

35TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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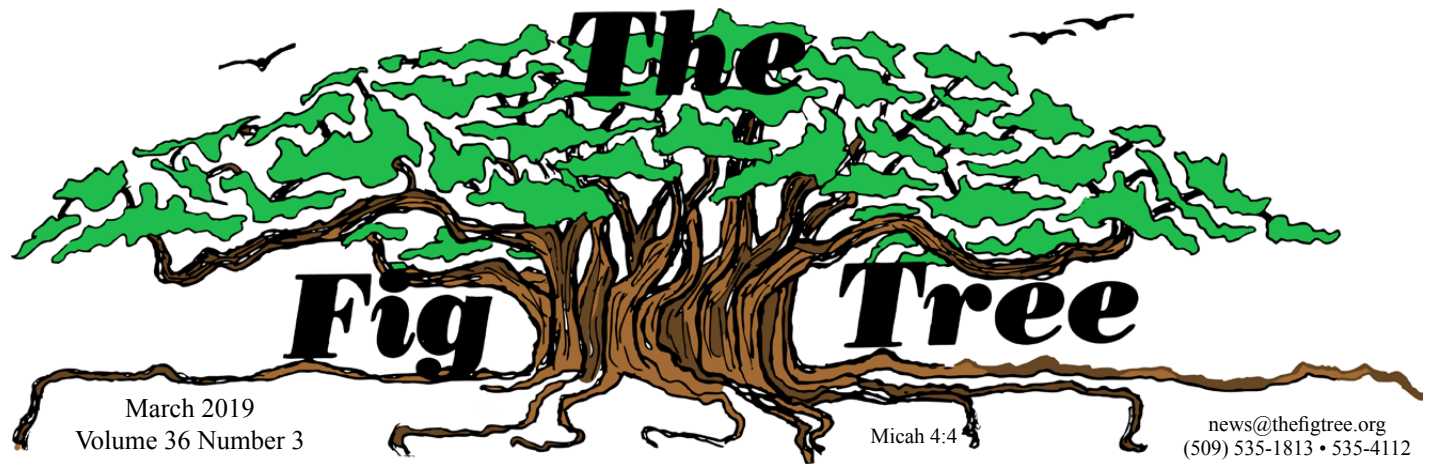
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FEATURES 50 EVENTS



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

Barton School marks its 50th year

By Mary Stamp

Fifty years ago, after Amsel Barton retired from teaching at Eastern Washington State College, her desire to help people improve their lives through gaining literacy and job skills led her to start the Barton School at First Presbyterian Church in Spokane.

That adult basic education school, based on volunteers teaching students one-on-one, has helped many refugees and immigrants learn English and become economically independent.

For 40 of the 50 years, Mildred Scheel has carried on the mission as the volunteer director.

Barton School will celebrate its 50th anniversary from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar. Several former students and teachers will join in celebrating their years of friendships and learning.

“In preparing for the 50th celebration, we have been talking with early students who have had successful careers in art, business and vocations,” said Mildred, who grew up in Alabama and came west to teach.

She taught home economics at North Central and Lewis and Clark High Schools before she started as a volunteer teacher at Barton School.

Wanting to help people change their lives for the better, Amsel did not plan to



Cheryl Louie, a 1985 student from China, Mildred Scheel and volunteer Joann Plimley look at resources.

start a ministry. She had visited welfare and employment agencies and offered to volunteer to help adults improve their skills, but they did not accept her offer. So she told her vision to William Lindsay, her pastor, and he offered some Sunday school rooms.

Although she expected the students to be American-born, the first student was a Japanese war bride, recently divorced and the mother of three school-aged children. She wanted to learn to read and write English. The second student was her friend, another serviceman’s

Japanese wife. Wives of other servicemen from Korea, Thailand, Italy and Japan were early students.

Over the years, thousands of students have come as refugees and immigrants from 72 countries. They reflect world

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Pastor’s frequent moves gave him appreciation of, insights into diversity

After retiring in 2015 from 35 years in ministry, the Rev. Rick Matters and his wife settled back in Spokane where he was born and had studied.

His ministry now is serving part time as vicar at the diverse parish of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Kennewick and walking alongside people to build racial equity.

Framing both ministries is Rick’s background of not really “settling down” in his life, moving every few years until he was 40—not just cross-town moves but to diverse places and cultures within and outside of the United States.

As a child, Rick lived at different times in Nigeria and Ghana, where his father worked six years with the Ford Foundation. He attended boarding schools part of those years in Switzerland. Between semesters, he spent time with his family in Africa, both experiencing privileges colonialism confers on Europeans and being immersed in West African cultures.

“I respected Nigerians and Ghanaians, but as I matured I came to appreciate them,” he reflected.

Rick came back to Spokane to study at Whitworth, where he met and married Andrea.

During his freshman year, he felt like a world citizen, not a part of any country. He had missed much from 1962 to 1969, and had learned about President Kennedy’s assassination from a tearful Nigerian who told him how sorry he was.

Rick found it difficult to identify as an American during the division over the Vietnam War and civil rights, but because many young people also disagreed with government policies, his attitude changed.

In recent years, his appreciation for the U.S. has deepened because of his racial equity work, especially with people of color.

After graduating, he helped found and worked at the Whitworth Early Learning Center. Next he and Andrea moved to Seattle. He worked at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Home Center and taught kindergarten, and Andrea was a nurse at a hospital.

While attending St. Mark’s, the Episcopal Cathedral there, he received his call to the Episcopal priesthood and they went to New York City for him to attend General Theological Seminary. His

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Speakers will reflect on The Fig Tree’s 35 years

The Fig Tree celebrates its 35th year of publishing at its 2019 Benefit Lunch on Friday, March 8, and Benefit Breakfast on Wednesday, March 13, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

Four speakers at each event will address the theme, “35 Years: Informing, Inspiring, Involving,” telling how The Fig Tree monthly newspaper shares news of people who are making a difference because of their faith and values, and the annual Resource Directory connects people in the caring community and is used by people in need to improve their lives.

Lunch speakers will be Jason Clark, executive director of Second Harvest; Sima Thorpe, executive director of The Arc of Spokane; Sandy Williams, editor of The Black Lens, and Theresa Hart, founder/executive director of the Newby-ginnings program for veterans.

Breakfast speakers will include Gary Stokes, general manager of KSPS-TV Spokane; the Rev. James Watkins, pastor of New Hope Baptist and a board member; Scott Cooper, director of parish social ministries with Catholic Charities and a partner in planning the annual Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, and Kim Harmson, owner of the Kizuri fair trade shop at the Community Building.

The speakers will share insights on the value of The Fig Tree and Resource Directory in their varied roles in the community.

“Last year, we raised more than \$30,000 at these benefits—each attended by nearly 200 people. Our 2019 goal is to raise \$50,000 to build our capacity and involve more writers, editors and other staff,” said editor and founder Mary Stamp. “With 30 hosts at each event, we expect 480 guests.”

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Religion News Briefs Around the World

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Churches join 'End Violence in Schools' campaign

World Council of Churches (WCC) member churches across the globe are participating in a campaign to end violence in schools, an effort that is part of a larger WCC-UNICEF partnership, called "Churches' Commitments to Children."

An #ENDviolence campaign resulted from a September 2018 report, "An Everyday Lesson: #ENDviolence in Schools," showing that half of the world's teens experience peer violence in school.

UNICEF also launched an online poll of 13- to 24-year-olds that gave young people the option to share their views to help shape an #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto, completed in December 2018. It will go to education ministers and decision-makers in 2019.

WCC member churches in Mozambique, Germany, Jamaica, South India, Philippines, Nigeria, Uruguay, South Africa, Chile, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo participated in the poll and workshops contributing to the manifesto.

One million young people responded to the global poll, and 69 percent said they had been afraid of violence in or around their school. About 24,000 youth emphasized the need to take students' concerns seriously and recommended ways to make schools safer.

Church-run schools are a large percentage of educational institutions worldwide.

Love heals, not hurts: global reflections

The WCC has released a video that highlights reflections from across the globe on how love heals, not hurts. The film is part of a WCC campaign addressing abuse and violence in "loving" relationships.

In the video and online, the WCC compiled reflections from around the world on 1 Cor. 13:4-7 often used to describe love as patient and kind; not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude; not insisting on its own way, irritable or resentful....bearing, believing, hoping and enduring all things."

Lyn van Rooyen from South Africa said "too many times I have heard women (and their pastors!) quote this text in ways that are harmful and life-limiting: As people of faith we cannot just say people in abusive relationships should 'bear, hope or endure all things.' We have a responsibility to guide and support victims of abuse to become survivors and victors, to live their lives abundantly. We have a responsibility to speak out against abuse." For information, visit oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black#valentine.

Interfaith Rainforest Initiative expands

The WCC is part of the global faith-based Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, which is creating programs to inspire people, appeal to their values and make an ethical case for urgent, concerted action to protect rainforests. Tropical rainforests in South America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are falling rapidly because of cattle, soy and crop production; palm oil plantations, and rapacious, often illegal, mining and logging operations. The partnership believes there is a commitment across faiths to achieve this goal.

It has a website and online newsletter at interfaithrainforest.org.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree benefits goal is \$50,000 for 2019

Continued from page 1

Hosts and sponsors cover the cost of the meals, and guests are asked to donate generously to support The Fig Tree.

This year, Nathan Slabaugh Media is preparing the video, featuring Deidre Jacobson, a long-time volunteer and writer; the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and partner with Emmanuel Family Life Center, the site of The Fig Tree office; Sally Duffy, an associate of the Sisters of the Holy Names and a community volunteer; Raymond Reyes, associate academic vice president and chief diversity officer at Gonzaga University; Amber Waldref,

former City Council member and director of the Northeast Spokane Zone Project, and David Brookbank, a DSHS social worker at The NATIVE Project.

In 1984, Mary and the late Holy Names Sister Bernadine Casey co-founded The Fig Tree through the Spokane Christian Coalition. In 2001, it became an independent nonprofit. Since 2006, it has also published the Resource Directory.

"Beyond the goal of covering religion, we connect diverse people, share stories to build understanding, and explore how lives and views intersect on faith, justice and ethics," Mary said.

"Stories encourage reflection

and dialogue," she added. "We help individuals and groups network, pool ideas and resources, and join in common action."

The directory connects people and builds awareness of how the faith, nonprofit and civic communities serve. In 2016, The Fig Tree published 12,000 copies, and, with the help of community partners, 16,000 copies in 2018.

Recently, the Advent Lutheran Endowment Fund gave The Fig Tree a grant of \$420 for its media and education ministries. The fund supports ministries in the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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

Dainen Penter is Center for Justice director

The Center For Justice has selected Dainen Penter to lead the organization into its 20th year and champion its mission.

Dainen, who began Jan. 23, brings more than 15 years of experience as a lawyer in private practice and as a community leader.

The 1997 graduate of Whit-

worth University received his Juris Doctor in 2001 from Lewis and Clark Law School, his LL.M. in Taxation at the University of Washington School of Law, and then represented private clients.

Committed to addressing systemic inequities, Dainen was 2016 president of the Asian Bar Asso-

ciation of Washington and 2011 to 2012 president of the Washington Young Lawyers Division. He was named as a "Rising Star" by Washington Super Lawyers Magazine from 2010 to 2016.

The center seeks to create a more just and equitable community.

For information, call 835-5211.

Whitworth offers Speakers and Artists Lectures

Whitworth plans two Speakers and Artists Lectures this spring.

Linda Schearing, professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University, will speak on "Biblical Women in Pop Culture: An Academic Journey" at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 14, in the Johnston Science Center Auditorium at Whitworth University.

Symbols, themes and characters of biblical stories play a role

today in popular culture, said Linda, who will tell how popular culture media read, appropriate and reconstruct biblical women's stories and characters not only to entertain, but also to signal messages about gender.

Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, author of *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light* and *Jesus Is My All in All: Praying with the "Saint of Calcutta,"* will speak on "Mother

Teresa's Business: Spiritual Values in a Commercial World" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, at Whitworth's Weyerhaeuser Hall.

He believes her private reflections share her doubt and despair, hope and charity as a contrast to current temptations of selfishness and consumerism.

For information, call 777-3391 or email dstierwalt@whitworth.edu.

Professor speaks on Chief Garry

David Beine, dean of the College of Global Engagement and professor of intercultural studies at Great Northern University in Spokane, will present a lecture on "The Continuing Case of Spokane Garry" at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, on campus at 611 E. Indiana.

Great Northern University is a new private Christian liberal arts university located in the former site of Moody Bible College.

The book is on the dispossession of Garry from land he had occupied and farmed since 1864.

In 1917, William Lewis wrote *The Case of Spokane Garry*, the first biography of Chief Garry, who

was influential in settling Spokane.

David will present new findings on the disputed location of this land and offer stories of characters involved in the land dispute.

The lecture is followed by an invitation roundtable session.

For information, call 284-7100 or email at dbeine@greatnorthernu.org.

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International Women's Day CELEBRATION
Friday, March 8 - 5 p.m.
Fowler United Methodist Church
3928 N. Howard
Featuring Pastor Marie Mwange
Please bring blankets and housewares for World Relief resettlement efforts
International Women's Day is celebrated worldwide to uplift the gifts and skills of women and draw attention to their concerns.
For information, call 509-325-3242 - fowlerumc@yahoo.com

Film Festival is March 1-3

For the first time, the Social Justice Film Festival (SJFF) will bring 12 "Best of the Fest" films from 30 shown at its October 2018 festival in Seattle to Spokane, Friday to Sunday, March 1 to 3, at the Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main. The theme is "Hope and Democracy."

Gonzaga, Whitworth and Eastern Washington universities, Gonzaga's Law School and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane are collaborating with the festival to show films and host post-film discussions on six of the films.

Hannah Martin, program manager of the SJFF, said the organization started 10 years ago with prisoner rights films. It ran two seasons. Seven years ago, Anne Paxton, executive director, revived the festival. Aurora Martin, managing director, said the festival now draws international and national filmmakers.

- At 7 p.m. Friday is "The Providers," a documentary on rural health care access. Faculty from the University of Washington Medical School and the Empire Health Foundation will lead discussion. Showing with it is "Mexico: Looking for Lost Migrants."

- At 4 p.m. Saturday, "Go Penguins!" a documentary on a theatre troupe's of youth with developmental disabilities producing a Broadway-style musical, shows with "Take Good Care of My Baby."

- At 7 p.m. Saturday, the film, waałsi?aałin (Coming Home), explores the survival of the Juu-ay-aht First Nations on Vancouver Island. With it is "Reclamation: The Rise at Standing Rock."

- At 3 p.m. Sunday, "The Guardians," which exposes the corrupt system of state-appointed guardians, screens with "Dignity of Risk."

- At 6 p.m. Sunday, "Sincerely, the Black Kids" follows stories of black student leaders from U.S. colleges. Showing with it is "Side by Side," first-person narratives exploring South Korean adoptee experiences. After that film, two Korean adoptees—the director, and Gonzaga faculty member Dainen Penta—will lead a discussion.

Hannah, a 2012 graduate in film at Biola University in Los Angeles, came back to Seattle to work on justice documentaries.

Aurora, a 1997 graduate of the University of Washington Law School was drawn by her interest in producing documentaries.

She also formed the Social Justice Film Institute "to connect communities through film festivals, community education and mentoring filmmakers from underrepresented communities.

For information, call 206-650-0440 or email aurora@popupjustice.org.

Spokane Home Builders collaborate on Blitz Build

Viking Homes and Spokane Home Builders Association announced on Jan. 17 that they will sponsor and build a Habitat for Humanity Home as part of the Home Builders Blitz 2019 with professionals working together on an accelerated timeline to build homes for low-income, qualified home buyers. The home will be built in the Hope Meadows community in Deer Park. For information, call 534-2552 or email lduffy@habitat-spokane.org.

Hospice is recruiting volunteers, offering courses

Hospice of Spokane seeks volunteers to help patients and their families in Spokane Valley, North Spokane and Stevens County. Volunteers provide companionship and conversation, run errands, read, help with letter writing or emails, do light housekeeping, play an instrument or sing. Some volunteers provide visits with Pet Partner certified dogs. Volunteers are required to attend a Volunteer Training Course. One begins March 6 in Spokane and one April 9 in Stevens County. For information, call 456-0438

Conference draws human rights experts

Researchers, academics, human rights experts, community organizers and activists will be among the participants in the 5th International Conference on Hate Studies April 2 to 4 at Gonzaga University's Hemmingson Center.

As it marks its 20th anniversary in 2019, Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies (GIHS) is sponsoring the event on "Building Peace through Dialogue, Kindness and Forgiveness" in conjunction with the Kootenai County Task Force for Human Relations, Spokane County Human Rights Task Force and Gonzaga Student Chapter of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

It is an interdisciplinary academic forum on hate, related social problems, and ways to create socially just, inclusive communities, said Kristine Hoover, director of the GIHS.

Lessons will help participants analyze and combat hatred, and build commitment to peace, hu-

man rights and justice.

The conference features tracks on research, community building, education and development.

In a pre-conference event, Greater Spokane Progress and Empire Health Foundation are offering a "Why Race Matters" workshop from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, at the Hemmingson Center at Gonzaga.

"This year the conference includes an afternoon session Wednesday, April 3, for community dialogue on a range of views on human rights," said Kristine.

On April 4, those interested in researching how to counter hate can participate in "Design Charrettes" for a library resource.

The arts presentations include performances of a play about Ruby Bridges—the first African-American child to integrate a white school in the South—written by a Gonzaga student, a performance and workshop by local

artists from Power 2 The Poetry, and a student choral, theatre and dance performance, "A New Season: A Celebration of Artistry, Place and Potential."

The conference seeks to provide participants with skills to:

- Foster conversations on building community in hate studies;
- Share actions to challenge hate and support social change;
- Share knowledge, practices and perspectives from academics, activists and professionals;
- Generate interdisciplinary research projects and new theories, strategies for social justice.

"If we understand hate better, we can improve approaches to combat it," Kristine said. "We can have real-world impact, including creating models for changing society, government and lives."

For information, call 313-3665, email gihs@gonzaga.edu or visit gonzaga.edu/hatestudies. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/2CghlOI>.

Providence plans lectures, dialogue on ethics

The Providence Health Care Theology and Ethics Department is hosting Ethics Grand Rounds Lectures on "Implicit Bias and Clinical Ethics" from noon to 1 p.m., second Tuesdays, live and through Telehealth and Lync/Skype at Sacred Heart Mother Joseph Room, Holy Family Hospital St. Joseph Room, St. Mary Medical Center, Mount Carmel Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital in Chewelah and St. Luke's Rehab Institute.

On Tuesday, March 12, a panel will discuss "Binary Code Status and DNR in the OR: Assumptions We Bring."

The April 9 program is "Population Health and Implicit Bias" with Fr. Michael Rozier, SJ, who teaches health management and policy at Saint Louis University.

"Transplant Ethics" is the theme for the May 14 discussion with Adie Goldberg, social worker in Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center's heart transplant unit.

Shari Clarke, vice president of diversity and inclusion at Eastern

Washington University, will discuss "Race and Healthcare" on June 11.

The goal is professional development of caregivers and community leaders, and ethics competency for professionals. Classes qualify for CME credits. Classes combines lecture, small groups and practical care ideas.

Other 2019 educational offerings include "Who Makes Decisions in Tough Cases," March 27, and "Ethical Dilemmas Related to Difficult Discharges" on April and 15, May 8, and June 19.

Classes will stimulate conversations among health care providers, community members and caregivers on what care makes for a good life," said ethics director Andi Chatburn. "How can we be diverse caregivers with diverse patients? How can we be curious and have integrity in responding to those differences?"

Other 2019 sessions will address ethical dilemmas in caring for elderly and pediatric patients, and principles of the Providence model for ethical decision making.

For information, call 474-3097.

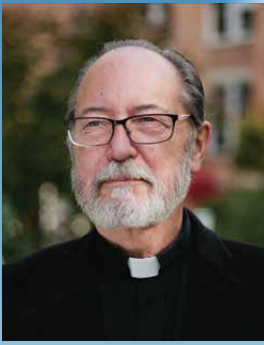
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All Weekend Masses
Saturday, March 9 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday, March 11-15
12:00 noon (Mass)
7:00 p.m. (Adoration Benediction)



Presenter:
Rev. Jerry Graham, SJ

All Weekend Masses
Saturday, March 16 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 17 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Relic blessing after each Novena service.
Anointing of the Sick after 5:00 Mass, March 16

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Church
330 E. Boone Ave - Spokane, WA 99202
(more information at www.stalschurch.org)

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35 Years: Informing Inspiring, Involving

Deepening Our Roots

Benefit Lunch
Friday, March 8
Buffet begins 11:15 a.m. • Program 12-1 p.m.

Benefit Breakfast
Wednesday, March 13
Buffet begins 7:00 a.m. • Program 7:30-8:30 a.m.
BOTH are at **Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University**

The breakfast and luncheon are complimentary. Guests will be invited to donate to support The Fig Tree.

TO RSVP, CALL 535-4112 or 535-1813
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The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202

RSVP early to assure seating

Volunteers teach English, job skills, helping immigrants be independent

Continued from page 1
 events and immigration policies, from the arrival of Vietnamese refugees to many who settled in Spokane from former republics of the Soviet Union and those welcomed as refugees from many nations today.

Amsel wanted to tutor one student at a time. By December 1968, she had eight students, so she appealed to the church for volunteers. Seven members responded. In January 1969, the students began meeting regularly with the volunteer teachers.

In 1971, the program was named Barton School after Amsel. In the 1970s, it offered morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Day programs have been Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and evening sessions were Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The night school continued until 1989, when there were 110 in the day and night schools.

Now 35 teachers tutor 20 students. There are fewer students today because community colleges offer ESL classes.

Amsel served as director from 1969 to 1972, but preferred to teach. So Betty Morse became director of the day school from 1972 to 1977, Bridget Piper from 1977 to 1979 and Mildred since then. Ten others served as directors of the night school.

Along with the original goal for students to develop literacy

and job skills, the school added work-related vocabulary and assistance with job applications and interviews, tax preparation and applying for vocational licenses.

The church offered more Sunday school rooms to accommodate students and teachers. When there were 50 students, there were 75 teachers because some volunteered just one or two of the three days a week. Some were substitutes. Eventually, the school offered child care.

Initially, there were no funds for materials. Many early teachers had been school teachers and brought books they had. There was no space to store materials. Some used the each-one-teach-one curriculum of the Laubach Literacy program in 1957.

"The church identified Barton School as a ministry, giving it \$100 to \$200 for paper, pencils and a few books," said Mildred.

By the time she became director, she had a space for an office. When the church built an addition with the gym in 1999, they designated two rooms at the end of the hall, so they now have bookshelves, cupboards and desks for office space.

Office staff help match students with teachers and set up which days the different teachers come.

"All are volunteers except for child care staff," Mildred said.

Because a similar school for refugees in Tacoma receives fed-

eral funds and grants, staff need to keep records on numbers of students and hours taught.

"We do not keep track of that," Mildred said. "Being all-volunteer, we are more flexible."

The church provides space, lights, heat, postage and custodial help. Sometimes the school receives donations, which they use to buy workbooks, resources and supplies.

"Our two-page list of materials includes Richard Scarry picture dictionaries, retail catalogues, and magazines," Mildred said.

"We reuse workbooks. Students don't write the words in them, but on a separate piece of paper. They write the whole sentence, which adds an extra layer of learning," she said.

Different materials meet needs of different students, and each teacher has different ideas.

"We are sensitive in matching students and teachers because of cultural dynamics," she said.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, Barton School had long waiting lists. Students could stay only five years. Many come to learn English. Some work on citizenship. Some move on quickly. Some have less clear objectives, wanting to learn as much as possible.

"Now we limit students to three years, but they can reapply based on new goals," Mildred said.

"I have learned that each student is different, so we don't

make judgments or assumptions," Mildred said. "The first five students from one country may share characteristics, but the sixth may be different. Some differences are cultural, and some are individual."

"We advise teachers that when they do or say something, they may reach a cultural impasse, and not know what happened," Mildred said. "Sometimes it's just personality."

Students seek opportunities. One began washing windows for teachers, then became a custodian in a downtown building before he graduated from college.

While some teachers just teach, many students and teachers keep in contact after working together.

Mildred said teachers make a difference in students' lives, and students make a difference in teachers' lives.

She said she volunteers because she is disturbed and sad to see conditions around the world.

"I can't go to those places, but here I meet people from all over the world and help change lives of people from many countries as they fit into our culture," she said.

Audrey Wagner, featured in a March 2009 Fig Tree story, drove on Fridays from Reardan for 29 years until 2009. She recruited and mentored other volunteer teachers from her church.

For many years, one couple drove from Lewiston to teach at the night school. They moved to

Spokane and taught in the day school.

Mildred remembers Amsel saying, "If you drop a pebble in water, you never know how far the ripples will go out."

"We don't know how far the school reaches into people's lives," she said.

A Shadle Park High School counselor taught several students. She took a man who had been an auto mechanic in Poland to different auto shops to help him find a job. He knew how to do the repairs. He just needed to learn English.

Mildred remembers a Russian woman whose son was not allowed to leave with her. When she first came, she would tell of her son and her chin quivered. She was matched with a teacher who had just lost her husband.

"They needed each other," Mildred said. The student learned Americans were not scary, and the teacher learned Russians were not scary. The student was a devout Christian who survived in an underground church. She overcame her fear of Americans, realizing that people are not the government.

"Students and teachers see through stereotypes, realize how stereotypes were created and learn to look beyond them to see individuals," Mildred said.

For information, call 919-4329 or email barton@spokaneffc.org.

'Mardi Bras' parties collect underwear and hygiene items for women

Because new underwear is one of the most needed and least donated clothing item for homeless women, Transitions and Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and North Idaho (VOA) team up for a third year to invite people to throw "Mardi Bras" parties four weeks before, four weeks after or on Fat Tuesday, which is March 5 this year.

On Fridays from Feb. 15 to March 15, those who hold parties in church basements, homes, book clubs or businesses drop off donations at VOA, 525 W. 2nd Ave. There is 10-minute parking outside and staff will help carry items.

In 2018, there were 32 Mardi Bras parties. Those parties raised \$3,740, 17,868 tampons, 1,350 bras and 1,776 pairs of underwear.

"It's a way for people to engage their friends in learning about how homelessness affects local women," said Jon Carollo, development director at VOA.

Organizers invite staff from VOA, which runs the Hope House shelter for women, or Transitions, which has the Women's Hearth day programs for women.

"The gifts promote dignity for women through the year," he said.

Donations also include hats, coats, mittens and reading glasses.

Jon said both Hope House and Transitions are also providing new housing to help women move from poverty and homelessness into homes, education and jobs.

In a four-story building with a ground-floor shelter for 80, VOA plans to build 60 affordable apartments downtown for people experiencing homelessness. Currently Hope House has 36 shelter beds. It also has up to 20 beds for women discharged from hospitals.

"Once the new shelter is built, we will convert Hope House to affordable housing," Jon said.

In October 2018, Transitions

completed 24 affordable houses in the Home Yard Cottages on the yard of the Transitional Living Center on North Hemlock.

"At the Women's Hearth on W. 2nd downtown, we could not consistently meet some of their needs until we started doing Mardi Bras," said Sarah Lickfold, development director.

Lack of personal items leads to discomfort, so to be able to offer new underwear provides "a little cleanliness and dignity that is a blessing every woman deserves," she said.

The Women's Hearth served 1,300 women in 2018, helping women find housing by providing access to phones, computers and resources.

The Women's Hearth is a community center that offers responsible renter classes to help with budgeting, tenant rights and landlord relations. It also has a knitting group, art and art therapy classes, a housing case manager and other classes and groups.

"Some women come, find housing and we don't see them again. Others come back and volunteer to give back," Sarah said.

For information, call 688-1104 (Jon) or 328-6702 (Sarah), or

email jcarollo@voaspokane.org.

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Eastern Washington Legislative Conference 2019

Faith teachings bridge political divides, stir awareness of connection

Opening the 2019 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, Mike Graef, pastor of Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, quoted John Wesley, founder of Methodism, "The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social, no holiness but social. Faith working by love is the length, breadth, depth and height of Christian profession."

Miriam Berkman of Congregation Emanu-El in Spokane then commented that "religion embraces both faith and action. Action lays the foundation for faith. The more we do good, the more we grasp the meaning of life," she said, adding "As we obey God, God's goodness enters our lives and we can change the world."

In a panel discussion on the conference theme, "Inform, Inspire, Involve," four area faith leaders discussed how religion can bridge political divides.

Pastor Walter Kendricks, president of the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, is pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church and an advocate for justice.

DR Michel, executive director of the Upper Columbia United Tribes, has 36 years forestry and natural resource management experience, including eight on Colville Confederated Tribes Business Council and Natural Resources Committee.

Bishop Gretchen Rehberg was ordained and consecrated as the ninth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane in 2017. She grew up in Pullman, was a professor of organic chemistry and served the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Lewiston.

Bishop Emeritus William (Bill) Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane grew up in the Methow Valley, was ordained a priest in 1960, was the fourth bishop of Yakima, and was bishop of the Spokane Diocese from 1990 to 2010. He was president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2004 to 2007.

Walter said he was at a Boy Scout meeting on April 4, 1968, when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. With tears in his eyes, his white scoutmaster told the boys to hurry home because "there might be trouble."

Walter said he is impatient. "We have progressed by sending men to the moon and made technological advancements, but we are morally bankrupt," he said. "How come we continue to have to talk about the same issues King and other civil rights leaders raised 50 years ago?"

Nonetheless, Walter continues to push to make the world better.



Bishop William Skylstad, Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, DR Michel, Walter Kendricks

DR asserted that "tribal issues are issues for everyone. They are the ecosystem, care for the environment and restoring fish passage. We coordinate efforts to benefit all."

"The tribes have experienced a rebirth of values related to land, water and fish. Love gives us strength to bridge political differences," he said.

"Tribes see everything as part of creation," DR said. "Part of our spiritual tradition is to challenge structures that harm nature."

UCUT works to restore fish passage at Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams, he said, because "the first salmon came up the river to honor humans. The return of salmon is morally right for all," he said. "Our culture respects others. It's the first step to bridge the political divide."

Gretchen described people's innate connection.

She was raised to understand that "if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything." Also raised to value education, she thought that if "you did not know the truth, you should be silent." She also believed if she could explain something slowly and simply, the world would work.

Gretchen began in the worlds of both chemistry and the church. In post-doctoral studies in Switzerland on why DNA is the way it is, she learned life exists because of hydrogen bonding.

"Without connection, there is no life," she said.

Gretchen ties that scientific understanding with the Apostle Paul saying, "We are members of one body." For her, electrons connect people on the cellular level.

"God created all and called it good. We are connected," Gretchen said. "We are also differentiated beings. White blood cells know what is them and not them, but if they are not connected to other cells, it may lead to an autoimmune disease. I'm aware, because I take medicine for an autoimmune disease, so my cells don't fight each other."

"Faith teaches us we are deeply connected, but we resist deep connections. It's easier to walk away than to respect and learn from

each other," Gretchen said "If I think others' beliefs are wrong, I need to follow a conversation with respect and humility, aware I might be wrong so I can learn."

Gretchen believes it's important to stay in conversation and turn to community, because "someone else may be able to do what I can't, and I may be able to do what they can't."

Bill called for challenging the political divide.

"Pope Francis in 'The Joy of the Gospel' talks about the crisis of community," he said. "We are bucking up against the headwinds of individualism, narcissism, me-ism rather than we-ism. Isolation is the residue of control and fear."

He said Pope Francis speaks against anti-immigration sentiments and building walls.

"Fear makes us do crazy things," Bill said. "We need to be open. Humility is an antidote. We need to go back to loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves."

"We are not close to measuring up to demands of changing, as Ezekiel talked of turning 'hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.' God's Word is like a two-edged sword. If we hear God's Word, we should soften, not harden our hearts."

Bill said it's easy to give "lip service" to the call to love God and neighbor, but the microcosm of family, friends and church can be the start of the beloved community.

"We struggle to give witness. On the macro level, we are in social relationships with everyone. No one is excluded. Everyone is our brother or sister," he said.

Bill said there's a political role in how a community treats people who are poor or homeless.

"The political situation has disintegrated from a lofty position of seeking the common good, withdrawing into the present power struggle," he said.

"At best, political power promotes rights and obligations," he said. "It challenges us and gives a sense of hope, calling for just peace and right relationships."

"When we hurt and feel pain, we are not in right relationships. Peace builds relationships. We need to fulfill our political responsibility to make the community

good," he said.

Jim CastroLang, panel moderator and member of the Faith Action Network board, said each spoke of different experiences, but each "connects with the spiritual understanding that all are connected even though we live in a world that pushes us apart."

He asked the panelists to discuss the tensions of these times.

Gretchen said, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it, but not for a lack of trying, because there are forces that try to bend the arc of the moral universe away from justice. Sometimes, we go backwards, but ultimately love wins. Despite forces that would move us backward, our job is to move forward, so those forces do not succeed."

Bill said today people can see on social media immediately when something happens—like Rodney King's beating or what is happening in Venezuela or Myanmar—and can contrast that "to what we are to do to further God's kingdom." He called for using

media to spread what is life-giving.

DR said that as a citizen of the Colville Tribe and of Washington State he lives in two worlds.

"As a tribe, we are sovereign, but we depend on the federal government that formed reservations and limited our access to our homelands," he said. "Politicians today focus too much on the right and left, not middle Americans. We are not just Republicans or Democrats."

"Elected representatives often forget their job is to represent us. They should not push their beliefs on us. Being conservative, liberal or moderate is fine, but they should not talk against others," DR said. "We are all different and need to be able to express ourselves without ridicule."

Fascinated by Gretchen's biology lesson on being connected, Walter said, "We forget that, but as a child of the 1960s, I remember the Three Dog Night song, 'The Family of Man' that referred to King's dream that we not see each other as black or white, straight or gay, male or female, but see all as connected. So if we attack someone, we attack ourselves."

"The Word of God is true or God is not God. From one man, God made all nations, appointed boundaries and set all in place, but it's terrible now. If we look back to 1990, where were we then economically and racially, it's clear that progress is slow. I'm impatient, but God exists through time," Walter affirmed.

For information, call 535-4112.

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Workshops explore taxes, housing, environment, advocacy and gun safety

Jim Dawson says state budget affects all of life

Jim Dawson, program director of Fuse Washington in Spokane, believes the “upside-down tax code” in Washington “holds us back on everything—expanding the basic health plan, environmental justice and racial justice.”

Anything that needs money is hard to pass in the Legislature, he said, even though this is one of the best-off U.S. states economically.

“Instead of having surplus for the budget, we have a deficit,” Jim said. “It affects us from the time we are born to child care, education, student debt, nursing care and death.”

While some see the budget as being about money, he urges seeing it as being about people having education, fighting wildfires, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, child care, pre-schools, long-term care, state parks, a healthy environment, housing, criminal justice, health care and more.

“Because the state budget impacts every part of life,” Jim said, “it should reflect our values, what it means to be good neighbors.”

The budget is passed every two years, so the legislature is writing the 2019 to 2021 budget that begins in July.

Jim said there are three budgets: a capital budget for building, a transportation budget for infrastructure and the operating budget with half for education and half for everything else—including social services, health care, corrections, central government and natural resources.

With two-thirds of the budget designated, if there is a gap, it comes from the remaining one-



Jim Dawson

third, he said.

“Washington has the 50th most regressive tax code. That means that those least able to pay, are paying the most, and those most able to pay, pay the least,” he said.

“If we had tax codes like Oregon or Idaho, we would have \$10 to \$12 billion more in our budget. The biggest revenue source is from sales taxes on goods and services, which were once 60 percent of the economy, but are now 30 percent with more economic activity online,” Jim said.

“Economic growth has gone to the top one percent, whom we tax at the lowest rates, increasing income inequality,” he said.

This session is considering some ways to raise revenue: close the capital gains tax loophole, and fund a working family’s tax credit, he said, adding that there is no active campaign for a state income tax.

For information, call 206-420-0133 or visit fusewashington.org.

Earth Ministry guides people to advocate for stewardship of creation

Jessica Zimmerle of Earth Ministry Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WIPL), said the 26-year-old agency connects faith and environmental issues on three levels—faith formation into being active stewards of God’s creation, organizing faith communities to model stewardship, and advocating for systemic change in policies to promote stewardship.

“God created the world, called it *very* good and we are entrusted to care for it,” she said. “Humans are not just the last piece but part of the whole web of creation.”

“When we advocate, it’s important to hold onto the core values that lead us to care as people of faith. It will resonate with the hearts of decision makers,” she said. “By advocating based on faith, we represent a constituency group. It’s not to say all our faith community believes as we do, but to say I’m active in a particular faith community that shares common values. This helps them see numbers behind us, especially because people of faith vote.”

Earth Ministry partners with scientists, policy experts, economists and impacted people through the 16-year-old Environmental Priorities Coalition. Through it several groups come together each year to work on four to five bills.

The 2019 bills Earth Ministry WIPL supports are 1) a 100 percent clean electrical grid by 2045 without any new hydro power; 2) a clean fuel standard to increase fuel efficiency by 2035 to decrease emissions 20 percent by integrating biofuels with carbon fuels for greener operation of vehicles; 3) three bills addressing threats to



Jessica Zimmerle

orcas and salmon related to noise pollution, food sources and phasing out five chemicals, and 4) a ban on plastic shopping bags.

The coalition that worked on Initiative 1631—tribal partners, business, labor, health, faith, low income and communities of color—continues and is now working together on the 100 Percent Clean Electricity Bill, Jessica said.

“We support investing in clean energy. There are more jobs in clean energy than in fossil fuels, Microsoft or Boeing,” she said. “Many are in Eastern Washington.”

“If we electrify transportation, electricity must be clean, so we

work with utilities to develop low-cost clean energy,” she said.

Jessica said just seven calls or contacts move an elected official.

In the workshop, Phyllis Kardos told of Responsible Development Northeast Washington’s work to promote clean jobs and challenge a proposed Newport silicon smelter that would burn coal to produce “solar” panels.

Barbara Miller of the Silver Valley Resource Center said the Bunker Hill Superfund Site formed in 1983 now extends into Washington, making Eastern Washington/North Idaho the largest superfund site in the nation as lead and heavy metals wash downstream in the rivers.

Toxic waste dumps—repositories—were created along Idaho rivers, like one at Cataldo Mission. In one day of flooding, the U.S. Geological Service measured 160 metric tons of lead washing downstream, Barbara said, and it continues to flow down river.

“We work to shut down the repository and seek environmental justice for Kellogg, a poor, isolated community,” she said.

For information, call 206-632-2426 or visit earthministry.org.

Two nonprofits work to keep people in the housing they have

Terri Anderson of the Washington State Tenants Union in Spokane and Kay Murano of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium discussed legislation to help keep people in housing.

“We are nervous with half-to-one percent vacancy rate in Spokane where half the residents—115,000 people—are renters,” said Terri.

She said the Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act from the 1970s still defines the tenant-landlord relationship. Under it, landlords can terminate rental agreements in 20 to 30 days, just after collecting rent, so the renter has no funds to find a new rental.

“We are focusing on local ordinances, such as one to end no-cause notices. Just-cause agreements require landlords to have

a cause for terminating a rental agreement—such as failure to pay rent or breaking the agreement,” said Terri. “Seattle recognizes 16 ‘just’ causes.”

“A tenant who asks a landlord to fix the stove may be given a notice. Then a new tenant moves in with appliances that don’t work,” she said.

Terri suggests that the city establish a pre-paid relocation fund for tenants when a landlord’s property is condemned. The city pays the tenant and collects from the landlord. She helps tenants organize.

Kay said there are eight bills to increase the 20-to-30-day notice to 120 days for changing rents, for changing from apartments to condos, or demolishing to do rehabilitation.

“It’s hard for a renter to find a place in 20 days, so tenants feel insecure. The goal is to reduce homelessness by reducing the number of evictions,” Kay said.

She also said there is need to build more affordable homes.

“If we have more housing stock, there is less concern about homelessness,” she said, urging people to advocate for the legislature to increase the Housing Trust Fund and the Housing and Essential Needs funding.

For information, call Terri at 464-7620 or Kay 325-3235.

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Despite division over guns, common ground is faiths' teaching not to kill

At a workshop on gun safety at the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, Sr. Judy Byron, OP, program director of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) in Seattle and director of the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, addressed the obvious polarization on gun safety.

"Pope Francis says we should approach people of differing opinions with neither a culture of confrontation nor a culture of conflict, but with a culture of encounter and dialogue as the way to peace," she said.

"While we have a crisis of gun violence, most want to save lives and find solutions," Judy said.

"For most of its history, the U.S. has been a rural nation using guns for protection, securing food and connecting generations as parents taught children safe gun use," she said. "In contrast, few use guns today for hunting. Just 4.4 percent of Americans are hunters. Most live in suburbs and use guns for protection and sports."

The division is that some see guns related to tradition, family and history, but others connect them with death, fear and destruction.

"We have the second amendment granting the right to bear firearms. We also have the Declaration of Independence, guaranteeing the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Judy said. "How do we bring these together? Given that people will have guns, how do we keep people safe?"

Common ground is that Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths say not to kill, to be compassionate, to love God and neighbors, to be peacemakers, Judy said.

Gun violence may have been down seven percent in 2018 from 2017, according to the Gun Violence Archive, but 14,712



Judy Byron, OP, of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.

people died, and mass shootings have grown worse since 1991, to the point that school shootings have become "routine," said Judy, who taught school until 1990 and "never worried about guns."

Judy then described efforts to challenge guns through the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment. Using shareholder advocacy, the alliance brought shareholder resolutions to gun manufacturers Sturm, Ruger & Co. and American Outdoor Brands, and to a gun retailer, Dick's Sporting Goods.

"We wrote asking how they monitor violent events when their weapons are used, how to make safer weapons and how such events risk their reputation," Judy said.

Receiving no response to letters, they filed shareholder resolutions. After the shooting Feb. 14, 2018, that killed 17 at Margery Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the CEO of Dicks said he was struggling with how guns they sold were used. They had not sold the weapon the shooter used, but had sold him another gun.

"Even though they followed the law, they had sold a gun to

someone who should not have had one," Judy said.

Dick's stopped selling assault weapons, raised the age for gun purchasers to 21, hired a lobbyist and committed to sell safe guns. They took a hit. Their stocks and revenue went down, but the CEO said he would do the same again.

The other companies did not respond, but 69 percent supported a resolution for Sturm to do something and 52 percent for Outdoor Brands to act. Even large investors voted for the resolution, she said.

Judy imagines that it may be possible to develop safer guns.

"IPJC's goal is to promote gun safety, eliminate gun violence, and pass sensible gun laws and mental health reform," she said. "We also need to look at our culture of violence with video games and other media."

Judy said Parkland students have helped break through political paralysis about guns with marches for life and voter registration. It reminds her that young people led Vietnam War protests and the civil rights movement.

A Pew Family Trust survey found more common ground than most think: 67 percent want strict-

er laws on gun sales, 97 percent support universal background checks, and 89 percent want to keep people with mental illness from buying guns, she said.

Currently, the U.S. Senate is considering an assault weapon ban and a concealed carry reciprocity act. The House is considering universal background checks.

In the fall, Washington voters passed I-1639, which is in courts. It established enhanced background checks, raised the age to buy a semiautomatic rifle from 18 to 21 and required firearms training and a 10-day waiting period before taking possession of a weapon.

Among 14 firearms bills introduced in the 2019 State Legislature were bills addressing undetectable plastic guns printed on 3-D printers, high capacity magazines, removal of firearms when there is domestic violence

and concealed pistol training.

At recent hearings on the bills, she observed fear: People who want to own guns for protection and sport fear they are losing the right to own guns. Others fear the loss of lives from violence.

Judy summarized the Jesuit world view, "God exists in all, the person who thinks like me and the person who doesn't. Meaningful dialogue takes a long time and recognition that we all have shortcomings. Fear is the opposite of love."

She urges people to have conversations about gun safety wherever they live, including in their faith communities.

For information, call 206-223-1138, email ipjc@ipjc.org or visit ipjc.org.

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GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Jessica Galvez gives tips for effective ways to influence legislators

Jessica Galvez, Washington State mobilization manager with Save the Children Action Network, offered workshop participants an opportunity to do mock presentations of an "elevator pitch" on their concern about immigration and family separation.

In a plenary session, Jessica reviewed how bills become laws and effective means for bringing voices to legislators.

"Personal meetings are most important," she said. "That involves calling for an appointment and preparing for the meeting."

She referred people to an advo-



Jessica Galvez

cacy toolkit The Fig Tree prepared and has online at thefigtree.org.

She suggested that citizens decide what issues to work on, what they can do, where they can find information and then craft an "elevator pitch" that tells how the bill intersects with "my personal story" and why passage is urgent.

Knowing who the legislators are and what their vested interests are is also important.

She referred people to the advocacy tools and resources that are available at savethechildren-actionnetwork.org.

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Faith community lobbyists present overview of bills in current session

The Faith Action Network's 2019 legislative agenda includes advocating for a biennial budget that "protects the poor and vulnerable, restores justice in the criminal justice system, funds housing for all, protects environmental justice, protects immigrant families and civil rights, ensures health care and mental health care for all," said Paul Benz, co-director of the Faith Action Network of Washington, during the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.



Donna Christensen and Paul Benz present a briefing on legislation.

At the conference, he discussed several issues. A full list of bills FAN supports and the status of bills are online at www.fanwa.org, to help people more effectively advocate with legislators.

"Most issues have a price tag," said Paul, speaking to the importance of the 2019 to 2021 budget.

To influence legislation, he suggested using the legislative hotline, 800-562-6000.

By calling it, citizens can be connected with their representatives, senators and the governor to have messages sent on their support for particular legislation.

Donna Christensen, a lobbyist for the Washington State Catholic Conference, said that housing and homelessness are "the biggest issues" in the state.

"There is homelessness in every corner of the state," she said. "It's a complex problem that needs attention at every level—from people not being in the work force to the need to expand mental health and substance abuse treatment."

She urged that the Housing Trust Fund provide \$5 billion in funding for affordable housing through grants of \$200 million.

"Over the past few years, we have seen properties completed to reduce homelessness," Donna said. "Housing Trust Fund projects need to be eligible for federal tax credits if they provide 40 years of affordable housing as leverage to increase affordable housing. More needs to be done. HB 1406 would allow local governments to use part of the sales tax for affordable housing to reduce homelessness."

Donna said one problem is eviction for failure to pay rent by the due date. Renters can be evicted for paying three days late or \$14 short. Negotiations with landlords could prevent evictions, but some want a quick turnover of apartments.

"An eviction goes on someone's record, making it harder to find a new rental," Donna said.

Under Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), counties fund housing vouchers for people with disabilities and mental health issues, because people do better if they have housing and services,

she said, adding that a capital gains tax would make it possible to fund HEN. For information, call 206-301-0556.

Paul then described three criminal justice bills.

- The New Hope Act 1041 focuses on restoration of people who go to jails and prisons so they come out equipped to adjust to society and unlikely to return to jail.

"For certain low-level offenses, once a person has done time and been supervised, that act vacates the criminal record to eliminate a barrier to housing and employment," Paul said.

- H1282 or SB5328 would not punish people for failing to appear for an infraction when their license is suspended, which Paul likened to "driving while poor."

- Given that the State Supreme Court ruled in the fall that the death penalty as applied in Washington is unconstitutional because it is based on racial and other biases, SB 5339 would repeal the death penalty.

In a workshop, Paul gave an overview of health care and nutrition legislation FAN supports.

- The Washington Health Security Trust would make affordable, quality long-term health care accessible to all residents, financed with a payroll tax.

- The Public Option/Cascade Care bill would move the state closer to a single payer health care system, ensuring no one pays more than 10 percent of their income on premiums.

- Budget increases for mental health funding would facilitate the slow transition from institutional care in hospitals to community care in clinics, group homes, and apartment living with support services.

- Another priority is protecting immigrants and their rights in the Keep Washington Working bill.

"The goal is to keep families together, to keep people working, to reduce the fear within immigrant communities and to make clear the roles of federal immigration officers and police," Paul said.

"The state legislative website is an invaluable resource for citizen advocates at leg.wa.gov," he added. For information, call 206-625-9790.

In concluding the conference, the Rev. Mike Denton, conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, pointed out that "without connections there is no life. Where connection is, there is life."

"We are intentionally focusing on deepening relationships along with emphasizing that people of faith are called to 'do justice, love kindness and walk humbly' (Micah 6:8)," he said. "This scripture puts the words 'require' and 'justice' together. This part of my Bible is well worn."

To "require" means more than to "have to do" something. It's like a flower requires sun, and a baby requires love. These are the things that give life, Mike added.

"Do justice means to make things right or do things right. Justice is worked out in community by listening to each other, being with each other," he said.

"Love kindness is partly charity, but often charity is seen as giving what we have in excess, a few extra dollars or cans of lima beans," said Mike, pointing to a deeper understanding. "It harkens to justice, to do things right, pre-emptive restitution, working in community to make things right."

"Walk humbly refers to two translations of 'humbly.' One is to recognize we are human and God is God, so we have different roles. The idea is also walking wisely with God and understand-

ing that the world is larger than ourselves," Mike said.

"By being in connection with each other and God, there is life. We are called to the larger connection to be in relationship with those in the room and those not in the room," he said.

"Our call is to make connections with legislators, to be bridges and connectors, to make sure all have life abundantly," Mike said. "We come from different places

with different stories. When we connect, we find life.

"We are to help make the world be full with life, whoever the people are, whatever their skin color, culture, gender, ability or other identity," he said. "The conference brings us together and sends us out to do what the Lord requires: do justice, love kindness and walk humbly."

For information, call 206-725-8383.



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Retired Episcopal priest serves diverse church, promotes racial equity

Continued from page 1
 pilgrimage in ministry led them to Asheville, N.C., Everett, Wash., and Lodi and Carmel, Calif.

"I had entered seminary as 'a pleaser,' someone not great at conflict, but ironically I often faced conflicts in my ministry," he said. "Now conflict is a given part of working for racial equity."

Rick took 18 months after retiring to fix their home, attend St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, and spend two to six hours a day in study and prayer. Then he began supply preaching on Sundays.

Rick said the "interior work" of study and prayer was "processing battle scars I experienced." It prepared him for his racial equality work.

Aware of his position of privilege as a white male and of the oppression of people of color, he has lived into his call to advance racial equity by just "showing up" where people struggle with racial equity: NAACP Spokane meetings, Unity in the Community, the Poor People's Campaign, Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience meetings, marches and demonstrations.

Rather than showing up to inject a white dominant voice, he comes to support leaders of color.

"One day I showed up to protest the not-guilty verdict of a white man who claimed self-defense when he shot an African American in the back as he walked away," Rick said. "This led to helping found SCAR (Spokane Community Against Racism). I am on the steering committee, made up predominantly of people of color."

"Showing up" also led him to start a Tri-Cities group of the Poor People's Campaign (PPC): A National Call for Moral Revival after he began at St. Paul's last March.

In June, he drove to Olympia to demonstrate for racial equity at the state capital. With a dozen other white citizens, he undertook civil disobedience to stand in solidarity with people of color as they face oppression.

The Tri-Cities PPC group joined other groups to register voters before the 2018 elections. Now their focus is to raise awareness of the implicit bias and systemic racism that disadvantages many citizens.

"Showing up" led to his involvement with the Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience, who have developed statements, demonstrated against white supremacy in Spokane Valley and plan an Earth Day event on the ecological disaster from Silver Valley mining.

His steps to show up and learn about the experiences of undervalued people also include reading books, watching videos, attending lectures, enjoying cultural events



Rick Matters walks alongside impacted people, raises voice.

and learning history.

"Most important is listening to and learning from impacted people," Rick said.

For many people that step means making friends with people they may see as "other." For him, the journey involves taking risks to follow Jesus' footsteps into uncharted waters.

"It requires looking at assumptions and values with new eyes," he said.

"The deeper I am involved, the closer I feel to Christ and the deeper my sense of fulfilling God's calling is," he said. "The deeper my awareness of the inhumanity my white culture inflicts on people of color, the stronger my compassion and my anger become."

For Rick, oppression diminishes not only the humanity of the oppressed but also the humanity of those who oppress or permit it.

"Working to liberate the oppressed deepens my humanity. I see Jesus' face in faces of the poor and outcasts more clearly now than earlier in my life," he said.

A metaphor that describes his understanding is: We swim in the same water," he said. "As a white person of privilege that water gives me nutrition and freedom. This same water is toxic to people of color, and they have to spend a lot of energy just to survive."

"Have you ever heard of Spokane niceness?" Rick asked. "It means not saying anything that might make someone upset. Jesus spoke the truth boldly and clearly at the cost of making people angry. Doing so expressed agape love."

As vicar of St. Paul's, he appreciates serving in a diverse parish with long-time Anglo members, Sudanese refugees and Mexican farm workers. He sees God bringing parishioners together.

"We lean into our diversity, learning to love as Jesus loves, respecting and delighting in our

diversity," he said.

Instead of just one church choir, St. Paul's also has the Mexican Singers, African Singers and Contemporary Singers.

During the Eucharistic Prayer before Holy Communion, a Spanish-speaking or African-speaking person stands beside Rick at the altar. When he says the words of institution over the bread and cup, he speaks in English, then stops. While he holds the bread and cup, another person tells the next part of the story in another language. People receive the Body of Christ with words in their own language. "I give the concluding blessing in English, and a member repeats short sections in Spanish, while I sign the words in American Sign Language," he said.

St. Paul's has completed a four-month process to develop a vision statement for its future.

The vision of St. Paul's for 2050 is: "The center of our lives is Jesus Christ, who illumines St. Paul's as a bright Rainbow of Hope. Each color glows with respect for the unique culture, heritage and beauty of each. The Holy Spirit dances joyfully through St. Paul's and out into the world, empowering us to embody Jesus Christ across continents and near to home. We offer creative and compelling Anglican liturgy while blending traditional, ethnic and contemporary singing. Music and prayers are projected onto screens in our traditional church. Serving as an epicenter of mercy, compassion and equity, we communicate the living hope of the Gospel to people of all ages through worship, learning and service."

Already the statement guides parishioners' actions.

They collect clothing for their own members as well as for children at local schools.

When a beloved Mexican immigrant died recently, the parish raised money to pay for funeral

expenses and to transport her body to Mexico to be buried by her son. They participated in Mexican traditions of viewing the body at the funeral home and held a requiem celebrating her life at the church.

St. Paul's annual liturgical calendar incorporates traditions from the three ethnic groups.

The baptistry contains a shrine for Our Lady of Guadalupe.

St. Paul's is paying for a Latino and a Sudanese teen to do a mission trip.

They are also becoming aware of what members of color experience in contrast to Anglo members. For instance, an African immigrant was attacked last year—an example of the difference in safety between ethnic groups.

In March, Rick begins a seven-week study for his congregation and surrounding communities, using the book, *Beyond Inclusion, Beyond Empowerment: A Developmental Strategy to Liberate Everyone*, to share practical steps to share privilege equally.

The book presents five skill sets for people "overvalued" for their wealth, ability, education, birth

in the U.S., being male and being white. It also describes five skill sets for those undervalued based on those criteria. Participants will learn and practice skills to respond more fairly to each other.

"As I gain confidence, I realize a next step is not simply to stand beside impacted people and support their justice work, but also to raise my voice," he said. "Because whites imposing supremacy on non-whites casts the shadow we live under, whites must undo the oppression."

Rick believes that since the Declaration of Independence said that "all men are created equal," the nation has made progress in expanding the word "all." At the time, it meant only white men who owned property.

"My life goal is to continue to stretch that word until we truly provide justice and liberty to all," he said. "As we stretch our collective arms to include others, we emulate Jesus who stretched his arms on the cross."

For information, call 209-327-1134 or email rickmatters@gmail.com.

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Funds to assist those on limited incomes are also available.

For information, call (509) 477-4727 or www.SpokaneCleanAir.org. Grant funds are limited!

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35 years have generated many changes, relationships and connections

As we prepare to celebrate The Fig Tree's 35th anniversary, we rejoice in the enthusiastic response. We had 38 people volunteer to host tables for the Benefit Lunch, but only have space for 30 tables, so some are hosting half tables. **We recommend that hosts/guests RSVP early to assure seating**

We hope our efforts to bring a different perspective of news and to raise some voices not present in other media does make a difference in the communities of the region, state, and in our circulation around the nation and the world.

Many thanks to the thousands of people over the years who have been our supporters, advertisers, partners, underwriters, sponsors, readers, editors, writers, mailing and delivery volunteers, board and committee members, event planners, other volunteers and our web designer.

Many, many people make each edition of The Fig Tree and the annual Resource Directory possible.

We celebrate you!

For May and June, we are preparing the anniversary issues. It's a time to

remember all the people who have shared in this media ministry over the years, from the founding steering committee through today's committee members helping to plan the benefits, financial development plans and the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

We especially thank the designer of our logo, Yaya Senklip, who is the daughter of a founding member, Carl Milton.

We will retell the story of how The Fig Tree started and its development over the 35 years. We will reflect on some of the stories we have shared over the years.

Just glancing back several years, we see changes in the design of the front page from shifting the location of the mailing label. That opened us to a new layout with The Fig Tree logo running across the full top of the page, until we added the box with the list of stories inside.

Just a quick glance at our archives—in 54 plastic stacking trays filled with about seven copies of each issue—answered another question: When did we start publishing in color? It was in September 2011.

At that time, more advertisers wanted color. For a while, we ran eight pages in color and four in black and white, but the number of advertisers wanting color increased, so by charging for color, we were able to cover the costs of publishing all pages in color. It's just eight of the 35 years, but what a difference it makes to have color photos with the articles and color ads.

We then created a full-color logo with The Fig Tree design, which was possible thanks to Photoshop.

When we started, the typesetting, graphics and design were in the pre-digital era. As computers and software developed, we shifted from a manual typewriter to an electronic typewriter to a Macintosh SE with Pagemaker. What a difference there is to what we can do with our current software and computers. Those at the office were provided by grants from Rotary 21. We learned the word processing, data and design software and kept up with advances.

Now we have a list of the processes for preparing mailings, updating fliers, mailing timing and database steps.

With 11 issues in the first few years and 10 issues in the rest of the years, and with about seven feature articles in each issue, we estimate that we have published about 2,500 stories of people who make a difference. There is some overlap with updates on stories about agencies or projects, interviewing the same or different leaders.

People who want to support but cannot come to a benefit can send donations and help in other ways. We invite:

- Letters to the editor on what The Fig Tree means to you.
- Opportunities to share The Fig Tree story congregations and groups.
- Support through "thank you" and "congratulations" ads in May and June.
- Anyone to introduce The Fig Tree/Resource Directory to others.
- Article ideas and ongoing advertising.
- Community partners and major donors.
- More volunteers to help write, edit, distribute, promote and plan.

We celebrate all who make up The Fig Tree community in so many ways!

Mary Stamp - editor



Panelists discuss 'Future of Interfaith' at Spokane FAVS gathering

Four panelists discussed "The Future of Interfaith" at a Spokane FAVS (Faith and Values) Coffee Talk for the first time in the Origin Church building, which in May will be turned over to Spokane FAVS as an interfaith center.

Tracy Simmons, editor and executive director of Spokane FAVS, recognized atheists, Buddhists, mainline and evangelical Christians, Bahá'is, Muslims and Jews among the 80 who gathered.

Panelists were Scott Kinder-Pyle, a columnist with Spokane FAVS and a Presbyterian pastor serving Origin, a Disciples of Christ Church; Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ and organizer of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC); Liz Schindler a FAVS intern in an interfaith marriage, and Naghmana Sherazi, a FAVS columnist.

Scott said that in Philadelphia, where he grew up, people were blunt, but "in Spokane, we tiptoe around interfaith discussion and race."

Many in interfaith efforts think that different faiths say the same things.

"We have the notion that we know how people feel or know people by their ethnicity, but we do not know each other," he said. "We need dialogue in face-to-face encounters."

"For me, I believe Jesus is the most important figure in history. Christians often dominate discussions, but in opportunities for face-to-face encounters we acknowledge our agnosticism, our 'I don't know.' Whether we are religious, many who are disoriented by doubt dread being unsure," he said.

Scott calls for "radical openness" to the stranger, to Christians, atheists, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and others.

"A sense of bewilderment lays a foundation for encounter," he said.

In discussion, after panel members each presented, he said that "interfaith dialogue does not mean surrendering or watering down our truth claims. We are in dialogue together, and have different understandings of ultimate truth."

"Interfaith dialogue is fascinating," Scott said.

Liz is Christian and her husband, Neal, is Jewish. They are raising their son with an understanding of both. She observes that often in interfaith relations, despite the human tendency to hate and



Naghmana Sherazi, Scott Kinder-Pyle, Liz Schindler and Gen Heywood

judge, understanding neighbors and extending compassion are expressed.

"It's not enough to be nice," said Liz, who grew up as an Evangelical Christian in Spokane and had no understanding that there was a synagogue or other faiths. "We need to be aware of the community, our divisions and our shared humanity."

"Neal, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, and I are raising our son, but even if Oliver passes as a Christian middle class white boy, he should claim being an interfaith child with a survivor identity."

"We need to be allies. We need to form relationships. We need to break institutional barriers. We need to listen," she said.

"Breaking bread is the best way to know someone. Hospitality means inviting people to our homes and places of worship, and accepting hospitality."

"Interfaith work is crucial if there is to be hope for a future without hostility and hate," said Liz, who attended Whitworth University, where she learned about differences in Christian faith understandings."

Liz said she tells her son, "I believe this and Dada believes this." They will offer him options, but not decide what he will believe.

When Liv Larson Andrews, pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, co-officiated their wedding and prepared them for marriage, Liz said Liv told them that "every marriage is interfaith" because she had not met any two people who had the same views. She pointed out that "it comes down to mutual respect."

Liz added that their interfaith marriage calls for having mutual respect, being non-judgmental and sharing their gifts.

As an intern with FAVS, she plans to start programs and workshops for children to meet neighbors and learn about different understandings of faith. She also plans a story time to read stories of different faiths.

Gen who convenes Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC) and

Families Against Bigotry (FAB), is also a professional photographer who studies faith and non-faith traditions. Her website includes a gallery of spiritual moments of reflection and action.

FLLC, FAB, Muslims, Sisters of St Francis and Temple Beth Shalom recently screened "The Sultan and the Saint," a documentary on listening, at Temple Beth Shalom.

The faith leaders group developed out of the Poor People's Campaign.

Last spring, Gen sent emails from The Fig Tree Resource Directory to draw people from faiths and non-faiths from A to Z to support the Poor People's Campaign: National Call for Moral Revival, so people of different faiths could work together in support of the principles of the Poor People's Campaign related to racism, poverty, militarism and environment.

FLLC is about doing, so leaders have written statements that have been read at Families Belong Together, at Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers' office, had letters to the editor published and have connection with 350 Spokane, Riverkeepers and others to plan a Vigil for the Healing of the Earth on Monday, April 22.

"The future of interfaith is to live the golden rule of loving our neighbor, listening and being open to change and action—painting a building with Habitat, joining a Martin Luther King march or eating together," Gen said. "We learn about people in doing things together. We need to move to full interfaith relations so MLK's vision of the beloved community is made real."

Naghmana, who moved to Spokane seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cytogenetic Science, told of coming with her 11-year-old son, knowing no one and finding limited diversity.

She became a columnist with FAVS,

and is involved with the Spokane Islamic Center, FLLC, Spokane Women Together, Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Steering Committee.

Concerned that people often "judge a book by the cover," she encourages people not to judge who others might be.

"I'm a Muslim single mother, brown and old. Until I was just laid off, I worked as a scientist, educator and researcher at a local university. I am a different color, faith and background from most faculty who are white. I plan to converse with administration about commitment to diversity," she said.

Naghmana knows that in Karachi, Pakistan, where she grew up, she experienced "brown privilege," living among people of her background.

"Part of the future of interfaith is about intercultural relationships," said Naghmana, who for 14 years was a flight attendant out of Pakistan, serving predominantly Pakistani Muslim passengers. "Moving to Spokane, I met Bosnian Muslims and Muslims from other cultures for the first time."

"Unless I stepped out of my own 'pond' here in Spokane, I would not get to know people of other cultures and faiths. I also connect with people of different cultural groups through Spokane Women Together, started by Hilary Hart. We get together for potlucks, bringing food from our cultures and talking about our food, our heritages, our children, our hopes and our dreams."

Naghmana is also among women whose stories and portraits are featured in an exhibit, "Spokane Women Together: Portraits and Stories," created by Hilary and her photographer husband Rick Singer. The exhibit of Spokane women from nine countries and 11 religious faiths who speak 14 languages, was displayed during February for Women's History Month at the Spokane Valley Library.

"It features Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Christian and more. Some cover their hair and some do not, based on faith or personal choice," she said.

In Spokane Women Together gatherings, "we learn from each other and rub off on each other," Naghmana said.

Each panelist wrote columns on the theme on Spokane FAVS.

The presentations and conversations that followed can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneFAVS/videos/2364468327169507/>.

Calendar of Events

- Feb 28-Mar1 • Washington State University International Globalization, Diversity and Education Conference, "Healing the Mind, Body, Soul: Community, Activism and Justice in Education,"** Northern Quest Casino and Resort, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights, education.wsu.edu/globalization/
- Mar 1 • Community Colleges of Spokane Got International Talent,** Spokane Falls Community College, 3410 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Winter Waters,** honoring Kalispel Tribe as Watershed Heroes, Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave., 6:30 p.m., 270-6995, waltsoe@gmail.com
- Mar 1-3 • The Best of Fest Social Justice Film Festival,** Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, 2 to 9 p.m., Saturday, noon to 7 p.m., Sunday, socialjusticefilmfestival.org
- Mar 3 • Jam for Bread** Benefit for Crosswalk, Don Maher singer and guitarist, Spokane Area Youth Choirs, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 3 to 5 p.m., 624-1366
- Mar 5 • National Veterans Creative Arts Festival,** Mann-Grandstaff Spokane VA Medical Center, CLC Dining Room, 2 p.m., 434-7000
- "From Stones to Living Bread,"** A Day of Reflection and Prayer, Marian Beaumier, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 747-5790
- Jazz Mass,** St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 7 p.m., 747-6677, stmarks-spokane.org
- Mar 6 • Continuing Case of Spokane Garry,"** David Beine, Great Northern University, 611 E. Indiana, 6 p.m., 284-7100, dbeine@greatnorthernuniversity.org
- Mar 7, 14 • Peace & Justice Action Committee** 5:30pm Community Building, 35 W. Main
- Mar 7, 14, 21, 28 • Diverse Voices** Writing Group, Spark Central, 1214 W. Summit Pkwy., 5:30 p.m., 279-0299
- Mar 7, 21 • Spokane Dances of Universal Peace,** Unity Spiritual Center Spokane, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- Mar 8 • "35 Years of Informing, Inspiring, Involving,"** The Fig Tree Benefit Lunch, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga, buffet starts at 11:15 a.m., program from noon to 1 p.m., RSVP 535-1813 or event@thefigtree.org
- International Women's Day Celebration** featuring Pastor Marie Mwange, originally from The Congo, Fowler United Methodist Church, 3928 N. Howard, 5 p.m., 325-3242, fowlerumc@yahoo.com
- Mar 8-17 • "Almost, Maine,"** Whitworth Theatre, Cowles Auditorium, Whitworth University, 777-3707, whitworth.edu/theatretickets
- Mar 9 • International Women's Day – Health, Spa, Beauty Expo, Women's Resource Fair,** Silver Lake Mall, Coeur d'Alene, noon to 5 p.m., 928-9664
- International Women's Day – Balance for Better: Creative, Cultural and Community Healing,"** Idella "lipSu-Akii" King, educational advocate with Red Skirt Society, "Community Healing through Female Indigenous Ideologies," Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene, 1 to 5 p.m., facebook.com/events/406282003458963/
- Mar 9-17 • Novena of Grace,** "Finding Peace in Our time," Jerry Graham SJ, St. Aloysius, 330 E. Boone, stalschurch.org
- Mar 10, 17, 31 • Introduction to Shin Buddhism,** three-week course on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, after 10:30 a.m. Service, 534-7954, spokanebuddhisttemple.org
- Mar 12 • "Binary Code Status and DNR in the OR,"** ethics panel, phcethics2providence.org
- Mar 12-13 • "Living with Forgiving,"** 24-Hour Midweek Retreat, Charles Finck III, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Mar 13 • "35 Years of Informing, Inspiring, Involving,"** The Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga, buffet starts at 7 a.m., program from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., RSVP 535-1813 or event@thefigtree.org
- "Women Lead Spokane 2019,"** Hemmingson at Gonzaga, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., strawther@gonzaga.edu
- Hispanic Business Professional Association,** Mexicana Fiesta, 1227 S. Grand Blvd., 6 p.m., hbpaspokane@gmail.com
- Mar 14 • Coeur d'Alene Dances of Universal Peace,** Unity Spiritual Center of North Idaho, 4465 N 15th St., 6:30-8:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- "Biblical Culture: An Academic Journey"** Linda

- Scheuring, Gonzaga religious studies professor, Johnston Science Center Auditorium, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-3391, dstierwalt@whitworth.edu
- Mar 14, 28 • Showing Up for Racial Justice,** 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.org
- Mar 16, 25 • "The Great Folk Scare: American Folk Music Revival,"** North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne Rd., 2 p.m., 893-8350
- Mar 18 • NAACP General Membership Meeting,** Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet Ave., 7 p.m., spokanenaacp.com
- "The Evangelical Road to Donald Trump,"** Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3270, anitalewis@whitworth.edu
- Mar 19 • O'Leary Lecture,** "Organic Electronics: How to Conserve Energy and Produce Electricity the Organic Way," Jean-Luc Brédas, chemistry and biochemistry professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, Wolff Auditorium in Jepson at Gonzaga, 7:30 p.m., 328-4220
- Mar 20 • Barton School 50th Anniversary,** First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 919-4329
- Mar 20-21 • "Journeying with Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem,"** 24-Hour Midweek Lenten Retreat, Fr. Max Oliva, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Mar 21 • Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience,** Veradale United Church of Christ, 611 N. Progress Rd., 9:15 a.m., 408-593-9556
- "Paris to Pittsburgh,"** 350 Spokane, The Garland Theater, 924 W. Garland Ave., 6:30 to 9 p.m., jorberger97@gmail.com
- Mar 22 • War kNOW More!** Peace and Justice Action League Panel on history and costs of U.S. militarism, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. George Wright Dr., 6:30 p.m., pjals.org
- Mar 22-24 • "Walking with Mary towards her Son,"** Weekend Retreat, Fr. Michael Maher, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Mar 23 • Speed Faithing Dialogue,** One Peace Many Paths, Soka Gakkai Center, 1717 W. 6th, 6 to 8:30 p.m., selahcentered@hotmail.com
- Mar 25 • "Toward a Shared National Narrative,"** Timothy Egan, New York Times columnist, Hemmingson Ballroom 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Mar 26 • Rukavina Lecture,** "Who's Your Mama? Assisted Reproductive Technology and the Decline of Motherhood," Jennifer Parks of Loyola University Chicago, Hemmingson Auditorium, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Arnold Distinguished Professorship Lecture,** "Becoming Human," Marie-Christine Nizzi, Jepson Center at Gonzaga, 6 p.m.
- Mar 27 • "A Midsummer Night's Dream,"** Our Place Benefit, Magnuson Theatre, Gonzaga University, 6 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. performance, 326-7267
- Mar 28-30 • "A Midsummer Night's Dream,"** Magnuson Theatre, Gonzaga University, 7:30 to 9 p.m., 313-6553, longa@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 29 • Engaging Fatherhood Conference** and Resource Fair, Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., facebook.com/SpokaneDADS/
- "The Faith of a Jesuit Chemist: Reflections on the Relationship between Religion and Science,"** Fr. Eric Watson, SJ, of Seattle University, Jepson Center at Gonzaga, noon
- Mar 29-31 • "Attaining Interior Freedom and Peace in the School of the Holy Spirit,"** Weekend Retreat, Fr. Jacques Philippe, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Mar 29, 30, Apr 6 • Chorale Coeur d'Alene,** "Sing Vienna" Concert, Trinity Lutheran, 812 N. 5th St., Coeur d'Alene, 29th 7 p.m., 30th 2 p.m.; 6th, St. John's Cathedral, Spokane, 2 p.m., 446-2333
- Apr 2-4 • International Conference on Hate Studies,** Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga, 313-3665
- Apr 3 • The Fig Tree distribution,** St. Mark's Lutheran, 314 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Apr 4 • The Fig Tree Benefit/Development and Board,** 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon Benefit/Development, 1 to 3 p.m., Board, 535-1813
- Spokane Dances of Universal Peace,** Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com

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A Benedictine Spirituality Cohort with Sr. Teresa Jackson, August 19-25, 2019 — initial retreat

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Spirit Center retreats at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID 208-962-2000, www.Spirit-Center.org

Coming Up with Spokane Public Radio

KPBX Kids' Concert: Celtic Dance Party with Floating Crowbar
 Saturday, March 9, 1 p.m., Riverside Place Auditorium
 1110 W Riverside Ave, Spokane
 Feet will fly and winter spirits will soar as Floating Crowbar performs at this Celtic Dance Party. Members of the MSD Irish Dance Academy will help inspire your moves.

SPR Forum: Confronting Homelessness
 Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Spokane City Hall
 A panel of experts will join host Steve Jackson for an in-depth conversation on the complex topic of homelessness in our community. Bring your questions to join the discussion.

March Membership Drawing: Dine, Drink & Snack
 Everyone making a pledge of support by March 29 is entered into THREE drawings.
 For SPR's March Membership Drawing, three people will each receive: A \$100 Gift Certificate to Spencer's For Steaks and Chops, a \$50 Gift Card to Rocket Bakery, and a \$100 Gift Card to Bardenay Restaurant & Distillery in Coeur d'Alene. Drawing rules at SpokanePublicRadio.org.

Inland Journal Daily Podcast
 Mon - Fri at SpokanePublicRadio.org or your podcast app
 SPR's weekly local news program is now available as a daily podcast. Hosted by Doug Nadvornick, Inland Journal presents stories, features, and interviews from around the region. Subscribe on iTunes, Google Play, NPR One, or listen online at SpokanePublicRadio.org.

KPBX Arts Calendar On Air and Online at SpokanePublicRadio.org

More Event Information at SpokanePublicRadio.org

Celebrate Fat Tuesday



Jazz Mass

by Dan Keberle - Jazz Orchestra and St. Mark's Choir

Preacher: The Very Rev. Heather VanDeventer
 Dean of the Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist

Tuesday, March 5 - 7 p.m.
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 24th & Grand Blvd.

The tradition of Fat Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) is to feast on fat things before the lean weeks of Lent.

Medical ethics director broadens dialogue opportunities and partners

Aware that there's more mystery in life and death than medicine may acknowledge, Andi Chatburn, medical director of ethics for Providence Health Care, is organizing monthly discussions on ethics with community leaders and health care providers.

"I seek to bring diverse insights into ethics," she said, "because we need to be constantly curious about the many ways people think about health, disease and family."

For example, Andi learned from reading *The Spirit Catches You When You Fall Down* that in the Hmong culture, a seizure may be a spiritual gift. The book describes the dilemma of parents of a girl with seizures. They don't want her to turn blue or die, but taking anti-seizure medicine would take away the seizures, which for them was not a good outcome.

"We need to understand what is a good outcome for each person or culture, avoiding preventable death while honoring diverse beliefs," she said.

"Ethics discussions have blossomed and expanded, opening us to robust conversations with people beyond those in health care," she said. "Health care can be a sub-culture in ways of being and thinking. We need to learn more about how the community experiences us and illuminate biases of the culture of medicine."

"If we are more aware of our biases, they lose their power so we can focus on what matters in the lives of people who seek healing," Andi said. "Best practices may not fit everyone. Most come to the ER scared, needing people to listen and find what response fits."

Growing up in Michigan, Andi wanted to be a doctor, so she studied biology, pre-medicine, Christian leadership and philosophy at Graceland University in Ramona, Iowa, a Community of Christ university.

"At Graceland, we explored what it is to bring meaning in the midst of suffering," she said.

After graduating in 2006, she went to medical school at the University of Kansas City, focusing on ethics and palliative care.

As a child, Andi spent summers with her grandparents on their farm. Her grandmother was the quintessential volunteer, campaigning for the governor, bathing patients in the hospital and building Habitat houses, so Andi went with her.

She also helped care for her great grandparents, so talk of death was a normal part of life.

In addition, three weeks volunteering in 2002 in Nicaragua with Participatory Human Development and a summer in 2003 doing HIV education and community development through her church



Andi Chatburn stands before tapestry from Zambia.

in Livingston, Zambia, helped frame Andi's ministry in ethics.

In Nicaragua, volunteers hiked to villages and asked what help the people wanted, rather than offering to meet a pre-determined need—"toxic charity" from a colonial approach.

In Zambia, the hospital requested volunteers. She did wound care in the ER and gave free anti-retrovirals to breastfeeding mothers with HIV, so they would not pass HIV through cracks in their nipples.

Insights from those experiences opened doors for her to explore the mysteries of human beings and health care outcomes.

Andi and her husband came to Spokane in 2010, when he became Community of Christ bishop for Washington, Oregon and Montana. He now works with Community Frameworks.

Her residency in family medicine in Spokane was followed by a year fellowship with hospice and palliative medicine at the University of Kansas in Kansas City.

When she returned to Spokane, Providence ethicist Jim Shaw retired. In 2014, she began working half time each in palliative care and ethics, building the ethics curriculum.

Andi urges the palliative care team—social workers, chaplains, nurses, doctors and nurse practitioners—to consult as they walk alongside people hospitalized with serious illnesses, communicating so they not only manage symptoms but also respond to patients' personhood and existential questions.

Sacred Heart has 20 employed chaplains who rotate with the team, plus six chaplain residents in the one-to-two-year clinical pastoral education (CPE) program.

"Chaplains and chaplain residents are of many faiths. Because it's a Catholic health care facility, many expect that chaplains are Catholic, but chaplains are members of many faiths," she said. "The chaplains engage in inter-

faith dialogue to build bridges."

"Chaplains accompany patients through spiritual dimensions of their health care," she said.

Along with classes, Andi travels to Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph hospitals in Stevens County, St. Mary's Hospital in Walla Walla, Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, and to Missoula to support ethics programs and learn about experiences of people with serious illnesses living in rural communities and isolated as family members move.

"What are ethics issues for

people in rural communities, for people living in poverty, for people at the end of life? Who can access heart medicine? How do those living alone arrange to have an IV infusion or travel to chemotherapy in urban areas?"

For people who do not have immediate family members, the Washington State Medical Association is promoting HB 1175 to set up a surrogate decision-making hierarchy for people without a durable power of attorney and with no spouse, adult children or adult siblings. The bill would recognize the voice of grandparents, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles without going to court to gain consent for surgery or placement in adult family homes.

"Some have been stuck in hospitals 500 days with no one legally authorized to make decisions for them," she said. "The County Superior Court does not have enough certified professional guardians."

Andi also asks about care for the few patients with rare diseases requiring expensive treatment. For example, for children with a rare genetic spinal muscular atrophy, there is a medication which includes five shots the first year, costing \$1 million. The shots mean the child who starts to walk does not regress and die, she said.

"It's a life-saving miracle drug, but how does that cost relate to care for whole communities?" she asked. "What is justice in health care? Insurance coverage is case by case. Do medical centers and families bear the burden for uncovered costs? The question is why should any medicine cost \$1 million, not if it should be prescribed."

Andi said the cost of rare medical care is a medical ethics dilemma as new discoveries are made.

As an ordained lay minister in the Community of Christ, she affirms that "the enduring principle is the worth of all people and the pursuit of justice and peace—shalom."

"In a Catholic health care center we ask: Who is the most vulnerable? How do we honor the dignity of all? How do we fall short? How do we create space for reconciliation?" she said.

As Andi sees God expressed in different ways in different faiths and cultures, she sees that the healing ministry mission is to restore people to community, which includes having housing when they are released from a hospital.

For information, call 474-3097 or email andrea.chatburn@providence.org.

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