

36TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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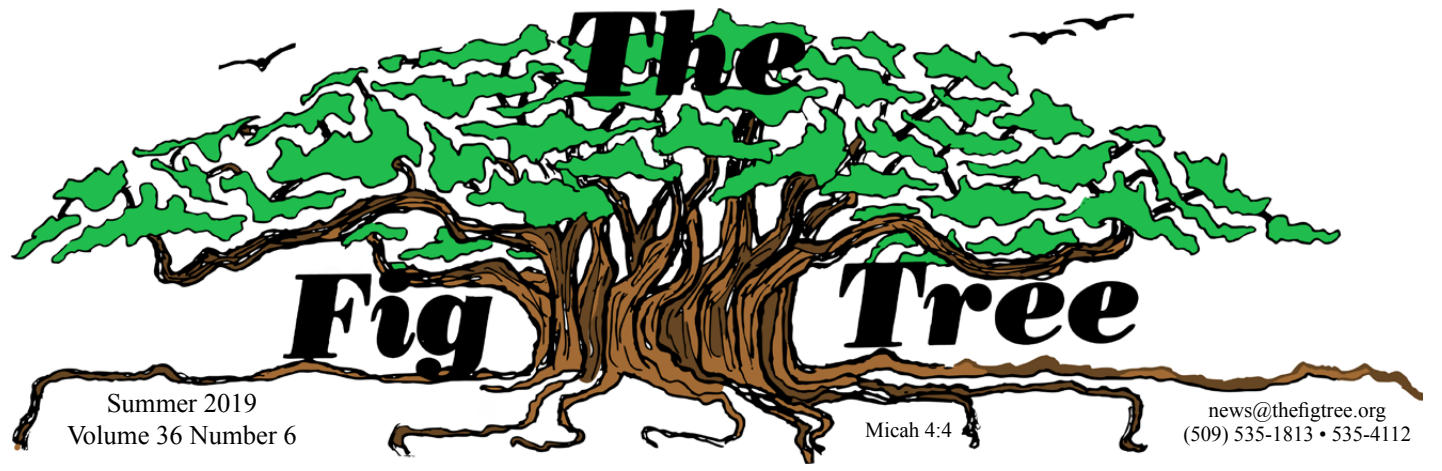
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

Campers grapple with nature, values

By Mary Stamp

Over The Fig Tree's 35 years, dynamics of camping and retreats for faith communities have changed in some ways and remained the same in other ways.

Camp facilities are less rustic and offer more motel-style rooms, so the grounds can be used for year-round retreats for adults and intergenerational groups from congregations, nonprofits and businesses, as well as summer camps for children, youth and families. but it's still an integral part of outreach to youth with a goal of faith formation and relationship building.

Camping is as vital to churches as ever, but there is more competition in summer for the time and attention of youth, said John Batchelder, executive director of Ross Point on the Spokane River at Post Falls.

Because many parents of younger children had no camp experience, it's not a priority for them, he said. "Parents who went to camp are likely to send their children."

Some feel uncomfortable about packing, leaving home, meeting new people, disrupting routines and dealing with "nuisances" of nature like bugs or poison ivy.

A recent American Camping As-



In playful, wild-and-crazy moments, teen campers forge lifelong friendships at Ross Point Camp. For July 4 last summer, they painted red, white and blue stripes on their cheeks to celebrate the holiday. Photo courtesy of Ross Point

sociation article, however, extolled the vital role of camping in gaining decision-making skills, community building, managing conflicts and developing resilience. John said those are innate values of camp as people live in community with people they didn't know before. They gain skills for adulthood."

Another draw of camp is lifelong friendships as camps "bring people together in short-term community," John said. "Every year, campers come back to see their friends."

Most who go to Ross Point relate to American Baptist or other churches. For three of five weeks in the summer, 250 elementary through high school youth come to camps Ross Point organizes. Two weeks, they organize a family camp and Camp Journey for children with cancer. The other five weeks, Ross Point hosts other groups.

Each year, Ross Point adds activities, like elements to its ropes course for skill and relationship building. It has a 38-foot climbing tower, swimming and canoeing.

Through the year, Ross Point hosts retreats and conferences on weekends and midweek.

For information, call 208-773-1655 or visit rosspoint.org.

More on camps on page 5

Four young adults spend 10 months serving Spokane community, churches

For nearly 10 months, four young adults living in a house beside North Hill Christian Church have been exploring what it means to care while serving with four community nonprofits through XPLOR, a program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s National Benevolent Association.

Their program ends June 17. Greg Skinner, pastor at Country Homes Christian Church, has been their spiritual companion, meeting with them each Friday for breakfast, what they call "Gregfast."

• Colby Robb, who is from

Hallsville, Mo., has worked with Family Promise's program for homeless families.

• Rachel Bechtol, who is from Sacramento, has been equity and inclusion coordinator with the YWCA-Spokane.

• Emily Newsom, who is from Virginia Beach, Va., has done case management at Northwest Fair Housing.

• Nathaniel Nelson, who is from Los Angeles, has worked with Transitions' Women's Hearth, New Leaf Bakery and Café.

Colby and Rachel participate in North Hill Christian Church. Em-

ily and Nathaniel are at Country Homes Christian Church. Both churches have about 100 members, with 50 to 60 attending Sundays.

The four told of their paths into XPLOR and their experiences with the nonprofits.

Colby, who is finishing a degree in religion and philosophy at Culver-Stockton College, said he wants go into religion to help people.

"I didn't know what that looked like. Coming from a conservative church, I had a faith crisis in college, learning to question things I took for granted and becoming more open minded."

He attended a conservative church with his grandmother, then in middle school attended a small Disciples of Christ (DOC) Church. In college, Ben Bohren, national coordinator of XPLOR, came to his campus. Seeking spiritual and vocational discernment, and a break before graduate school, Colby signed up.

As the assistant supervisor at Family Promise's Open Doors

Continued on page 4

Unity in Community is 25

The 2019 Unity in the Community, which starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Clocktower Meadow of Riverfront Park in Spokane, is celebrating the 25th year as the region's largest multi-cultural celebration.

"It is a time of celebration and joy for how our similarities and differences make us a stronger and better community," said April Anderson, co-organizer of the Unity in the Community with Mareesa Henderson.

Unity in the Community was founded in 1994 by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under Pastor Lonnie Mitchell in Liberty Park to break down racial and cultural barriers. In 2004, AHANA (African America, Hispanic and Native American Association) under Ben Cabildo took on responsibility for continuing Unity in the Community. In 2007, it moved to Riverfront Park. Unity in the Community is now an independent nonprofit coordinated by April and Mareesa.

Participants celebrate and share their cultures, identities or communities. It is also an opportunity to connect people to resources. Access to services, especially underrepresented people, is a vital part of our mission, she said.

Other highlights include free K to eighth grade school supplies, live entertainment and more than 100 vendors as part of the Cultural Village, Career and Education Fair, Health Fair, Youth Fair, and General Vendors.

The Cultural Village showcases many cultures in the region, including those of American Indians, India, Burma, Bulgaria, Turkey, Persia, Tonga, The Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, West Africa, Scandinavia, Germany, Hmong, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, China and more. Children entering the village are given a "passport" they take to each booth to be stamped to use to receive school supplies.

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

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Religion News Briefs Around the World

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WCC Executive Committee speaks out on issues

Meeting May 22 to 28 at Bossey, Switzerland, the World Council of Churches (WCC) Executive Committee issued several statements calling on its member churches to be aware and to act.

Those statements include the following.

- **They called for ongoing commitment to end HIV and AIDS** saying, "The HIV epidemic has been like no other. Over four decades, AIDS has caused tens of millions of deaths, devastated families and communities, and challenged scientists and doctors seeking an effective vaccine or cure." The WCC, which has responded pastorally, practically and prophetically, calls churches to renew their commitment, strengthen efforts to overcome stigma, promote greater access to services, enhance conversation on issues, increase funding and join in advocacy.

- **The committee expressed solidarity for the people of West Papua** who are facing violence and human rights violations under systemic marginalization. They urge the Indonesian government to open access to the Nduga Regency for humanitarian organizations to provide food and health services for indigenous communities.

- **They voiced alarm at the recent escalation of tensions** between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the U.S. withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. They joined the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA in urging de-escalation of tensions, suspension of militaristic posturing and confrontation, and a return to the path of diplomacy and negotiation.

- **They said the global biodiversity crisis** has reached an urgent level and called for structural change to address it. It said God loves all God's creatures, and human beings are called to use with great care and to share equitably the resources and life systems God provides so all may enjoy life in its fullness.

- **They commemorated the quad-centennial** of African peoples forced to cross the Atlantic from Angola to Jamestown, Va., where they were sold as slaves. They affirmed ecumenical work and call churches to commemorate this moment, celebrating the spiritual resistance of African peoples over 400 years and affirming the partnership of U.S. churches and ecumenical organizations sharing with the WCC in addressing racism globally.

- **They renewed the WCC's call for just peace** in Israel and Palestine as part of "the fabric of our faith and heritage of the ecumenical movement." The WCC expresses it by accompanying churches, interfaith partners and communities in these lands in witness and work for justice and peace. They call for partners and people of conscience to continue to uphold and assert the equal human dignity and rights of all people, both Israelis and Palestinians.

- **They condemned attacks on and persecution of Christian communities in Asia**, noting that throughout history, religious communities living in contexts in which other religions predominate have been among the most vulnerable groups in society, and Christians in such contexts are among the most persecuted communities, unfairly or mistakenly linked to colonial histories of their countries, and often scapegoated in the context of prevailing geopolitical and religious undercurrents.

WCC calls for telling truth

The WCC's regional presidents recently sent greetings to churches for Pentecost: "To prophesy is to tell the truth. No rank or class, no race or club, no gender, nor even any religion, has a monopoly on the truth." They add that "no falsehood or lie can withstand the sturdy witness to the all-inclusive, healing, indeed transformative love of God revealed to us in Jesus. These days, we need such prophetic witness to the truth—in our societies and politics, in ourselves and our churches."

"The deepest truths of our lives—the goodness of being, the dignity of all persons, the integrity of creation, the need for justice and peace—can be tested not only by the integrity of the quest but also by the authenticity of their proponents and, in the end, by the criteria of love." They affirm that God's vision of justice and peace is the nonviolent alternative to empire.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Resource Directory goes to press in July

The deadline for The Fig Tree's 2019-20 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources is in June, when final page updates must be done, layouts will be completed and editing will be done.

It will go to the printer to be published in July.

Volunteers are helping with ad sales, recruiting partners, editing and preparing for the mailing. In August and September, bulk

orders will be delivered. Those wishing quantities of the Resource Directory for use by staff and to share with clients need to have their orders in by June 15.

Community partners who contribute \$500, \$1,000 and more will have their logo on the cover.

Among the community partners committed by Fig Tree press time are Banner Bank, the Sisters of the Holy Names, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Second

Harvest, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, the Community Building Foundation, the Arc of Spokane and Washington Trust Bank.

As of May 31, \$26,000 of the \$29,000 budget for ads were committed, and \$8,650 of \$11,500 for community partners.

To join Resource Directory underwriters, call 535-1813 or email mary@thefigtree.org.

Camino pilgrims plan Mass, dinner in July

Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Spokane Chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino have announced the fourth annual Pilgrims' Mass followed by a traditional "pilgrims' dinner."

The Mass and dinner celebrating the feast-day of Saint James the Apostle ("Santiago"), will take place at 5 p.m., Sunday, July 28, at Sacred Heart Church, 219 E. Rockwood Blvd. in Spokane.

At the Mass, people who have walked or plan to walk the Camino de Santiago in the near future can receive a "pilgrim sea shell" and a pilgrim's blessing.

Celebrating the Mass and preaching will be Father Kevin Codd, who has written two books on his own experience as a pilgrim.

His first book, *To the Field of Stars*, chronicled his 500 mile walk from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the burial place of the Apostle James.

His second book, *Beyond Even the Stars*, shares the story of his second pilgrimage from his home when he was rector at the University/Seminary in Louvain, Belgium, through much of France.

Both books are written with

humor and spiritual reflections as he faced the challenges of the pilgrim life along the Way.

During dinner, there will be brief talks and reflections. All pilgrims who have already walked, those who are intending to walk and those who are simply "pilgrims at heart" may share their "pilgrim stories and adventures."

Donations are welcomed for the dinner.

For information, call 747-5810 or email kacodd@gmail.com or visit the American Pilgrims on the Camino website, <https://americanpilgrims.org/>.

Diocese holds congregational development event

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane invites congregations to send teams to the College for Congregational Development Sunday to Saturday, Aug. 4 to 10, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The college is a comprehensive training program for clergy and laity in congregational and organization development, said Susan Cleveley, canon to the ordinary for the diocese.

It is a two-year program that

includes readings, homework, presentations, working in teams, the completion of a content exam and the completion of two back-home projects.

Because the college seeks to improve the way leaders function in congregations, congregations want to send clergy-lay teams.

Susan said the diocese is the third of seven U.S. and Canadian dioceses to adopt the program, starting in 2014 with a grant.

The eight-day intensive sum-

mer training draws people from around the U.S.

Susan became involved with the program in 2009 and graduated in 2010 as a trainer for this diocese and two other dioceses.

"It gives congregations a greater sense of agency—choices about next steps and sense of where God is calling them to respond to changes in the world," she said.

For information, call 624-3191 or email susanc@spokanedioocese.org.

Our Place collects food for summer hunger

Our Place will do its fourth annual Christmas in July Food and Fun'd Drive from July 1 to 25.

"Hunger does not end in the summer, but there are not community dinners like other times of the year," said Kat Hartsell, development director. "People are on vacation and children are out of school, so attention shifts.

"We hope to bring in extra food during the summer when food donations are down, but need is

up because children are not eating breakfast and lunch at school, or receiving a weekend backpack with food-to-go," she said.

Our Place spreads awareness of the need for food donations by having Christmas-wrapped donation boxes at organizations and businesses in the West Central and surrounding area.

Kendall Yards and the West Central Community Center ran competitions to build interest.

"The first year, Our Place thought it might need to shut its doors in the summer because of not having enough food," she said, "but we kept open with the donation of 5,500 pounds of food."

In July 2018, the Christmas in July drive drew 20,000 pounds of food and Our Place served 850 families.

For information, call 326-7267 or email office@ourplacespokane.org.

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Editorial Team

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

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Habitat's Blitz Build is June 3 to 14 in Deer Park

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane has been "Blitz Building" for 18 years. Every year, the Blitz Build attracts hundreds of volunteers from the community. The 2019 Blitz Build from June 3 to 14 will draw about 1,000 skilled and unskilled volunteers, sponsor groups, business and community leaders, and current and future homeowners to work side-by-side to build decent, affordable homes for families in need in Spokane County. The Blitz Build site is at the 1000 block of S. Margaret St. in Deer Park.

Michelle Girardot, CEO for Habitat-Spokane finds Spokane generous. She said Blitz Build brings people and organizations together "to build something greater than themselves." While Habitat builds homes year-round, Blitz Build is an accelerated construction effort that raises awareness about the local affordable housing crisis.

The home of future Habitat homeowner, Janessa, is part of the June Blitz. Her mortgage payments will be no more than 30 percent of her income. Her partnership with Habitat includes 500 hours of "sweat equity," working on her home and neighbors' homes, in the Habitat store, and completing homebuyer readiness courses. She recently graduated from college and works to support her family.

For information, contact Lydia Duffy at 534-2552 or lduffy@habitat-spokane.org.

Holocaust survivor speaks at Chabad in Spokane

Irving Roth, one of few living Holocaust survivors, will speak at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, at the Jewish Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave. Born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in 1929, he survived the horrors of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps.

He immigrated to the United States in 1947. His memories of the Nazi death camps never faded. He devotes his time to educating young and old on the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils of prejudice and anti-Semitism. He received a bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and resides in Nassau County, N.Y.

For information, call 443-4116 or email rabbihahn@gmail.com.

Spokane's Kizuri fair trade store has new owner

Kim Harmson sold Kizuri, the fair trade store in the Community Building, to Jillian Joseph as of May 1. When Kim and Jillian met five years ago in Rwanda, Kim said she secretly knew that Jillian would be such a perfect fit for Kizuri. After living in Senegal, Paris and New York City for five years, Jillian returned home to Spokane.

"The time was right for both of us," said Kim. "I am confident that she will do amazing work. I am retiring to spend time with my first grandbaby. I can't begin to tell you what these last 10 and a half years have meant to me. The support, friendships and conversations I have had have enriched my life tremendously and fueled my commitment to continue working for a better world. I will miss you all, but I will fill in at Kizuri occasionally."

For information, call 464-7677 or visit kizurispokane.com.

RSVP Fair introduces volunteering opportunities

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Spokane County, sponsored by the YMCA of the Inland Northwest since 1975, will host a volunteer recruitment fair to connect adults 55 and over with volunteering opportunities in the community. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, at the Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th Ave.

Representatives from more than 20 nonprofits will offer information on volunteering opportunities for older adults, like reading to children, feeding hungry families and offering companionship.

Justin Eisenstadt, director of the RSVP program, cited a study that said many people report improvements in their health, decreased depression and less social isolation from volunteering regularly.

For information, call 344 7787 or email rsvp@ymcainw.org.

Out Spokane Parade and Festival is June 8

The Out Spokane Parade and Festival will run from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 8, in Riverfront Park. More than 10,000 people are expected for the parade, which is followed by the Rainbow Festival at the park's Lilac Meadows east of the Clock Tower.

There will be entertainment, a resource and business fair, a family area and the Odyssey Teen Zone. The celebration continues into the evening with an All Ages Dance Party and fireworks display.

For information, call 720-7609, outspokane.com.

Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16

The annual Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16 in Spokane. The Pillar Awards Show is from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, June 14, at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 E. Greene. The Juneteenth Celebration BBQ will be from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at Liberty Park, 1623 E. 4th Ave. It is an opportunity to recognize African-American history and culture in commemorating the official end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865.

A Father's Day Brunch is from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 16, at the MLK Outreach Community Center, 500 S. Stone.

For information, email inwjc@ymail.com or visit inwjc.org.

Out of the Shadows auditions for actors, shadows

Auditions for actors and shadow actors for Out of the Shadows Theater's production of "The Music Man Jr." will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 26, at Lutheran Academy of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Rd. in Coeur d'Alene. Out of the Shadows casts people with disabilities of any age as actors. They are paired with shadow actors who assist them in rehearsals and performances.

Volunteers build and transport sets, manage microphones, serve as stage crew, costume assistants and ushers, and do publicity.

The plays are Nov. 1 to 3, and 8 to 10 at the Kroc Center Theater. For information, call 208-818-0953 or visit outoftheshadowstheater.com.

Unity in Community will be held Aug. 17

Continued from page 1

The Career and Education Fair offers employment and educational information.

The Health Fair has booths with information on traditional and alternative medicine approaches to health care with blood pressure testing, first aid, reiki healing, sound healing, chiropractic, hospice care, dental care and more.

The Youth Fair will include face painting, family friendly activities, large games, sidewalk chalk contests and more.

General Vendors include nonprofit organizations and others sharing information on their programs and services.

Vendor booths and entertainment will be in the Clocktower Meadow. The Cultural Village will be near the clocktower.

April and Mareesa, who have helped organize it for more than 12 years, said about 5,000 attend.

Believing that racial or cultural bigotry is about ignorance, and there is need to respond to diversity with more than tolerance, April and Mareesa work to educate people about the diverse cultures in Spokane through Unity in the Community.

From February through August, they work with a board of six and committee of 20 to plan the event. About 150 volunteers help the Friday evening and Saturday of the event from setup to take down.

"We need to embrace our dif-

ferent cultures and walks of life. We need to come together to understand each other. Diversity and inclusion enrich the lives of all. Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance." said April.

They prepare and distribute 1,400 school bags with school supplies such as paper, binders, crayons, glue, folders and more, and 300 senior bags for people 65 and older with 15 pages of discount coupons, water bottles, jar openers, stress balls, puzzles

and other items.

"Planning Unity in the Community is a labor of love," said April.

Mareesa likes a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

For information, email nwunity@icloud.com

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Young adult team explores faith and justice ties while they serve agencies

Continued from page 1

program, he maintains the shelter, keeps people safe and comfortable, talks with people about their daily struggles, contacts services and helps people address small stresses that add up.

"I have discovered my vocation," he said. "There is nothing like Open Doors/Family Promise near me in Missouri, but there are many homeless families, so I'll work with Family Promise nationally to start a program."

Emily, who grew up Presbyterian, graduated in May 2018 in business at Lynchburg (Va.) College.

"I learned about XPLOR as a sophomore at a leadership training program. My senior year, I applied."

"I'm passionate about housing, dealing with conflicts with business and corporate America," she said.

At Northwest Fair Housing, Emily has accompanied people when they file complaints about discrimination in housing and has planned a conference.

"I like both collaborating with people and working independently. We work under grants, government funding and do fund raising," she said.

When Rachel, who uses the pronoun "their," was ready to start community college, "their" parent also wanted to go to school. Needing to earn money, Rachel worked as caregiver in an assisted living center and then in data processing. For three years, Rachel worked at a call center for the Gap and plans to return to that job.

Rachel, who is a member of the Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians, helped start a church with "their" parent and sister. Heartbeat Organic, which affiliates with the DOC, challenges the Doctrine of Discovery, which justified European settlers converting indigenous people and taking their lands.

Learning about XPLOR, Rachel decided to step away from "their" life to do something different. With the YWCA, Rachel leads discussions on inclusion with staff and is liaison on the YWCA's racial and social justice work.

"Working with a nonprofit, I have learned how hard it is to gather busy people to partner," Rachel said.

Rachel has also met with the Black Prisoners Caucus at Coyote Ridge Prison in Kahlotus and the editor of The Black Lens.

"Spokane is a petri dish for what works when nonprofits come together to build a just city," said Rachel.

Nathaniel's parents raised him in the inner city of Los Angeles with his younger siblings, a brother adopted from Guatemala and a sister from foster care. His



Emily Newsom, Nathaniel Nelson, Colby Robb, Greg Smith and Rachel Bechtol share XPLOR story.

parents were church planters with World Impact, a nondenominational organization.

He majored in creative writing and minored in dance at Hope College in Michigan, graduating in December 2017.

"I needed a transition that provided structure after college to gain life skills," said Nathaniel, who did an internship at Koinonia Farm in Americus, Ga., in the spring of 2018. He wanted to do a year of service and after learning about XPLOR, he applied.

Working with homeless women at the Women's Hearth drop-in center downtown has been "adventurous" because it's open to women whatever their condition.

At New Leaf, he makes deliveries, works in the kitchen, hosts events, holds bake sales and provides lunches. Participants learn job skills in catering meals and baking.

"I have no illusion that nonprofit work will save the world. Nonprofits often clean up after the mess systems make," Nathaniel said. "We could operate shelters for 5,000 years but still have women living on the streets.

"Nonprofit work was a natural step for me, because I grew up believing people of faith are to do justice. From connecting with the Spokane Alliance, I gained clarity on my sense of purpose. I want to do community organizing," he said.

Three years ago, Greg and some other Disciples in Spokane discussed doing XPLOR. They built a team and recruited nonprofit sites. This year, there was an opening for Spokane in XPLOR, which is in its seventh year nationally. Spokane has a three-year commitment.

Greg came to Country Homes seven years ago from Vacaville, Calif. Previously, he earned a master's in pastoral ministry at Gonzaga University in 2001 and was interim pastor at North Hill Christian after he was ordained in 2008.

"As pastor in an aging congregation and denomination, I had limited interaction with young adults. I wanted to intersect with

young adults to learn from them. A spiritual companion is not a spiritual director or counselor," he said. "We discuss the world and our place in it."

In the first month, Colby, who had felt crippled by his faith in college, figured out his faith direction.

Nathaniel finds it refreshing to be with spiritual companions sharing frustrations with church and doubts without considering it dangerous.

Not seeing a future for the church unless it is involved in working for justice, he has been excited to learn about churches' roles in challenging the Doctrine of Discovery in the U.S. and ending apartheid in South Africa. "Inspired by faith, hope and love, we will act for greater purpose," he said.

Emily is relearning that the role of faith is to work with people and the community "in authentic relationships despite our background stories or political views." She enjoys working with older people at Country Homes.

Rachel was accustomed to wrestling with faith in Heartbeat Organic, but has been learning about liturgical order and selecting songs for worship.

Emily and Nathaniel are helping Country Homes look at alternative uses for land the declining-member mainstream church owns. They are helping the church explore ways to use its land for the greater good.

Emily believes it may be possible to match church-owned land with the need for affordable housing.

Nathaniel is applying relationship-based organizing in the church, learning about decision makers and change makers in the

On Bloomsday, they helped plan a joint afternoon service with the Ukrainian Church, which meets afternoons at North Hill. Rachel is helping North Hill participate in the PRIDE Parade.

The four-member young adult team for 2019-20 will work with Family Promise, Transitions, Volunteers of America and Northwest Fair Housing.

"This first year of XPLOR has been an exciting learning experience. We had the best team of XPLOR residents. It will be sad to see them leave, but exciting to see what life brings them next. We will welcome the new XPLOR residents in August," said Debbie Jennison, who is the site coordinator for XPLOR in Spokane

For information, call 280-4888, email dejennison@gmail.com or visit nbacares.org/xplor.

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Camp presents timeless truth, adapts to change

The challenge for Camp Spalding since 1957 has been to hold to its mission as a camp of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, while it adapts to the ever-changing culture.

“The truth of the Gospel is constant, but we need to present the timeless truth in a way that makes it relevant in the changing culture,” said Andy Sonneland, who has been executive director for 28 years.

He said church camps still bring record attendance as they draw children and youth away to be with older, “cool” role models, talk faith with peers in the midst of a week that is “a blast” with many activity options and facilities that keep pace with expectations of youth today.

Activities at Camp Spalding on Davis Lake near Newport include boating, swimming, horseback riding, rock climbing, craft projects, camp games, new friends and new memories.

From June 9 to Aug. 19, campers come by age groups to regular



Boys at Camp Spalding interact through a game.

Photo courtesy of Camp Spalding

or pioneer camps, arts camp and family camps.

More than 80 percent of Camp Spalding’s support comes from fees from summer camps and guest groups through the year. Individual donors contribute \$150,000, and four percent of its income is from churches.

This summer the camp has a new infirmary and is breaking

ground for other projects.

Andy said the main change is that 20 years ago, two-thirds of campers were from families attending area Presbyterian churches. Last summer, 30 percent were from Presbyterian churches and 70 percent were from the community.

For information, call 509-731-4244 or visit campspalding.org.

Holden draws people away from world to see the world

For more than 100 years, Holden Village has drawn people away from the world’s distractions into the mountain wilderness in the Cascades above Lake Chelan. In week-long communities, they explore issues of the world.

Chuck Hoffman, co-executive director of Holden Village along with his wife, Peg Carlson Hoffman, said Holden is always evolving. Its beautiful setting was changed by a the 2015 Wolverton-forest fire and then by remediation of mine tailings and water pollution from the copper mining once done there. Full summer programs resumed in 2017.

“We transform with people who come, changing leaders and staff, and reflecting the world,” he said. “Holden tries to stay in tune with what we are called to do next. Our topics and conversations relate to the needs of the world.”

Through community conversations, dialogue with faculty and inner reflections, community participants potentially go from their mountaintop experiences back into the world with new ideas and another way of being, he said.

“We consistently focus on our responsibility for the Earth and creation. How can we change our lives and gain discipline in the ‘pursuit of less?’” he said. “We need to live simpler lifestyles with our food, purchases and consumption. We need to make changes in our lives so we preserve the Earth. For its part, Holden uses food from sustainable, local sources.

“We need to reform our relationship with the Earth, one another and the Divine,” said Chuck, anticipating a “robust



Holden community gathers for summer vespers.

Photo by Hannah Lauber

summer” from June 10 to Aug. 26 around conversation on the “Unity of Love.”

About 100 faculty, including some from South Africa and Northern Ireland, will help guests look at “how deeply fractured we are” and “how we are called to love and justice.”

About 120 staff serve the 300+ who come each week in the summer. About 60 year-round staff serve smaller guest communities who come fall, winter and spring. Powered off the grid by a hydro plant, there is less power because of lower water flow from fall through spring. Professors from several colleges lead January classes, and a growing number of colleges bring May-term classes.

We continue to grow our community around the world from those who were the forerunners in their 20s in the 1960s to the newest generation of young people and families, Chuck said. About a third of those who have come in the last two summers and this

summer are new to Holden.

“The fire and remediation changed the landscape, leaving scars, but new growth coming up through gray landscape is like resurrection,” he said.

“The fire and remediation are a backdrop to learn about climate change, and fires replenishing as well as destroying,” he said. “It makes us appreciative of God’s creation and the Earth, from which we come, and calls us to manage its gifts and resources.”

For information, visit holdenvillage.org.

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‘The Way of Love’ permeates camps and all of diocesan life

Camp Cross, a rustic camp on 110 acres on the east shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene, continues to impact lives and retain traditions developed since it opened in 1923, said John Palorine, director for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane’s camp and year-round canon for youth ministries.

“I hear many stories of how camp changes lives,” he said. “We seek to develop future church leaders at camps and in youth ministry.”

Families across generations—children, parents and grandparents—are part of Camp Cross’ tradition as a place outdoors to gather and grow in faith, as well as to hike, swim, canoe and kayak, he said.

This year, the camp, youth ministry and diocesan ministries are reflecting on the theme, “Walking in the Way of Love,” inspired by national Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Summer camp staff on site all summer oversee facilities and camp life. Volunteer resource teams of clergy and lay leaders develop activities and lead discussions on how the power of love can change lives.

“Our leadership model is a community or sacred circle,” he said. “Everyone is a leader—campers, staff and volunteers. Each has gifts and is equally important. Each listens with respect. That’s how we love.”

As last year, national musicians and leaders are coming through Youth Presence Ministries, an organization John started in 2013 to train youth ministers. For senior high camp, Aug. 4 to 10, a team from the Episcopal Diocese of Utah’s Camp Puddle will come.

There are two adult sessions and family camps from June 14 to Aug. 10, plus other groups also use the camp until October.

In addition to camps, John will lead a youth pilgrimage to Ireland and Northern Ireland for 22 young people ages 16 to 22, from Aug. 14 to 22. The group will connect with the Church of Ireland’s peace and reconciliation work and explore Celtic spirituality.

For information, call 624-3191 or visit campcross.org.

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Lutherhaven finds new ways to recruit campers

For 26 years, Bob Baker has been executive director of Lutherhaven, which was founded in 1946. Lutherhaven Ministries now includes Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Shoshone Mountain Retreat and Ranch up the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Idaho Servant Adventures and Lutherhaven Day Camps.

It's the 100th year for Lutheran camping, which started near Pittsburgh, he said.

"Church camps change with changes in the culture, society and churches," Bob said. "With mainline churches declining in numbers, fewer campers come from the church pipeline. We have new pipelines and have 120 percent more campers this year than in 2018, when we had a 120 percent increase over 2017. About a third are Lutheran, a third from other churches and a third unchurched."

While many baby boomers went to church camps, generation X and millennials did not, so benefits of camp "are not in their vocabulary," he said.

Another shift is from paper registration to online registration.

"We keep our website up-to-date and have 'real-time' feedback about the registration process," Bob said. "We have hired a social media manager. This is our second summer with no paper brochure."

Another change is that camp once drew more middle and upper middle class youth. With more single parents, last year Luther-



Lutherhaven camper gains confidence on ropes course.

Photo courtesy of Lutherhaven

haven Ministries gave \$190,000 in write-offs, helping 64 percent of campers, subsidizing 1,000 children and youth. A Tanzanian camper learned about Lutherhaven on the internet. Last year 18 from Shanghai, China, found the camp through connections. This year 24 campers are from Shanghai.

Over a year, about 14,000 use Lutherhaven facilities, and 6,000 in the summer. About 450 come from around the nation to Idaho Servant Adventures—to paint houses, build fences, repair homes, do roofing, clear trails, do weeding and other services.

To keep up with demand, Lutherhaven is building a \$800,000 dining hall at Shoshone, now in its 21st year, because the program there expanded to fourth graders through high school.

"The camp teaches that God

loves and forgives, and Jesus loves us, because it's easy in the world to be pulled away from that truth," said Bob, adding that camp draws people into churches as campers bring friends.

"Instead of being plugged in to a device eight hours a day, they are out in the beauty of God's creation building relationships with peers, guided by caring young adult mentors," he said.

The 2019 theme is "Adventure Awaits," based on Ephesians 5:1 and 2 on walking the way of love.

Different age groups come at the same time, so parents send all their children one week.

Lutherhaven has also started a camp for 180 seniors—in their 80s and 90s—to come with wheel chairs, walkers and canes.

For information, call 208-667-3459 or visit lutherhaven.com.

Twinlow's new director was its assistant

United Methodists account for 30 percent of campers and retreatants at Twinlow Camp on Spirit Lake near Rathdrum, Idaho, said Kristen Moon, who was assistant director for five years and became director March 15 when Tyler Wagner retired.

Having grown up in camping, she was on the staff three years at Lazy F, another United Methodist camp near Ellensburg, after graduating in political science from Central Washington University in 2013.

Growing up in Douglas, Wyo., she went to a Baptist camp. She became United Methodist in college.

"I felt a call from God to do camp ministry," said Kristen. "As director, I keep camp on track with its mission."

Twinlow staff and board are reviewing the long-term vision of providing children with hospitality on holy grounds, and welcoming everyone in a safe space for retreats, relaxation, renewal and experiencing God's love.

"There's a new twist in the

modern world. With everyone bringing their ideas to camp and with social media connectivity, it's hard for them to get away. Things change fast. Camp needs to keep up, but not stray from what we do," she said. "With cell phones, 24-hour news and a barrage of information, camp is an important place to retreat."

Summer camps are June 23 to Aug 16, and Twinlow is also open year-round for retreats with partner groups.

There are four programs each week—third to sixth grade elementary, sixth to ninth middle school, and ninth to 12th high school, plus Idaho Mission Projects. Age-groups have separate programs but come together for meals and games. There are shorter primary camps for first to third graders. Family camp is July 3 to 7.

The Idaho Mission Projects will draw 13 youth groups this summer.

Twinlow and Lazy F are two of the Pacific Northwest Annual

Conference of the United Methodist Church's four camps in the region. The others are Ocean Park Camp at Ocean Shores and Camp Indianola on Puget Sound.

For information, call 208-352-2671 or email Kristen@twinlow-camp.org.

MLK center program like camp

Some summer opportunities for youth are right in Spokane, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Centers' 10-week Summer Youth Academy for low-income, ethnically diverse children ages five to 12.

It offers character education

to promote self-esteem, positive values and interactions. Activities also bridge gaps for students behind in literacy or math. Plus there are field trips and recreational activities.

For information, call 868-0856 or visit mlkspokane.org.

Disciples peace interns travel camp-to-camp to lead discussions

While most Northwest Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) campers in 2019 will go to Gwinwood Camp near Lacey, some may go to Cane Ridge Camp near Lincoln, Mont., because in January 2020, the Northwest and Montana regions will become one region.

This year, the region promoted both camps, said Chris Snow, who is in his second year as youth and children's ministry coordinator for the region and his sixth year as pastor at North Hill Christian Church in Spokane. He also advises the Regional Youth Commission, which plans a winter retreat for middle to high school youth at Camp Koinonia near Cle Elum.

Gwinwood is owned by West side congregations. Cane Ridge West is owned by Montana congregations. Zephyr, previously owned by east-side congregations, was sold six years ago.

"Peace Works" is the theme for 2019 Gwinwood camps. Elementary children going the week of July 8, and junior and senior high sessions the week of July 14. Weekend camps include a grandparents and grandkids camp, an intergenerational camp, and a camp on Oregon Trail Theology at Cane Ridge West.

In the last 30 years, Chris said the region has grown aware of how to include and care for children and youth with developmental and physical limits. Because some may need to rest from sensory overload, camps are looking to provide a space with two adults so they can take time out to rest and re-center, he said.

Volunteer staff lead programs, and counselors oversee cabin time and facilitate small groups.

Each year, national Disciples of Christ trains young adult peace interns. They then travel camp-to-camp across the U.S. to lead conversations on reconciliation, peace and justice.

"It unites the camps across the country and provides young leaders experience in guiding justice conversations," said Chris, who graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 2009 and served three years as youth and outreach coordinator at First Christian Church in Salem, Ore., before coming to Spokane.

For information, call 326-5400 or email csnow@disciplesnw.org.

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Many youth coming to camps want to learn about social justice

At N-Sid-Sen Camp and Conference Center on Lake Coeur d'Alene, managing director Mark Boyd sees an increased desire among youth coming to camps to be connected to social justice issues.

"While they may be stepping away from the world for a chance to breathe and relax, issues are important and are the focus of discussions," he said.

"Peace Works" is the 2019 theme campers will reflect on in five weeks of UCC camps—two weeks of youth camps and three weeks of family camps.

Summer staff includes three from Turkey, one from Poland and one from England, coming through Camp America to be part



Children play games in meadow at N-Sid-Sen.

Photo courtesy of N-Sid-Sen

of the hospitality team providing food service and housekeeping.

"We do not distinguish between guests and the hospitality team/staff. All are partners and connect

with each other in the setting," said Mark, who came to N-Sid-Sen in 2012 after being on the staff of Pilgrim Firs, the other camp of the Pacific Northwest Conference

of the United Church of Christ.

He has seen a slight growth in numbers overall, with family camps growing quickly.

The United Church of Christ Conference's outdoor ministries program is now holding all the traditional, age-based youth camps at N-Sid-Sen so Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, Wash., could establish "Common Fire," a service camp in the Kitsap Community.

Last year, one youth group came. This summer, two youth groups are coming, one from Minneapolis and one from a conference church.

"Both of our camps are encouraging churches to 'come home' to our camps by coming to weekend retreats, often sharing the facilities

with other churches as opportunities for members to become better acquainted," said Mark.

About 45 percent of camp use is by other faith groups—including Catholics, Unity, Unitarians, Buddhists, Sufis and evangelical churches—as well as nonprofits, schools and other groups.

"We consider all who use the camp as partners," Mark said.

For many years, the East Side Coeur d'Alene Fire Department held a dinner at N-Sid-Sen. Now it has a deeper partnership. This year it built a new dock for the camp and has a boathouse at the end for one of its fireboats that serve people on and along the lake.

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

National Veterans for Peace convention to discern ways to work for peace

About 300 veterans and supporters from the U.S., United Kingdom, Vietnam, Mexico and Okinawa will hold their 34th Annual National Veterans for Peace Convention Thursday to Sunday, Aug. 15 to 18, at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane. The 2019 theme is "Sacred Land, Sacred Lives – Peace Knows No Borders."

Hollis Higgins, secretary of the 22-member local chapter, said they decided to host the event to "leverage the peace voice in Spokane." He hopes a peace convention can counterbalance war-promoting events.

Chapters in Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and Portland helped the Spokane's chapter plan the event.

Veterans for Peace's 8,000 members in more than 140 chapters in the United States and 40 more chapters worldwide believe peace—peaceful ways—is the way to bring peace in the world.

Veterans For Peace (VFP) was founded in 1985 by five U.S. veterans in response to the nuclear arms race and U.S. military interventions in Central America. That year, chapter #4 was organized in Colville. In 1989, Rusty Nelson, former co-director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) established Spokane's chapter #35. It includes vets from Kettle Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Pasco, Colorado and Oregon, aged from 46 to 94.

Hollis, who joined in 2010, said he was doubtful about the potential for such a group to be effective. Rusty said cynicism was appropriate, but it was important to move beyond cynicism to avoid the danger of giving up.

Nationally, the VFP has a permanent Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) seat at the United Nations and was the first veterans' organization in the International



Hollis Higgins wears shirt about ship promoting nuclear-free world.

Peace Bureau based in Geneva.

Veterans For Peace has three emphases in its goal to abolish war: 1) educate people on the full, unsustainable cost of war; 2) resist militarism through efforts to end current wars and change U.S. foreign policy to diplomacy, and 3) heal wounds of war and build a just and peaceful society.

The convention begins at noon, Thursday, with a forum and reception, followed by a Poetry Soiree. Each day begins with yoga/meditation, a 12-step group and Tai Chi.

The Friday opening plenary includes greetings from local peace activists, indigenous leaders and dignitaries. Morning and afternoon workshops will inform and motivate delegates on antiwar issues.

Three plenaries Friday feature speakers on U.S. military interventions around the globe, the history of anti-war organizing in the military (GI resistance), and the importance of seeing all lands and lives as sacred, Hollis said.

A community event at 7 p.m., Friday will feature local musicians and guest speakers.

From 10 p.m. to midnight, there will be movies and conversations.

After Saturday business, there will be a banquet, a keynote address, awards and dancing.

After a Sunday "open mic" session from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., the closing plenary will feature Spokane's Spectrum Singers.

Several non-violent actions are planned during the event.

Hollis invited members of the community to join Veterans For Peace in its work for peace and justice globally, removing the barriers between countries, cultures and the people of the world.

Hollis, who grew up in Porterville, Calif., was drafted in 1968 after graduating in English from Fresno State College. The culture shock of seeing the extreme poverty of people living in shacks made of crushed cans, timbers and plastic roofs in a Korean city with a golden domed cathedral overwhelmed and disabled him, so he was honorably discharged early.

He worked 21 years with the County Parks and Recreation in Fresno, where he helped found the Fresno Center for Non-Violence. In Spokane, after 12 years with the postal service, he retired in 2016.

He has helped the Spokane chapter prepare two Memorial

Day editions. One published in 2015 is *Vet Lit: How We Remember War* and a 2017 anthology is titled, *Vet Lit 2: So It Goes*. These publications share veterans' voices that are not often heard.

VFP, which meets at 6:45 p.m., second Wednesdays at 25 W. Main, organizes for peace, carries its banner in parades and does displays at events to raise awareness and offer resources to educate people. They often join PJALS events.

In Hollis' words, VFP exposes the "travesty of U.S. empire building around the world" to expand the influence of corporations.

"We also expose effects of militarism on civil society, including environmental destruction, glorifying war to youth, pollution from military deployments, bases and installations globally, and assaulting indigenous populations and other cultures," Hollis said.

In August 2018, VFP urged the Spokane City Council to declare the city a nuclear free zone to

commemorate the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Veterans For Peace around the world—in Ireland, Russia, Japan and countries listed earlier—includes military veterans, family members and allies seeking to build a culture of peace, expose the costs of war, heal war wounds, support returning veterans, counter military recruiting in schools, counsel and mentor veterans affected by PTSD, seek justice for veterans and war victims, and works to end all war forever.

Some VFP national projects include promoting reconciliation of North and South Korea; assisting non-citizen veterans who are deported after serving in the U.S. military; defending religious freedom, equality and individual rights; urging truth in recruiting young people; and confronting racism and discrimination that dehumanize people to justify violence.

For information, call 209-3585, email treebarkhh@yahoo.com or visit veteransforpeace.org.

World Refugee Day will be on June 15

Refugee Connections Spokane and several agencies are hosting the United Nations World Refugee Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at Nevada Park, 800 E. Joseph.

"We are honoring refugee women by inviting women to play a larger part of the event. We will hold a women's fashion show of traditional clothing," said Marijke

Fakasiieiki, executive director of Refugee Connections.

The event includes an international marketplace, civic and naturalization ceremonies, a refugee women's award, performances, international food, youth activities, and more.

For information, call 209-2384 or visit refugeeconnections-spokane.org.

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Community meeting urges health study, services for Spokane Tribe

Two new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff responsible for the Midnite Mine Superfund site on the Spokane Indian Reservation recently presented an overview of the background for the site and the cleanup at community meetings in Wellpinit and Spokane.

Others at the Spokane meeting advocated gathering data to improve health services and education for people experiencing after-effects of exposure to radiation.

Linda Meyer, EPA remedial project manager, and Kay Morrison, EPA community liaison, said they prepared the presentation partly for their own awareness and understanding.

They updated the EPA Midnite Mine Superfund website, which is at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/midnite-mine>. It includes the background and information on cleanup activities, health and environment, updated reports, photos and videos, and more.

"The Newmont Mining Corporation, which is responsible for the cleanup, asked the EPA a year ago to change the background radiation level that determines the cleanup," said Linda.

"Based on technical analysis, we are not doing that," she said. "It took 12 years and much legal work to put the agreement in place. We have no reason to change the cleanup level."

Ricky Sherwood, Spokane Tribe Midnite Mine community liaison, said the 2019 spring through fall construction will move 2.1 million cubic yards to fill Pit #4 three-fourths full.

Brian Crossley, manager of the Spokane Tribe Water and Fish Program, said a new water treatment plant will reduce radioactivity in water and pipe it downhill beside Blue Creek into Lake Roosevelt.

Linda said that while those working on cleanup today wear protective clothing and are tested for radiation exposure, early miners were given no protective clothing and wore contaminated clothing home, and women were exposed by doing laundry.

Some at the meeting said the road, which was paved with mine rocks, has been cleaned up, but driveways were also made with mine rocks. Some also brought rocks into their homes to use for mantels and fireplaces.

A representative of the Indian Health Services (IHS) was at the Wellpinit meeting.



Brian Crossley, Carol Evans and Ricky Sherwood report tribal issues.

Carol Evans, chair, said the Tribal Council recently passed a resolution for there to be a health assessment.

Deb Abrahamson, who facilitated the Spokane meeting, said the Indian Health Service needs to share its data for a mortality study to help the tribe compete for funds for health care.

"There are a tremendous number of cancer-related deaths now. In the 1970s, young mothers who cleaned workers' clothes first got cancer and died. Many women also worked at the Sherwood mine," she said. "For 50 years, people had access to unfenced areas around the mine's open pits."

The SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land) Society initiated community education with the EPA, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Health, Tribal Social Services and Tribal Education.

"We need an adequate database of the number who died of cancer, the number in treatment for cancer and the number diagnosed with cancer, so we can address the health needs of present and future generations," Deb said.

"Chronic exposure means our community has experienced horrendous health problems," she said. "It will compound in future generations because the half-life of uranium is thousands of years."

Kay knows the community wants to understand health impacts. She said that while the Center for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) analyzes effects of toxic substances on health and teaches people how to prevent exposure, it does not provide health services.

Deb is glad the EPA revamped the website to provide relevant information. She hopes Indian Health Services will eventually provide services and cancer education.

Tracey Morgan, who worked on

a study by Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, reported that the study found a 46 percent rate of cancer on the reservation compared with 18 percent in the U.S. as a whole.

Kim Kreber of the Spokane Regional Health District told of a free mammogram program that also helps tribal members navigate the health care system.

Deb said the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 included the Spokane and other tribes that mined uranium in the Cold War era. There were more than 32,700 claimants from 1992 to 2017, but it ends in 2022.

"Some individuals received \$150,000 payments, but it took tribes nine years to be included. When we were, they helped some former workers, but families who applied did not have information they needed to be eligible, because Indian Health Services records were confidential," she said.

After a suggestion that, with three universities at Riverpoint in Spokane collaborating on medical education, they might develop an

FāVS Center open house is June 22

An open house for the FāVS Center from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Saturday, June 22, includes a tour of the building at 5115 S. Freya, an interfaith blessing and ribbon cutting, a welcome from Tracy Simmons, executive director, City Council Member Lori Kinnear and other local dignitaries.

Origin Church, which is closing, gave SpokaneFāVS, an online religion news publication, the building and three-acres so people can gather in a neutral space for worship, classes, retreats, weddings and other events.

For information, call 240-1830, email tracysimmons@SpokaneFāVS.com.

innovative program, Luis Manriquez, clinical assistant professor at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, said he is conversing with the tribe on developing health services with students.

In closing, Carol thanked SHAWL and the community for bringing concerns to the Tribe.

"Many were ignorant about having ore in their houses," she said. "We need to be vigilant and bring experts to do assessments of homes even now."

Regarding studies and surveys on causes of death, she pointed out someone with cancer may die of something else. Her father worked at the mill site and qualified for a Radiation Exposure Compensation Act benefit. He had cancer, but COPD was listed on his cause of death.

"We can't change the past. When the mine came, our parents had no place to work. We were

fed because they worked there. They did not know what it would mean," she said. "Now we pay the price."

Sharing stories, as Carol did, is one way to gather data that may not be in records.

It's not easy, Deb said, because "people in pain do not want to talk about family members who passed. It may be painful, but it's important for future generations and our leaders."

For the Earth Day Vigil in April, she wanted to do an exhibit with faces of people who died of cancer, but few families responded.

Some don't share because they don't want to be a burden, but sharing can be a way to challenge injustice, bring health services and educate people, she said.

For information, contact Linda at 206-553-6636, linda.meyer@epa.gov, or Ricky at 458-6586, rickys@spokanetribe.com.

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Retired teacher informs herself and community on proposed smelter

For 55 years, Phyllis and Ted Kardos have had a 240-acre farm seven miles outside Newport. Now they have retired there, and most of their six children, 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren live in the area.

Although pollution from a proposed silicon smelter four miles away might not blow over their farm, the facility would disrupt their rural lives.

So Phyllis joined others in the community and region to challenge it.

She read in the newspaper that a Canadian company, HiTest, now called PacWest, bought three parcels of land—187 acres—up from Highway 41 a mile outside Newport and 14 acres from the Public Utility District (PUD)—to develop the smelter. PacWest first inquired about power in 2015 and was working with state representatives.

After a 2017 county commissioners meeting, she and others began acting.

While silicon is used in solar panels for renewable, clean energy, and Newport needs jobs, smelting would generate 766,131 tons of greenhouse gases, 649 tons of sulfur dioxide and 935 tons of nitrous oxides a year, Phyllis said. In the first phase, there would be two furnaces, a 150-foot stack and an 11-story complex, plus a coal rail spur through forests, agricultural land and open spaces disrupting rural life, she said.

Because Pend Oreille County has a high poverty rate, she wondered if it was a “sacrifice zone.” She knows polluting industries often locate near poor or minority communities, assuming there will be little opposition. The Kalispel Tribe, however, forced HiTest to relocate from a first site proposed near their reservation.

In December 2017, she and eight others formed Responsible Growth Northeast Washington (RGNEW), acknowledging the need for jobs, but challenging if smelter jobs were best.

“Beyond stopping the smelter, we seek ways to revitalize Newport,” Phyllis said.

Another group, Citizens Against the Newport Silicon Smelter (CANSS) formed in Idaho, because the “air-shed” crosses the border.

Concerned about the airshed and watershed, the Kalispel Tribe continues to challenge having it in the county. They recently opened a casino with an events center, restaurant, fresh food market and gas station, and plan to develop an RV park and cabins to draw tourists, she said.

Phyllis said county commissioners support the smelter for



Phyllis Kardos researches and reports on Newport smelter.

jobs and taxes. She has met with the City of Newport and Washington Senator Patty Murray.

Because of division, she said, most local churches have not taken a stand or held educational events.

Buddhist monks at Sravasti Abby, Carmelite Sisters at the Hermitage and Sr. Pat Millen of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have written letters opposing the smelter.

As a member of St. Anthony’s parish and inspired by Pope Francis’ “Laudate Si” encyclical calling people to “be good stewards of the land,” Phyllis would like churches to build dialogue and be informed. She has done much research and has given more than 25 presentations in Sandpoint, Metaline Falls, Elk, Blanchard, Newport, Pend Oreille, Spokane and other communities.

Responsible Growth Northeast Washington believes a smelter is contrary to the open spaces, forests and agriculture promoted in the 2005 Pend Oreille County Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan’s goal of preventing urban sprawl.

“Economic growth should stay within the plan,” said Phyllis. “RGNEW respects those who want 400 construction jobs and 150 long-term jobs, but we are rural, not urban. We need sustainable economic growth that protects the environment and people’s health.

We can do that through tourism, art, education and training centers. Industry, such as a smelter, would make it hard to build on tourism,” she said.

RGNEW’s members have researched the proposal and found: Crystalline silica would be trucked from a mine in Golden, B.C. Blue coal (anthracite, said to be cleaner burning) would come by train from Kentucky or South America. Charcoal would be shipped from the South China Sea. Wood chips would be burned in two furnaces at 300,000° Fahrenheit.

While 70 percent of the silicon produced may go into solar panels, she finds nothing green about the process or train and truck traffic bringing raw materials.

“The 150-foot stacks may be regulated, but would disperse pollutants higher and farther. They would emit sulfur dioxide, an ingredient in acid rain. Emissions would include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and particulate matter, affecting people, fish, wildlife, plants and water,” Phyllis said. “After silica is melted, silicon is poured with huge ladles. Fugitive emissions from that will come out the windows.”

Roger Castle, a RGNEW member, went to Burnsville, Miss., which has a five-year-old smelter. He took pictures of the fugitive emissions. Workers told him of hard work in a very hot factory, high turnover and burn injuries.

Phyllis said there are eight silicon smelters in the U.S. and one in Canada. Most are east of the Mississippi and on rivers, because they require water.

The Newport site is two miles from schools, a hospital, senior apartments, homes, businesses and recreational facilities. They would be affected by noise and lights from 24/7 production.

The smelter would be on the Little Spokane River, above the City of Newport’s underground aquifer and near Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River, Phyllis said.

Learning developers plan to cover 150 acres with an impervious concrete pad, she wonders where storm-water runoff will go and how it will affect the city water system and wells. Blue gem coal, silica, wood chips and charcoal would be stored in open pits.

The smelter is still in the proposal stage. It has no permit, construction has not begun, and it’s behind schedule, Phyllis said.

The Department of Ecology (DOE) gathered comments in

public hearings for an environmental impact report.

There is litigation about the PUD land sale. Three of the four parcels were publicly owned. Pend Oreille District #1 declared them surplus two years ago and sold them to PacWest. For access, Pac West bought a 14-acre parcel owned by Pend Oreille County.

Rick Eichstaedt, director of Gonzaga’s School of Law Environmental Law and Land Use Clinic, supervises law students who took up a case to determine if that sale was legal.

In March, Judge Julie McKay agreed the sale was irregular, but said she was not authorized to overturn it. In April, Rick and the students filed an appeal to the Washington Court of Appeals.

Rick said PacWest has not paid the DOE to write the environmental impact statement, nor has it paid the PUD for a design to hook into the electric grid. In addition, the solar panel producer in Moses Lake is closing because of losing its market with China, he said.

Based on the State Environmental Policy Act, he recently requested an environmental analysis before Pend Oreille County Commissioners rezoned county land, including the smelter site.

“There are so many pieces. It’s like a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. It’s exhausting,” Phyllis said of the need to educate people so they can write letters and raise funds for legal actions.

She considers consumer demand for silicon for computers, airplanes and other products, as well as solar panels, part of over-consumption.

“All our lives, Ted and I have opposed exploiting natural resources and furthering global warming. Then we wake up one day, and the

threat is in our back yard,” Phyllis said. “We could say we are too old, our knees hurt, or we have to focus on family, but we said we can act. We have to protect what we have and keep our area rural.

“My faith keeps me focused on protecting human health and God’s creation for our grand and great-grandchildren. We want them to know what is important in life. If I let people destroy my back yard, who am I as a Christian? My legacy is to stand up,” she said, “because I can act here.”

Phyllis’ family moved to Clark Fork, Idaho, in the 1940s. After she married Ted, he worked with the Forest Service in Newport, and they bought the farm.

In 1983, she earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Eastern Washington University. Then from 1985 to 2005, she taught in Grayling and McGrath, Alaska. She and her family returned summers to the farm.

For information, call 509-447-7958 or 671-1763 or email pkardos_jean@yahoo.com, rgnew.org.

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How do the statistics about the economy play out in people's lives?

Are media asking necessary questions or just repeating glowing government statistics? Are we being lulled into ever new conflicts and despair that will keep up divisions for media to cover? There certainly is a lot of weather disaster news to cover every day.

Is the economy doing great for everyone? **Is the unemployment rate really low**, or hidden by low-paid, part-time for underemployed people, not eligible to receive unemployment? The labor force participation rate is falling. How many are discouraged workers, believing there are no jobs available for them?

Why are so many people working two or three "jobs" and not making it? How

many work with no benefits, no retirement, no health care coverage—with no future?

Why are there still so many people living on the streets, displaced from homes, even when we are building new housing units for them?

Where are the jobs that have been added? Are they in teaching K-12 or at universities among the uncertain adjunct class? Are they in health care? In care giving? In nonprofits? In industry? What industry? In tech? In the Inland Northwest? How many local retail jobs have been lost to online shopping?

Are the stocks going up or going down? It depends on the time and day. Who benefits and who can take advantage of those

fluctuation to win the investment game?

Who is paying for the tariffs to make China comply with trade policies? American consumers? American industry? American farmers? How long will it take for the tariffs to hit our pocketbooks?

Who paid less in taxes this year? Who paid more? How do tax policies affect charitable giving? Who is audited most?

What will the proposal to lower the "poverty level" mean for people? How many will lose benefits that keep them housed and fed? Will poverty statistics look better? How will that benefit the economy?

If block grants go, what happens to programs that house people, feed them and guide them into stable futures?

Perhaps in some families the next generation is doing better, but not everyone who accumulates debt to earn master's or doctoral degrees reaps benefits in better jobs. Some find that because higher degrees require higher pay, they are not hired.

By the most basic measure, 2017 was a good year for job creation with the U.S. economy, adding more than 2 million jobs, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but it is in fact the lowest level of annual job creation since 2010. Hmmm...

The economy provides fodder for pastoral care, justice action and community conversations. May we keep alert and not be lulled by numbing statistics and daily crises.

Mary Stamp - editor



Natural resources head offers science for Kalispel Tribe's opposition to silicon smelter

Soon after the Kalispel Tribe of Indians learned in August 2016 about plans to locate a silicon smelter half a mile from its reservation, members challenged it. The Canadian company HiTest—now PacWest—then proposed a site in Newport 15 miles away but still in the reservation's airshed.

Deane Osterman, executive director of the Kalispel's Natural Resources Department, continues the challenge. He has worked 25 years with the tribe's offices in Usk and at the Saranac Building in Spokane.

In Spokane, he collaborates with the Upper Columbia United Tribes and with Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, especially on fish and wildlife.

"The smelter was originally pitched to state leaders as a green project with all the silicon made to be used in solar panels," he said. "PacWest has walked that amount back, presently asserting that just 5 percent would be used for the solar industry."

Deane is concerned Governor Jay Inslee streamlined permits because of his focus on climate change, but he added that "pollution from the smelter would be large and as currently proposed would go unmitigated."

Given emissions from smelting silicon,

he wonders if solar energy will reduce emissions and is concerned the silicon may go to other products.

Deane said silicon is smelted from ultrapure quartz (silicon dioxide), mined near Golden, B.C. The chemical process is energy intensive, requiring high heat to split the two oxygen atoms from the silicon atom. The smelter would use metallurgical coal, wood chips and charcoal to capture the oxygen atoms in the furnace. He said it would produce 766,000 tons of carbon dioxide, 307 tons of carbon monoxide, 649 tons of sulfur dioxide and 935 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.

"Waste would go up the stack, creating haze, and human and environmental health problems. Regulations are important for public health," he said.

PacWest needed a special permit to fast track it, so there have been public hearings for comments. The environmental community has expressed concern, he said.

"Seeking to be a steward of the air, water and land, the tribe has gathered information on impacts on communities, nature and the world," he said. "We are sharing information and stories on our website."

Deane, whose degrees from Eastern Washington University are in biological anthropology and zoology, said the smelter would compromise the air, and with it community, cultural and environmental health.

In 2017, the Kalispel Tribe began the process of re-designating its air-shed from Class 2 to Class 1 under the Clean Air Act, increasing protection for the air above and inside the reservation to reduce health problems, enhance the health of fish, wildlife and plants, and increase worker productivity, property values, quality of life and economic wellbeing.

Even if the smelter were sited 15 miles away in Newport, he said, there is potential threat to the air quality from emissions. To predict how emissions would dissipate, he said there is still time to collect meteorological information—wind conditions and barometric pressure—at the site for a year.

"It's an environmental justice issue when big companies site plants near vulnerable, economically challenged communities needing jobs," he said. "The Kalispel Tribe supports smart economic development. We need to figure out what makes sense for economic development for our community,

not dance with the first proposal. The tribe wants economic development to be community based and protect the environment.

"The proposal to build in a desperate area has divided Pend Oreille and Bonner counties," he said. "There are no educational meetings for dialogue to inform people."

In contrast, the process for relicensing dams was contentious, but professionals on many sides engaged in dialogue and became partners, he said.

"We are not binary, just for or against something. We are complex. We need dialogue. We need to find the sweet spot."

Deane said Franciscan values from his upbringing in Spokane's St. Francis of Assisi Parish influence his belief that "we need to take care of people."

As a tribal employee, he also shares tribal values and admires the tribe's perseverance through their history.

He urges citizens to pressure state and federal agencies, politicians and the corporation. The Kalispel and other tribes in the Northwest and Alaska have written letters of opposition.

For information, call 993-0879 or email dosterman@knrd.org.

The Lands Council director believes a silicon smelter could be clean, but its not

Mike Peterson, executive director of the Lands Council, recently studied the proposed Newport silicon smelter and submitted comment to the Department of Ecology (DOE) as it develops an environmental impact statement.

The Lands Council finds the proposed configuration unacceptable, he said, but the DOE can explore options and "do the right thing so the smelter does not pollute the air, water, land, wildlife and humans."

As it's configured, it would emit two tons of sulfur dioxide and two tons of nitrous dioxide a day, he said.

While community discussion may be hard, Mike urges people to examine the science and issues.

"If we are to switch to a renewable energy economy, solar may be a big part, so there may be need to dig quartz and refine it to make silicon," he said. "Making steel and aluminum for wind turbines also consumes energy and raw materials, and may pollute."

"We need to be concerned about every step of making silicon—mining, smelting,

delivering and installing solar panels. If we do that, we can compare the impact of solar with wind, coal, dams and nuclear.

"The best way to reduce carbon is with more efficient lights, heat and transportation," he said. "Considering that more people use and want to use energy to improve their standard of living, we want to produce more energy with less carbon," he said. "In producing any energy, the process must be as clean as possible."

"Whether the smelter is at Newport or elsewhere, the question is how much sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide it produces," Mike said. "Emissions need to be reduced to the point it's acceptable to the community and complies with state and federal environmental laws. If that's not possible, we may need to rethink solar."

One way to reduce sulfur in converting quartz to silicon is to use biochar or charcoal—from crop, wood or field residue—rather than coal, which is high in sulfur, he said.

Mike said that PacWest recently decided to

save transportation costs and use coal from the Powder River Basin in Montana rather than Kentucky. He hopes they save costs by using biochar produced near the site.

"Scrubbing may cost more, but 99 percent of nitrous oxides, a second pollutant, can be scrubbed out as steel and aluminum plants do," said Mike.

Another concern is the amount of water used. Mike said it may use more than the Little Spokane River flow. The proposed site is at the headwaters of the Little Spokane River, and on the nexus of water flowing into the Pend Oreille River and Lake Pend Oreille.

He thinks water flow could be solved and water quality depends on whether the company releases pollutants or recycles water as they propose.

"Every silicon smelter should reduce air pollutants and track emissions, so producing solar panels does not pollute," he said.

"A third question is the siting. Often, polluting industries locate in low-income

communities—a form of environmental injustice," Mike said. "Originally, the plan was for an old industrial site upwind of the Kalispel Reservation. Then PacWest moved to Newport, a rural town where people don't want smokestacks at the edge of their property. Pend Oreille County has cheap electricity."

"Wherever a silicon smelter is located, pollution issues must be solved," said Mike. "As it's currently configured, it pollutes."

Another concern is that the state gave the company \$300,000 to move the project along to make silicon for solar panels and create jobs in the county, which has high unemployment.

Mike said labor unions want jobs, but it's not a matter of jobs or no jobs, it's to have jobs as clean as possible. He believes silicon plants can be clean.

He said the DOE will take a year to do an environmental impact report, which will analyze impacts and ways to mitigate them.

For information, call 838-4912 or email mpetersen@landscouncil.org.

Carmelite and Franciscan sisters, Buddhist community express concerns, opposition

Thubten Tarpa of Sravasti Abbey near Newport, said Buddhist community members have gone to meetings with the County Commissioners and Department of Ecology, asked questions and done research to understand the issues, written letters to the editor and to officials, and emailed people to learn and write letters.

She listed some concerns: "I believe it will be harmful to area residents. It is near schools and downtown. The pollution will blow farther and impact forests and water-

ways, compromising the health of people. In case of accidents or fires, we do not have the safety infrastructure for hazardous waste services to handle it."

Tarpa believes some people from around the world may be discouraged from coming to the abbey.

She knows the county needs economic growth, but doesn't think the smelter is the way to do it.

Carmelite Sisters of Mary, who live on 80 acres in mountain wilderness at their

retreat center near Newport, have written letters opposing the smelter.

Sister Leslie Lund OCDH said they have been concerned because it "was dropped on us as fait accompli; because of the irregular land sales; because of the governor subsidizing a Canadian company; because it would be harmful for the area that draws people to all season recreation to hunt, bird watch, fish, boat and ski; because workers would work in 120-to-150 degree heat, and because for so few jobs the smelter would

ruin the quality of life for thousands in this recreational area of scenic beauty.

"Part of our charism is the care for the earth," she said. "In 2003, we were wildlife farm of the year in Pend Oreille County."

In March, Sr. Pat Millen, OSF, wrote Governor Jay Inslee to express her concerns about the smelter and her disappointment that his administration is considering supporting it. She finds it inconsistent with his intentions to make Washington "a leader in clean air and energy."

Calendar of Events

- June 3-14** • **Habitat-Spokane Blitz Build**, Deer Park, 534-2552, lduffy@habitat-spokane.org
- June 5** • **Interfaith Pride Worship Service**, 116 W. Pacific, 6:30 p.m.
- **Holocaust Survivor Irving Roth**, Jewish Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave., 7 p.m., 443-0770, rabbihahn@gmail.com, jewishspokane.com
- June 6** • **Inland Northwest Lighthouse Food Truck Rally**, 6402 N. Addison, 4 to 8 p.m., 487-0405
- June 6, July 4 & Aug 1** • **Café Affogato Community Day** Benefiting the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 19 W. Main, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- June 6 & July 18** • **Peace & Justice Action Committee**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- June 6, 13, 20** • **Diverse Voices Writing Group**, Spark Center, 1214 W. Summit Pky, 5:30 p.m., 279-0299
- June 7** • **Healthy Kids Day**, Spokane Valley YMCA, 421 N. Discovery Pl., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 777-9622
- June 7-13** • **Young Adults Explore Buddhism**, Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Ln., Newport, 3 p.m. June 7, 509-447-4459, office.sravasti@gmail.com
- June 8** • **Spokane Riverkeeper Spring River Cleanup**, People's Park, Sandifer Bridge Parking, 10 a.m. to noon, Garage Party 1 to 3 p.m., cforjustice.org
- **28th Annual OutSpokane Parade and Festival**, "To Thrive, Not Just Survive," Riverfront Park, 507 N. Howard, noon to 6 p.m., 720-7609, outspokane.com
- **East African Night**, Somali and Ethiopian cuisines, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 6 to 9 p.m., inlandcurry.com
- June 9** • **Filipino American Cultural Festival**, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th, 1 to 5 p.m.
- **Understanding Guatemala: An Indigenous Perspective**, Ingrid Sub Cuc, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 3:30 p.m.
- June 11** • **Unity in the Community Planning**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwnunity.org
- **Summer Barbecue** with Msgr. Robert Pearson, "Divine Mercy on Display," Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- June 12** • **Spokane Farmers' Market** on Wednesdays opens, 5th between Browne and Division
- **Summertime Spiritual Moment**, "Images of God: Glimpses of Our Lord in Events, Nature, Objects and People," Fr. Ed Marrier, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 8 to 9:30 a.m., 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** Volunteer Recruitment Fair, Southside Center, 3151 E. 27th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 344-7787, rsvp@ymcainw.org
- **Hispanic Business Professional Assn.** with Walter Kendrick and Shari Clarke, Fiesta Mexicana, 6 p.m., hbaspokane.net
- June 13-16** • **The Moving Wall: Vietnam Veterans**, replica of Memorial in D.C., Medical Lake Middle School, 250 S. Prentis, 6 p.m., medicallake.org/vmwall
- June 13, 27** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.org
- June 14-15** • **24-hour Cancer Retreat**, "The Cancer Adversity: Is There an Advantage?," Jim Morrison, author and cancer survivor, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- June 14-16** • **Juneteenth Celebration** see article for events
- June 15** • **World Refugee Day**, Refugee Connections Spokane, Nevada Park, 800 E. Joseph, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 209-2384 rcs@refugeeconnectionsspokane.org
- **Real Border Issues**, Ray Ortega, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m.
- June 17** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, 25 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- June 19** • **Juneteenth Celebration**, Texas Chili Tasting, Human Rights Education Institute (HREI), 414 W. Fort Grounds, CdA, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 208-292-2359
- June 19-23** • **SEA-TRI-KAN - Ride with Refugees**, benefit for World Relief, fundraiser.worldreliefseattle.org
- **Unitarian Universalist General Assembly**, Spokane Convention Center, 325-6383
- June 20** • **Spokane Caregiver Conference**, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 458-7450 x2
- June 21-28** • **"Come to the Quiet"**, silent, individual retreats, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, spirit-center.org
- June 22** • **Silver Valley Ride to Defeat ALS**, Kingston, Idaho, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 863-4321, alsa-ec.org
- **8 Lakes Leg Aches**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest Benefit Bike Ride, lcsnw.org/8-lakes-bike-ride
- **Day of Reflection**, Painting, Sacred Art, "Illuminated Manuscripts: The Word in Miniature," Hannah Charlton, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- **Cultural Day** for organizations of color, Coeur d'Alene Casino, Worley, Idaho
- **Daughters of Norway**, 10 a.m., 926-8090
- June 22-23** • **Rally the Valley**, food-vendors-crafts-art, by Spokane Valley City Hall, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, 928-9664, charity@thefamilyguide.org
- June 24-27** • **Whitworth Ministry Institute**, 777-3275
- June 24-27** • **Kids Summer Cooking Camps**, Second Harvest Kitchen, 1234 E. Front, call 534-6678, 2-harvest.org
- July 15-18** • **Faith Action Network**, Spokane Spring Summit, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 3:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org
- July 1-25** • **Christmas in July Food and Fun'd Drive**, Our Place, 326-7267, office@ourplacespokane.org
- July 9** • **Summertime Barbecue** with Msgr. John Steiner, "Update on the Pope and Renewal of the Roman Curia," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 p.m., 448-1224
- July 10** • **Silent Day of Reflection on Carmelite Spirituality**, "A Prayer Beyond the Beginnings: Journey to Divine Intimacy with St. Teresa," Sr. Leslie Lund, OCDH, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- July 11 & 25** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.net
- July 14** • **French Picnic**, HREI, 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr., CdA, 1:30 to 4 p.m., 208-292-2359, jsaster@hrei.org
- July 14-21** • **Eight-Day Ignatian Silent Retreat**, "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola," Fr. Jeff Putthoff SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- July 20** • **South Perry Street Fair**, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., southperry.org
- July 25** • **Summer Concert**, Naomi, 11214 E. Broadway, 5 to 8 p.m., 924-6492
- July 26-28** • **Julyamsh Pow Wow**, Kootenai County Fairgrounds, Coeur d'Alene, 800-523-2462, julyamsh.com
- July 28** • **Pilgrims on the Camino**, Sacred Heart Church, 219 E. Rockwood, 5 p.m., 747-5810, kacodd@gmail.com
- Aug 1, 15** • **Peace & Justice Action Committee** Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Aug 2** • **Evening in Tuscany**, YWCA Spokane Benefit, Beacon Hill Events Center, 4848 E. Valley Springs Rd., 5 to 10 p.m., 789-9312, ywcaspokane.org
- Aug 2-4** • **Hillyard Festival**, Harmon Park, Friday noon to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 270-1569, shawn@hillyardfestival.com
- Aug 4-10** • **College of Congregational Development**, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th, 624-3191
- Aug 8, 22** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Aug 9-11** • **"A Sip of Silence"**, silent retreat, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, spirit-center.org
- Aug 14** • **Summertime Spiritual Moment**, "Life of Vietnamese Catholics Before, During and After the Vietnam War," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 8 p.m., 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- Aug 15-18** • **Veterans for Peace Convention**, Doubletree Hotel, 209-3585, veteransforpeace.org
- Aug 16-18** • **Weekend Retreat**, "Everyone's Call to Holiness, Everyday God," Fr. Anthony Ciorra, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224. Ihrc.net
- Aug 17** • **Unity in the Community**, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. event, 599-6669, nwnunity.org
- Aug 21** • **Santo Domingo Caribbean Dinner**, HREI, 414 W. Fort Grounds Dr., CdA, 6 to 9 p.m., 208-292-2359, jsaster@hrei.org
- Aug 22** • **"Dig In," Catholic Charities**, Historic Washington Cracker Co., 304 W. Pacific, 6 p.m., cceasternwa.org
- Aug 23-25** • **Gathering at the Falls Powwow**, Riverfront Park Lilac Bowl, 590-5044, visitspokane.com/events/summer-events/gathering-at-the-falls-powwow/
- Aug 26** • **Out of the Shadows Theater** auditions, Lutheran Academy of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey, CdA, 208-818-0953
- Aug 27** • **Summertime Barbecue** with Fr. Joe Weitensteiner, "Morningstar Boys Ranch: First 50 Years and Beyond," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 p.m., Ihrc.net
- Aug 28-Sept 2** • **Pig Out in the Park 40**, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., 921-5575, spokanepigout.com
- Sept 4** • **Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave. 9:15 a.m.
- Sept 5** • **Fig Tree Benefit & Board**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, noon-benefit, 1 p.m.-board, 535-1813

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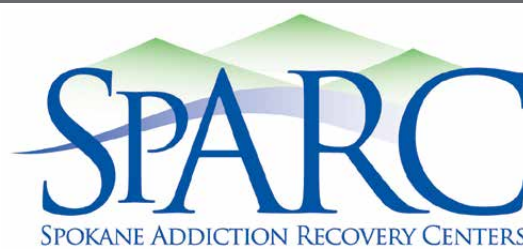
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SPR Goes to the Movies: Monterey Pop!
Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m. at The Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague Ave
 Be part of the live taping of *Movies 101*, and view this incredible music documentary. *Monterey Pop* is a 1968 concert film of the Monterey Pop Festival of 1967. Performances by Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, and more. Tickets available via TicketsWest.



KPBX Kids' Concert: Kevin Pace & the Early Edition
Saturday, June 15, 1 p.m. - FREE
Spokane Public Library Downtown 3rd Floor, 906 W Main Ave, Spokane
 Join SPR for an afternoon of traditional bluegrass and gospel music. Kevin Pace & the Early Edition will perform at this free all-ages concert at the beautiful event space on the third floor of the Downtown Spokane Public Library.



More Event Information at SpokanePublicRadio.org

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Pastor shares history of, insights on Unitarian Universalist Church

On the occasion of Spokane hosting the National Unitarian Universalist Association's annual General Assembly Wednesday to Sunday, June 19 to 23, at the Spokane Convention Center, Todd Eklof, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, offered background on the denomination and local congregation, along with information on the event.

The 3,000 delegates are gathering for worship, witness, workshops, connecting and business that includes bylaws changes, electing board members and voting on a statement of conscience, "Our Democracy Uncorrupted," suggesting ways to preserve U.S. democracy.

After a public closing service at 10 a.m. Sunday, there will also be a witness action on racism downtown.

Workshops will cover anti-racism, white supremacy and inclusion issues, plus topics like lay ministry, stewardship, treasurers and music. The Spokane Alliance will lead a workshop on involving impacted communities and communities of color in organizing work. Another workshop is on Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams, who grew up in Spokane.

Keynoters are Richard Blanco, a gay immigrant from Cuba and the fifth poet to read at an inauguration (President Obama's second), and Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*.

Todd explained that the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church has a congregational polity, a bottom-up organization of autonomous individual churches that select and call their ministers. There are organized districts and regions that have gatherings, too.

Unitarians and Universalists each began in the 1700s in the U.S. Unitarians, a liberal branch of Christians, founded Harvard University. Universalists believed in universal salvation. They merged in 1961, he said.

The UU symbol is a chalice surrounded by two circles, one representing Unitarians and one for Universalists. The chalice symbol came from World War II when the Unitarian Service Committee used a chalice as a sign for friends who would help Jews escape Eastern Europe.

"The chalice represents the



Todd Eklof stands beside the Unitarian Universalist symbol.

value of the individual and the necessity of community," he said.

Todd told of early Spokane pastors.

The local UU church was founded in 1887. Its first minister, Edwin Wheelock, arrived in Spokane with a bounty on his head, wanted in Virginia for preaching a sermon supporting abolitionist John Brown. Edwin had started schools for freed slaves in Louisiana and Texas.

From 1911 to 1916, John Dietrich, who founded Religious Humanism, gave lectures at 10 a.m. Sundays in what is now the Bing Theater. He came to Spokane a few months after being convicted of preaching heresy by the Dutch Reform Church.

The next pastor, M.M. Mangasarian, was born in Turkey and founded the Rationalist Society. He believed Jesus was a myth, not a historical person.

These speakers drew crowds to what was more a lecture series than a church, said Todd.

In 1921, the church became a smaller community, meeting in different places, including sharing space with Temple Emanu-El, beginning in the 1930s. In 1943, they bought what is now the Glover Mansion, and later built a church on the property.

Led in the 1950s and 1960s by Rudy Gilbert, the church organized public discussions on Communism, the United Nations, Medicare and the Vietnam War.

The pastor in the 1970s and 1980s was Bill Houff, a scientist and activist who informed people of radiation leaking into the ground, air and water on the

searches by police in the state in half, reducing contacts with police and jail populations.

The UU Church of Spokane has been active in environmental stewardship within the congregation, among its members, and in challenging the safety of coal and oil trains coming through Spokane. Eventually Governor Jay Inslee turned down the last coal and oil export facility proposal.

Members partner with organizations like the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, the Spokane Alliance, and other groups involved with activism and giving voice to concerns on contraceptive freedom, the environment, immigration and Palestinians, Todd said.

"In our weekly Meaningful Movies, we look at what issues are calling us right now," he said.

Members are in a local coalition of people who go to the Intermodal Transportation Center where immigration officers pick up immigrants. They raise money for bail and legal assistance, as well as informing people on their rights.

Todd, who grew up and was ordained in the Southern Baptist Church, graduated from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, before going to South Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earned a master's degree at Spalding University, a Catholic school in St. Louis, and a doctor of ministry degree at Meadville-Lombard, a UU school in Chicago. He became a Unitarian minister in 1999.

"Unitarians, who are less than one percent of the U.S. population, have about 1,000 congregations

and about 200,000 members," he said. "Our church has about 400 members, with 300 attending the two Sunday services."

"Most UU congregations seek to create the open, inclusive, supportive community that people need for their lives and seek to have impact on the world to make it a better, more just place for everyone," he said.

"Our mission is to create community, find meaning and work for justice. We champion justice, diversity and environmental stewardship in the wider world," Todd said.

He described Unitarian Universalist "theology" as non-theistic, not defined by one doctrine or theology, but sharing principles in community.

"We are different individuals with different beliefs. Some have no beliefs. Some gravitate to Buddhist theology or philosophy. Some have theistic leanings. Differences do not separate us or cause contention," he said.

Todd finds Spokane more progressive than its reputation as the conservative part of the state.

"I engage in more issues here than I would in a larger city," he said. "There is political diversity here, and many in Spokane have progressive values."

"Spokane's UU Church was part of Spokane before it was Spokane," Todd said. "We have a rich, colorful history here with many movers and shakers among our compassionate, intellectual, caring, active members."

For information, call 325-6383 or visit uuspokane.org.

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