

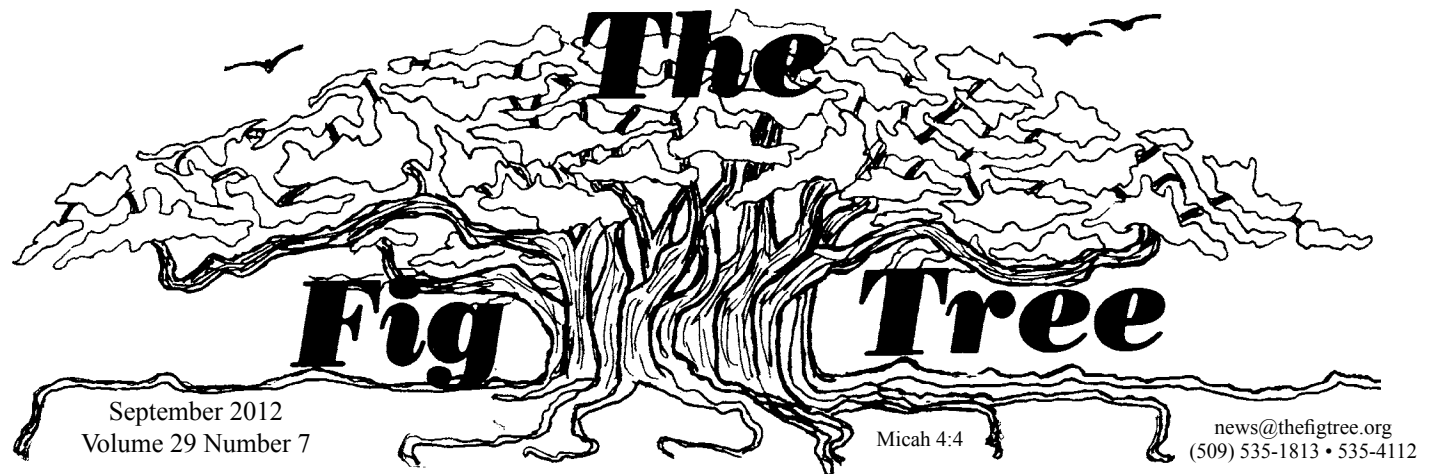
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org) • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

# Powwows build cohesiveness

By Mary Stamp

Behind the scenes at powwows, more occurs than drumming and dancing, fry bread and Indian tacos, crafts and regalia.

Amid the competitive jingle, fancy, grass and traditional dancing by age and gender groups, there's a cohesiveness that builds community among the family and friends who gather, and there's the prayerful healing that comes through the dance and song, along with building cultural awareness among the Indians and general public.

Many attend powwows every weekend.

Like other powwows throughout the year, the 2012 Spokane Falls Northwest Indian Encampment and Powwow in August at Riverfront Park promotes respect, honor and dignity as people listen to and experience prayers, ceremonies, speeches and humor.

David BrownEagle, who's at a powwow every weekend either as emcee or dancing, said that "people become close and become family by 'adoption.' That means one may be seen as an uncle, brother, grandfather, auntie, sister, grandmother and even as a 'cousin.' These are meant as heartfelt connections and are honored. So when a young



Frankie Skwanqhqn of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Ernestine Gopher in intertribal dance.

person does something he or she shouldn't, one who has been given the title via adoption may challenge him/her not to do it and will challenge the person to live up to the standards of respect, honor and dignity."

An enrolled member of the Spokane Tribe on his mother's side and Ho Chunk Nation on his father's side, he is an advisor with a social studies background and is presently teaching at The Community School, a project-based learning program at 1300 W. Knox in Spokane.

He has a master's degree in education, but this is not unusual, David said. There are many other powwow leaders, organizers, dancers and drummers who have associate, bachelor's, master's degrees, doctorates and vocational training skills, and work in teaching, community services and business.

David is also an all-round dancer, singer, artist and craftsman. As an emcee, dancer and community leader, he knows many of the drummers, dancers, spectators and vendors.

Connecting at powwows strengthens the community, called on to support one at times of death,

*Continued on page 4*

## Hate Studies Institute names recipients of 'Take Action Against Hate' awards

Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies will honor the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCTFHR) and the Rev. Happy Watkins, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church during its fourth annual Take Action Against Hate Banquet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Cataldo Hall on campus.

Each year, the Institute for Hate Studies presents the Eva Lassman Take Action Against Hate Awards to an organization and an individual in the Inland Northwest to recognize those committed to challenging hatred wherever and

however it manifests.

This year's banquet theme, "Transformations," echoes Gonzaga University's 125th anniversary theme, "Tradition and Transformation."

Awardees are leaders in the effort to transform the region to be a community committed to human rights and justice for all.

"When I first met Happy, he shared a favorite phrase about social justice leadership," said John Shuford, director of the Institute for Hate Studies. "You have to work to make a difference, wherever a difference can be made,

until 'making a difference' doesn't make a difference any more."

Both Happy and the Kootenai County Task Force have been making a difference for decades, and continue to do so not just in the region but anywhere a difference can be made, John said.

Known for delivering his own stirring renditions of the "I Have a Dream" speech at the Spokane Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and elsewhere, Happy told media, civic leaders, educators, children and others after the 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March bombing attempt that Spokane acts against hate and strives to fulfill Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community.

Along with his collaborator Ivan Bush, Happy helped lead efforts to establish Spokane's Martin Luther King Jr. Way. They also work to improve the region's correctional system, police departments, school districts and youth programs.

Happy serves many organizations to bring reconciliation and understanding among churches,

*Continued on page 3*

## Fig Tree seeks special donations for directories

The Fig Tree's 2012-13 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources has been published and mailed. Bulk deliveries are in process and The Fig Tree seeks volunteers to assist with those deliveries.

Again, 10,000 copies were published of this tool to enhance collaboration, service and action. It is especially in demand because of the need for congregations and agencies to know about resources for people in need. Advertising support was down about \$4,500, so The Fig Tree hopes people will donate for the copies they receive to help cover the costs. While copies are available at no charge, many directory users donate to support the resource, said directory editor Malcolm Haworth.

The Fig Tree also has been working with World Relief, Refugee Connections Spokane, and Aging and Long Term Care to publish a 2012-13 Elder Refugee Resource Directory in five languages—Russian, Arabic, Chin, Karen and Nepali.

"We embarked on the project expecting we would just transfer translated text into the directory copy, but preparation technicalities took many more hours and months than any of the partners anticipated," said Mary Stamp, Fig Tree editor.

"Each put in many as yet unreimbursed hours of work out of our commitment to this pilot project for the state and nation to help refugees be more self-sufficient in accessing resources," she said. "So we invite special donations to The Fig Tree to help cover our part of the project's costs—more than \$5,000, so we won't have to absorb all that amount as in kind."

Other partners will also welcome donations for their costs. For information, call 535-1813 or send to The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202.

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**Hearing set on religious minorities in Pakistan**

An international public hearing highlighting the plight of religious minorities and misuse of blasphemy law in Pakistan will be held from Sept. 17 to 19 in conjunction with the 21st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Organized by the World Council of Churches Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), the consultation will be held at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland near the United Nations offices there.

The event continues the WCC's efforts to support and be in solidarity with religious minorities in Pakistan who are victimized in the name of its blasphemy law. Blasphemy cases have resulted in death penalties and mob-instigated violence since the law was inserted into the Pakistan Penal Code.

The event will engage the international community, representatives of religious minorities and civil society organizations in Pakistan, specialized ministries, UN officials and representatives of international civil society organizations working on the rights of religious minority communities in Pakistan.

"The international hearing will create a platform to address the concerns of persecuted religious minorities to make their voices heard in the international arena and particularly at the United Nations Human Rights Council," said Mathews George Chunakara, the director of CCIA.

**International Day of Prayer for Peace is Sept. 21**

The World Council of Churches calls on the churches and congregations around the world to observe an International Day of Prayer for Peace on Sept. 21 to coincide with the International Day of Peace initiated by the United Nations.

Participants are asked to pray and act together for a just peace in communities, nations and the world. Prayers from different parts of the world will be shared online. Prayers for a just peace lift up social, economic, ecological or political-military aspects of peace.

"Praying for Ceasefire" is the theme adopted this year by On Earth Peace, a United States-based agency rooted in the Church of the Brethren.

"For some people, praying for ceasefire will mean praying for a break in armed conflict. For others, a ceasefire will mean ending conflict in their community, workplace, church or family," said Matt Guynn of On Earth Peace. To commemorate the day, On Earth Peace also invites congregations and groups to plan events including prayers, cultural sharing, music and the arts, to challenge violence in communities and to encourage action for peace.

Observances of the peace prayer day began in 2004 as part of the ecumenical Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010) after an agreement between the heads of the WCC and the UN.

For information, visit [www.overcomingviolence.org/IDPP](http://www.overcomingviolence.org/IDPP), the Peace prayer wall on Facebook. or #peaceday on Twitter.

**Ecumenism needs more commitment to women**

As the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC) celebrated its 30th anniversary in August, they elected the Rev. Romi Márcia Bencke its first woman general secretary.

The pastor of the Evangelical Church of Lutheran Confession in Brazil worked for congregations of migrants in Alta Floresta do Oeste and the Ecumenical Centre for Training and Consultancy for their Faith and Citizenship program.

Romi Márcia spoke on implications of her being the first woman general secretary of CONIC as Brazil becomes a more secular and less religiously-affiliated society with more social inequality and violence, which she believes religion could help overcome.

She said a key demand for women in the ecumenical movement is for them to occupy positions of leadership in ecumenical bodies and churches. She takes her election as a signal of such change and an "interesting opening" given that CONIC's president is a Roman Catholic bishop.

**REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS**

**National Friends executive to speak Oct. 27**

Diane Randall, executive secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, will be the primary resource person for a conference on national issues of concern to the faith community on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

A coalition of organizations—including Spokane Friends Church, Pax Christi, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Faith Action Network, The

Fig Tree, Unitarian Universalist Church, Salem Lutheran Church and Spokane Protest Chaplains—met to make plans for the event.

In March 2011, Diane became the fourth executive secretary since 1943. From work directing statewide advocacy organizations, she brings a passion to rebuild the U.S. democratic system.

She previously headed the Partnership for Strong Communities, a nonprofit in Connecticut developing policies on home-

lessness and affordable housing and provided leadership for the Hartford-based Lyceum Resource and Conference Center, which offers policy forums, civic dialogue and networking opportunities.

Twice she testified before the Senate Banking Committee and appeared on the House side as well.

She has been an active member of Hartford Monthly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting.

For information, call 435-8053.

**Whitworth community assists 40 nonprofits**

On its annual Community Building Day Sept. 18, about 1,200 Whitworth students, faculty and staff, including Whitworth President Beck Taylor and his wife, Julie, will assist 40 nonprofit organizations across Spokane County in efforts to improve the community.

"The event is a tangible outgrowth of Whitworth's mission to equip students to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity," said Steve LaPlante, coordinator. "In addition to providing a first

step toward fostering a lifelong ethic of social and civic responsibility in students, the event provides valuable services to nonprofit agencies across Spokane.

It also honors President Barack Obama's call for a National Day of Service in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Sites where volunteers will serve include Anna Ogden Hall, Arc Community Center, The Boys and Girls Club, Central Lutheran Church, Christ Kitchen, City Gate, Cup of Cool Water, Girl

Scouts, Goodwill Industries, Hut-ton Settlement, Lilac Services for the Blind, Mission Community Outreach Center, Odyssey World International, Project HOPE – Riverfront Farm, Riverside State Park, Rockwood at Hawthorne, Salvation Army, SpokAnimal, several parks and lakes in the area, Volunteers of America, Westminster Hall Garden Project, YMCA and Youth for Christ.

For information, call 777-4673 or email [slapointe@whitworth.edu](mailto:slapointe@whitworth.edu).

**Muslim group teaches classes in Idaho**

The North Idaho Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, the Unity Church of North Idaho and the Northwest School for Religious and Philosophical Studies in Coeur d'Alene are presenting classes in Islamic studies Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22, at the Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th St. in Coeur d'Alene.

Classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday.

Members of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim Community, an international revival movement in Islam, will teach the classes, said Lee Thompson, director of the Northwest School for Religious and Philosophical Studies.

"Founded in 1889, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which has its headquarters in the United Kingdom, spans more than 200 countries with 10s of millions of members," he said.

Its mission is "to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and

reinstitute morality, justice and peace," he explained.

Along with the classes, there will be a Celebration of the Abrahamic Religions—Jewish, Christian and Islam—in poetry, Scripture and music—at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 23, at the Human Rights Education Institute, 414 W. Mullan Ave. in Coeur d'Alene.

For information, call 208 666-6755 or the HREI at 208-292-2359, or email [lthomseeker@netzero.com](mailto:lthomseeker@netzero.com).

**Turner Lectures are Oct. 15 to 17 in Yakima**

The Turner Lectures, organized by the Northwest Regional Christian Church, will be held Monday to Wednesday, Oct. 15 to 17, at Englewood Christian Church, 511 N. 44th Ave. in Yakima.

The speaker this year is the Rev. Daisy Machado, academic dean and professor of church history at Union Theological Seminary since 2010.

She will speak on the theme, "Acres of Diamonds: Poverty, the Prosperity Gospel and the Gospel

Imperative." She will discuss the prosperity gospel in Christian thought, particularly in the United States and as it has been exported around the globe to the poorest Christian communities.

She will explore the roots of the theology, its key preachers, where it fits today, its impact on U.S. Christian communities and how it challenges the Gospel message on poverty and wealth.

Ordained in 1981, Daisy is the

first U.S. Latina ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She served inner city congregations in Brooklyn, Houston and Fort Worth. She also served as vice president of academic affairs and dean at Lexington Theological Seminary.

She has written the book, *Borders and Margins: Hispanic Disciples in the Southwest, 1888-1942*.

For information, call 253-893-7202 or visit [disciplesnw.org](http://disciplesnw.org).

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**Festival of Arts in West Central**

**Opening Night – Friday, September 21**

Doors open at 6 p.m. - \$5 at the door  
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Questions call The Book Parlor

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## Book Parlor hosts Festival of the Arts

The Book Parlor and Salem Lutheran are organizing a Festival of Arts in West Central Spokane from Sept. 21 through 28 at the church, 1428 W. Broadway, as a time to celebrate the art and artists in West Central Spokane. The festival includes a literature-poetry night and a concert night, along with the visual arts.

The Book Parlor and church seek volunteers in community congregations and organizations to help with promotion and the event itself. An opening night event will have a \$5 cover charge to help offset costs of the event, but other gallery times are free. Artists will be able to sell their art, said Casey Laughary of The Book Parlor.

For information, call 328-6527 or email [casey@TheBook-Parlor.com](mailto:casey@TheBook-Parlor.com).

## Two CROP Hunger Walks set in fall

Several CROP Hunger Walks are planned this fall in Eastern Washington to show solidarity with and support for those who are hungry and vulnerable in the Northwest and around the globe, said Christopher Carpenter, assistant regional director of the Pacific Northwest Church World Service office.

Information on two walks on Oct. 7 is available online: Details on the Mid-Columbia walk in Richland are at [croponline.org/richlandwa](http://croponline.org/richlandwa) and on the Pullman-Moscow walk are at [cropwalkonline.org/pullmanwa](http://cropwalkonline.org/pullmanwa).

Registration for the Pullman-Moscow walk begins at 1:30 p.m., at the Chipman Trailhead on Bishop Blvd., in Pullman. Locally, 25 percent of funds go to the Pullman Child Welfare Food Bank and the Moscow Food Bank.

For information, call 888-297-2767 or email [pn@church-worldservice.org](mailto:pn@church-worldservice.org).

## Celebration of Cultures planned at park

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a celebration of cultures festival from noon to 6:15 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Bowl and Pitcher area of Riverside State Park, 4427 N. Aubrey White Pkwy. in Spokane.

The celebration will include music, dance, art demonstrations and vendor booths, including Mexican dances, Japanese taiko drumming, blues, swing, jump and Latin music, Mayan backstrap weaving and Mexican wax flowers and corona.

The festival is part of the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program series celebrating Washington's diverse cultures. It is held in partnership between the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the Washington State Arts Commission and Northwest Heritage Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the arts commission and parks foundation.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, which manages a system of more than 100 state parks and recreation programs, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013.

For information, call 536-1126 or visit [www.parks.wa.gov/events](http://www.parks.wa.gov/events).

## Small Farm Conference is Sept. 28-29

The Inland Northwest Small Farm Conference will bring together small farm producers of vegetables, fruit, livestock and other products to learn new methods of sustainable farming, business management and marketing. It will be held Friday to Saturday, Sept. 28 and 29, at the Spokane County Interstate Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana.

Pat Munts of the Washington State University's Spokane County Extension said small-scale agriculture is "the hidden economic engine that could stabilize many small communities in the region" and "create food security for individual communities and the region as a whole."

For information, call 477-2173 or email [pmunts@spokanecounty.org](mailto:pmunts@spokanecounty.org).

# Pastor and Task Force are recipients

*Continued from page 1*  
faiths, social groups and individuals of all backgrounds.

Formed in 1981 as a volunteer organization, the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations has a long, diverse history of "making a difference" by combating hateful activities and messages, promoting human and civil rights, and building communities dedicated to safety, welcome, inclusion and peace.

More than a decade ago, it effectively opposed the now-defunct Aryan Nations organization and operations in Northern Idaho.

Since then, the task force has propelled many enduring transformations in civic and educational resources, community improvements and celebratory events.

It helped create the Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d'Alene and a peace park on the former Aryan Nations Compound site.

In addition, it holds an annual Human Rights Banquet and continues to lead by providing advocacy and support against hate crimes and lending technical consulting services to schools

and communities on human rights issues.

The featured speaker at Gonzaga's Take Action Against Hate Banquet is Ven. Geshe Thupten Phelgye, the University's visiting scholar and global peace activist. Geshe la, as he is affectionately known, is the founder of the Universal Compassion Movement. He was a student of the 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) and he served for many years as a member of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile.

The program also includes a performance of "Eva's Song," the poetic remembrance of Eva Lassman, read by author Michael Gurian accompanied on cello by Vicki Strauss.

Eva, a Holocaust survivor and a community educator on the Holocaust, human rights, challenging hatred and standing for others, received the inaugural Take Action Against Hate Award in 2009. For more than five decades, she stood as both witness and advocate for human dignity, respect and perseverance.

"For many of us, she was and remains 'our own Elie Wiesel',"

said John, alluding to the Nobel laureate political activist, educator and author.

She was a member of the institute's advisory board and received an honorary doctorate of laws from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2002. She passed away in February 2011 just shy of her 92nd birthday.

Banquet attendees will be invited to donate to help endow the Eva Lassman Memorial Fund at Gonzaga University. When it reaches the endowment threshold, the fund will support an annual Eva Lassman Student Award for undergraduates to work with the institute on projects that combine research, education and leadership to continue her legacy of "combating hatred, promoting tolerance and respect, and advancing peace and human rights."

Banquet proceeds support activities of the Institute for Hate Studies. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.; the formal program starts at 7 p.m.

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

## Sisters of Providence grant helps Fig Tree efforts

In August, the Sisters of Providence of Mother Joseph Province gave The Fig Tree a grant of \$500 from their Emilie Gamelin Mission Fund.

The gift is to support internships to train journalism students in The Fig Tree model of media and to help with costs of the Elder Refugee Resource Directory.

In the letter with the funds, Maureen Newman, SP, Provincial Council member, expressed

appreciation for The Fig Tree's "continued commitment to spread your model of sharing stories of people who live their faith and values."

Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp said that the publication has found it mutually beneficial to work with student interns in the communications and journalism programs at Gonzaga University, Whitworth University and Eastern Washington University.

Students have helped with writing articles, preparing videos, increasing online activity, doing research for the directory and planning the annual benefit breakfast and lunch in March.

"We hope that the students will gain skills in entrepreneurial journalism, which is the way of the future with more news online, and will know it's possible to continue their commitment to the values and ethics they learn," she said.

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# Connections made at powwows strengthens Indian community

Continued on from page 1  
births, illness or hard times. It's a gathering of old friends.

"We have a strong sense of family and community. Our children are safe. We watch out for each other's children," he said. "Parents are not alone in caring for and challenging their children. The whole community takes responsibility, and some of it happens at powwows formally and informally.

"When powwow speakers offer prayers and thoughts, others listen. There's much more going on at a powwow than dancing and drumming," David repeated.

**Powwows are also about** carrying on old traditions, adapting them and beginning new traditions.

"A new song in 2012 becomes a traditional one over time, just as a song first sung in 1912 is now a tradition," David said. "Along with the song itself is awareness of who composed it and why."

**Francis Cullooyah, co-emcee** with David and director of the Kalispel Cultural Program with the Kalispel Tribe in Usk, Wash., said that "of utmost importance in gatherings are the songs from the many drum groups attending.

"Each individual around a drum has something to offer, whether he's a drum keeper, lead singer or good singer with a strong voice," Francis said. "Songs were given to us by the creator early on in Native American life through the animal spirits we find in the many valleys, mountain tops, rivers and streams in our areas, including Spokane Falls, where people have gathered for many, many generations."

The forefathers and elders from many tribes have kept the traditions alive.

"The Spirits of these people bring us back again and again, so that the young ones, our children and the future generations can participate in these gatherings called powwows today," he said.

"Times have changed us in many ways, but the spirituality still exists in the place many of our generations of elders once gathered. I hope for a wonderful and spiritual future for the generations to come," Francis said.

**Shane Garcia, 33, grew up** in the Hopi culture, loving the music and songs, but the powwow was not part of that cultural tradition. It is part of the tradition for his wife, who is Nez Perce and Colville.

Since moving here in 2001, he began attending powwows, which have been part of his life since.

Shane, who has worked with The NATIVE Project since 2008 and became a mental health coun-



**Emcees David BrownEagle and Francis Cullooyah converse in the tent while judges watch teen men's fancy dancer compete. A teen woman jingle dancer is in the foreground.**

selor with youth after earning a master's degree in social work at Eastern Washington University in 2010, was chair of the 2012 encampment and powwow in Riverfront Park

"I go to many powwows now. My children who are 13, four and two dance, and I sing," he said.

The value for him is the spiritual connection and sense of belonging to a race, culture, ethnicity, family and community.

**The dancing, drumming and singing** are ways of praying and healing.

"Dancing connects the dancer to the earth, the sacred ground," he said. "It opens the gates to the spiritual world and is a way of praying for people who are at the powwow and for family.

"Dancing and singing open our minds. It's medicine," Shane explained. "They help us see wider than ourselves, to see that we are connected to everything. Living in the world is tough. Connecting with other things and people makes life simpler."

When limited funds meant that the Spokane Falls Northwest Indian Encampment and Powwow was not held last year, many planners, organizers, individual supporters and volunteers came together to make sure it would not only happen this year but also be carried on and expanded each year.

**For generations,** there have been powwows in the Spokane area, and they continue to be held at parks, gyms and community centers, David said. There were powwows at Peaceful Valley, High Bridge Park and Franklin Park, where he danced when he was in his early 20s in the 1970s.

Since 1989, the Spokane Falls

Northwest Indian Encampment and Powwow has been held in Riverfront Park.

This powwow's website said, "It has been a sacred tradition for many tribes in the Northwest to gather beside the river, which gives life, love, hope and revitalization."

Tribes of the area—the Spokane, Colville Confederated Tribes, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Yakama—and the people from more than 200 other tribes who live in Spokane gather there each year to create and renew friendships, as they share their songs and dances.

**According to Toni Lodge** of The NATIVE Project, Spokane County has the fourth largest urban Indian concentration in the United States.

Tribes traditionally came to the river in August to fish, trade, share stories and songs. The powwow helps people relate to their history

and understand life through their cultural symbols.

**Organizers made sure** it happened this year, promoting it and raising funds for prizes and use of the park, including receiving a lodging tax grant from the City of Spokane and sponsorship, as well as funding from the Spokane Tribe, Kootenai Tribe, the NATIVE Project/NATIVE Health, the American Indian Community Center, Hospice of Spokane,

Spokane Community College, Northern Quest, Kauffman and Associates, Avista, several other businesses and about 15 individuals and families.


Beyond celebrating Indian heritage, the powwow is about cultural sharing to break down stereotypes and create connections with the wider community.

**In addition to powwows** showcasing the culture, the Spokane Falls Northwest Indian Encampment and Powwow includes a tradition of a non-Indian dancing contest.

Ten women and ten men Indian dancers go into the crowd and select two people each. They then teach those they recruit how to dance. Then the "contestants" dance for prizes as part of the non-Indian championship dance.

"It's a crowd pleaser," David said. "Those who come out to dance do it in a fun and honorable way. Because they feel a connection to the song, the dance, the history and the spirit, and we thank them for doing this. We have made a connection."

For information, call 325-5502.



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# Community gardens increase the fresh food available in city and area

By Shannon St. Hilaire

Community gardens bring a group of people together around the common purpose of growing more food, said Pat Munts, small farms acreage coordinator for the Washington State University Spokane County Extension and Spokane Conservation District.

She works with small farmers and small-acreage owners, as well as with community gardens and urban agriculture. She facilitates groups interested in starting community gardens, providing resources and connections.

"Food connects us all. It doesn't matter where it is produced," Pat said.

Next to the city, churches are the most active groups she facilitates.

"They are a natural group of people with a mission, often a chunk of ground and good insurance. So it's easy for them to pull together," she said. "They have to go through the same process for setting up any garden."

Pat noted that not every church is ready for a garden.

"A congregation has to look at its needs. A garden may not fit. If a congregation wants to start something, they need to meet. If it's a small congregation, they can go down the street, make it an ecumenical thing," Pat suggested.

She pulls people together, talks about what they need, what their expectations are and who has skills to contribute.

There is a role for everyone in the community—bookkeeping, fund raising, hanging signs, doing display tables, telling friends and more, Pat pointed out.

"There's work to do for someone who can't bend down to plant a seed. The project crosses all ages, so it's perfect for churches," she said. "While some churches have a hard time reaching out to



Pat Munts pulls weed from demonstration garden bed.

communities around them, this project could help them do that."

Starting community gardens has worked for many area churches, including Millwood Presbyterian Church, Beautiful Savior Lutheran, All Saints Lutheran and Holy Trinity Episcopal.

It depends on the pastor, the governing body and the members reaching out to their community. Building a garden and expecting people to come doesn't work, she said. The community must be built first so everyone joins in.

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church on the South Hill voted last spring to begin a garden. Their effort has involved the

entire congregation—from preschoolers to elders, plus neighbors who want to join in the effort.

Half of the beds are devoted to Plant a Row for the Hungry, while the rest are for private use.

They grow corn, potatoes, squash and more. They have a building that is used for storage and classroom space.

"Down the road, the building may play a broader role in the greater community garden system," Pat said, adding that she uses it to store extra wheelbarrows. She hopes that by making the building available to others, it will be another way for the community gardens in the area to

share resources with each other.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Central has also been expanding and developing its own community garden.

"Because it is a mobile and eclectic congregation, it has been a challenge for them," she said.

Pat helps them build boxes for the raised beds and works with the community to increase interest and teach skills. They use some of the boxes to grow herbs and vegetables for the Wednesday night Dinner Table, a weekly free meal.

Their goal is to provide a safe place to grow food and build community.

People who have health issues or other struggles can benefit from having a patch of earth to cultivate and growing their own food on it, she added.

"It's good for their self-esteem and it calms them. It's something they can control," she said.

In addition to the church, community gardens are now an established part of the city, said Pat, who meets regularly with those in charge of the land to make sure it is used as it was intended.

She is excited about the Spokane Parks Board's recent vote to allow community gardens in city parks. She is helping to develop two gardens in the parks to be finished this year, and is assessing locations for more gardens.

"It is important for people to have access to land anywhere in the city," she said.

In her continuing effort to connect gardeners, Pat is working with the county to create a map of all the community gardens in Spokane, Spokane Valley, Cheney, Airway Heights and Deer Park.

She currently has 10 to 12 gardens mapped in Spokane and several more in the surrounding area. Her list keeps growing. She hopes that anyone wanting to

become involved with a community garden will be able to access the map.

She occasionally visits groups she has worked with in the past.

Having been in the field since 1977, "there isn't much I haven't dealt with," she said. "It's a networking connection."

Pat said she lets the gardens belong to their people, while remaining in contact to give advice: "I don't own any project. I want the community to own it. It's theirs and when they take it, it stays theirs."

In addition to maintaining past relationships, she has goals for the future.

"I would like to see a community kitchen system to teach people to can food, preserve food and cook a meal," she continued.

She hopes churches will be involved in this effort because they often have kitchens that have passed health department certification and they have the space to accommodate a group. They are centrally located, so people could walk to the classes.

"There's no reason for people to go hungry. There is plenty of quality food in this region and people should have access to it," Pat asserted.

Many gardens give their produce to food banks.

Pat finds that people who have benefited from food banks in the past are likely to give to them when they have excess.

"This community is creative, dedicated and giving. Being here as long as I have, I've seen it change, but those values are always there and I think they always will be," she said. "Community gardens help keep those values going."

For information, call 477-2123 or email [pmunts@spokanecounty.org](mailto:pmunts@spokanecounty.org).

## Spokane Community Gardens schedules self-guided tour of nine gardens

A self-guided tour of nine gardens, a harvest celebration, a swap meet and a collection of produce and canned goods for Second Harvest are part of the Fall 2012 Community Garden Tour from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22.

The event of Spokane Community Gardens is for people interested in community gardens, urban farms and food security, said Dennis Anderson, organizer. Gardeners will tell about how

their gardens operate.

Gardens open for the tour are:

- Commons Community Garden at 33rd and Lamonte will host the garden swap meet of garden tools and equipment. It will also include a workshop by Master Gardeners on composting.

- Northeast Community Center Garden at Liberty and Lacey Sts. in Hillyard has 48 garden plots with many gardeners from Eastern Europe, Ukraine and Russia.

- Hifumi En Community Garden, 926 E. 8th Ave., is a project building community among residents of an apartment complex.

- Emmanuel Lutheran Church Garden, 314 S. Spruce, Browne's Addition, is an outreach to the neighborhood. They have converted the lawn to a garden to be a source of food for neighbors.

- Twin Owls Community Garden, 6912 E. Random Pt. Ln., Brown's Mountain, is a commu-

nal garden where gardeners share the work and the produce.

- St. Margaret's Shelter Garden, 2702 S. Oak St., Vinegar Flats, is a project of staff and residents at the shelter, growing produce sold at farmers' markets and teaching residents to grow their own food.

- The Fairview and Hemlock Community Garden in Northeast Spokane includes diverse ages, families and individuals.

- Riverview Farms, Holy Trin-

ity Episcopal Church, 1832 W. Dean, West Central Spokane, is a new project envisioning neighborhood community gardening and a public market. It is run by Project HOPE and the Faith and Environment Network.

- The Earth Turners garden is at Cedar and Water Ave. in Peaceful Valley.

For information, call 747-5562 or email [dennis\\_anderson@mac.com](mailto:dennis_anderson@mac.com).



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# Spokane Guilds' School seeks to serve more children with disabilities

By Deidre Jacobson

With an increasing need for services for infants to three-year-old children with disabilities, Dick Boysen, director for 35 years of the Spokane Guilds' School and Neuromuscular Center, is guiding a search for a new location.

The school serves 200 children and families at 2118 W. Garland Ave., where it has been housed since 1982 in a building owned by Spokane Public Schools and rented for one dollar a year through a state Referendum #37 project.

**The Guilds' School originated** 52 years ago and was named to reflect that the founders were several women's guilds. None of the founders were mothers of children with special needs but rather were women who knew their efforts could make a difference for children and their parents.

The group began providing respite, giving mothers a break from the care of their children. The school was located for the first 22 years in the Cowley Youth building of Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, and was staffed by volunteers.

**In the late 1960s, a federal law** granted government money for children with disabilities, following the trend toward deinstitutionalization. The common belief at that time was that disabled people learned differently. Now it is understood that they learn more slowly, said Dick.

Washington State's early and strong focus on providing services to this group resulted in a 1971 state law requiring education for all children, followed in 1975 by a similar federal law. The federal and state laws provided funds for the expanding Guilds' School.

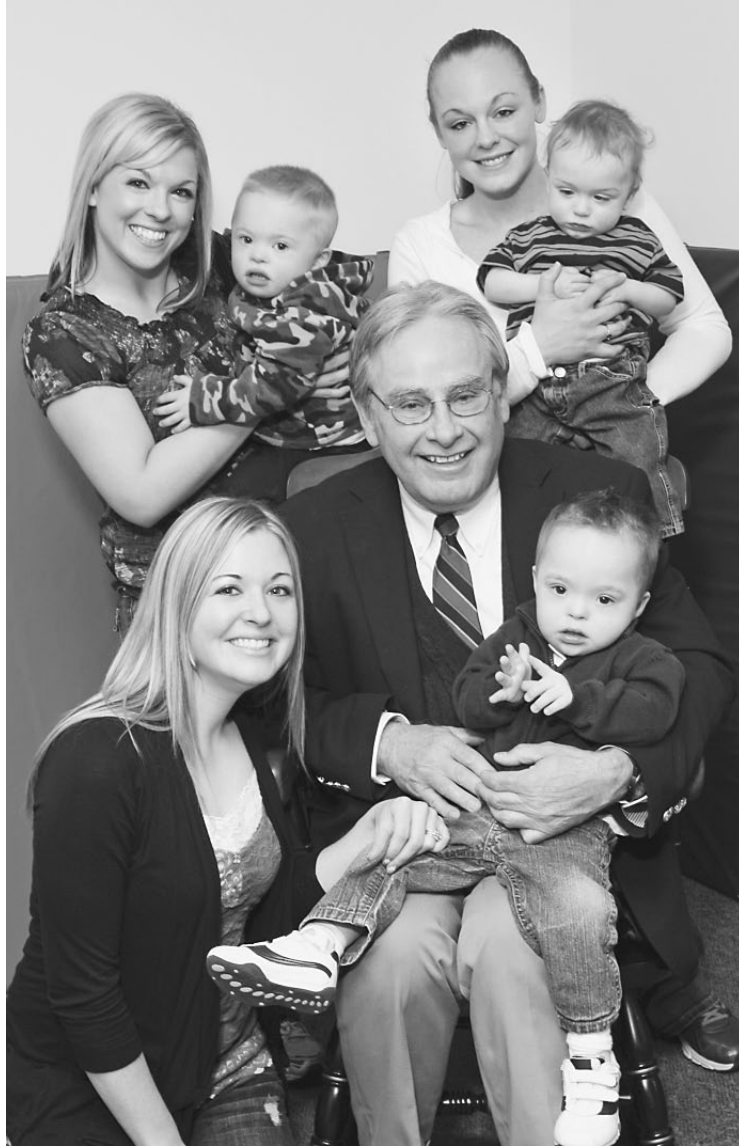
**Dick began as director** in 1977. The father of three and grandfather of five, he was one of 13 children raised in a Catholic family in Southern California, growing up next door to a boy with Muscular Dystrophy. This early neighborhood relationship and his faith experiences influenced his choices in his education and career.

After earning a bachelor's degree in anthropology at California State University Northridge, he came to Washington State University and earned master's degrees in child development and adult and continuing education.

He moved to Spokane in 1975 to be educational director for Head Start in Spokane County, and came to the Guilds' School two years later.

**"Early on, I saw the need,** primarily in the struggle of the parents. I knew we could make a difference," said Dick.

The Guilds' School now serves nine school districts in the county. Five districts provide services for their children. The Spokane Regional Health District is the lead agency for assessing the needs of young children with disabilities



Jessica and Hayden Johnston, Sara and Russel Winkler, and Alaina and Beau Stevenson surround The Guilds' School director Dick Boysen. Photo courtesy of The Guilds' School

and assigning services to meet those needs.

Various children's providers, including people from the Guilds' School, meet each month to assess new referrals. Based on family resources and severity of need, the most severe situations are often referred to the Guilds' School.

**Each child begins** at Guilds' School with an individual family service plan designed to fit the needs of the child and family. Medical director Rob Piston, M.D., reviews the medical information and does a complete examination of the child. A pediatric nurse and social worker make a home assessment. The special education teacher, physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech/language pathologist then

do an arena assessment, which evaluates various aspects of a child's development.

They determine the child's developmental age and diagnose what syndrome may account for that age. Then they design a plan of intervention.

**Many staff have been on board** for 20 to 30 years, bringing experience needed for an accurate, thorough assessment and an intervention plan. The children receive from two- to seven-and-a-half hours of service each week.

Federal law determines how long children stay in the program—birth until their third birthday. Then children are the responsibility of local school districts. About 15 percent of Guilds' School's children are able to leave

before that time because they have achieved age appropriate skills. Transition meetings begin six months before the transfer occurs.

**Teaching the family to help** their baby with therapeutic work can begin immediately, in the home or at the Guilds' School. After age two, the child may be in a group setting, where the child-to-teacher/therapist ratio is no more than two-to-one.

When the child leaves the Guilds' School, Dick sends a letter to the family, letting them know they can call staff if they have a question, crisis or need advice or direction. Staff will provide information, support or referrals to community services."

**He stays connected** to the day-to-day operation of the school.

"I go Wednesdays to the neuromuscular staff meeting and see the difficult situations the families are in," he said. "Sometimes I wonder, 'What are we going to do for her?' The staff is optimistic, well-trained and clever. We work with some of the most difficult situations, yet we see miracles every day. Seventy-five percent of our children are Medicaid eligible, some coming from troubled situations. We work closely with other service providers."

**The school also seeks** to educate the community on the importance of the birth to three-year-old age range and the science of early intervention and the importance of stimulation. The most crucial time for brain development is birth to three years.

Because only 65 percent of funding comes from government sources, the Guilds' School must secure 35 percent from private sources to run the school.

**The "Kids for Kids" Penny Drive** is the school's well-known community event, this year celebrating its 15th anniversary, and raising more than \$177,000 a year.

Volunteers, board members and 65 schools in the county support the event. A Guilds' School parent brings his or her child to

each school and explains at an assembly about disabilities and their child's unique needs. The children take the money jugs and begin collecting. At the end of this year's event, eight tons of coins were counted in eight hours in the school gym.

Faris Charbonneau, a past educator and Guilds' School board member, began the "Kids for Kids" Penny Drive. She wanted to educate the community and empower young people to realize that they could change the world for others, even if it meant picking up a penny in a parking lot.

Children hearing the message about disabilities are inquisitive, asking question adults might be thinking, Dick said.

"The children teach us and lead us to a better community and a better world," he said.

The "Kids for Kids" program teaches acceptance of disabilities and diversity. It teaches about sharing, giving and caring about others.

Ed Charbonneau developed a counting and sorting system which sorts an average of eight tons of coins annually. Each year, Darigold Dairy provides the jugs for the collection.

**Funding issues are a concern.** "It is harder. Money is so tight.

We are highly regulated because 65 percent of the budget comes from seven government sources," said Dick. "I see that directors of nonprofits are overwhelmed. We need better policies in government to help the young families. Isolated nuclear families are a big problem, stressed out people taking care of small children."


This past year, Northwest Architecture Company and Bouten Construction Company have helped the school complete a pre-design study. The challenge is to secure a site for the new facility.

"Where we build is critical to the future of the organization and how the program can assist the community," he said. "The

*Continued on next page*

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# Statewide network draws new advocating congregations organizer

Sam Rennebohm joined the Faith Action Network of Washington as director of organizing advocating congregations, following David Hacker, who was ordained as an Episcopal priest in Wapato this summer.

At the Faith Action Network—a merger in 2011 of the former Washington Association of Churches and Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington—Sam will build relationships among congregations to expand and maintain the network of advocating congregations.

The Advocating Congregations Program of the FAN is a network of religious communities “committed to working for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. The goal is that by joining voices they will be more powerful advocates for social change,” said Sam, who started at his job in July.

“I think the faith walk is about working toward the world we hope to see,” he said. “I follow Jesus as an example of radical solidarity with people who live on the margins.

“There is need for people of faith to provide a moral voice for and to work for a more just and equitable world,” he said.

Involved in community organizing and advocacy while in Seattle and during college and seminary, Sam began by shadowing the companionship ministry of his father, the Rev. Craig Rennebohm, through Prospect



**Sam Rennebohm reaches out to people across Washington.**  
Photo courtesy of the Faith Action Network

United Church of Christ, his home church.

In 2009, Sam earned a bachelor’s in ethnic studies from Columbia University in New York City and a master of divinity degree in 2012 from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

He also organized against gentrification in New York and worked with an immigration rights coalition in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as serving as an intern at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Berkeley. His hope is to be ordained in the United Church of Christ.

“Prospect gave me my initial entry point into the Christian walk and continues to support me as I

explore my calling in ministry,” he said.

“Having basic compassion as human beings means we should be more caring for the poor. God compels us to love one another,” Sam said. “Loving one another means ensuring that everyone has the basic necessities for living fulfilling lives.”

Sam said that participating in his father’s ministry with people who are mentally ill and homeless in Seattle has given him methods for being in companionship with people.

“I also learned from him a willingness to let the Holy Spirit guide our work and interactions with each other,” he said. “Every

interaction on the streets or in a congregation is about listening for the presence of the Holy Spirit and allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our interactions with people.”

He believes the same is true in working for advocacy and activism in terms of communicating positions on issues.

He suggests that advocates watch for a turning of the heart of “those we talk with—lawmakers, members of Congress or the general public,” he said. “The Holy Spirit is at work when hearts are turned.

“One thinks of organizing work being about controlling rather than being spiritually grounded and letting go to the Holy Spirit,” Sam said.

Sam is looking forward to meeting people around the state at Summit gatherings in October.

There will be an Advocating

Congregations Summit for Eastern Washington at 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at First United Methodist Church, 210 N. Ruby, in Ellensburg.

There are also plans for a retreat beginning at 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26, to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Lacy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg. The theme is “Advocating for God’s Creation: A Training Retreat for Washington’s Faith Advocates.” The training will focus on developing skills in advocacy, education and engagement on hunger, poverty and the environment.

There will also be a Western Washington Advocating Congregations Summit at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30, at Seattle First Baptist, 1111 Harvard Ave.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or email [rennebohm@fanwa.org](mailto:rennebohm@fanwa.org).

## Director sees God’s hand ‘on our work’

*Continued from page 6*  
desired location is in the heart of the University District east of downtown Spokane, a central and accessible location. It puts us in the center of training the students in higher education, special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, nursing, social work and medical students and providing interns for the Guilds’ School. The University District location also puts us in the middle of the research effort that will go on in the coming years.”

Board chair Chris Olney said, “At one time, we were able to serve more than 90 percent of the children needing our help. Today, because of growing demand, a fixed budget and lack of space, we are only able to serve 30 percent.

The board hopes the new facility will double the number of children they can help each year.

Dick sees something powerful happening at the school.

“While faith practices of staff are a private matter, we observe

God’s hand on our work,” he said. “We are grateful to people who care and help. Spokane does love its children and is helping to

“Keep The Dream Alive.”  
For information, call 326-1651, email [guild@guildschool.org](mailto:guild@guildschool.org) or visit [www.guildschool.org](http://www.guildschool.org).

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**WHITWORTH**  
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# People surround Sikh Gurudwara to express solidarity

By Mary Stamp

Unitarian Universalist pastor Todd Eklof in Spokane sought a way for caring people to wrap their arms around the Sikh Gurudwara—place of worship—in Spokane Valley after he heard news of a gunman killing six people and wounding four before a service Aug. 5 at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee, Wis.

He contacted Baldev Singh, a volunteer at the temple, and their connection grew into a spontaneous, social-media-promoted expression of compassion and hospitality on Saturday, Aug. 11.

**More than 175 people** from the community gathered with about 100 from the Sikh community to say they care and to express their desire to protect and support the Sikh community in the Inland Northwest. About 100 Sikh men and women welcomed the guests with water and then a vegetarian meal in gratitude for their love.

Kalwant Floua, one of the women volunteers, explained that the Sikh community worships on Sundays, but were gathered that Saturday as part of their monthly 48-hour gathering to read the 1,430 pages of their scriptures and to pray.

She said she is in the second family who came to the area. Now about 70 Sikh families live in the region and participate in the temple. She moved here in 1991. The first family operates the Taste of India restaurant.

Baldev, who is director of international sales for Oxyfresh, moved from Malaysia four years ago to the international headquarters in Coeur d'Alene, after many years of visiting the United States and this region.

**Todd said the event happened** because “there is so much love and support in the community. We just needed to open the door to allow people to express it.”

In the week before the gathering, he said he learned much about the Sikh faith and concluded, “We are blessed to have Sikhs in the community. They are progressive people offering radical hospitality in response to a symbolic show of support sharing their mourning for the loss of Sikhs in Wisconsin. We want them to feel safe to worship here.”

Todd said that many elements of the Sikh faith are like “our own religion and encapsulate my faith.”

**A booklet the Sikhs passed out** on “Why Are the Sikhs?” explains that the goal of the Guru Nanak



Members of various faiths and the wider community put their arms around the Sikh Gurudwara.



Baldev Singh spoke on behalf of the Sikh community, expressing their gratitude for the support and caring.

Mission based in Miami, Fla., is to “spread the universal message of human understanding, love, co-existence and the establishment of pluralistic society based on equality, human fraternity, justice and freedom—economic and political.”

It further explained that Guru Nanak, who lived from 1469 to 1539, founded the faith and 20 Sikh Gurus developed it over 239 years.

**Sikhs believe in one God**, the creator of the universe and in the equality of all human beings, both women and men. They teach that one should earn a living by honest means, not take what belongs to others, and should share earnings with the poor and needy.

They call for service to humanity, regardless of religious

or political affiliation, and for non-violence.

They believe meditation is for remembering God and bringing one closer to God and peace of mind. Its followers do not believe in forced conversions. Their daily prayer is for the wellbeing of humanity.

Sikhs are expected to control passion, anger, greed, materialism and ego.

Sikh men and women do not cut their hair. Men wear turbans and women wear scarves or turbans.

**Todd read several quotes** celebrating the diversity of religions in the world:

- Gandhi spoke of the different religions being beautiful flowers, and different roads converging to the same point... the same truth.

- Hinduism and Krishna say, “Truth is One.”

- Bagavadita describes the different religions as “pearls in a necklace.”

- Rumi said, “All religions are one and sing one song.”

- The different expressions of faith, said Krishna, are because of “variances of climate, culture and temperament.”

- Catholic theologian Matthew Fox speaks of there being many wells tapping into one river.

**Baldev expressed gratitude** for “the interfaith expression of solidarity arising from a senseless act in Wisconsin.”

Just as people gathered around the temple in Spokane Valley, many people across the nation have called local temples to express their compassion, their respect for life, freedom and the right to worship.

Baldev invited those who gathered to join in a worship service on Sundays to see how Sikhs pray and worship.

In an interview after formal

comments, Baldev said that while most of the 70 families involved in the Spokane Valley temple are from Punjab, a province in northern India where the faith began and where 60 percent of people are Sikh, he grew up in Seremban, Malaysia, 40 miles from the capital, Kuala Lumpur, where one percent of people are Sikh in a predominantly Muslim society.

**He wore a turban and beard** through school and university studies, including playing field hockey.

“It makes me stand out and makes me be responsible to my duty as a Sikh,” he said.

**He said Malaysia**, with Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Sikhs, is like America, “a caldron of different cultures.”

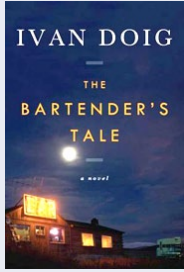

While Sikhs are only one percent of the people in Malaysia, they are the fifth largest religion with 20 million adherents worldwide. In the United States and Canada, there are 750,000 Sikhs. “It’s touching for our Sikh com-

*Continued on next page*

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# Sikh community responds with hospitality, gratitude and a meal

*Continued from page 8*  
 munity to receive the outreach so many different communities have shown the Sikh faith by coming together spontaneously with little planning," he said. "Todd had an idea of surrounding the temple with arms of compassion."

He was impressed that so many were sympathetic and ready to celebrate diversity.

"It shows that people of different faiths are willing to come together, to support us and to respect diversity," he said. "It shows we are all moved by the same maker. We have different names for God, but the same faith."



Community expresses its love and solidarity.

The Lord created us diverse, so we should celebrate diversity. We were made different, unique, not all the same size or color."

Baldev said Sikhs stood up for diversity over the years and fought in India to preserve the right of free worship for Hindus



Sikh women give water to the visitors.

about 500 years ago.

"Our founder, Guru Nanak, spoke of equality of men and women, the right for freedom of worship, freedom of speech and freedom for individuals as tenets of Sikhism," he said.

Because Sikhism is a non-missionary religion, the doors of its temple are open for Buddhists, Christians, Muslims and other faiths to come and pray in their own way, "to salute the Lord by whatever name they call God," aware that "a rose is sweet whatever its name."

While the Sikhs are active globally in interfaith dialogue, in places where there are fewer Sikhs, they tend to focus on maintaining their own gurudwara.

Congregations, faiths and organizations represented among the people who gathered included St. Ann Catholic, Bethany Presbyterian, the Unitarian Universalist Church, Veradale and Westminster United Church of Christ churches, Liberty Park and Cheney United Methodist churches, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Salem and St. Mark's Lutheran, Shalom UCC/Mennonite, Unity Church of Spokane,

Country Homes Christian, Jewish, Baraka Sufi, Buddhist, Spokane Interfaith Council, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Gonzaga University's Hate Studies Institute, Pax Christi and Friends of Compassion.

Baldev said there is a worship at the Sikh Gurudwara from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sundays, followed by a vegetarian meal.

For information, call 892-9377 or email [baldevs@21ten.com](mailto:baldevs@21ten.com).



The Rev. Todd Eklof gathers people to an opportunity to talk about the purpose of the gathering.

## Buddhist nuns offer a workshop

As part of recognizing International Bhikkhuni Day, the Alliance for Bhikkhunis, Sravasti Abbey and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane will explore why a western woman would leave her family, shave her head and don the plain robes and simple lifestyle of a Buddhist nun, and what impact that has on society.

Buddhist nuns and women in spiritual leadership will join in a workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Blvd.

In conjunction with the event, they will show the documentary film, "Blessings: the Tsoknyi Nangchen Nuns of Tibet," at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28 at the church.

The film tells the story of 3,000 Tibetan Buddhist nuns in the remote nomadic region of Nangchen in Eastern Tibet. Despite near extinction during the Cultural Revolution, they have emerged to rebuild their monasteries by hand.

"Bhikkuni" is the Pali—the scriptural and liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism—name for a fully ordained Buddhist nun. International Bhikkhuni Day is a global, grassroots effort sponsored by the Alliance for Bhikkhunis to honor the Buddhist Nuns' Order, begun more than 2,500 years ago and now serving throughout Asia and now in the West.

Sarah Conover, local author and

lead organizer for Spokane's celebration was moved by attending a celebration of the first annual International Bhikkhuni Day at Sravasti Abbey, impressed with the commitment and sacrifice required of monastics. The experience cemented her path in the Buddha's teachings so she wanted to share that with other women in Spokane.

The Inland Northwest has one of the few communities of fully ordained Buddhist nuns in America. Sravasti Abbey outside of Newport is a Buddhist monastery in the Tibetan tradition established for western students who wish to pursue a monastic lifestyle.

The community includes six fully ordained nuns, including its abbess Thubten Chodron, who has practiced Buddhism for more

than 35 years. A student of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan masters, she teaches Buddhist philosophy and meditation worldwide and has published 13 books on Buddhism.

The Spokane Bhikkuni Day workshop will explore the universality of compassion and the roles of women—lay and monastic—in spiritual leadership.

It will include meditations, dialogue with Buddhist nuns from Sravasti Abbey, a talk by the Abbey's founder Venerable Thubten Chodron, and small group reflections and interaction.

Spokane meditation teacher Dori Langevin will also lead meditation as part of the program.

For information call 850-2750, email [office.sravasti@gmail.com](mailto:office.sravasti@gmail.com) or visit [www.sravasti.org](http://www.sravasti.org).

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# Holy Names sister serves as chaplain to two sports teams at Gonzaga

By Shannon St. Hilaire

Each day as Sister Laura Michels, SNJM, walks the three blocks from her home to her work at Gonzaga University, she thanks God for her vocation of sharing faith with people on the threshold of adulthood.

She is both the coordinator of liturgy and the chaplain for two sports teams at Gonzaga University.

Through her words and actions, she seeks to show students they are loved.

"No two days are alike," she said. "I never know where I will find God."

Education in the faith is the charisma, or gift, of Sister Laura's order, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

"I try to be the reed through which God plays music," she said. "I want to connect the students to their faiths."

Sister Laura attended Holy Names Academy in Spokane. When she graduated, she entered that community.

She taught for 19 years in the Seattle area after she finished her degree. She worked at Gonzaga in a liturgy position from 1986 to 2000. Then she served on the Holy Names leadership team for six years. She came back to Gonzaga in 2006.

"I was drawn back to Gonzaga because I loved it and there was an opening," she said.

As coordinator of liturgy, Sister Laura finds and shares God through her interactions with students to plan the campus Masses and teach confirmation classes.

She works with three student sacristans and about 100 student liturgical ministers to coordinate the Masses. She educates the students on the meaning of the liturgy.

"I take the students' advice as well," said Sister Laura, "because they know what their classmates need."

Sometimes the students help Sister Laura learn more about the liturgy. She had always thought that it was correct to replace holy water with sand during Lent. This year, her students inspired her to research it, and she discovered that the practice was not correct.

"Although it is a desert time, we keep the water in anticipation of Easter," she said.

Sister Laura attends the daily student Mass and the Sunday Masses, and helps plan larger liturgies, such as the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the Baccalaureate Mass. She sometimes takes the sacristans to lunch at the dining hall after Mass.

"It is a way to develop relationships with the students and create



Sister Laura Michels, SNJM, seeks to show students they are loved. Photo by Shannon St. Hilaire

community," she said.

Sister Laura is also the chaplain for the men's baseball and women's basketball teams.

"I call it the dessert part of my job," she said. "It's another place I go to do ministry."

Sister Laura did not start out as chaplain when she came to Gonzaga. She is distantly related to the coach of the baseball team. She told him that she always kept his team in her prayers. One day he asked her to make it official, and she became the chaplain in 2007. Two years later, she became chaplain for the women's basketball team as well.

Sister Laura's work reflects both the athletic and faith values that are prominent parts of Gonzaga's identity. The chaplaincy provides an opportunity for the athletes to connect with University Ministry.

"Many athletes have isolated lives with demanding schedules," she said. "They aren't able at times to be ordinary students."

Sister Laura has always been interested in sports, and her enjoyment of sports makes her job easier. Her goal, however, is to put the sport into perspective for the athletes.

"Athletic gifts are important, but who athletes become because of them is more important," she said.

She prays that the athletes do their best and are not injured. She says the same prayer for the opposing team, as well. She asks God to take care of everybody on the court.

Sister Laura tells the teams that

"winning is nice because they are using their skills well," but she believes that not winning can teach them important lessons as well.

"It is good because you recognize that you are not perfect, but you can be better," she said.

Sister Laura and the coaches give the athletes the tools for growth. She meets with the teams before they play home games. Sometimes she travels with them to away games. She prays, talks and reads a poem before they play.

"They like my poems," she said, "but I had to tell them that they are permitted to laugh at the humor in them."

Some athletes are not at first sure how to behave around her as a nun. Eventually they learn that they can laugh with her.

"I am who I am. I'm just an ordinary person," she said.

Sister Laura learns the names and numbers of the players. Every year, there are several new members on the baseball team and on the women's basketball team.

"Names are important," she said.

She has different relationships with the men's and the women's teams.

For example, after she says the Lord's Prayer with the women, they sing the "Lilies of the Valley Amen" and kick up their legs before going out on the court. That would not be appreciated by the men.

"Both teams are gracious and wonderful in different ways," she said.

She describes the men as gentlemen. They thank her both as

a group and individually. The women express their gratitude through their energy and presence during prayer.

Being a chaplain has allowed Sister Laura and the athletes to connect one-on-one. The athletes at times interview her for class projects. She has been invited to speak at the Fellowship of Chris-

tian Athletes three times.

When she had eye surgery in February, she told the baseball team that she would be missing one of their games. She was surprised and pleased when one of the athletes came to her office to see how she was doing.

"I didn't think they would remember," she said.

Sister Laura hopes that her relationships with the athletes will have an impact on them later in life. She reminds them that their experiences are opportunities for growth.

"When we stop growing, we die," she said. "We must be open, because through openness we find joy."


Sister Laura has learned much from her role at Gonzaga as a liturgy coordinator and as a chaplain.

"Everything I try to teach the students, I have to teach myself first," she said.

She is happy to do God's work in any way she is needed.

"What I do opens me up to seeing the beauty in people," she said.

For information, call 313-4241 or email michels@gonzaga.edu.



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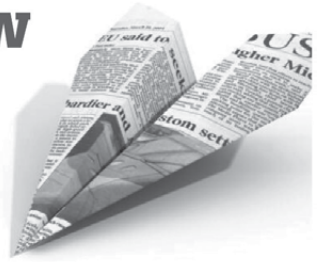
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# Rabbi helps seniors with life transitions, serves Reform congregation

With Jewish Family Services, Rabbi Tamar Malino helps seniors and their families transition from more to less independence.

With Reform Congregation Emanu-El, she sees her role as helping offer the Jewish community in Spokane a diverse option for expressing their religion and culture. She values both the Conservative and Reform traditions.

As director of the Spokane Area Jewish Family Services (SAJFS) and part-time rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El, she seeks to strengthen the Jewish community in the region.

In October 2010, Tamar began as director of Jewish Family Services, which started in 1998. She shares an office at Temple Beth Shalom with assistant director Iris Berenstein.

In 2011, she began working at Congregation Emanu-El, creating a religion school program for the 50-family congregation.

**The focus of Jewish Family Services** is on senior services and their families. Both Tamar and Iris, who began with SAJFS in 2009, go on home visits.

"Both seniors and their families find it tough to acknowledge the senior's increasing frailty," Tamar said. "Today's generation of seniors lived independently and have a fighting spirit that makes the transition harder, sometimes to their detriment."

They struggle with taking medicines and with giving up driving.

"Family members are reluctant to enter into a power struggle with their parents. Family want to respect their parents' dignity as they give up each level of independence," Tamar pointed out.

Those for whom the transition is smoothest planned ahead, making arrangements for when they were less competent. Many left their homes and moved into smaller homes or into living situations with graduated care.

Jewish Family Services also helps seniors know their options financially and how to handle the financial pieces of their lives.

**"In our society, we often give** the message that 'if you're not useful, you're not worthy.' The message from the religious community is that everyone is created in the image of God, deserving dignity, respect and care at any stage of life," Tamar said.

"Older people can still communicate their love and can focus on the relationships they have and their families," she said.

Similarly, Tamar and Iris help seniors and families see that the love and care they give each other are what's most important.

They serve 90 people, mostly Jewish, filling their needs, pro-



**Rabbi Tamar Malino serves Jewish Family Services and Congregation Emanu-El in Spokane.**

viding information and referrals, and helping with transportation to medical visits.

**Jewish Family Services also** helps coordinate with the Mitzvah Corps, which provides meals, and has a small food pantry. SAJFS also assists some people with rent and utility bills, but mostly does case management and referrals.

Because the Jewish community in Spokane is too small to support a Jewish Federation, which in other communities sponsors cultural events, SAJFS helps sponsor an annual Jewish Film Festival, a PJ Library that sends free Jewish books to children, and includes social and educational programs such as a recent children's sing-along in Manito Park.

**Tamar then told of her work** with Congregation Emanu-El.

"I have an affinity for both Conservative and Reform Judaism. My family was involved in both," said Tamar, who grew up in a Jewish family in Greensboro, N.C.—the daughter and granddaughter of rabbis who are also committed to Jewish pluralism.

"In an area such as Spokane with a small Jewish community—about 400 families—she believes it's important to support everything that is going on. Temple Beth Shalom has about 206 families affiliated, she said.

"I hope there is a place for everyone who wants to be involved religiously and culturally in the Jewish community," she said.

"Diversity and choices are good."

**The 50-family congregation** formed in 2008, a merger of two Reform congregations—Beth Haverim and Ner Tamid. Both began meeting in the 1990s. Each affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism in 2001 and 2002 respectively.

In 1965, Spokane's Reform Temple Emanu-El—formed in 1890—and Orthodox Temple Keneseth Israel—formed in 1901—merged to form Temple Beth Shalom. They met at the Unitarian Universalist Church until their building was completed at 1322 E. 30th Ave.

**Tamar is the first resident** ordained rabbi for Congregation Emanu-El—albeit working quarter time—which meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Previously, rabbinical students helped serve the congregation.

After she completed a degree in Judaic, Near Eastern and religious studies in 1994 at Oberlin College in Ohio, she spent a year at the Pardes Institute in Israel, studying Jewish texts, solidifying her decision to enter rabbinical studies.

She studied a year at the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York City, but completed her studies in 2001 at the Reform Seminary, Hebrew Union College also in New York.

Tamar then spent eight years serving as rabbi of a congregation of 650 families in San Diego. It was one of 20 synagogues in the

city. She served two years in the San Francisco Bay area before moving to Spokane.

**"Being small,** Congregation Emanu-El is nimble and can experiment," she noted. "We can try something and if it doesn't work, we can change it."

She knows that many Jewish families in the area are affiliated, so there is a role for the Reform congregation reaching out to those who have not found a connection.

**Tamar described some of** the differences between Conservative and Reform Judaism:

- Conservative Judaism advocates adhering to a historically evolving version of traditional Jewish law, and Reform advocates studying Jewish law and teachings to inform people's choices on their practices.

- There's a difference in worship style and use of Hebrew in worship: "Conservative congregations use more Hebrew, and Reform use English and Hebrew, with more vernacular liturgy and contemporary music and poetry," she explained.

- The Conservative tradition considers someone Jewish if their mother is Jewish or they convert. In the 1970s, Reform Jews began to accept someone as Jewish, if either parent is Jewish and they are raised Jewish.

**"Emanu-El welcomes interfaith** families, given Spokane's demographics," she said. "A majority of the congregation are in interfaith families."

- There are also differences in celebrating the high holy days.

For example, both traditions encourage fasting for Yom Kippur," she said, but Conservative may speak more of "having to" fast and Reform may say people "should" fast.

**Another difference is** that Conservative Jews usually celebrate one day more for High Holy Days, two days for Rosh Hashanah or Jewish New Year, compared to Reform celebrating one day.

"Those living outside Israel are to add one day to Holy Days," she said, "but the Reform movement focuses on calculation of time based on the 21st century."

After Rosh Hashanah come ten days of repentance and then Yom Kippur, the "Day of Atonement."

**The Jewish faith uses** a lunar calendar with a solar correction nine out of every 17 years, she said, so all the holidays are in the same season. In contrast, she said Muslims also use a lunar calendar without the correction, so their holidays move around the year.

At Emanu-El, Rosh Hashanah services are Sunday evening and Monday, Sept. 16 and 17, Yom Kippur services are Wednesday evening and Thursday, Sept. 25 and 26, a Sukkot celebration is Sunday, Sept. 30, and Simchat Torah is Sunday evening, Oct. 7. Emanu-El will also offer a "Taste of Judaism" class in the fall.

As a member of Temple Beth Shalom, rabbi of Congregation Emanu-El, and director of SAJFS, she wants to help the Jewish community in Spokane flourish.

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# Methodist summer community became site for interfaith unity, too

The community of Thousand Island Park, N.Y., founded as a Methodist retreat and revival center is also the gathering point for followers of Swami Vivekananda, one of the early promoters of interfaith unity and respect.

This summer, at the 150th birthday of Swami Vivekananda, the Rev. Jim Brown, pastor emeritus of the Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, Pa., spoke of "the marvel and mystery of universal sisterhood and brotherhood in the midst of the gaping wounds of the world."

So in the midst of people on summer vacations—as happens at camps, vacation Bible schools, retreat centers, assemblies and other gatherings—there was a call to bring healing and mercy to the world.

Jim said Swami Vivekananda saw faiths "as different streams mingling in the sea" and "different paths all leading to God."

Swami Kripamayananda, the spiritual leader of the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center in New York City, prayed that God "lead us from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light and from death to immortality" so that there will be peace for all.

He recalled that Swami Vivekananda's presence at Thousand Island Park 117 years ago left a spiritual legacy. He was in the United States from 1883 to 1897, starting at the Parliament on World Religions at the World Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, and then lecturing through North America and establishing the center in New York City.

In 1895, he came to Thousand Island Park for respite from his lecture schedule, bringing 12



Swami Yuktatmananda, the Rev. Jim Brown and Swami Kripamayananda join in service celebrating the influence of Swami Vivekananda during his four years in North America.

students, giving classes to share the "deep nectar of spirituality," sometimes teaching until dawn.

Jim spoke on the words of Polish-American Jewish theologian, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, "No religion is an island."

"Religious isolation is a myth," said Jim, noting that the awareness of that truth is "dawning slowly, because it's easier to cling to our own faith as the only way."

He said Swami Vivekananda was a prophet ahead of his time at the Parliament of World Religions, which was more an ecumenical gathering than an interfaith one. English-speaking Christians gave 152 of 194 papers.

Other religions represented included Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Buddhism,

Jain, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, plus religious movements of Spiritualism and Christian Science.

Jim said it was an early attempt to create global dialogue among the faiths. Swami Vivekananda, 32, representing India and Hinduism, spoke on the first day and two other times to thousands, saying that his faith taught both tolerance and universal acceptance.

Even though Presbyterian John Henry Barrows headed the organizing committee, his church's General Assembly in 1892 passed a resolution against the gathering. Many in the European Roman Catholic hierarchy and in North American Evangelical churches opposed it, as did the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury.

The parliament sought to show the common and differing truths of various religions without seeking any formal unity.

Jim said Swami Vivekananda pointed to the "ultimate reality in all religions," and said this was a turning point, inviting the western world to enter into an understanding of pluralism.

"Thousand Island Park, once the Mecca of Methodists, became a place of pluralism," Jim said. "Some questioned that pluralism was relativism. Instead it is a prerequisite for interfaith dialogue."

"Each participant has to have a strong faith to share it in dialogue," he affirmed. "We can see God's love shining in the face of others and have reverence for those on other paths, yet remain loyal to our own religions."

The value of sharing the heart, face, voice, hopes and fears of

one's faith is to strengthen one's capacity to understand, he said. "I thank God for the tradition of pluralism rooted in Thousand Island Park. Here, we can come face-to-face with each other."

Swami Kripemayananda, spiritual leader of the Vedanta Society of Toronto, Canada, said Swami Vivekananda as a world teacher sought to "melt the suffering of the world."

He taught: 1) non-reality of reality; 2) divinity of the soul through service and spirituality, 3) morality vs. materialism and 4) the unity and harmony of religions. He also taught that love never fails, challenging people to love and serve their brothers and sisters as part of seeking God.

Swami Vivekananda taught that countries rise or fall based on their emphasis on spirituality and morality, recognizing that souls change as people are prepared to suffer and care for "the afflicted and poor of all races."

Clayton Butler, author of *Thousand Island Park: The Story of an American Eden*, described the development of Thousand Island Park in the era of camp revival meetings after the Civil War, to save souls in "the cathedral of nature," where people improved spiritually, mentally and physically.

"By the time Swami Vivekananda came, Thousand Island Park was a hub of non-dogmatic religious programs," Clayton said. "It was a community of Sunday school teachers, students, thinking men and women, and mission society members."

"Swami Vivekananda wanted to make each expression of faith better," he said.

Mary Stamp spends time in the summer near the Victorian village on Wellesley Island.

## Groups organize Pathways to Peace events

One Peace, Many Paths, a group that grew out of a peace task force at Unity Church, is organizing "Pathways to Peace 2012" events for Sept. 11 to 21 in Spokane in recognition of the United Nations' International Day of Peace on Sept. 21.

Organizer Joan Broeckling said that along with repeating several events, Sounds of Peace, Peace Pole Pilgrimage and Honoring the Nations, there are two new events, a Peace Conversation Café and "My Recipe for Peace."

The Peace Conversations Cafe: Exploring Interfaith Perspectives prepared with the Spokane Interfaith Council from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12 at the Chair Coffee Shop, 113 W. Indiana.

People of diverse spiritual backgrounds will share perspectives in an informal coffee house setting. Discussion topics include: "Service and Compassion," "Spiritual and Human Nature," "Peace and Justice," and "Personal Peace Practices."

Sounds of Peace at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 15, at Unity Church of Spokane, 2911 S. Bernard, includes musical performances, spoken word and other sound experiences to build an experience of God's peace in participants.

The Peace Pole Pilgrimage from 3:30 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 17, begins at the Center for Spiritual Living, 2825 E. 33rd Ave., and visits four other poles before ending at Unity Center in North Spokane, 4123 E. Lincoln, with a potluck, drumming and labyrinth walk.

"My Recipe for Peace" will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Unity Church, following a dinner at 5:45 p.m., and World Peace Prayers at 6:30 p.m.

Several representatives from community, government and faith groups will share their "recipes

for peace—essential ingredients to establish peace in our lives, community and world," Joan said. Participants may also write down their own recipes for peace.

At 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20, at Unity Church, the Dances of Universal Peace group invites people to join them in circle dances based on prayers and chants from many world religions, as practiced by American Sufis.

"Honoring the Nations" at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, at the Center for Spiritual Living, is a ceremony honoring and blessing every nation of the world.

At these event participants may donate canned and dried food for Second Harvest.

For information, call 536-2811, visit [www.onepeacemanypaths.org](http://www.onepeacemanypaths.org) or email [onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com](mailto:onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com).

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# Congregation offers after-school tutoring for children in neighborhood

Volunteers at Northwood Presbyterian Church gather twice weekly to nourish the bodies, spirits and minds of elementary students in an after-school homework club.

Named "The Bridge Homework Club" by the students, it has become the afternoon stop-off between school and home.

Students work in small groups or one-on-one with a volunteer tutor, said Denice Lucas, elder for Christian education this year and previously elder for mission and outreach. The program is a joint venture of both elements of the church's life.

Bethany Mahan, who is director of family ministries and tutor program coordinator, oversees the program, which is starting its third year the week after school starts in September.

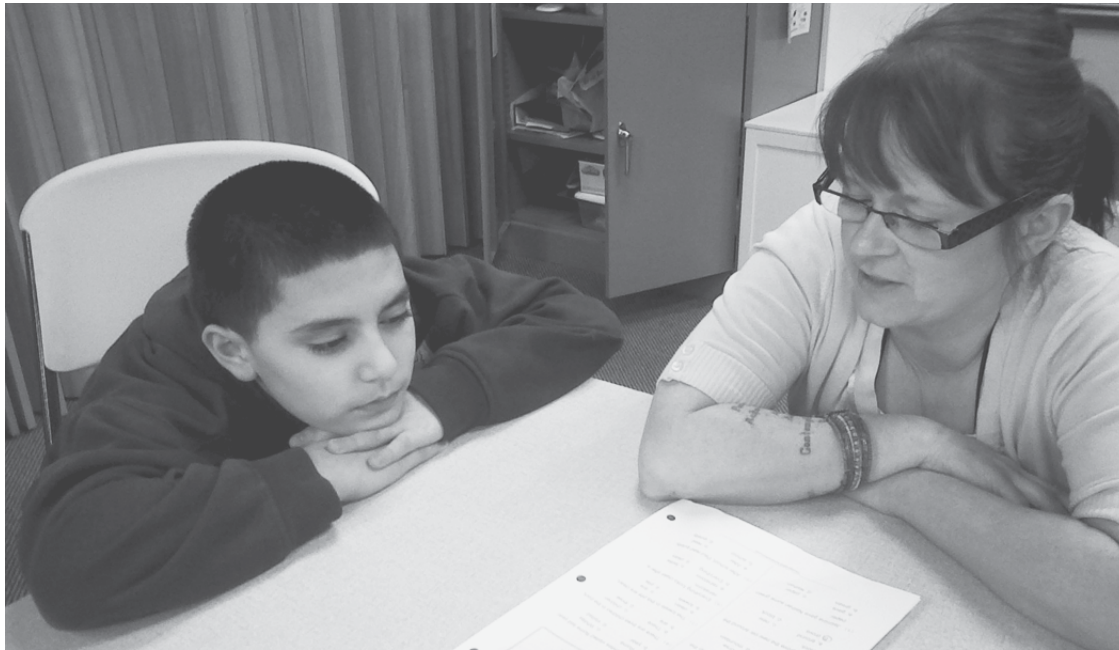
"Located at 6721 N. Monroe, Northwood Presbyterian is in an ideal location for this type ministry," said one volunteer. The church is within two blocks of Linwood Elementary School in North Spokane.

Realizing that both parents of many families work outside the home, the congregation began to seek ways to offer support to parents, schools and children.

Time spent at "The Bridge" allows many children to complete homework assignments and receive tutorial help with their studies.

"We realize how hard it is for a parent to stand over a child and say, 'Do your homework.' We hope this takes that tension out of the home," said Denice, telling of one father dropping off his son and saying he had three pages of homework to do. Later when the boy said he just had two pages to do, the tutor encouraged him to do a little more.

Volunteers have found that the children welcome a warm snack, generally a nourishing soup and homemade bread. Time around the table promotes socialization across the generations.



Bethany Mahan tutors Salome Gutzman. Photo courtesy of Northwood Presbyterian Church

"The only religious thing we do is say a prayer before the snack," said Denice. "Otherwise, there is no evangelism. Our outreach model is what our church is about, modeling loving community."

She has found that many of the children have little concept of what church is about.

Denice brings 50 years of experience in Christian education, mission and outreach as a lifelong Presbyterian. Growing up in Southern California, she moved from Portland to Spokane with her husband, Terry, several years ago. They are retired and came to be near family here.

"We were attending another Presbyterian church, driving past Northwood on Monroe," she said.

When the "interim pastor" sign shifted to pastor, they decided to start attending three years ago.

"We felt called to be here," she said.

Denice and Terry are among the pool of eight volunteers assisting the program, which will be Mondays and Wednesdays this year. The first year, there were an average of eight first-through-sixth graders. Last year, about 10 to 15 came Mondays and Thursdays.

Children "hit the books" fully nourished.

If a child is without homework, volunteers work on skills such as handwriting, math facts, spelling and reading for fun. Educational games such as Monopoly, Dominoes and Scrabble are used to reinforce skills.

"Our role is to listen to the children, be with the children and keep them on task, helping with their homework for the week," Denice said.

Pastor Sue Keim was called to serve Northwood Presbyterian three years ago. She brings many years of family ministry experience and 20 years of experience working with Young Life in Vancouver and Tacoma, Wash. She served Presbyterian churches in Port Angeles and Arizona before coming to Spokane.

From her office window, she observed children walking home-ward after school. That began the visioning process.

Over the months, her preaching emphasized the importance of developing and maintaining a living faith—a faith that is exemplified in the actions of those who are followers of Christ.

"In my work with Young Life, the local school was always in my sights," she said. "I believe it's important to reach out to the neighborhood and build a relationship with the school."

The Bridge started with a few fifth and sixth graders Bethany met relating with people in the neighborhood.

"We invited their families to church and to a Friday evening potluck," Sue said.

Last year, the school called the church to be sure they were doing the tutoring again. The school sent referrals and there were sometimes 15 children, including a few seventh graders from the previous year.

"Parents said they were so thankful for our providing individualized tutoring," Sue said.

Tutors include people from the church and some Whitworth

University students. They have background checks and training, she explained.

"Otherwise, they just love Christ and love the children. We share the Gospel through relationships," she said. "Other members who bring soup or meals have been hooked in, too."

Although Northwood, which was founded in 1958, is a small congregation—about 110 members—its spirit is large, said Denice.

Many members and friends are involved in some form of outreach and support.

"Though we are closest to Linwood Elementary, our program is open and free to any child in grades one through six," said Sue.

"We aim to make this a safe and secure place for parents and their children," she continued.

The program begins on Sept. 10. For information, call 328-2012 or visit [www.northwoodpresbyterian.org](http://www.northwoodpresbyterian.org).

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## Author shares journey through doubt

Even though Andrea Palant Dilley grew up in a Christian home and community, and attended Whitworth University, in a faith crisis at 23, she walked away from the church. She shares her spiritual journey in her book, *Faith and Other Flat Tires: Searching for God on the Rough Road of Doubt*, from which she will share a reading at 7 p.m., Sept. 21, at Whitworth University.

Living with her Quaker medical missionary parents in Kenya until she was seven, she moved to Spokane, was active in Knox Presbyterian Church's youth group and graduated in Spanish and English from Whitworth in 2000.

That summer, she returned to

Kenya to care for the children of Whitworth theology professor Jerry Sittser, while he taught at Daystar University. She volunteered with them each week at an orphanage in the slums of Nairobi. They took care of AIDS babies and played with orphans.

That summer, Andrea said, she experienced "the theological paradox of Christian compassion: children who seemed forsaken by God and Catholic nuns acting out God's call to bless them."

Feeling abandoned by God and wondering about evil and why God allows suffering, she walked away from the church for two years.


As she wrestled with her doubts, her father talked with her, Whitworth professors took her out for coffee and friends listened, "modeling the church at its best," said Andrea, a documentary producer whose work has been on American Public Television.

For information, call 777-3253.

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## Can we see beyond propagandistic packaging, so we can discuss politics?

Supposedly packaging makes a product sell. With many media pundits reporting political campaigns as sports, win-lose games that rally simplistic thinking, the assumption is that average folks aren't smart enough to discuss nuances. Although many in media emphasize differences of opinion, most elections are won by a hair of a margin. Is that a sign that the country is less extremely divided than portrayed?

Knowing about people and their faiths, cultures, races, traditions, values, relationships, struggles and stories helps us counter slick, deceptive "packaging" we see during the political season. The conventions, polls, talking heads and candidates primed for prime time create a fantasy. They deploy propaganda to persuade people.

Seven elements of propaganda identified by the Institute for Propaganda Analysis in the 1930s are name calling, glittering generalities, transfer, testimonial, plain folks, card stacking and band wagon. We studied propaganda in journalism classes

as something to avoid spreading.

Other forms of propaganda make people—usually women—invisible, create enemy images, stereotype racial and ethnic groups, trivialize ideas and stir fear.

It's voters' responsibility to identify these tactics through the maze of "packaging" of candidates and policies. Can we do that?

The Fig Tree shares stories of people wrestling with nuances of issues. This issue reports on diverse faiths and cultures, uplifting how pluralism can be a unifying reality in our community and world.

Media can help people celebrate different opinions and cultures, give us new eyes to understand people, treat us as thinking people interested in resolving injustices, and foster respect for human rights, dignity, dialogue and community.

Using democracy-demeaning tactics enriches some in corporate media and corporations who fund campaigns and expect payback. The "packaging" can keep us blind to and silent about multi-billion-

dollar "private" corporations depending on government subsidies and loopholes to fund executive salaries, but do not have enough to share profits with shareholders or hire more people to work.

Propaganda keeps us confused and off message. For example, if we ask, "Where are the jobs?" On the one hand, we're told government should have created more jobs, so we forget that private industry promised more jobs if they had the tax breaks that are still in place.

Blame deflects attention to vulnerable people, women and seniors, many of whom spent their lives paying into Social Security and Medicare. When politicians repeatedly say these programs are causing debt and need fixing, the repetition tends to make people think it's true. We don't even know how much we could save by cutting down on wars and corporate subsidies.

Labels foster simplistic thinking. What's "moral" divides many in the faith community between moral budgets that are

pro-life in terms of justice and pro-life that is pre-birth only. Churches teach that it's about all life, but some politicians play to simplistic thinking that confuses and divides, so some in congregations don't explore wider implications of what's moral.

Nuances are the bane of many politicians and of pundits who prefer to predict election outcomes based on polls that bounce back and forth. It's as if we are expected to vote for the anticipated winner, rather than thinking about what people stand for.

Politics that address real life struggles and moral nuances might enable us to talk with family and friends about how our different political conclusions arise from our shared moral values, life experiences and faith journeys.

As the campaigns progress, what emphasis will there be on fact checks, investigative reporting, thoughtful questions and responsible journalism worthy of the political and social power media have?

Mary Stamp - editor

## Julia Child's experience with propaganda lends insights into politics today

Sometimes I felt Julia Child helped save my sanity in the early 1960s. Our family moved to Pittsburgh where my husband, just out of graduate school, found a job. The main branch of the Carnegie Library offered thousands of cookbooks of interest because I was learning to cook.

Then WQED, the local educational television station, became one of the first in the U.S. to show *The French Chef*, a new program produced in Boston, featuring Julia Child. She gave us knowledge, techniques and confidence in our competence.

So on the centennial of her birth, August 15, I read two biographies—*Dearie* by Bob Spitz and *A Covert Affair* by Jennet Conant—and was reminded of another aspect of her life applicable to today's political scene.

Julia called almost everyone "Dearie." The book makes good use of Paul and Julia Child's correspondence with family and friends. The other book is about their service in the Office of Strategic Services

(OSS) during World War II, where they met in the China-Burma-India theater of operations. Both were in administrative positions and knew many people. Conant also tells how investigations of the McCarthy era affected the Childs and their colleagues.

One job of the OSS was "black propaganda," which involved undermining the enemy's morale and discrediting them in countries they occupied, while maintaining contacts with resistance forces and giving them support. Methods included spreading false rumors, twisting information to fit situations and inflating reports of enemy losses in leaflets and broadcasts.

Reading the manual they were to use, two new arrivals concluded that "almost any form of thoroughly amoral activity was condoned to manipulate one's foe."

Today, it sounds like the organization of almost any political campaign, up to and including the presence of a war room.

When former Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities

Committee started investigations in the 1950s into Communist activities in the U.S., employees of the State Department and former employees of the OSS were favorite targets, searching for the answer to the question, "Who lost China to the Communists?"

People could be condemned because they had once attended a Communist meeting in college, because friends had attended such meetings, because they had read *Das Kapital*, because they subscribed to a magazine someone had put on a black list, because they might be homosexual or know someone who was, because they contributed to an organization or charity that was on someone's list of "Communist fronts," or any of a number of other reasons.

The FBI questioned subjects, including Paul Child, for hours, compiling thick dossiers with the testimonies of friends, relatives, employers and colleagues.

Through these experiences, and sometimes at some peril to themselves, the

Childs remained loyal to their friends who were caught in this nightmare.

As I read and remembered I saw parallels in our current over-ideological politics. Language is used as a weapon. Political opponents are the enemy. Statements are twisted to the point that people who were present to hear them don't recognize them. Conscientious public servants are condemned because of a difference of opinion in an area unrelated to the subject under discussion.

Why do we as citizens and voters put up with this? Poll after poll shows that we loathe the negative approach. Why does it continue? Because it works. We will be rid of it only when it no longer works.

One small, useful tool: the Capitol Switchboard telephone number 202-224-3121. It can connect you to the office of any senator or representative. The future sanity of our political system may depend on our use of many such small tools.

Nancy Minard - contributing editor

Newsletter Excerpts

## Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

**There has been a way** of thinking among folk that we can separate the "sacred" from the "secular" parts of our lives. In other words, we can go to worship on Sunday, sing praise to God, reflect on a Bible passage and then go home. The rest of the week—our work, social life, personal finances and free time—is ours to do with what we want, and "never the twain shall meet," though we would never say that out loud.

The jokes we tell when we are with our friends, the comments we make about certain people when we are not in public, the language we use when we are hanging out with close friends, well folks, they are sacred territory just as much as the sanctuary is on Sunday morning. I hate to burst your bubble, but all of life is sacred and the comments we make about folk on Friday night and how we spend our money on Saturday afternoon are as much sacred as the 90 minutes we spend in church on Sunday morning.

The idea of separating the sacred from the secular is a false concept we throw out there in order to justify our behavior "away from God," but there is no being away from God. The whole point of living the Christian life is to live in such a way that our lives are transformed by the Risen Christ and that we intentionally live the Spirit of Christ on Friday evening as well as Sunday morning. The intention is that our values and morals be shaped by Christ so that all of life is seen as a witness to Christ.

For a Christian, all of life is sacred. The

challenge is for us to examine our lives in that light.

**The Rev. David Helseth  
Englewood Christian - Yakima**

**I love September** with the return to "normal" routines, the re-connection with friends who have been traveling over the summer and the abundant fresh vegetables from local gardens.

September is a lovely golden time of year. When I was a kid, September was a time of hope and new beginnings. Maybe this would be the year that the cute kid in homeroom would notice me. Maybe this would be the year that I would understand science. Maybe this would be the year that I felt comfortable in my skin.

My Uncle Jack will be 87 years old on September 11. Two days before his birthday, he will marry the woman he's been seeing for the past six years. When his wife of 54 years died, we worried that this meant the end of Jack's life, too, but Jack found new life and will celebrate new beginnings in glowing September.

September can also be a time for fresh starts in the church. Little ones are excited to see their friends in Sunday school. Grown-ups explore their spirituality within a caring community of faith, and participate in worship. Singers and musicians share their talents and strengthen their friendships in choir rehearsal and worship.

Maybe this will be the year that your faith deepens, the church welcomes new members, you make a new friend in Christ, an

inactive member returns to active participation, you become involved in a different area of church life.

In September, all things are possible. With God's grace, may it be so.

**The Rev. Joan Sulser  
Cheney United Church of Christ**

**At the end of World War I**, Winston Churchill commented that war is the normal occupation of man. Challenged, he amended the statement to "war—and gardening."

Recently as I was driving into West Central on Boone, I was listening to National Public Radio. A story had just finished about a disturbing act of sorrow in Olympia: a young male veteran in army fatigues doused himself in gasoline, but collapsed before igniting himself.

I was deeply grieved to hear this. As we drove on, I spotted a young man in a different uniform, the olive green of the Green Collar Job Corps T-shirt. My heart leaped. There is hope!

Two blocks later, I spotted another hopeful green T-shirt, this time on an even younger boy heading to work on a skateboard. Yes!

Two more blocks, I saw a teenage girl in the same uniform, walking with her head high, hair in a ponytail, ready for a day in the garden.

By that point, I couldn't keep back the tears. Happy tears, hopeful tears. Here were three young amazing people, dressed in the colors of good work that will em-

power them to make positive choices in their future.

An article in the July/August issue of *Orion* magazine asks: Can [gardening] be the antithesis of war, or a cure for social ills, or an act of healing divisions in the world? When you tend your tomatoes, are you producing more than tomatoes? Is peace a crop, or justice?

The American Friends Service Committee set up a series of garden plots to be tended by people who'd been on opposite sides of the Yugoslavian wars, but many people hope to overcome the wars of our time more indirectly through their own gardening and farming.

Baptism in Christ is sometimes described as clothing. "Put on the garments of righteousness." I couldn't help but think that the olive green T-shirt worn by our youth garden workers is a kind of saving garment, potentially.

I refute Churchill's claim that humans are made for war and point to the answer Martin Luther gives on the subject: the chief end of man is to enjoy God and worship God.

Part of our worship at Salem has been claiming our baptismal purpose to bless, heal and empower this neighborhood in which we are planted. I suppose my tears were also a baptismal sign: maybe, just maybe, this crazy gospel plan of ours is working!

**The Rev. Liv Larson Andrews  
Salem Lutheran - Spokane**



# Calendar of Events

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Sept 4</b></p> <p><b>Sept 6-Oct 11</b></p> <p><b>Sept 6</b></p> <p><b>Sept 8</b></p> <p><b>Sept 8, 15</b></p> <p><b>Sept 9</b></p> <p><b>Sept 10</b></p> <p><b>Sept 11-21</b></p> <p><b>Sept 12</b></p> <p><b>Sept 13</b></p> <p><b>Sept 14</b></p> <p><b>Sept 15</b></p> <p><b>Sept 16</b></p> <p><b>Sept 17</b></p> <p><b>Sept 18</b></p> <p><b>Sept 19</b></p> | <p>• <b>National Hispanic Heritage Month</b></p> <p>• <b>"That Used to Be Us:</b> A Crucial Time for America and the Role Education Must Play," author/journalist Thomas Friedman, Gonzaga University Presidential Speaker Series, McCarthy Athletic Center, 7 p.m., 313-3572</p> <p>• <b>"Coping with Being Alone Again:</b> Help for the Pain of the Loss of a Loved One through Separation, Death or Divorce," Beginning Experience, St. Aloysius Parish Center, 330 E. Boone, 7 p.m., 534-1797</p> <p>• <b>Witnesses in Palestine,</b> InterFaith PeaceBuilders, Myrta Ladich and Marianne Torres, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>"Celebrating Cultures</b> at the Bowl &amp; Pitcher in Riverside State Park picnic area, noon to 6 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>Cup of Cool Water Volunteer Training,</b> 747-6686 or www.cupofcoolwater.org</p> <p>• <b>SpokFest 2012:</b> Get Your Bike On, nine-mile Spokane Falls Loop, 21-mile Classic Loop and 29-mile Four Mounds Loop begin at Riverfront Park, 9:30 a.m. to noon; Park Loop and Bike Safety Rodeo, 10 a.m., www.spokefest.org</p> <p>• <b>Grandparents' Day Celebration,</b> Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels lunch, Center Place at Mirabeau, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 1 to 4 p.m., 924-6976 or sarahr@valleymow.net</p> <p>• <b>Hearts United Around the World,</b> music-treats benefit for children of Lesotho, Africa, Convent of the Holy Names, 2911 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 2 p.m., 328-7470 x 121</p> <p>• <b>Organ Concert,</b> Janet Ahrend, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 4 p.m., 838-4277</p> <p>• <b>Inland Northwest Latino Chamber of Commerce,</b> Best Western Peppertree, Liberty Lake Inn, 1816 N. Pepper Ln, 7:30 a.m., 244-9737 or pphay@watrust.com</p> <p>• <b>Pathways to Peace 2012,</b> One Peace, Many Paths – see events listed separately</p> <p>• <b>Peace Conversations Café:</b> Exploring Interfaith Perspectives, One Peace, Many Paths &amp; Spokane Interfaith Council, Chairs Coffee, 113 W. Indiana, 6 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>"A Criminal Justice System for Spokane That Works,"</b> Douglas Marlowe, Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W. Sprague, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>Installation of the Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle as executive presbyter</b> of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>"Mid-Columbia Farm-to-Table Symposium,"</b> Daniel and Sheri Salatin of Polyface Farm, Richland Community Center 12:30 to 6 p.m., 943-0220 or contact@nwfoodhub.com</p> <p>• <b>Sounds of Peace,</b> Unity Church of Spokane, 29th &amp; Bernard, 7 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>Sustainable Uprising,</b> Main between Browne and Division, 7 p.m. to midnight</p> <p>• <b>Peace Pole Pilgrimage,</b> starts at the Center for Spiritual Living, 33rd &amp; S. Regal, 3:30 p.m. to Unity Center of North Spokane, 4123 E. Lincoln Rd.</p> <p>• <b>NAACP,</b> East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 7 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>PAX Christi,</b> 1703 E. 12th Ave., noon, 995-8993</p> <p>• <b>Rosh Hashana,</b> Jewish New Year</p> <p>• <b>Community Building Day,</b> Whitworth assists 40 nonprofits in Spokane County, 777-4673 or slapointe@whitworth.edu</p> <p>• <b>"Servant Leadership in the Spirit of St. Francis,"</b> Cliff Evans, OFS, Coffee and Contemplation, Immaculate Heart Retreat</p> | <p>Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 to 11 a.m., 448-1224</p> <p>• <b>"The State of our City,"</b> Spokane Mayor David Condon, Spokane City Forum, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 11:45 a.m., 777-1555</p> <p>• <b>"My Recipe for Peace,"</b> Unity Church, 29th &amp; S. Bernard, 5:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sept 21</b></p> <p>• <b>Andrea Palpant Dilley Book Reading,</b> <i>Faith and Flat Tires: Searching for God on the Rough Road of Doubt</i>, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3253 or email astillar@whitworth.edu</p> <p>• <b>International Day of Peace,</b> United Nations day of global nonviolence</p> <p>• <b>Honoring the Nations,</b> Center for Spiritual Living, 2825 E. 33rd, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sept 21-22</b></p> <p>• <b>Islamic Studies Classes,</b> Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th St., Coeur d'Alene, Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 208-666-6755</p> <p><b>Sept 21-28</b></p> <p>• <b>Festival of Arts in West Central Spokane,</b> Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway, 328-6527, casey@TheBookParlor.com</p> <p><b>Sept 22</b></p> <p>• <b>Community Garden Tour,</b> self-guided from 9 a.m. to noon, 477-2173</p> <p><b>Sept 23</b></p> <p>• <b>Celebration of the Abrahamic Religions,</b> Human Rights Education Institute, 414 W. Mullin Ave., Coeur d'Alene, 208-292-2359</p> <p><b>Sept 26</b></p> <p>• <b>Book Reading and Talk by Bill Dienst</b> on <i>Ships Doctor on the First Gaza Flotilla</i>, 2008, Auntie's Bookstore, 7 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>Yom Kippur – Jewish Day of Atonement</b></p> <p><b>Sept 26</b></p> <p>• <b>Faith, Film and Philosophy Conference,</b> "Tree of Life," Film at The Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sept 27</b></p> <p>• <b>"Election 2012: The Silenced Majority,"</b> KYRS</p> <p><b>Sept 27-29</b></p> <p>• <b>Annual Greek Dinner Festival,</b> Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 1703 N. Washington, 328-9310 or holytrinityspokane.org/festival.html</p> <p><b>Sept 28-29</b></p> <p>• <b>Northwest Small Farm Conference,</b> Spokane County Interstate Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, 477-2173</p> <p><b>Sept 29</b></p> <p>• <b>Spokane AIDS Walk,</b> Spokane AIDS Network, Riverfront Park's North Bank Shelter, 11 a.m., spokaneaids.org</p> <p>• <b>Family Fun Day &amp; Cowpie Bingo,</b> Classical Christian School, 2289 W. Seltice, Post Falls, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 208-777-4400</p> <p>• <b>Slavic Harvest Festival,</b> Bethlehem Slavic Church, 302 W. Augusta Ave., noon to 6 p.m., 327-1712</p> <p><b>Oct 3</b></p> <p>• <b>The Fig Tree distribution,</b> St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813</p> <p>• <b>Faith, Film and Philosophy Conference,</b> "The Calling," film at Robinson Theater, Whitworth University, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct 4</b></p> <p>• <b>The Fig Tree Board,</b> Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>Faith, Film and Philosophy Conference,</b> Lecture, Wolff Auditorium, Jepson School of Business, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct 5</b></p> <p>• <b>Faith, Film and Philosophy Conference,</b> "The Problem of The Father's Love in The Tree of Life and the Book of Job," John McAteer, Wolff Auditorium, Jepson, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Oct 6</b></p> <p>• <b>Mennonite Country Auction and Sale,</b> Menno Mennonite Church, 659-0926</p> <p><b>1st &amp; 3rd Weds</b></p> <p>• <b>Death Penalty Abolition Committee,</b> 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>2nd &amp; 4th Tues</b></p> <p>• <b>Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee,</b> 35 W. Main, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>2nd Wed</b></p> <p>• <b>Veterans for Peace,</b> 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>3rd Thurs</b></p> <p>• <b>Peace and Justice Action Committee,</b> 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.</p> |
|---|--|---|

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in the Emmanuel Family Life Center for community-based organizations, nonprofits and social/cultural services.

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EMAIL info@eflc.org

## September 11 - 21: One Peace, Many Paths presents

### Pathways to Peace 2012

**Wednesday, Sept. 12**

Peace Conversations Cafe: Exploring Interfaith Perspectives  
 6 to 8:30 p.m. - CHAIRS - 113 W. Indiana

**Saturday, Sept. 15**

'Sounds of Peace' - 7 p.m. - Unity Church - 29th & Bernard - \$10/person, \$20/family

**Sunday, Sept. 16**

Peace Pole Pilgrimage - 3:30 p.m., Center for Spiritual Living 33rd & S. Regal - closes with potluck at Unity North Center - 4123 E. Lincoln

**Wednesday, Sept. 19**

'My Recipe for Peace' and 'World Peace Prayers'  
 5:45 pm Dinner 6:30 p.m. Prayers, 7 p.m. Program  
 Unity Church - 29th & Bernard

**Friday, Sept. 21**

'Honoring the Nations' - 6 p.m. - Center for Spiritual Living, 2825 E. 33rd  
**Information on events at www.onepeacemanypaths.org**



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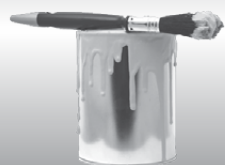
509-255-6122

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

## Spokane Friends Church

is seeking a person to work part time with children and youth  
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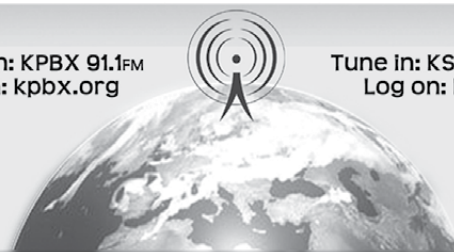
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This American Life is a one hour program with essays and stories revolving around a common theme. Visit the website at: [www.thislife.org](http://www.thislife.org).





# Unity in the Community reflects community's commitment to diversity

For organizer Ben Cabildo of Community-Minded Enterprises, Unity in the Community shows that "there's a sentiment to come together and celebrate one another."

Involved in many community efforts to build racial, ethnic and cultural understanding over the years, he's aware that some programs have come and gone. The continuation of Unity in the Community for 18 years is "a reflection of the support of people in the community for such events."

"It brings value to Spokane," he said, referring not only to the event itself, but to the consistency of people working together and the ongoing support of organizations and sponsors.

With the intense heat on Saturday, Aug. 18, fewer people may have attended the event at Riverfront Park, but Unity in the Community distributed a record 1,000 backpacks of school supplies to children who had their "passports" stamped at the booths of different cultural groups in the Global Village section of the event.

Each year, the event showcases and celebrates the many cultures in Spokane and the wider region, countering the stereotype that the area lacks diversity. Opening remarks and a prayer given by Spokane Tribal leader Michael Spencer helped set the tone.

In 1995, the Rev. Lonnie Mitchell, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, observed that there was more ethnic diversity than people realized, so he and the church began organizing the first Unity in the Community, held in Liberty Park, as a neighborhood and networking celebration.

The idea has been that as people know about the diversity, they can come together in unity to understand each other.

The event grew each year, and in 2004, AHANA, the African, Hispanic, Asian and Native American business education and training program, took responsibility for organizing the event. After AHANA, which Ben heads, became part of Community-Minded Enterprises, that overall organization took over responsibility for organizing the event.

In 2007, it was first held in Riverfront Park to increase accessibility for people with disabilities, address crowd management and reduce traffic congestion.



Two Micronesian women shared about their country and culture in the Global Village.

Beyond the goal of promoting unity through showcasing diversity, Unity in the Community seeks to build education and awareness as a resource to enhance diverse communities in the Northwest.

This year, Unity in the Community celebrated German, French, Hmong, Iranian, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Thai, Hawaiian, Marshall Islands, Filipino, British, Columbian, Ethiopian, Scandinavian, Japanese and African

American cultures.

About 125 community groups, nonprofit organizations, churches, educational institutions and businesses shared information about who they are and what they do at booths set up in the field near the Clocktower.

An added feature in 2012 was holding Unity in the Community in conjunction with Youth Day, organized by Spokane's Youth 'N' Action program of Passages

Family Support. Youth Day, for children ages four through young adults aged 21, featured music and activities in the Runners Meadow, including a Where's Waldo Scavenger Hunt sponsored by the People to People Ambassador Programs.

Unity in the Community entertainment included drumming, belly dancing, awards, speakers, hula, singers, zumba, Native American flutes, acrobatics, the Spokane Community Gospel Mass Choir and hip hop.

"Unity in the Community empowers those of us in different cultures," said Ben, who is Filipino-American.

For information, call 444-3088.

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## The Ministry Institute

Center for Spiritual Renewal  
at Gonzaga University

This fall, The Ministry Institute (TMI) will offer its Skills for Service Seminars, a Legacy Workshop and Taizé Services.

### LEGACY WORKSHOP

The Ministry Institute at Gonzaga University will hold an estate planning/legacy workshop on

**Thursday, October 4**

**'Create an Inspired Legacy'**

On estate plans, charitable gifts, trusts and gift annuities

presented by

**Attorneys Kjirstin Graham & Paul Fitzpatrick**  
of the KL Gates law firm

**Opens with prayer & reflection by Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ**

2-4 p.m. at The Ministry Institute - 405 E. Sinto

**CALL 313-5764 to register**



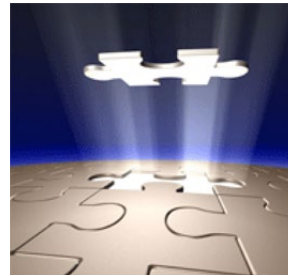
*Taizé*  
on Tuesdays  
4:15 to 5 p.m.

Taizé is a form of prayer rooted in song, silence and readings, often from scripture. A Taizé prayer service includes simple, repetitive chants and times of meditative silence. The Ministry Institute adds poetry to prayers and Scriptures.

The Taizé community began in the 1940s in Taizé, France, as an outreach to people in crisis during World War II. After the war, the community began to attract people from all over the world who desired to take part in the international, interdenominational spirituality and generous hospitality of the Taizé community. The brothers who run Taizé are from Protestant, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions and have welcomed people of all faiths to join in prayer with them. Today the community welcomes up to 5,000 people a week to celebrate God's presence.

We invite you to join us for reflection and contemplation.  
*There is no cost for attending.*

We will continue our **Second Saturday** "Skills for Service" seminars focused this year on **"Puzzling Out God's Plan."**



## Puzzling Out God's Plan

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

- October 13** **Piecing our Lives Together** –  
Dr. Bob Bartlett, EWU – Living with Tension  
Sue Rolando – Autumn Art - Leaves into Beauty
- November 10** **Always Held in God's Hand** –  
Dr. Kent Hoffman – Circle of Security
- December 8** **Advent Retreat** –  
Shonna Bartlett – Waiting in Hope
- February 9** **Leadership in Faith** –  
Jennifer Ferch – NBC Camps Executive
- March 9** **Meeting the 'Other' with Jesus** –  
Dr. Fernando Ortiz – Gonzaga University
- April 13** **A Garden of Grace** –  
Dr. Merry Jo DeMarais – Wize Eyes Consulting

Seminars begin at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation, usually by a Gonzaga professor, followed by a related prayer experience, time for sharing, and suggestions for incorporating prayer practices into daily lives. Seminars will end with lunch together.

The cost is \$35 per seminar (includes lunch).

Limited scholarships available.

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1 p.m.-Los Bailadores del Sol  
2:30 p.m.-Spokane Taiko  
3:45 p.m.-6 Foot Swing  
5 p.m.-Milonga  
For more information, visit [www.parks.wa.gov/events](http://www.parks.wa.gov/events)

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