

36TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FEATURES 60+ EVENTS



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

Shoppers intersect with world

By Mary Stamp

Customers stepping into the Kizuri fair trade shop in the Community Building at 35 W. Main step out of downtown Spokane and into the world of fair trade products from Nigeria to Nepal, Pakistan to Peru, Guatemala to Ghana.

Colorful recycled sari throws hanging over a bar were once worn by women in India. A terracotta good luck pig from Pomaire, Chile, is on one shelf. A tablecloth from West Pakistan is on another. There are Phoenician glass candlesticks, a recycled metal Mama statue from Kenya with long arms for hanging jewelry and a handcarved Adinkra king's stool from Ghana. African drums and other musical instruments surround a post.

There are candles, trivets, soap, cards, books, CDs, jewelry, baskets, knickknacks, wall hangings, bowls, cups, clothing and nearly 2,000 items from more than 40 countries.

Tags on the items that tell stories about the lives of artisans and their traditional crafts often start conversations, eliciting customers' experiences in other countries.

Kizuri, which has been there for 11 years, now has a new owner. It changed hands on May 1.



Jillian Joseph is the new owner of Kizuri fair trade shop in Community Building.

Jillian Joseph has always been interested in the world, travel and cultures.

She attended high school with the son of Kim Harmson, the previous owner. They also knew each other because Kim's husband, Jeff, and Jillian's father, Sam, had traveled together to Rwanda on medical missions.

When Kim and Jillian were with them in 2013, they visited a man who made bronze bracelets and met artisans at women's co-ops. That day Kim thought to herself that Jillian might take over Kizuri someday, but she didn't mention it to Jillian for almost six years.

About a year ago, she mentioned the opportunity. Jillian was interested, but thought it might be in two to four years.

In 2005, after graduating from Lewis and Clark High School, Jillian deferred college and spent a gap year in Paris as a nanny for family friends and learning French.

While studying international relations and diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston, she chose a six-month study abroad program in 2009, learning about culture, language, international conflicts and conflict resolution in Senegal.

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Hutton Settlement helps to move children from surviving to thriving

Campus director David Miliken has been with Hutton Settlement 22 of its 100 years. Carol Wendle, who has been on its board for 39 of the 100 years, has served as an honorary member since 2014.

David grew up five miles from the settlement in Central Valley and served in the army three years after graduating from high school. Through the Army Distance Learning Center, he earned a degree in psychology and started at Hutton in June 1997.

"I was in a coffee shop. A neighborhood woman, learning

of my degree, suggested I go to Hutton Settlement. I showed up for a tour and was asked to fill out forms," he said.

He talked with the director, Mary Jo Lyonnais, for three hours. Three weeks later Hutton offered him a position he didn't know he had applied for. For six years, he was boys' case manager.

Based on studies of resiliency, he worked with Carol to start service and leadership, outdoor adventure and creative arts programs.

"We wanted to move children with challenging backgrounds

from surviving to thriving," he said.

After completing a master's in organizational leadership at Gonzaga University in 2003, David became director of education, supporting the children's studies in West Valley schools and their preparation for college and careers.

He began Hutton's resiliency program in 2007, when he became campus director.

To expand the depth of care, he implemented attachment-based parenting under the Circle of Security International, developed by Kent Hoffman, Glen Cooper and Bert Powell, who shared a clinical practice in Spokane in the 1980s. They began the Circle of Security in 1998, applying attachment theory to a Early Head Start home visiting program.

Hutton trained staff and adjusted policies and practices to focus less on compliance and more on connection.

"Most residential care programs focus on helping children get along, get to school and get chores

Continued on page 5

Fig Tree launches 'Branching Out' campaign Oct. 24

For the first time, The Fig Tree is able to offer donors a chance to double their gifts during its "Branching Out: Beyond 35 Years" campaign for 35 days, running from Oct. 24 to Nov. 27.

As The Fig Tree goes from its 35th year into the future, an anonymous donor has given \$17,000 as a matching gift to help The Fig Tree raise \$35,000 as a boost beyond regular giving of sponsors and benefit donors.

"Our goal is to build our capacity to 'branch out' into a thriving future," said Mary Stamp, editor.

"We seek to launch the next chapter for The Fig Tree, continuing our monthly newspaper, annual resource directory and educational events, but branching out to expand our staff, financial and online resources," she said.

The Fig Tree also seeks to expand its support by reaching a wider audience with its appeal through using online fundraising tools like Facebook, text giving and emails, along with fliers and personal contacts.

With increased demand for more stories, more directories and more community outreach, the campaign seeks to "enrich our roots for capacity building; grow new branches to reach more readers, advertisers, sponsors and partners, and bear more fruit by multiplying our telling of life-transforming stories of people who are making a difference in the lives of

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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

Millions join in Climate Strike around world

From New York City to Hamburg, from Oslo to Melbourne, from Nairobi to Mumbai, millions of young people peacefully protested climate change on Sept. 20, and the World Council of Churches (WCC) walked alongside them. During the "Season of Creation," the WCC fellowship has joined in prayerful observations and determined actions to address the climate change emergency.

On the streets of New York, some 60,000 young people called government officials, churches and adults to begin a transformation in their daily lives.

Refrains of "We are marching for planet earth" rang out to the tune of the South African freedom song "Siyahamba."

For representatives from the WCC, the Lutheran World Federation, ACT Alliance and other faith-based groups, the march was an affirmation of ongoing work toward climate justice. WCC programs support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

WCC program executive for economic and ecological justice Athena Peralta said: "It is beautiful to be part of a movement demanding immediate action to tackle runaway climate change."

Theologians look at global manifestations of racism

Twenty-five ecumenical theologians and leaders gathered for public lectures coordinated by WCC in Tokyo, Japan, on Sept. 17 to consider "Global Manifestations of Racism Today."

Lectures and responses reflected on racism as a major concern of the ecumenical movement. They focused on understanding global manifestations of racism today.

The Rev. Sang Chang, WCC president for Asia, said conference findings will be part of a comprehensive report on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. "It is an opportunity to reflect on the future for the pilgrimage," he said, adding that the findings will be presented at the WCC 11th Assembly in 2021 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Isabel Apawo Phiri, WCC deputy general secretary, urged participants to consider the WCC's history of responding to racism. "What can we learn from that experience?" she asked. "We should also read the signs of our times by asking ourselves, 'How is racism manifesting itself now?'"

She called for considering "how presidents of different countries are motivating people to be racist; how nationalism is being expressed; how religion is being used to promote racism, and how churches worldwide are responding to racism," said Isabel. "We know that substantial work has already been done in theological reflections to eradicate racism but we need to also encourage churches to respond. From there, we should consider what a new program should look like?"

Lutherans join in Thursdays in Black campaign

By adopting a resolution supporting the Thursdays in Black campaign in August, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly affirmed the church's commitment to fostering gender justice. The action is an official step that formally "calls upon people across all expressions of the church to participate in the #ThursdaysinBlack campaign by wearing black on Thursdays and participating in reflection and action."

With 3.4 million baptized members in 9,091 ELCA congregations, there will be more people donning black once a week to realize a world free from rape and violence, and more people engaged in addressing the issue in church and society.

The resolution extends the church's existing policies and social teaching against gender-based violence. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the first woman to serve in this leadership role, told why the color of one's clothing can serve as both a personal statement and a global example: "Each Thursday, when I wear black clothing and put on my button, I am reminded that I do so as part of a growing movement," she said. "The assembly action reinforces our church's commitment to ending rape and gender-based violence with Christians worldwide."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree seeks volunteers to help with campaign

Continued from page 1
others and the world." Integral to that is expanding the support base by reaching out in new ways.

"We are doing a Facebook fund raiser because 70 percent of people use Facebook," said Mary.

"We are asking our board and our supporters to help us 'boost' our message as we share online appeals several times a week. Our messages will tell how The Fig Tree media and mission make a difference," she said.

The campaign will run 35 days. Donations before then may be



made by mail or through The Fig Tree's donate page.

"Online, people can create Facebook fundraisers for the Fig Tree "Branching Out" campaign.

Congregations may request "mission moment" speakers to share The Fig Tree story. They may invite special offerings or budget support.

"We seek more volunteers to help us make this campaign a success, to reach new people and interest them in donating and becoming regular readers of The Fig Tree in print or online," said Mary.

"We need volunteers to 1) boost Facebook donation posts, 2) share articles they like, 3) create promotional messages, 4) email friends, and 5) ask their congregations to promote the campaign," she added.

For information, call 535-1813, email info@thefigtree.org or visit thefigtree.org/donate.html.

Fall Folk Festival will be Nov. 9 and 10

The 24th Annual Spokane Folklore Society Fall Folk Festival will feature eight stages with performances of traditional and ethnic dance, music, workshops, special entertainment, crafts for children, plus jamming on Saturday and Sunday, Nov 9 and 10.

In previous years, about 5,000 people have attended the annual folk festival at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810

N. Greene.

It supports regional folk musicians and local folk artists performing in about 100 groups, representing Celtic, bluegrass, blues, African, Asian, Middle Eastern traditions and more.

It features sales of crafts, a live KPBX Radio show and a traditional New England contra dance Saturday.

Several hundred volunteers as-

sist during the festival. Donations and the sale of \$5 buttons raise \$20,000 to cover costs. Performers and festival organizers donate their time.

There will be performances, activities and food from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, with contra dances from 8 to 10 p.m., Saturday.

For information, call 828-3683 or visit spokanefolkfestival.org.

FAN sets Pullman, Yakima cluster gatherings

Fall is the season for the Faith Action Network's Cluster Gatherings and Candidate Forums.

Cluster gatherings build relationships as local advocates collaborate on issues.

In Central and Eastern Washington there is one in Pullman from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 12, at Trinity Lutheran Church, and another from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 27, at Unitarian

Universalist Church of Yakima.

FAN is also offering Candidate Forums in Seattle, Snohomish County, SeaTac and Bellevue.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or visit fanwa.org.

LCSNW Luncheon addresses trafficking

Lutheran Community Services Northwest will present an afternoon of food, fun and fundraising for its 36th Annual Inland Northwest Fundraising Luncheon from 12:30 to 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3,

at Mukogawa Fort Wright Commons, 4000 W. Randolph Rd.

"The Road Home" is the theme for the program on human trafficking.

A trafficked woman's sister

shares the story of losing her younger sister to trafficking and her healing journey, said Christie McKee of LCSNW.

For information, call 343-5020 or email cmckee@lcsnw.org.

Rural Ministry Resources plans workshop

"Thinking Back and Looking Forward" is the theme for a workshop from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 19, at Zion Lutheran Church at 8304 E. Buckeye Ave. in Millwood.

Rural Ministry Resources invites rural and urban, large and small congregations. The ecumenical group will meet in a circle to encourage conversation.

New and long-time pastors and

spouses, and lay members will attend, said co-organizers Mary Daniels and Kathy Kramer.

For information, call 981-9562 or 284-6107, or email kmmkd1@juno.com.

Partnering for Progress supports village

Partnering for Progress is holding its annual "Into Africa" Auction and Dinner Benefit at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, at the

Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd. in Spokane Valley. Proceeds benefit projects in Kopanga, Kenya. Items being auctioned and some of the food dishes are African.

It was started 12 years ago by Mike and Stacey Manier, and Sandy Ivers, who went to that remote village to do volunteer medical care. Partnering for Peace takes teams twice a year for five days

to provide health care, education support, economic development through micro-finance for farmers and clean water to the impoverished village.

"We seek to empower the people and improve their lives," said Linda Hagan Miller, communication coordinator, who went in 2014 and 2017.

For information, call 720-8408 or visit partneringforprogress.org.

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Editorial Team

Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Directory Editor - Malcolm Haworth
Website Developer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Editing - Carol Belling, Catherine Ferguson SNJM, Kerrie Garrett, Kaye Hult, Inga Jablonsky, Mary Mackay, Dru Powers, Nancy Roth, Sara Weaver

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The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media
presents

Civil Discourse 2.0: Where Is the Middle?

Media Salon
A Community Discussion
for Media Literacy Week

Wednesday, Oct. 23
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Spokane FAVs Center • 5511 S. Freya

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center opens

The Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga University has started its first season of performances by national and international guest artists who offer a range from eclectic styles like the Hiplet Ballerinas and classical-rock styles, like the Dallas String Quartet Electric.

Along with professional guest artists, the new center is home to Gonzaga's theatre, choirs, orchestra, wind ensemble, jazz band and dance ensembles, who are presenting concerts through May.

Two October productions are set.

- In "Post Comedy Theatre" on Thursday, Oct. 10, comedian Robert Post switches between six characters in a quick-change murder-mystery spoof.

- "Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till" will be presented Thursday, Oct. 17, with actor and playwright Mike Wiley performing a one-actor, multiple-character drama chronicling the murder and trial preceding 14-year-old Till's lynching.

For information, call 313-4748, email rossingp@gonzaga.edu or visit www.gonzaga.edu/mwpac.

St. John's Music Series includes Kantorei

St. John's Music Series and Spokane Kantorei Chorus and Orchestra will present "Grant Us Peace: Honoring Our Veterans," at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 127 E. 12th Ave. Soloists include Amy Porter (soprano) and Max Mendez (baritone), conducted by Timothy Westerhaus.

They will feature Americana, including Irving Berlin's "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor," La Rocca's arrangement of "America the Beautiful," "Letters from the Field" from the Civil War to the Iraq War and a premiere by composer Mitchell Davey, "This Heritage of Heart." The concert culminates in a performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem* (Grant us peace).

For information, visit Facebook.com/spokantorei or email spokantorei@gmail.com.

Roger Williams Symposium is Nov. 2 to 4

The 39th Annual Roger Williams Symposium from Saturday to Monday, Nov. 2 to 4, features author, syndicated columnist, NPR commentator and pastor, Robin Myers, offering three presentations on behalf of the Common Ministry and the Thomas Foley Institute at Washington State University.

Robin is also senior pastor at Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) in Oklahoma City and emeritus professor of social justice at Oklahoma City University.

His presentations are:

- A lecture on "Spiritual Defiance: Building a Beloved Community of Resistance," at 7 p.m., Sunday at Community Congregational UCC, 525 NE Campus St. in Pullman.

- Preaching at the 10:30 a.m., Sunday worship at Community Congregational UCC.

- A workshop on "American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel," from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday at St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way in Pullman.

- A lecture on "Climate Change as a Moral Imperative," sponsored by the Thomas Foley Institute, at noon Monday in Room 308 of Bryan Hall.

For information, call 332-2611, email office@interfaith-house.com or visit interfaith-house.com.

'Spoken River' celebrates Spokane River

Clean river fans will gather at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, for "Spoken River," an evening of readings celebrating the Spokane River, with authors Jack Nisbet, Ben Goldfarb and Ellen Welcker.

Spokane Riverkeeper will share about its work and how people can be involved, know the river and join the community of river protectors. A student from the Salish School of Spokane will read an original piece. Ben Goldfarb will read from his new book, *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter*. Other presentations are by Jack Nisbet, a local author who has written many books, including *Sources of the River* and *David Douglas: A Naturalist at Work*, and Ellen Welcker, a poet and author of many books of poetry, including *Ram Hands*.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Salishan Sturgeon Nose Canoes will have traditional canoes on hand, said organizer Lydia Newell.

For information, call 835-5211 or email lnewell@cfjustice.org.



JUBILEE
INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

Supporting Fair Trade for 31 years

Join the celebration of
Fairly Traded Handcrafts
from around the world

Friday, November 8, Saturday, November 9
10 am - 7 pm & 9 am - 4 pm

First Presbyterian Church | 318 S. Cedar
(located at the Maple St. exit from 1-90, downtown Spokane)

For more information, visit www.spokaneipc.org

Agencies plan World Homeless Day Summit

Local speakers will share ways their programs address the challenges of homelessness at a World Homeless Day Summit from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct.

Union Gospel Mission, Family Promise and Adult and Teen Challenge are sponsoring the event to explore realities of homelessness and solutions.

Speakers are Tyson West, Mark Jefferson Baird, Ed and Gail Stevenson, Joe Ader, John Repsold and Phil Altemeyer.

Tyson, a native of eastern Washington, experienced chronic homelessness because of drug addiction and found help at Adult & Teen Challenge in Spokane, where he is now the executive director.

Mark, who specializes in clinical psychology, has more than 13 years of experience in treating trauma.

He teaches at Whitworth University.

Ed and Gail, founders of Life Recovery Solutions, use technology to help solve social problems.

Joe, executive director of Family Promise of Spokane and creator of the Open Doors 24/7 Emergency Family Homeless Shelter, is also CEO of Understanding Poverty, which trains groups to serve people living in poverty.

John, founder and senior pastor of Mosaic Fellowship in downtown Spokane, previously was pastor of Fourth Memorial Church and a missionary in the Philippines, Costa Rica and Spain.

Phil, executive director of Union Gospel Mission, oversees efforts to serve the homeless population of the region. He shares God's love for the poor and inspires people to be involved in ministry.

For information, call 535-8510.

NWARM hosts media salon on 'Civil Discourse'

For Media Literacy Week Oct. 21 to 25, the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NWARM) is gathering people in its latest in a series of media salons to discuss "Civil Discourse 2.0: Where is the Middle?"

It will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Spokane

FAVs interfaith community center at 5511 S. Freya.

Leading up to the election Nov. 5, NWARM invites participants to explore democratic discourse in an era of political polarity.

"We can't have democracy without civil discourse," commented Carolyn Cunningham,

associate professor of communication and leadership studies at Gonzaga.

She is coordinating arrangements for the salon on behalf of the NWARM Board.

For information, call 313-3819 or email cunninghamc@gonzaga.edu.

Buddhist nun speaks on 'Connecting with Integrity'

American Buddhist nun Venerable Thubten Chodron will tell how to connect in kind, meaningful, authentic ways in "Connecting with Integrity," at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Edminster Student Union Building at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene.

She speaks regularly at NIC, offering insight into contemporary issues from her perspective as a student of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. She teaches worldwide and is known for her practical and humorous discussions on wisdom and compassion.

She is the founder and abbess of Sravasti Abbey near Newport.

For information, call 208-660-5477 or visit sravastiabbey.org.



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Our goal is to raise \$25,000 so we can update the inside of our building. We are looking for monetary donors as well as volunteers to help with some of the projects.

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A BIT OF THE ORIENT
SATURDAY, Oct. 12
11 am to 3 pm
Serving different entrees \$5 each
curry rice, inarizushi, kalua pork yakisoba noodles, Filipino food, teriyaki chicken wings, beef bowl, **bake sale, crafts & gifts**

Highland Park United Methodist Church
611 S. Garfield
cash or credit cards
For information call 535-2687

Bazaars
Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Auctions & Meals

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

Pilgrim Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 2 - 9 am-3 pm
2733 W Northwest Blvd
Country Store with baked goods, candy, homemade jam, books, retro and new handcrafted items

A Completely Bazaar Day in Cheney
Saturday, Nov. 2
Loads of craft and baked goods
Come for breakfast, stay for lunch
Raffle prizes, White Elephant gifts
visit all four churches!!!

SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR
Proceeds benefit local charities
SATURDAY, Nov. 2
Bazaar 9:30 am - 1 pm
Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am
Central Lutheran Church
512 S. Bernard (5th & Bernard)
Lefse, Holiday & Scandinavian Cookies, Meatballs & Crafts
Lefse, meatball & cookie preorders Oct 1-23
509-624-9233

St. Mark's Lutheran

Bazaar & Bake Sale
Saturday, November 2
9:00 - 2:00
Corner of Grand & 24th
316 E. 24th
Coffee & bake sale
Quality seconds and crafts

Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!
Cheney United Methodist Church
crafts, baked goods and a gift shop designed for children
Saturday, Nov. 2 • 9 am-3 pm
4th & G St. - Cheney WA

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

91st annual Christmas Faire & Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 9
9 am - 2 pm
Cathedral of St. John
127 E. 12th Ave.
Free admission
Champagne mustard, jam & cookies, ornaments gifts for everyone.
Vintage treasures
Lunch: soup, rolls, pie
Visit with St. Nicholas Child care & crafts

FALL FESTIVAL BAZAAR
Saturday, Oct 26
9 am - 2 pm
Lefse, 13-bean soup mix, baked goods, handcrafts, raffle quilt & more
Prince of Peace Lutheran
8441 N. Indian Trail Rd.
Spokane

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon
Saturday, Nov 2 • 9 am - 3 pm
Crafts, Baked Goods, Raffle Basket, Holiday Decorating & White Elephant
Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran
639 Elm Street

St. Paul's Episcopal Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 2
9 am - 3 pm • 625 C St. - Cheney
raffle • crafts • baked goods
• gently used collectibles •

'Purchase choices have a profound impact on people and the planet'

Continued from page 1
 a French-speaking West African country. As part of the program, she was an intern with RADDHO (Rencontre Africaine des Droits de l'Homme), an international human rights organization working in Dakar, Senegal, with migrants from Central and West Africa.

After graduating, thinking she needed to build international skills, Jillian worked with an American tourism company for three years in Paris.

"It felt like a bit of a detour. I learned a lot, but I did not feel I was having the type of impact on the world I wanted. I wanted to contribute to intercultural experiences, but something broader than connecting western cultures to western cultures," she said. "Nonetheless, Paris is a dynamic city, the home for African diaspora and people from all over the world."

Jillian moved to New York City to work in recruitment and human resources with One Acre Fund, an agricultural microfinance NGO working in East Africa. She helped it grow from 180,000 farmers to 800,000 four years later in 2018. That job involved travel to East Africa one to three times a year. She went to Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

"We provided finances for people to become agriculturally self-sufficient. We gave microfinance loans in the form of seeds and fertilizer inputs. Our seeds were higher quality than the farmers previously had access to. We trained them on organic methods, and on the dose and time for fertilizing," she said.

"We had flexible repayments at the right time of year, not in planting season when they are cash poor. They couldn't go to the big city to pick up seeds and fertilizer, so One Acre Fund brought the materials within five kilometers of their homes," Jillian said.

Farmers increased their yields 50 to 100 percent, so they earned enough to feed their families for a year, pay school fees, buy clothing and replace thatched roofs with tin, improving their homes and quality of life.

"We connect people in Spokane with basket weavers in Africa," she said.

Kizuri focuses on stories so people here value the lives and contributions of vendors. Customers see the difference it makes for artisans to have economic opportunities, so they can educate and care for their families, and have the dignity of running their own business and of creating items that carry on their culture.

"It's not that a customer will save a life by buying a bracelet,



Felted animal garlands from Nepal hang beside rain sticks from Chile.

but that they will realize they have a connection to the person who made it," Jillian said.

When Kim's daughter, Kendra, was expecting her first baby in Seattle, Kim asked Jillian if she would be interested in taking over Kizuri.

Jillian initially said no, but thought for two days and called her back to say, "Let's talk."

"I was always interested in fair trade and loved Kizuri," she said.

Four months later, she moved from New York City to Spokane. Since then, Kim has taken time to introduce Jillian to customers, vendors and the community.

"Kim created an amazing community of people. I'm committed to carrying it on and building on its foundation," she said. "That foundation includes bringing in new merchandise every two months as Kim did. People come that often to see what's new."

"People come, not just to buy but also to experience the warmth of the shop," she said. "Here they know who makes the clothing and the conditions under which it is made. That's not possible in most clothing stores."

"People also discover unexpected items—like a children's book with a story they never knew before," Jillian said. "It's important to have a range of prices, so someone might walk in and spend less than \$5 or spend \$500 to buy something meaningful."

Jillian hopes to expand the customer base, aware that people today are more conscious consumers and care where things are from. They want to pay to support a woman tailor in Nepal rather than a corporation that abuses textile workers in Bangladesh.

In the few months she has owned the shop, Jillian is optimistic about Kizuri, because the more she tells people about fair trade, where things are from and the importance of things being made ethically, the more success she builds.

Owning this shop in Spokane

also gives her the opportunity to travel to visit artisans and friends in East and West Africa. Jillian recently met many vendors at a conference in New York City.

"I talked with them to build relationships and create new business opportunities," she said.

"People comment on the energy and welcome they feel when they come in to explore," she said.

"It's a place to make connections, because everything is a conversation starter," she said pointing to a brass bracelet made by Abraham, a man she met in a shop in Kigali in 2013.

"A woman from Maryland came in and saw the soapstone hearts. She had been in Kenya as part of the Virtues Project teaching in Kakamega. That's where the One Acre Fund headquarters are, so I have been there, too," she said.

"At the basis of fair trade are economic and social justice values. It's important to have economic opportunities across the world for women and oppressed communities," Jillian said. "It's also important to build a sustainable world. In a global economy, our purchase choices have a profound impact on our planet."

Jillian's parents' frequent travels instilled curiosity, empathy, ideals of social justice and learning about other cultures.

While she attended Catholic churches in early years, in high school she participated with the First Presbyterian youth group in several Mexican house-building trips, exposing her to the global south and large scale poverty that she did not see in Spokane.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, Jillian will hold an anniversary party to celebrate Kizuri's 11 years and the

change in ownership.

She will be at the Jubilee Sale at First Presbyterian Nov. 8 to 9 and will sponsor the Festival of Fair Trade Thanksgiving Weekend at the Community Building.

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Hutton Settlement is Spokane's largest family, sees goodness in children

Continued from page 1
done," David said. "The shift was to connect at the core with each child and address the woundedness from which each comes."

It was a shift for the children. The staff also needed to understand their triggers and defensiveness.

"In 2014, we dove into the model, seeing that every child at the core is shining goodness and that we need to treat them as such to understand their survival behaviors of lying, stealing, bed wetting, food hoarding and emotional outbursts," David said.

"We moved from managing behaviors to a system that was transformative, understanding that every child here experiences three things: 1) the world is threatening, hostile and unfriendly, 2) I'm bad and 3) I'm alone, he said. "That's tragic for anyone."

Attachment-based care honors the goodness of the children and their parents, he said. It recognizes that transformation comes from focusing on healing over behavior.

"Over the years, children shift to see that 1) the world has goodness, 2) they are good and 3) they belong somewhere as part of Spokane's largest family, Hutton Settlement," he said.

Jessica Laughery, director of communications, said they work with parents to "draw them into the circle of compassion around their children. Regardless of the situation, children want a relationship with their biological families. We believe in developing permanency, so we partner with families to raise their children."

Many grandparents are raising children because parents are in jail, so grandparents continue to visit their grandchildren.

The Hutton family is more than the children living there. Children do not age out at 18, but can receive care through their 20s and older. Many of the hundreds of alumni come back with their children.

"We focus on lifespan care. If a 50-year-old former resident experiences depression, we care. This is his or her home," David said.

Thirty-two boys and girls live on campus in four gender-based cottages. Four couples are house parents. They have three days off every eight days. There are also two social workers and a therapist on site.

Many children have siblings there too, in contrast to foster care, which may separate siblings, David said.

When families or teachers call, an intake case worker does an interview to decide if Hutton is appropriate. Half the children are placed by the state and have been



Photo of Levi Hutton is behind David Milliken and Carol Wendle.

referred by a state case worker. Half are private placements, referred by school teachers, church leaders, mental health providers or families.

Hutton receives children needing long-term care—from one year through high school. Most are teens. Many are there eight to 11 years.

The 21 board members and the Millwood community are also part of the Hutton family.

Carol, who was born in Seattle, moved to Spokane when she was nine to live with her elderly grandparents after her father died of a stroke. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1964 in sociology and guidance. She earned a teaching certificate at Eastern Washington University and taught in Seattle, moving back to Spokane to marry. She taught at Franklin Elementary School until her two children were born.

One day in a class on Spokane, she toured Hutton.

"I was overwhelmed by Hutton Settlement and its mission," she said. "The tour guide picked up on my interest and enthusiasm. I was later invited to serve on the board.

The lifetime board members are all women, bringing different talents—homemakers, teachers, bankers and business leaders.

Jessica said Hutton Settlement receives no government funding. It was endowed by a portfolio of commercial properties of the founder, Levi Hutton. That portfolio has grown to more than 20 properties and continues to fund 90 percent of Hutton's operations.

Levi, who grew up in Iowa, was orphaned at the age of six. He moved in with an aunt and uncle who had other children. Not treated well, he quit school in third grade to earn his keep by helping on the farm.

At 18, he moved West as a firefighter and locomotive engineer with the Northern Pacific Railroad, assigned to Wardner Junction. When he worked in Wallace, Idaho, he met his wife, May Arkwright, who ran a boarding house and was an advocate for women and children.

They invested savings in the Hercules Silver Mine, working it on days off. On Friday, June 13, 1901, they struck it rich. As the mine continued to produce, they gave to charities. Eventually, they

moved to Spokane to pursue real estate and philanthropy. They built and lived in the Hutton Building downtown and later in a home on the South Hill.

After May died in 1915 of Bright's disease, Levi decided to build a home for disadvantaged children. He knew it was important for children to have a home where they belong.

"He set the cornerstone for Hutton Settlement in June 1918. It opened in November 1919," said Jessica.

To help celebrate the 100 years, Spokane Civic Theatre is presenting a play by Tim Rarick on Hutton Settlement, "A Place to Call Home." Performances are Fridays to Sundays, Oct. 25 to 27, and Nov. 1 to 3, at the theatre, 1020 N. Howard.

Carol's son Chud is executive director, responsible for the administration of Hutton Settlement and managing the commercial real estate that supports it.

On the board, Carol served on the Children's Committee, the Cottage Committee and others, interacting with the children and communicating with schools.

Jessica grew up in Clarkston, where her parents did foster care. She came to Spokane to study public relations at Gonzaga, graduating in 2014. She is now working on a master's at Whitworth.

The Millwood community also connects with Hutton.

Millwood Community Presbyterian Church involves children in its youth group and has friendship families to build bonds with them.

Children come from different faith backgrounds, so Hutton staff and volunteers take them to the churches of their choice.

Millwood Presbyterian's youth program channels youth with culinary and gardening interest into addressing food insecurity in the neighborhood. Youth have helped prepare and serve a monthly meal for 60 at Millwood Community Center.

"It gives the children, who are receivers of services, a chance to be givers of services," Jessica said.

Carol, who was active at First Presbyterian prior to a stroke, said faith has significantly impacted her volunteer endeavors.

Faith also motivates David, who attends West Central Episcopal Mission and is in spiritual formation with the Franciscan Third Order of the Episcopal Church. With the order, he commits to live a life of simplicity, give to the poor, serve those on the margins and participate in spiritual direction. He will make lifetime vows in August 2020.

David's wife Tamara, the lead house parent at Hutton, is a companion of the Franciscan Third Order.

They live on the Hutton campus, but own a home in Millwood, where they are developing a Franciscan Hermitage with three one-room hermitages, a labyrinth and garden with native plants in his quarter-acre yard.

For information, call 828-2789, email jessicalaughery@hutton-settlement.org or visit hutton-settlement.org.

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Lisa Green encounters stories of transformation through CAPA/PREPARES

Lisa Green, director of Catholic Charities' Childbirth and Parenting Assistance (CAPA)/PREPARES since 2016, is thankful to be part of the stories of transformation she encounters in efforts to offer stabilizing and advocacy services to expecting and parenting individuals and families with children under five.

Those services range from providing diapers and clothing to parenting classes and mentoring.

"It humbles me to watch families with so little have so much hope. When I have a bad day and drive by a mother at a bus stop, I remember how blessed I am. Sharing in the parenting journeys of families brings me joy," Lisa said.

Parents may stop by when their children are graduating from high school to let us know they are succeeding because of the help they received.

"They are thankful for the opportunity to be what they hoped to be personally and to learn to be the parents they want to be," she said. "I see parents come from abuse and neglect who complete the Circle of Security classes and do not want to yell at or hit their children.

"It's human to slip up, but I see parents persevere so they move out of the generational cycle of abuse, poverty and neglect," she said. "We help parents move forward, stay positive and break cycles."

Lisa, who earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education in 1993 at Eastern Washington University, taught preschool before she started to volunteer with CAPA 23 years ago. She came on staff in 2001. In 2015, she earned a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies.

"CAPA supports families who have chosen life and have chosen to parent," she said. "Women faced with a choice about parenting know there is a program that will care for and support them. We empower families to know there is support."

Lisa listed CAPA/PREPARES' services for families with children under five.

- The Circle of Security is a 10-week course for breaking the cycles of abuse and neglect by helping families identify unhealthy patterns and build attachment to create healthy children.
- The Fatherhood Project mentors fathers to build bonds with their children.
- Family Companions mentors parents to build bonds with their children, with mentors meeting with parents two hours a week for a year.
- Individual and family therapy programs serve pregnant women



Lisa Green appreciates seeing families gain hope.

and parents.

In the process of families receiving diapers and clothing, staff help connect them with housing and other Catholic Charities programs like Rising Strong, St. Margaret's Shelter, Food for All and supportive housing.

The Caring for Kids 2019 benefit from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Historic Davenport Hotel is a chance to talk about the connection of all Catholic Charities services and Morning Star Boys' Ranch, Lisa said.

The event raises funds to support more than 1,850 children in the community: 37 through Rising Strong; 805 through Catholic Charities Housing, 268 through CAPA/PREPARES, 17 at St. Margaret's Shelter, and 725 through Homeless Resources, plus those in Morning Star residential, foster care and at-home programs.

"There are so many negative things for parents to worry about," she said. "CAPA/PREPARES and Morning Star Boys Ranch are two organizations that have served families collaboratively for 23 years, giving children a shot at being successful."

"We help with stressors of life in raising children," Lisa said.

The CAPA/PREPARES program's office is in the basement of St. Anne's Child Care, which she said also helps enrich lives of families.

"Good child care is a way to care for families," Lisa said.

Catholic Charities pulls together programs, collaborating and sharing resources.

CAPA can serve more than 4,500 families a year through diapers, clothing, classes and mentoring.

Catholic Charities serves more than 70,000 individuals in all its programs.

"Many families have urgent needs," she said. "About 500 participate in classes we offer to improve their lives."

There are weekly groups: Mondays for the Fatherhood Program, Secure Beginnings on Tuesdays,

Music Together on Wednesdays and Prepared Moms on Thursdays.

Needs differ depending on where families are on their parenting journeys.

Catholic Charities grew out of the Catholic Social Betterment League which began in 1912. It reorganized as Catholic Charities in 1940. CAPA formed in 1985 to provide wraparound support services to low-income single pregnant women and low-income single parents with small children.

For information, call 455-4970 or email lisa.green@cceasternwa.org.

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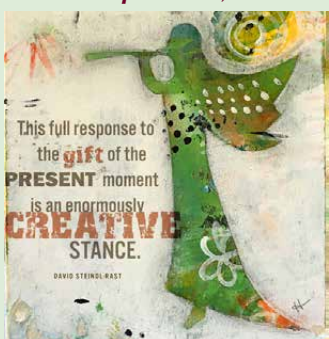
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Ranch supports boys as they grow from struggles to be responsible men

Morning Star Boys Ranch opened in 1957 as a place for boys who are experiencing trauma and struggles to grow up to become responsible men.

Now it also includes foster care, wraparound and case aide services, plus a community services office for outpatient counseling.

Morning Star seeks to meet the mental, educational, emotional and physical needs of the boys, aged six to 12 years, who attend Spokane District #81 schools. The ranch teaches boys life skills, such as emotional and behavioral self-regulation, lessons to follow them throughout their lives.

In the residential care and treatment program at Murphy House, staff help boys set goals for behavioral improvement, and develop social skills and emotional control. The goal is for them either to be reunified with their parents/families or be placed in a foster home where they continue to have services.

“Our mission is to answer God’s call to love and serve those in need to build responsible adults by loving and caring for them,” said Audrea, whose faith and spirituality helped her find a purpose and calling beyond her own childhood traumas.

Her mother’s grandparents, Baptist missionaries, ran a camp for troubled boys, where her mother met her father.

“I do not come to this work simply as a calling. Having had a drug addicted father until I was in sixth grade, I know many of the emotions these boys have—feeling unwanted from physical and emotional abuse. After my mother left him, she married a pastor in Moses Lake, who cared for and prayed for me. I removed my biological father from my life.

“I want the boys to know they matter, are important and cared for. They can make the future what they want. They are not a product of what they are from, any more than I’m a product of what I came from, except for the resilience I gained which is a blessing,” she said.

While earning a bachelor’s in psychology at Eastern Washington University, where she graduated in 2002, Audrea interned as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) guardian ad litem. She then worked with YFA Connections (Youth Family Adult Connections) for a year doing youth outreach at the STA bus plaza, transitioned to be a home counselor and then worked in crisis management at the residential center.

After Audrea and her husband—who served 10 years in the Air Force at Fairchild and then worked in juvenile probation—had their first child, they moved closer to his family in Grass Valley, Calif. For 12 years, Audrea



Andrea Marshall said program helps boys find purpose beyond their childhood traumas.

managed a residential center treatment facility there for 24 emotionally disturbed teens—12 boys and 12 girls.

When they visited her family last fall in Moses Lake, Audrea and her husband decided to come back to the area. She saw an opening at Morning Star Boys’ Ranch for an executive director, which fit her goal of working with at-risk youth in a family setting.

Audrea, who has been director of Morning Star Boys Ranch since January, now says she has 25 boys, 23 at work and two at home. This year, her husband is helping their eight- and 12-year-old sons adjust to the move by being a stay-at-home dad.

Since accepting the position, she has been rebuilding the program. Last year, Morning Star was certified for 18 boys. This year it increased to 23 boys, and the ranch gained national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation in July.

Morning Star Boys Ranch employs 90 staff for all its programs and administration. Currently there are four case managers to support the residents. Two of the 23 beds are reserved for youth who have graduated from the residential program. Those beds are respite beds to provide some breathing room for families and boys.

The 64-acre ranch includes both rolling hills and swaths of forest where the boys can hike

and explore.

In 1956, Antonia Heckett of Davenport gave her estate to the Spokane Diocese to build a home for boys under 18. In 1957, Flannery House was built and opened on Glenrose Prairie.

Murphy house opened in 1976 with rooms for boys, a gym, an art room and administrative offices.

The Pete Dix Memorial Barn, built in 1982, added the opportunity to branch out into equine programs. The agricultural program invites residents to work in a community garden and be involved with 4-H, including the chance to care for horses, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens. About half of the boys work with animals.

“We try to teach the boys skills to relate with the animals they care for, so they transfer those skills to have successful relationships with people,” Audrea said. “Some are scared, but they learn to build trust with the animals, just as they need to do with people.”

About 15 years ago, Morning Star Boys’ Ranch separated from the Catholic Diocese of Spokane to become a secular, state-funded nonprofit.

Foster care services and in-

home wraparound care were added in 2015 to help boys who have transitioned from Murphy House into foster care or their families. Those services help stabilize the boys and their families with parent training, case management, family therapy, life-skills mentoring, overnight respite and 24-hour on-call intervention.

Case Aide Services, which began in 2016 for infants through 18-year-olds, provide up to 500 hours a month of services in the community, such as parent training, in-home case aides and life-skills mentoring.

The Morning Star Boys Ranch Board envisions a future training center, prevention services, a residential program for girls and building capacity to meet clients’ needs.

“It’s unfortunate that people do not always treat other people

right. So children need a safe place to come and heal,” Audrea said. “We seek to help the boys find their passion to help raise their self-esteem.”

Several boys have come back as successful men, bringing their children to see the ranch. Some give back with donations.

“Many ripples go out from the seeds we plant here,” she said. “The program evolves every week. There is no finish line in this work.”

Audrea said she follows the education principles of Nicolas Long, who has published on education and psychology. His philosophy includes several basic needs children require to be met. They include the need for a child to have one adult who believes in him/her, the need to experience joy every day, the need to live in the present and the need to believe he/she can make a difference.

“I hear the boys’ horrific stories and want to turn them into their strengths, not stories they repeat for pity,” she said. “God takes bad things and makes them better. They are not limited to who their parents are or what they have to work through.

“We are constantly assessing our program and now envision a \$10 million expansion of facilities,” she said.

Construction is currently underway to add eight more beds so the program can grow to serve 32 boys.

For information, call 448-1202, email amarshall@msbranch.org or visit morningstarboysranch.org.



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As Baha'i celebrate bicentenary, member shares about the faith and her journey

Drawn by the Baha'i belief in the unity of God, the unity of religion and the unity of humankind, Deborah Bisenius said it matched her childhood vision and experience of living in unity and peace in the inner city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Her parents were working with the American Baptist Home Mission using "a collective, ecumenical approach" to ministry in an inter-cultural, inter-racial area. They invited neighborhood children for activities in their home.

"In the post-World War II era, there was a worldwide sentiment to repair the world," she said. "My parents raised my three sisters and me to love the world."

Deborah continues that commitment, living in Spokane's inter-cultural, inter-racial East Central neighborhood.

"In the U.S., we have different cultures living together, so we can show the world that it's possible to live together in unity and peace," she said. "The Baha'i community in Spokane is like my family."

This fall, Baha'is worldwide celebrate the founders of their monotheistic faith that now has five million believers in nearly every country and in thousands of U.S. communities.

In Spokane, two community celebrations are planned.

One is at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28, at the Unity Center of Divine Love and Light, 4123 E. Lincoln Rd.

The other is a 6 p.m. dinner and movie on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Fireplace Room of Center Place, 2426 N. Discovery Place in Spokane Valley.

Deborah is working with David Gregory, the Spokane Baha'i public information officer, and Spokane Valley community member Joe Urlacher to promote the October events.

Deborah explained that in October 1819 in Shiraz, Persia, Siyyid Ali-Muhammad was born. He later took the title "the Báb," meaning "the Gate." He was the herald who prepared the way for Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith. The Báb called people to purify themselves for the coming Day of God.

Baha'u'llah, whose name means the "Glory of God," announced in 1863 that he was God's messenger for this age. His teachings and sacred writings are the basis of the Baha'i Faith, she said.

Baha'u'llah proclaimed that God, as loving creator, sends di-



For Deborah Bisenius, Baha'i faith is like yeast, a catalyst.

vine messengers or manifestations of God with teachings that enable humanity to know and worship God. These manifestations have appeared throughout history every 500 to 1,000 years, bringing human civilization to ever higher levels of spiritual and material advancement, David explained.

He said Baha'u'llah is the latest in this long line of divine messengers, which has included Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster and the Báb.

Deborah said the Báb, who lived from 1819 to 1850, was in prison from 1844 until he was martyred and killed there. The Báb was in prison for saying there was need for reforming the prevailing faith, and for establishing a new religion, code of conduct and an end to sharia law.

There is an account that he was put before a firing squad of 750 men. After they shot, he disappeared and was found in his cell. It was hard to find a second firing squad, but he was martyred July 9, 1850.

"As a teen, I heard his story. Having studied the Bible, I saw parallels with Christ," Deborah said. "We are to take to heart what we are to do, not spend time bickering about faith. The commandments are to show mercy, love God, listen to guidance, be kind and 'play well' together. It's good for our health and our environment," she said.

Deborah was 15 when her father was killed in a car accident.

When she was 17, she became Baha'i. Her life from there has been a journey.

"Baha'i faith for me has been like yeast in bread, a catalyst," she said.

Deborah began junior college and transferred to but dropped out of Beloit College in Wisconsin, marrying and living in many locations around the country before settling in Coeur d'Alene. In 1983, she divorced and in 1984 started to study chemistry at North Idaho College.

She married her second husband at a wedding chapel in Coeur d'Alene. Both completed degrees at Eastern Washington University, she in 1988 in chemistry. After her husband graduated in 1989, their son was born. She raised him Catholic and volunteered at Catholic schools to support his education.

Deborah worked in industry and then for 27 years at the City of Spokane. She started as a lab technician, and progressed to working as a chemist in the pre-treatment program to keep industrial chemicals out of the wastewater plant. In 2008, she began working on environmental programs at City Hall until she retired in April.

She and a friend have a neighborhood group to gather people to learn about Baha'i. For her, that means being in constant search to understand the human spirit through study and service.

Deborah said the worldwide Baha'i calendar has 19 months each with 19 days. Each month

they gather for prayer in homes or public places.

She added that every day Baha'is are to pray, interact with the word of God and contemplate long-term effects of their spiritual habits so they transform themselves and work for "the betterment of the world through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct," she quoted Baha'u'llah.

Baha'i believe that "the benevolent Divine Being's guidance continues to unfold, but erodes in the hands of human beings, so it periodically needs to be renewed and updated," she said.

David pointed out that the Golden Rule of treating others as they would want to be treated has been revealed each time—in the revelations that came to Jews, Christians, Moslems, Zoroastrians, Hindus and Buddhists.

Baha'is believe that "the

twin Revelators"—the Báb and Baha'u'llah—signal the end of the prophetic cycle and the beginning of the cycle of fulfillment, guiding humans to build an advancing civilization, he said.

"We believe the world will eliminate the barriers created by our troubled history," he said.

"All religions are related, interdependent and from the same Source. All of humanity are 'the fruits of one tree, the leaves of one branch.' All forms of prejudice are immoral. Men and women are equal in the eyes of God. Universal unity is necessary, but must be preceded by universal justice," David summarized.

Baha'is anticipate an end to "fruitless strife and ruinous wars" and believe "the Most Great Peace shall come."

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ArtShare program connects junior high students in Calgary and on a Reserve

Pamela Dos Ramos, who has taught multicultural counseling for 10 years at Gonzaga's Calgary Centre, recently told how a project connecting seventh to ninth graders in a junior high school in Calgary and an indigenous school on the Kainai Reserve in Southern Alberta built relationships and respect.

She does the ArtShare project through her role as a human rights educator with the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre (ACLRC), where she links social justice, human rights and equality.

Pamela, who was in Spokane for Gonzaga University's Ethnicity Race and Indigenous People's (ERIP) Conference in September, said students learned to trust themselves, their intuition and ancestral knowledge.

"Recovery of indigenous knowledge is about reconnecting with ancestors and their stories and voices as guides," she said. "Colonization led to a belief by white settlers that they were helping to civilize Aboriginal children. Now the Calgary Board of Education is working to incorporate Aboriginal knowledge into the curriculum."

Growing up in Georgetown, (British) Guyana, in South America, Pamela said her family did not tolerate discrimination, but welcomed everyone. Her own ancestry is multiracial with East Indian and African ancestors, a maternal grandfather from Wales and a paternal great-grandfather from Scotland. After a Guyanese elder asked what her indigenous heritage was, she learned from an older cousin that she also has Arawak ancestry on their mothers' side.

Moving to Calgary in 1980 was a change from living in a multicultural, multiracial society.

In Calgary, about 67 percent of people are white, 29 percent are people of color—primarily Southeast Asian and East Asian—and four percent are Aboriginal.

The Alberta population is approximately 80 percent white, 14 percent people of color and 6 percent Aboriginal.

In 1970, Pamela studied library science in London, so her first 10 years in Canada she worked in information management with an oil company.

From 1989 to 1991, wanting to work in the nonprofit sector, she studied for a master's degree in counseling at the Gonzaga Centre in Calgary.

Twenty years ago, she began working at the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre and she



Pamela Dos Ramos promotes intercultural relations.

found her niche.

She also teaches culture and diversity for master's candidates in education leadership at Gonzaga's Calgary Centre and several other Gonzaga centers in Western Canada.

Pamela's primary work with the ACLRC is human rights education, and creating anti-racism and anti-discrimination programs.

She presents workshops at schools and helps young people understand their human rights and their responsibilities. Alberta schools have a curriculum to teach students about human rights.

With the ACLRC, she does workshops in an area from Red Deer to the U.S.-Canadian border. A colleague does workshops north of Red Deer, another does workshops in Calgary only, and a fourth works with her on anti-racism and anti-discrimination training.

As someone who is multiracial and someone who is privileged because of her education and employment, Pamela she believes that she is able to bridge diverse communities.

"Children of color are willing to talk with me about their experiences. I'm also able to talk with white youth," she said. "Seeing me, white students realize stereotypes they have of people of color are not true. Doing the anti-racism workshops with my white colleague, people see that we work together, talking freely about issues. It gives them a new perspective."

Through the ACLRC, the Art-

Share project has been one means to connect white, multicultural and indigenous students to help them overcome racism and learn from each other.

The ArtShare Program began as the Students for Change Program in 2007 at Dr. Gladys Egbert Junior High School in Calgary. Students learned skills to address racial discrimination and racism in productive, respectful, safe and non-aggressive ways.

The program continued several years there and in other schools in Calgary, adapting to needs of each school.

In June 2016, Pamela and a colleague did presentations on "Understanding and Dealing with Racism" for seventh grade students at the Kainai Middle School on the Kainai Reserve. The art teacher there told of a project her students just completed with art students at Sir John Franklin Junior High School in Calgary.

"Students at one school began a piece of art and students at the other school finished it," she said. "It involved trust, because the students did not know each other. They only met after the art was completed. The exchange was amazing for both groups."

Pamela and her colleague suggested that the Students for Change group at Bob Edwards Junior High in Calgary do a similar project with students at the Kainai Middle School, who were children from Aboriginal backgrounds.

In September 2018, about 30 Bob Edwards students went on

a trip to the Reserve in Southern Alberta with an Aboriginal elder. He took them to the land for two days to observe the weather, wind, trees, grass, flora and fauna.

"There was amazing learning about traditional knowledge for the students and teachers who accompanied them," Pamela said.

The elder told the students of Frank, a town that settlers built in Southern Alberta. Elders had told those who settled there to mine not to build at the foot of the mountain, called the Mountain That Walks. They did not listen. In 1903, the mountainside slid and buried the town, where 76 people died, 23 were injured and 17 miners were trapped in a mine shaft.

Aboriginal elders advised other people not to build a town at High River, because it floods. There was a devastating flood in 2013.

"Without Western scientific knowledge, Aboriginal people knew not to go near the mountain or river, because they had their own knowledge," Pamela said.

In September 2017, Bob Edwards Junior High School started an indigenous studies class, and the focus of the ArtShare Program became "Truth and Reconciliation."

"The ArtShare program focuses on creating inclusive school communities that value, respect and

celebrate differences. It fosters awareness, understanding and commitment to work with indigenous communities to ensure that truth is told, heard and understood, and that reconciliation ensues," Pamela explained.

The program continued in 2017-18 and 2018-19, working in 2017-18 with a school in Lethbridge with a group of indigenous youth.

"While many people in Canada think racism is just a problem in the U.S., that is not the case," Pamela said. "Many companies create anti-discrimination, anti-racism and anti-harassment policies to keep their employees safe."

Pamela observes that children who grow up with many differences around them value differences as they grow older. They are likely to have friends from different communities as adults, people who understand them without needing to adopt their beliefs.

"In Canada, we respect multiculturalism. Policies allow people to keep their language and cultural practices," Pamela said. "Rather than being assimilated, immigrants have come, created and continue to create a beautiful mosaic."

For information, visit aclrc.com.

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Sandy Williams calls for strategies in the fight against racism

Sandy Williams, editor of the Black Lens, told participants at the Sept. 14 Alaska, Oregon Washington NAACP Convention that people of color need strategies to fight against racism, because there are strategies to keep up racial disparities that mean people of color have the lowest life expectancy in Spokane.

As a self-described “word wonk,” Sandy looked up the word “war” in Merriam Webster to make the point that racism is a war. In addition to referring to an open, declared, armed hostile conflict between states or nations, “war” is “a state of hostility, conflict or antagonism” or “a struggle or competition between opposing forces for a particular end.”

“In this country and city, many are at war with people who do not look, act, believe, love or pray like them,” she said, at the luncheon for the region’s National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Sandy talks about “war” because “we cannot fight what we do not recognize.” She said it’s important to understand the strategies and psychology of conflict.

Although her recognition by the Spokesman-Review as one of 10 women of the year nominees may call attention to her and make her a target, she intends to use that honor to give visibility to her efforts to raise funds for the Carl Maxey Center at 3115-3118 E. Fifth Ave. as a gathering place for the black community.

She’s willing to be visible and speak out to give voice to people of color and to work to overcome racism.

While she usually speaks in rooms full of people who do not look like her, in those rooms and others, she has stirred people to commit time, energy and funds for the center and to work for racial and social justice.

“It’s lonely. I constantly have to be a representative or the voice in rooms where I’m the only person of color. It’s a constant tension. I did not wake up and decide to do this. If I made the decision to do this, I could make the decision not to do it, and I don’t have that privilege. I could do something more fun or financially rewarding.

“I’m doing this because of my mom. She will be 85 soon. She grew up in segregated South Carolina and has a right to be angry based on how she was treated, but instead she’s dignified and kind.”

When her mother said she was tired about how black patients were treated at the hospital where she was a nurse, her grandmother, who went no further than the third grade and learned to read by reading labels on cans, told her: “I would walk through hell to get you where you are,” said Sandy, quoting her great-grandmother.

Sandy’s father came to Spokane serving in the U.S. army and taught ROTC at Gonzaga. Sent out to die for the U.S., he came back and was denied services.

“He had every right to be angry also, but he was one of the kindest men I’ve known,” she said.

Sandy was angered when a Spokane jury ruled in May 2017 that the person who shot William Poindexter in the back from 30 feet away had acted in self-defense. She had sat in the trial day after day. When the verdict came she stormed out.

Her daughter asked why she was upset, shrugging, “It happens all the time.” There was resignation in her voice, implying there was nothing to do about that.

“I decided that would not be my legacy for my child,” Sandy said. “Because of my mother, father and daughter, I continue to fight this war.”

The strategies of those promoting racism

include building fear of a perceived or real threat of violence; making people believe there is a scarcity of resources, when there is a wealth; assassinating the character of others, and dividing to conquer.

“It’s not an accident to use those tactics against people of color and disenfranchised people,” Sandy said.

She cited a 1712 letter by white slave owner Willie Lynch on how to control slaves by making them docile. He said to use distrust and envy to divide them based on exaggerating their differences: pitting old vs. young, dark skin vs light skin, females vs. males, tall vs. short, fine-haired vs. coarse-haired, house servants vs. field slaves.

“How do we work with war weary people who sit around tables talking about how to end racism, going back and forth, having the same conversation for years?” she asked.

Sandy hopes people can gather at the Carl Maxey Center to learn strategies and decide new ways to challenge systemic racism.

“We need to learn about strategy. What is the best one, not for the moment but for seven generations from now,” she said. “We need to think like that if we are to make a commitment to change.”

Sandy often goes to Airway Heights Correctional Facility for their Juneteenth event. It’s painful, she said, because it’s where so many black men are. It’s joyful to get together and do a Soul Train Line dance.

One tool she uses to encourage new ways of thinking is a take-off on Portia Nelson’s, “There’s a Hole in My Sidewalk.” Portia offers a progression of thinking to help people change their lives by changing their perspectives. The following is Sandy’s summary of that progression:

1) I walk down the street. There’s a hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I’m lost and helpless. It takes a long time to get out. It’s not

my fault.

2) I walk down the street and see the hole. I still fall in and it’s hard to get out, but I know it’s not my fault.

3) I walk down the street. I see the hole. It’s a habit. I fall in, but I get out immediately.

4) I walk down the street. I see the hole. I walk around it.

5) I walk down a different street.

Sandy suggests that as a model to express changes in perspectives for people fighting racism:

1) I try to fight racism. I go to meetings and trainings with diverse groups. I commit to be part of the solution and experience pushback. I feel frustrated and helpless.

2) I keep going to meetings, panels and conferences. I try to do and say the right things so I do not make people feel uncomfortable. I pretend. It’s more frustrating. I do the best I can.

3) I still fight racism. I’m on everyone’s diversity committee. I share my story to try to make people understand. I still experience push-back and hostility. I’m frustrated but open people to understand about what racism is not.

4) I continue to fight racism, but I work selectively, deciding which committees, meetings and conferences to be in. I’m not everyone’s mentor. I call out resistance and white privilege. I’m frustrated but hopeful. I see there’s a long way to go, but I’m hopeful.

5) I fight systemic racism. I create boards, committees and task forces to harness the power to change systems from inside out. I feel righteous anger. I’m weary, but I continue. Doors open. I move forward.

For information, call 765-1964 or visit carlmaxeycenter.com.



Climate Strike

Sounding Board

Youth Speak Out

Hope Henning, a North Central High School student and a coordinator for Climate Strike Spokane on Sept. 20, challenged adults for inaction.

“Who of you has been dismissed because of your age?” she asked. “Adults in my school said climate change is controversial, did not announce the Climate Strike and said it wasn’t relevant to the school.”

Hope said students should be able to discuss controversial topics, analyze issues and have bipartisan, polite debates missing in today’s world. She said churches should also be places people can meet to disagree with respect.

“Adults call discussing climate change controversial or dangerous,” Hope said. “How can we be adults if we do not embrace controversial issues, or if controversy and politics are redacted from classrooms? What can we do? We can protest to solve global issues like the climate crisis.

“What can I do?” she asked, noting a sense of hopelessness about what one teen in Spokane can do. “Can I do anything?”

Hope answered with examples: Ruby Bridges was one kid. Malala Yousafzai is one kid. 21 teens have taken the U.S. government to court to stop burning fossil fuel. Greta Thunberg of Sweden is one kid.”

Greta was alone last year doing a climate strike from her school. This year millions around the world joined in the Climate Strike.

“We need the drama teens are known for. Elected officials are not doing their jobs. We need to express our dissent that the U.S. President who calls global warming a hoax China created to harm U.S. competitiveness,” she said, listing inaction by other politicians.

Later in the program, Governor Jay Inslee named her Washingtonian of the Day.

Christopher Armitage, who is running for Congress, has been told he’s too young to run for office. He is running because he sees that “the future is sold to the highest bidder by people who will not

face the consequences. We need courage to act every day.

“We are told we can’t have the crazy New Green Deal, but we are losing our future. Act and get involved,” he said.

Governor Jay Inslee, the only non-youth speaking at the Spokane Climate Strike rally at the Gathering Place beside the Spokane City Hall, opened saying he identifies with Spokane County youth who are asking for climate action, “I’m a climate action kid. It’s the right message. It’s a moral message from around the world. Young are right about science.

“There’s a lot happening in Spokane County,” he said, mentioning Katerra opening a plant to produce cross-laminated timber; Itron enabling utilities to better manage energy and water; and Avista implementing smart grid technologies.

“You have the power to make change in the national, international debate,” he told about 1,000 youth and adults gathered.

“A 12-year-old boy can say to a 60 year-old: ‘You do not have the right to ruin my future,’” Jay said. “You are an inspiration to me. This is the first day of care and fight for the planet. We need your leadership now to save our planet.”

Gabriel Kennedy Gibbons, a junior at Mead High School and vice president of the school’s environmental group, looked at the crowd and said, “Look at this energy. This is the start of something ginormous. I’m thankful that youth are fighting for the future. I’m thankful for adults and parents who care.

“The human race has created a mistake: the climate crisis. The first step in fixing a mistake is to acknowledge we are doing harm,” Gabriel said. “The second step is to make a change by going out of our way to do something differently.”

He offered some tips: 1) Talk with friends about climate change—we need controversy to learn from each other. 2) Become conscientious consumers and think about

the impact of your buying on planet earth. Go to betterworldshopper.org and download the app that rates how companies treat their employees and the environment. 3) Become active citizens and vote. 4) Watch for events to attend and keep the ball rolling. If we each do our part, nothing will stop us.”

Will Holland of Fossil Free Gonzaga University said: “The climate crisis scares me. The issue is huge because it stretches across the globe. We are here to fight for something that defines our humanity.

Iaitia Farrell, of the Hunkpapa Lakota Standing Rock Sioux tribe, whose mother is from the Colville Lakes Band, said she was at Standing Rock with warriors and activists. Indian people are on the front lines fighting environmental destruction, genocide and industrial pollution.

“As human beings we need to stand up for the earth, our mother. We have polluted water, desecrated lands, exploited oil and affected indigenous communities around the world. We need to respect the land, water and air,” she said.

“We are connected to one another through the water that runs through our veins regardless of our race or religion,” Iaitia said. “We are connected through our relationships with animals. We need to advocate for the land, water and animals who can’t speak. We should not let the big oil companies and big banks control what happens to the U.S. It is systematic genocide—against the creator of life.

“Women are sacred,” she said. “Indigenous people say to look at what is happening to Mother Earth as the planet is exploited and what is happening to women with sexual abuse. Both the earth and women give life and birth, and are responsible to continue future generations. Women are part of the sacred hoop of life.”

Iaitia urged those at the rally to continue the momentum: “Feel the heart and fire in you to say, ‘No more!’ Carry the fire with

you. See what is happening and do something. You have power. You are the 7th generation. You have the power to create peace and love.”

Jeff Ferguson of the Spokane Tribe said the protest of the oil pipeline at Standing Rock had impact on the world.

“It was created by a handful of youth who saw injustice and in nine months organized protests,” he said. “Efforts snowballed, so the City of Seattle divested \$1 billion from Wells Fargo. It’s amazing what a handful of kids could do, despite the media blackout and taking down posts on social media. Imagine the impact if media had embraced kids.”

Summer Sandstrom, who attends Running Start at Eastern Washington University, said, “The world is not prepared for the climate crisis. We need to act now, or 100 million more people will be in poverty, water will be scarce, food production will be lost, and diseases like ebola, cholera and TB will spread.”

“We still hope. We thought it was impossible to send a person to the moon, but we did that in 12 years,” she said. “The community turning to fight climate change is the next moon stop. Act so you look back and are proud of that you accomplished.”

Maggie Gates of The Lands Council, an event co-sponsor with 350 Spokane and the Sunrise Movement, listed the five demands of the Climate Strike:

- **A Green New Deal** to transform the economy to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030, while creating jobs and ending fossil fuel projects.

- **Respect indigenous land/sovereignty.**
- **Invest in the communities affected** most by poverty and pollution.

- **Protect biodiversity** by restoring 50 percent of the world’s lands and oceans, and stopping deforestation by 2030.

- **Invest in sustainable,** regenerative agriculture and end subsidies for industrial agriculture.

“Act now!” she urged.



Calendar of Events

- | | |
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| <p>Oct 1 • "How Religious Faith Might Help Us Address Climate Change," Pat McCormick of Gonzaga Religious Studies, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 6:30 p.m., spokanelibrary.org/calendar</p> <p>Oct 2 • Transitions "People Who Care" Breakfast and Lunch, "Respect for Human Dignity," Centennial Hotel Spokane (formerly Hotel RL), 303 W. North River Dr., 7 and 11:30 a.m., 358-6702, help4women.org</p> <p>Oct 2, 16, 23, 31 • Tibetan Meditation Class with Lama Lakshey Zangpo, Tsinta Mani Choling, 2311 N. Monroe, 6 to 7:30 p.m., tsintamani.org</p> <p>Oct 3 • Caffe Affogato Community Day Benefiting PJALS, Saranac Commons, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.</p> <p>• "Next Generation Medicine: The Climate's Health Effects," Hemmingson Center at Gonzaga, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• Faith over Fear: Muslim-Christian Dialogue and Overcoming Anti-Muslim Bigotry, Jepson at Gonzaga, 6 p.m.</p> <p>• American-Italian Club Lodge #2172, 6111 N. Market, 6 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 3, 17 • Peace and Justice Action Committee, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m. 838-7870</p> <p>• Spokane Dances of Universal Peace, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com</p> <p>Oct 4 • President's Leadership Forum, Bob Woodward, Ballrooms ABC, Spokane Convention Center, noon, 777-3449, iaevents@whitworth.edu</p> <p>• Children Alliance Leadership in Advocacy Training, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach at ECCC, 500 S. Stone, 5 to 8 p.m., 868-0856, mlkspokane.org</p> <p>Oct 5 • Parents with Children Hike, Dishman Hills Conservancy, Camp Caro, 698 S. Sargent, 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>• Southside Annual Health and Wellness Resource Fair, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 701-5964, southsidescc.org</p> <p>• Spokane Coalition of Color Candidate Forum #2 with Spokane City Council Candidates, East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 10 a.m. to noon</p> <p>• Holistic Festival, Center Place at Mirabeau Point Park, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 468-9001, holisticfestivals.com</p> <p>• Oktoberfest Celebration, German-American Society, Deutsches Haus, 25 W. Third, 4 p.m., 954-6964</p> <p>Oct 6 • "The Cultural Psychology of Climate Change Denial," Vinai Norasakkunkit, psychology professor at Gonzaga, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 2 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 6, 20, Nov 10 • HBPA/Latinx Business Workshops with SCORE and AHANA, St. Joseph Church, 1503 W. Dean, 2 to 3:30 p.m., tinyurl.com/tallereshBPA</p> <p>Oct 7 • "Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Latinos and the Civil War," Shadle Library, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• "What the Sexual Abuse Phenomenon Has Done to the Catholic Church," Thomas Doyle, Hemmingson, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>• "Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change," Brian Henning of Gonzaga, South Hill Library, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 8 • "Connecting with Integrity," Venerable Thubten Chodron of Sravasti Abbey, Edminster Student Union, North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 208-660-5477</p> <p>• "Who's Who in the Latinx Ethnic Community? Wait! What is LatinX?" South Hill Library, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• "Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Information Night," Lutheran Community Services Northwest, 210 W. Sprague, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. 343-5018, lcsnw.org</p> <p>• Humanities Washington Think & Drink, One Click Away: Hate and the Internet, Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 9 • Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council, Spokane Regional Health District, 1101 W. College, 12 to 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>• Hispanic Business/Professional Association Luncheon, Rowena Pineda, "Hispanic/Latinx Health Survey" Results, and Winterfest, Charity Bagatsing and Sam Song, Fiesta Mexicana, 1227 S. Grand, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., hbpa-spokane.org</p> <p>Oct 10 • Spokane County's Complete Count committee, Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook 8:30 to 10 a.m., apanagotacos@innovia.com</p> <p>• "Caring for Kids," Catholic Charities/Morning Star Boys' Ranch benefit, Grand Pennington Ballroom, Historic Davenport Hotel, 5 to 7 p.m., cceasterwa.org/events</p> <p>• World Homelessness Day Summit, Doubletree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Ct., 4 to 6:30 p.m., familypromiseofspokane.org</p> <p>• Showing up for Racial Justice, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870</p> <p>• Candidates Forum, Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, 6 to 8 p.m.</p> | <p>Oct 11 • YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who sentenced Larry Nassar, USA Gymnastics doctor, Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 789-9312, ywcaspokane.org</p> <p>Oct 12 • "Reforest Spokane," The Lands Council, downtown Spokane, landscouncil.org/events/reforest-spokane-day</p> <p>• "Energy Saving Tips with the Pro," Allen Gates of SynerGreen Home Perfection, Shadle Library, 1 p.m.</p> <p>• Prayerful Witness: Walking in Solidarity with Immigrants, St. Ann and St. Aloysius Immigration Committee, meet at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington and walk to the Intermodal Center, 221 W. First, 1 p.m.</p> <p>• Human Rights Education Institute's Human Library, 414 W Fort Grounds Dr., Coeur d'Alene, 208-292-2359, hrei.org</p> <p>• Danza Mexica – Aztec Dancing and Culture, South Hill Library, 3:30 p.m.,</p> <p>Oct 14 • Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration, The Warehouse, 800 N. Hamilton, 5 p.m., potluck, 6:30 p.m. grand entry, 981-8143</p> <p>• "The Spanish Language in the U.S.: Myths, Facts and Challenges Ahead," Shadle Library, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• NAACP General Membership Meeting, 25 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com</p> <p>Oct 16 • "Balancing Needs to Achieve a Clean Energy Future," Scott Morris, Aram Lecture on Business Ethics, Jepson Center, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 17 • "Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till," Mike Wiley Production, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Coughlin Theater, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 18-20 • One Heart Native Arts & Film Festival, "Indigenous Rising" with Buffy Sainte Marie Live in Concert, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, Friday at 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m., oneheartfestival.org</p> <p>• 41st Annual Quilt Show, "Joyful Journey," Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., wsqspokane.org</p> <p>Oct 19 • "Thinking Back and Looking Forward," Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA Rural Ministry Roundtable, Zion Lutheran, 8304 E. Buckeye, Millwood, 981-9562 or 284-6107</p> <p>Oct 21 • "Earth Ministry," Jessica Zimmerle, Office of Church Engagement, Hixson Union Building Crow's Nest, 6 to 8 p.m., 777-3275, rhaftvigsen@whitworth.edu</p> <p>• "Impact of Race and Bias on the African American Community," Melissa Mace of Discovery Counseling, NAACP General Membership Meeting, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com</p> <p>Oct 22 • Women's Evening of Prayer, Laura Kolbe and Alisa Kostecka of Choosing the Better Part, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., ihrc.net</p> <p>Oct 23 • Civil Discourse 2.0: Where Is the Middle?, Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, Media Salon, Spokane FAVs Center, 5511 S. Freya, 6:30 to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 24-Nov 27 • "The Fig Tree Beyond 35 years: Branching into the Future," campaign to raise \$35,000 in 35 days, thefigtree.org/donate.html</p> <p>Oct 26 • Fall Compost Fair and Leaf Festival, John Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6580</p> <p>Oct 27 • Free 55+ Sunday Lunch, World Relief program, Spokane Valley United Methodist, 115 N. Raymond, 12:30 p.m., 924-7262</p> <p>• "Reduce Your Carbon Footprint through Zero Waste Living," South Hill Library, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Oct 28 • Bicentenary: Birth of the Báb, Unity Center of Divine Love and Light, 4123 E. Lincoln, 7 p.m., 326-0123</p> <p>Oct 29 • Birth of the Báb, dinner and movie, Fireplace Room CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., Spokane Valley, 6 p.m. 326-0123</p> <p>Oct 30 • The Fig Tree mailing and distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9:15 a.m., 535-1813</p> <p>Nov 1-3 • Retreat on the Spirit of Fun, "Surprising Gifts: Living the Life of the the Spirit in Joy, Beauty and Fun," Fr. David Robinson SJ, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., ihrc.net</p> <p>Nov 2 • Partnering for Progress "Into Africa" Auction and Dinner, "You Can Make a World of Difference a World Away," Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan, 5:30 p.m., 720-8408, partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction</p> <p>Nov 3 • "A Road Home," Lutheran Community Services Inland Northwest Fundraising Luncheon, Mukogawa Fort Right Commons, 4000 W. Randolph, 23:30 to 3 p.m., 343-5020, cmckee@lcsnw.org</p> <p>Nov 7 • The Fig Tree, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., Benefit at noon, Board 1 to 3 p.m., 535-1813</p> <p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>Jan. 25 • "Make It Happen," Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 535-4112, kaye@thefigtree.org</p> |
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Transforming store to a shelter, Family Promise expects to transform lives

Joe Ader expects lives will be transformed inside a historic grocery store that has been transformed into the Family Promise of Spokane Center.

The building at 2002 E. Mission is now the site for Family Promise's four programs: the Open Doors 24/7 emergency shelter, the Bridges church rotating shelter, the Neighbors prevention and rental assistance program, and the Village after care programs to stabilize people.

It's still a work in progress, but the Open Doors Emergency Shelter is already in, and a ribbon cutting will be at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Family Promise is holding a Civic Theater Benefit with a performance of "Matilda" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 1020 N. Howard.

Open Doors—previously at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct.—moved Sept. 5. Administrative office follows at the end of the year, and the Bridges Day Shelter—both at 904 E. Hartson—will follow in 2020.

The day and night shelters for families on the main level include a nursery room for sleeping babies and breastfeeding mothers, a wellness room for people who need privacy and separation when they are sick, an intake office, three kitchenettes where families can prepare their own meals, a dining area, a play area, a meeting space, a commercial kitchen, a classroom, a laundry and a shower.

"When the grocery store was built in 1949, it was the largest free span construction building west of the Mississippi. That allows us flexibility to add and remove walls to change the layout without disturbing the structural integrity of the building," Joe said. "For the last 10 years, it housed Cassano's Italian grocery and deli, which closed last December. We purchased it in March."

The main level was originally a pharmacy and soda fountain. The basement housed a cleaners beauty salon, jeweler and auto parts supplier. In the late 1950s 1950s, the basement closed and was used for storage for 60 years.

Joe said the basement will be renovated for more offices, meeting rooms for case managers and agency representatives, a locker room, laundry, play area and night shelter.

"When we fully renovate the building, we will accommodate up to 120 children and parents, double the number at Emmanuel Family Life Center," he said.

Motioning to a little girl in the next room, Joe said: "We want to create a good future for her."

A \$950,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City of Spokane plus \$120,000 in donations and a line of credit made it possible for Family Promise to purchase the building. So far, they have spent \$300,000 for renovations and need another \$400,000 to complete construction.



Emma Harms and Joe Ader show off their new space.

On the third floor, there are eight apartments. Existing tenants will lease five. Three are vacant. The apartments will provide a mix of permanent rentals and transitional rentals for families.

"With all programs in one building, families experiencing homelessness can find shelter and help to find housing, jobs, treatment and stability," Joe said.

While other shelters focus on youth or single adults, Family Promise focuses on families, which it defines as anyone caring for a child or who is pregnant. Downtown shelters serve single homeless people.

"Families are the hidden homeless. They are sleeping in their cars, couch surfing or staying in motels," he said. "They aren't on downtown streets so people often overlook how many children in Spokane are homeless."

The Open Doors shelter saw 400 of the 3,108 homeless children in Spokane County school districts last year.

Emma Harms, outreach and recruitment manager, said: "While the community is doing better at helping homeless people find housing in Spokane, homelessness is growing."

"We have services to prevent homelessness, shelter people who are homeless and help families stabilize after leaving homelessness. Our center is a one-stop shop for homeless families," she said.

Joe said that many organizations are collaborating to address the issues created by a lack of affordable housing, a vacancy rate under 2 percent for three years and the cost of rentals rising 13 percent a year in the last two years.

"These factors force people out of housing even if they have jobs," he said. "Most here take their children to school and go to work. About half of the adults work, but do not earn enough. Working

part time or full time at minimum wage, people cannot keep up with the cost of living. Wages are up because the state minimum wage is \$12.50 an hour, but the cost of living is \$17.50 an hour."

Joe pointed to two other factors:

1) The common denominator is the lack of community. People have no one to lean on because of broken relationships.

2) Some struggle with childhood trauma from abuse, neglect, a parent in prison or aging out of foster care.

"It's not one thing, but many things over a long period, so solutions do not come in a few months. Solutions include shelter, case managers, mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment and support," he said.

If a loss of community is one cause, Joe believes churches need to be engaged because their mission is to create community.

"Churches need to engage beyond drives for coats or food. Those help, and can be a springboard into the deeper relationships people need to move ahead," he said. "The Bridges shelter that houses families in churches on a rotating basis is an easy way for churches to serve those in need and to build

relationships by opening their building one week a quarter for up to three homeless families.

"We see fruit from two to three people from a church committing to be here regularly. More churches are partnering with our programs," he said.

Emma, who attends Summit South Church, said many churches encourage members to help outside their walls—to model hospitality and generosity.

"They can volunteer and be transformed to understand the Gospel in a new way," she said.

"In this community," Joe said, "children are born to teen mothers, refugees make their way and teens join gangs to seek community."

"All three can describe Jesus, who was born to a teen mom, was a refugee and walked with a gang of disciples," he said. "Serving the least is the literal way for Christians to live their faith and serve a person like Jesus in tangible ways."

"Faith is significant for families. While we are not are faith-based, we partner with more than 30 churches in the rotating program," he said.

Emma said faith can be an anchor when guests feel everything is out of control. Some come to faith.

Joe said many wonder why God let this happen: "We are a safe space for people in distress to wrestle with these questions."

After graduating from Whitworth in 2018 as a major in psychology and sociology, Emma started volunteering at Family Promise as an intern in children's programming. After six months, she became a supervisor before beginning her present role.

Joe moved to Spokane in 2016 to help friends start Pinnacle Church and Rock Church.

"I fell into the role with Family Promise because I speak nationally about understanding pov-

erty," said Joe who is publishing a book, *The Ghetto, the Garden and the Gospel: What Every Christian Needs to Understand About Poverty in America*.

He finds poverty in Spokane unique:

1) There are more intact families in Spokane shelters—70 percent have a father figure, while in other places there are more single mothers.

2) There is more substance abuse with marijuana in Spokane than Dallas. Addiction is more common with singles experiencing homelessness.

3) There is more collaboration. In Texas, one big church would fund a whole organization that could work along. Here partnering is required.

Emma added that if someone does not qualify for services in one program that program refers the person to another program. The Homeless Coalition, which Joe chairs, agencies meets first Thursdays, so those working with the homeless can learn and collaborate.

Despite media and politicians playing on different approaches to housing, the collaboration of housing agencies means there is respect for the different approaches of housing first, treatment first or love first.

"We agree we do not want people of any age on the street," Joe said. "Each viewpoint is valid. It's not about only one way being valid. That would leave many more people on the streets."

"It's a 'yes, and' approach. There needs to be accountability and substance abuse recovery, and there needs to be low barriers to shelters and housing, and there needs to be better economic system services. We need each," Joe said.

Emma said different people are healthier in different systems, because each has different needs.

For information, call 747-5487 or visit familypromiseofspokane.org.

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OCT 10 World Homeless Day Summit Lecture
\$15 tickets - 4pm-6:30pm at Doubletree Downtown

OCT 22 Ribbon Cutting at Family Promise Center
1:30pm at 2002 E. Mission Avenue

To register for any of these events, check out Family Promise of Spokane on Facebook!