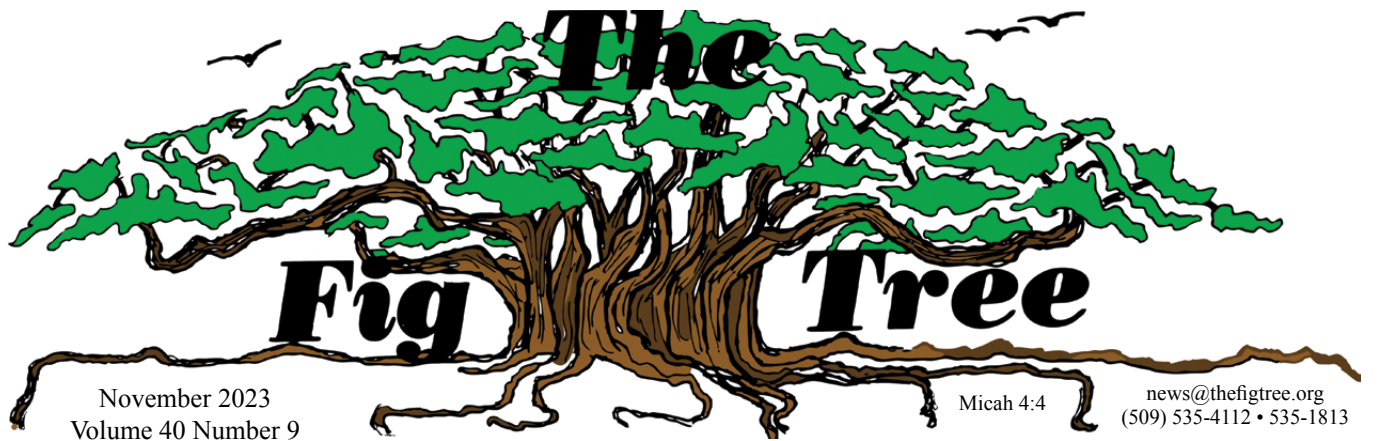


40TH YEAR OF  
PUBLICATION

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CALENDAR ON PAGE 15  
50+ EVENTS/ 30+ DINNERS



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online at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org) • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

# Global goods good for people, planet

By Mary Stamp

Shopping at Kizuri is both a way for customers to support a local business and a way to learn about people around the globe, such as producers who create products by reusing materials and restoring habitats.

Jillian Joseph, who has owned the shop since May 2019, said the jacket she was wearing was made from saris previously worn by three women in South Asia, then hand stitched together by a women's cooperative near New Delhi.

Kantha is the sewing technique the women do to stitch together layers of saris. It is a traditional method, used for thousands of years in East India and Bangladesh, to turn scrap fabric into pillows, blankets, scarves, necklaces, bags, jackets and large, colorful baskets.

She thinks about the lives of all these women as she wears her jacket.

Jillian also points out silk tapestry art hangings made from an agra-forestry project in Madagascar. Farmers plant native trees and plants in deforested areas, creating food and habitat for a particular type of silkworm. Once



Wearing a vest made of saris, Jillian Joseph sits beside an exhibit of baskets.

the worms have become moths, the cocoons are harvested and hand delivered to artisans who cut and flatten them, preparing them to be hand sewn and dyed with eco-friendly dyes to make silk tapestries and textiles.

"In both those crafts, the creativity of these makers and their communities results in products they can sell to make a living and improve their lives. Shops like Kizuri provide a market for these goods in the U.S.," Jillian said.

Fifteen years ago, Kim Harmson gathered seed money from 10 investors to start the for-profit, fair-trade store in the Community Building in the former site of the volunteer-run Global Folk Art Bazaar that had opened in November 1991 in the office of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, at 310 E. 5th Ave.

That volunteer-run shop had to be dismantled each week to accommodate the worship services of Shalom Mennonite United Church of Christ in the same location. In April 1992, it moved to 342 W. Riverside.

Becky Heberer, part-time paid and mostly volunteer manager then, said the shop was a way for

*Continued on page 4*

## Taking time honors unhoused patients, helps staff learn more about a person

As manager and behavioral health care provider at the Providence Community Clinic, Robert Lippman applies what he learned from his mother about the value of taking time.

"It's a way to honor her every day as I engage with those who are homeless," he said. "Time is essential to our service. Many health care providers are restricted to seeing each patient for 15 minutes, but we are able to provide dignity through the gift of time, which may result in

an hour visit.

"For those who are often looked past, ignored and avoided, it's a priority for us not only to give them our time but also to honor their time. It starts with knowing people by name. We take a picture of them for their medical charts. We take their socks off to check, clean, bandage and restore their feet. We take time to listen regardless of whether someone is wrestling with addiction or experiencing an episode," he said.

As they listen to individuals' needs, they also listen for community needs beyond health care.

Robert, who graduated from Northwest Christian High School in Spokane, said his late mother, Judy Lippman, a social worker and Spokane tribal member, grew up on the reservation but lived in Spokane, taking him to the reservation for family events.

In 2010, he earned a degree in social work at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, then a master's in social work in 2012 from Eastern Washington University, and a doctoral degree in behavioral health in May 2023 from Arizona State University.

Robert worked seven years with Horizon Hospice, where people at the end of their lives value taking time. In 2018, he began at the Providence Community Clinic.

"I was 'conditioned'—not called—into this work. Growing up I was routinely exposed to my mother's love in acts of

*Continued on page 6*

## Fall is a season to donate

For the 2023 Fall Festival of Sharing, The Fig Tree's fall fund drive from Oct. 1 through Giving Tuesday on Nov. 28, The Fig Tree invites new sponsors and renewing sponsors to donate to support its mission of solutions journalism and resource connections.

Many of The Fig Tree's sponsors renew from the fall through December. The budget for sponsors is for \$20,000 to come in the fall and \$40,000 in the spring through the Benefit Appeal.

"We operate like public broadcasting relying on the generosity of donors who give from a \$20 basic sponsorship to a \$2,500 underwriting gift," said Mary.

This fall, the Board of Directors members are offering a matching gift of \$4,000 for the first donors. By press time, The Fig Tree had received about \$7,000 toward its fall goal.

For information, visit [thefigtree.org/donate.html](http://thefigtree.org/donate.html).

### Fig Tree gears up to celebrate 40 years

At the 2024 Fig Tree Benefit Lunch and Breakfast-time Benefit in March and a Gala Anniversary Event in April, The Fig Tree will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

"Sharing Stories: Empowering People" is the theme.

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

The Benefit Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 8, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga. The Breakfast-time Benefit on Zoom starts at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 13.

For the Gala, from 5 to 8 p.m., Sunday, April 28, Karen Georgia Thompson, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ and a member of the World Council Central Committee, will share about the unique role of The Fig Tree in ecumenical communications. The event will include interfaith worship, dinner and a panel of faith leaders.

For information, call 535-4112 or visit [thefigtree.org](http://thefigtree.org).

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100  
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#### WCC calls for new approach in Holy Land

The World Council of Churches (WCC), in the aftermath of brutal violence where thousands of innocent civilians lost their lives, is calling for a new approach to resolve the conflict in the Holy Land.

**“The horrific situation in Israel and Palestine**—leaving so many dead, thousands injured, many families either displaced or living in shelters, and hundreds held in captivity and prisons—is what we feared would happen,” said WCC general secretary Jerry Pillay. “It is now 39 years since the Oslo Accords were signed. In the meantime, the number of settlements has grown to at least 250 with 800,000 people.”

Instead of peace, Jerry said, there is more violence, displacement and war.

“The international community must acknowledge the need for a new approach with an end goal of just coexistence,” he urged. “The peace process has failed both peoples, Palestinians and Israelis alike.”

**“History has taught us that exploitative agreements** that create a semblance of peace do not stand the test of time and lead to bloodshed, the type we are witnessing right now,” he said. “The Jerusalem Heads of Churches, in the last year, have 12 statements calling for an approach based on justice and cautioning that tampering with the religious and historical status quo, especially in Jerusalem would lead to violence.

**“Our call is to establish a future** built on justice instead of military power, where international law is applied consistently without partiality,” he added. “We must reimagine sustainable peace for the region, peace that can withstand the test of time,” he said. “At the core of such peace is equality and justice. We hope and pray that our call will be heeded; and that Palestinians, Israelis and the entire Middle East find a new path to peace.”

#### WCC speaks for ceasefire in Middle East

The WCC urgently appeals for immediate ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.

“We urge WCC member churches to join today in praying for just peace in the land of Christ’s birth, and in solidarity with the people affected and threatened by violence,” said Jerry Pillay, WCC general secretary.

**While divisions, conflicts and violence grow** in many parts of the world, Christians and Christian churches are entrusted with the ministry of peace and reconciliation. The WCC peacebuilding efforts are aimed at conflict transformation and reconciliation.

The concept of just peace, developed at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) in 2011, continues to be a major theological focus for WCC and is reflected in the invitation by the WCC’s 10th Assembly for Christians and people of good will everywhere to join in a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

**The situation of the Middle East demands** collective efforts by ecumenical partners to achieve peace and justice at local, national, regional and international levels. Major problems in the region include armed occupation of territory, denial of human rights and national aspirations, failures to implement the rule of law, various forms of extremism and intolerance, nuclear proliferation, as well as control of energy resources.

**The WCC accompanies member churches** in the region, especially in Egypt, Syria and Iraq, where the recent dramatic, violent developments have endangered the Christian presence and witness. WCC keeps its focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, supporting UN resolutions and other efforts for a peaceful and just settlement of the conflict.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### ‘Renewing Hope for Future’ is the theme

“Renewing Our Hope for the Future” is the theme for the 2024 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., both at the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond Rd., and on Zoom.

Following an opening prayer prepared by interfaith leaders, a panel of young adults will address the theme from the per-

spective of their faith, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

In recognition of the focus of Expo 1974 on the environment, a plenary panel will explore environmental justice and climate change issues affecting the region today.

Participants will then attend one of six workshops—racial equity, voting rights, refugee/immigrants, indigenous, health and environment and housing issues.

After lunch, there will be a plenary with the region’s faith leaders reflecting on the content of the day and the theme.

The final plenary will be briefings on issues before the state legislature and priorities of the Faith Action Network, Washington State Catholic Conference and Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light.

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

### Faith Action Network schedules dinner

“The Power of Multi-Faith Action: United in Hope” is the theme for the Faith Action Network Annual Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19.

Online registration at fanwa.org/annual-dinner closes Nov. 6.

The gathering at the Renton Pavilion Events Center, 233 Burnett Ave. S, will be live-streamed for the Spokane dinner at the Spokane Thrive Center, 110 E. 4th Ave. A reception begins at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m. and

the program at 5:30 p.m.

“Our theme emerged because this year we gather in the midst of policy threats to communities we care about and to our democracy as a whole,” said Elise DeGooyer, director. “We plan to raise hope together to unite the strength of our multi-faith movement at our major fundraiser.”

Rep. My-Linh Thai from the 41st District will share messages of hope, as a legislative champion for so many bills on

FAN’s legislative agenda to make Washington a more equitable, caring place to live.

“We are excited to celebrate the outcomes of our advocacy with our network and supporters. As a new FAN organizer, I am eager to reflect on this year and ground this next year on advocacy in hope.” Brianna Ditts, Eastern Washington organizer.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or email degooyer@fanwa.org.

### Water governance, ethics dialogue set

This year’s One River Ethics Matter (OREM) conference joins the University of British Columbia Okanagan, Oregon State University and the North American Youth Parliament for Water for the 2023 Columbia River Transboundary Water Governance and Ethics Symposium.

Speakers will address “Re-Engaging in Public Dialogue” in virtual meetings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 29 and 30.

An in-person public dialogue

will be held in May 2024.

The symposium addresses watershed issues, climate change and transboundary issues and governance in the Columbia River Basin.

Much has happened since the last in-person transboundary symposium led by Columbia Basin Trust in Kimberley, B.C., in 2019. The Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance and the OREM Project have come together with others to organize this event.

Since then, issues such as

water quality, salmon reintroduction and transition to carbon neutral energy have moved to the forefront, said John Osborn of OREM.

Panelists from the Inland Northwest include Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, Spokane Tribal historian Warren Seyler, Sierra Club leader Tom Soeldner, Upper Columbia United Tribes executive director DR Michel and retired public interest water lawyer Rachael Paschal Osborn.

For information, visit columbiabasingovernance.org.

### Pope Francis updates ‘Laudato Si’

Pope Francis recently released an update to his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si,” imploring the world’s citizens to take action to protect planet Earth.

The Pope’s new apostolic exhortation “to all people of good will on the climate crisis” was published the same day as a major gathering of Catholic

Church officials and lay people in Rome to discuss the church’s future. It laments the lack of progress since Laudato Si put the pontiff at the forefront of global climate activism.

Gonzaga University was the first American university to sign on to the Laudato Si Action Platform, and its Center for Climate, Society and the Environment works to realize Pope Francis’ vision “to care for the poor and

our common home through research, education and projects serving the Inland Northwest community,” said Brian Henning, who is the director of the Climate Center and a professor of philosophy and environmental studies at Gonzaga.

Brian is available to give presentations on Pope Francis’ work to battle climate change.

For information, call 313-5885 or email henning@gonzaga.edu.

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## VOA breaks ground for new Crosswalk shelter

Volunteers of America of the Inland Northwest broke ground for the new Crosswalk Youth Shelter on Oct. 16 at 3024 E. Mission Ave. There was also a ribbon cutting at an open house at the newly renovated Young Adult Shelter at 3104 E. Augusta, which provides 44 beds for young adults aged 18 to 24.

The new shelter on Mission will have 18 beds in dorm-style rooms for youth ages 16 to 20 pursuing their education.

"The shelter is a key intervention in ending a young person's homelessness," said Fawn Schott, VOA president and CEO. "After five years of planning, the youth are ready to be in a neighborhood with transit, healthcare and educational resources."

Youth ages 13 to 17 can access overnight emergency services, and youth up to 21 can connect through day use.

Since 1985, the historic Crosswalk shelter, owned and operated by VOA, has been open. This is the first new building for the program in more than 35 years, Fawn said.

For information, call 624-2378 or visit voaspokane.org.

## Fall Folk Fest is scheduled Nov. 11 and 12

The Spokane Folklore Society's 28th Annual Fall Folk Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., features music, dance, stories, food and crafts representing global cultures in the Inland Northwest.

It's 80 performances on six stages are a chance to travel the world and experience many different cultures in two days without leaving town, said Donna Graham, publicity chair.

Since 1996, the Fall Folk Festival has showcased regional musical artists and performing groups who represent cultures from around the globe and has inspired similarly styled festivals.

In 2023, the festival received third place in The Inlander's Best Of poll for the Best Arts Festival. Spokane Folklore Society is a nonprofit.

For information, call 979-1252 or email dgraham@spokane-folkfestival.org or visit spokanefolkfestival.org.

## Spoken River benefit will be on Nov. 16

Spoken River, the annual Spokane Riverkeeper benefit, will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 16, at Montvale Event Center in downtown Spokane. The event celebrates stories of the Spokane River and gives parallels to the flow of the lives of people in the region, "creating new channels and carving paths toward the future," said Spokane Riverkeeper Jerry White.

The event features an author, artists, river adventures, a paddle raise for the river, a silent auction and food. Guest speaker artist Ben-Alex Dupris will show a film and discuss indigenous perspectives on retaining lifeways and culture in a changing climate and in a time of reviving canoes.

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes will discuss landscape, history and imagination in writing, maps and visual notebooks. Her perspective on the Inland Northwest landscape is bi-national as she has researched and traveled the international Columbia River Basin.

For information, email katie@spokaneriverkeeper.org.

## Launch NW offers mentoring initiative

Mentor Up, a community volunteer and mentoring initiative of Launch NW through the Innovia Foundation, endeavors to provide individuals with a place to support causes they care about. Across the country and in the region, volunteerism is declining, so nonprofits lack support to meet the needs of students and families, said Shelly O'Quinn, CEO of Innovia Foundation.

Since COVID-19, some agencies have lost 75 percent of the volunteers they depended on to help in their mission of protecting vulnerable families in the region. Mentor Up is a way to involve volunteers again.

As the region recovers from the isolation of the pandemic, volunteering and mentoring are important, said Shelly. Mentor Up is an opportunity to reconnect with youth. It connects people to opportunities and causes they are passionate about, such as through United Way's Volunteer Spokane and other agencies. For information, visit launchnw.org/mentorup.

# FERC approves GTN-Xpress Pipeline

Despite many calls for rejection, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved on Oct. 19 the GTN Xpress Pipeline expansion, a hazardous project pushing higher concentrations of fracked gas through Idaho, Washington and Oregon, reported AC Churchill, executive director of Earth Ministries/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WAIPL).

Since TC Energy in Alberta proposed this project two years ago, FERC has received thousands of letters from Washington and Oregon residents, senators and attorneys general, and a petition from more than 1,000 residents recently.

"We grieve this dangerous decision because we know our communities' safety will be put at risk. Our communities, neighborhoods and environment deserve to be protected," AC said.

Earth Ministries' work to turn towards clean and sustainable energy sources will continue, and at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5, at St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, they will hold a candlelight vigil in Spokane. Those who come will form circles representing the risk from expanding the GTN Xpress Pipeline.

Helen Yost of Wild Idaho Rising Tide (WIRT) said the decision ignores regional concerns about climate, health and safety impacts, and neglects tribal consultation.

WIRT and allies are hosting actions in Athol, Kennewick, Boise, Spokane and Sandpoint from Oct. 28 to Nov. 4.

Gov. Jay Inslee denounced the expansion, stating: "This decision essentially digs the hole deeper. Expanding the fossil fuel pipeline for 50 years—until 2073—saddles our children and

their children with climate harm and fossil fuel costs. This fight isn't over."

State leaders say the proposal runs contrary to state laws requiring a transition away from fossil fuels.

"TC Energy's project would increase rates for consumers, cause more than \$8.8 billion in climate damages and undermine our states' efforts to combat the climate crisis," wrote senators Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden and Maria Cantwell in a statement.

TC Energy owns the now-abandoned Keystone XL pipeline that was in a controversy for 16 years and spilled nearly 600,000 gallons of bitumen oil in Kansas last winter.

For information, call 208-301-8039, email wild.idaho.rising.tide@gmail.com or visit earthministries.org.

## Task force names human rights champions

The Spokane County Human Rights Task Force presented their annual Spokane Human Rights Champions Awards at a 6 p.m. banquet, Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Spokane Convention Center.

Gonzaga's Center for the Study of Hate's Eva Lassman "Take Action Against Hate" awards were also presented.

The 2023 Human Rights Champions are Curtis Hampton, LaRae Wiley and Chris Parkins, Renee Norris, Kiana McKenna, and Naghmana Sherazi.

Curtis joined 2017 efforts to turn a former auto repair shop on East Fifth into the Carl Maxey Center to address racial disparities. He also addressed those disparities through the Spokane Community Against Racism and the Court Observers Program. He organized volunteer observers in courtrooms to be "the eyes of the community" to see disparities in treatment of people of color and poor people.

LaRae, executive director, and Chris, principal, founded the Salish School of Spokane to restore the Salish language in the region, which previously had fewer than 50 speakers. The school, as a language and cultural center, offers immersion courses for adults and a full-time school program for children and youth. Despite racist attacks, they continue to promote cultural practices.

Renee Norris, for 15 of her 30

years in Spokane, has advocated for and served people struggling with homelessness, breaking barriers to house them. In 2008, she began as a case manager for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, now Family Promise. Since 2016, as a rapid rehousing case manager for Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, she has helped families find permanent housing. She helped create Spokane's Homeless Connect, a one-day annual event bringing resources to one location for people experiencing homelessness.

Kiana began working with the Pacific Islander Community Association in 2020 and as lead for the Eastern Washington Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander COVID-19 Response Task Force. As director of policy and civic engagement, she advocates for the health needs of Islanders across the state. She also does cross-racial organizing to improve civic engagement through the Spokane Coalition of Color

and with the YWCA's Racial and Social Justice Committee.

Naghmana, The Lands Council's climate justice program director, seeks to remove barriers that keep marginalized people from participating in the broader community. She advocates for Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), refugees, immigrants and LGBTQ individuals, groups and communities in the city, county and state. She has been co-chair of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom Spokane and does outreach for Spokane Women Together, Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane, Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light, Emerge Washington, the Council for American Islamic Relations, APIC WA and Planned Parenthood. She helped start Muslims for Community Action and Support.

For information, email pschneid8297@gmail.com or visit spokanecountyhumanrightstaskforce.org.

## Fall Festival of Sharing




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# Kizuri continues access to fair trade products for 15 years

*Continued from page 1*  
crafts people around the globe to sell their products and for people in Spokane to learn about their crafts, cultures and lives. At that time, about \$1,000 in sales supported a producer for a year.

When Global Folk Art closed, Kim felt the void and sought to take over the location, which by then was in the Community Building at 35 W. Main. She made it a for-profit venture and chose the name “Kizuri,” meaning “good” in Swahili, because shopping at Kizuri would be “good for the planet and good for the people.”

**For her, fair trade is** about social justice, a way to help people be responsible consumers who make an impact on the world, “because part of fair-trade shopping is to learn stories of those who produce the products—educating and connecting consumers, retailers, wholesalers and producers.”

When Kim was ready to retire, Jillian was living in New York City, but looking for the next step in her life. She knew Kim as a family friend because she went to high school with her son.

**“I was looking for a new opportunity,** but I never thought my next step would be taking over a retail store in my hometown,” Jillian said.

To that point in her career, she



**Silk for tapestry comes from Madagascar agra-forest.**

had studied international relations at Tufts University, worked in tourism in France and worked in international development in East Africa and New York.

“A return to Spokane was unexpected but serendipitous,” she said.

**“I had a global perspective** and knew many of the products from my travels,” said Jillian, who was eager to learn about products and cultures from places where she had not traveled.

She was also ready to accept both the day-to-day and overall operations of running the store, which includes customer service and storytelling, as well as being in community with her local customers and vendors from around the world.

Jillian, who operates the store with a core crew of young staff,

including college students, introduces them to the many wonderful fair-trade products from all around the world—cards, art, hangings, ceramics, ornaments, clothing, baskets and more,” she said. “It’s a joy to curate the items in the shop.”

**“Customers are amazed** by all the products made by many talented people,” she said. “In choosing items to stock, I have had to learn some self-restraint, because there are just so many beautiful and practical items made by people around the world struggling to make a living.”

Jillian continually brings in new merchandise, especially more clothing and books. The book selection includes a mix of BIPOC and local authors.

Just 10 months after she took over ownership, COVID hit and initiated another nonstop learning curve.

**Running the shop** since COVID affected dynamics in many ways.

- The store was fully closed for nearly three months.

- Many faithful customers rallied around the store to give their support with purchases.

- Producer groups in rural areas faced issues with transportation and lockdowns.

- Producers in densely populated urban areas saw COVID go quickly through their communities.

“The pandemic affected artisans around the world and in turn affected us, but I was overwhelmed by the support of our

community,” Jillian said.

“I’m also awed by the ingenuity and inventiveness of the people I work with as they up-cycle and reuse materials, and are ecologically responsible,” she said.

In Madagascar, the silkworms are good for the trees, and the trees are good for the worms. The program is good for the community, empowering several hundred people as they plant seeds, harvest cocoons and make them into textiles and tapestries.

**Jillian’s focus for the shop’s** anniversary is to give back to the community that has supported it for 15 years.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, she plans to kick off the celebration, which will run until the World Fair Trade Festival Friday to Sunday, Nov. 24 to 26, with several events offering food, photos, music, drinks and discounts.

One day will focus on Community Building tenants. Another day will invite folks from First Presbyterian Church, which from 1988 until COVID held an annual Jubilee fair-trade sale and now is looking for new leaders to continue it.

**Jillian also invites** nonprofits to host shopping night parties for constituents in the Community Building foyer beside the shop. The groups will receive 10 percent of the sales.

The Festival of Fair Trade’s Thanksgiving Weekend will include other vendors—Maya Color, Consur Imports, Resilient Threads, Trades of Hope—and a Guatemalan artist.

Jillian hopes the anniversary celebrations and Festival of Fair Trade bring new customers to learn about the mission.

**“The primary value** of fair trade is economic empowerment,” she said. “The secondary value is the way the products connect people across the world, from the women who once wore the saris to women who now wear jackets made from them.

“Fair trade purchases take us out of the day-to-day and put us in someone else’s shoes—or saris—hopefully making us more curious and empathetic,” she said, aware that some just buy items because they like them.

**“I always hope** that shopping here makes customers curious to know about other people, cultures and ways of life,” Jillian said.

Being a fair-trade retailer is about more than selling products. It’s about reinvesting in communities of the producers in more than 40 countries in Central and South America, Asia, Africa and even Europe.

For information, call 464-7677, email [jillian@shopkizuri.com](mailto:jillian@shopkizuri.com) or visit [shopkizuri.com](http://shopkizuri.com).

## Carl Maxey Center preserves Black history

To amplify and preserve the voices, memories and stories of the Black community, the Spokane Public Library, the Carl Maxey Center, Eastern Washington University, the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and the Spokane Historic Preservation Office hosted a Community Scanning Day on Oct. 14 at the Carl Maxey Center and plans other opportunities in the future.

Community members brought photos, letters, publications and objects on Black history in Spokane to be scanned and photographed for a digital archive.

“Part of building community is knowing where we’re from and the histories of people before us,” said Jillisa Winkler, interim operations manager and program coordinator at the center. “We are excited to build an archive to tell stories of Spokane’s rich Black history, to showcase amazing people who came before us and helped establish and improve the lives of African Americans in the Inland Northwest.”

For information, call 444-5364 or visit [carlmaxeycenter.org](http://carlmaxeycenter.org).

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# After working in many roles, new director knows agency, programs

Shelly Hahn, who has been district director of Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) since January 2023, is no newcomer to LCSNW. She has worked there since 2004.

After earning a master's degree in counseling and psychology at the University of Oregon, Shelly, who previously earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Montana in 1999, moved to Spokane to start working as a therapist at LCSNW.

In her 19 years there, she has worked in many different capacities in the clinical behavioral health program and foster care counseling and case management for state dependent foster kids and with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to help children return to their families or stabilize in foster care.

Shelly became program supervisor for foster care and later the program director for the child welfare department, overseeing foster and behavioral health. In this role, she also helped start LCSNW's unaccompanied refugee minor foster care program while overseeing wraparound care and intensive behavioral health services.

Her experiences have given her an overview of the LCS work, which covers child welfare, clinical and advocacy programs, with her emphases on child welfare and clinical work.

Advocacy programs include the Community Sexual Assault work in Spokane County. The advocates working in the sexual assault program go to local hospitals to meet with people who have been assaulted, providing services and helping them to understand what to expect, walking them through the medical and legal processes, and connecting them with clinical services and therapy.

The advocacy program serves anyone, providing support during what might be the most horrific event they will ever experience, providing education, support and resources throughout," Shelly said.

"In the clinical program, most are children, with some adults and sexual assault survivors," she said. "We help children cope with what is happening to them and help parents gain support in cases of sexual or physical abuse and behavioral issues, depression and anxiety. We specialize in trauma treatment."

LCSNW child welfare program staff work with unaccom-



Shelly Hahn said LCSNW focuses on clients' voices.

panied refugee foster youth and foster families, as well as youth and families with high acuity behavioral and mental health challenges. They and their families or caregivers need help to continue to live together and move to more functional ways of being.

In the Family Outreach and Crisis Intervention Services (FOCIS) program "our goal is hospital diversion, keeping children out of mental health hospitals," she said.

"The refugee minor program helps teens create a new life for themselves. For many, the first focus is on language acquisition and then on our education system. We focus on helping youth learn independent living skills, providing educational advocacy and making sure all of their health needs are addressed and met. We help keep them connected to their cultures and relatives when possible."

Most refugee minors are 15 to 17 years old, but LCSNW continues to provide support between the ages of 18 to 23 if the youth chooses to participate. Through this program, youth can also receive assistance with education funding until they are 26. "The youngest refugee minors often came with an older sibling," she noted.

The 25 in the program now live in foster homes and independent group homes. Since the program started in 2016,

LCSNW has served nearly 70.

"In our programs, our focus is on our clients' voices. Most services are led by clients on what help they need and what they want to pay attention to," Shelly said.

Clinical outpatient mental health uses evidence-based practices that experience shows bring improvement if we follow certain protocols," she said.

Most in the LCSNW building at 210 W. Sprague support clients to improve their lives in the way they identify.

They do family counseling but not marital counseling.

Currently, with the COVID workforce shortage, about 70 are working in the building at a time.

"We are not fully staffed in our clinical and advocacy programs," she said, adding that with COVID they started telehealth services, meeting with people via computer, and they continue to offer that to some clients.

Telehealth has changed the way we work. Initially we saw all clients in the office. Now many staff have a hybrid schedule in their homes two to three days a week," Shelly explained.

Some clients have a problem with transportation or anxiety and staff meet with them online.

With Washington State University, LCSNW works with youth in rural communities through telehealth, increasing the numbers served in rural communities of Eastern Washington by staff

from the Tri-Cities.

"We can serve more people and more can receive services if they do not need to drive, which takes gas and time. The convenience allows clients to participate more readily," she said.

Every person and program in the building does great things. I'm in awe of the services we provide and the impact we have," Shelly observed. "People who drive by the building have no idea of all the life-changing things that happen in these walls."

Clients express their appreciation every day for how their lives have changed, she said.

Staff do not have to be Lutheran or people of faith to work at LCSNW, she said, noting, "We are not about faith-based counseling."

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Northwest Intermountain Synod and churches support the services.

"I'm Christian and my personal tenets help guide me in doing this work. It's the reason I do what I do," said Shelly, who did not grow up in a church. "As I encounter people who struggle day in and day out, my faith helps me continue to do the work."

While living in Oregon, she and her husband explored several churches, trying to find a good fit. Now in Spokane she attends Life Center, where she finds the support to keep going.

Shelly makes sure staff is supported. They have team meetings to process what they experience, not to be therapists to each other, but to gain each other's support and the support of supervisors.

We encourage self-care. Staff have to be whole to do the work in a healthy way," she said. "We encourage staff to bring their creativity to intervention services.

"We provide services after people have experienced trauma and struggle with it. I always hope to catch folks early because early intervention comes through identifying those who are at high risk to prevent trauma," she said.

Parent-Child Interactive Therapy for children under seven teaches parents how to parent and the child how to identify and deal with hard emotions.

"We make an effort to repair

attachment early so children have a good solid base to navigate adolescence."

LCSNW also uses the Circle of Security—an early intervention program for parents and children—concepts in its therapeutic approaches.

The program exists in the hope that it will have an impact on children and families. We seek to expand that work and explore other types of programs. One of the first steps in the work is evidence-based early intervention protocols," said Shelly. "To help with such issues, we partner with community agencies."

To educate the community, LCSNW, which started in Spokane in the 1940s as Lutheran Community Services, has information tables at events. It also works with schools, the sheriff, police, refugee agencies and other human service organizations.

In addition to support from the Northwest Intermountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LCSNW holds two major fundraisers, the Chocolate and Champagne Gala and Eight Lakes Leg Aches fundraising bicycle ride. It also relies on individual donors.

For information, call 747-8224 or email shahn@lcsnw.org.

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# Because of its Catholic roots, clinic expresses God's healing love

*Continued from page 1*  
service and quality time. She loved those in her proximity by sheltering them in times of need. Family members came first, especially those going through difficult times," said Robert. "Sometimes she lovingly asked to use my room, explaining the circumstance and 'conditioning' me to love as she loved.

"I am comfortable around people wrestling with their circumstances," he said. "Time reassures people they are not alone. That's our clinic's narrative. From our standpoint of privilege, we remind those in need, they are not alone."

Robert's mother reminded him of his privilege. She told him, "To those to whom much is given, much is required."

He did not gain this perspective overnight. He finds his valuing time ironic.

"In my younger years, I was frustrated by the time my mother took to eat, shop, drive, walk or get ready to leave. We were always late. I was always frustrated. Ignoring her physical limitations and chronic pain, she gave much and required nothing, giving unconditional love that mirrored her beliefs," he said.

"We are like a field waiting for the daily harvest," said Robert, noting that coming to harvest takes time.

He also likens the clinic's mission to the story of the prodigal son as it represents five stages of change: pre-contemplative, contemplative, preparatory, action and maintenance.

In the pre-contemplative stage, the son leaves and spends his father's inheritance, living as he wants. In the contemplative stage—living with the pigs—he realizes it was better at home. As he prepares to return, he wonders what he can say to his father. In the action step, he returns and finds his father waiting in the field, rushing to him and throwing a party. In the maintenance phase, the brother asks, "How is it fair?"

"In our clinic work, we are waiting for whoever walks in, meeting them where they are. Our clinic is a platform for those seeking to both provide and receive quality care," he said.

"When someone wants validation that they are not alone, they return to the culture we have built," said Robert, noting that this approach has resulted in a 56 percent increase in clinic visitors.

"We are a walk-in clinic for those disenfranchised and unable to make appointments. We encourage people to come back when we are open—7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays,



Robert Lippman learned from his mother the value of time.

Thursdays and Fridays. We are closed Wednesdays and weekends."

"The clinic is small but mighty," he described. "Just five are on the staff, but our efforts are expanded by an eclectic group of volunteers—12 physicians and registered nurses."

In addition to Robert, other clinic staff include a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant, a front desk patient coordinator to navigate insurance enrollment and a clinic supervisor heading outreach.

Each volunteer has a unique schedule—half a day a month, one day a week, two days a month. They plug in based on when they are available or when there are gaps in the schedule.

"We need more volunteer providers and nurses so we can help more people," he said.

Volunteers are mostly retired and current physicians, surgeons and nurses at Providence. The clinic welcomes those from other health systems, too.

Some days 15 to 25 patients come to the clinic. Other days eight may come.

Founded by Sr. Peter Claver, SP, in partnership with the local House of Charity with volunteer providers serving people in the shelter, it moved in 2017 to 32

W. 2nd as Providence Community Clinic.

Most patients walk to the clinic from the House of Charity or one of the seven permanent supportive housing units nearby.

Some volunteers see people at the clinic. Others go to shelters and day centers—Monday afternoons at the Trent Shelter, Tuesdays midday at City Gate and Friday mornings at the downtown library.

"People experiencing homelessness are often hesitant about the healthcare system that emphasizes appointments, because time is irrelevant to them. Scheduling a month ahead does not stay as a priority," Robert said. "Appointments work for people who have beds to sleep in regularly, transportation and know where their next meal will come from. On the streets, people worry about their safety and where they will sleep or eat. So urgent care and emergency departments are often the most accessible."

As a contingency clinic, it uses a situational approach to reinforce positive behavioral

change, he said.

"We listen to a person's narrative. Patients come as they are," Robert said, noting that many have had fragmented care, so their chronic physical and mental health conditions are inappropriately managed.

"We do not let a health condition take over a person's humanity. We piece together the puzzle for those with no primary or specialist providers," he said. "We partner with other service agencies and specialty care providers—like psychologists, audiologists, dermatologists and podiatrists."

The clinic is a subsidized service under Providence's community benefit. As part of a nonprofit hospital system, it is required to write off a portion of costs for care and medicines under the Affordable Care Act, whether patients are insured, underinsured or not insured.

"Providence goes above requirements because it is their Catholic mission to be steadfast in serving all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable," he said.

In 2022, the Inland Northwest Service Area of Providence provided \$20 million in free and discounted care for uninsured and underinsured patients in Spokane and Stevens counties.

Because clinic staff listen and take time, patients consider the clinic is part of their street family. Given the distrust that is part of the survival mode of street life, Robert said it's important that people have someone outside of the street life whom they can trust and open up to.

"Our mission is to be ambassadors of trust, so patients disclose information to help in their treatment," he said.

He sees homelessness gain attention in political campaign

seasons, when the homeless are easy targets.

Although Robert is on the group developing a collaborative effort to address homelessness, he challenges the original focus of its proposal on crime and public safety related to those experiencing homelessness. He urges a public- and population-based health approach.

As chair of the 1,400-member Spokane Homeless Coalition and member of the Spokane Continuum of Care Board responsible for allocating HUD funds, he has first-hand experience with the political narrative.

"Our move to adopt a regional authority challenges how politicians talk about homelessness," he said, emphasizing that local leaders need to rethink how they invest resources. "Innovation is key."

Because it is connected with Providence's Catholic roots, the clinic expresses God's healing love, he said.

"The wisdom of Jesus' steadfast love is ingrained in what we do. We take blueprints from the daily life of Jesus—washing feet, healing people and accepting them as they are," Robert said. "What better best-selling story to replicate and apply than the clinic's culture of actionable love expressed by taking time for the timeless?"

For information, call 626-9824, email robert.lippman@providence.org or visit providence.org/locations/wa/providence-community-clinic.

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For more information on the Section 5310 program, visit [spokanetransit.com/section-5310-program](http://spokanetransit.com/section-5310-program).  
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# Regular volunteers help transport food for Second Harvest in area

Chuck Richardson and John Ammann volunteer Tuesdays with Second Harvest Inland Northwest to drive a van to pick up boxes of food from donors hosting food drives.

Chuck, who grew up in Kentucky and came to Spokane in the military in 1964, worked 38 years with the U.S. Postal Service as supervisor of the statistics division at the terminal.

Since he retired in 2008, he has found various ways to volunteer and be involved with the community, including through Kiwanis.

"I just like driving. It's my way to give back to the community," Chuck said. "In the process, I have learned there are many more hungry and homeless people than most people realize."

In November, he helps with Tom's Turkey Drive, which provides meals for thousands of families.

Chuck, who began driving in 2013, brings to this volunteering not only driving but also his knowledge of the city and zip codes to find locations for pickups and deliveries.

John grew up in the Hillyard area of Spokane. During high school at Rogers, he would go with his father when he drove for the Spokane Food Bank, the former name for Second Harvest. John helped his father load and unload the truck.

"I enjoyed doing that," he said. When he was working for 37 years with Spalding Auto Parts, he took a break from helping with the food bank until he retired in 2016.

"I walked into Second Harvest, said who I was and asked if they needed volunteers. They did," he said.

Jill Wilson, who has worked for nine years as customer services and volunteer/events manager, first assigned him to sort food until they needed someone to drive with Chuck.

She said there are other volunteer drivers. Chuck and John pick up the food drive food on Tuesdays.

Jill, who grew up in Montana and moved to Spokane 33 years ago, previously worked in the hospitality and hotel business.

"I spent my first year here training to be at the front desk by working in operations and getting to know the many programs," she said.

John and Chuck work as a team with Jill and Eric Williams, who is the community partnership director.

"Sometimes if we took five boxes to a group doing a food drive and they fill only one, they



John Ammann and Chuck Richardson pick up and deliver food.

apologize," said John, noting that they do not need to apologize because they have provided food that would otherwise not have been available to share with those in need.

"It's fun to do. It can be physical, so I refer to it as the Second Harvest gym," he said.

"I'm happy I 'get' to go to volunteer with Second Harvest. I do not 'have' to do it," Chuck said.

John said, "I tell my wife I'm going to work, because some days I come in to Second Harvest at 9 a.m. and leave at 3 p.m."

"Some days I work five to six hours volunteering, and some days I work three to four hours. It keeps me busy. It's good to do something," he commented.

Eric said John and Chuck have each volunteered 2,000 to 3,000 hours since 2020, including helping deliver The Fig Tree Resource Directories.

John said he appreciates connecting with different groups and seeing what people are doing for the community.

"Many are excited to be part of the process of getting food to people," he said.

Second Harvest has around 20 volunteer drivers and seeks to recruit more.

The nonprofit food distribution agency has six professional drivers who drive the large semi-trucks, hauling food long distances.

Eric was recently at a national meeting of Feeding America, a network of 200 food distribution services to food banks and learned that the situation in Spokane is much like the rest

of the U.S.

"Food continues to go out the door faster than it is coming in," he said. "Most of the more than 20 agencies in the Feeding America network are facing difficulties getting food."

"We are fortunate to be where we are, surrounded by agriculture in Central and Eastern Washington. We have many area farmers who donate semi-loads of apples, potatoes and lentils," Eric said. "We are thankful for the generosity of farmers."

Eric said there have been changes to many aspects of Second Harvest's operations, including Tom's Turkey Drive,

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since the pandemic. Previously, recipients came to one location where the food was distributed.

This year, Second Harvest is working with community partners like the Martin Luther King Jr Community Center, Spokane Valley Partners and several food banks. Second Harvest is delivering the food to those partners to provide food boxes for families.

It means that rather than families driving to a distant location, they can go to a nearby food bank to pick up a box.

"Systemwide we are distributing the same amount of food as we did last year," Eric said.

"It has not been the same since COVID. The virus has changed the world," noted John.

Eric picked up on that point to say that the pandemic has taken the food bank efforts "off the charts" in terms of volatile inflow while there was strong government funding.

"Now the flow of food has settled into more normal distribution," he said. "That amount

was 35 million pounds of food last year."

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

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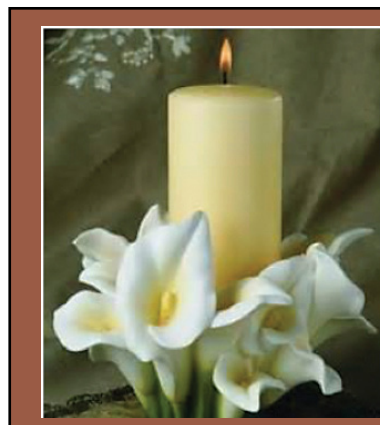
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# Agencies continue to serve fire victims

**By Bon Wakabayashi**

For 20 years, New Hope Resource Center in Colbert, now partnering with the North County Food Pantry in Elk, has assisted neighbors in need.

The partners recently took on a new responsibility of providing assistance to neighbors who are working to recover as a result of the September wildfire in the Oregon Road area.

The pantry not only supplies food commodities, personal items, fresh garden produce and medical supplies such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches, but also it offers lunches, showers and laundry facilities.

New Hope provides financial assistance for utility bills and rent, firewood, home repairs, gasoline, car repairs, baby formulas, toiletries and prescriptions.

In addition to offering a free thrift store with clean clothing, they provide assistance with chores, yard work and transportation to medical appointments.

Since the Oregon Road fire, they have been taking requests to assist with restoring utilities for uninsured or underinsured fire victims who plan to winter on their property.

The service can include new meters and breaker boxes, paying for electrical permits and inspections, replacing septic tanks, cleaning them out and replacing melted well wire, said Jeanna Swanson, New Hope's director, who is accepting applications.

In the area, 126 families lost their homes. With winter coming, shelters for these families are important. There have been a few donations of RVs and campers. Some families are winterizing sheds that survived the fire.

Because Elk is a small rural unincorporated community,

there is no designated leadership, which makes recovery more difficult and the role of New Hope and The Pantry vital to helping these families, Jeanna said.

When fire victims found a place to shelter, they have needed bedding, linens, dishes, kitchen utensils, pots and pans.

Many who use tools to earn a living face hardship because they have lost their tools, so both New Hope and The Pantry are accepting tool donations as well as monetary donations to replace lost tools, such as saws, hammers, screwdrivers and snow shovels.

Knights of Columbus has contributed heavy equipment and excavators but needs volunteer

operators to clear land and dig utility lines. They are also helping people who are jobless after sheds and outbuildings burned and damaged or destroyed tools.

New Hope, a nonprofit organization, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4211 E. Colbert Rd. Their phone is 509 467 2900.

The North County Food Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays, at 40015A N. Collins Rd. in Elk and can be reached at 509 292 2530.

For information, call New Hope at 467-2900 or The Pantry at 292-2530, or email [director@newhoperesource.org](mailto:director@newhoperesource.org).

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[www.raceamity.org](http://www.raceamity.org)

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For information, call 960-7281 or email [action@altcew.org](mailto:action@altcew.org).



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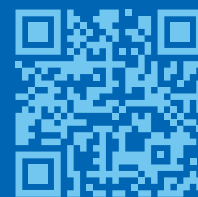
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# Pope's Synod on Synodality envisioned as transformative process

By Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

When in 2020 Pope Francis announced that the next Synod of Bishops would be a Synod on Synodality, he envisioned a transformative process for the Catholic Church akin to the impact of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

At that Ecumenical Council with 3,058 council fathers, only bishops, cardinals and the major superiors of men's religious congregations, which included priests, were allowed to vote.

**It ushered in major reforms** in the areas of liturgy—with Mass in the language of the people instead of Latin and the priest facing the people—in its affirmation of the ecumenical movement, in relations with Jews, relations with other religions, on democracy and religious liberty, in refocusing of religious life and in the authorization for a revision of Canon Law.

A synod, however, is not an ecumenical council. Historically it has been described as coming from two Greek words *syn* and *hodosj*—"together" and "path"—meaning to walk together the path of Jesus. The phrase evokes the Risen Lord's accompaniment of his two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

**Pope Francis talks** about it saying, "synodality is a way of communicating and relating."

It is the way the three parts of the Church—the People of God, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome, whom Catholics affirm as the Vicar of Christ—are "in constant exchange together, all three parts listening."

It has been described as conversations in the Holy Spirit.

There have been 30 synods since Vatican II. This Synod is unique because it is not focused on one topic but rather on the process of synodality, and it is the first where women and lay people are among the 350 voting members.

**The process for this Synod** began in October 2020 and continues until a second synodal assembly in October 2024.

Implementation of "listening in the Spirit" envisioned by the Pope began at the local level worldwide with an invitation to ordinary people in the pews to share their joys, concerns and hopes for the Catholic Church.

In Spokane, Bishop Thomas Daly appointed Father Darrin Connall, his vicar general, to direct the listening process from October 2020 to March 2021.

In his communication inviting participation in the synod process, Father Connall said,

"Synodality is the way a group makes decisions, the model includes listening to a broad range of people, discussing issues, to hear the Holy Spirit guiding the Church."

**He outlined 10 themes** with key questions to be answered by local Catholics.

The following are some of the questions: Who are listened to in our parish? Are women listened to? Are youth listened to? How does our parish (or diocese) deal with differences in visions and/or conflict?

What are some of the relationships we have with members of other Christian denominations? What have we learned from these relationships?

How is authority exercised within our parish? How does our parish promote and practice teamwork and co-responsibility and how does the parish promote participation in decision-making?

**Father Connall indicated** that information was gathered from parish groups where parishes from a particular regional group (deanery) were invited to talk, from groups of people with a common role in the church like deacons or Sisters and from an online survey.

"What was striking to me," he said, "was that it was primarily older parishioners who participated. Even though we did reach out particularly to younger people through an online survey, it was still primarily older people who responded."

Brian Kraut, who managed the online survey, was surprised that 51 percent of the people who responded to the online survey were 65 and over.

**Among the 800** who responded at least partially to the survey, 93 percent said they felt there was a place for them in the church. The majority indicated they felt safe sharing their opinions."

Experts estimate about 1 percent of Catholics provided input. Father Connall estimates that about the same percentage of Spokane Catholics participated.

When asked what hopes he had for the Synod, Father Connall replied, "We don't always

listen well to each other. My hope is that by listening to one another guided by the Spirit, the Church will be more united and that we will have more respect for each other. We can disagree but be respectful and be friends."

After completing similar processes worldwide, bishops sent their responses to regional committees for synthesis. This led to national-level responses, which were sent to continental assemblies that were tasked with reflecting on what the Church had learned from local experiences. Then, a working document was created for the Synod Assembly, focusing on three key themes: communion, mission and participation.

**Each theme featured** a central question and sub-questions to identify the priorities on which to continue the discernment following the first Synodal Assembly, which began on Oct. 4.

At the Synod Assembly itself, participants were assigned to 35 round tables so men and women, lay and cleric, people from various parts of the world with diverse perspectives were part of each group.

**The first module** for discussion, "Communion," was described as a communion that radiates and focuses on the question "How can we more fully be a sign of unity with God and all humanity?"

With its emphasis on inclusion, this question fostered a discussion on how in the light of truth and love people who identify as LGBT should be included in the Catholic Church, and how polygamous people and poor people are also to be included. It also included questions about ecumenism.

**This module also** included conversation on migration and migrants and what it means for the church they came from and the place they go to. For example, Filipinos are migrants practically everywhere and are sometimes called the Pauls of our era.

There is the sense that the movement of peoples is a sign of the times of the 21st century.

At the end of each module, the 35 tables submitted a report to be

used for a synthesis document. The summaries had to include four points: convergence where they agreed, divergence where they disagreed, points of tension in the group and any questions the group had.

A commentator for America Media, Gerard O'Connell said: "Reporting like this gets beyond polarization. You are respecting what is being said. All of it."

**At this writing, the synod** assembly was only half finished, and the delegates were discussing the second module on "Co-Responsibility and Mission," with its key question: How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

In his opening remarks for this part, the Assembly's general relator, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, framed the context.

"Most of us here are men. I have never read anywhere that the baptism of women is inferior to the baptism of men. How can we ensure that women feel they are a part of this missionary church?" he asked.

Group discussions focused on the role of women in the church's

mission. Because of confidentiality, the press has found it hard to access information, but informally they learned participants have been discussing the female diaconate, not the female priesthood.

**Ahead is discussion** of the "Third Module on Participation," which is governance and authority: What processes, structures and institutions should there be in a missionary synodal church?

Then comes the draft presentation of the synthesis document with amendments and voting on a final document, which identifies the key issues in the church today that need more exploration, reflection and understanding.

Between the end of the current Synod Assembly and the start of the second assembly in October 2024, the local diocese will carry out this process and bring it to the next session for further conversation and decision-making.

For information, visit [nronline.org/feature-series/vatican-briefing/stories](http://nronline.org/feature-series/vatican-briefing/stories) or [americamagazine.org/podcasts](http://americamagazine.org/podcasts).

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## IHRC, Gonzaga offer Taizé Prayer services

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC) recently decided to renew its commitment to offer Taizé Ecumenical Prayer Services, which it discontinued when COVID hit.

**It will be hosting** this year's season of Taizé Sunday Evening Hours of Prayer from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sundays, from Oct. 29 through May 19.

It combines quiet, prayer and music that "strikes a note which touches the core of one's inner being," said Andi McGoran, who is helping facilitate the services.

Upcoming services are Nov. 12, Dec. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 24, April 28 and May 19.

**"Taizé is a small** ecumenical community in the eastern part

of France near the Swiss border. It was founded by a Swiss, Brother Roger Schutz, who formed the community in 1940 during World War II as a simple, welcoming community based on Christ's love," said Andi.

The community includes 150 brothers from various Christian denominations. Some Brothers of Taizé have visited Spokane several times to present at Whitworth and Gonzaga universities.

**Gonzaga University** continues to host a weekly Taizé Prayer at 4:15 p.m., Thursdays, on Zoom. It is a continuation of the Taizé Prayer that was held for many years at the former

Ministry Institute. Normally 12 to 15 participate.

"It's a close faith community we find enriching," said Shonna Bartlett, retired program director at the Ministry Institute. "It's been a challenge to do the songs and silence on Zoom, but people can connect from wherever they are, be it Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene or Hawaii."

**Even though** the Ministry Institute no longer has a physical site, in addition to the Taizé Prayer, it continues to support international students—including two Zambian priests pursuing graduate degrees at Gonzaga, and sabbatical students at Mercy Center in Colorado Springs.

For information, call 995-0987 or email bartletts@gonzaga.edu.

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# Two women guide Coeur d'Alene residents to improve living conditions

By Kaye Hult

Two women with roots in North Idaho are drawing Coeur d'Alene residents together to explore ideas for a long-range plan to improve the area's housing, health, community, education, environment and economy.

Through Connect Kootenai, they are gathering people from its disparate corners to create a positive future for the area, a future open to accepting and celebrating the diversity of people who live there.

Believing "We're all in this together in Kootenai County," they are bringing people together to address issues and improve conditions.

Greta Gissel, speaking to the Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber's Upbeat Breakfast this spring, revealed the energy that has infused the nonprofit CDA 2030 since she became executive director in the fall of 2022.

"During the winter of 2022-23, it was rebranded Connect Kootenai," she said. "Everything is new. It's like restarting the organization after a year of little community involvement."

Helping Greta promote Connect Kootenai among residents and organizations of the greater Coeur d'Alene area is Tess Reasor.

"When we were talking about helping individuals with substance abuse struggles in detoxing as they sought recovery," Tess said, "we realized we were discussing Connect Kootenai focus areas of health and safety."

"I knew the key people involved in Kootenai Health and the private providers. I worked with them on several boards."

Greta invited Tess to be her executive assistant.

At the Coeur d'Alene Chamber's Upbeat Breakfast, Greta offered one of the presentations they each give regularly to area nonprofits and businesses as they seek to garner enthusiasm for the six key themes of Connect Kootenai's vision and implementation plan.

Focusing on "Housing and Growth" at the breakfast, she said area housing is in a dire crisis now. Affordable housing for local workers is in short supply.

Previously, she had participated in the Regional Housing Growth Issues Partnership of CDA 2030, known as RHGIP. It has been rebranded as Connect Kootenai on Housing and Growth.

That and the other five key themes grew out of public forums, workshops, surveys, opinion polls, interviews, a website and social media that CDA 2030 used to collect and compile data about visions for the future. Residents from greater Coeur d'Alene



Greta Gissel and Tess Reasor develop Connect Kootenai.

joined committees and workgroups to create the long-range vision and implementation plan.

The themes are housing and growth, health and safety, community and identity, education and learning, environment and recreation, and jobs and the economy.

Greta and Tess will offer two "Community Conversations" a month to engage people expanding on the focus themes.

"We're the feet on the ground, making this happen. We're connecting people, business community and nonprofits, and bringing cultural heritage back to Coeur d'Alene," Greta said.

In their discussions, the women seek to determine a single focus for implementing visions for each of the themes.

For example, for community and identity, they are helping the Coeur d'Alene Tribe create a Cultural Heritage Day for 2024.

Concern has arisen about food insecurity for students in Post Falls since the school system moved to a four-day school week. As part of the education and learning segment, a group is seeking means to feed students over the longer weekends.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is working within the community to put together an "Environmental Futures Summit," part of the vision for the environment and recreation theme.

In 2022, just before accepting the leadership of Connect Kootenai, Greta left teaching and began to work in the mortgage industry.

"That's on hold for now," she said.

Her participation on the boards of North Idaho Building and Contractors and 208 Recovery North allows her to share Connect Kootenai information with them, keeping them up to date on what is transpiring.

Greta, who was born and grew up in Coeur d'Alene, graduated from North Idaho College with an associate of arts degree. Later, she earned a degree in

elementary education from the University of Idaho.

"My parents, Norm and Diana Gissel, were involved in the community when I was growing up," she said. "They created a legacy of community service that I am continuing."

Norm served on the board of the Kootenai Library for 12 years. He was instrumental in moving the library from 7th St. to Harrison. When the new building was constructed, he made sure the below-ground children's section was accessible by a ramp.

"I stood beside him, watching tears roll down his cheeks when the first disabled child used the ramp to go downstairs," she said.

Both her parents also helped begin the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations and have continued to stay active in it. She has been involved with that group, too.

"My parents taught me that I have a moral obligation to serve the community," she said.

CDA 2030 began in 2013 and became a nonprofit organization in 2014, when Greta first became involved.

"I wrote the focus statement for the education and learning theme," she said. "I served on the board for a year."

About that time, she and fellow teacher Dave Eubanks started Jingle Books, a book drive for children in kindergarten through the third grade.

They organized a collection

of nearly 4,000 gently used or new books to be given to children before their winter holiday break. Learning to read by the end of third grade gives children a strong start at reading to learn from then on up, Greta said.

"When I was asked to lead Connect Kootenai, I already had passion for this kind of community service," she said.

Tess, who grew up in Sandpoint in a family who have been in North Idaho six generations, has lived in Coeur d'Alene for 20 years. She was a single mother when she graduated from high school in 1997. She's now been married for 20 years to a husband born and raised in the Silver Valley. They have three children, one grandchild and another grandchild on the way.

"My family connections fuel my passion for community," she said. "What legacy am I leaving for my grandchildren, so they can enjoy the Idaho I know and love? Every day, there are actions I can take to make my home a better home."

Tess worked for such organizations as the Coeur d'Alene Press, some advertising agencies and for Jerm Designs. In 2018, she procured a real estate license.

Recently, she founded 208 Recovery North, an open adult day center where people can access free services. In a time when

it takes six months to be able to meet with a counselor, 208 Recovery North offers interim positive engagement projects.

As a state-certified peer recovery coach supervisor and peer support specialist, she actively works within the greater Coeur d'Alene community. She serves on boards of Region 1 Behavioral Health, Idaho Law Enforcement Diversion, CD Aide, the Idaho Homeless Coalition and the Idaho Association of Addiction Professionals.

"I want to sit at every table in our Community Conversations and other presentations as a neutral person," she said. "Let's work together for the greater good, a brighter future which is highly inclusive, and where all perspectives are welcome in open conversation."

"When people sit at the table to hear us, we mostly experience excitement," she said.

Greta agreed. "It's been exciting to come back on board. We've had six months of getting things going through our community meetings and by talking with everyone available. We've had so many balls in the air, and we've experienced a good response to our presentations."

For information, call 208-450-2620 or email greta@connectkootenai.org or tess@connectkootenai.org.

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## Two receive ‘Action Against Hate’ awards

The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force (BCHRTF) in Idaho and civil rights strategist Eric Ward are the recipients of this year’s Gonzaga University Center for the Study of Hate’s Eva Lassman “Take Action Against Hate” awards.

The awards are presented to individuals and organizations who challenge hate and make changes in their communities, as did Eva Lassman, a Spokane Holocaust survivor and respected anti-hate advocate.

“The awards committee considers the degree nominees have engaged in action and awareness-building in their communities,” said Gonzaga’s Rachelle Strawther, the awards

committee chair.

Eric is a nationally known expert on the relationship between authoritarian movements, hate-fueled violence and preserving democracy.

In his 30-year career, he has worked undercover in extremist groups to study white nationalism and anti-Semitism as a Black man.

He holds leadership roles as Western States Center executive director and senior fellow with both the Southern Poverty Law Center and Race Forward organizations.

The Bonner County Human Rights Task Force was selected because of its commitment to educate, support, inform and

respond to human rights issues in its county. The volunteer-only organization began in 1992 in response to an Aryan Nation group that intended to make North Idaho a haven for white supremacy.

Since then, BCHRT has spoken out whenever intolerance or bigotry threatens the rights, safety or dignity of any individual in their county. It works with public officials and citizens to elevate human rights.

Recipients of the “Take Action Against Hate” Awards will be honored at a Gala Human Rights Awards Banquet in Spokane, sponsored by the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, Nov. 2.

For information, call 313-5368 or email [nailen@gonzaga.edu](mailto:nailen@gonzaga.edu).

## Main Market seeks more shoppers

Filling a unique niche as a local food co-op, the Main Market provides fresh, healthful foods in the midst of a food desert in Spokane’s University District. Since its opening 13 years ago, it now includes more than 9,000 member owners and 22 employees.

Like any small business that has survived COVID restrictions, Main Market struggled to continue operations.

Its board seeks to increase the number of shoppers and purchases, so Main Market can keep operating. Other food co-ops around the country face similar challenges with much competition, but as their members step forward, many co-ops are now thriving again.

Member support by regular shopping is crucial to keep the co-op open, keep staff employed, support local farmers and vendors, and serve the community.

For information, call 458-2667 or email [info@mainmarket.coop](mailto:info@mainmarket.coop).



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# Interfaith involvements and friendships instill sensitivity, insights

The multiple involvements of Naghmana Sherazi in the Spokane community make her particularly sensitive to relationships in the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and wider communities.

For many years she was involved with the Sisterhood of Salaam and Shalom in Spokane, about 10 Muslim and 10 Jewish women who met regularly for about five years until COVID disrupted their meeting in person.

“We are close. I have felt their love, support and respect,” she said, “but since COVID we have been unable to meet.”

Through Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane, Naghmana has been assisted and advocates for human rights of the Afghan refugees who have resettled in Spokane.

“**Jewish and Christian** communities have been active in resettling Afghans, even though most are Muslims, providing everything from clothing to pots and pans to emotional support,” she commented.

“For 20 years, many Afghans helped U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan,” she said. “We are responsible because of all they did for us, during our 20-year war, which led to them having to flee their country. Now many have been resettled in Spokane.”

When the War in Ukraine started, the focus shifted to resettling Ukrainian refugees from Europe, Naghmana said. They are here with help and support under the Lautenberg Agreement and have many resources available that the Afghan refugees don’t have.

“Our Jewish and Christian communities came out in full force to help them,” she said. “It has helped build great bonds of friendships and solidarity.”

Afghan refugees came under Humanitarian Parole and were given three months to settle with assistance, which is not enough of a buffer, given that they did not speak, read or write English, and sometimes not even their own language,” she said.

Naghmana said many Afghan refugees came from isolated rural areas that lacked water, plumbing, schools and TVs. They helped U.S. troops keep track of the Taliban in back areas of Afghanistan and therefore had to flee.

“We are now helping them communicate visually by using smartphones to make videos on YouTube on how to order an Uber or how to make a doctor’s appointment,” she said.

“These have made a huge difference so women—who depend on their husbands to drive them—are less isolated,” said Naghmana, who works with refugees through Refugee and Immigrant Connections Spokane.

From Oct 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2023, about 6,326 Afghans arrived in Washington State, 594 of whom settled in Spokane,



Naghmana Sherazi displays symbols of many faith traditions.

according to Kimberly Curry of International Rescue Committee.

Since the recent attack by Hamas against Israel and retaliation by Israel, Naghmana sees an impact in Spokane’s refugee community.

“While most of the community understands that Hamas does not represent Palestinians, some may not,” she said. “What Hamas did is genocide. So is the response of the Israeli government.”

Naghmana helped found Muslims for Community Action and Support (MCAS) in Spokane, which is active speaking against antisemitism, misogyny, Islamophobia and all forms of hate.

She urges community dialogue, rather than just rallying around war. Naghmana felt the Spokane City Council acted in haste, passing a resolution supporting Israel without receiving voices from the Muslim community or considering wider community impact.

“We condemn Hamas but must not confuse Hamas with all Palestinians or Muslims,” she said, believing the major sentiment among people is for peace in the Middle East. “We need to advocate for peace and a cease fire.”

“We need a resolution that brings the community together and brings peace there and to our community,” she said. “We would like a political resolution not a military resolution.”

Naghmana is concerned that both Jewish people and Muslims in the community might be tar-

gets of hate.

For example, she sees concern among the Afghan refugees. “Their children are already experiencing bullying in schools,” she pointed out.

Recently, one woman called her afraid because the Chicago landlord killed a Palestinian child and attacked his mother.

“That sent shock waves over the community,” she said.

The woman asked if she should get a gun, Naghmana said, “Absolutely not!”

Now Afghan refugees experience fear in their new home.

“They came traumatized from experiencing violence around hospitals and schools, and bombings in their communities in Afghanistan. This is fresh trauma on top of the trauma they experienced,” she said, calling the city and community to take responsibility to help reduce hate.

Through MCAS, Naghmana plans to invite members of the City Council to an open forum to hear stories from people experiencing new trauma now.

An immigrant from Pakistan, Naghmana is aware of the dynamics of settling into a new community and life.

Her younger brother came to the U.S. and is married to a Hispanic woman.

He sponsored their mother who then sponsored Naghmana, who had earned a master’s degree in English language at Karachi University.

“I’m here because of chain, or

family, migration,” said Naghmana, who first came to Houston where she earned a degree in cytogenetic technology—looking at chromosomal anomalies to understand genetic diseases.

In 2012, a Spokane company hired her. Even though it closed a year later, she decided to stay and worked for the Spokane Regional Health District. Liking the opportunities here, she decided not only to stay but has also become invested in this area.

In 2019 and 2021, she ran for City Council, convinced her voice is needed, both as a refugee/immigrant and as a renter who works two to three jobs to make ends meet.

“I understand overburdened, underserved people of the community,” she commented.

Her niche in advocacy now is as director of the climate justice program with The Lands Coun-

cil, helping people understand environmental and climate policies and their impact on people.

Naghmana is raising funds to host a Legislative Summit in June 2024 to explore environmental and other issues that have impact on BIPOC communities.

With cherry-picking season late last summer, migrant workers affected by heat needed advocacy for air-conditioned tents and protection from working too long in the heat, she pointed out.

“This is a critical time in history to do something about the environment, because there are many funds and grants available for building a green infrastructure so we can continue life on our planet, and reverse or halt the effects of climate change on people, wildlife and crops,” she said.

For information, call 838-4912 or email [mcasforspokane@gmail.com](mailto:mcasforspokane@gmail.com).



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## Christian, Jewish, Interfaith voices give perspectives on war, hate

### Presbyterian Church (USA)

#### Office of Public Witness - Excerpts

Our televisions and social feeds are full of news from Israel and Palestine, and the recent declaration of war. To people of many faiths, this land is culturally rich, historically significant and sacred ground.... We grieve the loss of life, captive-taking, and the withholding of basic necessities of life....

**As people of faith,** we turn to the practice of lament that guides our prayers and leads us to action. We join our voice with the Psalmist, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!" (Psalm 130:1) May God hear the voices of those in Israel and Palestine experiencing unprecedented suffering and escalating violence. May the cries of our partners and care for humanity lead us from prayer to action.

**We cry aloud** for the devastation that has occurred....

**We lament** the lost lives of civilians, sojourners, military personnel, journalists and aid workers.

For the injured, kidnapped and refugees, we pray.

**We cry aloud** for those whose homes have been destroyed and those who have been forced to leave their homes for safer ground.

**We lament** the impact of war on families who become fractured or separated. Political leaders declare war. Civilians pay the price.

**We cry aloud** for those who feel forgotten, helpless, abandoned and trapped within their own land.

**We are saddened** by a delay in a peace agreement between Israel and its neighbors.

**We decry** the withholding of food, water, electricity and medical supplies for people already devastated by isolation and embargoes.

**We decry** the actions of Hamas on Israeli citizens and the violent retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people.

**We decry** that our own nation's involvement in the region to provide peace and stability instead causes increased

militarism and division.

**For world powers** to eagerly enforce peace between Israel and its neighbors, we pray.

**In our lament,** we confess that we have not listened to our partners first nor the people of Israel and Palestine.

**We have leaned** into our settler-colonial ways, believing that we held solutions for other peoples and lands. We have trusted military might when God calls us toward diplomacy and peaceful protest....

**In our lament,** we pause to pray and move to more just actions.

### Jewish Public Affairs Council

From across the United States, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) organized a statement by 150 Jewish groups unequivocally rejecting Islamophobia and anti-Arab hate at a time of rising hate and bigotry.

**The statement underscores** the urgency of fighting hate against Muslim, Arab and Jewish Americans, noting that "all of our communities' safety and futures are inextricably linked."

**In the wake of the attack** in which a six-year-old Muslim boy was murdered and his mother critically injured by a man who targeted them because of their faith and the Israel/Hamas war, the Jewish groups released a statement condemning the attack and rejecting any effort to exploit the situation in Israel and Gaza to spread hate and bigotry.

**The statement expresses solidarity** with all neighbors threatened and urges community leaders not to tolerate any hate.

**"As Jewish leaders,** we want to be very clear: we unequivocally reject those targeting our Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian American neighbors with bigotry, threats, and violence," said Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA).

**"This is a moment of profound pain** for our community — and we refuse to allow some to exploit that pain as an excuse to spread bigotry or extremism of any kind. Our communities' safety is

inextricably linked, and only by coming together and calling it out can we defeat the forces of hate and violence," she said.

#### The statement says:

"Since Hamas' terror attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, we've seen bigots and extremists exploit the crisis to spread hate, disinformation and extremism.

**"This is a moment** of deep Jewish pain, mourning the lives taken and praying for the safe release of the hostages in Gaza—and this pain and fear is compounded by a horrific rise in antisemitism here in the United States and around the globe.

**"We also know that** we are not the only ones being targeted in this moment. Our Muslim, Arab and Palestinian American neighbors are facing bigotry, threats and violence—including the despicable murder of a six-year-old child outside Chicago by a man who reportedly espoused anti-Muslim hate.

**"Let us be unequivocally clear:** The Jewish community rejects Islamophobia, anti-Arab hate, antisemitism and all forms of bigotry. Particularly as extremists continue to exploit this moment, we are reminded that all of our communities' safety and futures are inextricably linked—and recommit ourselves to fighting hate in all its forms.

**"We stand in solidarity** with all our neighbors under threat, and urge our elected and civic leaders, law enforcement, schools and universities, and employers to make clear there will be zero tolerance for any act of hate."

**The 150 signers include** the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah-The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Jewish War Veterans, the National Council of Jewish Women, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, synagogues like the Tree of Life Center, Union for Reform Judaism, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, various community and regional Jewish Community Relations Committees and local Jewish Federations, and more.

### Parliament of World Religions

As an interfaith organization, we par-

ticularly abhor the destruction of sacred spaces, the misuse of religion for violence and the demonization of entire communities of people. Our hearts grieve for the lives lost and the peoples now living in fear. We extend an urgent call to respect the human rights of all people.

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) presiding bishop statement on Israel-Hamas war

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus, the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time, the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

**...We are in anguish,** grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

**Among us are Palestinian** Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland.

**In our communities,** we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

**It is difficult** to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together as church with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

**We must also call a thing a thing.** The power exerted against all Palestinian people—through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence—must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing.

**We are committed** to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness.

**Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** urges people of faith to pray for peace, to appeal to lawmakers to act to deescalate the conflict and to support disaster response.



## Sounding Board

Commentaries

Neighbors re-enact taking down factory - Photo courtesy of Cameron Conner

## Neighbors close a toxic plant and replace it with community center

### By Cameron Conner - Special Series

In 1976, less than two years after General Franco died and his dictatorship collapsed, residents of the Neu Barris neighborhood of Barcelona noticed that their children were becoming ill and that toxic dust from a Franco-era cement factory in their neighborhood was shriveling their clothes.

**They fought to transform** the former asphalt plant into a cultural and social center and have paved roads and established environmental protections.

The factory became a space dedicated to circus arts—banned under Franco—music, theater, poetry, debates and exhibitions. Thousands of people attended the opening celebrations a few months after the demolition and they christened the space La Ateneu Popular de Neu Barris.

**Ateneus, or "Atheneums,"** in Catalonia are neighborhood-based associations for the advancement of learning. Particularly popular in the early 1900s, these public spaces fostered many of the leaders behind Barcelona's strong union movement. Ateneu Popular de Neu Barris positioned itself at the front of the next generation of "democracy schools."

Over the years, the role of their Ateneu grew for the community of Neu Barris. As the economic crisis of the 1980s led to a

heroin epidemic across Spain, the Ateneu worked to open a youth hub, launching a series of juggling, stilt-walking, trapeze and other workshops to keep young-adults off the streets.

**Organizing efforts also led** to paved streets for the neighborhood, public lighting and environmental protection of the surrounding mountain landscape.

With fights for women's suffrage re-emerging after Francoism collapsed, the center became one of the central hubs for women in Barcelona, organizing for equal rights as well.

**As relationships and networks** were strengthened through local campaigns, Ateneu Neu Barris began to serve as an avenue for engaging in more global issues. When global free-trade policies led to the closure of local businesses and widespread loss of jobs, the community collectively participated in national strike actions, protested far-right, fascist resurgence and even demonstrated against Spain's entry into NATO.

**The political work** of the neighborhood—both then and now—constitutes only a small portion of the activity in La Ateneu. In addition to serving as a platform for community organizing, the space brought life back into the neighborhood after nearly 40 years under authoritarian

rule. Groups were formed to reinstate the carnivals, which had been banned under Franco. They even invented new festivals such as "La Cultura Va de Fiesta"—The Culture Goes Partying—which hosts hundreds of visitors each year.

**The inseparable relationship** between this political and cultural work is captured in the Ateneu's motto today: "Action, Struggle and Fun."

The editor of the local Carrer Magazine, described the relationship well when he wrote, "The culture of the Ateneu should entertain but also explain why things are as they are, discuss them and foster the necessary responses." For this to happen, he continued, "The Athenaeum needs to be managed by the residents."

The last part of this statement is profoundly important.

**Throughout its 40-year history,** Ateneu Neu Barris faced stubborn pressure by the city to convert it into a civic center under the city government and with a public official as director.

Even though that would bring additional funds and relieve the community of the pressure of running such a large organization, the community has fought to maintain its community-led structure.

One resident who grew up participating in Neu Barris explained that community-

control is critical, "because we know what it is like to have no control at all," she said.

"Under Franco," she continued, "people, and especially Catalans, had no choice but to do what they were told. We will never give up our freedom again, and the only way we can maintain it is if we stand together."

Much of Catalonia's history relied on a unique culture built over centuries.

**What can we in the United States take** away from the story of Neu Barris?

There are three key lessons:

- First, we should learn that one of the first steps in organizing is to find, claim or create public spaces where people can come together across differences and act on shared interests.

- Second, strong community institutions will focus on fun community activities and political struggles. People cannot have fun if their children cannot breathe. Strong political communities will not last without a shared feeling of culture.

- Finally, the institution must belong to a community, not a city or nonprofit. It is not run by a paid professional staff who provide charity or service.

La Ateneu Popular de Neu Barris is a crystal-clear example of the Iron Rule in community organizing: Never ever do for people what they can do for themselves.

# Calendar of Events

Area codes are 509 unless otherwise listed

- To Nov 28 • Fall Festival of Sharing – Fig Tree Campaign** to raise \$20,000, thefigtree.org/donate.html
- Nov 1-5 • Indigenous Women's Health Week**, Spokane Tribal Network and Helmslip Indigenous Birth Justice, 258-4535, spokanetribalnetwork.org
- Nov 1-9 • "Mend-It Cafés for Kids,"** Spokane Zero Waste, at libraries: 1st - Indian Trail, 4 p.m., 2nd - South Hill, 5 p.m., 7 - Liberty Park, 4 p.m., 8th - Shadle Park, 4 p.m., 9th - Hillyard, 3:30 p.m.
- Nov 2 • "Take Action Against Hate" Gala Awards Banquet**, Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 5 to 8 p.m.
- Nov 3-5 • Day of the Dead**, Nuestros Raices Centro Comunitario, 1214 E. Sprague, 5 p.m. to 2 p.m., 557-0566
- Nov 4 • Bazaar Day at Cheney** (see ad p. 3)  
• **Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church Holiday Bazaar**, 4102 S. Crestline, 9:30 to 4 p.m., 448-2909  
• **Coffee & Trivia, 350 Spokane**, 1011 E First, 12 p.m., 350spokane.org  
• **KPBX Kids' Concert**, Spokane Falls Community College, 3410 W. Whistalks, SFCC Music Building, 1 to 2 p.m., 533-3500  
• **"The Jewish Jail Lady and the Holy Thief: Story of Addiction, Recovery and Redemption**, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th, 7 p.m., director@sajfs.org  
• **Autumn Splendor**, Shalom Ministries Benefit Gala, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 710-0204, healingpen@comcast.net
- Nov 4 & 5 • Spokane Symphony Masterworks 4:** Behold, The Sea, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, Sat., 7:30, p.m. Sun., 3 p.m. 624-1200
- Nov 5, 12 • Intro to Buddhism**, Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 534-7954, spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com
- Nov 6,8,9 • Domestic Violence 101:** "Recognize, Respond, Refer," dvam@ywcaspokane.org
- Nov 9 • Rural Nonprofit Gathering**, Nonprofit Association of Washington, online, 2 to 3:30 p.m., nonprofitwa.org
- Nov 9 & 23 • Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Zoom, 5:30 p.m., slichty@pjals.org
- Nov 10 • Hope Peace & Healing**, "Rest, Renew, Retreat", Fr. Stephen Hess, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 6 to 9:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Nov 10-11 • 24-Hour Sacred Art Retreat**, "Contemplating the Christmas Mystery," Hannah Charlton, IHRC, 4:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Nov 11 • Hillyard Senior Center Craft Bazaar** Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
• **St. John's Cathedral Bazaar**, 127 E 12th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., stjohns@stjohns-cathedral.org  
• **Salish School of Spokane Salmon Tales** benefit, Gonzaga Prep cafeteria, 5:30 p.m., salishschoolspokane.org  
• **Shine Bright Gala for Thrive International**, Tsutakawa Event Hall, 4230 W. Owens Ridge, 6 to 8:30 p.m., thriveint.org/gala  
• **Spokane Symphony Pops 2:** Symphonic Salute to USO, The Fox Theatre, 7:30 p.m., 624-1200
- Nov 11, 12 • Fall Folk Festival**, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene, Sat., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 533-7000
- Nov 12 • Medicine Woman**, Shadle Library, 211 W. Wellesley, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., 444-5390  
• **Telling Our Stories:** Jacob Lawrence and the Great Migration, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (MAC), 2316 W. First, 2 to 3 p.m., 456-3931  
• **Spokane Youth Symphony:** Mountains and Streams, The Fox Theatre, 4 p.m., 624-1200  
• **Health Justice Recovery Alliance** Open House, 8306 N. Wall, 12 to 3 p.m., 294-3892

- Nov 13, 15, 16 • "Domestic Violence 201: Learning in Action**, online, 2 to 3:30 p.m., dvam@ywcaspokane.org
- Nov 14 • Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Zoom, 5:30 p.m. ucarter@pjals.org
- Nov 14, 15, 16 • Annual Corporate Kettle Kick-Off**, businesses help ring the bell at The Salvation Army Red Kettles, bit.ly/CKKO2023, sign up at registerstoring.com
- Nov 14, 16, 28, 30 & Dec 5 • "Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization,"** Spokane Alliance, Zoom, 6 to 8 p.m., 532-1688, spokanealliance.org
- Nov 15 • The Future of Climate Education in the U.S.,"** Center for Climate, Hemmingson and livestreaming, 5 to 6:30 p.m., climatecenter@gonzaga.edu
- Nov 16 • Spoken River**, Spokane Riverkeeper, Montvale Event Center, 5:30 to 8 p.m., spokenriver.com  
• **illuminating a Medieval Manuscript**, NW MAC, 2316 W. First, 5:45 to 7:45 p.m., 456-3931
- Nov 16,17,18 • Spokane Symphony: Handel's Messiah**, St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th, Th, 7:30 p.m., Fri., 7:30 p.m., Sat., 3 p.m., 838-4277
- Nov 18 • Healing Trauma in the Body, Mind, and Heart**, Harmony Woods, 3 to 6 p.m., harmonywoods.org  
• **3 Starts & Up: Eat the Heat**, United We Stand Building Fund benefit, Southside Senior Center, 3151 E. 27th, 3 to 8 p.m., charitydoyl@yahoo.com
- Nov 19 • Sharing the Dharma Day**, Sravasti Abbey, online, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., sravastiabbey.org  
• **Spokane String Quartet**, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 3 to 5 p.m., 227-7638  
• **Faith Action Network Annual Dinner**, 5 to 7 p.m. Thrive Center, 110 E. 4th, and online, fanwa.org
- Nov 21 • What is Cheney Cohousing**, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 5:30 to 7 p.m., 220-5599  
• **Medicare Workshops**, SHIBA, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E Front, 1:30 p.m., 208-769-2315
- Nov 21 & 28 • Genealogy Drop-In Sessions**, Spokane Valley Library, 22 N. Herald, 5:30 to 7:50 p.m., 893-840
- Nov 22 & 29 • Genealogy Drop-In**, North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 893-8350
- Nov 24-26 • Festival of Fair Trade**, 35 W. Main, Th & Fri 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Sat., 12 to 4 p.m. Nov 25
- Nov 25 • El Mercadito**, Latino cultural market, A.M. Cannon Park, 1920 W. Maxwell, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., info@latinosenspokane.org
- Nov 28 • Campfire Stories: Tales of Enchantment** from Our Public Land, The Lands Council and The Wildland Cooperative, 8022 E Greenbluff, Colbert 7 to 9 p.m., landscouncil.org
- Nov 28-Dec 10 • Christmas Tree Elegance**, for the Spokane Symphony, Historic Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post, 1 to 9 p.m., (800) 899-1482
- Nov 29 • The Fig Tree Distribution and Mailing**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 S. Grand, 535-4112  
• **Can We Solve the Climate Crisis and Protect Wild Spaces**, Gonzaga Hemmingson Auditorium, 6 to 7:30 p.m., climatecenter@gonzaga.edu
- Nov 30 • Backcountry Film Festival**, fundraiser for IPAC and Lands Council, Garland Theater, 924 W. Garland, 6 to 9 p.m., 327-1050
- To Nov 30 • Ladd Bjorneby & Jakob Chester**, Exhibit at Avenue West Gallery, 907 W. Boone, Th.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 838-4999
- Nov 30-Dec 3 • Spokane Symphony: The Nutcracker Ballet**, The Fox Theater, Th., 7:30 p.m., Fri., 2 p.m. Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 3 p.m.
- Dec 3 • Messiah, Music Conservatory of Coeur d'Alene**, Schuyler Performing Arts Center, NIC, Coeur d'Alene, 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. cdaconservatory.org
- Dec 7 • The Fig Tree Meetings: Benefit, noon, Board, 1 to 3 p.m.**, Zoom, 535-4112

## 2023 List of Thanksgiving Meals by The Fig Tree and United Way of Spokane County

- Nov 1 • Launch of KREM Cares Tom's Turkey Drive** website, krem.com/turkey and opening day to sign up for Thanksgiving meal boxes, distributed at Second Harvest partner food banks at varying times and locations
- Nov 13-17 • Spokane Valley Partners, CV Safe Center**, rsvp at krem.com/turkey  
• **If You Could Save Just One**, 703-7161, ifyoucouldsavejustone.org
- Nov 18 • Sinto Activity Center**, 1124 W. Sinto, 1 p.m., 327-2861, \$15 per person, open to more than seniors  
• **Deer Park High School**, 800 S. Weber, by Christ's Church of Deer Park, 4 to 6 p.m., community dinner  
• **"A Season of Hope,"** Revive Community Services, Morning Star Baptist, 3909 W. Rowan, TBA, soup & gifts for children, pre-register at revivcommunityservices.com  
• **Calvary Spokane**, 511 W. Hastings, 467-2860, calvaryspokane.com/thanksgiving, home-delivered meals  
• **Flanigan Foundation**, Cancer Can't & Spokane Helpers Network, for 1000 families in "Bite 2 Go," keaton.foundation@gmail.com, donate at flanigan-foundation.com
- Nov 19 • St. Ann's Catholic**, 211 E. First, 1 to 2 p.m., 535-3031  
• **Kingdom for Christ Ministries** of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, on Pacific between State and Division, 2:30 to 7 p.m., 994-3538, to-go at curb
- Nov 20 • Valley Assembly**, 15618 E. Broadway, 1 to 6 p.m., 924-0466, call to sign up for a box while they last  
• **Off Broadway Lighthouse** the Hub, 2225 W. Mallon, 4 to 5 p.m., 998-2630, regular evening meal
- Nov 21 • Southside Community Center**, 3151 E. 27th, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 535-0803, dining in  
• **Shalom Ministries**, New Community Church, 518 W. Third, no breakfast Tues., Thanksgiving lunch 1 to 2 p.m.  
• **Shadle Park Presbyterian**, 5508 N. Alberta, 327-5522, rsvp for community dinner, info & to help serve, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 22 • Otis Orchards Adventist**, 4308 N. Harvard, pick up location for Tom's Turkey Drive  
• **Greenhouse in Deer Park**, sign-up for Tom's Turkey Drive, 276-6897, pick up food to prepare, drive-up, 300 meals, call or sign-up in person
- Nov 22 • Cup of Cool Water**, 1106 W. 2nd, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., for homeless youth 14 to 24 years  
• **Greater Spokane County MOW**, at Silver Cafés, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 482-0803: Airway Point Senior Apts, 13520 W. 6th; Spangle Service Club, 165 Main; Spokane: Clearview Senior Living, 4827 S. Palouse Hwy.; Corbin Senior Center, 827 W. Cleveland; Hillyard Senior Center, 4001 N. Cook; Martin Luther King Jr Community Center, 500 S. Stone; Spokane Valley: Appleway Court, 221 S. Farr; Spokane Valley Senior Center, 2426 N. Discovery  
• **Union Gospel Mission**, 1224 E. Trent, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 535-8510, sit-down for clean-and-sober single families, grab-and-go meal for others  
• **One Heart Spokane**, delivery to 250 SPS families. Sponsor family/volunteer at oneheartspokane.churchcenter.com/giving
- Nov 23 • Fresh Soul**, 3029 E. 5th, 9:30 a.m., 242-3377, 100 meals and a \$100 cash gift  
• **The Salvation Army Gym**, 222 E. Indiana, 11:30 a.m., 325-6821 x2212, community Thanksgiving meal for 200  
• **Feed Medical Lake**, St. John Lutheran, 233 S. Hallet, 2 p.m., 714-1150, RSVP for turkey, bring a dish to share  
• **Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Parish**, 6122 Hwy 291, Nine Mile Falls, tba, meal  
• **Greater Spokane County MOW**, deliveries to homebound clients 60+, 924-6976, call to sign up for Meals on Wheels deliveries, need volunteer drivers
- Nov 27 • Feed Cheney**, Wren Pierson Community Center, 615 Fourth, 5:30 p.m., monthly meal

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**COLUMBIA RIVER TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS SYMPOSIUM 2023**  
'RE-ENGAGING IN PUBLIC DIALOGUE'  
Initial Virtual Meeting: Nov. 29 & 30 - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Anticipated in-Person Public Dialogue in May 2024

For the international Columbia River in a time of climate change, this is a two-day virtual symposium on the status of major watershed-wide issues and opportunities for public engagement in transboundary water governance.

To register (free), go to: [columbiabasingovernance.org](http://columbiabasingovernance.org)

This two-morning virtual public engagement is hosted by One River, Ethics Matter Project (OREM) Universities Consortium on Columbia River Governance North American Youth Parliament for Water University of British Columbia - Okanagan

**KPBX KIDS' CONCERTS GATHER AROUND THE PIANO**

**30th ANNIVERSARY**

**FREE Concert** at the SFCC Music Auditorium 3410 W Whistalks Wy Spokane, WA. 99224

Local Musician Frankie Ghee performs a joyful mix of piano tunes in the SFCC Music Building Auditorium.

Frankie will bring a character-building session of group singing and discussion. She'll highlight music as a tool for communication, expression, preserving culture, and improving health and wellbeing. She hopes to spread joy, laughter, and a love of music through her performance.

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THANKS TO NORTHERN QUEST CASINO AND THE SPOKANE FOLKLORE SOCIETY FOR HELPING MAKE THE BROADCAST HAPPEN.

# Marshallese community values helping each other in times of need

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

Doresty Daniel, a language specialist for Marshallese students with Spokane Public Schools, draws on the heritage of the Marshall Islanders as she helps them navigate community resources.

With about 5,000 Marshallese living and working in the Spokane area, there are 12 Marshallese churches—Catholic, Pentecostal and Protestant, plus house churches.

After Arkansas, Washington has the second largest population of Marshallese in the mainland U.S.

**Doresty believes** the U.S. government has a responsibility to address needs related to ongoing displacement because of U.S. activities—nuclear weapons testing from 1946 to 1958 in the Marshall Islands and ongoing ballistic missiles testing on Kwajalein Atoll.

Many families in Spokane are from communities displaced by U.S. activities on their home islands. In exchange for U.S. military access there, Marshallese can enter, work and live in the U.S. without passports or visas, under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), a treaty for government relations between the U.S. and the three former territories of the Freely Associated States (COFA): the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

COFA places on the U.S. responsibility for damages and injuries that persist in the islands from tests and studying effects of radiation on human beings. They buried radioactive soil, debris and plutonium in the Runit Dome, which is now leaking.

At Hanford, the U.S. government processed plutonium that fueled dozens of weapons detonated in the Marshall Islands. Now people with cancer and other radiation illnesses come to Washington state for health care connected to the nuclear industry that joins Washington State and the RMI. There is no cancer care facility or treatment available in the Marshall Islands so people must leave for care.

“They bring us from our islands and give us a place to live because many of our islands were vaporized and contaminated,” said Doresty, who hopes for the history to be widely known and for a clear restitution process.

**While each Marshallese** person has a story about why they moved to this area, most seek good jobs, schools and health care. Many have also left the islands because of the rising sea level.

Coming in large numbers, they continue to rely on their



Doresty Daniel draws on culture to help Marshallese.

close-knit community and their families in difficult times as they overcome language, cultural, economic and other barriers.

Doresty moved from the Marshall Islands to Kauai, where she ran a cleaning company. In 2014, she came to Spokane for a cousin’s wedding. She didn’t plan to stay, but she liked it here and found the cost of living less than in Kauai. She thought it would be a good place to raise her children, because it has good schools.

“I didn’t have background in education, but because education is important for us, I looked for work in education,” she said.

**Many have family** here, and Spokane is relatively small, so it’s easy to navigate to social services, doctors’ appointments and schools. It’s easy for Marshallese to qualify for Medicaid.

“Every day at the school district, every new Marshallese families register their children. Airway Heights and Cheney schools are growing faster because they have more low-income apartments, and casinos and Amazon readily hire Marshallese,” Doresty said.

**Language makes it hard** for many to access resources, because few Marshallese speakers understand social services, and little information on resources is translated into Marshallese.

In the Marshall Islands, those with health issues like diabetes, cancer, hepatitis, TB and other chronic diseases have difficulty finding treatment because of a lack of doctors. There is an uptick in cancers from nuclear tests.

**People realize** the contaminated environment and food cause cancers and diseases they never had before, said Doresty, who

was born after nuclear testing.

Her parents said coconut trees were full of big coconuts before the testing. Now coconuts have little or no meat or water inside.

“When my parents grew up, the soil was healthy. Now it’s not, likely because of both climate change and nuclear testing. We don’t know how to test for radiation or toxins,” she said, “but we know death rates have risen. Almost every day, we have a funeral. Here and in the Marshall Islands people are dying because of diabetes and other illnesses.”

**Since the nuclear tests**, their food culture has changed.

“We no longer eat fresh vegetables because the soil is contaminated. We don’t grow vegetables. Why grow tomatoes if we may die from eating them? We don’t know if it is safe to eat coconuts or breadfruit. We take risks every day,” she said. “Our previous way of life no longer exists.”

“We used to grab fruit from a papaya tree and eat it, but now we have to be careful what we eat. We used to eat all kinds of fish, but we know that people who eat fish are dying,” said Doresty.

Without fruits and fish, the people turned to manufactured food, like canned meat.

“**We have to work** to earn money to buy it. When we move to the U.S., we know there are fresh vegetables that are safe, but many still buy canned SPAM or corned beef because that’s what we grew up eating,” she said. “We are changing our diet, but it will take time.”

With 12 congregations in Spokane, Airway Heights, Mead and Spokane Valley, families have many opportunities to connect

with the larger Marshallese community. When they go to church, they bring their food to eat and have fellowship after the services.

Doresty grew up Protestant and goes to church, but visits all the Marshallese churches to learn their needs, connect people to resources and share tools for self-reliance. If they need clothing, she tells them about thrift stores where they can buy clothes.”

Even though she struggles, too, she helps others improve their lives and live more comfortably.

“In Marshallese culture, we help each other and share information,” Doresty said. “In Spokane, Marshallese are not living on the street or homeless.”

“**If we learn someone is** running out of gas or needs a bag of rice, even if we have little money, we provide for their needs and connect them with food banks or other resources,” she said.

People call each other or visit if they need something. If the person they ask doesn’t have it, that person calls a sister or brother.

“Regardless of time, we stop by each other’s house to share things or borrow clothes,” she said.

Doresty said that parents’ health, work and transportation issues affect their children, who need to be registered for school and arrive each day on time. If a mother is sick and the father is

working, he has to earn enough to support the family—usually with three or four children. Many rely on donations for clothing and school supplies.

**Spokane Public School** students receive help with learning English through programs in high schools, middle schools and now elementary schools for newcomers from the Marshall Islands.

The Newcomer Program tests students to determine their English level and need for services.

Many Marshallese know how to drive but don’t have driver’s licenses because the drivers manual is not translated in Marshallese, and they can’t read English.

“**We are too small** a community to have language access services, but we are big. Come to our churches and events and see how many people are there,” she said. “We need to drive.”

Depending on someone to drive if there’s no bus to the workplace makes it hard to work.

Doresty said Marshallese need to learn many tips for living here. So she seeks to work with organizations like SNAP and Northwest Fair Housing to educate people on housing, tenant issues, home ownership, credit and budgeting to assure housing stability.

For information, call 824-5495 or email doresty@spokaneschools.org.

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**NORTH SPOKANE LIBRARY**  
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Registration is required. Sign up at [www.sclcd.org/events](http://www.sclcd.org/events).

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