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French instructor translates for sister parish - p. 6

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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

Cooking skills contribute to food security

By Mary Stamp

To help families who access food banks become healthier and more self-sufficient, Second Harvest staff believe fighting hunger is about more than handing out food donations. It's also about nutrition and food security.

Second Harvest opened "The Kitchen" on Sept. 22 to "bridge the gap between hunger and health."

"Folks often receive food, but their health outcomes remain poor. There is a high incidence of diet-related illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and heart disease, and cancer," said Drew Meuer, director of the new kitchen program.

He and Jandyl Doak, community impact coordinator, who brings 40 years experience in the restaurant business, are offering classes in one room of the 1,700-square-foot kitchen and producing prepared meals in the other room.

The kitchen was built in space previously used to repack bulk foods into small packages.

"Talking with people who receive food bank food, we find that many do not know how to prepare fresh fruits and vegetables," Jandyl said. "Many are challenged by cooking and think it's hard."



Drew Meuer and Jandyl Doak show The Kitchen, Second Harvest's new way to end hunger.

Drew said most Americans are deficient because they do not eat leafy greens, plant-based protein and whole grains. He cited a 2015 report of the Regional Health District, "Population Health Indicator" that says only 20 percent of Spokane youth eat five fruits or vegetables a day.

Jandyl said the health district describes Northeast and East Central Spokane as "food deserts," because there is no grocery store within two miles, so people lack access to fresh fruits and vegetables, except at food banks.

"When I was pregnant with my now 43-year-old daughter, I studied the relationship between good health and nutrition," she said. "Adele Davis' book, *Let's Have Healthy Children*, changed the way I looked at food."

Raised in Cincinnati, she also lived in Miami and San Francisco before she started in the restaurant business in Honolulu. She was in Missoula before coming to Spokane, where she worked at the Outlet Diner in the Outlet Malls from 1991 to 1994 at Post Falls, and 20 years at Clinkerdaggers.

In 1996, she completed general studies at Eastern Washington Uni-

Continued on page 4

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia celebrate 125 years of ministry in Spokane

Five Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia continue the congregation's presence in Spokane, 125 years after the first five sisters came in 1890.

They will celebrate their 125 years of service at an 11 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception, on Saturday, Oct. 24, at St. Charles Parish, 4515 N. Alberta. Catholic Bishop Thomas Daly will preside.

Sr. Elaine Thaden, Sr. Patricia Novak, Sr. Pat Millen, Sr. Joanne Clavel and Sr. Florence Poch serve in some of the ministries that were started and re-envisioned over the years.

Sr. Joanne has researched the history of missions they started.

In August 1890, three women in black flowing robes with black veils stepped off the train onto the dusty streets of Spokane Falls in what to them was the Wild West. Sr. Barbara, Sr. Neri and Sr. Onuphria had traveled many a night and day from Philadelphia. Two weeks later, Sr. Oswald and Sr. Rhabana joined them.

Their mission continues today to be "bearers of good news," serving "those with whom Christ most clearly identified."

Aware of the plight of the poor

and oppressed, the Sisters "join the struggle to relieve suffering and to affect systemic change," said Sr. Joanne. "Like Francis and Clare of Assisi we do this as instruments of reconciliation and walk in our times as messengers of God's peace."

In 1890, Gonzaga College's President George Mackin, SJ, also asked for sisters to care for destitute children who had no place to live. On Oct. 4, 1890, the feast of St. Francis, they opened St. Joseph Orphanage.

There were no funds to meet expenses, said Sr. Joanne, so true to their founder, the Sisters begged. Sr. Oswald went by horse and buggy, begging for food from fruit and vegetable ranchers.

By the end of 1890, there were 40 children. The city and county each donated \$100 a month. Each year more children came for loving care. Many had lost both parents to disease or accidents, or their parents left seeking jobs.

"St Joseph's helped many children grow into loving responsible young adults," Sr. Joanne said.

Continued on page 12

Liberia's head of state speaks on her life story

For Gonzaga University's Presidential Leadership Series, Africa's first democratically elected woman head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia, will reflect on her life and her promotion of peace, justice and human rights at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 4, at McCarthy Athletic Center.

She, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakel Karman of Yemen received the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for their non-violent struggle for women's rights and equality. She has promoted peace in Africa, brought economic growth in her war-torn nation and developed policies that helped eradicate the Ebola virus, which killed 4,600 Liberians.

"President Sirleaf is among the most powerful women in the world," Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh said. "Hers is a unique story of service, leadership and political activism in a period of civil war and economic instability. She leads a nation with a history of political strife and challenges. Despite the high regard with which she is held at home and abroad, her administration has faced criticism. Imprisoned and forced several times in the 1980s and 1990s to flee Liberia out of fear of reprisal, Sirleaf has been tenacious and resilient."

In 2013, she received India's Indra Gandhi Prize and, in 2007, the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom for her courage and commitment to expand freedom and improve the lives of Africans. Fortune Magazine ranks her 16 on its 2015 list of the world's greatest leaders.

President Sirleaf, who earned a master's degree in public administration at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, is author of *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President*.

For information, contact Angela Ruff at 313-3572 or Mary Joan Hahn at 313-6095.

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WCC service offers prayers for new UN global goals

A special service organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC) at the Ecumenical Centre chapel in Geneva, Switzerland, prayed for the United Nations post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to eliminate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change and water scarcity by 2030. The Sept. 22 service was part of "Prayer for Everyone," a campaign to engage faith communities in worldwide prayer and action supporting the goals.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were launched at a United Nations (UN) summit Sept. 25 to 27, as part of this year's annual UN General Assembly in New York. They replace the 15-year Millennium Development Goals, which ended Sept. 30.

At the service, WCC general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit said that the goals have a strong relevance for the WCC's work.

The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, require mobilizing a broad network of committed stakeholders, and 6 billion people of faith globally are a significant starting point," said Dinesh Suna, coordinator of the WCC's Ecumenical Water Network.

"Faith communities can popularize them by engaging members in prayer and action. Christians—nearly 2 billion—being among the largest faith communities, can exercise great influence. The WCC, a fellowship of 345 churches with more than half a billion members, is well positioned to play a lead role," she added.

WCC offers prayers that dividing walls fall

The WCC calls for prayers so that "wall will fall" between Israelis and Palestinians.

"It is our sincere desire and prayer, shared with many Jews and Muslims, that there should be no hostilities among neighbors in Israel and Palestine, and beyond, in the whole Middle East region," said the WCC general secretary during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (WWPPI) in September. The 2015 week's theme was "God has broken down the dividing walls."

"We pray and work for the peace desperately needed by both Palestinians and Israelis," Olav said.

Christians gathered during the week at Beir Ouna in the Cremisan Valley, near Bethlehem, to protect a centuries-old olive grove from being destroyed by Israeli security forces to make way for the latest segment of Israel's separation barrier. The nonviolent witness was to confront individual soldiers and police, as well as the system of occupation of Palestinian land, he said, and to "amplify our global solidarity" by promoting awareness and advocacy.

WCC partners with UNICEF on behalf of children

The WCC and UNICEF signed a partnership on Sept. 18 pledging to work together to support children's rights, with special initial focus on violence against children and climate change.

UNICEF will work with WCC members to recognize, monitor and promote children's rights in their communities and congregations. The partnership will leverage UNICEF's knowledge on children's rights and violence prevention with the WCC's theological legacy and commitment to children, in order to achieve positive change for children around the world.

"The WCC is well placed to answer the international community's call to help bring about a world fit for children. From a faith-based perspective, we will call on member churches to improve the lives of children through developing and implementing 'Child Rights Principles and Tools for Churches,'" said Olav.

Climate change will undermine basic rights of children, and those from the poorest families will suffer most. The partnership seeks to influence behaviors to reduce carbon footprints, by raising awareness and ending harmful practices.

The partnership will develop "Children's Rights Principles and Tools for Churches." Building on existing standards, initiatives and best practices, this guidance will present a vision for churches as champions of children's rights.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree sets legislative conference, benefits

Plans are underway for The Fig Tree's educational event, the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on Saturday, Jan. 30, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and the annual Benefit Lunch on Friday, March 11, and Benefit Breakfast on Wednesday, March 16, both at Gonzaga University's Cataldo Hall.

People interested in assisting with planning may be part of organizing and arrangements for these events, said Mary Stamp, editor.

"We are still in the process on

both events of establishing the themes and recruiting speakers," she said.

The legislative conference is planned each year in conjunction with the Faith Action Network of Washington, Catholic Charities of Spokane and the Washington State Catholic Conference

For 2016, the breakfast for the first time will be the week after the lunch. Both events have previously been held during Gonzaga University's spring break, meaning that few from the Gonzaga

community have been in town to participate.

"We hope this will be an opportunity for more members of the Gonzaga community, as our hosts, to become better acquainted with The Fig Tree," Mary added.

"We welcome volunteers who would like to help with these events to attend planning meetings and assist at the events," she said.

For information, call 535-1813 or 216-6090, or email mary@thefigtree.org

Refugee Connections plans fund raiser

Refugee Connections Spokane's fund-raiser, "Sharing Our World," from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24 in the Community Building, 35 W. Main Ave will feature live and silent auctions, a piano performance, and a photography exhibit of community refugees and immigrants by a local artist.

Stephanie Zimmerman, coordinator of the nonprofit organization that helps refugees assimilate and thrive, said that about 30,000

refugees live in the city.

Refugee Connections also helps refugees navigate in the community, including volunteering and connecting with other refugees.

The area's refugees include children to elders who fled from Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Burma, Nepal, Russia, Ukraine and other countries.

Its newest program is the Refugees' Harvest Project, in which 50 refugees harvest donated produce and distribute it free at the East

Central Community Center.

Other programs are: the Elder Outreach Project, connecting elders to one another and to services; the Patient Passport Project, helping refugees document their medical history, and the American Law and Justice Workshop, helping them understand the U.S. criminal justice system, and their rights and responsibilities.

For information, call 209-2384 or email rcs@refugeeconnections-spokane.org.

Faith Action Network sets forum on taxes

The Faith Action Network is presenting a forum, "What Kind of State Do You Want to Live In?" at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

The event, which will feature State Representative Timm Ormsby, vice chair of the Appropriations Committee from Spokane, facilitates conversation and mobilization on the State of Washington's regressive tax system.

"FAN and its predecessor organizations have been long-time advocates to reform Washington's broken and regressive tax structure, which is the nation's worst, so that the many needs of the state may be more fairly funded," said Paul Benz, co-director.

In light of that, and stemming from FAN's interfaith leaders' conversations and its Governing Board vote to oppose Initiative 1366, Tim Eyman's November ballot initiative requiring a two-

thirds vote for any tax increase, FAN is also sponsoring a forum with Rep. Reuven Carlyle in Bellevue.

Each forum will have a local religious leaders' panel to respond, and small group conversations will be the basis for mobilization toward next steps, said Paul.

For information, email fan@fanwa.org or visit fanwa.org.

Flannery Lecture is Nov. 9

Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, will give the 2015 Flannery Lecture on "Evolution and the Power of Love: Towards a Holistic Consciousness" at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 9, at Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

She is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Washington D.C. and holds the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University.

Sr. Ilia has a doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of

New Jersey and a doctorate in historical theology from Fordham University. She has written on Franciscan theology and spirituality. She is engaged in the religion and science dialogue.

The Flannery Chair of Roman Catholic Theology is an endowed gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence of theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. The lecture is delivered twice a year by an outstanding theologian who is invited to campus especially for the lecture.

For information, call 313-6782 or visit gonzaga.edu/religious-studies.



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speaker

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FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Valley Christian School plans community service

Pre-K through 12th grade students at Valley Christian will participate in the second annual, "Panther Project," an all-day community service project/fundraiser on Thursday, Oct. 2

More than 375 people including students, staff, parents and friends of VCS will serve at various locations for a one-day mission trip in the community.

They are serving at organizations including Spokane Valley Parks and Recreation, GraceSon Housing Foundation, Family Promise, the Centennial Trail, Mirabeau Natural Area, Valley Mission Park, CenterPlace, Edge Cliff Community Garden, SCRAPS, Appleway Trailway and other locations.

There will be 24 crews of eight to 20 people knocking down weeds, picking up trash, sorting clothes, raking, landscaping, painting, organizing cleaning and more.

For information, call 924-9131 or email tantonson@vcsc.org.

PJALS celebrates 40 years of education and action

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) will begin its celebration of 40 years of serving in the community and region at a gathering from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main.

They will explore nonviolence as a strategy for change by showing and discussing the film, "A Force More Powerful." There will be displays representing PJALS' work over the four decades.

For information, call 838-7870.

LDS stake offers Family Search genealogy training

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is offering the annual community family history event, "Building a Legacy," from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Spokane East Stake building at 13608 E. Belle Terre Ave.

Participants learn how to use an online program called FamilySearch.org, through which with a few names of deceased ancestors, dates and locations they can find out their connection to generations past, said Mindy Wright, Spokane East Stake media specialist. Trained genealogists will be on hand to provide one-on-one assistance for beginners to experienced researchers.

For information, call 893-2587.

Conference for the Greater Good is Oct. 22

The Inland Northwest Conference for the Greater Good will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

The event is to strengthen, connect and inspire individuals and nonprofits through 15 workshops led by local, regional and state leaders. Workshops will address social media, leadership, advocacy, communication, risk and more

"Nonprofits are vital to strong communities," said Alison McCaffree, executive director of Washington Nonprofits. "They provide leadership to deliver human services, amplify our voices in advocacy, protect our environment, and enrich our world through the arts."

Started in 2011 as the Inland Northwest Nonprofit Conference, the event gathers nonprofit leaders, staff and volunteers from Eastern Washington.

For information, call 855-299-2922, email info@washingtonnonprofits.org or visit www.washingtonnonprofits.com.

Three media literacy events set in October

Three media literacy and awareness events are planned in October.

First, the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NW-ARM) is partnering with Gonzaga's Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Washington University's Women's Studies Center, The Shrinking Violets, Spokane's NOW chapter, Planned Parenthood and the Spokane Feminist Forum to co-sponsor showing "The Mask You Live In" at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Gonzaga's Jundt Auditorium.

"The Mask You Live In," filmed by the Representation Project, looks at modern masculinity, repressed emotions and gender stereotypes reinforced by culture, sports and media. It explores how the definition of masculinity harms men, boys and society.

Last year, the NW-ARM and others presented Jennifer Siebel Newson's documentary, "Miss Representation," looking at the unbalanced media depiction of women and girls in U.S. media, making it hard for them to find appropriate role models.

The Representation Project uses film as a catalyst for cultural transformation to challenge limiting stereotypes based on gender, race, class, age, sexual orientation or circumstance.

Second, the NW Alliance for Responsible Media is offering a community media literacy and awareness salon to discuss the impact of media coverage.

The first salon will be held at

5:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30, at the Community Building Lobby, 35 W. Main. NW-ARM and PJALS are co-sponsors.

Jim McPherson, chair of the Communication Department at Whitworth, and Mary Stamp, The Fig Tree editor, both on the NW-ARM Board, will facilitate a discussion on "The Media Circus on Campaign Coverage: Is There Room for Democracy?"

The salon is designed as a gathering for people to increase knowledge through conversation, so it is facilitating a community

discussion rather than having a formal panel.

Third, Carolyn Cunningham, Gonzaga assistant professor of communication and leadership studies, will give a presentation on the relationship of women and video games for the International Day of the Girl, at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 12, at Wolff Auditorium at Gonzaga University's Jepson Hall. She will speak on "Shooting Pink: What We Know (and need to know) About Girls and Video Games."

For information, call 313-3578.

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Cheney United Church of Christ Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 7
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 423 N. 6th - Cheney

Holiday Bazaar & Luncheon
Saturday, Nov 7 • 9 am -3 pm
 Crafts, Baked Goods, Raffle Basket, Holiday Decorating & White Elephant
Cheney Emmanuel Lutheran
 639 Elm Street

St. Paul's Episcopal Bazaar
Saturday, Nov 7
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Sat. Nov. 7 - 9 am-3 pm
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For more information, please contact Shar at slichty@pmals.org or 509-838-7870



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Food bank clients need to know how to cook the food they receive

Access to food addresses short-term need

Continued from page 1

For five years as member services coordinator with Second Harvest, she connected with more than 100 partner agencies.

Drew grew up in Oak Harbor, Wash., eating his mother's scratch cooking. After earning a degree in political science in 2004 at Gonzaga University, he taught English a year in South Korea, lived in San Francisco with his wife, Erin, and taught low-income school children how to play through Playworks. In an after-school program for about 25 children, he used food bank food, drawing children with fresh fruit.

When they moved back to Spokane in 2010, Drew began at Second Harvest. For two years, he interacted with agency partners and clients while running the mobile food banks.

"I realized we offered food clients didn't know how to prepare," he said.

Then he worked in food procurement and in transportation, learning logistics of receiving food and delivering it to partners. In January, he took charge of The Kitchen project. Jandyl has been on the project for two months.

This summer, while The Kitchen was under construction, Drew connected with children at six summer feeding sites. He did "produce tastings" of local, seasonal fruits and vegetables. Some tried plums, nectarines, apricots and peaches for the first time.

"I told them to eat the rainbow in different colored fruits and vegetables," he said. "We improved their 'food literacy'."

He hopes to do that and more in The Kitchen.

In the classroom kitchen, there will be cooking demonstrations, recipe testing and meal sampling, and lessons on scratch cooking, nutrition and food budgeting. This fall, there will also be sessions on cheese-making, fermented beverages and selecting spices.

Washington State University's nutrition and exercise department helped design the kitchen. There are 12 rolling carts up to 30 students can use to cook along with the cooking demonstration. They include cooking surfaces, induction burners, blenders, rice cookers, pans, dishes and utensils.

Some classes are for people who receive food assistance. They will be held daytime and evenings at the kitchen or at mobile food banks to be accessible to parents and working poor.

Other classes are for the public and partner agency chefs on how



Drew Meuer and Jandyl Doak show the tilt skillet.

to preserve food, how to eat when pregnant, how to plan meals and how to cook whole grains and lentils.

In addition to Drew and Jandyl teaching, they will train community volunteers to be nutrition educators.

Leaders of partner food pantries, health care agencies, schools and nonprofits will also learn how to educate their clients.

Drew introduces people to local, seasonal, organic, less refined and minimally processed food, and teaches what those terms mean.

"Many think fresh fruits and vegetables are expensive, but they cost less than a bag of chips and are filling," Jandyl said.

Meeting with students in a Bonners Ferry honors program, Drew asked if they sat down for meals with their families.

They laughed because few of their families sit down and eat together. Many are busy and eat outside their homes," he said.

The production kitchen includes state-of-the-art equipment, such as a tilt skillet, a steam jacketed kettle, a double stacked convection oven and a six-burner range.

In that kitchen, volunteers will cook prepared meals to distribute at mobile food banks and through other channels.

They will include the recipe so people can replicate the dishes at home.

Once food is cooled, it will be packaged in plastic or cardboard-

lined containers that can be refrigerated or frozen, and then can be reheated and ready to eat.

Drew, who has a Catholic background, does this work because he believes food is a human right.

"There shouldn't be hunger or food insecurity anywhere, let alone in America," he said.

Drew shared a suggestion from couples married a long time that when they fight, they make a sandwich, because someone may be hungry.

"If people are not hungry, they can face other problems of life," he said. "Access to food addresses their short-term need."

He is sad so many people need Second Harvest's services. Each week 55,000 people in its service area of 21 Eastern Washington counties and five North Idaho counties are "food insecure" and receive some of the 2 million pounds of free food it distributes each month through 250 food banks.

Jandyl, who grew up Presbyterian, believes children deserve to have "great food."

"We need to educate children how to make great food so things will change in their lives," she said. "We want children to participate in cooking, not just be given food," Drew said.

"Food banks provide significant calories to people as more people turn to them, because they are unable to make ends meet," he said.

For information, call 252-6284 or email drew.meuer@2-harvest.org.

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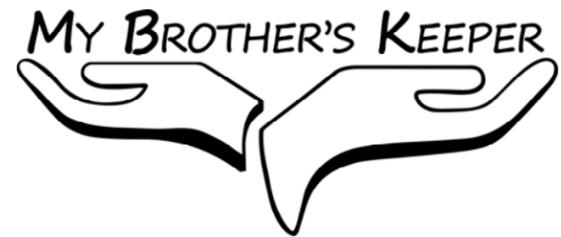


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Teens visit Nepal to evaluate use of earthquake relief funds sent to friends

When creators of Spokane's Power of Five project to educate girls in Nepal formed the non-profit Conscious Connections Foundation (CCF) last fall, they had no idea that they would do humanitarian disaster aid.

In March 2014, Denise Attwood, co-founder of Ganesh Himal Trading, had visited the Baseri health clinic they helped build in 2009.

During the April 25 7.9 earthquake in Nepal, the clinic collapsed.

Because of their 30-year friendships, there was no question that CCF would be involved. Donations poured in.

"Within days the support was transformed into food, shelter and medicine. In less than a week, resources were in people's hands," said Cameron Connor, vice president and co-founder of CCF. "We were effective, because we are trusted and have direct contacts. We sent funds to friends in Kathmandu. They bought rice and tents, and transported them to remote villages before May 15, often prior to the Red Cross, United Nations or Mercy Corps.

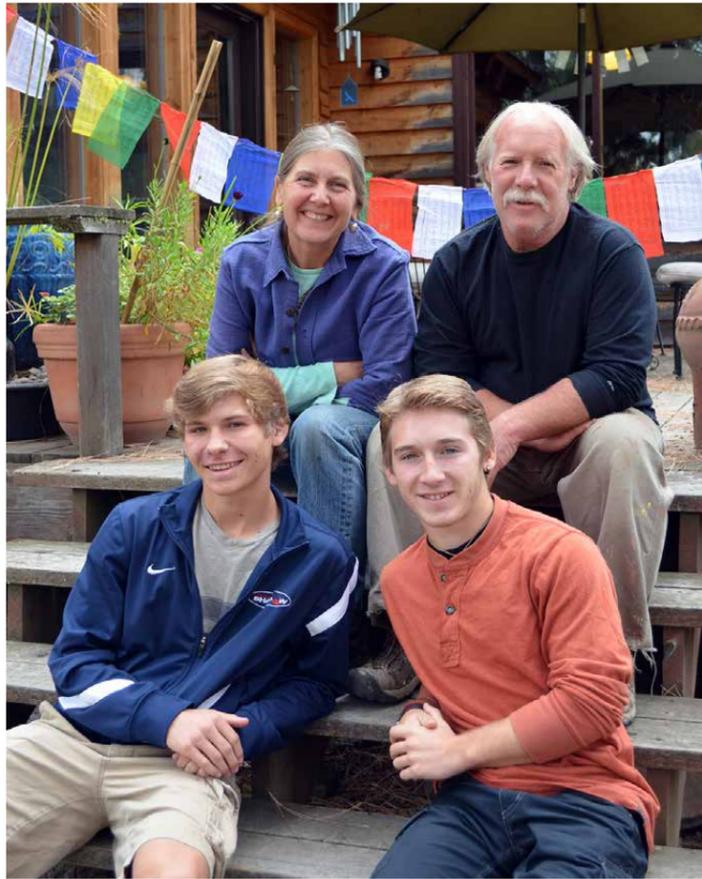
"There's a place for direct, relationship-based, small-scale aid," Denise said, noting that much aid also came from Nepalis living abroad and from other fair trade networks, like Far East Handcrafts through which Barbara Novak of Spokane helped the Cathedral of St. John send donations to her Nepali contacts.

As of Sept. 1, CCF had collected \$155,000. Immediately, CCF expended enough to provide a month's supply of food to about 6,000 people and shelter for 1,200. CCF has set aside its remaining funds to begin the process of permanently rebuilding homes, schools and other vital facilities. It has also allocated \$10,300 for reconstruction of their Artisan Relief Project.

Ganesh Himal Trading itself has promised \$10,000 for artisan relief—\$7,000 has been spent and the rest set aside.

CCF anticipates they will spend \$60,000 to buy land to rebuild the Deurali Community Service Center, which housed the Baseri Clinic, on more stable ground with earthquake-resilient, rammed-earth technology.

To evaluate the effectiveness of their aid and to learn about the role of small-scale, "fair-aid," relationship-based efforts in the larger scope of humanitarian



Grant Gallaher, Denise Attwood, Cameron and Ric Conner travel to Nepal to learn of further needs.

aid, Cameron and his friend and research associate Grant Gallaher decided to defer starting studies at Whitman College to find out.

Friends since middle school and 2015 graduates of West Valley High School, they will trek in Nepal to evaluate the earthquake aid sent by Conscious Connections Foundation. They arrive in Nepal on Oct. 2.

Cameron's parents, Ric Conner and Denise, who do business with artisans of Nepal affected by the quake, arrive there on Oct. 9 with Sita Gurung, co-founder of the Baseri Clinic. Originally from Baseri and now living in Seattle, Sita will help them communicate with people there.

"We will discuss rebuilding the clinic and houses," said Denise. She and Ric, who will be there for a month, and Cameron and Grant, who will stay until mid December, are paying their own travel expenses.

Cameron and Grant developed a 16-page project plan, outlining the background, scope, purpose, expectations and methodology of the evaluation, and open-ended questions to ask recipients.

Their goals are to 1) be accountable to donors, 2) be accountable to aid recipients on what works and what's next, and 3) learn how

small scale aid response fits into the wider picture of humanitarian aid.

On Skype, they have already contacted George Wilson, who grew up in Spokane and moved to Kathmandu in March with Mercy Corps. They will interview George and others in aid agencies.

Helping them translate will be Pradeep Karki, 18, with whom Cameron has "grown up" in his many visits to Nepal. With support from Ric and Denise, Pradeep just finished high school in Nepal.

To prepare for the evaluation, Cameron and Grant took an on-line course with the Network of Accountability and Performance on evaluating humanitarian aid.

"We will visit communities to learn who gave what aid and what was achieved," Cameron said. "We will also ask what more they need."

"We know that as CCF aid arrived, medicine, supplies and other aid from Nepalis living elsewhere arrived. Soon after that, villagers dug out the clinic to access medicines and supplies, and dug out the solar panel and found the batteries working."

Once immediate needs were met, Cameron said, Nepali friends asked CCF to wait and send more for rebuilding after the June-

through-August monsoon season.

In hopes that rebuilding the Baseri Clinic will serve as a demonstration project, five CCF representatives will take a two-day, earth-bag building class in Kathmandu, where experts will train villagers, them and others how to fill and place bags to build rammed-earth structures. Fifty such structures survived the quake, Cameron said.

Once those who help rebuild the clinic learn the technique, they can teach others to use it to rebuild their homes.

Ric will take photos and videos for a presentation at Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane after Thanksgiving.

"We need to create awareness of the ongoing situation with more than 200,000 homes lost," he said. "Donors want to know how they helped. We will keep it in the public's eye."

Cameron hopes the experience will help him discern direction for his studies. Similarly, Grant also hopes to find career options.

They wanted to step outside their comfort zone to make a dif-

ference. Cameron visited Nepal often as a child and has many friends he considers practically family.

While in Kathmandu, they will stay with a friend, Chunta Nepali. When they visit villages, they will sleep in tents and cook for themselves so they do not burden people.

"I know how Cameron's travels to Nepal have defined him. I, too, want to experience the culture and gain a different world view," said Grant, whose only experience abroad was volunteering in Costa Rica one week with a turtle conservation program and a second week learning about wildlife in the jungles.

The project requires them to be self-motivated, meet deadlines and be accountable to themselves and others.

They will post updates on their research on a blog for people to follow at consciousconnections-foundation.org/news.

For information, call 499-3320 or email cameron.nac@gmail.com, call 714-1396 or email galahergwg@gmail.com.

Far East Handcrafts sends aid, too

Connections of the Stephen R. Novak Foundation in Nepal go back to 1988 when Steve started his fair trade importing company, Far East Handcrafts. Upon his death in 1995, his parents, Terry and Barbara Novak of Spokane, kept the business going, as well as the aid projects, in which he was involved. Barbara is visiting in Nepal in October to learn about future needs for aid. The Fig Tree will follow up when she returns, telling of a school and the fair trade efforts.

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French teacher says language is important in establishing ties in Haiti

Because of Jennifer Brown's fluency in French, Spokane's Episcopal Cathedral of St. John's Partnership Committee with Casale, Haiti, asked her to visit there from March 12 to 19 with the Very Rev. Bill Ellis, dean of the cathedral.

The goal of the visit during her spring break at Whitworth University, where she has taught French for seven years, was to talk with the new priest and with new parishioners on their partnership committee about their visions and desires for next steps in their five-year relationship.

"Language is important in establishing relationships," Jennifer said.

Since 2010, the cathedral has sent funds to help feed children and to pay teachers at a school, which has grown from three to nine teachers, teaching 240 preschoolers to teens in the church, a big, open cinder-block building with a tin roof.

Jennifer, the daughter of an Episcopal priest, did her undergraduate studies at William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., and her doctoral degree in 2000 at the University of Virginia, and taught in other schools before coming to Whitworth.

Even though she lived abroad for a year with her family in England, did a semester of study in France and has taken Whitworth students for a semester study in France, she had never experienced the poverty she met when visiting the partner parish and school in Casale.

French is the second language of many Haitians. Creole, a combination of indigenous languages and French, is the first language for most. The third language is English. French is the language for trade, education, government and business.

Five years ago, Bill and Trish Newton, then chair of the outreach committee, went to Casale to establish the relationship. Since then, the cathedral, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and other parishes in Spokane have both sent support for the school to feed children and pay teachers.

"We give the same amount, but they stretch what we give to provide a quality education. They are eager to do more," Jennifer said.

While many churches in other areas often have multiple partners, Casale just has St. John's and St. Andrew's.

"We thought that maybe they needed a more modern kitchen, rather than cooking over fires, but they want a school building with classrooms, because it's hard for students of different ages to focus with no dividers between classes.



Jennifer Brown translates with partner church in Haiti.

"We would like to provide a school, but it will take time and money. It would need to be built with rebar reinforcement to be earthquake- and hurricane-proof, and would need to have a proper sanitation system.

"It was a joyful time relating with individuals and understanding another place better. Worship was unifying, being aware we worship the same Lord," said Jennifer, who found it hard to be in a place with so much need, poverty and corruption.

"It felt overwhelming. We can't fix Haiti. Not even a well-intentioned, non-corrupt president could do that," she said. "We simply met people where they are and asked what is the next way we can help, encourage and support them," she said.

"There is no source of clean water. Babies die of malnutrition because they have no food," Jennifer said. "That affects families in the congregation, so we can make a difference by feeding children one hot meal a day."

She and Bill stayed in the teachers' house with running water and a flush toilet, which few homes have, but Jennifer wondered where the wastewater went—perhaps into the river where people bathe and get drinking water even though it is polluted with human and animal waste.

The church, which has a solar-powered water treatment system, gives away clean water for free.

At the Good Samaritan Clinic in Casale, groups of doctors come

and go. Women bring malnourished babies, some of whom are so sick they can't cry. In one room, some babies are fed and become well in two weeks. They want the babies by 18 months to be healthy enough that they can forage for food at home for themselves, such as finding mangoes that fall off a tree.

The 2010 earthquake happened after Bill and Trish visited. Casale, further inland, was less affected, but Bill and Jennifer saw places that were affected.

"Haitians talk about before and after the quake. Port au Prince looks like it happened yesterday," she said.

One day, Jennifer and Bill went to the Feast of the Annunciation at the Church of the Annunciation in Leogane, an hour drive. The roads are normally bad in the dry season and are worse in the rainy season. Haiti is one Episcopal diocese with 50 priests serving 80,000 people. Most are responsible for several parishes, schools and clinics. The priests went to seminary together and experience similar challenges, Jennifer said.

The priest at Casale, Fr. Kesner Gracia, took them to Leogane, Port au Prince and around Casale. He is in charge of four churches with 1,500 people. He rented a car to transport them, because he does not own one. He uses a motorcycle.

When Jennifer returned to Spokane, the Rev. Martin Elfert preached on Palm Sunday about Jesus coming to Jerusalem in a big

celebration and ending the week with his passion.

"He said that wound and gift are always close. For me, it was a gift to go to Haiti where the people shared their time and resources generously," said Jennifer, who felt awkward using resources in a country with limited resources.

"We were able to share our common love for Christ in a context of people living out Christ's love. It was hard and beautiful," said Jennifer.

She has been presenting these concerns to St. John's members so more people will help the committee and raise more money.

"Haiti is our global mission," she said. "We are also involved with global mission through the Episcopal Relief and Development."

Jennifer supports eventually building the school, but said, "our primary priority is doing what we can with the resources we have and continuing to feed and educate the children.

In fall 2014, Jennifer had taught a class at St. John's on French-speaking countries in the Caribbean and Quebec. She read some Haitian literature before she had any idea she would go there.

"It helped prepare me, giving me insights into colonialism and its effects in the Caribbean," she said.

"Colonialism enslaved the people, and damaged Haiti linguistically, economically, emotionally and governmentally. In addition, racism blocks people from being what they could be."

These are some of the reasons Jennifer is overwhelmed by the poverty and injustice in Haiti.

For information, call 838-4277 or email jbrown@whitworth.edu.

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The Black Lens covers the positive to counter negative news on blacks

Believing mainstream media coverage of news important to diverse communities is usually inadequate, Sandra Williams started *The Black Lens*, a local monthly newspaper focusing on Spokane's African-American community. The first issue was published in January 2015.

"My goal was to cover the positive and counter negative, narrow news that implies blacks are criminals, entertainers or athletes," she said. "I seek to do human interest and soft news."

She seeks to break through stereotypes about blacks and to highlight the positive accomplishments of Spokane's African Americans.

Aware she could not keep up with daily news in a monthly publication, Sandra did not expect to cover hard news, but events swayed her to include a "black lens" on events that developed.

In May, a newspaper headline said, "Man dies in jail." There was no mention that Lorenzo Hayes, the father of seven who died in police custody, was black.

Because she has served two years on the State Commission on African American Affairs and was recently appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Council for Multicultural Affairs, she was among community leaders invited to a private briefing.

Sandra, who has a background in addressing discrimination, oppression, equity and social justice, opted not to go if she could not report about it. So she waited and talked to people who went. In the silence about Lorenzo's death, she followed up and learned that the coroner ruled it a homicide.

Then in June came the report that Rachel Dolezal, a leader in the black community, was a white woman, identifying as black.

"In the media storm on that, I watched progress for the black community be wiped away by a focus on her race rather than what she was doing," Sandra said. "It was a distraction to news of Rachel's being kicked off the Office of the Police Ombudsman (OPO) and two others resigning."

Sandra said dynamics of the story warrant more conversation.

"I was told early that if everyone is looking to the right, an activist should look to the left, and visa versa, to be aware of what is going on behind the scenes.

"The black community needed to know what was happening so we would not be impacted negatively by the fuss over her race," she said. "The community was divided. The adage is: divide and conquer. Leadership in the community was damaged. Now leaders are regrouping.



Sandra Williams publishes *The Black Lens*.

"The City of Spokane said they received a report about misconduct. Looking at the report, I did not see the misconduct they claimed, but within 24 hours Rachel was ousted, and two others resigned without due process.

"We need a home-based newspaper to report what is happening," said Sandra. "Someone needs to speak up. The community is used to having no voice."

She has also written about complaints from the East Central neighborhood on East Central Community Center's management, funding and programs. Bringing her weight as editor, she reported that people felt they were being priced out of the center and no one in the city was listening.

In July, after a black man, William Poindexter, was shot in the back, Sandra ran a photo from the alleged shooter's Facebook page, showing him holding an AK-47.

Sandra wants people to speak with a unified voice so they can make a difference. She did not intend to ignore controversial issues, but expected to have more emphasis on soft, positive news.

In June, Sandra left her job of five years as coordinator of Eastern Washington University's Pride Center for LGBTQ students to work full time on *The Black Lens*. She started the newspaper while helping take care of her father, who was ill.

When she was 12, her father came to Spokane to teach in Gonzaga University's ROTC department, and her parents stayed.

Sandra earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Washington State University (WSU) in 1983 and did social service nonprofit jobs in Los Angeles, returning to Spokane to visit family and to work.

After her daughter, Renika, was born in Spokane, Sandra returned to work in Los Angeles. She came back in 1990 for six years for a job with People of Color Against AIDS Network. It gave her con-

nections in Spokane's communities of color.

Then Sandra returned to Los Angeles and completed a master's degree in film/television production in 1995 at the University of Southern California. She worked six years with an African-American woman director who produces an African-American TV show, "City of Angels" and other TV shows.

"I had believed Hollywood was a magical place creating magical content to educate and uplift people. I was naïve and grew to hate Hollywood. I went to film school to tell stories that would uplift people," Sandra said.

When Renika left for college, Sandra returned to Spokane in 2005 to be field coordinator for the Youth Suicide Prevention Program, doing school-based peer education and community training on teen stress and depression, and strategies for suicide prevention.

She then was executive director of Odyssey Youth Center, serving Spokane's LGBTQ youth. Two years later, she started working at the EWU Pride Center.

For four years, she did a bi-monthly program, "Revolutionary Spirituality," for KYRS Radio 92.3 FM. Her show explored religious and spiritual diversity she had not known.

"Having worked on sexual orientation, racism, sexism and other isms, I was fascinated how organized religion and spirituality relate to oppression," she said.

Her mother was Baptist and her father, Methodist. Growing up in South Carolina, she had to go to church. Sandra, who attends New Hope Baptist with her mother, now has a strong connection to spirituality and the black church but is wary of organized religion.

In Los Angeles, she found Unity Fellowship Church, a black church that set aside judgmental dogma, especially against gays, and that emphasized God's love.

"The pastor preached love for

everyone," she said. "That helped me cement my spirituality."

When people in the black community began to talk about the need for a black newspaper as a place to talk with each other and focus on issues, Sandra consulted with Bob Lloyd, who had edited *The African American Voice*, until 1990. He gave his blessing.

When Sandra's father, Thomas, was sick last fall, she took time off from EWU. While sitting with him, she learned how to do newspaper design on her laptop. She began her first articles on the Spokane Police Use of Force Report and on the East Central Community Center.

By December, she had written all the articles for the first issue. The second issue was hard because her father died on Feb. 9.

Incorporated as a for-profit pub-

lication, *The Black Lens* circulates through black churches and businesses. People are subscribing, businesses are advertising, and more writers are contributing.

The July issue covered WSU President Elson Floyd's death, Denise Osei's retirement from Spokane Falls Community College and Spokane's Juneteenth on the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery. It reported on the Southeast Day Care Center, EWU's Africana Studies and an NAACP candidates forum. There are columns and national news.

The September issue covered the experience of African Americans in Spokane schools. In October, local candidates will respond to questions about the African American community.

For information, call 795-1964 or email editor@blacklensnews.com.

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We invite you to join us for reflection and contemplation.

Evangelical Association focuses on mentoring children, engaging worshipers

After 26 years of selling title insurance for real estate transactions, Anthony Carollo and his wife Debbie decided to downsize their home and living expenses to focus on ministry.

In 2014, they sold their large home in Valleyford and moved into a house in Millwood half the size with half the mortgage.

In May 2014, he began as executive director of the Greater Spokane Association of Evangelicals, after serving for one year on its board.

Anthony spent most of his career in Spokane—except for four years from 2000 to 2004 in Corvallis—and founded Stewart Title of Spokane LLC.

At Calvary Chapel in Spokane since 1990 and North Country Chapel in Post Falls since 2008, he was involved in children's ministry.

"Eventually, I felt God was calling me to lead the GSAE," he said.

When interim director David Nerren stepped down, Anthony was hired. He said the board held a strategy session and decided the GSAE would help Christian churches "disciple believers," because people in pews often do not step outside their church's walls.

The GSAE will do that in four ways: school outreach, men's ministries, leadership development and church engagement.

- It is helping churches do outreach in schools by mentoring children through Communities in Schools or helping feed children on weekends through Second Harvest's Bite-to-Go program," he said.

- It is helping churches develop or enhance their men's ministries, so more men are involved in their churches and communities.

- A GSAE team is designing a Biblical Leadership Development program, modeled on Leadership Spokane. It will launch in 2016.

- The GSAE will also help churches cooperate with each other to "engage" people who are "unchurched," Anthony said. That includes many people who identify themselves as Christians, but do not go to church, he said.

Recently a marketing consultant told him that a national George Barna Research Group poll found that eight percent of Christians are engaged in ministry and 92 percent just attend worship and go home.

Anthony believes more people can become interested in moving from pews to serve in ministry. He plans to use social media, emails and websites, as well as traditional means.

"We are about connecting Evangelicals and the whole Body of Christ in Spokane," he said.



Anthony Carollo leads ministry to engage church-goers.

Two experiences motivated Anthony and his wife Debbie to change their lives.

After Jay Erickson, an intern with Stewart Title Insurance, completed the mission pilot program at Moody Bible Institute, he and his wife sold all they had so he could serve one-year as a pilot with a hospital in Zambia. Both were killed three years ago in an airplane crash, leaving two daughters.

"He was ninth in his family line to die while serving in mission in Africa," Anthony said.

Then in the summer of 2013, a year after Jay's death, a woman employee at Stewart tripped on a top step and fell down the stairs. Waiting for the ambulance, Anthony prayed over her. However, she died.

Realizing life is short and with three of their four children grown and out of the house, he and Debbie listed their house for sale.

"God was calling us to pare down and sell our stuff," he said. "So we prepared our family and finances for ministry that would not pay as well."

After Anthony started with the GSAE working from an office in their home, Debbie began to work as an office administrator at Moody Radio.

He already sees God at work, sending volunteers to help in the four areas.

For example, he was heartened by participation in the May 7 National Day of Prayer Leadership Prayer Breakfast and an Evening Worship Event that day, Unite Spokane. The event drew 700 to Life Center, representing the diversity of the Body of Christ in Spokane—African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans.

Among churches on the GSAE board are Mount Spokane Church, Fellowship Church and Lidger-

wood Presbyterian, represented by pastors; and Open Bible, Valley Real Life, Northview Church, Real Life North, and Victory Faith Fellowship, represented by members.

People of other churches support financially and as volunteers.

Anthony described the GSAE's work to connect people in churches with Communities in Schools' Prime Time Mentoring, which already provides the application process, background checks and training, so churches don't need to start a program.

"I have a heart to help children, the next generation," he said. "Children need help today, because many parents are busy. There are children on every block who need help."

Because he disliked school as a child, Anthony identifies with children who need mentoring. He lacked continuity, having attended 12 schools in 12 years. He married at 19 and entered the title insurance business.

Last fall, he began mentoring a fifth grade boy. At that time, there were 120 mentors. By spring, there were 217. Of 24 now in training, 22 are from churches.

"It's a way to get believers out of the pews and engaged in a meaningful way to change children's lives," he said. "We can reflect Christ's love to children."

"If homeless and poor grade schoolers have mentors, it improves their chances of graduating, finding a job or going to college," Anthony said.

Mentors come to school at lunch or recess to play checkers or just converse. They do not tutor or promote their religion.

"Children need a positive adult. Mentored children's attendance improves 75 percent. Investing in children can change their lives and Spokane's future," Anthony said, encouraging churches to engage with neighborhood schools.

Related to the need to build

men's ministries, Anthony said Prime Time Mentoring needs more men, because a higher percentage of those who need mentors are boys, yet a much higher percentage of those who volunteer to mentor are women.

The GSAE recently trained about 80 men at three different events.

For information, call 999-7050, email anthonyc@gsae.net or visit gsae.net.

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For more information, please contact Shar at slichty@pjals.org or 509-838-7870

Wildfire recovery in region will be done under different VOAD groups

By Kaye Hult

Once the initial disaster responders leave, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) provide communication and cooperation among faith-based, government and tribal agencies and other volunteer groups for long-term recovery.

Mike Bullard, chair of the Inland Northwest Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (INVOAD) recently told of recovery efforts since summer wildfires in Washington and Idaho.

INVOAD is focusing on Stevens County—especially around Colville—and in Central Idaho.

It also communicates with Washington VOAD (WAVOAD), which is arranging long-term recovery in Central Washington, including Okanogan County.

“They had a bigger situation, and link with groups in Seattle,” he said. “Including last year, 400 homes were destroyed by wildfires. Many were uninsured. They need to find and train people to interview survivors and match them with appropriate resources.”

The primary focus of the Red Cross is immediate relief, but they also work with the VOADs on long-term connections, said Mike who has served the church through disaster relief since he retired in 2009 after 16 years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Coeur d’Alene.

In Stevens County, 18 homes were destroyed. Mike went there to form a long-term recovery organization. He told what other communities have done, suggested a shape for their organization and gave ideas for bylaws.

Their goal is to create long-term recovery that brings together resources from as many different sources as possible to put people back into their homes, Mike said.

Idaho VOAD (IDVOAD) set up a multiple agency resource center where all the resource groups have a table, so victims can sign up for everything in one place.

INVOAD’s biggest job is in Central Idaho, where 60 homes were destroyed. It is working there with IDVOAD. Most are in remote areas where no insurance is available. Low-income homeowners could not afford insurance. Some live in house trailers.

Mike said there are special resources for five tribal homes, but not for others who lost everything.

The primary focus is on Kamiah. The town was saved, but wildfires came within two miles.



From the right, Janeane Leachman of New Hope Center and Mike Bullard of INVOAD train group to be disaster resource specialists.

“There are countless places where animals survived,” Mike said, “but owners lost a pump house and crops to feed them, or fences to contain them.”

Mike gave history on VOADs.

Originally, many independent federal agencies worked separately on disaster relief. President Jimmy Carter brought them together under the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). President George W. Bush brought FEMA under Homeland Security. FEMA can be a major funding resource in some declared disasters.

About 100 national partners work in the national VOAD. They include many Christian denominations and other faith groups. Each state has a VOAD.

FEMA works in the background, providing educational materials on disaster preparedness. It helps with planning and training, Mike said.

INVOAD works across the state line, relating to WAVOAD and IDVOAD to use resources closer than either state capitol.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief will train disaster case managers in both states from Oct. 13 to 15, at the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond. They learn to work with families to access resources.

A long-term Wildfire the Un-

met Needs Committee serving Clearwater, Idaho and Lewis Counties is receiving resources from the Unmet Needs Committee in Canada.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will hire two part time staff. Other staff will be hired by others.

For groups or individuals who want to be involved in disaster relief, Mike advises joining a VOAD before a disaster strikes.

He gave examples of some groups that work together:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping because there are many Presbyterian churches in the Kamiah area.
- Seventh Day Adventists manage supplies and materials.
- Southern Baptists bring and serve hot food in kitchen trucks.
- Samaritan’s Purse sends heavy equipment when needed.
- Mennonites and Amish send builders.
- Presbyterians offer emotional and spiritual care. They also help with long-term recovery and hospitality sites for volunteers.
- United Methodists, Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army have expertise in case-by-case management of resources.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assis-

tance has a national call center to match work groups, skills and projects. Building projects begin in the spring of 2016.

Next summer Mike expects to see individuals and teams from various churches working together on re-building homes.

“We need to understand disasters as a part of life,” Mike said. “It is reality because of population density, climate change, human-caused disasters, and technological and industrial hazards such as plane crashes, train derailments,

chemical explosions and crude oil shipments. There also will be natural disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes.”

He urges people to send items or money to organizations set up to disperse them as necessary.

He recommends the Red Cross, Stevens County Disaster Relief and Recovery at PO Box 289, Colville 99114, and the IDVOAD at PO Box 16761 in Boise 83705 for Kamiah.

For information, call (208) 659-2491 or mabullard@gmail.com.



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Media reformer led church to advocate for ethics, access, diversity in media

In September, broadcast media reformer, the Rev. Everett Parker, died at the age of 102. I knew him through communications workshops and national events of the United Church of Christ (UCC). In his role as director of the UCC Office of Communication from 1954 to 1983, he had an impact on my understandings of journalists' responsibilities.

He advocated for the public's rights related to media. His efforts contributed to coverage of and employment of women and people of color in broadcast media.

He is best known for his challenge to deny the renewal of the license of WLBT-TV in Jackson, Miss. In 1966, the federal circuit court ruled citizen groups have standing—the right to be heard and appeal to courts—before government regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Everett knew that because broadcasters, use public airwaves they are required to serve the "public interest" of all their constituents.

For years, the only blacks on Mississippi

TV were in police custody. In 1962, WLBT cut the broadcast of future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then the legal counsel for the NAACP, on the Today show.

Black leaders approached Everett, who organized a team in Jackson to monitor a week of WLBT programs to see if it complied. It did not. The UCC filed a petition for the FCC to deny renewal of the license. The FCC said neither the UCC nor local citizens had "legal standing" to influence renewal proceedings. The UCC appealed and won standing. The FCC renewed WLBT's license, so the UCC appealed, and the federal appeals court judge revoked the station's license.

The UCC Office of Communication began to monitor broadcast media employment and coverage practices. Stations began paying attention to their need to serve their entire constituency, particularly people of color. With UCC help, groups in hundreds of communities negotiated with stations for better coverage.

In an obituary, the Rev. J. Bennett

Guess, a former executive director of the UCC Office of Communication (OC), said Everett's "clarity and insistence that ethics, accessibility, diversity and social justice are central to, not peripheral to, a fair and effective media forever changed the landscape of broadcast journalism," skewing it "toward fuller inclusion."

Under Everett, the OC also led a public relations campaign that in 2012 won exoneration of the Wilmington 10, nine young black men and a white woman, falsely accused in 1972 of conspiracy and arson during racial turmoil in that city.

Linda Jaramillo, executive minister of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, said he "saw the institutionalization of racism and classism in the communications industry" and disrupted "unequal practices through public policy change."

Connie Larkman, managing editor and news director for the UCC, said Everett was "a leading force in the struggle to ensure that women, persons of color and low-income persons have equal access to

ownership, production, employment and decision-making in media."

These comments remind me that efforts for media reform must continue.

For example, we need new *The Black Lens*, because perspectives it covers are not in the mainstream media, but should be.

In all media, voices are limited by the definition of "news" by editors, publishers, directors and producers. Women and people of color may work in media, but voices they share still tend to be those of the corporate mindsets of what sells, entertains and is the most profitable.

Media have an obligation to be bearers of truth, not purveyors of polls, polarities, popularism and propaganda.

As was evident in the work of Everett's leadership in the United Church of Christ, the community of faith has an obligation to monitor media and call it to be accountable to all the people.

May people of faith continue the legacy of Everett Parker.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Global warming and the rising sea level require our action

While some ask if global warming is real or a scientific fiction, global warming has become the center of political, scientific, environmental, economic and social debate. Global warming is real. Humanity is already facing the worldwide impact of global warming. It affects everyone.

Scientists point to human activity as the main cause, leading to the rise of the sea level. This originates from the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities.

As a result, over the past centuries a huge amount of carbon dioxide became trapped in the atmosphere. These emissions have caused the Earth's surface temperature to rise, which causes the sea level to rise at an accelerated pace.

This rising of the sea level threatens low-lying coastal cities and low-lying islands. Small islands throughout all oceans are facing the problem directly. The islands of Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Solomons, Tonga, my home island, and others in the South Pacific, are already experiencing the con-

sequences first-hand.

Many people in these islands are increasingly vulnerable to flooding and the tides enveloping their land. As seawater reaches further inland, it causes destructive erosion, flooding wetlands, contaminating agricultural soil, and losing habitat for people, animals and plants.

Many people must abandon their homes and relocate to higher places, including migrating overseas. Some of the lowest-lying islands will be submerged completely within a few generations.

When I visited Alaska in August, I went to the Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjord National Park, several days before President Barack Obama was there. When I stepped into the icy, swift-flowing glacial stream, I thought these waters might eventually arrive to engulf my home islands in Tonga.

Obama's visit to Alaska was important in that it visibly and clearly showed that this leader has finally prioritized the discussion about global warming and climate

change. According to signs along the trail showing how much the glacier has melted each decade since the 1800s, I learned that during the last 10 to 15 years it had melted as much as during the previous 50 years.

Seeing in person how fast the glacier has melted in just a short time, and the damage that has already happened in the islands of the Pacific, for me there is no need to consult additional scientific evidence to prove the grave consequences of a warmer planet.

As a result of climate change, the Western states, including Washington and California, have faced one of the worst droughts and fire seasons in their history.

Scientists and environmentalists predict that if humanity continues our present lifestyles, using up resources unwisely, the warming of the planet will accelerate faster. Oceans will continue to rise faster. In that sense, we can only look forward to more damage and more devastation.

There is a call and a challenge for all of us. Our divine assigned task is to be stew-

ards and keepers of the land. We need to be more responsible in using our resources on a daily basis.

As Pope Francis remarked this week at the White House, "Climate change is a problem that we can no longer leave for the future generations."

It is already happening, and it has begun to damage our home, the planet Earth.

Therefore, we must act now, beginning by making small and big changes in how we lead our daily lives not only to reduce pollution but also to provide a healthier environment and society.

Each and every single person should act more responsibly, respectfully and carefully toward creation and other people in order for the planet and for us to survive.

Ikani Fakasiieiki
Guest editorial writer

Ikani graduated with a PhD in May in biblical studies from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

Perspective

Sounding Board

Refugee Crisis

National and World Councils of Churches offer perspectives on refugee crisis

The world must address the plight of refugees streaming out of Syria and other countries, but we must also think beyond the current crisis, urged Doris Peschke, general secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME).

"We need to look at integration which is a two-way process," she explained. "There needs to be a framework to enable people to make a safe passage and to overcome language barriers to become part of society. It is at least as important to prepare that society, which fears change, to become welcoming and open."

She calls for a long-term view related to people's hesitations to accept refugees

CCME cooperates with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and other ecumenical organizations in responding to the refugee crisis. It has for many years promoted the vision of an inclusive community through advocating for an adequate policy for migrants, refugees and minority groups.

Doris urges seeing refugees as human beings, not as numbers or political representations.

CCME's "Safe Passage" campaign seeks to connect local work in border monitoring with political advocacy for a humane asylum and migration policy, so people are not driven into smuggling and criminal networks.

"We cannot let people travel in life-threatening conditions. We cannot force

them to climb fences, swim through difficult water, and risk family separation on the way to and through Europe," she said.

The crisis has been building over years with the refugee flow from Syria to neighboring countries steadily going on because the situation in the country has further escalated, and life in refugee camps is not bearable.

People simply want what every society wants for its children: the ability to survive and thrive.

"People hope for a better situation in other countries. They want their children to attend good schools and make it further in their lives. This is very human and very normal," Doris said.

She urges people in congregations to talk to an agency assisting refugees.

Once people meet refugees, she believes they begin to see how those coming into their country can become integral parts of society, she said. "I think every person can do something. People should not have to stay on the streets with no food, no water, no shelter. I have seen people working with churches and agencies helping refugees by staying with their children for the afternoon, listening to people who need to talk about their stories, or doing things together, even going to a concert or a sports match. These can become precious moments for both, newcomers and resident citizens."

Soon, the label "refugee" begins to evaporate and people begin to connect on

a basis of mutual respect, said Peschke. "The biggest help can be trying to accompany people as they reach a new sense of normalcy in their lives."

Susan Kim, a freelance writer from Laurel, Maryland - for the World Council of Churches news

Recently a special issue of the National Council of Churches of Christ USA newsletter focused on the refugee crisis in Europe and the church's response to it.

Sometimes, it's challenging to differentiate between refugees and migrants. In my own family, some came to the United States in the wake of the 1848 revolutions that swept across Europe. We're not sure if they were refugees fleeing political persecution or if they were migrants.

Another branch of the family were Scots Irish who made the trek from Scotland through Ireland and on to America. They made their way down the Appalachians to North Carolina and eventually on to Arkansas and Oklahoma. We don't know if they were rebels against the English Crown or were victims of the Enclosure Movement. They might have been refugees, and they may have been migrants.

It is likely that the current refugee crisis unfolding in Europe is the worst to occur in my lifetime.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says in Article 14, "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries

asylum from persecution." Article 15 says: "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality." Put simply, migration is a basic right that belongs to all.

The movement of human populations from one place to another on the globe has been continual for eons and it's not about to stop whether walls and fences are constructed or laws are passed. People will seek a better life for themselves and their children whenever and wherever they can.

The first time I traveled to the Philippines I arrived in the middle of the night and caught a taxi into downtown Manila. When we pulled up to a stoplight, I was startled to see a child of perhaps 12, the age of my own daughter, holding an infant, standing right next to my window and asking for money. As I moved to lower the window, the taxi driver yelled at me not to do so. He warned me if I were to give her assistance the taxi would be instantly surrounded by others in need. I'm sure if she could see a way to migrate to a place where she could find a better life for herself and her child, she would take it, just like my own ancestors did.

Spiritually, we were once slaves in Egypt and it is incumbent upon us to welcome the stranger, the foreigner, the migrant and the refugees. It's as simple and complicated as that.

Jim Winkler President and General Secretary of the NCCC-USA

Calendar of Events

- Sept 26- Nov 1 • **Chinese Lantern Festival**, food, cultural performances, historic displays, children's activities, Riverfront Park, Sundays to Thursdays 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 5 to 11 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., spokanelanternfestival.com
- Oct 1 • **YWCA Women of Achievement Benefit Luncheon**, Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., ywcaspokane.org
- **"Leadership and Diversity in the 21st Century,"** Jamie Washington, president of the Washington Consulting Group and president of the Social Justice Training Institute, SAC 249, EWU Riverpoint campus, 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Oct 2 • **Boomers and Beyond, Aging Successfully** Conference, Spokane Convention Center, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 800-325-SEAT
- Oct 3 • **Mennonite Country Auction and Sale**, Menno Mennonite Church, Ritzville, 659-0926
- Oct 3-4 • **Spokane's Renaissance Faire**, Lazy K Ranch, 5906 E. Woolard Rd., Colbert, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 879-4006
- Oct 4 • **St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 10:45 a.m.
- **President Ellen Johnson Sirlleaf** of Liberia, Gonzaga University Presidential Speaker Series, McCarthy Center, 7 to 9 p.m.
- Oct 4-5 • **Roger Williams Symposium**, Sr. Simone Campbell, "Nuns on the Bus," View Room Gladish Center, 6 p.m.
- Oct 5 • **"Minimizing Implicit Bias in Education Settings,"** Dena Samuels, director of the Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 300 W. Hawthorne, 7 p.m., 777-4215
- Oct 7 • **Eastern Washington University Internship and Volunteer Fair**, Myrtle and Walter Powers Room, Hargreaves Hall, EWU, Cheney 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Oct 8 • **"Creating a Culture of Accessibility,"** Spokane Falls Community Center, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Oct 9 • **"Remember the River,"** H2KNOW, Spark Center at Kendall Yards, 1214 W. Summit Parkway, 5 to 7 p.m., john@waterplanet.ws
- Oct 9-10 • **"Journeying Towards Forgiveness,"** Women's Healing and Empowerment Network, Spokane Women's Club, 1428 W. 9th, 7 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 323-2123, www.whennetwork.com
- Oct 9-18 • **"Weaving Our Sisters' Voices,"** dance, music and poetry about women from Scripture written by Linda Schearing, directed by Suzanne Ostersmith with music by Robert Spittal, Magnuson Theatre at Gonzaga University, Oct. 9 at 8:30 p.m., Oct., 10, 16, & 17 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 10, 11, & 18 at 2 p.m., 313-6553, gonzaga.edu/theatreanddance
- Oct 10 • **World Relief's Annual Gala Dinner**, DoubleTree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Blvd, 6 p.m., 484-9829, worldreliefspokane.org
- Oct 10, 11 • **"American Wonders,"** Spokane Symphony Classics, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 8 p.m., Saturday, 3 p.m., Sunday
- Oct 11 • **Bishop's Brunch**, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 358-4254
- Oct 12 • **"Honoring Diversity or Homogenizing Identities,"** Hispanic Heritage Month Lecture, Nydia Martinez, Eastern Washington University professor of Latin American history and Chicana/o Studies, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth 7 p.m., 359.6058 / nbryant2@ewu.edu
- **"Breaking the Barriers: Being the First Latina, Asian, LGBT, Justice in the Washington State Supreme Court,"** Justice Mary Yu, Hixon Union Building, Whitworth, 4 p.m., 777-4215, whitworth.edu
- **"Women and Video Games,"** Carolyn Cunningham, International Day of the Girl, Jepson's Wolff Auditorium, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., cunninghamc@gonzaga.edu
- Oct 12-14 • **2015 Spokane Regional Leaders Prayer Summit**, Ross Point Camp and Conference Center in Post Falls, 951-1308, dgrether@gmail.com
- Oct 13 • **"Bringing an Accessible Culture to Life: Creating Accessible Online Documents**, Spokane Community College, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **Annual People Who Care - 20 Years**, Transitions Benefit, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W North River Dr., 11:30 a.m., 328-6702, help4Women.org
- **"Education Technology and a Culture of Access: What Is Your Role?"** WSU Spokane, 2 to 3 p.m.
- **An Evening with WM Paul Young**, The Bing, 901 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., 838-0206
- Oct 14 • **Silent Day of Prayer: The Mysteries of our Lives,"** Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224
- Oct 15 • **"YWCA Race/Social Justice Committee**, 4 p.m., 326-1199, ywcaspokane.org
- **"A Force More Powerful: The Salt March"** Screening, Magic Lantern Theater, 25 W. Main, 7 p.m., pjals.org
- Oct 16 • **"Walk the Talk,"** James Meredith, civil rights writer and activist, Human Rights Education Institute, North Idaho College Schuler Performing Arts Center, Boswell Hall, Coeur d'Alene, 6:30 p.m., 208-292-2359, lmanning@hrei.org
- Oct 17 • **"Finding the Center,"** An Action-Oriented Human Rights Conference with James Meredith, author of *A Mission from God*, Northwest Coalition for Human Rights, University of Idaho, Moscow, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., workshops, dinner, book signing, kfaunce@roadrunner.com, jamesmeredith.eventbrite.com
- **"Building a Legacy"** genealogy workshop, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Spokane East Stake, 9 a.m. to 3:14 p.m.
- Oct 18 • **James Meredith**, Silverthorne Theater, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, 2 to 3:30 p.m., dftzgerald@lsc.edu
- Oct 19 • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- Oct 20 • **Becky O'Neil McBrayer**, Murder Victims Families Reconciliation speaker, Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group, St. Aloysius O'Malley Hall, 330 E. Boone, 6 to 8 p.m., 838-7879, pjals.org
- Oct 21 • **"The Mask You Live in,"** Jundt Auditorium at Gonzaga, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 22 • **Inland Northwest Conference** for the Greater Good, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 855-299-2922, inwconference.org
- Oct 23-25 • **Byzantine Healing Retreat**, "Transfigured by Grace," Fr. John Marquis, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd, 448-1224
- Oct 24 • **Celebration of 125 Years in Spokane** for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, St. Charles Parish, 4515 N. Alberta, 11 a.m. Mass, 483-3810, osf125thanniversary@yahoo.com
- **Compost & Leaf Fair**, Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6580, spokanesolidwaste.org
- **"Sharing Our World Auction,"** Refugee Connections Spokane Benefit, Community Building, 35 W. Main Ave., 5 to 9 p.m., 209-2384
- Oct 27 • **Dinner Series on the Reformation**, "Solutions Offered by Various Reformers," Michael Maher, SJ, Gonzaga history department, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 448-1224
- Oct 28 • **Faith Action Network**, "What Kind of State Do You Want to Live in?" Timm Ormsby, Salem Lutheran Church, 1928 W Broadway, 6:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org
- **Fig Tree Distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th and Grand, 9 a.m. 535-4112
- Oct 30 • **"The Media Circus on Campaign Coverage: Is There Room for Democracy?"** Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media Media Literacy Salon, Community building Lobby, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 1 • **Lutheran Community Services NW** Fundraising Lunch, Mukogawa Commons, 400 W. Randolph, 12:30 to 3 p.m., 343-5020, cmckee@lcsnw.org
- Nov 5 • **The Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meetings**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 12 benefit, 1 board, 535-4112
- Nov 7 • **NAACP Annual Freedom-Fund Banquet**, Northern Quest Casino, Airway Heights, 7 p.m., 209-2425, spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- Nov 9 • **Flannery Lecture**, "Evolution and the Power of Lava," Sr. Iliia Delio, OSF, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 6:30 p.m., 313-6782

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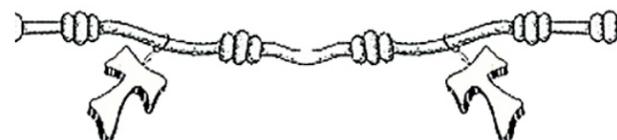
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Sisters' ministries today serve women, children and families needs

Continued from page 1

Jesuits sent a plea to Philadelphia in 1892 for Sisters to open a school in Tekoa, where there was then no church. Five Sisters came that summer and three more came later. They opened Mt. St. Joseph Academy on Oct. 23 with 10 boarding students and 25 day students.

The school grew to more than 200 boarders and many day students. The sisters raised funds for the school.

When automobiles came to the West and railroads declined in the 1940s, the need for boarding schools declined. At the end of the 1950 school year, the school closed, said Sr. Joanne.

Bishop Charles Daniel White asked the Sisters to staff the new school at St. Charles Parish in North Spokane, the diocese's first new parish in 35 years. They started Sept. 1, 1951, with four Sisters from Tekoa offering the first four grades, with plans to add a grade a year. By 1954, the parish had more than 700 families and the school began to expand—eventually to two classrooms with 45 to 50 students each.

In the late 1960s, a convent was built at the far end of the school, said Sr. Elaine Thaden, then principal. With a lack of religious personnel, the Sisters withdrew by 1987. The school continues as a strong parish school, she said.

In 1943, St. Anne's Baby and Maternity Home began when the diocese saw a need to care for infants. It purchased the Florence Crittenton Home for Infants. Bishop White asked the Sisters to administer it as a temporary residence for infants. Catholic Charities placed many in adoptive or foster homes.

St. Anne's also cared for babies and children up to four years old, children of women working in war efforts. A maternity home for unwed mothers was added and in 1970 the Sisters at St. Anne's began caring for handicapped children from birth to 17, along with offering respite for families of handicapped children living at home.

When maternity service ceased in 1978, the program for handicapped children expanded.

By May 1983, with no Sister able to assume directorship, the Sisters withdrew. St. Anne's Children and Family Center continues today under lay leadership.

Another ministry started in 1956, when Bishop Bernard Topel recognized a need for Catholic children, who could not attend Catholic schools, to learn the faith. He asked the Sisters of St. Francis for two Sisters, Sr. Maurina and Sr. Presentina, who



Sr. Elaine Thaden, Sr. Joanne Clavel, Sr. Patricia Novak and Sr. Pat Millen stand with Spokane Catholic Bishop Thomas Daly after a recent event at the Holy Names Convent.

were in the Baker, Ore., diocese, to come to Spokane and start their Confraternity of Christian Doctrine schools (CCD) here.

They lived at St. Joseph Orphanage and worked at the Chancery, traveling throughout the diocese to Metaline Falls, Ione, Colville, Oroville, Tonasket, Othello, Pullman, Coulee Dam and Wilbur. They led teacher-training classes and set up schools of religion, which offered formal classes.

They used the "On our Way" catechetical series by Sr. Maria de la Cruz, HHS, but supplemented that program with their own workbooks, which they wrote, published and mailed around the U.S. and worldwide.

"In 1960, these Sisters received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal from Pope XXIII for their untiring and devoted service to the religious education of Catholic youth outside of Catholic schools," said Sr. Joanne. "In 1971, they retired and returned to Philadelphia."

In 1971, at the invitation of Msgr. David Rosage, Sr. Florence Poch started Kairos House of Prayer on the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center grounds. In 1976, with the help of Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ, a farm house on 27 acres was purchased in the Wandermere area. For 39 years, she has welcomed individuals and groups to this contemplative, interfaith ministry of prayer.

"People seeking silence and respite from the busy world come to hear the quiet voice of a God of love," said Sr. Florence.

In the 1970s, Washington State changed the way it took care of children in need, and required St. Joseph's Orphanage to provide group homes for children and to keep siblings together. The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia built five houses behind the former four-story brick orphanage, which became St. Joseph Children's Home.

In 1982, with the state's decision to place children in foster home, the mission of St. Joseph Children's Home ended.

Seeking ways to continue to minister to children and families, after months of discernment, prayer and planning, the Sisters started what is now St. Joseph Family Center in buildings of the home.

Their idea was for it to be a holistic center of healing, attending to body, mind and spirit with professional counseling, spirituality and healing arts programs.

"I am aware I am walking in the footsteps of the first Sisters who came to Spokane in 1890," said Sr. Joanne, who coordinates financial and human resources for the center. "Our ministries are the same: to help families in need."

Sr. Patricia Novak, who taught at St. Charles School, later did vocational ministry for eight years. That gave her a foundation for her

spiritual ministry at The Franciscan Place of St. Joseph Family Center. She develops and facilitates programs and retreats, as well as being a spiritual director.

She said she shares God's unconditional love and the contemplative spirit she experienced growing up in Klamath Falls, where she was taught by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

"People are looking for space and time to experience the beautiful, quiet and holy, which they can do at the Franciscan Place," Sr. Patricia said.

Sr. Elaine, who was director of the center for eight years, retired five years ago to do spiritual direction and vocation promotion.

Sr. Pat Millen, who was a board member for a number

of years, was hired as the new director.

In 1995, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia joined Sisters of the Holy Names, Sinsinawa Dominicans and Sisters of Providence to minister with homeless women and children.

Sisters of St. Francis have ministered at the Women's Hearth, a daytime drop-in center for women. St. Joseph Family Center sends a counselor to teach classes that promote mental health. While no Sister of St. Francis is in direct service at Transitions, the congregation has two members on the board and supports it financially.

Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia's associate program, "Companions in Mission," are Christian women and men who share in the Sisters' spirit and mission through prayer support, participation in the Sisters' faith activities and ministering with the sisters.

In Spokane, a Companions in Faith group meets monthly with the Sisters to pray, study Franciscan theology and support each other.

"The underlying thread of the past 125 years has been the trust the Sisters have in God's faithfulness," Sr. Joanne said.

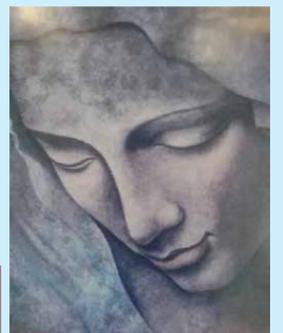
"While we celebrate all that has been in the past, we say 'yes' to all that the future holds as we place our trust in the same God who long ago called the Sisters of St. Francis from Philadelphia to the city that is now Spokane," she said.

For information, call 270-3616.

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