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Micah 4:4

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

MLK Center plans expansion

By Mary Stamp

After years of dreaming about expanding facilities to serve more children and families, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center and the City of Spokane have agreed that the city will sell the former firehouse the center has occupied for nearly 30 years to the center.

In a Dec. 8 press conference at the center, Mayor David Condon said the center is "a long-time partner in making Spokane safer and stronger," because its staff and volunteers serve children and families to broaden their opportunities.

The center "provides the community with a significant benefit," said the mayor, because its services provide "tools that serve families and children for a lifetime."

The City Council approved the agreement on Dec. 15.

The center offers free preschool programs for eligible families, parent education programs, after-school and summer-learning programs, job training and teen leadership programs, volunteer programs and diversity promotion.

"That work helps families in our communities prepare our next generation to dream big and achieve great successes," David said.



Freda Gandy and Mayor David Condon announce building sale agreement.

The agreement enables the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center to continue serving as a community resource and build a new building to house its programs.

The purchase price of \$132,000 is based on an independent opinion of the building's value, he said. In the agreement, the center will be given credit for \$123,069 in improvements it has made as a tenant. It will cover the remaining balance and closing costs. The deal closed the end of 2014.

Freda Gandy, executive director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center for 16 years, said the center has provided programs and services to children, youth and families for more than 40 years.

"It's important to have a modern-day facility that will accommodate our programs, so we stay in mission and do not sacrifice quality to gain quantity," she said. "We will stay focused on what we do well, aware that we cannot meet every need."

In 1970, 14 clergy started the program as the Southeast Youth Center, a drop-in recreation center for neighborhood youth in the basement of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In

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Eastern Washington legislative event advocates 'Raising Prophetic Voices'

The 2015 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference will include many local and state leaders exploring the theme, "Raising Prophetic Voices: Faith Communities Advocate for Justice."

Clinton "Matt" Wynne, a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians and chair of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), will share with Inland District United Methodist Superintendent Dale Cockrum in opening the event with prayer.

There will be two keynote speakers:

- The Rev. Mike Denton, conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ based in Seattle, will offer theological reflections on the theme, looking at the importance of the faith community's voice on issues in the political arena.

• Roberta Wilburn, associate dean of graduate studies in education at Whitworth University, will give the second keynote address on proposals related to K-12 education, the school-to-prison pipeline, the need for more faculty of color and other education issues. She speaks in the afternoon.

The event, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave., includes five workshops that will repeat two times in the morning.

1) Jace Bylenga, associate organizing representative for the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, and Laura Ackerman of the Lands Council coal and oil transport campaigns will lead a workshop on coal and oil transport issues and on efforts to move Avista from 20 percent coal generation to more clean energy.

Jace previously worked in Sandpoint for the Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper and the Bonner County Soil and Water Conservation District. In 2007, he came to Spokane to work with Gonzaga University students on environmental service learning projects. Laura has worked on the coal and oil campaign for three years.

2) A panel of four will address issues related to the renewal of the Columbia River Treaty and watershed policy. Leaders are

Continued on page 3

Sarah Ahmed to speak on interfaith dialogue

Pax Christi Spokane and Gonzaga University are co-sponsoring Sarah AK Ahmed of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME) to speak on the "Role of Religious Reconciliation for Stability in Iraq" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 29, at Wolff Auditorium in Jepson Hall.

Pax Christi Spokane, the local chapter of the national and international Catholic peace and justice organization, invited Sarah and Mustafa Mahmood, a Gonzaga student from Iraq who volunteered with FRRME last summer to speak.

Pax Christi Spokane seeks to raise awareness of the complex situation in Iraq, which affects people not only globally but also locally, especially related to international students at Gonzaga from the Middle East and those in our Spokane community who have been displaced by the conflict in Iraq.

"We hope the community can build a more compassionate, inclusive climate around the cultural and religious diversity," said Anne Bosserman, SNJM, of Pax Christi.

The foundation provides medical care and humanitarian relief in the heart of Baghdad's Red Zone and promotes peace through inter-religious dialog. Believing that "without genuine reconciliation, there can never be lasting peace," it works for reconciliation by engaging religious leaders in dialogue, and helping them use their influence to promote peace.

"Religion and politics are intimately linked in the Middle East, so a religious track is essential to a balanced peace process," said Canon Andrew White, FRRME founder and chair of the High Council of Religious Leaders in Iraq. "When religion goes wrong, it goes very wrong, but if religion is part

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
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WCC joined in UN climate convention in Peru

Climate justice was the focus of the World Council of Churches (WCC) advocacy strategy at the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December in Lima, Peru.

Its participation aimed to broaden discussion and understanding about climate change and human rights. At an official side event, in meetings with government delegations and through activities at the Peoples' Summit, the WCC raised awareness on climate justice and work of its partners and networks.

"Climate change threatening human rights: challenges and actions" was a side event the WCC, Religions for Peace, Quakers, Center for International Environmental Land and others promoted.

They believe that increasing impacts of anthropogenic climate change are a grave danger to humankind and nature, jeopardizing human rights and life on Earth.

Speaker John Knox, UN independent expert on environment and human rights, believes human rights mechanisms are helpful in clarifying rules on climate policies that create climate refugees.

WCC participation in the UN led process is based on the pursuit of justice, ethics, solidarity, equity and Christian love—values for the endurance of life in all its forms on planet earth. For more than two decades, the WCC has brought to international negotiations voices of the marginalized, advocating for life with justice and dignity. When environmental integrity is violated, indigenous people and those who contribute the least to it are the first affected.

Climate justice is in the key document the WCC delegation used during COP 20, the statement of an interfaith summit promoted by the WCC and partners in September in New York.

ACT Alliance members are actively involved in following different tracks of the negotiations, including adaptation, mitigation, climate fund, loss and damage. The aim is to push state parties to agree on decisions that will effectively respond to threats to the climate.

Water Network develops theological frame

What is our ecclesiological call to respond to the global water crisis? In what way is our response different from other actors on water justice issues?

To respond to these questions in a theological framework of water justice, the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) convened 17 theologians from around the world at the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey, Switzerland, in a theological consultation on water justice, Dec. 8 to 11.

The consultation culminated a years-long process of theological reflection to articulate a theological framework to strengthen and justify the churches' engagement on water justice.

The 9th Assembly of the WCC in Porto Alegre in 2006, issued a statement called "Water for Life," which said, "Water is a symbol of life, a gift of God which needs to be preserved and shared for the benefit of all creatures and the wider creation." Based on that affirmation, the network addresses the global water crisis through a rights-based approach with a justice perspective.

Only 0.3 percent of the planet's fresh water is available in the lakes and rivers for human consumption. Even though water is a scarce resource, the global water crisis stems not only from physical scarcity but also from unequal distribution of the life-giving resource. Water is an issue of justice and of rights.

"Water for Life" underlined that "churches are called to participate in the mission of God to bring about a new creation where life in abundance is assured to all (John 10:10; Amos 5:24). It is therefore right to speak out and to act when life-giving water is pervasively and systematically under threat."

WCC emphasis after the Busan Assembly on a "pilgrimage of justice and peace" challenges the EWN to delve deeper into theological inspiration and motivation for engagement.

Plans call for publishing the consultation contributions in 2015.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Spokane network joins Earth Ministry

The Faith and Environment Network (FEN) in Spokane has become a part of Earth Ministry, which for 20 years has worked statewide to engage the religious community in environmental stewardship and advocacy.

"Our activity in Spokane and Eastern Washington in the future will be tied to Earth Ministry," said Evita Krislock and Tom Soeldner, speaking on behalf

of the Faith and Environment Board of Directors.

"We believe our coming together will provide a stronger and more active presence for our environmental ministries in Eastern Washington," they said.

The two are now on the board of Earth Ministries and Washington Interfaith Power and Light—Earth Ministries' full name.

Earth Ministry has a Greening

Congregations Program to help houses of worship implement sustainable practices. Its advocacy program empowers clergy and lay leaders to speak on public issues.

It offers education, outreach, organizing and training to build a moral constituency promoting the health of communities and the environment.

For information, call 838-4632 or 206-749-0663.

Fig Tree is recruiting hosts for benefit events

The Fig Tree is beginning to recruit table hosts for its Benefit Breakfast, Wednesday, March 11, and Benefit Lunch, Friday, March 13, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

Table hosts donate \$100 to cover the cost of food for themselves and seven other guests they invite. Guests enjoy a complimentary meal and are invited to donate for the work of The Fig Tree.

"We accept any donation, but invite people to consider donating \$100 to match their host's contribution to make the meal possible," said editor Mary Stamp.

As of mid-December, the 2014 benefit events raised \$29,000, with about \$800 more in pledges expected, she said.

The benefit events are an opportunity to share stories covered in the previous year and to celebrate

The Fig Tree's mission of sharing those stories and connecting people with resources.

The theme for 2015 is "Sharing Stories That Inform, Inspire and Involve."

"It's a great time to celebrate those who shared their stories and our media with ongoing supporters and with people just learning about it," Mary said.

For information, call 535-1813.

Ecumenical Catholic priest becomes bishop

The Ecumenical Catholic Community in the region has added two new communities and elected Tom Altepeter as bishop.

St. Clare Ecumenical Catholic Community (ECC) in Spokane is sponsoring the Church of Mary Magdalene in Pullman, which meets at Simpson United Methodist Church, and St. Francis, which began Nov. 2 at the United Church of Chewelah.

Tom serves as interim pastor for both until they have resident pastors. Linda Kobe Smith and Jim Murphy, who have training in ministry and pastoral experience, help him serve St. Clare and the mission communities.

St. Clare began meeting in spring 2012 and moved to its current site at the conference room of the SNAP building in March 2013. It has about 85 participants and about 45 at worship.

Once a month, the Chewelah community meets with St. Clare at 9:30 a.m., Sundays, at 3102 W. Ft Wright Dr.

Tom will be consecrated as bishop of the Pacific Northwest Region, which includes six communities in Washington, plus Idaho and Oregon, at 6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway in Spokane.

Presiding Bishop Peter Hickman of Orange, Calif., will

be principal consecrator along with ECC bishops Francis Krebs of St. Louis, Mo., and Armando Levya of Long Beach, Calif.

"My role is to provide pastoral oversight for existing communities and to increase the number of communities," Tom said.

Other communities in the state are Emmaus ECC in Olympia and

St. Ignatius ECC in Seattle, plus a newly forming Good Shepherd community in Tacoma.

A story on Tom is in the January 2014 Fig Tree and at spokesman.com/stories/2014/dec/20/a-higher-calling.

For information, call 361-0463 or email revtom@stclareecc.com or visit stclareecc.com.

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MLK Center Benefit Event - Friday, Jan. 16 - 7 p.m.
Bing Crosby Theater - 901 W. Sprague - Ticketswest.com (\$40 or \$50 for VIP)

Youth Empowerment Luncheon & Silent Auction
Saturday, Jan. 17 - 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Spokane Community College - 1801 N. Greene - \$10
Hear essays of contest winners.

Commemorative Celebration
Sunday, Jan. 18 - 4 to 6 p.m.
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church - 645 S. Richard Allen Ct.

Unity Rally, March & Resource Fair
Monday, Jan. 19 - 10 a.m.
Spokane Convention Center - 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

**For more information, call 509-455-8722
or visit www.mlksokane.org**

Legislative Conference 2015

Coal, river, wealth, reconciliation, criminal justice are topics

Continued from page 1

John Osborn, a physician and conservationist involved with the Ethics and Treaty Project for the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, and Sierra Club; Matt, who is on the Spokane Tribal Business Council and Department of Natural Resources; Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, who helped Washington State Catholic bishops develop the pastoral letter on the Columbia River watershed, and Eastern Washington Idaho Lutheran Synod Bishop Martin Wells, who builds awareness of the issues and applies ethics to the synod's public policy advocacy.

3) Lisa Brown, chancellor of Washington State University Spokane's center for health sciences, education and research, will speak on "Wealth Inequality." For 20 years, she served in the Washington State Legislature, four in the House and 16 in the Senate. She taught economics at Eastern Washington University (EWU) from 1981 to 2001 and in Gonzaga's graduate organizational leadership program from 2001 until 2012.

4) Sarah Ahmed, director of operations of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the

Middle East, will discuss inter-faith reconciliation in Iraq.

5) Rick Eichstaedt, executive director, and Julie Schaffer of the legal staff at the Center for Justice, and Rachel Dolezal, president elect of the Spokane NAACP and professor in the Africana Studies Program at EWU, will address issues related to Smart Justice and police accountability.

Rick became lead attorney at the Center for Justice in 2004, specializing in environmental and land use litigation. Previously he worked seven years representing the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho.

Julie works to end cycles of poverty and incarceration by influencing local and state policies on criminal justice. She focuses on removing barriers from old criminal convictions and addresses police accountability.

Rachel, whose passion for civil rights is influenced by years in Mississippi, is the former director of education at the Human Rights Education Institute in Coeur d'Alene, a licensed diversity trainer and consultant in human rights education.

The Rev. Paul Benz, co-director of the Faith Action Network

of Washington, and Sr. Sharon Park, OP, executive director of, and Donna Christensen, contract lobbyist for the Washington State Catholic Conference will bring legislative updates on the state budget, hunger programs, farmers' market nutrition, repealing tax exemptions, wage theft, minimum wage, TANF, housing, gun violence, human trafficking, toxic-free kids and climate change that are coming before the 2015 Washington State legislature.

Paul, an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was director of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington prior to his role with the Faith Action Network.

Sr. Sharon, a member of the Dominican Sisters, has been on the staff of the WSCC for more than 25 years.

Donna specializes in Catholic education and issues of children and families, the state budget and long-term care services for senior citizens and disabled persons.

The Fig Tree, Catholic Charities of Spokane and the Faith Action Network are organizing the event.

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

Pullman, Yakima plan advocacy education events

"Faith Communities Advocating for Justice" will be the theme for a faith community advocacy education event from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus St., in Pullman.

There will be speakers, workshops and discussion on issues before the Washington State Legislature, such as the environment, the death penalty, wealth inequality, the state budget, housing, homelessness and education. Confer-

ence leaders include the Rev. Paul Benz of Faith Action Network, Jeff Tietjen of the Community Action Center and others on how to do advocacy.

For information, call 509-334-3322 or email today@pullman.com by Jan. 21.

Yakima's 2015 Interfaith Advocacy Day will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, 225 N. 2nd St. Topics will include police accountability and structural racism in Yakima County.

For information, email revkbj86@yahoo.com.

Speakers give first-hand report on struggles in Iraq

Continued from page 1

of the problem, it must be part of the solution. A wholly secular approach will not suffice."

FRRME's health clinic works to reconcile Iraqis at a grassroots level by employing Sunni, Shia, Christian and Jewish staff.

Sarah, a peace, human rights, and women's right activist, is the foundation's director of operations and Andrew's assistant.

"What is happening to people in Iraq, from persecution to starvation to killing, affects the population in more ways than the world can even imagine," said Sarah, who beside her effort aiding Iraqis

displaced by ISIS, volunteers as a dentist in a medical center in Baghdad. She provides quality health care free to anyone who needs it.

She has also created the non-profit, Because I Love Peace, which promotes peace through letters of love, hope and support to those struggling in Iraq.

Sarah will discuss the humanitarian crisis and religious conflict that permeate lives of Iraqi citizens, particularly Christians and Muslims.

She will also tell about FRRME's work on religious reconciliation. She will also tell expe-

riences of the ISIS crisis in Iraq, raising concern for Christians in Iraq persecuted for their faith.

Mustafa, an engineering student at Gonzaga, returned to Iraq last summer to work with Sarah, providing food and supplies to thousands of displaced minority Christian families.

Not only is Mustafa engaged in Gonzaga's student body, he is also active in peace and justice efforts in Spokane. His poetry communicates what it is like to be a refugee from a war-torn country. Both Sarah and Mustafa are Iraqi citizens and Muslims.

For information, call 358-4273.

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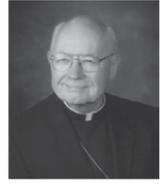
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 or email mary@thefigtree.org

Center promotes equality and respect for all

Continued from page 1

1975, it became the Martin Luther King Memorial Center and added programs for education, jobs, counseling and more.

In 1985, the center relocated to the former firehouse at 845 S. Sherman under an agreement with the City of Spokane to lease the building for \$1 a year. It became a United Way agency and has been funded by the city's Community Development Program, churches, businesses and individuals.

"Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families through culturally responsive educational and social services within the framework of Dr. King's vision of equal respect, treatment and accessibility for all people," said Freda. "Over the years, it has evolved into a comprehensive social service agency providing a variety of social and educational services."

With the growing needs of children and families, the center has reached capacity in the 4,000-square-foot former fire station and adjacent 800-square-foot house with offices and family service programs.

By purchasing the building, the center can tear down both to build a new two-story, 10,000-square-foot facility, doubling their space.

United Way, Spokane Public Schools and Grant Elementary School partnered with the center when it was no longer feasible to operate the after-school program in the current facility.

For more than a year, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center's after-school program has been offered at Grant School for children from Grant, Sheridan, Roosevelt and Franklin schools.

Community Colleges of Spokane recently opened additional preschool slots and added funds to expand the preschool program to prepare children for kindergarten.

George Watson of Watson & Herris Architects has developed preliminary plans for a \$2.2 million facility, which the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center board has approved.

"It took a community effort to make this happen," said City Council member Jon Snyder, who lives in the neighborhood.

The center serves 100 children a year. The ECEAP program recently expanded from serving 37 children to serve 47. The center's after-school program has grown from 20 in the basement to 50 at Grant, using a classroom, the gym and multipurpose room after school every day.

"The bigger facility will mean we can serve more children and families, but we are committed to keep the high quality of our services for existing programs," Freda said. "We will start our capital campaign in 2015.

The center will seek state funding and support from grants, businesses and individuals for the building project.

"Given federal and state cuts, the need for preschool programs and after-school programs is increasing. Several neighborhood programs have been cut," said Freda, who helps with both programs. "There aren't many options in the neighborhood for working families."

The center serves families who are diverse socially and economically—single parent families, dual-parent families, foster-care

Plans for the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend in Spokane include:

• **At 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16**, there will be a one-man benefit performance at the Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W. Sprague, of "Call Mr. Robeson," about civil rights activist Carl Robeson.

• **From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17**, the center will hold its Martin Luther King Luncheon at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1801 N. Greene, featuring children reading their essays.

• **From 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18**, the annual Commemorative Celebration will be held at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 645 S. Richard Allen Ct.

• **At 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 19**, the rally will be held. The march in downtown Spokane begins and ends at the Spokane Convention Center, where the Resource Fair will present displays of nonprofits.

For information, call 455-8722.

families and refugee families. Currently most of the refugees are Iraqi. The after-school program has many Marshallese children and Spanish-speaking children who need help with English.

The new building will have four classrooms on the main floor and rooms upstairs for family services and offices.

"It is designed to look residential to blend with the neighborhood," said George. "It will also help Freda have the space necessary to meet the needs. We hope to complete it by fall 2017 or earlier."

The playground, which was renovated and rebuilt in 2005 by Home Depot and Kaboom, will be maintained and stay accessible to neighborhood children, Freda said.

It includes a covered picnic area, important for feeding the 60 children in the summer program, plus 15 to 20 more who come from the neighborhood.

The biggest hurdle, said Freda, will be where to house the preschool during construction.

"We have 47 children here, 10 of which come for all day—six to 10 hours on five days a week—and 38, one group 20 and the other 18, come half days—three hours four days a week," Freda said.

"Currently, the pre-school program is state funded, so we are unable to serve families who do not qualify for state funding," she said. "With additional space we will be able to have blended classrooms to include more."

Freda knows that to move the dream into reality will take much hard work and collaboration.

"As our needs developed over the years, we knew that the existing space was not enough to expand the programs and provide high quality services. We needed space conducive to what we do."

"I've learned that the community cares when they see people in need. They step up and rise to the occasion," she said. "When in 2011 we thought we would have to close because we did not have a fire sprinkler system, I went on TV."

The Sprinkler Fitters' Union offered to help so the center's legacy would continue. Since learning of plans to build, the union has come by and offered to help.

"Support for the center is vast and diverse, from family members, people who use the services and community members who want to care for children," Freda said.

For information, call 455-8722 or visit mlkspokane.org.

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Historian recounts Spokane's unique role in civil rights movement

Dwayne Mack recently gave an overview from his book about *Black Spokane* and civil rights in the region, sharing little-known history he uncovered while working on his dissertation at Washington State University (WSU).

Dwayne, who grew up in Brooklyn, appreciates how mentors helped shape him as a young historian in his five years at WSU.

"I celebrate the resilience of the small black community in the Inland Northwest," he said, speaking at Gonzaga at the invitation of its History Department.

"The book presents some milestones, primarily from the post war period to the death of Spokane's first African mayor, James Chase in the late 1980s," he said.

"*Black Spokane* reflects faith, courage and perseverance of African Americans," he said. "The struggle continues today."

He hopes his book helps black Spokane today learn of the plight of black Americans through another lens.

"I'm connected to black Spokane for life, and I hope to extend the story into the 2000s," he said, encouraging others to follow and write about the many stories here.

"Here blacks and whites were allies, challenging the community about right and wrong, mobilizing people in coalitions, not bickering or engaging in sexism," Dwayne said.

A primary source was Spokane historian of African American residents Jerrelene Williamson, whose family was among black pioneers who settled in the area in the 1880s. She founded Spokane Northwest Black Pioneers.

Another source was Spokesman-Review reporter and historian Jim Kershner, who wrote *Telling Carl Maxey's Story: Understanding the Fighter in the Ring and the Courtroom*.

Dwayne's focus begins in the 1950s and goes through the 1980s.

After World War II, African Americans fled the South, seeking permanent homes and opportunities in the Northwest.

In 1981, Spokane elected James Chase in an era when other U.S. cities had black mayors, but Spokane was the only white city with a black mayor. Dwayne's book follows through to his death.



Dwayne Mack signs book after presentation at Gonzaga.

As background, he told of early pioneers Emmett Hercules Holmes and Peter Barrow, who encouraged a wave of black migration into the early 1900s, starting churches and businesses. Peter, an apple orchardist, hired many African-Americans and founded the first African American church, Calvary Baptist. He was the grandfather of Mayor Chase's wife, Eleanor.

In 1900, Dwayne said there were 360 black people in a community of 65,000. Spokane's NAACP formed in 1919 to promote racial equality and promote civil rights. Black migration slowed in the Depression and resumed after World War II.

"They knew of Spokane because they were based here in the service," Dwayne said.

In the 1950s, there were about 1,300 African Americans in a population of 160,000, as Geiger Field brought black soldiers.

"Given experiences of Jim Crow on and off the base, Spokane's NAACP leadership acted with the same intensity as in other areas, mediating between black soldiers and the white community," he said.

"As black upward mobility began to challenge white supremacy, the NAACP and others worked together to oppose racial segregation by redlining, a mortgage lending practice that denied loans to African Americans in some neighborhoods. That meant most African Americans lived in East Central Spokane," he said. "Black professors couldn't live where they wanted. Bricks were thrown through the windows of

those who defied the redlining."

The Spokane Council on Race Relations brought the Air Force, African-Americans and white people together, working for civil rights during the Cold War.

Rosa Malone ran a USO for African Americans, who were excluded in area bases and the community. They could not stay in most hotels, so they stayed in homes of black people.

"The white community did not embrace black soldiers, but considered them troublemakers," Dwayne said. "Blacks lived in segregated barracks. When singer Paul Robeson came, he had to use the hotel's freight elevator. Louis Armstrong came to play in the Armory, but left Spokane in a huff, denied a hotel room.

"Much of such discrimination was not talked about," he said.

African Americans began to challenge racism. Attorney Carl Maxey adopted a civil rights strategy. With his help, the black community and NAACP turned to the legal system to expose discrimination in housing and the hospitality industry, Dwayne said.

"In the struggle for racial equality, was not the racial terrorism of the South, but Spokane was the hub of complex civil rights

activities, a new approach to the narrative," he said.

In the Inland Northwest, blacks and white activists contributed to civil rights and connected with the national movement, but Spokane's story was a departure.

"A remarkable group of committed black leaders challenged racism," said Dwayne.

By 1965, there were 2,600 African Americans in the area. They relied on legal challenges to attack discrimination in housing and public accommodations.

Gonzaga University students rallied when a barber refused to cut the hair of a Liberian student. An interracial group came together in a nonviolent protest and forced the barber to close.

"Justice prevailed through the collaboration of the campus and black community in October 1963," Dwayne said.

The faith community also supported racial equality.

"Spokane was part of the national civil rights canvas, despite assumptions that little was happening," Dwayne said. "Spokane has had a long civil rights movement and avoided a premature closure with the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy in 1968."

As Community Action Councils managed and distributed funds for anti-poverty programs, there was a demand to include blacks.

In other areas, blacks entered politics.

"Jesse Jackson's unsuccessful campaign for President galvanized activism in the 1980s," Dwayne said. "He mobilized the Rainbow Coalition, bringing together blacks and whites."

Carl Maxey made a bid for the Senate in the 1970s. Lydia Sims was the first African American woman to head the city's affirmative action office.

A highlight for Dwayne was the

election of James Chase, first to City Council and then as mayor in 1981.

He came to Spokane as a hobo, hopping the rails to find work with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Self-taught and a self-made entrepreneur, he owned an auto body shop and became a civic leader. His wife, Eleanor, a singer, graduated from Whitworth and was on EWU's board of trustees.

In 1981, Spokane broke a significant color barrier by electing its first African American mayor, a visible achievement of the civil rights movement in Washington State and the Inland Empire.

"As mayor, he kept his cool in the face of racial slurs," Dwayne said. "He understood that he led all of Spokane, not just African Americans."

Dwayne is the Carter Woodson chair in African American history and associate professor of history at Berea College in Berea, Ky. His book on *Black Spokane: The Civil Rights Struggle in the Inland Northwest*, was published this year.

For information, call 859-575-0965 or email dwayne_mack@bereda.edu.

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Gonzaga embarks on online master's in theology and leadership program

Gonzaga University's new Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership (MATL) is a graduate program designed to use innovative online technologies to teach, engage and connect students.

Joe Mudd and Anastasia Wendlinger, faculty in Gonzaga University's Religious Studies program, are co-directors of the new online Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership program.

The MATL program begins in the summer of 2015 and is now accepting applications through the virtual campus. The classes will be online. It will take two and a half years to complete.

Since coming to Gonzaga's Religious Studies department in 2007, Anastasia has taught undergraduate courses in Catholicism, Christian doctrine, Vatican II and Christian diversity, along with graduate courses in christology and ecclesiology.

When she came, Gonzaga had a traditional master of arts in religious studies program with evening courses.

When Sr. Joy Milos stepped down as graduate director in 2010, Anastasia stepped in, sharing the role with Cate Siejck.

Between the economic crash in 2008 and 2011, the number of graduate theological students declined nationally, as well as at Gonzaga. When Cate stepped down as co-director, Joe stepped in. He and Anastasia began developing the MATL program. The former master's in religious studies program has been phased out.

Given the needs for church leadership, Gonzaga recognized that distance learning might fill people's schedules.

The church and nonprofits need theologically grounded leaders, Joe said. Leadership programs were emerging.

"We wanted a Jesuit program that would speak to the whole person and be pastoral in focus but in a broader sense than pastoral care," he said. "Theology should be practical, because not everyone will go into ecclesial ministries or pastoral counseling."

At one time, Gonzaga's Religious Studies Department offered four graduate degrees, including an accredited master of divinity program, which ran until Leonard Doohan retired as dean of the graduate school and chair of the department in 2001. The graduate school then dissolved.

With the economic downturn, there was less support for a graduate program. Gonzaga offered only a master's in religious studies, but few went on to doctoral studies required for teaching. Some went into chaplaincies, and others into ordained ministries in



Joe Mudd



Anastasia Wendlinger

different denominations.

"We want to serve people who would take spirituality and theology into different fields in the world and church," said Anastasia.

So they decided to partner with the Organizational Leadership program, which offers master's and doctoral degrees, and use the model in theological studies.

Anastasia and Joe are collaborating with Organizational Leadership, drawing on the expertise of faculty and considering how the approach applies to theology and its practical use.

The opening session of the MATL program will be a three-day orientation and retreat in Christian leadership in August 2015 at Gonzaga, so participating students gain a sense of place and meet each other face-to-face.

It's a cohort style program, not a self-guided online program, so students will be each other's companions through the program. Cohorts will include the same 20 to 24 students working together through the program, taking classes together and learning from each other as a community.

None of the classes will be physically at Gonzaga. Courses will run eight weeks online, with discussions by Skype and blogging.

"Being online adds flexibility so we can reach more people who cannot come to Spokane," Joe said. "We will create community

online, and students come here for intensive, bonding experiences."

"There are now online tools for building community," said Anastasia, "such as virtual lounge spaces for conversations related or not related to classes, and virtual prayer spaces. There are many ways to interact online."

The second summer, there will be a week of immersion-style workshops focusing on ministry or mission-related work, such as in chaplaincy, teaching, nonprofits and other vocations.

Speakers will include people with practical experiences, such as mission leaders in health care, exploring how to bring complex theological ideas into the lives of people who are not in ordained ministries.

For example, they will help a doctor work in a way that reflects the mission of a hospital, especially one such as Sacred Heart and other Providence health care religious institutions now that the Sisters of Providence have turned operations over to lay leaders.

"If an organization's mission is to survive, its theological basis needs to be translated into the context of the work. For example, a Jewish cardiologist can participate in the mission of a Catholic hospital," Joe said. "Or someone teaching in a Catholic school system may help faculty and staff think of the mission in a way that goes beyond theological formulaic responses."

"We also want to form people to go into ministry and be leaders in their church communities in any denomination," Anastasia said.

"We will bring leaders to help students think about what skills they need to be effective in the church context," Joe said.

The goal is to broaden the conversation on ministry beyond the walls of churches—where most people live their lives, he said.

"We will form leaders but not just for life within the church," Joe said.

"We need good leaders both inside and outside the church," Anastasia said.

Most programs on leadership are not theological and many theological programs do not provide skills in leadership.

"Because GU is a highly regarded educational institution, it will put into the program the best technology and teaching for online learning," she said.

Each year the MATL program will add a new cohort group. There will be two eight-week courses each semester. Students will focus on one class. The program has a strong core theological curriculum with built-in flexibility to develop student interest and vocational skills.

Two classes will be geared to individual interests: one in contemporary issues and one in faith and dialogue. Students will customize their programs based on their interests with classmates to maintain a strong community and maintain individual interests

and vocational emphases.

Anastasia said they will seek diversity in ages, culture and religion. It's an academic program, requiring academic credentials, but will include people in the prime of their careers, starting out, changing careers or retired.

The Virtual Campus has a course designer and producer to present the class with the best online technology, she said.

Some people may initially be scared of taking online courses, but they are developed by the Virtual Campus to be user friendly, with training and continual support offered by staff, she said.

The introduction to Christian Leadership, the first required course in the first summer, includes foundational skills for graduate-level research, writing and basic concepts, principles and methods in theology and leadership studies.

Joe and Anastasia will continue to direct the program and will teach systematic theology.

Gonzaga's other Religious Studies Department faculty will share their areas of expertise as it fits the courses.

For information, visit online. gonzaga.edu/masters-theology-leadership.

Second story on the program will run in February, featuring the pilgrimages of Joe and Anastasia into teaching systematic theology.

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Whitworth's Office for Church Engagement partners with churches

To help churches and ministries envision, plan and develop new ways to engage today's culture, Whitworth University's Office for Church Engagement will partner with churches and Christian ministries to help them discern how to be church, particularly in this region, which is known as the least religious area in the country.

Other goals include 1) engaging students in the life of churches and ministries, so they will make church central to their lives, and 2) helping faculty, staff and students gain clarity on their vocations and sense of calling.

In his 20 years as dean of spiritual life at Whitworth University, Terry McGonigal has seen that an erosion of community in all institutions is having a detrimental effect on younger generations.

He began July 1 as director of the Office for Church Engagement (OCE), a project he helped develop out of conversations that began two years ago with Whitworth President Beck Taylor and theology professor Jerry Sittser.

The Lilly Endowment also entered into the conversations. Whitworth will stretch its eight-year grant to 12 years as it works to make the office self-supporting.

Lilly is also offering funds out of its desire to know why church-related institutions graduate people who are not interested in participating in churches and do not feel called to ministry. It also funds other regional centers to support and strengthen ministry in churches.

"How can the church engage the culture? Engagement is key," said Terry. "The program offers challenges and opportunity."

It includes the Certificate in Ministry Engagement, the Ekklesia Project, Summer Ministry Internships and the Whitworth Institute of Ministry.

The Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning, which is also at Whitworth, now will have an internal focus to help faculty integrate faith and learning. The Office for Church Engagement will focus on external connections.

Dale Soden has been part-time head of the Weyerhaeuser Center along with full-time teaching. Terry works full time with OCE.

"We seek to strengthen churches to be places of Christian witness in the neighborhood with all the cultural changes," he said.

Churches of many denominations will turn to the OCE for help.

"I am constantly in conversation with churches and leaders about how vocation and calling guide a church's role in a neighborhood," he said.

He has been traveling in the



Terry McGonigal begins programs on church engagement.

Pacific Northwest to converse with churches about entering into partnership with the OCE to receive resources.

One church, for example, will serve as the hub of interfaith collaborative work as 15 churches in a downtown area discovered they were doing similar things: food banks, homeless shelters and social services.

"There are gaps in what churches can do, so the OCE program will provide students, trained and guided by a sociology professor, to do sociological surveys of the city, assets and resources of congregations to serve the community, and needs churches might pay attention to," Terry said.

In another Northwest community, there was a shift in demographics and related to that a shift in economic resources. A business student will analyze what business redevelopment is happening in one church's neighborhood.

"From understanding what's happening in the community, churches can better engage the community," Terry said.

In some urban neighborhoods, churches need to consider how to minister and provide outreach that will engage the community, he said.

"Students will honor the history of churches and be trained to develop churches' oral histories," he said. "If we say churches need to change, we also need to honor the history and mission from their founders to the present."

Another piece of the program is funded by a major grant of the Murdock Charitable Trust to fund 15 interns to serve in specific Pacific Northwest congregations, earning \$3,500 for 10 weeks from the first of June to mid August. They will stay in homes to experience the context of the congregation with faithful families and enter the lives of people around the community of faith.

The Murdock grant will pro-

vide funding for the first years with partners of OCE, which will also fund five international internships.

"After students have a healthy, positive experience of vital church life, we hope they will make it the core of their own lives as they go forward," Terry said.

This part of the program will be piloted with presbyteries in Western Washington.

"We hope students will come to love the church with its problems and sins. We are all sinners. There is power in centering our lives around liturgy, learning, community, service and evangelism," he said.

Terry grew up in a Catholic parish in urban Chicago. His family moved to California where he was involved in Young Life in high school. He earned a master of divinity degree in 1977 at Fuller Seminary and a doctoral degree in biblical studies in 1981.

He served 13 years at Fuller with Young Life and Intervarsity, bringing theological resources and applied theology to students.

Ordained a Presbyterian pastor, Terry helped plant a new church in Colorado Springs from 1984 to 1992 before coming to Whitworth.

He came to Whitworth when he was 42. Now 62, he felt it would be better for Whitworth to have someone younger as campus minister. He wanted to start something new to strengthen the church.

"I saw that students here had a deep personal commitment to Christ and a passion for faith, but lacked theology and understanding of the church and its importance. That background is needed so after graduating they will want the church to continue to guide and nurture their lives and faith," Terry said. "In campus ministry at Whitworth, I sought to connect students with churches.

"Whitworth is a great place

for students to experience an authentic, vibrant, honest, open Christian community, but students graduate. Then what?" he said. "Campus ministry takes students where they are when they come at 18 and creates an experience so if they participate, when they graduate at 22, they have a strong, mature sense of church."

Terry believes that his role as director of the Office for Church Engagement is to be a bridge to help students connect after graduation to other communities of faith that will nurture them and be places where they can strengthen God's mission.

Another piece of the program is the certificate of ministry in church engagement.

"The certificate program provides the opportunity to grow spiritually and to develop skills in applying the gospel in a variety of ministry contexts," said Terry.

The program is held on campus in 10 full-day modules, once a month on Saturdays, September through May. It may also be taken in modular format online, covering one topic a month.

Theological subjects include God's story in the Old and New

Testaments, foundations of Christian history and theology, and Christian spiritual practice.

Skills will be developed in Scriptural application for contemporary ministry, challenges of contemporary culture for evangelism and discipleship, supporting people in times of suffering and grief through prayer, and praying through life.

Enrollment into the certificate program may take place at any time on a monthly basis. Students will begin with the current topic and move through the 10 modules until all material is covered and all assignments are complete. Then they will receive the certificate in ministry engagement, Terry said. Flexible payment plans are available, and some scholarship support may be provided.

In the past 15 years more than 600 people have completed Whitworth's various certificate in ministry programs.

"Their spiritual lives have been strengthened and their ministry skills advanced through the certificate programs, said Terry.

For information, call 777-4547 or email tmcgonigal@whitworth.edu.

Whitworth names spiritual life dean

On Dec. 11, Whitworth announced that the Rev. Forrest Buckner will be the university's next dean of spiritual life and campus pastor, replacing Terry McGonigal, who now directs the Office of Church Engagement.

Forrest begins his duties in July 2015.

He looks forward to working with people in the community, as well as being a part of an institution that investigates the holistic development of mind and heart.

"I see it as an invitation to surrender to God's rule over one's entire life and participate by the Spirit in Christ's ongoing redeeming work in the world," said Forrest, a native of Boulder, Colo.

He earned civil and mechanical engineering degrees at Colorado School of Mines in Golden. He was director of high school ministry and then director of student and family ministries at First

Presbyterian Church of Boulder.

He earned a master of divinity degree at Fuller Seminary in 2012, and then moved with his wife, Janelle, and three children to St. Andrews, Scotland, to complete his studies in systematic and historical theology. He will earn a doctoral degree there in July 2015.

For information, call 777-4345 or email cmcknight@whitworth.edu.

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Rabbi shares insights from Conservative and Reform Jewish traditions

Rabbi Tamar Malino has her feet in two traditions of Judaism—Conservative and Reform.

It's not new to her. She grew up with her feet in two denominations because her family was a member of two congregations, both Reform and Conservative.

"It suits my religious needs. Some days I crave a traditional service and other days I prefer a less traditional service," she said.

Tamar is rabbi for Spokane's two Jewish congregations for this year, spending 75 percent of her time at the Conservative Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) and 25 percent at the Reform Congregation Emanu-El.

Based on how the arrangement works, it may continue. She is a candidate to serve as the long-term rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom.

Tamar believes the community benefits when the two congregations work together.

"We need the religious communities to be stabilizing, supportive places that can challenge people to realize that life is more than sports, TV and social media," she said.

Jewish families have the same human concerns that come with different stages of life: teens surviving hormonal times, using social media in healthy ways, aging gracefully, having an empty nest, how to live meaningful lives, how to parent young children, rebellious children or super-active children, she pointed out.

"Part of synagogue life is to help people find resources to deal with life challenges," Tamar said.

"What wisdom does a 3,000-year-old tradition bring about rebellious children or respecting the wisdom of people who are aged? What wisdom does it offer regarding the responsibility of the family and the community to care for elders?" she asked.

"Most issues are age old. Just the technology is new. There's much to be said about exploring life today in the Jewish context," she said.

The Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations recognize the intensity of the time when children enter teen life. It's a time of increased privileges and responsibilities, so they need at the ages of 12 and 13 to be able to make ethical decisions.

Jewish education also helps young people understand the Torah and liturgy. Children start learning Hebrew in the third grade. The Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations are the culmination of their studies.

Temple Beth Shalom also has a high school program and adult Jewish study programs, because study of the Torah is obligatory and a life-long endeavor, Tamar said.

"We can never know enough. We are expected to do some study every day. Torah study means revelation," she said. "It's a way to communicate with God. The Bar and Bat Mitzvah say that the teen knows how to study and is ready to study. It's not the end of study but the start."

The Reform congregation does not have Hebrew School, so children learn from tutors or attend Hebrew School at TBS Wednesday afternoons.

Tamar started as a consultant in education with Emanu-El soon



Rabbi Tamar Malino serves two congregations.

after she came to Spokane five years ago.

In 2011, she became its part-time rabbi. She has also been director of the Spokane Area Jewish Family Services. During her temporary leave of absence from it, Marilee Kinsella is interim director.

Through working with Jewish Family Services, Tamar has come to know people and has developed relationships with many people in the Jewish community.

She served a congregation in San Diego for eight years and served as a student in a small congregation in the Washington Heights area of New York City while studying at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She also worked two years at the Jewish Community Center in the San Francisco area.

Coming to Spokane has been a different experience for her, because the Jewish community here is a small, tight-knit community of about 250 families.

"There are many positive aspects to the small community, but

there is also a sense of isolation in contrast to New York City, Los Angeles or Chicago," said Tamar, who grew up in Greensboro, N.C., in a small Jewish community, but one that was twice the size of Spokane's.

Because about half a percent of the world's population is Jewish, she said, "we experience being a minority, and feel it more in Spokane."

Given that isolation, she was grateful that the community rallied and supported Temple Beth Shalom after its building was defaced by graffiti during high holy days in the fall.

Tamar discussed dynamics of working with Spokane's two Jewish congregations that are part of two denominations, Conservative and Reform.

While they worshiped together for some services during the high holy days this fall, they generally worship separately. When they worship together they consider whose rules to follow.

She described some differences between and similarities of each

of the traditions.

Conservative worship is mostly in Hebrew, and the language metaphors are ancient and classic, speaking of God as Father and King, Tamar said.

"There is tremendous beauty in that," she said, "but at times I also need Marge Piercy or Marcia Falk poems that are contemporary words, retelling traditional themes.

"There is a tension between authenticity and the ability to speak to contemporary reality," she said, noting that one difference between the movements is balance.

The Conservative tradition is more concerned about authentic commitment to follow dictates of traditional Jewish law, she said, and about authenticity, tradition and meaning in liturgy.

In the Reform tradition, the emphasis is on autonomy and individual choice in practicing ritual that is meaningful, creative and flexible.

The former, Tamar said, has more emphasis on obligation, while the latter is more about individual choice and meaning, while being obligated to follow ethical dictates.

"Temple Beth Shalom identifies as a liberal Conservative community, which means they include a breadth of practice," Tamar explained.

For example, part of the Conservative tradition is not to use musical instruments, but occasionally Temple Beth Shalom does, understanding that music enhances worship.

The Reform congregation uses musical instruments regularly.

"The prohibition against using musical instruments comes because they were used in the temple in Jerusalem that was destroyed," she said. "They are not to be used until it is restored. People in the Reform tradition do not seek to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem."

There is consistency in both traditions in following "tikkun olam," the call to heal or restore

the society and world. Both movements seek to serve.

The Religious Action Center of the Reform movement in Washington D.C., lobbies politically with a liberal or progressive bent, she said. The Conservative movement does not have a comparable organization.

Tamar said there are approximately 12 dually affiliated congregations across the United States.

The Union for Reform Judaism has 859 congregations affiliated with it. The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has 1.2 million members in more than 550 congregations.

Previously, Orthodox comprised 20 percent of Jews in the United States, Reform 40 percent and Conservative 40 percent. Now Reform are 40 percent and Conservative 28 percent, as the number of unaffiliated Jews has grown because of interfaith marriages.

"Reform Jews welcome interfaith couples. Conservative communities are more ambivalent about this, and encourage conversion," said Tamar. "There is constant conversation on that in local, regional and national levels.

Another difference is that Conservative Jews consider only people born to a Jewish mother or those who have converted to be Jewish. Reform Jews consider people Jewish if they were born of a Jewish father or mother, were raised as Jews or have converted.

"It makes a difference about who can do specific rituals," Tamar said.

Women have been ordained by Reform congregations since 1973 and by Conservative congregations since 1985. In the Orthodox congregations, women cannot be ordained.

Both the Reform and Conservative movements nationally ordain gays and lesbians, the Reform since 1990 and the Conservative for more than three years.

For information, call 747-3304 or email rabbi@spokanetbs.org.

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'Retired' Holy Names sister continues pastoral and social justice ministries

Holy Names Sister Anne Bosserman exemplifies how retired Sisters of the Holy Names continue their commitment to religious life through ministries within their own community and to the wider community and world.

Although Holy Names Sisters, who have a history of being educators in this region, are aging and declining in numbers, they have chosen new partners in ministry by moving to a senior living community.

As one of the 40 sisters, who moved between November 2013 and June 2014 from the Convent of the Holy Names at 2911 W. Fort Wright Blvd., to the Harbor Crest at 3117 E. Chaser Lane, Sr. Anne moved in December 2013.

Arriving early at Harbor Crest, she has had a role in hospitality there of welcoming the sisters and visiting with them to hear their joys and concerns.

The convent was built in 1967 with 72 bedrooms. It became costly to keep up with only 40 sisters, aged 76 to 93, living there before the move. Two years ago, the Sisters of the former Washington Province—which is now part of the U.S.-Ontario Province—made the decision to move.

The sisters have increasing need for quality, affordable health care as they age. Costs of maintaining and operating the care center at the convent became prohibitive. They found it would cost less for them to live at Harbor Crest than it cost to provide 24-hour care with 70 employees at the convent.

When Sr. Mary Ann Farley, SNJM, now community coordinator at Harbor Crest, came to the convent 17 years ago, there were 63 sisters. Of them, 31 were in the care center. Now there are 47 in the Spokane area, and 17 living independently in apartments or houses in the area.

Three sisters live in Harbor Crest's memory care unit, two in independent living apartments and 24 scattered in apartments on three floors of the main building.

As the sisters decided what to bring and how to decorate their new apartments, they became energized by the move, said Sr. Mary Ann, who joined the interview.

Sr. Anne continues to help sisters find a new sense of community. They have grown closer by caring for each other as they adjust to their new home, said Sr. Mary Ann.

With apartments in various areas of the facility, the community



Sr. Anne Bosserman provides hospitality at Harbor Crest.

has one apartment as a meeting place to enjoy each other's company. They also meet for prayer each afternoon in the Harbor Crest Chapel. The 12 Catholics, who already lived at Harbor Crest, appreciate that the sisters' arrival gives them access to both daily and Sunday Mass.

Sr. Mary Ann sees Sr. Anne "as a leader who offers resources to people, helping them with their physical, psychological and spiritual well-being."

Like many sisters, she exemplifies how simple gestures of compassion, a smile or kind word makes a difference for residents they meet in the hall, dining room and other areas. The Sisters of the Holy Names have a new ministry among the residents, too.

"At Harbor Crest, the sisters have gradually come to know the residents," said Sr. Anne.

Employing many skills she used in her work as a pastoral minister at St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Spokane Valley, she welcomed the sisters as they settled into apartments and facilitated the residents welcoming the sisters, as well as the sisters welcoming each other.

"We are building community here," Sr. Anne said. "The sisters need to support each other. When we go to the dining room, we can sit with anyone from the 100 apartments, but some gravitate to each other."

A different sense of community is emerging at Harbor Crest, she said, because the sisters have to work at it, rather than taking it for granted as it was easy to do at the convent.

Sr. Anne is also available to the other residents.

One man's grandson, who had two tours in Iraq, committed suicide. She visited him and listened to his grief.

When the wife of another man died, she visited him, too.

"I listen to people tell their stories at meals," said Sr. Anne, whose gift at remembering names from parish work continues at Harbor Crest. "I try to address people by name."

"We moved to make more of our resources available for ministry," she said.

Sr. Anne also continues her involvements, including with Pax Christi, the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, Our Place, Sr. Paula Turnbull's sculpture ministry, the Holy Names Music Center and Vocare.

Her caring and advocacy follow in her mother's footsteps. Her mother started a Dress for Success program in Seattle, helped organize a boycott of The Bon Marche to challenge it to move to equality in its hiring practices and instilled in Sr. Anne a worldview shaped by Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Dorothy Day.

"I became a world citizen and I'm passionate to read about people of different cultures," Sr. Anne said.

Through her involvement in Pax Christi, Sr. Anne is helping arrange a presentation at Gonzaga on interfaith reconciliation in Iraq.

The group is bringing Sarah Ahmed of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East to talk about efforts to bring reconciliation among Muslims and other faiths in Iraq.

Sr. Anne has belonged to Pax Christi for many years, participating in a local chapter that seeks to

make a difference and change systems to a peace and justice focus.

Over the years, the group has brought speakers, including some from the U.S. Institute of Peace.

In Pax Christi, she and 10 others work locally for equality, justice and humaneness in the world out of their desire to live out the Gospel of Jesus.

Her pursuit of justice also has outlet through Sisters of the Holy Names social justice advocacy.

Since 1991, the Holy Names Sisters have been part of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC) with Dominican Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, Oregon Province of Jesuits, Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of St. Francis Philadelphia.

Sr. Anne participated in two eight-week women's justice circles, helping low-income women in 15 Northwest ministries to develop leadership skills.

"I let people know wherever sisters are in ministry and I tell them about IPJC programs, such as its resources on climate change, human trafficking and clean water, which are commitments of the Holy Names Sisters," she said.

As a volunteer one day a week for nearly six years at Our Place, an outreach ministry in West Central Spokane, Sr. Anne did computer work, then trained two others to do it, and now does filing and reception.

For three years, she has assisted Sr. Paula Turnbull by providing extra hands to hold tools while Sr. Paula shapes statues in her studio at the convent.

From her interest in music, Sr. Anne is on the Scholarship Committee for the Holy Names Music Center. For many years, she was a pianist and music teacher.

Through Vocare, she helps young women "address their hunger for spirituality and guidance as they consider possible vocations in ministry," she said. "It's about being present with young people."

Each summer, Vocare invites about 35 girls, aged 13 to 18, to a four-day prayer retreat at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. Along with the program on campus, sisters from several communities involve the girls in visiting ministries sisters in the area are doing.

The sisters inform the young

women about their Catholic heritage and take them to tour the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart Hospital, the Holy Names Music Center and the monument at Holy Cross Cemetery that honors the various women's religious orders.

"We give them a sense of Catholicism that is bigger than what they have seen," Sr. Anne said.

"Young women recognize their spirituality early and need a place to nourish it," said Sr. Mary Ann.

The goal is to plant seeds early. Most young women go to college, mature, live independently, manage their finances and maybe have a relationship before choosing to enter an order. Even then it's seven to 10 years before they make final vows, said Sr. Anne.

"When Catholic sisters taught in elementary and high schools, they had more opportunities to talk with students about life as a sister," she said.

Now most of the teachers in Catholic schools are lay people.

During high school, Sr. Anne's interest in the world and peace was stirred while her family hosted an exchange student from Vienna. She saved money and in 1955 took the Andrea Doria to Europe, where she spent three months touring Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Denmark, England and Scotland.

Ten days after she returned, she entered the convent.

Along with pastoral care and justice action ministries, Sr. Anne likes praying every day with the sisters and quiet time to talk with God.

"I put my relationship with the Lord first," said Sr. Anne, who attends St. Anne's Parish.

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As the news becomes old, community caring and action continue

As new news keeps unfolding, what happened to the Ebola outbreak, the Occupy movement, the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the Sandy Hook school, the ongoing flow of natural disasters or other recent stories?

As news becomes old news, it does not disappear as media jump to the newest conflict, disaster or scandal, because people, informed by the news, may become inspired to make a difference. Thankfully after saturation coverage drops, there may be less panicked follow-up reports.

People continue to die of Ebola—7,373 as of mid December—and people continue to respond as it fades from the front page. Someone developed a new protective suit for health care workers. They exit from the back, which is less likely soiled by fluids.

The Occupy movement's concerns about wealth inequality persist and education efforts arise in various venues, including showings of the movie "Inequality for All," now on DVDs church adult forums can use.

Fukushima workers feel forgotten as 6,000 work to decommission the crippled nuclear plant. What progress is being made? What is the effect on fish and the ocean? Some are developing robots to go in during a future disaster.

The Sandy Hook School shooting may seem lost with the many shootings since then, but it is ever present through the ongoing political battles about gun control, including the passage of I-594 in this state.

We hear occasional stories of post-disaster recovery in Indonesia, New Orleans, New Jersey, and summer fires in Central Washington. Faith groups have long-term disaster recovery efforts and channels for people to continue helping.

As the attention of journalists shifts to the latest "news," reports continue to spark action by people as they protest, organize, serve and persist in efforts to seek solutions.

War is old, but continues to fill headlines with its changing venues, new strategies

and differing opinions. The military industry and war proponents are consistently covered as they offer their justifications.

In the midst of that, on Dec. 24, the newly ratified Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), an international law to regulate the nearly \$100 billion annual global trade in armaments and ammunition, went into force. World Council of Churches member churches and partners in 50 countries lobbied for its binding standards to help save lives by restricting trade of weapons. The United States is among 125 treaty signers.

Issues of police brutality, militarization and accountability in headlines in recent years have led citizens groups to demand changes. In Spokane, the Department of Justice released a report on Dec. 19, after reviewing data on use of force, police attitudes and law enforcement approaches. It recommends reforms that will need ongoing official and citizen involvement.

A PBS interview with New Haven's po-

lice chief, the former head of the National Black Police Association, and a University of Missouri criminal justice professor offered perspectives rarely in headlines. They said police training should include ways to de-escalate confrontations before they turn violent by treating people they stop with respect and by calming people who are upset. Even before crises, police need to know people in the community they serve and build relationships of trust. Then they are less likely to use deadly force.

New Haven's police chief said, "We are not an army in occupation or a foreign police force. We belong to New Haven."

Civic, nonprofit and faith community efforts involving tedious dialogue and trust-building take time and may seem lost as the news rushes on. While some news may be less dramatic than the crises, massacres and ambushes of war, reports are essential news to keep citizens informed and engaged.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Torture report invites us to free prisoners and make the powerful care

As Senator John McCain said in his Senate speech in favor of releasing the Senate Intelligence Committee report on use of torture by the Central Intelligence Agency, "The entire world already knows that we waterboarded prisoners. It knows we subjected prisoners to various other types of degrading treatment ... Those practices haven't been a secret for a decade."

Judging by the flurry of flak heading his way, we might think that putting it down on paper was the crime. Others dismissed the report. One commentator called it a travesty. A quibbler-critic dismissed both the senator and the report. He said there was no torture because there were no physical scars on the prisoners.

The senator's interpretation of why there has been such a fuss: The real secret has been that torture doesn't work.

"I know from personal experience that the abuse of prisoners produces more bad

than good intelligence. I know victims of torture offer intentionally misleading information if they think their captors will believe it," he said in his Senate speech. He once told an interviewer that he had given an interrogator the names of the line of a football team as high-level officials.

In a prison, where rights of prisoners were prominently displayed where prisoners could read them, by-the-manual interrogation yielded solid information. The humane way prisoners were treated contrasted radically with the way their commanders had told them they would be treated.

Then the EIT people took over. Enhanced Interrogation Techniques, the euphemism for Torture 101, is now referred to by its initials by some spokesmen.

My husband, Jim Minard, was a research psychologist for more than 40 years. His main areas of research were sleep and perception. He is familiar with research

cited in support of these techniques. In his opinion, the research has been misinterpreted and misused.

A number of types of deprivation have been used: social, sensory and sleep. Food was also misused. Deprivation does not make memory sharper. If anything, sleep deprivation, sensory deprivation, social deprivation and food deprivation skew perception and promote disorientation.

On the surface, deprive a person of sleep and he thinks about sleep. A conscientious objector we knew said illustrated magazine articles about food were the most popular reading matter among subjects of a starvation study he was in during World War II.

However, reactions to these types of deprivation are also highly individual and unpredictable.

In his speech, Senator McCain affirmed our right as citizens to know what is being done in our name. "We also have the

responsibility to know," he said.

What do we do with this responsibility?

Do we, along with the senator, "know the use of torture compromises that which most distinguishes us from our enemies, our belief that all people, even captured enemies, possess basic human rights, which are protected by international conventions the U.S. not only joined, but for the most part authored."

Inspired by a Christmas poem by theologian Howard Thurman, hymnodist Jim Strathdee points us toward ongoing tasks, because when the angel song is done, the star is no longer in the sky and the shepherds and Magi have gone home, "the work of Christmas is begun." Another verse calls us "to free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care, to rebuild the nations with strength of good will, to see God's children everywhere."

Nancy Minard - Contributing Editor

Special Report

Sounding Board

Commentary

Providence Sister assists refugees in Texas and share their observations of the situation

In October, two Sisters of Providence from Mother Joseph Province went to El Paso, Texas, to heed the cry of the poor. In the summer's surge of refugees from Central American countries, many were unaccompanied children, crossing the border from Mexico into southern Texas. Fear of violence and terror pushed mothers to send children and teens into the unknown in search of safety, security and a better life.

While the story has faded from headlines, it is far from over. Sisters Charlene Hudon and Marisol Avila went to find out more and to see how they could help in this humanitarian crisis. Sister Charlene stayed two weeks. Sister Marisol is still there.

Sister Charlene joined other volunteers, including lawyers, social workers and counselors, determined to make a difference. This is her reflection on the experience. She shared some stories.

• **Escaping domestic violence**, Juana and her four-year-old son Ryan fled Guatemala by bus, paying a coyote 10,000 hard-earned pesos. After three months in a "family residential center" in Artesia, N.M., she is with her uncle in Ohio.

• **Traveling with her 11-year-old son** Edgar and her partner, Dora was distraught when they were separated at the border from Juarez to El Paso. When the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) learned the man was not the boy's father, they took him into detention, letting the mother and child go. Then they waited to learn what would happen to him.

• **A family in San Diego purchased** bus tickets that allowed Vilma and her two small children to escape domestic violence and possibly death in Guatemala.

• **A terrorized extended family of 10**—a mom, dad, sister-in-law and seven young children—slipped away from their home in Guerrero, Mexico, at night to steal across the border. They know the threats are real. A family member caught up in drugs and gangs was found murdered, his throat cut and his body dismembered. The father paces the floor while the children cling to their worried mothers.

In June and July, thousands of refugees from Central America surged across the border from Mexico into the United States. The Border Patrol and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) took people who were seeking asylum, placed them in U.S. detention centers and processed them.

More than 2,500 came through the El Paso center from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and a few from South America. Once fingerprinted and given papers, they were either held or sent other places.

People have always crossed the border looking for a better life. Migration is part of the human existence, but terror and violence are on the rise. Murders, threats to one's livelihood, gangs, drug cartels, fear and poverty are why families, women with children and unaccompanied youth flee their homes and risk to come to the United States.

They take buses, pay coyotes and slip cash to corrupt police and army personnel to get over the border. Many die on the way, and some women fled abuse in one place to find it in another. What choice do they have? They can stay and be killed or they can suffer dangers and indignities that await them on the way to El Norte. I don't know what I would do faced with those choices.

To do what they have done takes great courage. I see them in my mind's eye and I hold them in my heart. This experience gave me new insight into the work Providence Associates in El Salvador do to save young people from gangs and violence. I see how the Providence educational scholarship program can lead to a better path in life.

Annunciation House is the heart of answering the cry of the poor. From there in El Paso coordinators receive notices from ICE that immigrants will come to one of three houses that take in the refugees.

Nazareth House, where I volunteered, was a nursing center for Sisters of Loretto. As it was not being used, Ruben Garcia of Annunciation House asked the sisters if it could be a transition place run by volunteers. It is a temporary respite for those who have family or friends in the U.S.

A call comes to a volunteer at Nazareth House and word spreads that three, four or five families will come that day between 1:30 and 3 p.m. That could mean six people or 36. With a knock on the door, customs agents deliver the families, who enter a strange place. They arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. For days and perhaps weeks, they were unable to shower or change clothes. They are exhausted and emotionally drained. Within moments of entering Nazareth House, they know this is a new experience.

They are received with smiles and assurances that they are free, will be given a room to rest and take a shower, will be served food and have transportation to their desired destination. Their stay could be a few hours, a day or perhaps two. They are

invited to take whatever clothing they want, but don't take much. One boy wanted two pairs of shoes but his father said he only needed one pair and to leave the other for someone else.

My Spanish was not good but I tried to show compassion and caring. The refugees knew by touch and hugs that all would be well. I smiled and played with children, trying to read to them from a baby book in Spanish with pictures. I was relieved when they told me what the pictures were saying.

Once volunteers connect with family or friends, and money for tickets is obtained, the refugees are on their way by bus, plane or car. Each family leaves with a going-away bag of water, juice, cookies, dry soup and toys and games for the journey.

Then volunteers clean the rooms to prepare for the next guests.

What can we do?

• We can become more aware of the immigration issue, not only in the United States overall, but also where we live.

• We can invite friends and neighbors to a house party and share information on immigration and action ideas.

• We can contact legislators and the president to urge them to work for comprehensive immigration reform.

• We can join groups that promote justice for immigrants. Ask questions: Are detention centers in your area for profit? What does that mean? Volunteer to be a presence outside an immigration detention center and meet with people who visit their loved ones.

• We can pray, attend a vigil and post articles on Facebook.

Sister Charlene Hudon

Council adopts jobs ordinances

Spokane Alliance filled Spokane's Dec. 15 City Council meeting to support the Quality Jobs ordinances they have worked on for five years to put youth, veterans and women into state approved apprenticeship programs and create opportunities for local contractors. The council voted 5 to 2 in favor of the ordinances.

Spokane Alliance leaders asked the council to invest public tax money back into the local economy and raise the median income for the city.

The ordinances create:

- A \$350K threshold for public works projects to phase in a 15 percent apprenticeship utilization.
- A funding mechanism to assess the economic benefit of low bid materials compared to materials purchased locally.
- A way to award points to local contractors with a history of good performance.

The Spokane Alliance has been working to create Quality Jobs in Spokane for five years, said Carol Krawczyk, director.

With many public works projects coming up and the need for technical opportunities for youth, the ordinances provide a vehicle for local economic development through living wage jobs, and technical training for local workers, she said.

For information, call 532-1688.

House lowered onto foundation

On Dec. 9, My Father's House – A House of Prayer for All Nations was lowered hydraulically onto its new foundation at 3111 E. Marshall.

The 1889 Victorian House, which formerly was officially considered "building materials," is now designated "real estate," said Dan Grether, founder and executive director of Free Indeed Ministries International.

There was an open house on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Photos are on its Facebook page.

Dan thanked the Church of Spokane for prayers and support of My Father's House.

"May the Lord prepare all of our hearts to worship, pray and joyously intercede side-by-side in My Father's House," said Dan.

He is working with Scott McConnell, a home renovation contractor, and the Rev. Jim Leuschen, both of New Covenant Fellowship. Having a House of Prayer in Spokane was Jim's vision for 20 years.

For information, call 218-3996.

Calendar of Events

- Jan 8 • **The Fig Tree Benefit and Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 621 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon benefit, 1 p.m. board, 535-1813
- Jan 8, 22 • **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee**, 35 W. Main, 6 p.m., 838-7870
- Jan 11 • **Human Trafficking Awareness Candlelight Vigil**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, River Park Square Atrium, 808 W. Main Ave., 2:30 p.m. artwalk through theme "Hope," 3 to 4 p.m. vigil, 343-5091, melsom@lcsnw.org
- Jan 13 • **Spokane Inter-Faith Council**, Center for Spiritual Living, 2825 E. 33rd Ave., 6:30 p.m., 534-1011
- Jan 14, 28 • **Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- Jan 14 • **Spokane Police Accountability & Reform Coalition**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- **Veterans For Peace**, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m., 838-7870
- **Afterlife 101: What Happens When Our Earthly Pilgrimage Ends**, John Fenick, associate director of Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Jan 15 • **"How to Communicate Effectively with Legislators"**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870, slichty@pjals.org
- Jan 16 • **"Call Mr. Robeson: A Life, With Songs"**, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Benefit, Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., Ticketswest.com, 445-8722
- **Children's Program** Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s Works, Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, North Idaho College, 208-765-3932, idahohumanrights.org
- Jan 17 • **Youth Empowerment Luncheon and Silent Auction**, Spokane Community College Lair, 1801 N. Greene, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 455-8722
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Gala**, Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, Human Rights Education Institute Center, 414 Mullan Rd., Coeur d'Alene, 5 to 8 p.m., 208-765-3932, idahohumanrights.org
- Jan 18 • **Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Celebration**, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 645 S. Richard Allen Ct., 4 to 6 p.m., 455-8722
- Jan 19 • **Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Rally, March and Resource Fair**, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 10 a.m., 455-8722
- **NAACP**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m.
- Jan 21 • **"What Do You Know about the Civil Rights Movement?"** Kate Shuster, author of Teaching the Movement: The State of Civil Rights Education, Showalter Auditorium, Eastern Washington University, 11 a.m., www.ewu.edu
- **Coffee and Contemplation**, "Water from the Deep Well: Four Christian Practices from the History of Christianity," Jerry Sittser, professor of theology at Whitworth University, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 to 11 a.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Jan 22 • **28th Annual MLK Community Celebration**, Angela Davis, "The Dream Behind Bars," CUB Senior Ballroom, Washington State University, Pullman, video streamed to WSU Spokane SAC 20 lower floor, 7:30 p.m., 509-339-6172, mlk.wsu.edu
- Jan 23-25 • **Weekend Retreat for Men and Women**, "How to Listen When God Is Speaking," Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Blurr Rd, 448-1224
- Jan 23-30 • **Invitation to Silence, Quiet Retreat**, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-982-2000, spirit-center@stgertrudes.org
- Jan 24 • **St. Lucy's Breakfast**, Shalom Ministries Benefit, Rockwood Community Center, 2105 S. Forrest Estates Dr., 9 a.m., 710-0204
- **"Faith Communities Advocating for Justice"**, Community Congregational United Church of Christ, Pullman, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **"In God's Footsteps: Exploring Creativity and Spirituality"**, Kathy Finley and Fr. Alan Yost, The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior St, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 483-6495, sjfconline.org
- Jan 27 • **Dinner Series on Evidence of God from Physics**, Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Jan 29 • **"The Role of Religious Reconciliation for Stability in Iraq"**, Sarah Ahmed of the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation, and Mustafa Mahmood, Gonzaga student from Iraq, PAX Christi, Wolff Auditorium, Jepsen Hall at Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 358-4273, wendlinder@gonzaga.edu
- Jan 30, 31, Feb 1, 6, 8 • **"Jesus Christ Superstar"**, Musical, Gonzaga University, 502 E. Boone Ave, 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m., Sundays, 313-6553, Gonzaga.edu
- Jan 31 • **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference**, "Raising Prophetic Voices: Faith Communities Advocate for Justice," St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 535-4112
- Feb 4 • **The Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery**, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th Ave, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Feb 5 • **Fig Tree Benefit and Board**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., benefit noon, board 1 p.m. 535-1813
- Feb 5-6 • **Murder Victims Families** for Reconciliation speaker, 838-7870, slichty@pjals.org

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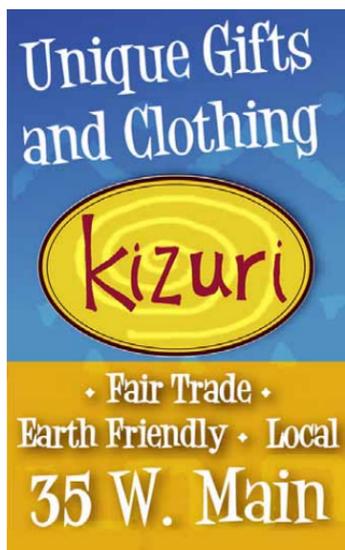
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Shalom Ministries serves more than 4,000 meals a month

By Deidre Jacobson

Shalom Ministries serves more than 4,000 meals each month to downtown dwellers and homeless people.

This component of Spokane's safety net was founded in 1994 at Central United Methodist Church in Spokane.

Last year, the ministry found itself in a critical situation following unexpected personnel changes.

Shalom Ministries Board of Directors called on Tim Swartout, the treasurer and a founding member of the board from 1994 to 2002, to provide temporary leadership for the struggling ministry.

Tim agreed to become the volunteer director, hoping to serve for three or four months. This December, he completes his first full year.

He began by stabilizing the operation.

To do that, he organized a core team of persons from the community of people who dine there. They perform all tasks required to provide four weekly breakfasts and two weekly dinners.

From 100 to 250 people arrive for each meal. The numbers are smaller at the beginning of every month and larger at the end.

One core-team member volunteers full time and receives a small stipend. Eight others serve 15 to 40 hours weekly. Other transitional helpers come and go. Five volunteer chefs and about 25 members from Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, Mennonite and other churches round out the crew.

Tim grew up Methodist and attended Fowler United Methodist Church for many years. When Pastor Rich Lang at Central United Methodist Church created Shalom, Tim transferred membership to be involved in this "Dining with Dignity" ministry.

"I am aware of so many things I take for granted that the homeless don't enjoy," he said, "a bed, shower, food, iPhone, mailbox and my car. The list could go on



Tim Swartout, right, with volunteer Doris Dyer

and on. I see the homeless needing someone who will listen to them. I think about these things and how we all take so much for granted."

Married 50 years to his wife, Joni, they have two children and five grandchildren. In contrast, families of homeless people are often broken.

As a young man, Tim served on the police force, developing much of his compassion for those who suffer, which grew into his passion to help the homeless. He later opened Pacwest Services, Inc., a residential mortgage firm serving four Northwest states.

Tim retired from the mortgage business after 26 years, but continues to spend his time serving on two other nonprofit boards and helps his son operate a chimney contracting business.

Besides providing meals, Tim has stabilized other Shalom services during the past year.

He reorganized the clothing bank, which provides free items for guests, all cleaned and sized.

In addition, he developed a day-room space for his core-team

for a lounge, computer, television and meals.

Shalom now partners with the YMCA and Molina HealthCare to donate sleeping bags and blankets for those who sleep outside.

Other partners include CHAS (Community Health Association of Spokane) outreach volunteers and Washington State University student nurses, who provide health checkup and referral services, to continue their long-standing service at Shalom.

Tim has also focused on building the financial stability of the ministry with quarterly appeals, grants and the resumption of its annual benefit, St. Lucy's Breakfast.

The event, hosted by Rockwood Retirement Communities this year, will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Rockwood Community Center, 2903 E. 25th Ave. Reservations can be made by emailing healingpen@comcast.net.

Tim sees the results of his work

and is delighted with the progress of his core team.

"They work hard for little compensation," he said. "My goal is to increase their stipends as the ministry's budget increases."

Tim is committed to continue "for as long as it takes" with Shalom Ministries.

He encourages people who are interested in helping the homeless to visit the lower level of Central UMC at 518 W. Third Ave. to see what happens there.

For information, call 455-9019.

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