Cooperative de Sants (Impuls), a network of 35 cooperative businesses located in the Sants neighborhood of Barcelona. These members include grocery stores, restaurants, housing developments, cleaning services, architecture firms and more.

Ruben said co-ops function as a vehicle for community power locally.

“Many cooperatives in Impuls today were created out of a community need,” he explained.

L’Economat Social was developed to bring fresh produce into the community. Quesoni Co-op was founded because neighborhood events began needing technical, sound and audiovisual assistance.

Impuls brought individual businesses together in an organized network, enabling them to build impact by identifying shared issues and tackling them collectively. The results are impressive.

“At one point, we realized that each of our businesses was paying a lot of money for cleaning services,” Ruben recounted. “The businesses we were contracting to do this were often large chains, who treated workers poorly and would not reinvest money in our community.”

Impuls shared this realization with other neighborhood groups and a call went out in 2016 for community members to develop a solution. Soon, CoopNet was born: a cooperatively run, cleaning service dedicated to eco-friendly practices and with a commitment to a 1:1 salary ratio among men and women.

A year later, CoopNet joined Impuls as a full member of the cooperative network. Ripple effects go beyond the business

world. When co-op worker-owners realized there was a shared need for better childcare, they collaborated through Impuls to form a new daycare open to all community members.

In Sants, local economic power developed through Impuls has meant businesses address local issues, keep money circulating in the community and protect worker rights. They do this not out of altruism or charity, but because they are run by the people who have a vested interest in the same things.

Ruben and Joel both believe that the future of the cooperative movement and community organizing represent mutual opportunities. Strong cooperative businesses have the potential to be powerful community institutions, like churches or schools, and an organized, energetic community is the environment co-ops thrive in.

Hearing of the groundbreaking work in Spokane and seeing firsthand results in Barcelona made me think about the businesses in Spokane doing similar work.

Stores like Wishing Tree Books, South Perry Pizza, Meeting House and Great Harvest are small, community-focused businesses in a South Hill neighborhood that in my lifetime has seesawed between years of gentrification and drug deals.

What happens if these businesses organize? Could the South Hill be the next Sants?

The Spokane Workers Cooperative has its work cut out for it, as do its peers like the Spokane Alliance and Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance (SIMBA) They are networks at the forefront of making the city accountable to people instead of profits.

Calendar of Events

Area code is (509) unless otherwise listed.

- Nov 30-Dec 3 • The Nutcracker Ballet**, Spokane Symphony, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, Thurs. 7:30 p.m., Fri 2 p.m., Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
- To Dec 10 • Nativity Collection Display**, St. Mary Presentation Catholic, 509 E. Sixth, Deer Park, Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sun 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 276-2948
- **Tree of Sharing**, Riverpark Square, Spokane Valley Mall & Northtown Mall, noon to 8 p.m., 808-4919
 - **Christmas Tree Elegance**, benefit for the Spokane Symphony, Historic Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., 800-899-1482
- To Dec 11 • Spokane Public Schools Gift Card Drive**, for youth in Homeless Education and Resource Team (HEART) program. Mail or drop gift cards to 200 N Bernard or any school. Donate at spokaneschools.org/supportHEART
- To Dec 14 • Salvation Army Red Kettle**, various locations, registertpromg/cp,329-2733
- To Dec 15 • Hutton Christmas Tree Sale and Holiday Market**, Hutton Settlement, 9907 E. Wellesley, 926-1027, Mon-Fri 12 to 6 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
- **Toys for Tots**, collects and distributes toys requested. Volunteer at 990-8454
- To Dec 22 • Vanessa Behan Santa Express**, Spokane Valley Mall, 415-3506
- **Need a Little Christmas**, Kroc Center, 1765 W. Golf Course Rd., Coeur d'Alene, Fri 7 p.m., Sat 3 & 7 p.m., Sun 3 p.m., Sun 17th 3 & 7 p.m., Th 21st 7 p.m., Fri 22nd 2 & 6 p.m., 208-667-1865
- Dec 1 • "Waiting with the Black Madonna: A Journey into the Depth of Advent,"** Heather Berndt, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, online, 1 to 4 p.m., heatherberndt.com
- **Holidays for the Homebound**, Spokane Meals on Wheels, 457-6597, information on gift bags at mowspokane.org
 - **Journey to Bethlehem**, Christmas Walkthrough Experience, 5607 S. Freya, 6 to 8 p.m.
 - **Snowflake Showcase**, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 211 E. Desmet, 6 and 8 p.m., 313-4776
- Dec 2 • Filipino-American Assn Inland NW Christmas party**, Martin Luther King Jr Center, 500 S. Stone, 12- 4 p.m.
- **Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony Concert**, The Blue Marble, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 2 to 3:30 p.m., Gonzaga.edu/events
 - **Coeur d'Alene Symphony: Holiday Magic**, Schuler Performing Arts Center, 880 W. Garden, 7:30 p.m., 208-769-7780
 - **Spokane Jazz Orchestra**, "The Sound of Peace," Christmas Music, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., 227-7638
- Dec 1-3 • The Nutcracker**, Panida Theater, 300 N. First, Sandpoint, Fri, 7 p.m., Sat, 2 & 7 p.m., Sun, 2 p.m., 208-263-9191
- Dec 2, 9 • 1912 Center Winter Market**, 412 E. Third, Moscow, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 208-669-2249
- Dec 3 • Carla Peperzak's 100th Birthday**, Temple Beth Shalom & Congregation Emanu-el, Fundraiser Brunch, spokanetbs.org
- **Messiah, Music Conservatory** of Coeur d'Alene, Schuler Performing Arts Center, North Idaho College, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. cdaconservatory.org
 - **The Honey Girl of Auschwitz**, Holocaust Survivor Esther Basch speaks on surviving in Auschwitz, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 7 to 9 p.m., 990-7878
- Dec 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) Coffee**, Saranac Commons, 19 W. Main, 9 a.m., scar Spokane.org
- Dec 4 • Jim Stockton**, "Integration of Faith and Reason," Jepson 114 at Gonzaga, 5 to 6:30 p.m., calhoun@gonzaga.edu
- **Gonzaga Symphony**, Young Artists' Winners, Myrtle Woldson Center, 7:30 to 9 p.m., gonzaga.edu/events
- Dec 5 • Silent Day of Prayer** on Our Lady of Loreto, Sr. Mary Eucharista, SMMC, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ihrc.net
- Dec 6, 13, 20, 27 • SCAR Meeting**, Saranac Commons 19 W. Main, 12 noon, scar Spokane.org
- Dec 7 • The Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meeting**, 12 to 3 p.m. 535-4112
- **Spokane Homeless Coalition Meeting**, Gathering House, 733 W. Garland, 9:30 a.m.
 - **Sandy Williams Justice Center**, 30 Minute Consultations, Carl Maxey Center, 3114 E. 5th, 5 to 7 p.m., selfhelplegal@carlmaxeycenter.org
- Dec 7, 8 • "Forever Ours: Light, Carols & Candles** Christmas Concert," Chorale Coeur d'Alene, Trinity Lutheran, 812 N. Fifth, CdA, 7 p.m., choralecda.com
- Dec 7-9 • Winter Festival, Re*Imagine Medical Lake**, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., medicallake.org/winter-festival
- Dec 7-9, 11-14 • Christmas Bureau**, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., christmasbureau.org - assistance from Catholic Charities, Volunteers of America, Spokesman
- Dec 8-9 • Together Drive for Spokane's Fire Victims**, Northwood Middle School, food, clothing and gifts
- Dec 9 • "Into Divine Embrace,"** Harmony Woods Center, 11507 S. Keeney, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 993-2968
- **Children's Christmas Joy Clothing Drive**, Mission Community Center at Stevens Elementary, 1717 E. Sinto, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 536-1084, parents shop for infant's to 6th grade clothing and books
 - **Winter Tea Tasting & Bazaar**, celebrating immigrant-owned small businesses and entrepreneurs, Thrive International and Manzanita House, Martin Luther

- King Jr. Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., mhspokane.org, thriveinternational.org
 - **Sing-a-long Messiah**, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 5:15 p.m.
 - **Amulet & Illumination: Art of Visual Symbolism**, Spokane Art School, 503 E. Second, Ste. B, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 325-1500
 - **Bing Crosby Holiday Film Festival**, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 227-7638
 - **Spokane Folklore Society's 43rd Annual Christmas Dance**, East Spokane Grange, 1621 N. Park, Spokane Valley, 7 p.m., 928-0692
 - **The Gothard Sisters Celtic Christmas Concert**, Heartwood Center, 615 S. Oak St., Sandpoint, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., 208-263-8699
- Dec 9, 10 • Messiah**, Wash-Idaho Symphony & Palouse Choral Society, Pullman High School, 510 NW Greyhound Way, Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 4 p.m., 332-1551
- **Candlelight Christmas Concert**, A Light Through the Darkness, Gonzaga Music and Choir, Myrtle Woldson Center, Sat 7:30 to 9 p.m., Sun 2 to 3:30 p.m., Gonzaga.edu/events
- Dec 9-20 • Manito Holiday Lights**, Manito Park, 1800 S. Grand, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., 456-8038
- Dec 9, 16 • Southside Community Center Breakfast** with Santa, 3151 E. 27th, 9 a.m. to noon, 535-0803
- Dec 10 • Chanukah Party**, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E.30th, 5 p.m., spokanetbs.org
- **Pacific Islander Winter/Christmas Potluck**, Mid-City Concerns, 1222 W 2nd, 2 to 5 p.m.
- Dec 11 • Free Phone Monday**, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 487-1603 x 222
- **Low-cost Pet Clinic**, Northeast Community Center, 3 to 7 p.m., 487-1603 x 222
- Dec 12 • Hospice of North Idaho Volunteer Orientation**, 10 to 11:30 a.m., 208-772-7994, everettj@honi.org, hospiceofnorthidaho.org/volunteer
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Zoom, 5:30 p.m., ucarter@pjals.org
- Dec 13 • Sandy Williams Justice Center**, Racial Justice Clinic, 3114 E. 5th, 5 to 7 p.m., selfhelplegal@carlmaxeycenter.org
- Dec 14 • Executive Director Coffee Hour**, Nonprofit Assn of Washington, 10 to 11 a.m. nonprofitwa.org
- **Immigration Clinic**, Latinos En Spokane, 5 to 7 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
- Dec 14, 28 • Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Zoom, 5:30 p.m., slightly@pjals.org
- Dec 15 • Sinto Senior Center Christmas lunch**, 1125 W. Sinto, 1 p.m., 327-2861 RSVP \$15
- **Winterfest Dinner with Santa**, resources & activities, West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Dec 16 • Saint to Santa: The Christian History Behind Santa**, Immaculate Heart Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., ihrc.net
- **Christmas Posada**, Latinos En Spokane, West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt, 2 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
 - **Parade of Lights**, Spokane Valley, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec 16, 17 • Spokane Symphony Pops 3: A Bing Crosby Christmas**, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, Sat 7:30 p.m., Sun 3 p.m., 624-1200
- Dec 16, 18 • Brzzaar**, River Park Square, 808 W. Main, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., 624-3945
- Dec 17 • German American Christmas Service**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th & Grand, 3 p.m.
- **Taize Evening Prayer**, 6:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Dec 18 • NAACP General Membership Meeting**, Spokane Public Library, 906 W. Main, or virtual, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- Dec 18, 20 • Winter Solstice Celebration**, St. David's, 7315 N. Wall, 7 p.m.
- Dec 20 • Legal Clinic**, Latinos En Spokane, 6 to 8 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
- **Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels (GSCMOW) Silver Cafes meals**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., gsmealsonwheels.org/silver-cafes
- Dec 20-23 • Campbell House Holidays**, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First, 12-4 p.m., 456-3931
- Dec 21 • Christmas Brunch**, Shalom Ministries, 518 W. Third, 7:30 to 9 a.m., meal and gift bag
- **Healing Circle**, Latinos En Spokane, 6 to 8 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
- Dec 22-23 • Rest, Rewild, Retreat**, Harmony Woods Retreat Center, harmonywoods.org
- Dec 24 • St. Ann's lunch**, 2116 E. First, 1 to 2 p.m., 535-3031
- **Union Gospel Mission**, 1224 E. Trent, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 535-8510, sit down dinner (clean& sobe) or pick up
- Dec 25 • GSCMOW deliveries**, sign up at 924-6976
- Dec 31 • Spokane Symphony New Year's Eve: Beethoven's 9th**, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, 7:30 p.m., 624-1200
- Jan 4 • Fig Tree Development and Board Meetings**, noon and 1 to 3 p.m., on Zoom
- To Dec 31 • Northwest Winterfest**, Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, 477-1766
- To Jan 1 • Crescent Holiday Windows**, Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 800-918-9344
- Mon, Wed, Fri • Barton English Language Classes**, First Presbyterian Church of Spokane, 318 S. Cedar, 9 to 11:30 a.m., 747-1058
- Wed • Open Meditation**, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, 5:30 to 7 a.m., (206) 979-5570
- Sats to Dec 23 • Winter Wonderland Market**, The Wonder Building, 835 N. Post, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., spokaneevents@esrhospitality.com

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GU vice president appreciates opportunity to live out her faith values

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

As acting vice president for mission integration at Gonzaga University, Ellen Maccarone's role entails much more than campus ministry for students and faculty.

She shifted into this role after 17 years of teaching philosophy at Gonzaga—10 years full-time and seven and a half part-time, plus working as faculty advisor in the office of GU President Thayne McCulloh.

Eighteen months ago, he appointed her acting vice president for mission integration. In that work, she has confirmed her commitment to working in a Catholic university because it allows her to live the values she believes in.

“My path to teaching in a Catholic University was a bit of a stretch,” she explained. “I grew up Catholic in a small Massachusetts town about 10 miles north of Boston. We went to Sunday Mass, attended religious education and received the sacraments, but I never went to Catholic school or worked for a Catholic organization.”

Her academic work was at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in ethics. For her master's in philosophy, she went to Colorado State University in Fort Collins and then completed doctoral studies, also in philosophy, at the University of Florida in Gainesville. All are non-sectarian universities.

After a short time of teaching at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota she came to Gonzaga University.

Ellen stepped into the role of acting vice president for mission integration at the request of the president when her predecessor resigned after being at home during the pandemic and realizing she wanted to spend more time with her family than the position allowed.

“They are doing a search for the position this academic year. I love this work and I am good at it, so I am applying,” Ellen said.

Ellen's years of teaching at Gonzaga and the spiritual experiences she has had there have given her a passion for Gonzaga's mission.

During her third year of teaching there, she began following the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life, a method of praying developed by the Jesuit Founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. This practice profoundly affected her outlook in all aspects of life.

The Spiritual Exercises lead the person following them to become more aware of their relationship with the Divine and



Ellen Maccarone sits in Gonzaga University Chapel.

Photo by Zack Berlot

with each other, she said.

For Ellen, it changed her outlook on life and in practical ways changed how she approached teaching philosophy and ethics.

Growing up she tended to think more in terms of Christ in his divinity, which made it hard to think about a personal relationship. Afterwards it became more of a relationship with the human Jesus of the Gospel. Previously she had a rich syllabus, and she approached it in what she called an “old school” way—formal and impersonal.

Afterwards, even though the syllabus might have been rich, she found herself more sensitive to students, more charitable in terms of giving them the benefit of the doubt, honoring each person's unique humanity and affirming the dignity of the human person.

For one ethics class, Theories of Solidarity, she used an anthology of Catholic social justice teachings but presented the material in the framework of some of the contemporary leaders of the international Jesuit Order, particularly the Father General Pedro Arrupe who talked about the importance of being “men and women for and with others.”

For the final class project, students chose a local nonprofit that claimed to be working for social justice and then analyzed its work in light of what they had learned in the ethics class.

“There were some surprises. Some students found that their nonprofit organizations had other motives than working for social justice—no matter what they said—while others strongly lived out socially just principles. If nothing else this taught the students ethical principles to use to evaluate whether a particular nonprofit does what it claims.”

Because of following the Spiritual Exercises, Ellen became more transparent with the students, sharing with them reasons for her assignments and expressing her concern for their welfare.

She would counsel students,

“Take the one percent penalty for being late rather than plagiarizing in your paper. It will make your end results more successful. I do care what you think. I ask the questions I do because I am interested in your answers.”

In her new role, Ellen misses teaching, but it gives her other opportunities to use her skills and do work she loves.

At Gonzaga, the vice president for mission integration works in three areas to provide strategic leadership for the president: university ministry, mission engagement and the Office of Tribal Relations.

“University ministry is about the traditional work of campus ministry, providing spiritual opportunities,” she explained.

Mission engagement links with a strategic leadership group, assuring mission-centered hiring, bringing new hires on board and overseeing the formation of members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. The goal is for all to be imbued with the Gonzaga mission, which

includes fostering “a mature commitment to the dignity of the human person, social justice, diversity, intercultural competence, global engagement, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, and care for the planet,” Ellen said.

Mission integration also is responsible for the Office of Tribal Relations, which works with the university's tribal partners and with its Native students.

In this office, Ellen wants to make sure that faculty and staff fulfill “the promise we make to our students about the kind of education they will receive.”

One task Ellen looks forward to in the coming year is shepherding the university's self-study leading up to the periodic formal peer evaluation, which is similar to an accreditation process but aims to reaffirm Jesuit sponsorship of Gonzaga as a Jesuit apostolic work.

Besides the ongoing tasks of her department, Ellen looks to the future in the three areas of university life related to the Office of Mission Integration.

“I first want to make sure Gonzaga is living our mission as robustly as possible. I am

particularly interested in assuring that mid-career and senior faculty who are thinking about their legacy are well placed within the mission of Gonzaga.”

Secondly, she is also interested in exploring the spiritual needs of students, particularly those whose survey responses indicate that they don't see themselves as religious, but self-identify as spiritual with no spiritual practice.

Ellen believes Gonzaga must meet them where they are, deepening their resilience and strengthening their mental health.

In the third area of tribal relations, she desires to assure greater collaboration with tribal partners and provide greater financial aid for Native students who wish to attend Gonzaga.

“What is important to me is that the work I have done helps the university to fulfill its mission,” she summarized. “I find this work life-giving. I am so grateful to be at Gonzaga where I can do better work for a better purpose and can work in line with my values of faith, social justice and the pursuit of truth.”

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MYRTLE WOLDSON
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Gonzaga Jazz: Christmas Concert

Thursday, Nov 30, 7:30pm

Free 60-minute concert featuring songs from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite."

Gonzaga Wind Ensemble

Saturday, Dec 2, 2:00pm

Free concert featuring the music of Michael Markowski, Eric Whitacre, Cait Nishimura, James David, John Mackey, and Julie Giroux.

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra: Young Artists Winners

Monday, Dec 4, 7:30pm

“Berlioz: *Symphonie Fantastique*, Op. 14.”

GSO will enthusiastically showcase Young Artists Competition winners as they perform various concertos and arias.

Gonzaga Choirs: Candlelight Christmas

Saturday, Dec 9, 7:30pm
Sunday, Dec 10, 3:00pm

Featuring special guests St. Aloysius School Choir and Spokane Brassworks

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