

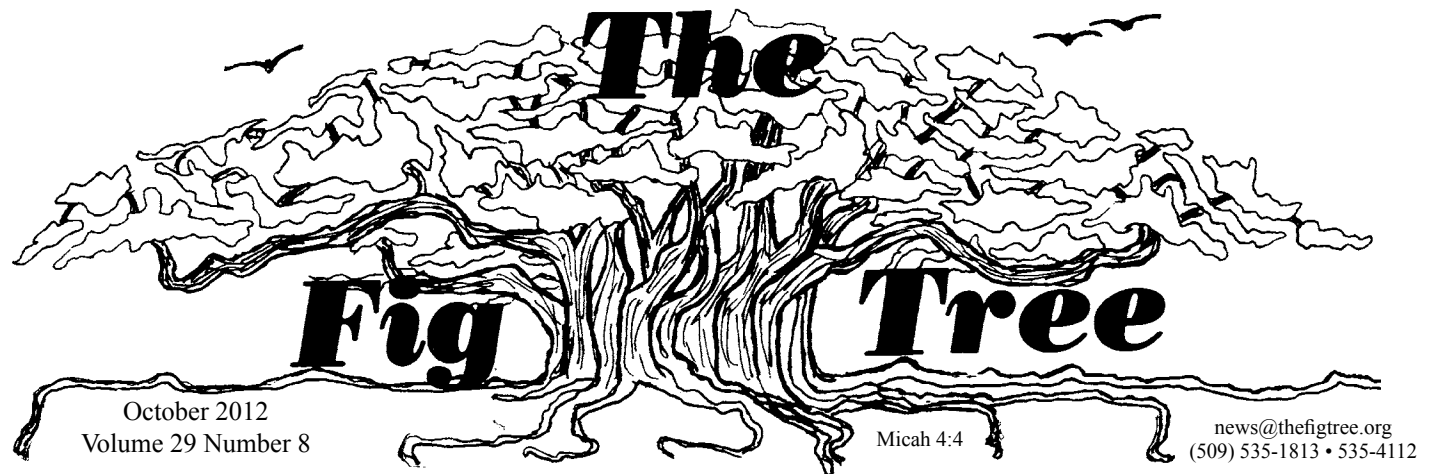
STORIES INSIDE

Program breaks ground to expand homes - p. 5

Occupy coalition has diverse voices - p. 6

Presbytery executive energizes churches - p. 7

Cardboard Box Cities shelter fund raisers - p. 8



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

Couple enriched by living simply

By Mary Stamp

In their retirement at Chesaw in the Okanogan Highlands, Jere and Rick Gillespie live simply, a lifestyle they chose when they entered the “back to the land” movement in the 1960s and 1970s.

They anticipate their retirement will be enriched as they continue their commitments to the peace and environmental movements, and as they find new ways to use their skills in publications and photography.

They feel enriched just living “in the peace and beauty of God’s country,” with clean air, fresh mountain spring water and friendships of many years.

Jere gleans spiritual nurture from the wisdom of the earth she sees around her, attuned to the rivers, mountains, grasslands, birds and life forces surrounding them and connecting to the earth. Her spirituality connects to justice, which she believes will come as people learn to live sustainably on the earth. Jere and Rick grow and preserve much of their food.

From his interest in biological science, Rick believes that people can learn to live on limited income within self-contained ecosystems, bioregions, which provide natural



Rick and Jere Gillespie connect on internet by satellite, connect to nature around them.

resources that connect people to the land.

They connect to the world of ideas through books and internet, which they access via satellite, to continue their activism.

Rick’s commitment extends beyond the Columbia River watershed as he seeks to help people understand and find solutions to the Palestine/Israel conflict. He organizes opportunities for people to learn about it through the Peace Festival, the Day of Peace and the Mothers’ Day Walk.

Their choice years ago led each of them to give up earning money and to avoid being swept into the world of consumerism.

That eventually led Rick, who was teaching in Portland, Ore., and Jere, who grew up in Maine and studied at the University of California in Berkeley, to wind up in the Okanogan Highlands where they met.

Rick, who graduated from Portland State University in 1967, taught high school for nearly five years. He worked towards a master’s degree in 1976, taught at HeadStart and was a Home Start director in the Coastal Range, when he became disenchanted with the

Continued on page 4

Quaker leader delves into key issues faith community addresses nationally

Diane Randall, the new executive secretary of the 70-year-old Quaker lobby, Friends Committee on National Legislation, on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., will speak and lead a workshop on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26 and 27, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

Representatives of the Spokane Friends Meeting and several other Spokane organizations who share a concern for peace with justice came together to plan the event.

On Saturday morning, she will lead a “Congressional Advocacy Forum,” a public event, in Salem

Lutheran’s gymnasium. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast beginning at 8 a.m., and her keynote address at 8:30 a.m., followed by a response session.

The participants will then break into four discussion groups.

The leadership for each one will come from four different approaches to peacemaking in the community: the Faith Action Network, building on its Advocating Congregations; the Peace and Justice Action League, building on their program perspective “Bring Our Billions Home”; The Oak Tree —“Building the New

Economy,” and the Friends Committee on National Legislation and its Legislative Priorities.

In a plenary session, Diane will offer comments and participants will have the opportunity to connect with the organizations involved and network informally.

At 7 p.m., Friday, Diane will meet at a “Leadership Reception and Conversation” in Salem Lutheran Church’s fireside room with leaders of the organizations that planned the event, and with bishops and executive leaders of regional church offices in Spokane.

The Peace with Justice Committee of Spokane Friends Meeting is co-hosting this event with the Faith Action Network.

The organizers of the overall event include Spokane Friends, the Faith Action Network of Washington, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, The Fig Tree, Pax Christi, the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Spokane, the Spokane Coalition of Progressive Pastors and the Oak Tree.

For information, call 435-8053.

Jo Hendricks wrote editorials for 23 years

By Mary Stamp

There have been some influential women journalists over the years, but few made their debut as editorial writers at the age of 70 and continued into their 90s, as Jo Hendricks did with The Fig Tree. She died Sept. 16 at a care facility in Spokane.

Jo was born in 1913 in Mansfield, Wash. Her social-justice minded father was an attorney in Wenatchee and her mother was a teacher. After her father died, her mother took the family to Seattle, where Jo attended high school and took studied journalism at the University of Washington. After marrying Frank Hendricks in 1935, they moved to Spokane in 1937.

Jo, one of the Fig Tree founders, brought a resolute voice on issues people of faith hold in common. She connected the call to heal the world, make peace, eradicate poverty, care for the vulnerable and protect the environment with the teachings of faith. Prophetically, she tied faith to the paradigms, paradoxes, oxymorons and caveats of these decades of history. Her editorials from 1984 to 2006 gave an overview of what happened in the world, the nation, the state, the region and the community. Her insights into peacemaking and war-making, justice and injustice, democracy and oppression, faith and secular values shattered typical excuses for giving in to the ways and whims of power.

Her reflections were based not only on knowledge of theology, history, literature, poetry and economics, but also her experiences of serving the poor at a food bank, volunteering at polls on election day, helping resettle Hmong and Vietnamese refugees, and promoting global concerns through the United Nations Association. The Fig Tree published a book of her editorials in 2006. Jo received the 2007 award of the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media for “media excellence.”

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPokane WA
Permit No. 1044

The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 www.oikoumene.org

Churches asked to confront financial crisis

Citing the European churches' "strong commitment over the past century to the ecumenical movement and fellowship in Europe," World Council of Churches general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit urged their direct engagement in the current financial and social crisis in and beyond Europe.

Their past commitment "has changed the realities of Europe. It has borne much fruit on other continents. That can, and should, happen again," he said.

Speaking Sept. 21 at the General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe in Florence, Italy, he challenged churches to be "signs of reconciliation" and to "stand together and to advocate for common European solutions to the financial and social crisis, solutions that help to deepen the project of European Unity as a project of just peace on the continent."

Christians and Muslims engage in dialogue

After a four-year interval since the World Council of Council (WCC) and the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID) in Tehran, Iran, the bodies met in September for bi-lateral dialogue at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey near Geneva. Christian and Muslim participants encouraged "inter-religious dialogue in all sectors of society with the aim of involving all in ensuring justice, equality, non-violence, welfare, friendship and compassion in society."

The meeting brought together five Muslim representatives of the CID and seven Christians representing different WCC member churches. Participants stressed that "dialogue is the best means of overcoming misunderstandings and fostering mutual appreciation and peaceful coexistence between the adherents of different religions in today's multicultural world."

Hindus in Pakistan are a forgotten community

For Haroon Sarab Diyal, chair of the All Pakistan Hindu Rights Movement, Hindus in Pakistan are a "forgotten community," as the presence of religious extremist groups is felt more and more. Their forced migration has meant the population has dropped from 20 percent to less than two percent since the country's independence. The migration is a reaction to "religious intolerance" and "class disparities," he believes.

Representing Hindus in a September hearing on rights of religious minorities in Pakistan, organized by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, he asked the international community to listen to voices of the Hindu community in Pakistan.

Often from a low economic strata, Hindus are vulnerable to discrimination by unjust laws, abusive state policies and discriminatory social behaviors, he said. Asking for solidarity from the international community, particularly churches, he told of people paying a ransom to be assured safety, the difficulty in voicing needs, the abduction and molestation of Hindu girls, and women being forced to marry Muslim men and convert.

WCC offers online theology library

More than 10,000 users have signed up for an online theological library supported by the World Council of Churches, offering free, worldwide access to thousands of full-text articles, dissertations and documents covering theology and ecumenism.

GlobeTheoLib, the Global Digital Library on Theology and Ecumenism at www.globethics.net/gtl was launched in 2011 as a joint project of the WCC and Globethics.net, a Geneva-headquartered foundation promoting dialogue on ethical issues.

The online theology library has more than 600,000 documents. Registered users from all continents and the main Christian traditions use the multilingual web portal in English, French German, Spanish and Chinese. Other languages are being prepared.

GlobeTheoLib uses digital means to create visibility for theological knowledge, particularly from churches of the global South.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Naomi Tutu speaks on being 'daughter of'

The 30th annual YWCA Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon features keynote speaker Naomi Tutu, daughter of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa. She will speak on challenges and opportunities of having grown up as "the daughter of." It inspired her to become a catalyst for positive change.

The luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25, will be held at the Spokane Convention Center Ballrooms, 334 West Spokane Falls Blvd.

The YWCA of Spokane will present YWCA Women of Achievement awards to local people who excel in their fields and whose achievements have a positive effect on the community.

Six leaders to be recognized for their service to the community are: Nancy Compau for arts and culture; Ruth Bindler, professional; Julie Farley and Camille McCluskey, volunteer community service; Jim Mohr, racial and social justice, and Alexandria Moore, senior, Central Valley

High School, Young Woman of Achievement.

"Since 1982, we have honored contributions of more than 175 individuals," explained Trish McFarland, executive director, YWCA Spokane. "We honor individuals whose lives, talents and passions shape the community, while the luncheon serves as a vital source of funding for our programs and services to underserved women and children.

For information, call 789-9303 or visit ywcaspokane.org.

Rural Ministry Resources offers retreat

Rural Ministry Resources is planning a Rural Ministry Retreat gathering lay and ordained pastors serving churches in rural settings for worship, rest, experience and sharing from 1 p.m., Monday, Oct. 15, to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Sunnyside United Methodist Church, 906 E. Edison Ave.

The retreat is an opportunity to both learn and share the dynamics of the familial church, focusing on building pastor-parish

relationships, honoring tradition and seeking new approaches to growing churches in the rapidly changing socio-economic conditions in the rural culture.

Lyda Pierce, Pacific Northwest United Methodist Annual Conference coordinator of Hispanic/Latino ministries, will facilitate a Monday afternoon workshop on "Ministry in Multi-Cultural Settings." Lorie Higgins, community development specialist from the

University of Idaho Extension, will lead the Tuesday morning workshop on "Building on Rural Strengths to Create Thriving Communities."

Organizers are Kathy Lee Kramer, pastor of the Elmore United Methodist Church, and Cindy Wuts, pastor of the Harrington and Rocklyn:Zion United Methodist churches.

For information, call 284-6107 or email cindy@wutsfamily.com.

Institute for Hate Studies honors leaders

The Institute for Hate Studies will present the Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awards to the Rev. Happy Watkins and the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations during its annual banquet at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The speaker is Ven. Geshe Thupten Phelgye, the University's visiting scholar and global peace activist, and founder of the Universal Compassion Movement.

The program includes a performance of "Eva's Song," a poetic remembrance of Eva, a Holocaust survivor and educator, read by

author Michael Gurian, accompanied by Vicki Strauss on cello.

Awardees have helped people in the region to be committed to human rights and justice for all. Both Happy and the Task Force have been making a difference for decades in the region and beyond.

Happy, who is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, helps organize the Spokane Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and collaborated to establish Spokane's Martin Luther King Jr. Way, improve the region's correctional system, police departments, school districts and youth programs.

The Kootenai County Task

Force on Human Relations has combated hate and promoted human rights, safety, inclusion and peace since 1981. It opposed white supremacy in Northern Idaho, helped start the Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d'Alene and promotes educational resources, advocacy and events.

Banquet attendees donate to help endow the Eva Lassman Memorial Fund at Gonzaga University. Proceeds support activities of the Institute for Hate Studies.

For information, call 313-3665, email hatestudies@gonzaga.edu or visit <https://commerce.cashnet.com/GIHS>.

Transitions invites people who care to support

Over the past nine years, Transitions has helped more than 13,000 women and children rebuild their lives from homelessness, abuse, addiction, mental illness and poverty through more than \$1 million raised at its annual People Who Care Event breakfasts and luncheons.

The 10th annual benefits—breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and lunch

at noon—are on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park.

Guests attend at no cost and are offered an opportunity to invest in the future of Transitions' work. Visual and spoken testimonies tell the stories of how low-income and homeless women in Spokane have changed their lives because of the support received from the benefit.

For example, 8,000 women have received life-skills training through Transitions since 2003.

This is an opportunity for the community to learn about issues

facing these women and children and an opportunity to make a difference in their lives, said Mary Tracey, development director.

Since 1995, Transitions has been helping women, children and families through its five programs: Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare and New Leaf Bakery & Cafe.

For information, call 328-6702 ext.104, email mtracey@help4women.org or visit www.help4women.org.

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:

COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editorial Team

Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Eugenie Alexander, Diane Crow, Kaye Hult, Inga Jablonsky, Mary Mackay, Nancy Minard & Sara Weaver

Coordinators & Contract

Malcolm Haworth - Directory Editor
Lorna Kropp - Website Developer

Fig Tree Board

Nick Block, Barb Borgens, Kevin Dow, Bill Ellis, Mary Ann Farley, Deidre Jacobson, Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Nancy Minard, Roger Ross, Mary Stamp, Marilyn Stedman, Happy Watkins
Emeritus: Carl Milton

© 2012 (509) 535-1813 or 535-4112
Email: news@thefigtree.org

The Fig Tree is reader supported BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

- \$17, \$28, \$56, \$108, \$250
- \$52 for bulk order of 15

SEND TO

The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202



Fall Folk Festival

The Fall Folk Festival is sponsored by the Spokane Folklore Society a non-profit organization serving Spokane since 1977.

For information call (509) 747-2640 or visit www.spokanefolklore.org

Celebrating our area's cultural diversity

Nov. 10 to 11

Saturday - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday - 11 noon to 5 p.m.

The Lair - Spokane Community College
1810 N. Greene

Free Family Fun All Day!

Dance • Music • Workshops • Jam Sessions •
Craft Sales • Children's Activities
New England Contra Dance 8-10 pm
Music: 8 stages • 85 performances
Folk, Bluegrass, Old-time Celtic, Hawaiian, Blues, Scottish,
Middle Eastern, Japanese, Native American, African

Simple Way founder speaks at Whitworth

Shane Claiborne, whose ministry experience varies from working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta to serving a wealthy mega-congregation in Chicago, will give a lecture at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 17, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University.

He is a founding partner of The Simple Way, a group that creates and connects radical faith communities around the world. He is featured in the DVD series, "Another World Is Possible," and he is the author of *The Irresistible Revolution, Jesus for President, and Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*. **For information, call 777-4937 or email kfector@whitworth.edu.**

Episcopal Diocese Convention focus is 'On the Way'

The 48th annual Episcopal Diocesan Convention of clergy, delegates and visitors will be held Oct. 19 to 21 at St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The convention business, fellowship, worship, addresses and workshops will focus on the theme, "On the Way."

The featured speaker, Dwight Zcheile, is an Episcopal priest and assistant professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. From his studies of the decline of mainline Christianity in the West, he is exploring where that can lead the churches. He is the author of two books on renewing Episcopal identity—*People of the Way* and *Cultivating Sent Communities*. **For information, call 624-3191 or visit www.spokanediocese.org.**

Local mentor recognized at state conference

At their annual statewide conference in August, Washington State Mentors recognized Markel Snegirev of Spokane as the Outstanding Mentor for 2012.

Staff of Mentoring After-school Program for Success (MAPS) nominated Markel for his work as mentor to fifth-grader Morris, who had been reluctant to join MAPS' weekly group activities until Markel befriended him.

They became "lunch buddies" and began participating in the weekly activities of the program, which is administered by Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

MAPS serves students at two schools, Holmes Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary. Goodwill's program staff said Markel's patient encouragement drew his mentee out into activities, overcoming his earlier shyness and reluctance. A teacher reported that after a couple of months Morris was speaking up in class for the first time. **For information, call 444-4383.**

Congregation seminar addresses issues of aging

"Bridging the Gap, Keeping the conversation going between adult children and aging parents" is the title of a half-day free seminar from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Northwood Presbyterian Church, 6721 N. Monroe,

The program will include sessions from area professionals on senior nutrition, fall prevention, living safely in your home, Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms and final arrangements. **For information, call 328-2012.**

25 groups collaborate for Smart Justice

A coalition of 25 Spokane area organizations has launched Smart Justice Spokane, a campaign to promote reforms in how law enforcement agencies and courts handle non-violent offenders.

The goal is to bring Spokane County's criminal justice system into the 21st century with reforms proven to reduce crime rates while easing the pressure on crowded jails, said Anne Martin, director of Greater Spokane Progress and a spokesperson for the group. By focusing on a person's needs, they believe more treatment and fewer jail sentences will add public safety value for taxpayers by keeping people in jobs and with their families.

The Smart Justice campaign seeks to end dependence on jail for non-violent, low level offenders, said the Rev. Todd Eklof, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane.

"We agree that those convicted of serious and violent crimes need to be in jail. The question is: what's the best way to respond to non-violent offenders?" he asked. "We think the research is clear that problems of many non-violent offenders could have been avoided with earlier intervention and proper treatment."

Organizations and leaders that have signed on to support the Smart Justice Campaign include pastors, mental health advocates and retired judges.

The campaign was launched in September at a presentation by Douglas Marlowe, a national expert on the advantages of treatment over incarceration, held at the Bing Crosby Theater. The lawyer, clinical psychologist, and instructor at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medi-

cine told how reforms, including re-entry courts and alternative sentencing, can improve public safety, strengthen communities and save tax dollars.

Rick Eichstaedt with the Center for Justice said there are some local examples of how alternatives to jail can work, but "we're not investing in them to anywhere near their level of potential."

At their September meeting, steering committee members agreed to review some alternatives: 1) a community corrections re-entry center; 2) active community supervision; 3) law enforcement diversion policies; 4) electronic home monitoring; 5) community service opportunities; 6) community problem-solving courts; 7) daily reporting in; 8) early case resolution; 9) specialty courts, and 10) court-date notification by robo calls.

In his 21 years on the bench, retired Spokane District Court Judge Richard "Rick" White learned that there is value in rehabilitation from new therapeutic courts—DUI (Driving Under the Influence) courts, drug courts and mental health courts. There is value to accelerated processing in many criminal cases—the Same Justice Sooner principle.

From his experience, retired Spokane Superior Court Judge Jim Murphy, who pioneered the county's drug court in 1996, also emphasizes the effectiveness of alternative sentencing.

"Drug Court was our first attempt at creative alternatives to prosecution," he said, and the reliance on treatment rather than jail led to a cost savings for taxpayers.

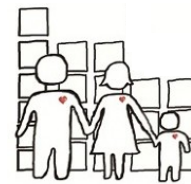
"We had a recidivism—repeat offending—rate of under 10 percent after five years," he continued. "We were the 11th drug court in the United States and now there are 2,500. Spokane County and City courts have since instituted DUI, mental health and veterans courts on the same philosophy. Smart Justice works."

Consequences of incarceration are visible to community leaders like the Rev. Happy Watkins, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

"In our system, jail has affected, but not rehabilitated people," he said. "I've known people who have gone through the correctional system but didn't come out better or rehabilitated. They came out even angrier. A Smart Justice system will change that."

For information, call 624-5657 or 251-1424 email anne@spokaneprogess.org.

Help Knock Homelessness Out of the Box!



October 12-13

Cardboard Box City of Spokane

at Highland Park UMC (611 S Garfield)

For information call Family Promise — (509) 747-5487

Bazaars

Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Auctions & Meals

A Completely Bazaar Day in Cheney Saturday, Nov. 3

Loads of craft and baked goods. Come for breakfast, stay for lunch. Raffle prizes, White Elephant gifts. **Visit all three churches!!!**
Cheney United Methodist Church
 4th & G St • 9 am - 3 pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 639 Elm St • 9 am - 3 pm
Cheney United Church of Christ
 423 N 6th St • 9 am - 2 pm

Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!

Cheney United Methodist Church
 crafts, baked goods and a gift shop designed for children
Saturday, Nov. 3 • 9 am-3 pm
 4th & G St. - Cheney WA

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon

Saturday, Nov 3 • 9 am -3 pm
 Crafts, Baked Goods, Holiday Decorating & White Elephant
Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran
 639 Elm Street
 Matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial

Cheney United Church of Christ Bazaar

Saturday, Nov 3
 9 am - 2 pm • 11 am - 1 pm lunch
 Crafts, Silent Auction, Raffle
 423 N. 6th - Cheney

FALL FESTIVAL BAZAAR

Saturday, Oct. 27
 9 am - 3 pm

lelse, bean soup mix, plants, baked goods, crafts, Grannie's Attic & more

Prince of Peace Lutheran
 8441 N. Indian Trail Rd.
 Spokane

Bazaar & Bake Sale

St. Mark's Lutheran
 316 E. 24th Ave.
 Grand Blvd. & 24th
9 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Nov. 3

Coffee bar, bake sale, quality seconds and crafts

SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR

Proceeds benefit local charities
SATURDAY, Nov. 10
 Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am
 Bazaar 10 am - 1 pm
Central Lutheran Church
 Corner of 5th & Bernard
CALL 624-9233 by Nov. 5 to pre-order Lefse (pre-orders required)
 scandinavian cookies
 meatballs & flatbread

The Fig Tree will run another event section in the Nov. issue
 Cost: \$14/col. inch

Fall Bazaar

Highland Park
United Methodist Church
 611 S. Garfield
 11 am - 2 pm

Saturday, Oct. 6

Handcrafts, baked goods, senbei, sushi, fresh produce
 Pulled Pork Bento with Fried Noodles, Rice & Tsukemono - \$12
 Please reserve or purchase ahead
CALL 535-2687 or 928-9459

St. John's Cathedral Home-Spun

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

at 12th & Grand

9:30 am - 3 pm
Saturday, Nov. 10

Lunch Available
 11:30 am to 1 pm

Raffles
 Food & Crafts

Please join the
United Nations Association - Spokane
 in celebrating the 67th

United Nations Day

Sunday, Oct. 21

Globe Room • Cataldo Hall • Gonzaga University
 6 to 9 p.m.

Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers: Dr. Ann Kelleher

Interim Director - Center for Global Engagement
 at Gonzaga University

'The UN: Peacemaker or Passive Observer?'

and

Gonzaga Model UN students

Chance Wilcox and Cecilia Vollert

sharing their experiences at the 2011 National Model UN Conference

Regular tickets - \$25 • Student tickets \$10

To reserve tickets by Oct. 16

Please mail a check payable to UNA-Spokane to
 Judy Gardner

700 W. 7th Ave. #702 • Spokane WA 99204

For information, contact:

Judy Gardner at 747-5252 or jkandjg2@comcast.net
 Stacy Taninchev at 313-3610 or taninchev@gonzaga.edu

Commitment to peace and environmental issues brings fulfillment

Continued from page 1
Vietnam War and influence of “the military-industrial complex driving conflicts.”

He left Portland in 1978 and looked for places to live on the land near Sandpoint and north of Colville. He worked on orchards in the Okanogan Valley, but quit because of the spraying. In the early 1980s, he was a chimney sweep and lived north of Chesaw, a one-street village with a store, café and art gallery in an area surrounded by farms and ranches. There is no post office or school.

The Gillespies’ home, built in 1902 as a bank in the frontier mining camp of Chesaw, was a post office from the 1920s to 1940s, and then the home of the post-mistress. They bought it in 1983.

They have fixed it up and paid it off with savings from 12 years he taught at Wenatchee Community College in Omak and seven years they both taught at the Colville Tribal College at Nespelem.

Jere, who was involved in 1960s student struggles on campus in Berkeley, left without finishing her degree, went to Oregon and came to the Okanogan.

“I dropped out, upset by the Vietnam War. I did not want to earn a living and pay taxes that would support the war,” said Jere, who first lived on a wheat farm, had her first children and entered the environmental movement.

Her concern about environment was sparked when her nurse-midwife’s second pregnancy miscarried because of a mole-like growth related to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam.

“Area leaders were talking of using that chemical to reduce milfoil in the Okanogan River,” Jere said. “I went to public meetings discussing using the herbicide. I wrote letters to the editor about what dioxin did to people in Vietnam.”

Newspapers did not do investigative reports on it, so with others, Jere started a newspaper in 1978, *The Okanogan Natural News*, which she published every two months.

After she met Rick, and they moved to Chesaw in 1983, she focused on child rearing, cooking and cleaning, while both continued publishing the newspaper.

From reading “Co-Evolution Quarterly,” they learned about bioregions, natural ecological and geographic areas defined by a watershed and interrelated plant and animal life.

“It’s important to be aware of where we live, so we understand the dynamics of the sources of our water, air, soil, winds, food and natural resources.”

Rick said that the people who lived there before European settlers came survived without transportation to grocery stores outside the region.

“We need to respect the life forces of the area,” he said.

For example, Jere said that in Chesaw they drink mountain well water from the source, a stream that runs through the village from Mt. Bonaparte and flows eventually into the Columbia River.”

In 1987, they renamed their publication *Columbiana* to reflect that they live in the Upper Columbia Interior Northwest bioregion.

Living on the edge of the National Forest, they covered forest issues. The Forest Service, interested in timber sales and developing a forest plan, connected in the 1980s with the back-to-the land people living in the hills near the forests. The new pioneers complained about the timber sales and clear cutting near their homes.

Jere and Rick began to expand the reach of the publication, hoping to make it pay by publishing 2,000 copies quarterly. They published 20 issues in print. Today, they publish it online, not in print, at Columbiana.org. Their access to the web is by satellite.

They also sponsored conferences, published pamphlets and helped start two organizations, Tonasket Forest Watch and the Okanogan Highlands Alliance, the latter dealing with mining.

When the Crown Jewel Mine wanted to open a gold mine on Buckhorn Mountain, which rises above them to the east, Jere raised concerns that mountain-top removal, open-pit mining would pollute the watershed with acid mine drainage and possible cyanide leakage. She reported on that type of mining as the Forest Service was writing an environmental impact statement.

“We discussed how open-pit, mountain-top removal mining would affect the lives of people here,” she said.

After a 10-year effort, the mine was denied a permit. Another company bought rights to the deposit and built an underground mine.

The 1872 Mining Act, written in the era of prospectors and pick axes, not multinational corporations, permits a company to mine

a deposit on federal land if they follow state laws and preserve the water quality.

In the late 1990s, Wenatchee Valley Community College in Omak invited Rick to teach. They moved to Omak in 1999. Jere studied social science through Washington State University’s online degree program, graduating in 2004.

In 2004, the college asked Rick, who taught biology, zoology and computer science, to teach through Northwest Indian College at the vocational rehabilitation building in Nespelem on the Colville Confederated Reservation. He taught for seven years.

For five years, Jere taught social science and environmental science there.

Because classes had just five to 10 students, she came to know the students, learning about their lives, families and tribal history, and deepening her desire to know more about the Native Americans in the region.

Rick found students open to learn about issues and structures affecting their lives.

“The Native Americans are natural environmentalists,” Jere said, concerned about the loss of their land, forests, salmon and way of life.

“We felt their grief,” she said. “Through education, we sought to open doors of hope. By learning environmental sciences, they could find jobs with their tribe to manage the resources,” she said.

While they lived in Omak, Jere, who grew up Catholic, and Rick, who grew up Presbyterian and became Catholic, were involved with St. Mary’s parish on

the reservation and helped with Cursillo retreats.

“I always had a sense of serving my community based on my faith,” said Rick, who became disenchanted as he realized that Scriptures were not followed.

The Gillespies resonated with the Native American traditions respected by the parish, especially the emphasis on gratitude for being provided with sustenance.

Throughout the years, Rick promoted peace. He is involved in Veterans for Peace, veterans issues and issues related to Iraq, Israel and Palestine.

In the 1980s, they helped organize the first Mothers’ Day Walk for Peace, with peacemakers from Okanogan County, Stevens County, Seattle and Wenatchee meeting Canadian peacemakers at the Peace Park on the Osoyoos-Oroville border for speakers and a ceremony. At the first walk, the Canadians built a mock cruise missile and wanted it returned to Boeing because cruise missiles built there were being flight-tested over Canadian land.

Several years ago, the parents of Rachael Corrie, Dick and Cindy, came to talk about her death when

she stood in front of a bulldozer to block it from tearing down a Palestinian home.

In 2013, they will help plan the 30th annual Mothers’ Day Walk.

Last year, Rick helped organize a Peace Festival the Saturday before Mothers’ Day, to hear from a family who lost two sons in the Middle East. About 70 came to a dinner, music and dance at the Community Cultural Center in Tonasket, started by the “alternative community.”

Last year, the speaker for the Sept. 21 International Day of Peace Celebration was Capt. Paul Chappell of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara, Calif.

This year, they showed the film, “Five Broken Cameras,” about a father who bought a video camera to take pictures of his baby son—and of the weekly demonstrations at the wall around Palestinian land.

Jere’s and Rick’s latest effort is working with people to challenge the relicensing of Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River in North Central Washington.

For information, call 509-485-3844 visit Columbiana.org.

Organized by a coalition of religious and secular groups in Spokane

Congressional Advocacy Forum

with

Diane Randall

executive secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a 70-year-old peace lobby in Washington, D.C.

Saturday, Oct. 27

7:30 a.m. - registration & breakfast • 8:30 a.m. - program
Salem Lutheran Church - 1428 W. Broadway - Spokane

Learn about organizations at work in the community • Connect with others to gain tools and information to engage strategically as part of a community addressing national issues that have impact locally.

For information, call 435-8053

Suggested donation \$15

The Franciscan Place * 1016 N Superior St.

Aging is NOT for Sissies
Oct. 13, 2012
10:00am - 3:00pm
Facilitator: **Barbara Burkart**
Women 55 and older are invited to join in conversation and creative expression. This will be a day of sharing and learning together. Bring your personal journal if you have one. Materials will be supplied.
\$39 / Register by Oct. 11th

Thomas Merton's Bridges to Contemplative Living Series
Ongoing Series
Tuesdays 6-7:30 p.m.
Facilitator: **Patricia Novak, OSF**
Journey toward personal spiritual transformation and a more contemplative and peace-filled life.

Series VI - Writing Yourself Into the Book of Life - Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9, 16
Series VII - Adjusting your Life's Vision
Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, 20

Everyone is welcome
RSVP TODAY \$35 per series

RSVP-(509) 483-6495 * www.SJFOnline.org

**A story to be told.
Wisdom to be learned.
Everyone is someone.**

They are our mothers. Our fathers. Ourselves. People who have come to see life for the remarkable journey it has been and that is still to come. People who - better than anyone - can help us all find meaning and purpose.

As the nation’s largest not-for-profit provider of senior care and services, we believe everyone deserves to feel loved and valued and to be treated with dignity. No matter who that person may be.

(509) 924-6161
17121 E 8th Ave
Spokane Valley WA 99016
www.good-sam.com

Good Samaritan SocietySM
SPOKANE VALLEY

All faiths or beliefs are welcome. 2007-G1376

Passion to help people translates into housing for adults with mental illness

By Kaye Hult

Early next year, Trinity Group Homes, Inc., plans to open eight new living spaces to house adults with mental illness in Post Falls. It is breaking ground for the project on Oct. 5. The agency now houses 17 individuals in various residences in Coeur d'Alene.

Bob Runkle, executive director of Trinity, is the driving force behind the expansion.

At Georgia Tech, his bachelor's degree was in building construction. He came to Trinity Group Homes in 2008, after more than 37 years in professional management, with more than 20 years in facility construction and design.

Bob perceives his previous and current work as ministry. After he is ordained as a perpetual deacon on Oct. 21 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John in Spokane, he will formally consider the work with Trinity Group Homes as his main function as a deacon. Another aspect will be his continual efforts to network within Kootenai County for people in need.

"I have always had a passion for helping people," he said. "While income has been important, I also have worked in order to be able to help. I find it hard to separate my ministry from my job."

Trinity board members welcomed Bob's managerial and grant-writing experience. He has helped the homes be full most of the time and have a waiting list.

Trinity Homes, founded in 1979 for men and women with major mental illnesses, offer residents a safe and affordable place to stay. Without it, their options would be undesirable, said Bob. In most places, drugs and alcohol are readily available. Trinity prohibits drug or alcohol use.

"Our mission is to provide caring, community-supported housing programs that guide and teach life skills to residents. They live in duplex buildings, which are state-certified group homes. Our staff works with residents to build and develop life skills. We network with case management service providers to ensure medication compliance and 24-hour crisis intervention, as well as psycho-social rehabilitation services," Bob said.

The Kootenai County Mental Health Court sends Trinity some of its residents, mentally ill individuals with felony convictions.

"We strive to help residents graduate from our semi-independent group living programs to community living. About 64 percent of those in our program "graduate," moving on to independent or group living situations. Some graduate and stay at Trinity," he said. "This helps the



Bob Runkle and Alisha Keifert collaborate in providing housing and programs.

community, as well as individuals.

Trinity costs taxpayers nothing, but it provides Kootenai County a financial gift in hundreds of dollars a day it saves in costs per person if the people were housed in a prison or a hospital, he said.

Assisting Bob is Alisha Keifert is Trinity's life skills coordinator. She supports the residents in areas where outside agencies leave off.

"Many residents come from families in which the parents did everything," she said. "I make sure they do their assigned chores. I'm strict and have evicted some who have not done their part.

"I accidentally fell into this," Alisha said. "After I went to college for education, I realized my heart was not there. I changed to psychology. Then I heard about psycho-social rehabilitation.

"This has to be a passion for anyone who does it. It's too hard otherwise," she continued. "I take this home with me every day. I'm continually thinking, is this a skill this person will need when they're on their own?"

On average, a resident remains at Trinity Group Homes for nine to 10 months. It is not necessary to "graduate." Three have lived there for 10 years. Six others have lived there for two years.

Those living at Trinity have their own rooms in a living setting that includes both men and women. They must remain clean and sober, Bob said.

Residents learn to live within their means. They have to pay their \$450 per month rent. With

what remains of their income from Social Security disability payments and other sources, they have to buy their food and pay monthly co-pays for treatment.

Alisha spends much of her time in and out of the houses, observing how the residents are doing. If she sees problems, she contacts their case managers, seeking to nip any problem in the bud. She also helps residents become self-aware. They learn to recognize their own symptoms and reach out for help when necessary.

For example, one resident wanted to enter a nursing program but had difficulty with alcohol. If she was caught drinking, she would return to jail and lose her probation. Alisha helped her recognize that it is possible for her to take control of her own life, to choose with whom to associate and in which activities to participate.

The residents meet once a week for community meals. This helps them improve their cooking and communication skills. It teaches them to plan and do things with others.

Trinity sets up occasional outings, such as a yearly Christmas party put on by board members. They purchase gifts. Women from St. Luke's Episcopal Church and other church and community groups also provide gifts. Residents can ask for what they would like to receive. They improve their ability to socialize as they eat a formal meal with board and church members.

At a Christmas party a few

income possible," he said.

Continually having a waiting list, Bob felt the need to expand Trinity's capacity.

Trinity Homes, which now has its office at 2115 E. Sherman Ave., Suite 105, expects to complete construction in Post Falls in 90 days, increasing its capacity by more than 40 percent. The doors will open early in 2013.

"The best thing that has happened to me was this job. I had to learn about mental illness," Bob said. "It is challenging and difficult, yet so rewarding when there are successes."

Bob felt called to ministry many years ago, but ignored it.

After he came to Coeur d'Alene, Fr. Pat Bell of St. Luke's Episcopal asked him, "When are you going to become a deacon?" A woman in the church also asked him.

Bob spent 11 months in discernment. He entered training in 2009. During a postulant phase, he engaged in field work. In 2010, he became a candidate and did the two years of study.

As a deacon, Bob can assist the priest, such as by reading the Gospel during the Sunday worship service, or performing baptisms and marriages.

One meaning of the word, "deacon," is servant, so deacons commonly work with marginalized people inside and outside the church. Deacons are often called to do specialized ministries, such as Bob's at Trinity Homes.

For information, call 208-667-9607 or visit trinitygrouphomes.net.

Big Blue...
Bigger,
Better,
Blue-er...
So you can recycle more!

let's talk trash

TalkTrashSpokane.com
Recycling Hot Line 625-6800

Spokane Regional
Solid Waste System

Action Recycling
911 E. Marietta
TOP PRICES
HONEST WEIGHT
aluminum
brass
copper
stainless
newspapers
483-4094

You're already studying one of the texts.
Master of Arts in Theology

Whitworth's M.A. in Theology equips you with the tools you need to serve in whatever way you choose. Use it as a stepping stone to seminary, as preparation for ministry within your church or organization, or as practical training in biblical study. Our schedule fits your schedule, with evening and weekend classes.

learn more
Visit whitworth.edu/theologyma or call 509.777.3222

WHITWORTH
AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART

Occupy Spokane event reminds community that disparity remains

Speakers raised familiar themes of the Occupy movement during an Occupy Spokane rally and march on Saturday, Sept. 15, marking the first anniversary of the Occupy movement.

Justin Ellenbecker, coordinator, is part of a coalition pulling together this event and others with Occupy Spokane, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Veterans for Peace, Spokane Moves to Amend the Constitution, Progressive Democrats, Unite Women, Equality Spokane and others.

After three speakers spoke by the fountain at Riverfront Park, nearly 100 people marched to three banks and the office of Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers, with speakers at each location.

Wayne Spitzer of Occupy Spokane said, "You can't kill an idea. The Occupy movement has shown that another world is possible, even inevitable. We need to continue to march together to show what community looks like and to show what America looks like."

Bart Haggin, a political and environmental activist, expressed frustration that when wealth is power, "the game is rigged."

He called for people to go to the streets to break through lies, fraud and stealing by those in the government, banks, corporations and Wall Street who "have lost their humanity."

"Banks got bailed out. We got sold out!" he repeated one of the Occupy Movement's chants.

Bart considers the billions be-



Jerry Mueller of Shalom Mennonite/United Church of Christ carries a sign on the power of love and love of power.

ing spent on political campaigns to be bribery and considers it "un-American" for multi-national corporations to pay no taxes.

"With one percent of the population owning 40 percent of the wealth, there is no free market," Bart asserted. "The workers are the job creators and the profit makers, but the more they produce the less they earn. The social contract has been thrown out. Change starts in the streets."

Liz Moore, executive director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, appreciated the energy and focus. While many speakers tell what they are against, she challenged partici-

pants to articulate what they are fighting for, such as freedom, clean air, love and equality.

"We need to name and put our roots in what we want to work for. We need to identify shared goals and build a sense of unity with people here and in other countries," she said.

Liz was particularly mindful of the impact of wars in the past 11 years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We have spent more than \$20 million an hour for wars for more than a decade," she said, citing figures of the National Priorities Project. "The share in the fifth legislative district in Eastern Washington would be enough to



Occupy speakers and marchers shared a variety of messages.

buy a year of groceries for one million people. Meanwhile, some argue that there is not enough money for food stamps, education or the environment."

In addition, she spoke about the human cost of the wars with more than 2,000 U.S. troops killed, more suicides than deaths in the field—the highest rate in military history—and half a million disability claims at the Veterans Administration.

Liz said that millions of people outside the United States have been displaced, made homeless or become refugees.

Justin said that it has been hard to organize Occupy because any time the intentionally non-hierarchical movement organizes something—the kitchen downtown, the encampment at Franklin Park, a coffee house and a club house—it becomes hierarchical.

"Our goal is to be a coalition of different groups, operating like a rain cloud with millions of individual droplets—like the

millions of people involved," he said. "The 'droplets rain down' in a program for tax reform. Then they evaporate back into the cloud and next may join with groups working on education reform or fighting for access to health care."

Justin said that way of operating is helpful in Spokane where there is not enough population to build leverage other than joining with other groups.

For information, call 879-9422 or email justinellenbecker@gmail.com.

Second Harvest draws volunteer labor and support to build new food distribution center in Pasco

A modern barn raising construction process made it possible for Second Harvest to build its new food distribution center at 5825 Burlington Loop in Pasco, said Julie Miller, regional director of Second Harvest in Pasco.

Since breaking ground in April, unions, contractors and suppliers "donated significant labor and materials toward this project to help Second Harvest feed more hungry people," she said.

The new facility will help Second Harvest to keep pace with increased demand for emergency food supplies in Southeastern and South Central Washington, where one in seven people is hungry or at-risk of hunger, according to recent research by Feeding America. One out of four children in the Columbia Basin is food insecure.

The 14,000-square-foot center means that Second Harvest can secure more fresh produce and perishable food donations for its

network of 55 food banks and meal centers in the area.

Since opening a 5,000-square-foot, leased food distribution center in Kennewick in 1997, Second Harvest has increased food distribution and services in the Columbia Basin, Julie said.

The new center nearly triples the size of the previous facility, plus, it includes 4,000 square feet of commercial cold storage.

Its 2,200-square-foot volunteer center provides a safe, climate-controlled space in the warehouse for volunteers to sort and pack donated food.

The new center means Second Harvest can increase food distribution in the Columbia Basin to more than 9 million pounds annu-

ally by 2018, up 64 percent from the 5.5 million pounds provided last year and 173 percent more than three years ago, Julie said.

In-kind donations represented more than half of the \$2.9 million building project. Cash contributions so far represent over \$500,000, with about \$600,000 left to raise.

"The communities we serve have made an incredible investment in the new distribution center so we can provide free food to feed hungry children, families and seniors in the region," said Jason Luke Clark, president and CEO of Second Harvest.

For information, call 509-434-8655, email jmiller@2-harvest.org.

WINDSONG SCHOOL
Seeding the Future
 Inspired by Waldorf Education's commitment to childhood. We are providing an education for the whole child, one that grows within children the capacity to effectively shape the future.

Parent and Toddler Morning - Preschool
 Kindergarten - First Grade - After Care

Waldorf Teacher Training
 4225 W. Fremont Rd, Spokane, WA 99224
 Mukogawa Ft. Wright Campus (509) 326-6638
www.spokanewindsongschool.org

Five Reasons to Choose The Academy



(509) 484-4099
 1216 N. Superior St.
 Spokane WA 99202

- Roomy, affordable apartments
- Anytime dining
- Full kitchens
- Personalized assisted living services
- Active living program

CALL NOW FOR A PERSONAL TOUR

THE ACADEMY
 A Merrill Gardens Community
 One of a kind retirement community
www.merrillgardens.com

RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING

PaperPlus

125 S. Arthur
 Spokane, WA 99202
 (509) 535-0229
 (800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**

Find your "Point of Inspiration" at

N-SID-SEN

Camp & Conference Center

Year-round facility—270 acres & 4,800 feet of waterfront on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

- Open for non-profit groups from 16 to 160
- Two retreat lodges with all facilities
- Fourteen cabins with baths down the trail
- Lake-side chapel
- Open-air pavilion for worship, dance or programs
- Sheltered cove for swimming and boat moorage
- Excellent food service, served family style
- Canoes and sailboats available
- Hiking trails
- Volleyball, basketball and horseshoes

Call 1-800-448-3489 to reserve your date for retreats, seminars, workshops or fellowship! Come and catch the spirit!

Upcoming Retreats

Register online at www.Spirit-Center.org

at Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude Cottonwood, Idaho

October 16-18 Word of Light: The Art of Illuminated Manuscripts
 Come learn more about this ancient art form and the process of creating illuminated letters. With Artist Mary Lorish Jahn & the Spirituality Ministry Team

October 19-21 Intro to Centering Prayer
 Experience a contemplative prayer form that has the potential to transform your spiritual life. With Darlyne Pape.

November 2-4 Exploring the Mystery of Dreams
 Learn where dreams originate, how to remember them, and how to discover and discern their meaning for your life. With Dr. James A. Soliday, D. Min.

November 13-15 Losses of Our Lives
 Explore the sacred in loss and grief. With Nancy Copeland-Payton.

208-962-2000
retreats@stgertrudes.org

"A tradition of welcoming people of ALL beliefs."

Executive presbyter seeks ways to energize and empower congregations

Now installed as executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest (PIN), the Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle expects to lead the presbytery through “pioneering times” as members rediscover their role as a district governing body during the restructuring of the presbytery.

Her role is “to energize and empower local congregations to live their faith,” she said.

The presbytery is one of 173 presbyteries that work within the 16 U.S. synods, regional governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church USA. They connect the work of 10,466 congregations.

Sheryl said the denomination is shifting from a top-down polity—church structure—model to one of being more responsive to resources and resource needs of congregations.

Because many Presbyterian congregations are small, pastors need “to be plumbers to preachers,” she said.

Administration, care of churches, education and training will be her priorities, along with being a pastor to pastors.

Sheryl has served since 2010 as the transitional executive presbyter. Because the presbytery will continue to be in transition and she has been developing their three-year strategic plan, leaders decided to call her to the full role.

During Sheryl’s installation service, Corey Schlosser-Hall, North Puget Sound presbytery executive, said she brings “organizational smarts” and human touch to the role.

Of her role, Sheryl believes, “God gives us a wonderful journey, and we are not on this journey alone.”

Growing up in Fort Wayne, Ind., she studied psychology and religion at Miami of Ohio, graduating in 1985. At Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, she married Scott Pyle in 1987 and graduated in 1988.

Their first call was to First Presbyterian Church in Spokane, where Scott was minister to junior high and college students, and she was senior high minister and started small group and singles ministries, including a divorce recovery group.

From 1991 to 1996, she reared their sons Ian and Philip, while Scott served a church in Ada, Ohio. Next they shared a call doing a new church plant for 11 years in Limerick, Pa., outside Philadelphia.

In 2006, Sheryl had no call when they returned to Spokane for Scott to start the Latah Valley Church. She said she “waited on the Lord, not knowing what God had for me.”



The Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle is installed as executive presbyter.

She became associate interim at Hamblen Park Presbyterian for a year, and then began serving part time at the Latah Valley New Church Development before becoming transitional executive presbyter in 2010.

The transitional work continues, she said, because the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the overall landscape for churches in America are changing.

In 2010, she began guiding the development of a three-year plan for a new way to be a presbytery with a focus on the presbytery supporting and encouraging congregations in their ministries.

“The national offices will shrink and will connect more intentionally with congregations,” she said, noting that is more in line with the dynamics of Presbyterian churches in the West.

“It’s in line with where the church in much of the United States is going as denominational lines are more blurred and identity with a denomination is less strong,” Sheryl said. “People go to a church because they like it, not because it’s Presbyterian and they grew up Presbyterian.”

“More people shuffle around,” she said, “but still desire to be in relationship with others in Presbyterian circles. They see a need for connection, encouragement, fellowship and accountability.”

Dealing with structures, it’s

easy for the church’s vision and mission to become lost in fiduciary responsibilities and strategic decisions, she said, differentiating governance and leadership.

“When we think of a board, we think it is to deal with numbers, personnel and property, but it’s about accountability,” Sheryl said. “Often boards zero in on fiduciary responsibility, talk about strategy once a year and leave the vision up to the leader.”

“A leadership team needs to look at all three,” she said of the evolving presbytery structure.

A strategy team of six meets four times a year to deal with ministry partnerships and ministry grants. A vision team of six looks at the big picture and considers in what direction the presbytery should move to live out its new mission statement:

“God’s mission in the world calls the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest to unleash, empower and equip local congregations as living witnesses to the Spirit’s work in Jesus Christ.”

Until last year, the quarterly presbytery meetings used a one-day business meeting format with information sharing and formal reports before the whole group.

Now they meet an hour on business, worship and then have “open space” for discussion on topics that foster associating with others in shared ministry interests.

“Not structuring every moment of meetings is creative and energizing,” Sheryl said. “People are drawn to other people based on their gifts and interests, strengthening partnerships of congregations. In sharing ideas, pastors and elders can find partnerships.”

“That reflects the shift in purpose of the presbytery from congregations supporting the presbytery’s mission to the presbytery offering grants to support the ministries of congregations, to create space for conversations to happen at presbytery meetings so there is space for the Spirit to be at work,” Sheryl said.

She recalls a pastor in Philadelphia saying that what happens in conversations in the church parking lot is important for a church. It’s where there’s planning for the mission trip or men’s retreat. So the presbytery is now making space for those conversations to happen within the presbytery meetings four times a year.

There are 47 churches in the presbytery. One congregation recently left and another is considering its relationship with the presbytery because in July 2011 the presbyteries confirmed the General Assembly’s decision to adopt amendment 10A to the Book of Order to change ordination standards to allow a presbytery to ordain a homosexual pastor or a congregation to ordain a homosexual elder.

“We don’t have a denominational mandate,” she said, “because a pastor’s call comes from a congregation with presbytery approval. Each church searching for a new pastor goes through a process of redefining its identity.”

In that process, some churches have become “More Light” congregations, which seek the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the life, ministry and witness of the church.

While some congregations in this presbytery are declining in numbers, 18 churches have increased membership, Sheryl reported.

“We tend to zero in on the

decline, but many churches are growing,” she said.

Sheryl sees some movement from churches being served by full-time ordained ministers to part time ordained or lay (Commissioned Ruling Elders) leaders, especially in rural settings. CRE leaders study pastoral ministry at Whitworth University, rather than going to seminary.

Overall, she finds churches are reconnecting with other churches in their neighborhoods and communities. In two rural towns, Fairfield and Potlatch, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Presbyterian churches work in partnership, sharing a pastor and moving toward more unity. A third community is considering such an ecumenical partnership.

While most of Sheryl’s time is spent in administration, she also calls on pastors in crisis and walks with them through difficulties, also connecting them with colleagues for support.

Sheryl sees signs of hope in that people have a sense that being witnesses to Christ comes out in different ways—not just in the church. For example, the ministry of Big Table, started by the Rev. Kevin Finch, connects with people in the restaurant business.

“Rather than inviting people to come to us, we are going out into the community,” she said.

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church, as another example, connects with the community through its community garden and farmers’ market.

“Churches need to be present in the community so the community would miss them if they were not there,” Sheryl said. “Our missional call is to be in the community, to shift from the passive evangelism of ‘come worship with us, be a part of us, be like us’ to going out and serving the community.”

“I hope I will be able to listen intently to the Spirit’s leading during this uncertain time and walk with the presbytery to the next chapter,” she said.

For information, call 924-4148 or email Sheryl@presbyinw.org.

The Ministry Institute

Center for Spiritual Renewal at Gonzaga University

Second Saturday “Skills for Service” seminars
will focus on **“Puzzling Out God’s Plan.”**

Puzzling Out God’s Plan

Wholeness: A lifetime contains the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle... but no one has within themselves all the pieces of their puzzle. Everyone carries within them at least one and probably many pieces of someone else’s puzzle... When you present to someone your piece of their puzzle, whether YOU know it or not, whether THEY know it or not, you are a Messenger from the Most High. Excerpt - Anonymous

October 13 **Piecing our Lives Together –**
Dr. Bob Bartlett, EWU – Living with Tension
Sue Rolando – Autumn Art - Leaves into Beauty

November 10 **Always Held in God’s Hand –**
Dr. Kent Hoffman – Circle of Security

December 8 **Advent Retreat –**
Shonna Bartlett – Waiting in Hope

Seminars begin at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation, usually by a Gonzaga professor, followed by a prayer experience, sharing, and suggestions for incorporating prayer into daily lives. Seminars end with lunch. The cost is \$35 per seminar (includes lunch). Limited scholarships available.

For more information,
contact Shonna Bartlett - Program Director
(509) 313-5765 or e-mail bartletts@gonzaga.edu
www.gonzaga.edu/ministryinstitute
405 E. Sinto
Educational discernment community for service & leadership.

Just Trade

fairly traded
crafts from
around
the world

inside

Brused Books

235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898

Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Gonzaga University Institute for Hate Studies

Take Action Against Hate 4th Annual Awards Banquet

2012 Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awardees
 The Rev. Happy Watkins - New Hope Baptist - Individual
 Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations - Organization

Keynote: Ven. Geshe Thupten Phelgye
Gonzaga’s visiting scholar / Universal Compassion Movement founder

Performance: ‘Eva’s Song’
by Michael Gurian and Vicki Strauss

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Globe Room - Cataldo Hall - Gonzaga University
 Doors Open: 5:45 p.m. Dinner Served: 6:30 p.m.
 Program: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

For information and reservations:

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/GIHS>

\$50 per person • \$400 per table of 8 • \$500 Sponsor

One-night Cardboard Box Cities raise awareness about homelessness

By Kaye Hult

Cardboard Box Cities will materialize at 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, and be up overnight until 8 a.m. Saturday in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene.

Family Promise across the United States uses this approach to raise awareness and funds to serve homeless people.

It's the fourth year for Family Promise in Coeur d'Alene to sponsor the event.

In Spokane, it's the first year, and Family Promise, formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network, is partnering with other homeless outreach programs, Mission Community Outreach Center and Shalom Ministries.

Coeur d'Alene participants will set up cardboard boxes they have decorated as their shelters at Lake City Community Church, 6000 N. Ramsey Rd. The event has its own "city planner," a civil engineer who will help lay out the city. Corporate sponsors will have their own street signs.

At 7 p.m., after a 6 p.m. dinner, Reborn Kingdom, winner of Battle of the Bands for Christ, will perform, a Family Promise graduate will offer a testimony, and there will be cardboard box house judging, interviews and awards.

Spokane participants will set up their shelters at Highland Park United Methodist Church, 611 S. Garfield St. After a soup-line dinner at 6 p.m., there will be live music, testimonies and recognition until 9 p.m.

Bob Peeler, homeless family development coach for Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, will speak about homelessness. Leslie Camden Goold, the Central Valley School District homeless liaison, will talk about how homelessness affects young people. A teenager, Emma, whose family once went through the Family Promise program, will share her experience.

In both cities, lights out is at 10 p.m. and breakfast will be served in the morning before participants leave at 8 a.m.

Cardboard Box Cities raise the awareness of youth, families and others who participate about how challenging it is to live when one has no home.

Participants bring bedding, pajamas, flashlights and whatever they need for the night. Neither disruptive electronic equipment nor alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Often, in the four years groups in Coeur d'Alene have spent the night at Cardboard Box City, there has been rain or snow.

"It is not that easy to find a cardboard box or other shelter when it is cold," said Cindy



Junior Castenada, son of a Family Promise AmeriCorps assistant, painted a cardboard box in 2011 Coeur d'Alene Cardboard City.

Photo by Melissa Owens

Wood, director of Family Promise of North Idaho. "What happens when someone is homeless and the weather is inclement? Sometimes an individual gets sick and realizes there is no extra bedding or clothes to swap for the soiled ones. What happens if children are afraid, or if someone scary takes up residence nearby? When one is homeless, these scenarios occur, and resources are few for dealing with them. In reality, both of these sites are set up to be safe and secure."

Madelyn Bafus, director of Family Promise of Spokane, said children are the important part of the equation. Family Promise serves the children and whoever lives with them—parents, grandparents, siblings, single fathers or single mothers. Family homelessness is the fastest growing segment in the homeless population, she said. One out of every four homeless people is a child.

Family Promise seeks to break the cycle of homelessness with the child. That way, the next generation will have a better life. Madelyn said, "If it's not good for the child, it's not good for us."

Cindy said that "one reason we want congregations that work with us regularly to be part of this experience is that once they are there, they realize all the choices they have in comparison to a homeless person. They realize the life-saving work they are doing."

"Family Promise helps keep families together, so they don't have to make tough decisions about how to keep all their members safe," she said. "Families try so hard to make it, yet often are not able to do so. Many live in fear of losing their children. Family Promise says to them, 'Don't put your family in danger. Work through us and be safe.'"

Family Promise of Spokane is partnering with Mission Community Outreach Center and Shalom Ministries to demonstrate the teaching in Matthew 25:35-36,

when Jesus said, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me."

Family Promise houses homeless families in churches for a week at a time. Each week in Spokane, one of the 12 host churches and several of the 21 support churches provide shelter, food and overnight support.

Mission Community Outreach Center provides low-income and homeless people with clothing, hygiene items and necessities for infants.

Shalom Ministries feeds homeless people downtown at Central United Methodist Church.

The three ministries often collaborate.

Mark Kinney, executive director of Mission Community Outreach Center, said, "It's a smart partnership. These days, resources are scarce, so why duplicate?"

Mission Community Outreach provides clients with two sets of clothing, shoes and a jacket, every 60 days. It offers household items, blankets, linens and towels.

It serves victims of domestic violence, people burned out of their homes, refugees and others.

For infants and children under four, the program provides diapers, wipes, formula and infant hygiene items every 30 days. In 2011, Mission Community Outreach gave out 34,000 diapers. In 2012, they have already provided 15 percent more.

Recently, the center gave out 541 pairs of new shoes, donated by people in area churches, to children in grades K-12.

Before Christmas, it offers a Christmas shopping event so parents can pick out an outfit and book for each child.

Shalom Ministries reaches out through its Dining with Dignity program, serving breakfast four

days a week and dinner twice a week. Clients are served at tables. It serves 2,000 to 3,000 meals a month.

The program also provides health screenings through the Washington State University nursing program, relationship building, information and referrals, a clothing bank, hygiene items, free community voice mail and free monthly bus passes in partnership with Spokane Neighborhood Action Program.

Madelyn brought these agencies together.

"We're all faith-based, the faith community doing hands-on mission," she said. "We have a connection within churches. We are taking the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ, as the saying goes, 'walking our talk.'"

To participate in the Coeur

d'Alene event, attendees recruit at least five sponsors who donate a minimum of \$5. If they have ten sponsors or raise \$100, they will receive a T-shirt. Others may purchase the shirt.

To participate in the Spokane event, attendees must raise at least \$100 in donations for "rent."

For information in Coeur d'Alene, call 208-661-2776 or visit www.facebook.com/cardboardboxcity.

For information in Spokane, call 747-5487 or visit www.ihspokane.org/Fundraisers.html.



**A call to action
to protect & nurture
our children**


*Visit us
year round at
ourkidsspokane.org*

Maya Earth Coffee

Your congregation or nonprofit can raise funds
by co-marketing fair-trade, organic coffee
through Coffee with a Cause

509-768-3193 • Toll free: 877-892-3193
coffee@mayearthcoffee.com • www.mayearthcoffee.com





THE BOOK PARLOR

**West Central's
Book and Gift store**
328-6527


**Read.
Reflect.
Act.**

1425 W. Broadway
info@TheBookParlor.com
www.TheBookParlor.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5:30pm Saturday 10am-2pm

JUDAISM...MORE THAN JUST A BAGEL

A TASTE OF JUDAISM... ARE YOU CURIOUS?™



A series of 3 **FREE** classes at
Congregation Emanu-El in Spokane, WA,
October 25, November 1 and 8.


All are welcome, Jewish or not

barber@spokaneemanu-el.org
509.835.5050

UNION for REFORM JUDAISM

To register go to: **www.curiousaboutjudaism.org/wa2**

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE



The first place for a pre-need meeting

PREPARE
your family for the most important decision in life

ENSURE
peace of mind

PROVIDE
the proper resources for the committal service following the Funeral Mass

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE

Holy Cross 7200 N Wall St	Queen of Peace 6910 S Ben Burr Rd	St. Joseph 17825 E Trent Ave
-------------------------------------	---	--

509-467-5496 **www.cathcem.org**



Transitions

We're throwing a party!

People Who Care Event
10th Anniversary
October 23, 2012

- Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.
- Lunch at noon

Red Lion Inn at the Park
RSVP: 328-6702
PWC@help4women.org
Join our work to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane.

Free to Spokane County businesses!
Let us show you how to reduce your trash disposal bill while becoming a better recycler

Pacific Materials Exchange, in partnership with Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, is offering free assessment services to Spokane County businesses that are interested in reducing their disposal bills and increasing their recycling efforts.

The services are provided completely without charge and all collected data is confidential. Several levels of assessment are available, ranging from a packet of information to an in-depth on-site consultation and survey.

For more information or to schedule a consultation:
Call 625-6536 or email jhaynes@spokanecity.org




Interfaith Peacebuilders exposes people to struggles, efforts for peace

When Myrta Ladich toured the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem last May, she saw a photo of family of her closest friend during college and her early years of marriage. The photo brought tears to her eyes.

Myrta has long been attuned to the suffering of Jews in the Holocaust.

Her friend came to Seattle at the age of 18, having fled communist rule in Hungary by walking to Vienna. She had survived the Holocaust as a child at the age of six. Most of her family were killed in Auschwitz.

Before joining the May 18 to 31 delegation of 30, visiting through Interfaith Peacebuilders, Myrta knew her Jewish friend, who now lives in California, is appalled at what Israel's government does to Palestinians.

Interfaith Peacebuilders began as a program of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, which was founded in 1914 at the start of World War I by two German and British pastors who shook hands and pledged to work to prevent such conflicts in the future. Interfaith Peacebuilders has led 43 delegations since it began in 2001.

Growing up in Forks, Wash., Myrta attended the United Church of Christ. After high school, she married Mike in 1957. They moved to Seattle, where she studied education at the University of Washington.

Her studies were interrupted by the birth of twin daughters. She graduated in 1966. Mike taught middle school social studies, and she taught English during their 45 years living in Seattle. After retiring, they moved to Spokane nine years ago to be near one daughter.

In Seattle, she and Mike, who grew up Serbian Orthodox, were active members of the West Seattle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for more than 40 years. Now they attend the Unitarian Universalist Church in Spokane.

Active in peace and justice work in Seattle, Myrta is involved in the Peace and Justice Action League in Spokane. She has long worked for peace and justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

"I've been frustrated at our ignorance about what is happening and by the lack of news," she said. "As Americans, we do not have the information we need."

For example, one evening at an event in her West Seattle fellowship, she had heard a Jewish woman tell of staying one night with a Palestinian family, waiting for the bulldozers to come, wondering if the men would be taken and if their water supply would be cut off.

On the trip, Myrta also heard people tell of their devastation in losing their homes as troops came in the middle of the night with a demolition order. She was upset to learn that the person whose home is demolished needs to pay for the demolition and clean-up.



Painting of Hungarian folk dancing by a Seattle artist, Auschwitz survivor and her friend's cousin reminds Myrta Ladich of her friend.

She was distressed to learn that the demolitions continue today.

"One little girl told of taking her doll house to school every day, because her friend had lost her doll house when her home was demolished while she was at school," she said.

In 2003, Myrta had attended a memorial service in Seattle for Rachel Corrie, 23, who was run over by a bulldozer when she stood between it and a Palestinian home in Gaza. Rachel's parents continue to work to end the occupation and policies that caused their daughter's death. In early September, a judge ruled that the bulldozer driver had not been able to see her, Myrta said.

To keep informed, she has heard speakers, seen films and helped the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane raise funds for water purification units at a UN refugee school in Khan Younis in Gaza.

"I always wanted to go to Israel/Palestine to see first hand what was happening," she said of her decision to go.

"Interfaith Peacebuilders delegates come from different perspectives and faiths to learn about and understand the conflict's causes and solutions," said Myrta.

The program offered 25 two-hour sessions in 12 days with speakers from different organizations, including two kibbutzim. They heard from Muslims, Jews and Christians.

Several sessions presented the Kairos Palestine Document, developed by Christians—Or-

thodox, Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic and Protestant—in 2009 to tell the world about what they were experiencing. It is based on the model of the Kairos Document that black South African theologians produced in 1985, describing the political crisis and calling for solidarity through boycott, divestment and sanctions. The Palestinian document is a plea to Christians and the international community to help, to stand with those experiencing oppression at the hands of the Israeli government, Myrta said.

Checkpoints, separate roads, different licenses, different ID cards, and the wall are signs of the oppression she saw.

The document calls for people to be educated and aware, to visit and see, to reflect theologically and engage in studies. It also calls for denominations and ecumenical bodies to act to engage in economic boycotts, divestment and sanctions to challenge the persecution and oppression of Palestinians.

In addition, it calls for political advocacy for a "just and sustainable peace in Israel and Palestine," holding the U.S. government accountable for continuing the conflict and suffering of Palestinians and Israelis.

Many denominations have study guides available for congregations.

In June, the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s General Assembly turned down divestment by two votes—333 to 331. In May, the United Methodist Church's

quadrennial convention voted against two proposals to divest from companies providing equipment Israel uses in the occupied territories, but approved a resolution calling for positive investment to encourage economic development in Palestine and a resolution denouncing the Israeli occupation and settlements.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church favors investing in development projects over divestment. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America rejected divestment in 2007 and 2011.

The divestment effort targets Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions.

Kairos USA appeals to black and white, mainstream and evangelical, conservative and liberal American Christians

Myrta heard a young Israeli Jewish woman tell of her work against "the illegal settlements on the West Bank." Another talked about water issues. Another pointed out that settlements are illegal under international law, because an occupier is not to move in and settle its people, and is responsible to treat occupied people with respect and humanity.

"Many faiths are responding to the Kairos Document because of their shared belief that people are to love one another as human beings," Myrta said.

"Unitarian Universalists believe in everyone's inherent worth and dignity," she said. "Everyone deserves love, compassion and justice if we are to have peace."

She also met Jewish people in

peace groups and movements in Israel, so sharing their concerns she feels she can talk about what the Israeli government is doing without being anti-Jewish.

"I have to say something," said Myrta, who has given several presentations with Marianne Torres, another Spokane delegate.

"What happens there is at the heart of many international conflicts. The United States' unqualified support for Israel—\$3 billion a year—is why some in the Middle East dislike us," she said.

Participating in the delegation was not Myrta's first time abroad. She and her husband went on teachers' study tours to Japan, the Soviet Union, Hungary in the 1980s, and personal travel to Denmark, Great Britain, France, the Mediterranean, Greece, Italy and Yugoslavia.

Her husband's cousins still live in the states of the former Yugoslavia.

She has also been involved with the Unitarian Universalist Church's partnership with a church in Felsorakos in Transylvania, close to Hungary.

"Everyone needs equal rights and opportunities for education, jobs, food and a home," she said.

"It's important to realize that the occupiers themselves are never safe and never have security," she said. "I understand the fear. I don't have all the answers, but I know the occupation needs to end, and people need fairness, equality and compassion."

For information, call 443-0231 or email mladich@comcast.net.

Beginning Experience Weekend

Help with the heartache of finding yourself alone through separation, divorce or death.



Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 16, 17 & 18

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
6910 S. Ben Burr Rd.

Cost is \$200 • \$25 non-refundable deposit.

Contact Marlene:

(509) 534-1797 or (509) 230-2091

or contact us at www.beginningexperienceofspokane.us.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

with Spokane Bahá'is

Wednesday, Oct. 3

'Lydia Zamenhof, Esperanto and the Quest for a Global Language'

Wednesday, Nov. 7

'Education Under Fire: How Could a Country Make Getting an Education a Crime?'

Wednesday, Dec. 5

'The Poetry of Qurratu'l-'Ayn (Táhirih): Spirituality and Gender in 19th Century Iran'

5 p.m. First Wednesdays

at

Chairs Coffee

113 W. Indiana St.

www.spokanebahais.org


Rural Ministry Resources Retreat

Monday to Tuesday - 1-1 pm
October 15-16

Sunnyside United Methodist Church
906 E. Edison - Sunnyside, WA
Multicultural Ministries
Building on Rural Strengths
Cost \$75 - tuition, lodging, meals
Contact Kathy Kramer 509-284-6107
or kramerrm@frontier.com

SAVE DEMOCRACY?

° What happens when media conglomerates become more powerful than many countries?
 ° What happened to real discussions about issues with political candidates?
 ° What does Twitter contribute to Democracy?




PRESENTS

A Documentary and Discussion

RICH MEDIA, POOR DEMOCRACY

Thurs., October 18 at 7pm
 Gonzaga University Campus
 College Hall; Room 101
 FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

509-313-3578
nwaresponsiblemedia.org

Co-Sponsor:

 GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
 COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES

Faith Action Network urges congregations to learn about 'wage theft'

Concerned about poverty, homelessness, hunger, unemployment and health care, the Faith Action Network of Washington has set a priority to work for an end to "wage theft" in the state.

So often the onus is on those living on low incomes—discredited in some political circles as "dependent." Some conversations in faith communities seek to turn the discussion around, suggesting that some depend on corporate welfare through tax subsidies, tax loopholes, government contracts with built-in high executive pay and profits, and campaign-donation payback.

What is wage theft? When an employer pays less than minimum wage, doesn't pay for overtime work, confiscates tips, forces employees to work off the wage clock, misclassifies employees as contractors, makes illegal deductions, denies meal breaks or

withholds a final paycheck.

For generations, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 has guaranteed rights to workers, but some companies violate the standards set. The gender pay gap between men and women continues despite the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Paul Benz, FAN's director of legislative affairs, said that "too often employers prey on workers who live below the federal poverty line or who are living one paycheck from foreclosure or homelessness."

Such vulnerable employees may accept low wages, even though they legally deserve more. They are quiet, fearing that if they report the problem, the employer will retaliate, and they will lose their job.

Underpaid workers often have to rely on government assistance for food and other necessities. So who's dependent? In fact,

if employers recognize the interdependence of the economic sectors and the need for a healthy middle class, would they find it in their self-interest to pay just wages?

Ethical companies face a disadvantage as they compete in the market with companies that engage in these practices.

As conservative-progressive arguments surface during political campaigns, conservative voices say labor regulations strangle economic growth and job creation, while progressives say the protections are needed especially in difficult economic times.

While some companies illegally underpay employees, many overpay executives—redistributing the wealth workers create to their bosses.

To prevent wage theft, it's important for employees and contractors to have clear understandings of the basis for their pay—

with rates of pay per hour, shift, day, week, month, piece or commission. Bonuses, incentives and benefits must also be clear. Unions developed to protect workers' incomes, benefits and wellbeing.

The Faith Action Network's Advocacy Summit at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at First United Methodist Church in Ellensburg will be an opportunity to learn about wage theft along with surfacing other issues of concern to be considered as priorities for common education and action through FAN's programs.

Social concerns committees in congregations might research and gather resources for education and might be in solidarity with those needing to raise their voices and report infractions.

Mary Stamp
Editor

Assistance convent sisters received during fire is reminder of goodness

Every once in a while, the idealist in me is tempted to doubt the wisdom of believing that the men and women in our world can and will join together for the common good. The contents of the evening news are not encouraging. Partisan politics, civil wars, criminal behaviors all demonstrate a lack of ability or will to envision a world where being a community of peace and justice is more important than my own personal agenda.

Then something, perhaps a microcosm of a world community, occurs and hope is strengthened. That recently happened to us at the Convent of the Holy Names.

After lunch Monday, Aug. 13, one man who works at the Convent of the Holy Names, 2911 Ft. Wright Dr., smelled smoke. He and the maintenance director went into the woods, but saw nothing. By 2:30 p.m., the convent parking lot was filled with fire engines and accompanying units. An unknown angel saw smoke from across the river and called in the fire.

Things moved quickly. Our job was to follow directions. As the fire continued around our property toward Government Way, it was feared that if the fire couldn't be contained, our way off the property would be blocked, so we were asked to evacuate.

The sisters gathered in the dining room. When told a city bus would take them somewhere, most scurried to their rooms for what they thought necessary for the evening. The commander still thought we would be back by bedtime. Ambulances began transporting the 17 sisters from the care center. There were two sisters and a caregiver in each vehicle.

The five Providence Sisters and two caregivers at Mount St. Joseph's graciously welcomed 18 Sisters of the Holy Names and their caregivers. We always knew we were sisters to and with the Providence Sisters, and Monday evening that was much in evidence. Our kitchen staff sent food for our sisters, and they joined the Providence sisters for supper. It would take pages to

acknowledge all the help in transporting the sisters and equipment.

Meanwhile—there are many "mean-whiles" to the story—Holy Names Sisters Celine Steinberger and Laura Michels welcomed the 19 ambulatory sisters at Mission House for the evening.

The commander was still uncertain if we would be coming home that night. When it was final that we would not return Monday night, I, as the convent's leader, began working on the bed situation. Several friends had called offering assistance and two sisters with friends at the Red Lion and Gonzaga began calling.

We secured 10 rooms as a gift from the Red Lion on Division. Four sisters stayed at Mission House. Even though the sisters were unprepared for an overnight stay, we agreed a room at the Red Lion was like camping at a high level. By morning, everyone could return to the convent.

For the return, the supervisor at AMR - America Medical Response called in extra

help, and everyone was home for lunch.

Our hearts are full of gratitude for all the people who filled this event with so many heart-pieces. We are safe, well cared for and energized by having shared an incredible experience of being held in the hollow of God's hands, and in each other's.

We have never felt so safe or so proud of our Spokane community. Fireman, policemen, ambulance teams, the Spokane Transit, volunteers from Geiger, the Providence Sisters at Mount St. Joseph, the managers at the Red Lion, and our own wonderful Partners in Ministry all worked together for our common good.

A month after "the fire" we had a barbeque at the Convent of the Holy Names for the firefighters, and 55 of them came.

It has been such a joy to celebrate the life we now know that we share. We realize our lives are connected with the life of our Spokane community.

Mary Ann Farley, SNJM
Fig Tree Board Moderator

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

People have been tearing down walls for a long while now. The house I live in doesn't have a wall that separates our kitchen from the family room. I hope that helps prevent emotional and social walls from being developed between myself and other members of my household of seven.

I believe God isn't big into walls. The Old Testament is filled with conversation of destroying walls. When David decides God would like some walls to dwell within, God says, "Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt" (2 Sam.7). When Jesus is crucified, the temple curtain is torn in two, giving us the impression that God will not be contained in a temple or church of walls.

We have taken down some walls at our church, eliminating the library to create a more inviting narthex—a fancy word for church lobby. We hope the larger lobby will help us tear down walls between church insiders and those who see themselves to be on the outside—visitors or members who find it difficult to belong.

What walls do we build up over the years: a wall so we won't be hurt again? a wall to keep us from dealing with a situation that haunts us? a wall that keeps us from engaging our church and our God?

We all put up walls around ourselves for self-protection. What walls does God want to take down so new life may come? God says to us, "Child of God, tear down that wall." When the walls are torn down, we are that much more receptive to where God is leading.

The Rev. Eric Dull
St. Mark's Lutheran newsletter

As the demands of the fall pile up on you—political choices, economic stresses, wisdom about health care and unemployment—might we dare pray to be filled with "the fullness of God" available to us in the love of Christ? Can we believe that this is real power grounding us in love that is tall and wide, and as deep as anything in life?

In truth everything else is a false God, that is, any power or fear or offering that is not part of this fullness of God is thin and fleeting and insubstantial. It is not true. Christ dwells in us as we trust Christ's Spirited love. Christ is the "fullness" of life that people search for, looking in so many blind alleys.

Bishop Martin Wells - Eastern Washington Idaho Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In the midst of cultural issues and political conversations going around us, one piece has roots in our Christian faith. After killing his brother, Cain asks God, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Central to the Judeo-Christian faith experience is that those who participate in a common community and covenant of faith will have concern for one another. Jesus put it clearly when he summarized the Torah by citing two commandments: "Love God with your entire being and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Loving our neighbor not only applies to our church family. This principle is central to a city, a county, a state and a nation being healthy and strong. We are bound together as community by the fact we live in a geographical boundary. We may or may not like all the laws and codes that are

developed by the city, county or state, but the purpose is so that we can live together in a respectful, safe manner. If we all live by our own laws or standards, we have chaos. Community means being willing to sacrifice for the sake of the whole.

I sense more of Cain's attitude in our society, "I'm not my brother's keeper. Don't ask me to care for those people who live over there. I'm out to take care of myself and no one else."

The strength of our community is related to how we care for one another. Community includes not only holding people accountable but also helping one another. When we build up those in need, we build up ourselves. We are all bound together. Loving our neighbor as we love ourselves takes on hard reality sometimes. It means being engaged. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

The Rev. David Helseth - Englewood Christian newsletter - Yakima

It is not possible to escape the fact that we are into the political season. Every major road and street is festooned with signs reminding us to vote for this person or that person. A half hour on television or radio and we are assaulted by political advertisements. Pick up a newspaper and it is almost impossible for our eyes to avoid a pitch for one candidate or another. Fliers arrive by mail. Unsolicited phone calls offer the reasons we should vote for this candidate rather than the opponent. Then we also deal with initiatives, referendums and other issues.

It is overwhelming and mind boggling. One is tempted to find a care in which to

hide until it is all over. Ideally, however, we need to vote with an informed mind and solid base of principals upon which to make our decisions. Is that possible?

Our small group at church produces a weekly prayer list to guide us in praying for known needs and offering praises of the "good things that happen."

One paragraph currently on our list is: "With the onset of the Presidential campaign, we pray for civility, honest discussion and an end to wild and inaccurate charges, and a willingness to do what is best for the nation, rather than for the political power of any party...."

I would be the last person to try to suggest how one should vote. I spent my life in the information and news field. I know that knowledge and prayer can be powerful tools.

I also know that, as Americans, we hold a wide range of views on issues. Some of our views are carefully reached through study and based on our standards of ethics. Some are based on fear of change. Some are really nothing more than knee-jerk reactions to some issue or event. Too often our decisions are based on misinformation.

Thus, I heartily endorse the idea of prayer as we lead up to another Presidential election. We need to pray for wisdom. We need to pray for the candidates. We desperately need to pray for those who lead at all levels of government. With the faithful praying fervently for wisdom and for those whom we will elect, who knows what miracles may be wrought.

Wey Simpson Lay Leader
Spokane Valley United Methodist
Connections Newsletter

Our Place needs blankets, warm items

As temperatures drop, Our Place Ministries, a center that provides emergency services in West Central Spokane, need blankets, sleeping bags, coats, hats, gloves and socks for those who cannot afford such items, said Ann Pizelo, SNJM, director.

Most of its clients are elderly, disabled and children who would otherwise go without food, clothing, heat or basic necessities.

It offers a food bank, clothing bank, bedding items, classes, bus passes, hygiene products and utility assistance through financial

and material donations.

The ministry is currently doing a blanket drive.

Our Place, at 1509 W. College Ave., has been serving the community since 1987.

For information, call 326-7267 or visit ourplacespokane.org

United Nations Day celebration is Oct. 21

Spokane's celebration of United Nations Day will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University with dinner and a program.

Ann Kelleher, interim director of Gonzaga's Center for Global Engagement, will speak on "The UN: Peacemaker or Passive Observer?"

Gonzaga Model UN students Chance Wilcox and Cecilia Volpert will share experiences at the National Model UN Conference.

For information, call 747-5252 or email taninchev2@gonzaga.edu.

Franciscan Place offers conversation on aging

Spiritual director Barbara Burkart will lead a program on "Aging is NOT for Sissies" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior.

Barbara, who has been a presenter at previous programs at St. Joseph Family Center, brings experience in healing arts through expressive arts, spiritual practices and body movements.

For information, call 483-6495 or visit www.SJFCOnline.org.

Fig Tree sets 2013 events

The Fig Tree has set dates for events it sponsors in the spring of 2013.

The Eastern Washington Legislative Conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2, at St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The Fig Tree Benefit gatherings are set with the Benefit Breakfast on Wednesday, March 13, and the Benefit Lunch on Friday, March 15, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, March 31, at Greenwood Memorial Terrace.

For information, call 535-1813 or find fliers online at www.thefigtree.org.



Historical lodge with lake front, meeting space and sleeping space for over 100 people. Great for reunions, retreats, parties & meetings. Only \$25 per person per night.

509-255-6122

or email: zephyrlodge@live.com
www.zephyrlodge.org

Calendar of Events

- Oct 5** • "Blasphemy: New and Selected Stories," Sherman Alexie, North Central High School, 1600 N. Howard, 7 p.m., 838-0206, auntiesbooks.com
- "What's Your Issue?" Spokane Community College play, the Lair, 8:15 p.m., 879-8070
- Oct 6** • **Holistic Festival**, Center Place, Mirabeau Point Park, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 486-9001
- Oct 7** • **World Communion Sunday**
- Oct 11** • "Patriot for Peace: Connecting the Dots from Iraq to Afghanistan to Gaza," Col. Ann Wright, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 Ft Wright Dr., 7 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 12** • **Linking Families for Life Benefit Dinner**, Childbirth & Parenting Alone, Catholic Charities, Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln, 5:30 p.m., 358-4264
- Oct 13** • "Aging Is Not for Sissies," Barbara Burkart, The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 483-6495
- **North County Food Pantry** open house and dedication of new space, 40015 N Collins Rd., Elk, 1 to 3 p.m., 292-2530
- Oct 14** • **Poor Man's Meal**, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 358-4264
- **Advocacy Summit of Eastern Washington Congregations**, Faith Action Network, First United Methodist Church, 210 N. Ruby St., Ellensburg, 4:30 to 7 p.m., 206-625-9790, rennebohm@fanwa.org
- Oct 15** • "The YouTube Effect: How Anger and Agitprop Share America's Relationship with Islam," Breakfast with Lawrence Pintak, World Affairs Council, The Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside, wacspokane.com
- **NAACP**, East Central Community Center, 500 E. Stone, 7 p.m.
- Oct 15-16** • **Rural Ministry Retreat**, Sunnyside United Methodist Church, 906 E. Edison Ave., Monday 1 p.m. to Tuesday 1 p.m., 509-284-6107
- Oct 16** • **Take Action Against Hate Annual Banquet**, "Transformations," Ven. Geshe Thupten Phelgue speaker, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 5:45 p.m., 313-3665, againsthate@gonzaga.edu
- Oct 16-18** • "Word of Light: Art of Illuminated Manuscripts," Mary Lorish Jahn, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID, 208-962-2000
- Oct 18** • "Rich Media, Poor Democracy," Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media film and discussion, College Hall 101, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 313-6656
- Oct 19-21** • **Intro to Centering Prayer**, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000
- Oct 20** • **Northwest Coalition for Human Rights**, 1912 Center, 412 E. 3rd St., Moscow, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 208-885-4285, amy@uidaho.edu
- Oct 21** • **United Nations Day**, "The UN: Peacemaker or Passive Observer," Ann Kelleher, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University 6 p.m., 313-3610, jkandjg2@comcast.net
- Oct 22** • "Meeting with a Killer," Death Penalty Film Series, Gonzaga Law School, Barbieri Courtroom, 7 p.m., 838-7870
- Oct 23** • "People Who Care Helping Women Who Dare," benefit events for Transitions, breakfast at 7:30 a.m., lunch at noon, Red Lion at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr., 328-6702, help4women.org
- Oct 24** • "Myths Surrounding Human Trafficking," Mabel Elsom, anti-human trafficking coordinator at Lutheran Community Services, Eastern Washington University Monroe Hall 207, Cheney, noon, 359-2898
- Oct 25** • **YWCA Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon**, Naomi Tutu, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 326-1190
- Oct 27** • "Congressional Advocacy Forum," Diane Randall of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 7:30 a.m., 435-8053
- **Amy Goodman** of Democracy Now! KYRS benefit, Spokane Falls Community College Music Building, 7 p.m., 747-3012
- Oct 30, Nov 6** • **Thomas Merton's Bridges to Contemplative Living**, "Adjusting Your Life's Vision," The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior St., 483-6495
- Nov 2-4** • **Exploring the Mystery of Dreams**, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, 208-962-2000
- Oct 31** • **Fig Tree Distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 314 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Nov 1** • **Fig Tree Board**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., Benefit, noon; Board 1 p.m.
- 1st/3rd Weds** • **Death Penalty Abolition Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- 2nd/4th Tues** • **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee**, 35 W. Main, 6 p.m.
- 2nd Wed** • **Veterans for Peace**, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m.
- 3rd Thurs** • **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221

Hope & Healing Counseling Services

Marian Beaumier LICSW

483-0428

EMDR / Medicare Part B

Daybreak Youth Services

Chemical dependency treatment

for youth to 18 years old.

Outpatient and residential treatment

Daybreak relies on financial support from churches, individuals and agencies.

444-7033 • 960 E. Third Ave. • Spokane, WA 99202

Patriot for Peace: Connecting the Dots from Iraq to Afghanistan to Gaza

Col. Ann Wright

7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11

Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane

4340 Ft. Wright Dr. - no charge

Sponsored by the UU Church & the Peace and Justice

Action League of Spokane

838-7870 • pjals@pjals.org



Unique Gifts and Clothing

Fair Trade - Earth Friendly - Local - 35 W. Main

Veradale United Church of Christ

72nd Annual

Harvest Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 27

5 to 7 p.m.



The mouth-watering meal features turkey and the trimmings, ham, Swedish meatballs and squash

We invite donations!

611 N. Progress Ave. • Spokane Valley • 926-7173
one block west of Sullivan and south of Broadway

Tune in: KPBX 91.1FM
Log on: kpbx.org

Tune in: KSFC 91.9FM
Log on: ksfc.org

One World. Two Connections.

Listening Suggestion:

THIS AMERICAN LIFE with Ira Glass
Mostly true stories, about everyday people.

Mondays on KPBX 91.1 at 9pm &
Saturdays on KSFC 91.9fm at 9pm

This American Life is a one hour program with essays and stories revolving around a common theme. Visit the website at: www.thislife.org.



Bye, Bye



hello



hello carefree living

Say hello to doing what you like best. Rockwood Retirement Communities offer houses and apartments and a full range of care options. No matter what your need, living at Rockwood allows you to enjoy living carefree.

Visit us at www.rockwoodretirement.org
or call us at (509)536-6650 to learn more about our campuses.

Rockwood Retirement Communities



Couple establish ministry to heal young adults who age-out of orphanages

After seven years in Africa, Anita Held is working with her husband, Heiko, to develop Embrace the Grace Ministries to heal young-adults who “age-out” of orphanages in Zambia.

She has been coming to Spokane since 2009 for some training with Elijah House School of Prayer Ministry in Spokane Valley, learning about the basics of praying with people who have experienced trauma.

During a four-month visit from mid June to mid-October, Anita and Heiko have studied with Healing Rooms Ministries, which was founded and has its international headquarters in Spokane. They have also presented displays of her photographs of African children, scenes and life to raise money for their project.

Through photographs, Anita said she has sought to “capture the heart of God inside the eyes of every child” and to feel God’s “heartbeat in a glimpse of creation” through African landscapes.

Since 2006, she traveled in Botswana, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia, assisting orphans and destitute people.

As she saw the poverty, hunger, sickness, devastation and hopelessness of the people, she also grew to love the beauty of Africa’s land, water, plants, wildlife and people.

In addition to raising funds, Anita uses photographic exhibits to raise awareness about the life of African people.

On this visit to the United States, which includes time in Wisconsin, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida and Spokane, she and Heiko hope to raise enough money in photograph sales to purchase land for Embrace the Grace Ministries to build a counseling center with healing rooms in Livingstone, Zambia.

John G. Lakes, a businessman who became a faith healer, started the Healing Rooms Ministries in 1915 in Spokane. The ministry seeks to provide spiritual and physical healing through anointing and praying for people who are sick. It offers training in Spokane for people who want to start healing rooms. It has outreach in 62 countries. The Helds have been trained to be healing room directors.

Anita, who grew up in Milwaukee, Wisc., and lived in various locations in the United States, said she was saved when she was 28 at Christ Church of Orlando. She had an incurable bladder and kidney disease. “I had a vision and saw Jesus, and he healed my body,” she said. “I began attend-



Heiko and Anita Held travel around the United States with photographic exhibit on Africa.

ing church regularly and became a radical believer.”

Anita had another vision. She wanted to go to Africa and share the same hope Christ gave her with other sick people.

She began studying for ministry. After a year and a half studying in seminary at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla., she went on a summer mission trip in 2006 to Ghana, and then took off with a backpack, crossing Africa alone for two-and-a-half months.

She knew nothing about photography, but had been given a camera before leaving and took photos. When she returned, she was astounded with the quality of her photos.

Churches in Florida invited her to do a photo exhibit to raise money so she could return to Africa. In 2007, she was ordained at Christ Church of Orlando.

Anita worked for several years with orphanages in Mozambique and Zambia.

By taking courses online, she graduated from seminary in the mission field in May 2010.

She first met her husband, Heiko, who grew up in Berlin, when he was teaching Bible in the bush. Seeking freedom, he left Berlin 17 years ago and rode his motorcycle through Africa for two years. After surviving a plane crash without a scratch, he went to a church in Pretoria, South Africa,

and discovered freedom in Christ, a freedom, he said, that “comes day by day.”

When they first met, he was looking for photographs to use in a fund-raising calendar. Two years later, they met again. Three weeks later they were engaged and three months later, they were married on the edge of Victoria Falls.

Anita’s exhibit, “Window into Africa,” consists of photos printed on museum-grade canvas. Each photo comes in small, medium and large sizes. They seek to raise \$100,000 for their project. They set up their portable exhibit at churches and luxury apartments.

Embrace the Grace Ministries, which she and Heiko started in 2011, involves three efforts: 1) a prayer ministry and healing rooms for young adult orphans who have aged out of orphanages; 2) discipleship training through Bible study to help them understand their identity in Christ, and 3) life-skills training appropriate to the culture and to help them find work—be it in tourism in the area or in serving in ministry.

“By identity in Christ, I mean that God sees value in them and has a plan for them that can transform their understanding of themselves,” Heiko said. “Then we want to empower them with life skills.

“When orphans hit 18 to 19,

they have to leave the orphanages,” Anita said. “Many wind up on the streets and become messed up with drug abuse, prostitution, alcoholism, AIDS and crime, stealing to survive,” she said. “They are traumatized by years of physical or sexual abuse, the loss of parents to AIDS.”

Anita believes the Healing Rooms Ministries approach and prayer ministry can help them deal with that trauma.

“We will help them look at their spirit, soul and body so they are healed and whole to live their purpose,” Heiko said. “We both experienced trauma in our lives, and God led us each to be healed and empowered to heal others—

emotionally and then physically.”

He said that they share that vision with Healing Rooms Ministries.

Embrace the Grace Ministries will also offer basic survival and life skills, as well as job skills.

“We will recruit youth from orphanages the year before they age out,” she said.

The goal is that the young adults will become self-sufficient, learning life skills, the work ethic and money management, so they can find housing and have families.

Anita plans to continue to return to Spokane to recruit mission volunteers to help through Elijah House and Healing Rooms Ministries.

Embrace the Grace Ministries seeks to help Zambian people find their identity in Christ and embrace God’s purpose for their lives through coming to understand the Scriptures and through gaining empowerment by learning basic life skills.

For information, call 407-230-1154 or email etgministries@yahoo.com.



The Center for Organizational Reform

Want some personal sanctuary? We can help

509-879-9235
www.corhome.org

GANESH HIMAL TRADING'S

Festival of Fair Trade

A holiday sale of Fairly Traded goods featuring handcrafts from Nepal and many other wonderful places.



www.festivaloffairtrade.com

Thanksgiving Weekend

Friday, Sat, Sunday Nov. 23, 24, 25
10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

More Info. at (509) 464-7677 Please Tell your friends!
The Community Building 35 W. Main, Spokane
(Downtown between Browne & Division on Main)
-Next to Kizuri-



Saying goodbye is never easy.
We're here to hold your hand each step of the way.



At the end of life, it's often those left behind who need help the most.

Since 1977, Hospice of Spokane has been helping families when they need it most.



509-456-0438
Learn more at hospiceofspokane.org
Spokane's only nonprofit hospice

FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Annual Summit of Eastern Washington Congregations

Sunday, Oct. 14 - 4:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
210 N. Ruby St. - Ellensburg

RSVP
rennebohm@fanwa.org
206-625-9790