

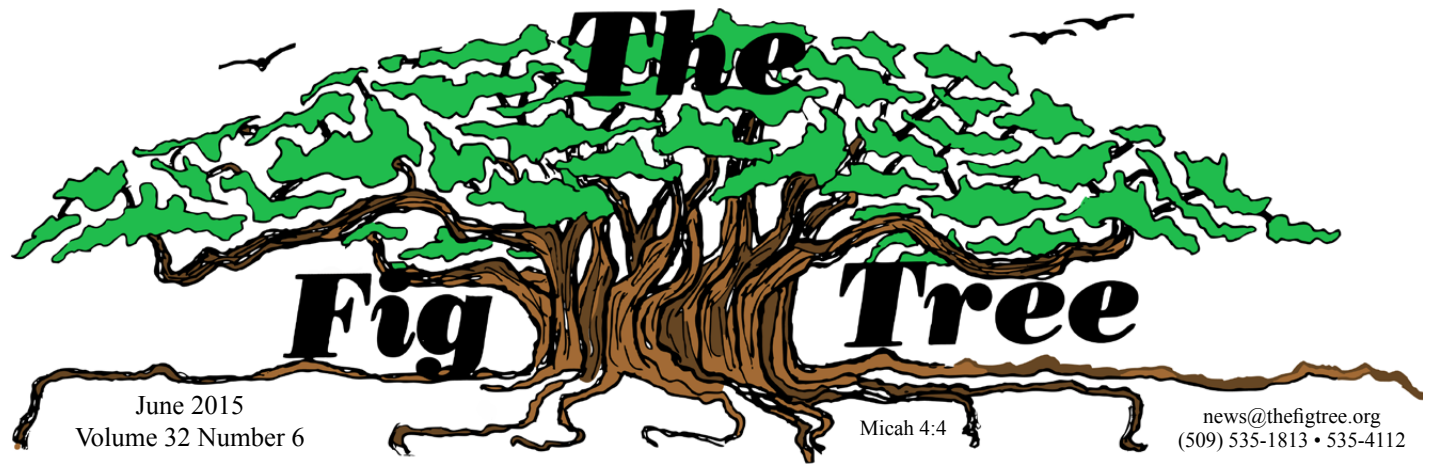
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Civil rights anywhere has impact here

By Mary Stamp

Active in the NAACP and in local civil rights marches, Jerrelene Williamson, 83, felt akin to civil rights marchers led by Martin Luther King Jr. and today supports protests across the country related to police shooting unarmed African American young men.

“We were not in the marches with Martin Luther King Jr., but our hearts, minds and souls were there,” she said. “We knew that as things became better elsewhere, they would be better for everyone.”

So she considers the March on Washington and the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma part of her heritage.

“What happened there was and still is important here,” she said. “There will always be something, so we need to be alert.”

Jerrelene likens what is happening between police and black young men across the country to what is happening in Spokane where, she said, black young men are stopped too frequently.

“Whatever happens to someone of my race, happens to all of us, because it affects all of us,” said Jerrelene, who has seen many benefits from the civil rights movement in improved opportunities in



Jerrelene Williamson tells how Martin Luther King Jr has influenced her life.

her life, her children’s lives and the lives of other African Americans in Spokane.

Jerrelene, who now focuses on her five children, 14 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, has created a legacy for them by recording the history of African Americans in Spokane.

She has been part of that history, growing up in the caring community of African American churches and organizations that assured welcome and companionship while many doors were shut to African Americans.

Jerrelene grew up attending the state’s oldest African American church, Calvary Baptist Church in Spokane, founded 125 years ago. In her teen years when she was attending Rogers High School, however, she began attending Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, which had a large youth group with many young men.

There she met her husband, Sam, who came to Spokane from Cleveland in 1948 to work with his uncle’s floor refinishing business. They were married after she graduated in 1950 and were together 63 years until his death in 2013.

They lived in Spokane, except
Continued on page 4

Institute addresses ‘Engaging Culture’

The 2015 Whitworth Institute of Ministry will feature author Walter Brueggemann, musician Andy Crouch and professor Anne Zaki to its 40th conference, July 20 to 24 at Whitworth University.

These guests and other speakers will focus on the theme “Pursuing the Common Good: Engaging Culture with the Gospel,” and will offer participants four days of fellowship, worship and scriptural teaching.

Worship services at 7 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the university’s Seeley Mudd Chapel are open to the public.

Walter, an influential inter-

preter of Scripture, is the author of more than 100 books, including *The Prophetic Imagination* and *Message of the Psalms*. He is currently the William Marcellus McPheeters professor emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Andy is the award-winning author of *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*. He serves on the governing boards of Fuller Theological Seminary and Equitas Group, a philanthropic organization that is focused on ending child exploitation in Haiti and Southeast Asia. He is also a classically trained musician who draws on pop, folk, rock, jazz and

gospel influences.

Anne teaches at the Evangelical Theological Seminary, in Cairo, Egypt, and serves the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in the area of global initiatives. She is preparing for ordination in the Presbyterian Church of Egypt. She will be the first woman ordained as a minister in North Africa and the Middle East.

During this year’s institute, Whitworth associate professor of music and director of church music studies Benjamin Brody will lead a workshop on “Songs for Spiritual Formation: Four Living Hymn Writers Whose Work Every Pastor Should Know.”

Lecturer of practical theology Kent McDonald will lead two workshops, “Postmodernity: 10 Experiential Truth Rules” and “Spiritual Formation of the Digital Age.”

Whitworth’s retiring Bruner-Welch Professor Emeritus of Theology, James Edwards, will lead a workshop on “Professor Ernst Lohmeyer as a Model of Ministry.”

For information, call 777-3794 or visit <http://www.whitworth.edu/wim/>.

Diocese installs new bishop

Installed as the seventh Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane on May 19, the Right Rev. Thomas Daly was seated in the cathedra chair of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes and was handed the crozier, a tall pastoral staff with a crook at the top, symbolizing the bishop’s role as the Good Shepherd.

In his homily, he spoke on John 17 when Jesus prayed before his death that his followers would be kept from the evil one as he sent them into the world to share love. Jesus reminded them to remain united by the one faith and put aside their own interests for the sake of God, remaining in the world for the sake of the world, but not belonging to it.

Bishop Daly cited Pope Francis speaking of cultural encounters of “engaging the world.”

The night before his installation, he was at Bishop White Seminary, where he will live. He found a book on the history of the Catholic Church and read of the need for prayers and penance for “sinners to turn back to God.” The U.S. church needs prayers for strength to face complex challenges that can “be overwhelming if we think we are alone,” Bishop Daly said.

“Today, listening to the Lord can be a luxury. In the midst of prayer and healing, we can have blessed moments of silence,” he said. “Coming from the Silicon Valley, I’m aware we have too much noise and an information overload. We need time to be quiet with the Lord, so we can live with Jesus in our hearts forever.”

“The problem is not the church being in the world, but the world being in the church related to the sanctity of life and marriage,” he said. He said there is need for prayers for conversion, more priests, protecting the vulnerable, and for “the lonely and lost to be filled with the love and light of Christ.”

For information, call 458-7300 or visit dioceseofspokane.org.



Bishop Thomas Daly
Inland Register photo

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
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Being Christian is being part of God's household

Isabel Apawo Phiri, who is the World Council of Churches (WCC) associate general secretary for public witness and diakonia, spoke recently on "Living Together in the Household of God" at the 14th Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia, held in Indonesia.

One dimension is living together in love, she said: "Being followers of Christ means we have to listen to each other's narratives, challenges and successes. We need to accompany each other in our lives." Recognizing God's household is a challenge churches face as the ecumenical movement deals with divisions in churches over exclusion and discrimination based on race, caste, gender, HIV, AIDS and sexual orientation.

"How can we live together so no one feels alien in God's household?" she said. "All God's children deserve to be reached with God's love."

Isabel said living together ecumenically allows Christians to respond to issues together as one church in solidarity, creating a powerful voice in the international public arena, even though churches do not always agree.

For example, she said, "Violence against women and questions of women's participation in the church are divisive issues, but remain important in the ecumenical movement as they still raise issues of justice in the household of God. Human trafficking and the brutal rape of women in Asia have not abated." She called on Asian churches to purge this evil.

Other urgent areas of cooperation, she said, involve linking consumption patterns and the destruction of the earth.

WCC leads ecumenical efforts for peace in Ukraine

Ecumenical efforts led by the World Council of Churches (WCC) encourage peace in Ukraine, where a fragile cease-fire is daily tested by violence in its eastern area. Since the Ukrainian revolution began in February 2014, the Russian Federation annexed the Crimean peninsula, and war has raged with separatist pro-Russian fighters. The conflict began after the post-revolutionary government sought greater ties with Western Europe and pitted Western countries and Russia against each other, making the conflict national, regional and global. This February, political leaders developed the Minsk II agreement to end fighting, while religious leaders work behind the scenes to implement it.

A delegation led by the WCC general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, visited Ukraine in March. In April, they met Patriarch Kirill, Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said on Feb. 15 that the conflict affects human rights of those living in areas affected. Church of Sweden Emeritus Archbishop Wejryd, the WCC's European president, said many are starving to death in their cellars, unable to seek supplies because of fighting.

The delegation heard from churches and other partners. They met with politicians, government representatives, community members, church leaders and members, seeking ways the WCC and ecumenical fellowship can aid efforts by Ukrainian churches and faith communities to bring just peace. Most Ukrainians belong to a faith community, mostly churches. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) is the largest church there, with congregations on both sides. It encompasses Ukrainian and Russian identities, so it has potential to promote reconciliation.

"We were surprised by the ecumenical spirit in the All Ukraine Council of Churches and Religious Organizations," said Wejryd. It has representatives of every religious tradition, including the Jewish and Muslim. Members hold and discuss different visions.

The conflict has had economic impact in Ukraine and Russia, adversely affecting ordinary people. The team calls for the global ecumenical body to stay in contact with different parties and for WCC member churches to pray and act for just peace in Ukraine.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree counts on local congregations

The Fig Tree counts on its partnership with local congregations and judicatories of the denominations, to contribute to its success. They help further its mission to bring stories of people offering hope to the area and beyond.

Every month, St. Mark's Lutheran Church provides space for the paper's volunteers to put out mailings and pick up copies of the current issue for delivery. St. Mark's also advertises its events in The Fig Tree. In 2014 and 2015, the church provided space

for hosting the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, which St. John's Cathedral has also done.

Veradale United Church of Christ in Spokane Valley has assisted with printing color Fig Tree brochures to help spread the word about The Fig Tree and how individuals can be involved.

The Inland District of the United Methodist Church helped to underwrite the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference in January 2015.

The Eastern Washington-Idaho

Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America printed the materials for the recent Benefit Breakfast and Benefit Lunch.

Many congregations put The Fig Tree in the hands of their members and friends, widening its reach.

Those who work on The Fig Tree and believe communication is key to possibility are grateful to congregations and judicatories who support this mission.

For information, call 535-1813 or visit www.thefigtree.org.

Directory underwriting is approaching goal

Ad sales for the 2015-16 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources continue through June 15—with the goal of raising \$28,000 in underwriting support.

Malcolm Haworth, directory editor, will receive updates on congregations and agencies

through June 15.

Volunteers are needed to help with research and editing.

The directory will be published in July and distributed in August and September.

Meanwhile, The Fig Tree continues its pledge drive, seeking to reach a basic goal of \$30,000 to

cover publication, media training, internships, writing, editing, mailing and other projects.

"A team is nurturing major giving, constituency building, directory underwriting and the ongoing pledge drive," said Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree editor.

For information, call 535-1813.

Ganesh Himal raises 'fair aid' for partners

Denise Attwood of Ganesh Himal Trading Co. reported that its Conscious Connections Foundation has been providing about 1,850 families in Nepal with food and shelter in the past month.

Denise said, in line with their commitment to fair trade, they are trying to provide what they are terming "fair aid, direct, relational, appropriate aid done by Nepali partners."

Remote villages affected by the April 25 earthquake and one that followed are in areas "where we have direct contacts and so the relief has been delivered by people we know and trust," she said.

"We've been able to do this relief for about \$15 a family," Denise said. "So far we've spent in Nepal \$27,680 of the money donated. Nepali partners have done the work as volunteers. Many lost much themselves.

"We continue to search for villages that are accessible to us that have not yet received relief but are starting to focus on the months to come," she said. "As the monsoons hit, there will be more need for food, so we are saving some donations for then, figuring the disaster will fade from people's thoughts. If we don't save for that, we may not have funds when people again need them most."

Through Conscious Connections, there are continued

efforts to raise funds to rebuild the clinic they helped build in Baseri.

"We are researching rammed earth housing—made by compressing damp earth in a

mold—as an option," she said. "Most rammed earth structures survived quakes."

For information, call 499-3320 or visit ganeshhimaltrading.com.

Summer Leadership Workshops: Invest in People, Not the Pentagon Saturday, June 20

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church
 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr. - Donations accepted

Trainer: Mike Prokosch, Peace Action

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www.pjals.org/2015/06/summer-leadership-workshop
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Gardener finds job an opportunity to relate with God and with people

By Sr. Sue Orlowski, SP

Mike Turner feels so blessed to work surrounded by the beauty of the Ferris Perennial Garden and Lilac Garden at Manito Park in Spokane that it seems like an avocation to him.

It is an opportunity for him to develop his relationship with God and with people he meets.

In informal encounters with people as he gardens, he sometimes engages in a ministry of being “a presence, as the hands, feet, heart and voice of God,” he said in a recent interview.

He describes it as a ministry of meeting new people every day and visiting with people who return and seek him out.

“I just show people they are valuable,” Mike said. “I listen to them, affirm them and accept them for who they are. Sometimes people tear up as we talk, and sometimes I do too. I feel that God is using me to help people know that they are loved.”

A kind, gentle man with a hat and well-worn work boots, Mike’s peace is contagious.

After graduating from high school in Walla Walla, Mike became an announcer for the local radio station but felt something was missing from his life. He realized he was missing a “real relationship with God,” but had no role models or mentors.

One day at work 45 years ago, he experienced a tangible encounter with God, felt filled with God’s presence and with a sense of peace and wellbeing he still draws on. He knew God was calling him for a mission, but he did not know what it was or where



Mike Turner

he should go. At that point in his life he was not a church-goer.

While he enjoyed announcing on the radio, he also looked forward to going outside to mow the lawn around the radio station.

After visiting Manito Park in 1974 with his fiancée, Malynnda, he thought it would “be heaven” to work there.

So when he and Malynnda moved to Spokane, he studied applied horticulture at Spokane Community College.

“I need to work with my hands, and I enjoy things that are beautiful, well-manicured and delineated,” he said. “I really like edging.”

After working eight years for the Spokane Parks Department, Mike took one of the seven gardener positions at Manito Park.

“Every day I am so glad I have this job to come to,” he said. “It is an anchor as steady work and an opportunity to meet people.”

Manito Park is a century-old, public park located in Spokane’s South Hill neighborhood. It includes five gardens: the Duncan Garden, the Perennial Garden, the Rose Hill Garden, the Nishinomiya Japanese Garden and the Lilac Garden, plus a conservatory and pond that are toured by more than 150,000 visitors each year.

The 90-acre park includes spacious manicured lawns, playgrounds, walking and biking paths, flowers, topiary shrubs, a greenhouse conservatory and multiple gardens, he said.

Mike joined the staff at Manito Park 29 years ago, but on one level it feels like yesterday because each day is different.

“Every day I look out my office window and watch spring awakening as the flowers start to bloom in the landscape of the perennial garden,” he said.

Mike is responsible for the two gardens and sometimes assists with other areas. This includes care for the grounds, some 300 varieties of perennials and 100 types of lilacs.

As busy as he can be, he usually has time to talk with someone or just listen to a person’s story.

Mike said he is an introvert, but in the garden he has something in common with people because they are there to visit the garden.

“Some people want to be left alone. Some have questions. Some just talk, which gives me the chance to listen,” Mike said.

With a smile on his face he said, “This place, this work, it was clearly God’s provision for me.”

Today Mike and Malynnda attend The Bridge, a non-denominational, charismatic Bible church.

“Members seek to live Jesus’ love for all people in a way that engages the church, the city and one another,” said Mike.

Its values are: 1) inner wholeness is greater than outward success; 2) mercy is greater than justice; 3) kindness is better than being right; 4) serving is better than being served; 5) brokenness is the door to wholeness; 6) truth is liberating and devastating; 7) learning is greater than education; 8) giving is sweeter than gaining;

9) forgiveness doesn’t fix everything, and 10) prayer is more powerful than persuasion.

He feels that he is doing what God created him to do: to help people know that God loves them unconditionally.

“We can worship God by doing what God created us to do, even if it is pulling weeds,” he said.

Although Mike is in the garden every day, he tries to look at it with new eyes each day because “familiarity can rob us of the beauties around us. When I come to work, I try to see the beauty of all that is in the garden. I look past weeds and imperfections. Then I can appreciate the garden like the visitors do.”

For information, call 625-6682.

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Museum’s camps involve children in arts, science, nature

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) offers summer camps with hands-on learning experiences that combine appreciation for arts with science, and respect of the natural world.

In these camps, MAC staff seek to cultivate a sense of adventure and wonder, enthusiasm for exploring the natural world, and promote talent, community, environmental stewardship and conservation, said Forrest Rodgers, executive director.

Camps on art, natural history and adventures are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in five day sessions beginning June 22 and

running through Aug. 7.

First and second grade camps are on “Bugs,” “Creature Feature” and “Get Messy at the MAC.”

Third and fourth grade camps are “Creative Creatures.” “Build It,” “Morphing Materials,” “Fantastic Fossils,” “A View from a River,” “Got ROCKS!” and “Map and Compass Orienteering.”

Fifth and sixth grade camps are on “Imagine That! Adventures in Art,” “A Story to Tell,” “Off the Wall” and “Up-Cycle with Art.”

Art campers will explore techniques of printing, painting and clay. They will learn about arrowheads and glass beads. They

will recycle and up-cycle household materials into art. They will explore plants and animals in the urban jungle.

Natural history campers learn about geology, paleontology and ecology; maps and compasses; rocks and geological formations.

Plateau Adventures camps look at insect friends, diverse living spaces and storytelling. They will learn about fish, birds, bugs, mammals and fossils, and explore the Spokane River through stories, games, science and art.

For information, visit north-westmuseum.org/learn/summer-camps.

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In finding her roots, Spokane woman reports on African Americans

Continued from page 1

for three years in California. Sam was maintenance manager at Playfair Race Track and had a business cleaning homes, washing windows and doing janitorial services. In 1972, they moved to the home where she now lives in Spokane Valley.

Eventually, they returned to attend Calvary while their five children were growing.

In 1965, after their youngest went to school, Jerrelene began working as a grocery checker at Safeway—the first African American grocery store checker in Spokane. She continued working 27 years until retiring in 1991.

As a checker, she enjoyed meeting and talking with people. She always tried to be kind. One woman she met at a doll show told her that her grandmother always liked going through her line because she “smiled and was nice.” One day, however, a woman, who had waited in line, turned her head to snub Jerrelene just when it was her turn. Then she went to another line.

“I made up my mind to smile, be kind and do my work,” she said.

“It’s foolish for people to have rejected African Americans,” she said. “It’s different now. I have many white friends. I’m glad my children did not experience the foolish ways blacks were portrayed in entertainment, films and on TV. Many TV black programs now portray us in a good light.”

For the 1989 state centennial, Jerrelene helped form the Spokane Northwest Black Pioneers, which did research and collected photos for a “Centennial Tribute to Northwest Black Pioneers.” It was sponsored statewide by The Bon Marche, which displayed the exhibit and served soul food in its restaurants. Some of the captions of the photos were written by Nancy Compau, researcher in the Northwest Room of the Spokane Public Library.

The exhibit included a window display of Jerrelene’s collection of African American dolls.

The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture has many of the original photos, and she has copies.

In 2010, her book, *African Americans in Spokane*, was published in conjunction with Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America. Her daughter, Jennifer Roseman, formerly with the Spokesman-Review and now with the Sisters of Providence communications, helped her produce the book.

The book compiles photos that were the Spokane part of the statewide black pioneers exhibit with captions by Jerrelene.

The introduction says the book’s stories are about Spokane African Americans’ families, lifestyles, discrimination, churches, business, employment, triumphs and defeats—their everyday life persevering in a city that did not always welcome them.

The photo book includes stories of many of Spokane’s famous African American citizens.

She most likes the story of Jim Chase, who came to Spokane on a freight train and wound up being elected mayor in 1981.

Her interest in history and her ancestors was aroused by Alex Haley’s 1976 book and TV series, “Roots,” in which he traced his ancestry to Africa.

“When I found my family’s story back to 1880, I was excited,” she said.

She found an 1880 census record in Staunton, Va., for her great grandfather, Henry Breckenridge, 32, his wife, Lucy, 25, and their three-year-old son, John. Henry and Lucy had both been born (1851 and 1857) into slavery.

In 1889, Henry came by train to Roslyn, Wash., recruited as many other blacks anxious to work. Brought to break a strike by coal miners, they were greeted with gun shots. Soon the strike ended and black and white miners worked side-by-side in the mines.

Lucy, Henry’s sister, Mary, and son John, then 11, had followed on the next train, as did many other families. They moved to Spokane in 1899.

There were 376 blacks in Spokane in 1900, according to Joseph Franklin’s book, *All Through the Night*. After the mines began to close in the 1920s, many more moved to Spokane.

Unlike Roslyn, where there were black-owned businesses and stores they could frequent, there were fewer opportunities in Spokane, where black men worked as laborers, porters, janitors, barbers or in road construction. Women worked as domestics, cooks, hotel maids or nannies.

When Jerrelene’s father, Abner, was in his 20s, he was a Pullman porter. In Chicago, he met and married her mother, Hester. Returning to Spokane, they moved into his mother’s home. Abner worked as a maintenance man/janitor in hotels. Her mother worked when their nine children were older.

“Growing up we lived on the North side of the city in a house at 407 E. Broad St. My grandmother, Alice Breckenridge Hill, left the house to my father. Most black families lived on the Southeast side around the two black churches, Calvary Baptist,

and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, which started shortly after Calvary.

Jerrelene’s book tells of the early pastors and how these churches were the “lifeblood of their people.”

“There was always something going on at church—plays, dinners, ice cream socials, contests, picnics and ball games. We didn’t go elsewhere. We were refused service in restaurants and places of entertainment,” she said.

“People of all races came when we served chicken dinners to raise funds. Everyone pitched in. It was a lot of work,” she said.

“We could go to Fern’s Ice Cream Parlor without incident, so it was packed after church,” said Jerrelene.

Because an African American man had sued the Pantages Theater and won in 1919, when they tried to make him sit in the balcony, her generation was able to go to all the theaters without incident.

Many Spokane restaurants, hotels and businesses at the time had signs that said, “No Colored Patronage Solicited.” They discriminated not only against Spokane residents but also against celebrities like the Harlem Globetrotters, Sammy Davis Jr., Louis Armstrong and Marian Anderson.

Jerrelene remembers how excited she was when Sam took her out to eat at a Chinese restaurant.

“There were restrictions, and we didn’t go where we weren’t welcome,” she said, “but I always loved living in Spokane.”

There were also opportunities for African Americans in black social clubs, where young people went for tea parties and were taught the social graces of dining. There were also dances.

“The African American community cared for each other’s children. They taught us the right things to do in the church, community and home. If they saw someone’s child on the street misbehaving, they would say, ‘Your mother would not want you to do that.’ The child would quit the behavior. Children respected their elders,” Jerrelene said.

“The caring community is what I value most,” she said.

Church is still a center of African American community, but not like it was, she observed.

Until newcomers connected with the churches, many were at first surprised walking around and seeing no other African Ameri-

cans on the streets.

“People came from all over the U.S., liked Spokane and settled,” she said. “Some met their wives at the black USO.”

Kaiser and Boeing were big employers drawing many African-Americans to the Northwest for jobs after the war.

“We did not associate with the white community, other than at school or work. Schools were not segregated, but most black children went to Lincoln and Edison, and then to Lewis & Clark High School,” she said.

Her three older children went to Ferris and her two younger children went to Lewis and Clark.

“People have changed over the years,” Jerrelene observed.

When she went to Rogers, other students ignored her at first.

Then the choir director realized she had a good voice, and invited her to sing at a convocation.

“Before then, when I would walk the halls at Rogers, it was as if I was not there. When I sang ‘The Old Lamplighter,’ the audience erupted with applause and cheers,” she said. “After that, I walked down the hall and people said, ‘I liked your singing.’ It blew me away. At 16, it made me feel wonderful. I will never forget that feeling of elation. I wanted to be a singer on stage.”

Jerrelene sang and was soloist for many years in the choirs at Calvary and Bethel. After retiring from Safeway, she began visiting nursing homes with accompanist Vivian Wallace. She had a ministry of singing to the seniors for about 10 years. Her repertoire included songs from the war years, spirituals and other old time favorites.

“My children were not ignored at school, nor did they experience the name-calling I experienced when I walked down the street and heard, ‘There goes an N,’” said Jerrelene.

Having experienced discrimination, Jerrelene feels a kinship to Native Americans, Japanese Americans, Chinese Americans and others who suffered the same or worse discrimination.

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Summer Camping Programs

One week at summer camp can bring ‘incredible’ transformation

Camps let campers be who they are, rather than acting their usual roles—as the in-between child in their family or as they are with school friends, said Mark Boyd, managing director of N-Sid-Sen, the United Church of Christ (UCC) camp on the East shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene.

“Campers’ transformation can be incredible. People are willing to talk about faith, ask tough questions and find answers at camp,” he said. “Any time we can step away from the routine busyness of our day-to-day lives, we need to do it. Camp is one way to do that.”

“Living the Spirit: Power Up!” is the theme for 2015 summer camps at N-Sid-Sen. The season opens June 21 with a young adult camp and runs through the first week of August.

For the third year, volunteer directors and counselors for elementary, junior and senior high camps at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs, the UCC’s camp at Port Orchard, met to discuss the theme and program.



Camp fires close each day at N-Sid-Sen with songs, readings, reflections and worship.

“With 35 leaders from both sites meeting face-to-face, many gained new ideas. Previously, leaders planned on their own,” Mark said. “One camp may have struggled with an issue leaders of another camp resolved.”

One issue was what to do about cell phones and other technology.

“Turning in campers’ cell phones the first day is easier

at N-Sid-Sen where there is no service,” said Mark. “At Pilgrim Firs, it’s harder to do, because there is spotty service. Some want them for alarms and cameras.”

At N-Sid-Sen, leaders take pictures to share with campers. Campers also use regular cameras that were donated.

Mark finds it useful to blend ages of counselors, having some

right out of school with energy and the ability to connect with campers, and having some who are older to bring wisdom that comes from experience. Some counselors serve at two or three sessions and at both camps.

All year Mark keeps camp relationships going. After campers leave, many begin counting the days to the Midwinter Youth

Retreat in March.

“After camp, Facebook lights up as campers keep up with new friends,” Mark said. “They share camp stories and photos with family, friends and congregations.

Mark also visits United Church of Christ churches in Eastern Washington.

“I talk with elders to hear their stories about camp and its value as a time away from routines, to talk about faith, meet friends and play,” he said. “It’s a sign of the lasting effects of camps. We often hear that clergy decide to go into ministry because of camp, but most campers do not become clergy. Camp has just as big an impact on their lives, faith and involvement in the church.”

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

Children and youth need camp now more than ever

Lutherhaven director Bob Baker believes children and youth “need camp more than ever,” because they “need to be outdoors, be in relationship and form their Christian faith.”

“Camp gets kids outdoors,” he said. “Kids rarely play outdoors. They sit in front of screens. Studies say they play outdoors just four minutes a day.”

Campers build relationships with each other and with young adult Christian mentors.

“With young people spending eight hours in front of screens, they don’t have much time for relationships. Kids spend just six minutes a day in meaningful conversation with an adult,” Bob said.

Lutherhaven numbers are up 10 percent this year. About a third of campers are Lutheran, a third from other churches and a third are unchurched and may be hearing about Jesus for the first time.

This year their staff of 70 from all over the United States will immerse themselves in servant leadership for 10 weeks, guiding activities around the theme, “Unvanquished,” from Romans 8: “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.”

This summer, Lutherhaven



Wake boarding is one of many water activities at Lutherhaven.

begins the second of three phases on a new retreat center, adding 18 motel-like six-person rooms with private baths to house 70 for year-round retreats, camps for children, youth, adults and families. It provides more comfort and expanded retreat programming.

Lutherhaven on the western shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene has 225 beds. They also operate Shoshone Mountain Retreat and Ranch, an hour east of Coeur d’Alene, with 130 beds.

Lutherhaven’s Idaho Servant Adventure offers teens and adults from church youth groups across the nation opportunities to experience the outdoors and engage in community outreach at 75 sites. This summer 550 teens will give about 9,000 hours of service.

Bob said more congregations come to camp as groups, with children, youth, some parents, and the pastor or youth leader. They find the “tribe camps,” as they’re called, help build significant faith-

forming relationships.

Lutherhaven provides camps for other groups each summer—the Idaho Army National Guard, the Washington Air National Guard, the North Idaho Catholic Youth Camp and Hospice.

For information, call 208-667-3459 or visit lutherhaven.com.

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WHITWORTH
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Camps welcome people who attend church and who do not attend church

Camp Spalding continues to embrace its relationship with families and churches from its historic Presbyterian constituency, while also seeking ways to welcome people who do not attend church, said Andy Sonneland, executive director of the camp near Newport.

The last 15 years, the percentage of non-Presbyterian campers has gone from 33 to 66 percent.

Overall he said that the attendance continues to increase, approaching the pre-recession record in 2008.

“Reaching out to the community allows us to both partner with our most supportive churches in the spiritual formation of our youth, while also providing a fun experience, in which unchurched campers hear Jesus’ call to ‘fol-



Campers go on canoe outing at Camp Spalding.

low me’ to a life of purpose and hope,” he said.

“In my 24 years I have not seen a significant change in how kids experience camp. It is as popular as ever,” said Andy.

“While some activities have changed, a week away in a natural setting, with fun, still-cool staff role models, nature-based adventures and time to consider life’s big questions from a standpoint of faith remain a winning combination,” he said.

Camp Spalding tells campers not to bring phones or other electronics.

Some do, so cabin counselors collect electronics the first night and keep them in a bag the office for the week.

“Part of the magic of camp is to unplug for the week, to engage

with nature and each other,” said Andy.

Camp Spalding just finished two capital improvement projects: a suspension bridge to an adjacent rock island, and a new entry area that also doubles for storage.

The bridge gives access to the island in early summer when the water is high and for adult conference guests with mobility issues.

They seek \$100,000 more to build a pavilion as a “base camp” for campers to explore the woods and lake, discovering the “finely-tuned natural world of the Creator,” Andy said.

The pavilion will house the craft program, nature center and meeting space for up to 50 guests for mid-year conferences.

For information, call 509-731-4244 or visit campspalding.org.

Camp is a sanctuary, a place to be close to God in the wilderness

Twinlow Camp and Conference Center’s program manager, Kristen Moon, is initiating several new camps for 2015.

In an offsite high school adventure camp, campers will backpack, rock climb, raft and sleep under the stars.

At a junior fine arts camp for fourth to sixth graders, campers will learn about worship and Bible studies by creating art, doing drama and dancing.

A junior high lake camp will combine fishing, sailing and watersports.

Twinlow offers programs for children in elementary, junior and senior high simultaneously so parents can bring them any week that fits their schedule. The different ages have different programs and cabins, but share worship, meals and lake time.

“Camp is a sanctuary, a place to be close to God in the wilderness,” she said. “It is a safe, loving place to connect with the Creator and others, and to grow as disciples of Christ to transform the world.”

For some, camp is a first encounter with a faith community

that draws them into a local youth group and church, she said.

The 22 counselors who are each certified lifeguards facilitate its program, along with 60 volunteers from United Methodist churches.

Other volunteers are “Nomads,” retired United Methodist couples who go around the U.S. and stay at camps for a few weeks to help with manual labor and programs.

Twinlow continues its Idaho Mission Project camp, drawing youth groups from across the U.S. to spend half a day doing mission projects with Elder Help, Second

Harvest and a Creek Restoration Project, and half the day in regular camp activities.

“We ask campers to leave electronics at home,” Kristen said. “Staff may have them but not use them when they are with campers.”

“We want campers to connect with nature, God and each other, not their screens,” she said. “We show them they can experience fun, excitement and God’s love without Facebook or video games. Real games are better.”

For five years, Twinlow has offered offsite vacation-Bible-school-style day camps in communities in the Inland

Northwest, Western Washington and Montana. This summer 11 churches are participating.

Kristen grew up going to Baptist camps in Wyoming. She worked at the Pacific Northwest Annual United Methodist Conference’s Lazy F camp at Ellensburg before coming to Twinlow a year ago.

She brings five years of challenge course experience and has developed new elements for Twinlow’s course.

“I encourage experiential learning, challenging campers to push their limits,” she said.

For information, call 208-352-2671 or visit twinlowcamp.org.

Camp engages low-income children

Lisa Potts, food services coordinator and wife of Camp Gifford’s manager, Jeff Potts, said that the Salvation Army on Deer Lake hosts six camps for low-income children, foster children and others.

Each week up to 120 seven to 11-year-olds from Washington, Idaho and Montana stay at Camp Gifford’s main camp, and 24 youth from 12 to 17 are at the wilderness camp, a mile away. Most have never gone to a Salvation Army church.

The camps have chapel services, campfires, swimming, outdoor activities and other programs for the one-week sessions from June 29 to Aug. 3.

Half the staff are paid, including some from Australia. Half are volunteers, some coming for six weeks, and some for three weeks.

Many campers come from low-income homes, from families on government assistance. Some of their parents did not finish school.

“We encourage them to do well in school and graduate. We want them to know the future is theirs if they learn to make positive choices based on biblical principles. One negative choice, however, can affect their whole life,” Lisa said. “We discourage abuse of drugs and alcohol, because that inhibits their futures. Camp can help break generational cycles so children make good

choices and stay in school,” she said.

She feels she has an important role in serving three meals a day and a snack. “In the summer, some are lucky if they have one meal a day at home,” said Lisa, who introduces new foods.

If there is misbehavior, staff encourage change, call home and use contractual behavior management. If there are no changes, parents must take the camper home for the sake of other campers.

Campers are not allowed to use electronics. For safety, camp staff does luggage inspection when campers arrive. Valuables, such as cameras, are stored in the office, accessible in free time. Counselors, however, carry cell phones in waist packs, turned off, available in emergencies.

“There is so much going on at camp with a climbing wall and zipline, there is no problem when they don’t have their electronic devices,” she said. “Campers quickly make friends.”

In the wilderness camp, some girls are upset that there is no place to plug in a curling iron, and they can take a shower only when they walk to the main camp three days in the week to swim.

The wilderness camp, which teaches campers no-trace camping, has outhouses. Campers hike and do their own cooking.

For information, call 233-2511 or visit campgifford.org.



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Summer Camping Programs

Camp experiences nurture leadership for parishes and communities

Camp Cross on the West shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene is a place for children, youth and adults to gather in community, be transformed and go on to be leaders in parishes and communities," said executive director Colin Haffner.

The camp has 15 summer-long paid staff, and 12 to 15 volunteer leaders, clergy, counselors, kitchen staff and nurses each session—60 for the summer. Youth camps draw about 65 campers.

There are five age-based youth sessions, two family camps and five adult sessions—labor of love camp, a young adult camp, an alumni reunion, a women's retreat and a couple's retreat.

The young adult session has been expanded from two to four days with the goal of keeping young adults connected with the Episcopal Church, breaking the



Bishop Jim Waggoner Jr. breaks bread in lakeside communion.

gap between finishing senior high and returning when they are on staff, Colin said.

"It keeps young adults engaged with camp and church," he said. In 2015, campers will join in

morning prayer, daily office and compline prayer after camp fire.

Colin is conflicted about campers turning in cell phones to build community. He finds it hard to monitor. Two years ago, a camper turned in a phone, but had two.

"We ask campers voluntarily not to use cell phones. If we see any during a session, we take them and return them after the session," he said. "In this era of proliferation of social media, I wonder if there is a positive way we could use them. We do not want technology to detract from programs."

After the week at camp, Colin communicates with the camp community on Facebook, Instagram, Vimeo and Twitter.

He looks forward to more off-season use of the camp. Last October, a \$6,000 grant made it possible to winterize pipes for the dining room. After they winterize bathrooms on the boys' side of the camp, Camp Cross will work towards a March through December season. Access to the camp is unpredictable in January or February, because the bay may be low or frozen.

Other groups rent Camp Cross

in the summer for family reunions, camps and parish retreats.

"Camp is an outreach ministry and place for leadership development and spiritual formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane," Colin said.

Campers include youth involved in Episcopal life and some who only come to camps.

"We seek to inspire campers and empower them to be involved and be leaders in their communities and parishes," he said.

At the annual Diocesan Convention, many raised their hands when Colin asked how many had been to camps.

For information, call 208-667-9695 or visit campcross.org.

Camp program centers on faith development

Four weeks of American Baptist camps for elementary children, junior and senior high students, plus a family camp for 170, begin June 21 at Ross Point.

The rest of the summer other groups rent the camp for their own programs.

For the second year, Ross Point staff are running Camp Journey for children with cancer. For nine years before moving away from sponsoring camps, the American Cancer Society had rented Ross Point to hold their camp for children with cancer, their siblings and friends. About 126 came last year, with five- to seven-year-olds coming for day camps and eight to 18 year olds as resident campers. More than 60 percent who come have or have had cancer, said John Batchelder, executive director.

Ross Point also hosts leadership training for University of Idaho and Washington State University students, a retreat for first-year WSU veterinary students and an international retreat for 150 veterinarians.

Eight paid counselors come for four weeks, and 10 operational staff at Ross Point serve 11 weeks.

For John, who has been at Ross Point for 14 years after serving camps since 1983 in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Utah and Alaska, the most important aspect of camp is relationships, especially as society has reduced people contact.

"At camp, people are face-to-face," he said. "Our policy is no electronics except cameras. Campers are at first shocked, but by the end of the week they are busy enjoying activities and programs."

In post-camp evaluations, parents report positive changes in campers' ability to interact and communicate, plus a more positive outlook on life.

In the off season, Ross Point uses social media to promote its facilities and encourages campers to form public groups.



Campers stretch themselves in the challenges of a ropes course.

"Because so many use social media, many are not in as good physical condition as they used to be. Even though some are less engaged in outdoor activities, we get them up and out," he said.

Most campers are American Baptists or attend other churches, but camps also include unchurched children and youth.

The American Baptist Church in the Northwest is small, so year-

round, use by American Baptists is less than 25 percent. It's about 45 percent in the summer.

"Our program centers around faith development. The 2015 theme on 'The Power of the Holy Spirit' is about God sending the Holy Spirit to live within us, guide us to live in truth and empower us to live for God," he said.

For information, call 208-773-1655 or visit rosspoint.org.

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NATIVE Project programs based on ‘sacred hospitality for all’

Objibwe, Cree, Coeur d’Alene, Sioux, Spokane, Chippewa and Yakama are among the many tribes represented on the nearly 50-member staff of The NATIVE Project, which serves some of the community of 14,000 urban Indians from about 300 tribes in Spokane, as well as people of all races and ages.

During its 25th anniversary in 2014, The NATIVE Project changed its logo to incorporate the motto, “Sacred Hospitality For All.”

The NATIVE Project at 1803 W. Maxwell began in 1989 as a nonprofit, urban Indian organization to provide chemical dependency treatment for youth. It now includes the NATIVE Health Clinic, which is a Federally Qualified Health Center, a Section 330 Community Health Clinic and an Urban Indian Health Clinic.

Its new logo represents a circle with four feathers of different colors, representing the four directions and as a way to say it serves people of different colors.

The circle also includes seven black stones representing the Native focus on seven generations—seven generations going back to honor those who have gone before and seven generations ahead looking forward and taking responsibility to protect the next seven generations.

“We offer sacred hospitality for all, welcoming all,” said Candy Jackson, diabetes prevention supervisor and registered dietitian.

In addition to full medical services, the project’s programs now also include a pharmacy, community programs, child welfare services, mental health counseling, diabetes prevention and wellness programs. It will soon add dental care.

It is open to people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and religions, but specifically is a resource on Indian issues.

At first, about 70 percent of patients were Native. Now about 60 percent are. Candy expects it will eventually be 50 percent. It serves about 75 people a day.

Its treatment, education and activity programs promote drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles; spiritual, cultural and traditional Native values; wellness and balance of mind, body and spirit; and integration of all healing paths.

“We raised funds and saved, first buying the block and then building the new facility, completing it in 2007,” Candy said.

Candy said that when she came in 1990, the program was in what is now the east wing of the new building.

“We use Native traditions, such as circle groups for sharing. The



Candy Jackson stands before George Flett’s vision for the

person speaking holds an eagle feather and then passes it for the next person,” she said. “We focus on spiritual, physical, mental and emotional being, like the four elements of the medicine wheel.”

The program also includes honoring events such as the recognition of college graduates at Spokane Falls Community College.

Candy completed undergraduate studies at Marquette University in Wisconsin, and a law degree at Marquette’s Law School.

A member of the Bad River Band of Chippewa in Northern Wisconsin, she grew up in Schofield, Wis. After law school, she was in legal services and worked on treaty rights for her tribe before coming to Spokane in 1990.

She left the NATIVE Project for about 10 years to work on treaty rights, water law and child welfare with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation near Pocatello.

Her mother’s death and the death of colleagues with diabetes led her to become a dietitian.

“We look to our elders for history. I was concerned diabetes was wiping out so many,” said Candy, who returned in 2005.

The community center program at Havermale offers a variety of education opportunities, including diabetes education.

Candy said she and Donna Brisbois-Burke, a nurse who belongs to the Spokane Tribe, offer diabetes prevention primarily for Indians, serving 250 Native Americans and several non-Natives with insurance.

“Native Americans have diabetes two-and-a-half times more frequently than the rest of the U.S. population,” she said, “and have a greater mortality rate.

“We signed people up for insur-

ance through the Affordable Care Act so more could have health care,” she said.

In her work with diabetics, Candy is pleased that many are able to avoid amputations.

Once a week, staff offer a diabetes class. Clients meet with a diabetes educator, participate in a support and education group, and have foot exams.

Four times a year, there are diabetes clinic days. Clients first see the nurse for blood draws, tests and immunizations. They then see a behavior health counselor, because many suffer depression. Next Candy evaluates what they eat and their exercise routines. Donna does a foot exam and checks their medicines. Then the provider uses the information from these checkups to review the person’s medicines and levels.

Participants have their eyes checked, join an education program, eat a diabetes friendly meal and receive a gift card.

“We encourage people to take better care of themselves,” Candy said. “Many are diabetic because of food choices, a lack of exercise and weight. Most need more fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and more activity.”

Candy gives people pedometers to encourage them to walk. Most are overwhelmed by the recommendation to walk 10,000 steps a day. So she suggests that they start with 2,000 steps—a mile—and increase from there.

The Wednesday community wellness program at Havermale includes leadership training and mentoring; diabetes prevention, nutrition and cooking classes; drug/alcohol prevention; youth fitness—yoga, zumba, boxfit, basketball and a walking club; cultural activities; a Healthy Me

program, and a monthly wellness dinner. The monthly dinner features different native foods, such as salmon, beans and wild rice, Candy said.

From mid-June through July, Makayla Desjarlais of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe and Levi Horn of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe will lead a five-week summer program with the Spokane Public Schools.

Participants take morning classes and do afternoon recreation. Up to 75 children aged five to 13 will participate in programs on culture, prevention, math, science, reading, swimming, robotics and field trips.

In April, 89 youth came to an annual leadership camp for 13- to 18-year-olds to discern their strengths as warriors, nurturers, scholars and community activists.

Counseling focuses on outpatient chemical dependency

programs, aftercare and relapse prevention, mental health and child therapy.

Paintings by Spokane artist, the late George Flett, adorn walls of the community room. One shows the vision quest in which he had the vision for the community center and clinic. Others honor women and children of local tribes, and men from Coastal, Plains and Southwest tribes.

“My Jesuit education opened me to other spiritual ways,” said Candy, who attends St. Aloysius, and occasionally a monthly Native Catholic Mass, and Native drumming and singing ceremonies. She also does meditation and yoga.

“We encourage people to pursue spirituality in whatever form is meaningful for them,” she said.

For information, call 483-7535 or visit nativeproject.org.

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Sholeh Patrick uplifts human, civil rights in column in CdA Press

By Kaye Hult

With her "pen," Sholeh Patrick seeks to challenge readers to expand their thinking on topics related to human and civil rights.

For 13 years, she has written a free-lance column for the Coeur d'Alene Press to invite compassion and the ability to see someone else for a moment, to understand what it's like to walk in another's shoes.

Recognizing that her use of the pen is mightier than the sword, the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations presented her with one of two 2015 Civil Rights Awards at its April 13 Human Rights Banquet. The other recipient was Bill Morlin, former Spokesman-Review journalist and reporter for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Recently, Sholeh has written about Jesuits and other Catholic orders, sex trafficking, variations in Sharia and Islam, the impossibility of living on minimum wage, atheism, Hinduism, symbolic meaning of the animals of the Chinese zodiac calendar and Irish influence on English language.

Just as she "fell into" journalism, she "fell into" being a columnist. She saw an article in the Coeur d'Alene Press and felt compelled to reply—the only letter to the editor she has written.

Editor Mike Patrick ran it as a guest opinion and invited her to write a column, which she has done since 2002. She writes two columns a week and other articles for publications of the Hagadone News Network. She chooses her topics. Sholeh and Mike married in 2003.

"I'm not an expert on anything," she said. "If I find common threads with what's going on locally, I try to address that."

She keeps focusing on her belief that, at the core, every human being is the same, and everyone wants to be loved.

"We become mired in our fears," she said. "This leads to insecurity, pain and prejudice."

Sholeh likes historical fiction. Through it, she has become aware that people take much for granted today compared to times when life was more difficult.

"Abuse used to be more common. People lived shorter lives. Less than 100 years ago, no one would raise large amounts of money to give to a stranger," she said, referring to what is happening in Coeur d'Alene since one of the city's police officers was shot.



Sholeh Patrick

"We do not hear as much good news as previously," she said, pointing out that national media outlets once found good news sold more than it seems to now.

Sholeh has Persian ancestry. Her father is Iranian. Her mother comes from Oklahoma and Wyoming. Born in New York, she spent much of her early childhood in Iran, coming to the United States for good when she was 10 years old.

From then on through college she mostly lived in Texas. She earned a bachelor's in international studies in 1988 at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

"I thought about writing as a child. I wrote for university journals in both my undergraduate and graduate schools," she said of becoming a journalist.

Sholeh was managing editor of the law journal at South Texas College of Law, where she earned her J.D. degree in 1997, focusing in international law and trade.

She learned that, while she enjoys pure research and writing, she does not enjoy practicing law.

Going to law school made her "a fast researcher," she said. "I learned where to look. I have some regular resources I start with when preparing a column."

In 1999, she followed her family to North Idaho. Since then, she worked as a lobbyist for the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce and in the local office of then-Congressman Butch Otter.

When she wrote her letter to the editor, she was working at North Idaho College in public relations.

Over the years, Sholeh received other awards: the Associated Press Columnist Award in 2004, the State of Idaho Media Award

for Mental Health in 2006, and the Diakonia of North Idaho and Peace Coeur d'Alene Peace Award in 2010.

Column topics sometimes stem from her spiritual convictions. Her mother, a Catholic, and her father, an agnostic from a Muslim country, let her find her own way spiritually. She attended Mass with her mother as a child. Her grandmother and other relatives taught her Muslim prayers.

"When I was eight, learning Muslim prayer, I began to think about religious questions," said Sholeh, who has gone to services of many faiths.

"Whenever I encounter another religion, I learn as much as I can about it. I've been to Jewish temple and attended different types of Christian churches. Buddhism resonates most with me.

"I have found beauty and truth in every religion so far," she said.

"I am not a religious person," she continued. "I am not a one-path person. In all religions, I have found that participants are not uniform in what they believe. If we can understand each other, then we'll fear each other less and want to help each other more."

There will be less prejudice."

Sholeh's articles often elicit letters to the editor. Many support her point of view. Many disagree with what she has had to say.

"The good always seems to outweigh the harsh," she said. "I think most people out there are

trying to be kind, even when they disagree.

"I'm still learning and looking. Hopefully we keep growing until we die," she said.

For information, call 208-664-8176 or email Sholeh@cdapress.com.

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In a world torn by strife, faith communities persist in reconciling people

Only 11 countries are not at war, according to The Independent in the United Kingdom. The United States was involved in 134 wars as of September 2014, according to mintpressnews.com/us.

Wikipedia reports more than 250,000 deaths in 2014 in about 52 wars or armed conflicts between two or more organized governmental or non-governmental groups. Afghanistan, Boko Haram, Syria and Iraq had more than 10,000 casualties each—50,000. Others with more than 1,000 deaths include Israel-Palestine, Somalia, Darfur, Pakistan, Mexico (drug war), Libya, Yemen, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Even though conflict is a criteria for news, we don't hear of all the casualties or even all of the conflicts.

That does not include shootings between individuals, or people so polarized they just can't agree and express it in bigotry, hate, bullying, put downs, racism, sexism and other short-of gunfire violence.

As we feed ourselves daily at the trough of media reports on violence—be it in newspapers, broadcast or social media—what happens to our worldviews?

Meanwhile, in government circles, we tend to continue to be fighting old battles as the political realm and next presidential race have contenders positioning themselves at different poles to win voters in 2016. There's little time to govern. Media help feed the continual political-campaign mentality, pitting candidates and their opinions against each other so we hardly know reality.

The Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, the climate change controversy, human rights divides, and the myriad of political issues keep the American public so polarized we could live in continual fear, confused about where reality lies.

Terrorism has us terrorized.

Do we need more security? Do we need less? How does our right to privacy fit in? Has our information been hacked? Are we insured enough? Can we believe anything?

We hope The Fig Tree gives a break, allowing for views into lives, thoughts and realities of everyday people beyond the political, social, religious and cultural divides that make it hard to talk.

Just in this issue, we gain perspectives that tell us there is hope in the midst of

controversies and confusion.

Diverse people gather and are in conversation regularly at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick. They are eager to learn about each other as persons, despite cultural, age and gender differences. This happens in many other congregations.

African Americans in Spokane have persevered through the years, persisting in their challenges to racial injustice, and reaping benefits of civil rights improvements overtime. Efforts for racial justice continue.

A gardener finds a bit of heaven in his work pulling weeds, edging, mowing and maintaining two of Manito Park's gardens. He, as many of us, interact with people to express his caring.

Campers will swarm to area faith-based camps to interact with each other, nature and God, forming life-long relationships, growing in faith and becoming future leaders.

A Coeur d'Alene columnist keeps before people the myriad of issues related to human rights, trusting that people at their roots are similar.

Faith can have a role in grounding us, if

we let it. Faith can unite us. It doesn't have to divide us, even when we have strong differences.

It can unite us in valuing life, relationships, justice and peace. It can open us to risk to trust, to hear from others who differ from us with nuances or even gulfs.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) website reports on the many conflicts in which it brings together member churches, ecumenical and interfaith councils to forge negotiations and new avenues to end bloodshed and build reconciliation.

The WCC is at work with presence in Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Israel-Palestine, Cyprus, Burundi, Papua, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Libya, Syria and many more countries and conflicts. It also promotes a ban on nuclear weapons and the sale of arms.

The WCC is guiding a pilgrimage to peace and justice, raising challenges to warring parties, gathering people to discuss their differences, seeking paths to end conflicts and always urging church and faith groups to pray for peace and justice.

Mary Stamp
Editor

Moneyed interests continue to find ways to influence people of faith

People of faith have been—and still are being—manipulated in a blatantly cynical manner by moneyed interests who try to keep their real interests undercover.

Among the ideas that we are currently encouraged to believe is that this country was founded as a Christian nation.

One Nation Under God by Kevin Kruse, a history professor at Princeton University, has just been published.

It is a fascinating book, even though it is not an easy read, and it definitely isn't sensationalistic, although it is being called controversial.

The subtitle tells the scope of the book: "How Corporate Americans Invented Christian America."

The time period is primarily from the 1950s through the administration of President Richard Nixon, with following administrations briefly touched on in an epilogue.

The idea that the United States was founded as a Christian nation is the story

that we are being given now. The idea that it should be has been part of the religious discussion since the states were deciding whether to ratify the Constitution.

During its earliest years, the U.S. Constitution was attacked in some sermons as "godless."

An early leader of a movement to have the United State declared a Christian nation felt that the founders had erred in not doing it.

Adopting "In God We Trust" as an official motto and having it printed or stamped on all our money became a step toward correcting their perceived mistake.

Incidentally, we had not had an official motto before 1954.

"E pluribus unum"—From many (people), one (nation)—had served the purpose unofficially until Congress adopted "In God we trust" and "One nation under God" in 1954.

"Under God" was also added to the

pledge to the flag in 1954, signed into law by President Ike Eisenhower on Flag Day.

The part of corporate America is harder to summarize. Basically, the biggest companies on Wall Street and their related organizations, such as the National Association of Manufacturers, the Advertising Council and the Chamber of Commerce, provided the money and the marketing and organizational expertise to allow organizations such as Spiritual Mobilization and Liberty Lobby to operate nationwide on generous budgets.

Their motivation was not religious, however. It has been traced back to opposition to the domestic policies of the New Deal in the 1930s and 1940s.

The combination of conservative political, economic and religious beliefs, and non-literal interpretations of the Bible gave rise to what has been called "Christian libertarianism."

Caring for the poor through Social

Security, unemployment benefits or any other use of government became a perversion of Jesus' teachings for them. Indeed, they were nothing less than a violation of the commandment against covetousness, because they led the poor to envy the rich.

As they ask in mystery novels, "Who benefits?"

A popular but somewhat gritty series of mysteries by Michael Connelly features a police detective named Harry Bosch.

He is sometimes asked why he works as hard on a case involving a person who "doesn't matter" as he does on others. He answers, "Everybody counts or nobody counts."

That's an attitude we need more of in our current public discourse and behavior as we also ask, "Who really benefits?" and as we try to distinguish information from propaganda.

Nancy Minard
Contributing editor

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

Holy Names Sisters urge support for United Nations' 17 sustainability goals

United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon has called for solidarity around 17 sustainable development goals for the next 15 years. The goals are being deliberated and developed by people all around the world. They will be voted on in the United Nations General Assembly in September and the first and most urgent goal is to eliminate poverty everywhere. The General Assembly will be followed with a special session on Climate Change in December in Paris.

This critical, transformational global work requires our spiritual power, moral authority and modeling of servant leadership. Most important, we need to let our own national leaders know that the United States must step up to the challenge of addressing these important global goals, which will also empower our own nation to respond to the challenges that will secure a safe and sustainable future for all.

While the 17 goals may seem overwhelming, they represent a future

where all people are valued and provided with equitable opportunity while caring for our world's valuable resources.

As people of faith, we have a responsibility to educate, compassionately change hearts and minds, and pray for the success of this important United Nations initiative.

We encourage everyone to review the 17 goals listed below and visit the United Nations' website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html> to learn more about the process leading up to the General Assembly in September.

We use the goals as a litany, responding to each goal with: "Send forth Your Spirit, renew the face of the earth."

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- 1) End poverty in all of its forms everywhere;
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;

- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages;

- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;

- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

- 6) Ensure availability and management of water and sanitation for all;

- 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

- 8) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;

- 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation;

- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries;

- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate

change and its impacts;

- 14) Conserve use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

- 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and management of forests; combat desertification (depletion of soil) and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss;

- 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and

- 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Sr. Mary Ann Farley, Sr. Anne Bosserman, Sr. Marianne Therese Wilkinson, Sandi Wilson, Sally Duffy - Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and SNJM associates - Spokane

Episcopal bishop initiates process to elect successor

After 15 years as the Episcopal Bishop of Spokane, James Waggoner Jr. announced May 21 that he is calling for the election of the next Bishop of Spokane.

He will resign upon the ordination and consecration of his successor. The process takes 18 to 20 months.

"I am thankful that this will not happen immediately," he said. "I enthusiastically look forward to our continuing together, focusing on God's mission and carrying out vital ministries already in place and emerging."

"The Christian journey always calls us to new lands, new opportunities and new chapters," Jim said. "There is a time to pause before moving into what God still has in store for us. May we pause at this threshold together, then prayerfully, expectantly, and joyfully say 'yes' to the new chapter God is opening for this diocese and for us as we go forward in Christ," he said.

For information, call 624-3191.

Multicultural event will be on Aug. 15

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 15, the 21st annual Unity in the Community will fill Riverfront Park with a multicultural celebration.

Children will visit the Cultural Village, learning about different ethnic groups in Spokane. When they fill their "passport," they will receive free school supplies.

There will be a variety of booths in education, career and health fairs, art displays, free activities for toddlers to teens, and cultural music and dance performances.

Unity in the Community, started by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1994, was under Community-Minded Enterprises and is now independent. For information, visit nwunity.org.

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Calendar of Events

- June 3-12** • "Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism," posters from historical and contemporary movements, EWU/WSU Spokane, Phase 1 Gallery, American Friends Service Committee
- June 5** • "Everyday Buddhism," the Rev. Jon Turner of Orange County Buddhist Temple, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., spokanebuddhisttemple.org
- **NAACP Rooftop BBQ Mixer**, 25-35 W. Main, 5 to 8 p.m., RSVP, 209-2425, SpokaneNAACP@gmail.com
- June 6** • **June Bug Fun Run**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, www.lcsnw.org
- June 7** • **Learn to Read Hebrew in a Day Marathon**, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rsvp@temple@spokanetsb.org
- June 10** • **Veterans for Peace**, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m., 838-7870
- **Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- June 11, 25** • **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee**, Liberty Park United Methodist Church, 1526 E. 11th Ave., 6 p.m.
- June 12** • **"Power on Earth,"** one-man play with Darryl Van Leer presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, Spokane Community College Lair, 7 p.m., 455-8722
- June 13** • **Pride Parade and Rainbow Festival**, Downtown Spokane, noon to 6 p.m.
- June 15** • **Women's Leadership** in Higher Education Panel and Networking, Lisa Brown, chancellor for WSU Spokane, Mary Cullinan, president of EWU, and Christine Johnson, chancellor for CCS, WSU Spokane PBS Auditorium, 412 E. Spokane Falls Blvd, 4 to 6 p.m.
- **NAACP meeting**, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m.
- June 15-26** • **"There's More Than One Kind of Poverty,"** Center for Organizational Reform Summer Seminar Series, 1100 W. 6th Ave, 389-3363, corhome.org
- June 16** • **PJALS Young Activist Leaders Graduation**, 35 W. Main, 5 to 7 p.m., 838-7870
- June 20** • **"Invest in People, Not the Pentagon,"** Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 838-7870, slichty@pjals.org
- **Theodore Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior** in Washington State," Scott Woodward, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, 26010 S. Smith Rd., Cheney, 11 a.m., [rsvp required at fotnwr.org/activities.html](mailto:rsvp@fotnwr.org/activities.html)
- **"Evening in Tuscany,"** Italian Dinner and Silent Auction benefit for the YWCA's Alternatives to Domestic Violence Safe Shelters, 930 N. Monroe, 6 p.m., 863-2882, melaniew@ywcaspokane.org
- June 24** • **Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- June 26-28** • **Listening to the Heartbeat of the Trinity: Celtic Spirituality,** The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 483-6495
- July 7, Aug 25** • **Barbecues with Bishop Emeritus Skystad**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5 to 8 p.m., 448-1224
- July 11-17** • **Icon-Writing Retreat/Workshop**, "Byzantine Iconography-Visions of Light and Glory," Fr. Damian Higgins, IHRC, 4:30 p.m., July 11 to 10:30 a.m., July 17, 448-1224
- July 17-19** • **"Gardening of the Soul: Holistic Living,"** Sr. Agnes Reichlin and Sr. Carlotta Maria Fontes, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000, spirit-center@stgertrudes.org
- July 19-24** • **"Finding God in the Ordinary: Walking a Contemplative Path,"** The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior St., 483-6495
- July 20-27** • **Eight-Day Ignatian Silent Retreat**, "Praying and Contemplating in the Ignatian Way," Fr. Alan Yost, SJ, IHRC, 448-1224
- July 28** • **Silent Day of Prayer** on the Joy of the Gospel. "Pope Francis' Message: Hope and Joy," Fr. Robert McNeese, rector of Bishop White Seminary, IHRC, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
- Aug 1-8** • **Eight Lakes Leg Aches Bike Ride**, benefits the Sexual Assault & Family Trauma (SAFeT) Response Center at Lutheran Community Services Northwest, lcsnw.org/spokane
- Aug 15** • **Unity in the Community**, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., www.nwunity.org
- Sept 2-7** • **Pig Out in the Park**, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
- Sept 2** • **Fig Tree mailing**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Sept 3** • **Fig Tree Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 1 p.m., 535-1813

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Diverse Kennewick congregation prays, sings, reads in three languages

For Pentecost, worshippers at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kennewick prayed, sang and read Scriptures in three languages spoken by members—Spanish, Arabic and English.

In addition to the congregation's cultural diversity with six Sudanese refugee families, there are about 20 Spanish speaking families. The rest of about 80 family units who regularly attend the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services speak English.

Their diversity extends beyond language to include some lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) members, and people from "little bitty ones to gray-haired folks," said Jody Lediard, pastor for four years.

Members also work in diverse jobs in the Tri Cities—at Hanford, at Tyson, on farms, in business and health care, and as engineers, laborers and more, she added.

Since Spanish-speaking members joined after the Church of Our Savior in Pasco closed, St. Paul's uses some Spanish in each service.

The Sudanese speak English, Arabic and tribal languages. They spoke Arabic in refugee camps after fleeing the civil war. Many also speak English because Sudan was colonized by the British. That's why many are Anglican."

Other Sudanese in the area are Catholic, Lutheran and Baptists.

"At Pentecost, we celebrate the many tongues people speak," she said. "With Jesus in our midst, we are all able to understand the language of love."

At coffee hour after worship



Bishop Jim Waggoner Jr., baptizes young man at St. Paul's.

each week, the members interact, coming to know and understand each other as they listen and seek to learn about each other, each other's cultures and perspectives on local to global events.

When Sudanese, Spanish speakers and English-speaking members encounter racism, they talk about it. For example, they recently discussed and prayed for the people involved in the police shooting of a mentally ill Hispanic young man in Pasco.

"Spanish speakers shared their feelings. We all learned," said Jody. "When things like that happen, we need to talk."

Some do not speak English, and some do not speak Spanish, so each week they choose words to learn in Spanish and English. Jody is also studying Spanish.

"Our lives are richer when we listen to people who say things in different ways because of their different languages," she said. "When we understand something from a different culture or point of

view it enriches our lives.

"Words are important. How we say things is important. We all speak the language of being human. Our humanity includes loving each other," she said. "Language helps us understand why people think as they do."

Jody has also learned Spanish roots of some English words and finds that Spanish, a romantic language, often "says things in tender ways."

The first language of some children before kindergarten is Spanish. After they go to school, many speak better English than their parents.

For anyone who thinks everyone should learn English, Jody reminds: Jesus did not speak English.

"I educate people to be open to different cultures," she said.

People also learn about each other's customs and music. The Sudanese women sing a capella and teach the congregation some traditional, repetitive songs, accompanied by drums and

tambourines. Spanish speakers also sing once a month, and teach their traditional music.

There are several Spanish prayer books and songbooks, but when the congregation sings a song in another language, Jody prints it in the bulletin.

Erina Moda, who came to be with her daughters, Florence Elizai and Betty Kweri, who came in 2005, recently visited family in Northern Uganda where St. Paul's relates with an Anglican church and school in Wampologoma.

Recently Bishop Ezekial Kondo of the Episcopal Diocese of Khartoum, Sudan, came and presided at a service.

For two years, St. Paul's has raised money for the Sudanese church in Uganda to put on a roof, and install windows and a floor.

Jody listed some fund raisers:

- The church plans a Sudanese weekend this summer to share about the Sudanese church.
- Youth do car washes. Most in the youth group are Sudanese.
- Members collect aluminum cans to sell for recycling.
- Members bring traditional food to sell after church.
- Some just give donations.
- The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane has also helped.
- Some sewed a quilt that was raffled at a recent neighborhood block party.

"We have raised \$3,000, which goes far there," said Jim Carter, senior warden at St. Paul's. "Our church wires funds directly to the director of the project.

English speakers, Spanish

speakers and Sudanese each bring food to sell, said Jody, who is in her 14th year as a priest.

Her husband, Dan, came five years ago to be priest at the Episcopal Church in Hermiston. Both served churches in Nevada. She was helping at Hermiston, when she learned St. Paul's needed a priest.

"I have served diverse churches before, mostly with a mix of Native Americans and Anglos in Northern Nevada," she said.

Jody spent 30 years as a nurse and entered ministry as a second career. She was locally trained over 10 years in Nevada.

Among parallels she finds in these careers is awareness that everyone has times of physical, spiritual, mental and emotional pain. Helping in those times and listening are key to being a nurse and pastor, she said.

Jody told of St. Paul's other ministries.

Two years ago, the church opened its building for the Quest Youth Center. LGBT and homeless youth come for food, clothing and counseling after school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. There is a meal on Friday. Pride, which advances equality for LGBTQ people, also meets at the church.

The church is also starting a community garden and food bank.

A group meeting one Saturday a month is learning to sew to make new clothing and to "recycle" clothing—making things fit.

For information, call 509-582-8635 or visit stpaulskennewick.org.

Summer Camps

2015 MAC

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture

To register on-line for Summer Camp visit www.northwestmuseum.org