

**CELEBRATING
OUR 30TH YEAR**

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Providence sister builds community ties - p. 8



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

Survivor's story is one of 52,000 testimonies

By Mary Stamp

Irene Boehm survived World War II and the Holocaust in Hungary by hiding her identity when she moved from her small village, Olaszliszka, near the Czech border to Budapest and then to a villa on the Danube.

In Budapest, she convinced her landlady, who often derided Jews, to let "a friend"—actually her sister Margaret—move in. When Irene went to care for an older woman in a villa 60 kilometers south of Budapest, Irene again was silent when that woman also voiced anti-Jewish sentiments.

When Margaret moved out of the room in Budapest, she thanked the landlady for saving a Jew: her. Later the landlady saw Irene on the street and exclaimed her horror at learning Irene's "friend" was a Jew: Irene said, "She is my sister. I am a Jew, too." The landlady ran off.

Irene felt a sense of victory after years of using false papers and concocting stories to hide her identity.

Irene will be among the Holocaust survivors who will light candles during the Yom Hashoah service at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 27, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

"Saving Our Culture: Rescuing



Irene Boehm with a photo of her younger sister, Ilyona.

Children from the Nazis" is the theme of keynote speaker Stephen Adler, a Jewish child survivor through the Kindertransport and part of the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center's Speakers Bureau.

The service will include reading winning high school and middle school entries in the Eva Lassman Memorial Creative Writing Contest and music by the Ferris High School Ensemble.

In a recent interview, Irene shared her story.

Irene lost her parents, brother, a sister, brother-in-law and two nephews at Auschwitz.

Because she escaped detection, she feels guilt that she did not suffer as others did. She used her wits and lies to survive.

"I would not want to go through a war again," Irene said.

In 2004, Steven Spielberg commended her for participating in the 10th Anniversary of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, an archive compiled since 1994 with testimonies of 52,000 Holocaust survivors.

Youth and adults can watch video of their stories in schools, libraries, museums and universities around

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CROP Walk is one thing people can do to help alleviate hunger

Because he believes that if everyone does a small part people's lives can improve locally and globally, Randy Goss has participated in CROP Hunger Walks in Spokane for 15 years and is now chair of the planning committee.

Spokane's 2014 CROP Hunger Walk begins with registration at noon, Sunday, April 27, at The Lair at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St. The walk, which begins at 1:30 p.m., crosses the Greene St. Bridge, follows the Centennial Trail to Mission Park and returns.

"In the U.S., walking is about

pleasure, but in other parts of the world, it's a matter of life and death," Randy said. "The walk is an opportunity to reflect on how easy we have it. If we are hungry, we go to the refrigerator for food. If we are thirsty, we turn on a water faucet.

"Our goal is to build awareness and a sense of community with other people," he said.

The idea for the CROP Walk started after World War II when farmers sent grain to Europe. Originally "CROP" was an acronym for "Christian Rural Overseas Program." Today, "CROP"

is the name of the program, not an acronym.

Since the Spokane CROP Hunger Walk started in 1979, walks have raised more than \$400,000. Randy reported. It's the oldest CROP Hunger Walk in the Pacific Northwest.

In some communities, more than 500 people walk. That many once participated in Spokane.

Five years ago was the best walk in the years Randy has been involved. It raised \$33,000.

In recent years, the CROP Hunger Walk has had fewer participants as some churches that were traditionally involved have become smaller and closed, he said. Some supporters now come as individuals. They make donations and walk.

"Some people come every year," Randy said.

This is the third year at The Lair at Spokane Community College. Last year the walk raised more than \$13,000 and the previous year nearly \$12,000.

Randy said that doing the CROP Walk is a way "to show solidarity

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30th Anniversary Dinner features ecumenical leader

The Fig Tree will celebrate its 30 years of publication during its Anniversary Dinner at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, at the Whitworth University HUB Multipurpose Room.

Long-time Fig Tree reader Michael Kinnamon, educator on, author about and leader in the ecumenical movement globally and nationally, will speak on "Telling Stories of Belonging Together: Ecumenism as a Movement of Communication."

Michael is now visiting professor in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.

Believing that ecumenism is more about relationships than about dialogue and documents, he finds that The Fig Tree conveys in its stories relationships that give rise to reconciliation.

The program of the 30th Anniversary Dinner will include an overview of stories with a liturgical dance, music and reflections on The Fig Tree story, its life today and future directions by Mary Stamp, editor, who co-founded the publication in 1984 with Holy Names Sister Bernadine Casey.

A 1967 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism, Mary participated in the World Council of Churches graduate study semester near Geneva, Switzerland, with 60 people from 40 countries in 1969-70, establishing her ecumenical commitment.

Mary has worked for daily, weekly and monthly newspapers writing human-interest features, covering Palouse agricultural and historical stories, and starting a similar ecumenical newspaper in Fresno, Calif.

The board of the Spokane Christian Coalition invited her to

Continued on page 3

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
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Fax: +41-22 788 7244 www.oikoumene.org

WCC pleased at release of kidnapped Syrian nuns

World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit said prayer by Christians around the world was answered with release of Greek Orthodox nuns from the Convent of St. Thecla. Kidnapped by rebels in December 2013 in the Syrian Christian town of Maaloula, they were freed as part of a prisoner exchange. Olav said it raises hope that two archbishops and three priests who were kidnapped last year will be freed.

Olav invites prayers for an "end to armed conflict in Syria" and "for all people affected by the indiscriminate violence and humanitarian calamity in Syria."

Water Network urges pilgrimage towards water justice

The "Seven Weeks for Water" campaign of weekly Lenten reflections, raising awareness about access to water and sanitation, invites faith-based organizations and individuals around the world to join a "pilgrimage towards water justice." Launched by the WCC's Ecumenical Water Network in 2008, the campaign includes World Water Day March 22 and Lent.

Biblical reflections and ideas for activities are posted on oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water. Dinesh Suna, the network's coordinator, said the theme is inspired by a call from the WCC 10th Assembly in Busan, Republic of Korea, last fall to join in pilgrimage. The reflections focus on injustice against more than a third of the world's people who lack access to water and sanitation.

"We have moved a long way in our pilgrimage towards water justice. In 2010 the United Nations declared water and sanitation are human rights," he said. "Now the focus is on implementation.

"Survival depends on access to clean water. When market forces converted water into 'blue gold,' life-giving water became a commodity, making thirst a perennial reality," said George Zachariah of the Mar Thoma Church in India in his reflection. "Water has become a commodity with a price tag" and common resources, such as "lakes and rivers are auctioned to multinational corporations." He said it imperative for churches and communities to "initiate a new pilgrimage towards water justice."

Rockford, Ill., bars church from welcoming homeless

Even though it was 20 degrees in Rockford, Ill., one recent night, the city ordered the Apostolic Pentecostal Church to stop sheltering the homeless for zoning violations. All winter, it has opened its doors to the homeless on freezing nights. About 50 people have sought refuge. The church is acting on its belief that "God favors those who are cold, hungry, outcast and excluded," said Faithful America, an online community of Christians advocating for social justice. "Those seeking shelter have no other options on cold nights, so barring the church from welcoming them could cost lives."

Egyptian artist speaks at The Fox

Mohamed Abla, an Egyptian artist and an activist for freedom, democracy and human rights, will talk on "The Power of Art in the Egyptian Revolution" at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 17, at Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, 1001 W. Sprague. A reception and exhibit will follow.

He participated in Tahrir Square demonstrations that led to the Egyptian Revolution and in demonstrations since, using his art.

He is on the 50-member committee drafting the new constitution. His artwork mirrors the transition since the revolution.

Abla uses art to build an alliance of understanding and friendship between people of all cultures and faiths, especially the people of

the West and Middle East.

His appearance at The Fox is sponsored by the Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, founder and president of CARAVAN, an initiative to use arts to build understanding and respect among creeds and cultures of the East and West—Christian, Muslim and Jewish. He was rector of Cairo's Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist from 2003 to 2013.

Creativity and communication are keys to ending violence, Abla maintains: "When many in our world today, including in my own country, directly or indirectly encourage sectarian tension, it is critical that 'creative demonstrations of dialogue' be created."

For information, call 464-7071.

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REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Mayor launches Spokane Gives Week

Spokane Mayor David Condon launched Spokane Gives, a weeklong community initiative to encourage and celebrate volunteerism and inspire people to volunteer year-round.

From April 12 to 19, United Way of Spokane, Empire Health Foundation and the city will coordinate volunteer opportunities through the SpokaneGives.org

website, where people can sign up. Individuals, groups and organizations can register opportunities and events on the site.

"Volunteers are an important part of the fabric of this community," said Tim Henkel, president and CEO of United Way. "We count on them every day."

Cleaning from the Core will kick off the week at 8 a.m.,

Saturday, April 12. About 400 volunteers will sweep downtown sidewalks, clear debris from flower beds, pick up garbage, cover graffiti and prepare the city to host upcoming events.

Volunteers who register on SpokaneGives.org by April 7 will receive a free t-shirt.

For information, visit SpokaneGives.org.

Responsible Media group holds video contest

The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media is holding a video contest, "Do You Buy It?" for students ages 13 to 18. The deadline is April 28 and winners will be shown at the 4th Avenue Teen Film Festival on May 2.

Students will create a one-

three-minute video that shows how media impacts them for better or worse. The video may answer questions such as:

- Are ads believable?
- Do video games make someone more violent?
- Is watching too much TV bad?

• Do people question what's in their news feed?

• How does one know if a Facebook profile is fake?

• How does media affect the wellbeing of children and youth?

For information, visit nwa-responsiblemedia.org.

Second Harvest plans resource fair April 17

Second Harvest's Annual Partner Agency Conference will be from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17, at the Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd.

The conference brings educa-

tion and information to more than 250 nonprofit organizations that feed hungry people in Second Harvest's 21-county service area in Eastern Washington and five counties in North Idaho, helping them better educate and serve

their clients, said Jandy Doak, member services coordinator at Second Harvest.

"If someone needs food, they need other resources," she said.

For information, call 252-6252 or email jdoak@2-harvest.org.

Meet your Farmer event connects farmers and people

Between the Ridges, a partnership of Christ Episcopal Church, Just Living Farm and Toppenish United Methodist Church, is hosting "Meet Your Farmer" from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday April 6, Bella Terra Gardens in Zillah, Wash.

The pre-season event is a time for members of congregations and the community to build relationships with local small farmers and explore buying products directly, said David Hacker, a priest at Christ Episcopal Church.

"We will raise money to feed people through programs at the Campbell Farm, Noah's Ark Homeless Shelter and the Yakama Christian Mission to help them

support local small farmers and incorporate local healthy food into their programs," he said.

"We will explore and celebrate the relationship between faith and food, and seek to model a sustain-

able food system in which all can share in the blessing of God's creation," David said.

For information, call 961-4692 or email David.Hacker916@gmail.com.



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Talk set on reading little stories into the big story

Coffee and Contemplation, an ecumenical discussion and prayer event, will feature Jerry Sittser, Whitworth professor and author, at 9 a.m., Wednesday, April 16, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd. He will discuss how people can read their own stories redemptively by understanding them in light of the "big story" of redemption.

For information, call 448-1224.

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Editorial Team

Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Directory Editor - Malcolm Haworth
Website Developer - Lorna Kropp
Editing - Eugenie Alexander, Diane Crow, Mary Mackay & Sara Weaver

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Ecumenical Tenebrae Prayer Service

Good Friday, April 18 - 7 p.m.

The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
127 E. 12th Ave.

Episcopal Bishop James Waggoner Jr.

Catholic Bishop Blase Cupich

Christ Holy Sanctified Bishop Walt Mize

Presbytery Executive Sheryl Kinder-Pyle

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Anniversary Dinner program will recognize contribution of The Fig Tree

Continued from page 1

form a Communications Committee with Sister Bernadine.

“The goal was to facilitate communication among congregations to build cooperation and understanding, and to inspire people through stories of how people live out their faith in this region,” said Mary. “Starting as an entrepreneurial effort with little funding was a venture in faith.”

The Fig Tree drew a few national denominational grants and began developing its base of support through advertising

and sponsors. When there was a transition in the leadership of the coalition, which had become the Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries, The Fig Tree committee opted to become an independent nonprofit so it would have an independent voice in covering religion. It incorporated in 2001 and has grown steadily since.

Over the years, hundreds of people have served on the staff or as freelance writers, editors, web designers, board members, interns and volunteers, and more than 1,000 individuals, congrega-

tions, nonprofits and businesses have been advertisers.

As the ecumenical council became the Spokane InterFaith Council, The Fig Tree absorbed some of the programs, such as the annual Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources and the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference. Malcolm Haworth joined and continues on the staff as directory editor and ecumenical coordinator.

As websites became important, The Fig Tree began publishing online, as well as in

print. Lorna Kropp is webmaster.

Holy Names Sisters have consistently been part of The Fig Tree communications ministry before and since Sr. Bernadine’s death in 2007. Sister Rose Theresa Costello has helped with archives and mailings. Mary Ann Farley, SNJM, is moderator of the Board of Directors.

The Fig Tree is selling tickets for \$50 for the buffet dinner, speech and program.

For tickets, call 535-1813 or email mary@thefigtree.org. Board members also have tickets.

Ministers’ Fellowship plans services during Holy Week

The Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship will hold Holy Week Services this year at 6:45 p.m. each day at Morning Star Baptist Church, 3909 W. Rowan.

The Rev. Roberta Wilburn, president of the Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship, will preach at the Easter Sunrise Service at 6 a.m., Sunday, April 20, at Morningstar Baptist.

Pastor Jimmy Pierce, former pastor of Unspeakable Joy Christian Fellowship and recent past president of the Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship, will be bringing the word for the opening services on Monday night.

Pastor Lonnie Mitchell of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church will be the speaker for the Tuesday service.

Pastor A.S. Rhodes of Mt. Olive Baptist Church will speak, sharing leadership with Holy Temple Church of God in Christ on Wednesday.

Assistant Pastor Amos Atkinson of Calvary Baptist Church and the Rev. Aaron Davis of Morning Star Baptist will conduct the service on Thursday.

Refreshing Springs Church of God in Christ will lead the Friday worship with Pastor Buchanan speaking.

The host pastor for the services is Walter Kendricks, the new pastor at Morningstar Baptist Church.

For information, call 777-4603, email spokaneministersfellowship@gmail.com or visit www.spokaneministersfellowship.angelfire.com.

Area groups plan Earth Day events

Earth Day Spokane returns to Riverfront Park

The national theme for Earth Day 2014 is “Green Cities.”

Earth Day Spokane will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at Riverfront Park, partnering with the City of Spokane to celebrate work being done to protect the region’s earth, water and air, and recognize the 40th Anniversary of Expo ’74, the first World’s Fair with an environmental theme.

“As we showcase progress in the past four decades, we will highlight work that is still to come,” said Kerry Costigan, a volunteer with Earth Day Spokane.

Through Earth Day, organizers hope people will learn how to continue to empower citizens to work for environmental protection.

“We are gathering support from the city, businesses, nonprofits and individuals,” said Kerry.

She invites educators to inform Earth Day organizers what local schools are doing.

Children can be involved:

- For the Procession of the Species Recycled Mask Project, “we invite students to explore how humans interact with the environment every day. Students can use recycled materials to create a mask representing a creature of the earth, water or air, and bring these masks to Earth Day to wear

them during the 2014 Procession of the Species.

- Student and adult volunteers are needed for activities.

- There are booths for school groups to showcase green projects or Earth Day demonstrations.

Bart Makailovich of Spokane Riverkeeper, who has been involved with Earth Day for several years, said the return to Riverfront Park from W. Main is part of the 40th anniversary of Expo ’74.

“There will be demonstration areas on land, water and air, to educate people on ways to be involved in improving the environment,” he said.

There will be a children’s area, a reading room and a video room with the idea of increasing participation of children.

“Expo ’74 uncovered the park and river, which had been covered with railroad tracks and factories,” he said. “Earth Day will introduce a master plan for changes to Riverfront Park.”

As in previous years, there will be concerts all day and a few speakers. The event will include a farmers’ market.

“For me, it’s a celebration. It’s good to have a day set aside nationally and locally to recognize environmental issues and people working on them,” said Bart.

For information, call 208-755-5323 or email kerry.costigan@gmail.com or visit earthdayspokane.org.

CdA Earth Day is April 19

The Kootenai County Environmental Alliance and Coeur d’Alene Tribe are planning “Green Up CDA Earth Day Celebration” with yoga, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, food, presentations and information from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at the Coeur d’Alene Library, 702 E Front St. in Coeur d’Alene.

Sandpoint plans its celebration

The Sandpoint Earth Day Celebration is from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at the Forrest Bird Charter School, 614 S. Madison, with food, music, demonstrations, crafts, wildlife displays and displays from organizations. For information, call 208-265-9565.

Bonnars Ferry holds fair

An Earth Day Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Boundary County Fairgrounds in Bonners Ferry will educate, inspire and encourage the community toward greener, sustainable living practices. Participants will share ideas on reducing, recycling, reusing and sustainability. For information, call 208-290-2720 or email colet@frontier.com.

Our Kids: Our Business starts on April 9

Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, founder and director of the Trauma Stewardship Institute and author of *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*, will speak at the Our Kids: Our Business kickoff luncheon and training from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, at the Integra Ballroom of the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. There will be a training session from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Convention Center’s Conference Theater. For information, visit www.okob2014.eventbrite.com.

Church hosts genealogy symposium in April 26

A Remembering Generations – Family Search Symposium from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10405 W. Melville Rd. in Cheney, offers 30 classes on genealogy and family history to help people solve family history mysteries. Experts and beginners share their knowledge on genealogy and family history techniques. For information, call 509-838-6489 or visit rememberinggenerations.com.

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SEND \$50 to The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202

CROP Walk organizer values opportunity to give locally and globally

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with brothers and sisters around the world who walk every day for food, wood and water. Mostly it's women and girls who walk about five miles two or three times a day to get water."

With funds, Church World Service develops community wells to provide drinking water and provides livestock, so girls can go to school and improve their lives, he said.

Funds also fight hunger in the United States.

"Have you ever gone to bed hungry? Have you ever kissed your children goodnight to have them sleep in the back seat of your car?" he asked.

"The local needs are great. There is so much to do in our back yards," said Randy, who also volunteers at the Mead Food Bank and the New Hope Resource Center.

In addition, he donates left-over building materials from his construction business, R.W. Goss Construction, to Habitat for Humanity Spokane.

Randy participated in two walks in Santa Rosa, Calif., near where he grew up in Sebastapol, before he moved to Spokane in 1992. He had served four years in the Air Force at Fairchild at the end of the Vietnam War, went into construction in 1976 and earned a journeyman certificate in 1979 when the housing market in Santa Rosa declined. Then he was a deputy sheriff with the Marin



Randy Goss gears up for the 2014 CROP Hunger Walk.

County Sheriff's Department for eight years. In 1991, he earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies, education and Native American studies at Sonoma State University.

When he first came to Spokane, he did substitute teaching while his construction and remodeling business grew.

Randy saw an ad for the CROP Walk and soon was on the steering committee, then was co-chair with Sylvia Barney for several years.

This is his third year as chair.

Randy did not attend church until he met his wife, Janis, in 1972. They married in 1973 and were active in a Presbyterian church in Santa Rosa, becoming ordained deacons. When they moved to Spokane, they attended Whitworth Presbyterian, where they were deacons and among the charter members sent from that church to start Colbert Presbyterian, where he has served on building and grounds, finance and

mission committees.

"I'm passionate about what CWS does globally and our keeping 25 percent of proceeds local. This year proceeds will go to Family Promise and Greater Spokane Meals on Wheels," two organizations he believes need added support.

The portion of funds that goes to Church World Service has helped with U.S. disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy for long-term recovery and 75 percent goes for global development.

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Whitworth students invite community to help them package 1 million meals on May 3

Volunteers from Whitworth University and the community will pack six meals each in 166,667 bags to provide 1 million meals to hungry people in Spokane and Guatemala.

Meals of rice, vegetables, soy protein and vitamins have a three-year shelf life. Recipients just add hot water.

"We have raised \$90,000 of \$250,000. We need 25 cents a bag," said Audrey Evans, Whitworth campus coordinator.

She expects 2,500 volunteers to work three-hour shifts at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at Whitworth's Field House. Organizers are recruiting Whitworth and Gonzaga students, faculty and staff, and community members involved in

Little League teams, Bible study groups, quilting clubs, high school football teams and congregations.

"We need people to lead teams of 12," Audrey said.

Whitworth President Beck Taylor picked up the idea from the book, *To Stir a Movement*, by San Francisco Giants pitcher Jeremy Affeldt, with the goal of stirring students to act," she said.

Jeremy and Larisa Affeldt founded Generation Alive in 2005 to move young people to help other young people survive.

The Spokane-based organization works in collaboration with others to engage youth in acts of compassion that promote justice and alleviate poverty. Their approach is to educate by engaging youth in hunger projects, and also

to aid orphans, fund clean water, and work to abolish child slavery.

Audrey, who is executive vice president of Whitworth student government, said the school was ordering the food from Generation Alive, which does other food packing events, including a recent one at Victory Faith Fellowship in Spokane Valley and events at 20 schools.

For information, call 503-936-2371, email aevans14@my.whitworth.edu or visit whitworth.edu/onemillionmeals.

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Post Falls Food Bank serves community people who face hard choices

By Kaye Hult

Sherry Wallace, executive director of the Post Falls Food Bank, considers it “an amazing gift” to help prevent hunger.

For 25 years, the Post Falls Food Bank has served the needs of hungry people in Post Falls, Idaho, as an independent, non-profit corporation. It began in 1986 as an outreach of Post Falls’ Calvary Lutheran Church and incorporated in 1989.

The food bank, at 415 E. Third Ave., uses no federal, state, county or city funds. It relies on the community’s generosity.

“It is a gift from the community to the community. Without their support, we couldn’t do what we’re doing,” Sherry said.

Nationwide, about one in six people face hunger. In Post Falls, about 10 percent of the population lives with food insecurities.

She said the food bank seeks to eliminate food insecurities locally.

In 2013, they served 1,132 households with 2,800 individuals, providing 21,116 grocery carts of food assistance with 1.7 million pounds of food donations they received.

“The largest group of people we serve are the underemployed and working poor,” Sherry said.

Many work part time, often holding multiple part time jobs. One parent may work in the day, and the other at night, because they cannot afford childcare.

About 30 percent of adults are unable to work because of a disability and about 25 percent are senior citizens. Many from the “greatest generation” era are too proud to come, she noted.

Sherry described choices people with few resources make.

Many spend their money first on shelter, then utilities, transportation and medication, and finally on food, she said.

“Most guests—I don’t like to call them clients—are wonderful people hit by life circumstances,” she continued. “They rely on the food bank to help sustain them.

“It’s difficult,” she said. “I’ve had people express relief when I told them I could help them, after they had been denied food stamps because they earned just a couple dollars over the limit to qualify.



Sherry Wallace shows some of the food bank stock.

Some start crying when they see what we can give them.”

Individuals who qualify can come for a basket of food once a week. They receive produce, dairy, baked goods like bread, non-perishables and meat. Their income and what is in the inventory determine what and how much they receive, Sherry explained.

The food bank also runs the Post Falls Weekend Nutrition Backpack Program. Eligible elementary school children receive weekly packs of food to take home for weekends during the school year. For some, this is the only food they might eat on the weekend. Packs contain nutritious, nonperishable meals a child can easily prepare.

About 60 percent of children in Kootenai County qualify for free or reduced lunches based on their family’s income, she said. Currently the backpack program serves 105 children who school administrators identify as those most in need of weekend food. This is only two percent of those eligible, but the food bank cannot afford to do more.

Sherry said none of this could happen without the community.

“So many good people and agencies are doing great work to help people,” she said. “The federal government recently voted again to cut billions of dollars from food stamps, which puts more pressure on the community.”

Some volunteer because of

their faith, and others out of the goodness of their hearts, she said.

“Together they make up the rich fabric of our communities,” Sherry said.

The food bank operates with four staff members and a core group of 30 to 40 volunteers. A total of 393 volunteers contributed 16,559 volunteer hours in 2013. Several volunteers have helped for more than 20 years. Many are retired and want to give back to the community. Because they can socialize while they help others, many have made friends there.

People volunteer several ways.

- Grocery rescue specialists drive around and collect food

grocery stores donate. The stores share food with relief agencies when they have extra, so food does not go to waste.

- Food processing specialists sort food that comes to the food bank from grocery store donations or food drives. They keep track of it in-house and prepare grocery carts of food for guests.

- Guest specialists directly interact with individuals coming for assistance. They help check in the guests and register them for ongoing services. They then deliver the food to them.

- Others help with the “Plant-A-Row for the Hungry” campaign. People growing vegetables plant an extra row to give to organizations feeding those in need.

- Calvary Lutheran Church continues to support the food bank with its own garden. They donate 80 percent of their produce. Volunteer gardeners use their garden space to help support that effort.

In March and April 2014, the food bank has been participating in the Feinstein Challenge that is matching funds donated.

With donations and grants, the food bank board purchased an energy-efficient walk-in freezer in July 2013 and burned their mortgage Jan. 7, 2014.

She thinks of the food bank structure as a three-legged stool.

“Volunteers are the soul of the work. Grocery partners are the meat and potatoes. Donors are

the heartbeat,” she said. “Without those three legs, we couldn’t do what we do.”

Sherry came to the food bank four years ago. She was working at North Idaho College, doing contracted and customized training, using skills she gained at Eastern Washington University, where she earned a master’s degree in communication.

She became involved with the community and joined a group that ran an annual food drive.

Sherry had other background with nonprofits and served on the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce.

“Contacts I made over the years help me serve this organization,” said Sherry, who sees herself as a steward of the food bank’s resources. She believes in using her skills and learning something new each day to contribute to the betterment of the community.

For information, call 208-773-0139 or visit postfallsfoodbank.org or facebook.com/PFfoodbank.



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Tribal leaders persist in efforts to modernize treaties related to river

D.R. Michel, executive director of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), spoke at the recent Winter Waters Celebration of the Sierra Club's Upper Columbia River Group and the Center for Environmental Law Practice on modernizing the international treaty that governs the Columbia River.

The previous treaty between the United States and Canada in 1964 allowed for building four big dams in the Upper Columbia to benefit hydropower and flood control at the expense of U.S. tribes, Canadian First Nations, salmon and the river's health.

D.R., a member of the Colville Tribe, who grew up in the community of Inchelium on the banks of the Columbia River, still considers Lake Roosevelt the Columbia River.

In his work with UCUT, he represents 20,000 members in the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Tribe, Kootenai Tribe and Spokane Tribe, serving an area of 2 million acres of reservation land, 14 million acres of aboriginal territories—land of indigenous people—more than 500 miles of waterways, 40 interior lakes, and 30 dams and reservoirs.

"Our mission is to unite the tribes to protect, preserve and enhance treaty and executive order tribal rights, sovereignty, culture, fish, water, wildlife, habitat and other interests to benefit all people," D.R. said.

In 2008, when UCUT learned there would be a review of the treaty, participants met to bring tribal interests to the forefront. They developed a Sovereign Review Team in 2010 to look at the 1964 treaty and raise consideration of ecosystems of salmon, food, water, land and air.

"Our goal is to better coordinate management of the Columbia River from its headwaters to the estuaries," he said. "What is done in the Upper Columbia should not negatively impact the lower river. That means we have to work with Canada on eco-system management with input of tribes and everyone."

"We need to review flood-risk management and other uses, such as recreation, navigation and irrigation."

D.R. said that in the past, there had been short-term evaluation, but now there is need to look at long-term management for all needs, so there are not losers, but there are win, win, win solutions for the future.

Modernizing the treaty, he said, is "an opportunity to right wrongs" and to realize that fish



D.R. Michel, executive director of Upper Columbia United Tribes, informs people of treaty issues.

passage does not have to cost \$500 million at Grand Coulee Dam. There are new technologies to get fish above dams.

"The current treaty has had a negative impact on our lives and on the salmon culture in our region. If we stick together, we can make changes," he said.

D.R. calls for talking of legacy, asking, "what did I do to make improvements to leave to my children and future generations?"

On Feb. 14, Canadian First Nations and 15 Columbia Basin Tribes met at Northern Quest and developed an interim joint paper on "Fish Passage and Reintroduction into the U.S. and Canadian Upper Columbia River," he said.

That study, he said, describes what needs to happen so that "one day my children and grandchildren will be able to be at the river and catch fish."

U.S. tribes and Canadian First Nations propose "reintroducing and restoring habitat and life history connectivity for native anadromous salmon and resident fish into and within the Upper Columbia River" based on a modernized Columbia River Treaty.

Anadromous fish are fish that are born in fresh water, spend most of their lives in the sea and return to fresh water to spawn.

Reintroduction of these fish is critical to restoring indigenous peoples' cultural, harvest and spiritual values, according to the report. It is also important for "ecosystem function adaptation to climate change."

Reintroduction of fish passage focuses on Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams in the U.S. and three dams in Canada.

The study was written by several intertribal organizations representing 15 Native American Tribes in the U.S. Columbia Basin, and several First Nations in British Columbia.

"The study provides a brief history of the construction and management of Columbia River dams and the consequent devastating impact on salmon populations and the native peoples who depended on salmon for food, trade, and culture," reported Rachael Paschal Osborn of the Columbia Institute for Water Policy.

Prior to dam construction, 1.1 million sockeye, Chinook, steelhead and coho salmon returned to the rivers above Grand Coulee. Of those fish, tribal members harvested about 644,000, according to the Fish Passage Report. Total salmon consumption ranged from 6.8 to 13.1 million pounds per year. Salmon was a key component of the diet of Upper Columbia Tribes and First Nations prior to extirpation—local extinction, D.R. said.

"The survey of rivers and lakes that once supported salmon species is impressive. In the U.S., the list includes the Spokane, Little Spokane, Hangman, Sanpoil, Kettle, Colville, Pend Oreille, and Kootenai Rivers. In British Columbia, salmon inhabited the Kootenay, Slocan, and Salmo Rivers, and the Columbia River lakes all the way to the headwaters, including the Lower and Upper Arrow, Windermere and Columbia Lakes, and others," Rachael said.

The tribes propose a multi-step process to evaluate fish passage technology, donor fish stocks, quantity and quality of habitat, and hydrosystem operating changes necessary to accommodate salmon reintroduction. Studies would also evaluate the socio-economic benefits of returning salmon to the Upper Columbia basin, for Tribes and First Nations, and non-native peoples, including recreational, subsistence and commercial fishers.

The study was prepared as part of preparation for negotiations

over the Columbia River Treaty between the United States and

Canada, expected to begin this year.

For information, call 209-2412 or 939-1290 or email dr@ucutnnsn.org or john@waterplanet.ws.

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Mark J. Sullivan served as director of the United States Secret Service from 2006-13, serving under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. He began his Secret Service career as a special agent in 1983, after serving five years in the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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Urban organic farmer also operates a recycling business to care for the earth

Roots for Jim Schrock's two ventures, Earthworks Recycling and Eden Urban Farm, emerged when he was 14 years old.

On the way home between Hartline and his family's farm, he, his father and uncles would stop at the dump to salvage items to reuse on the farm. A science teacher introduced him to Mother Earth News, a bi-monthly magazine about organic gardening and living lightly.

His mother's family has lived in Spokane on and off for six generations, seven in Eastern Washington. They lived on North Division before pioneering in Hartline south of Grand Coulee in the 1880s. His father's family started north of Hartline in 1883.

Jim's father and brother still raise about 150 cattle, plus hay. His family once had four square miles of farmland, but it was split over the years.

"We lived in Hartline. Grandparents, uncles and aunts lived on the farm out of town," he said.

During high school in 1973, Jim started picking up newspapers house-to-house in Hartline. Every year his mother hauled a cattle truck full of newspaper to a packaging plant in Wenatchee.

After graduating and two quarters at Eastern Washington State College, he moved to Spokane and began earning a living by going door-to-door, picking up newspapers from 1977 to 1982. He could make a living picking up from 2,000 houses a month. He also picked up aluminum cans and cardboard.

In 1980, he opened Earthworks Recycling at 1904 E. Broadway with Rick Veland, a friend from Hartline. It was a buy-back center for newspapers and aluminum cans. Jim continued door-to-door pickups in the Hartline area.

In 1985, they ran out of money. Rick moved to Southwestern Washington, and Earthworks was closed for a few weeks. Jim got a \$1,000 loan and reopened it. He had kept current with paying money owed and avoided bankruptcy.

"Over the years, we began accepting more recyclable items and began charging to recycle things like junk mail," he said.

Now, even though many people put recyclables in the blue bins they set out at their curbs and pay the city to pick them up, Jim said there is still a market for recycling newspaper and cardboard.

Paper he buys to recycle, he sells in Spokane County to make more newspaper at the Millwood paper mill. The rest is sold to be made into building materials in Spokane.

Metals go to Portland or Puget



Jim Schrock said Crystal Spring Creek runs through the farm.

Sound foundries, exporters or aggregators, who collect large amounts of metals from small dealers like Earthworks.

Electronics go to Puget Sound where they are safely dismantled by certified electronics recyclers. Some are sold at Schrock's Secondhand Store. Plastics are recycled, but there's now a threat of a glut of TV tubes and glass.

"We have to match capacity with supply. There is sometimes more material than can be processed into something else," he said.

With curbside recycling, glass and plastic are mixed with paper, so he said there is a high contamination rate for paper.

Not counting electronics, clean green and other "new" recycling categories, Jim figures Spokane County's rate of recycling is about the same as it was 20 years ago.

People must sort recyclables they bring to Earthworks.

"We have a cleaner product with little effort," he said. "People still save items to bring to us."

Before curbside recycling, Jim

bought glass crushers, but with the glut on glass, the machinery is worthless unless interest in clean glass products revives.

A year and a half ago, Earthworks opened a second-hand store on the same block at 723 N. Napa St. There he sells metals, copper tubing, furniture, brass light fixtures, books, vintage items, old magazines, moving boxes and building supplies, items too good to salvage or recycle. The store is breaking even already, he said.

He likes to "find stuff at the recycling center to sell and reuse."

Because so much metal is stolen, Earthworks is careful, taping transactions, recording ID and vehicle information of sellers, and paying according to Washington State and Spokane County law. Many thieves eliminate themselves, because they lack a valid ID.

In Spokane's Vinegar Flats neighborhood, Jim owns 38 acres beside Latah Creek off Inland Empire Way for Eden Urban Farm. It includes five houses, an apartment building and a greenhouse,

plus root cellars from a 1920s carrot farm. He bought 17 acres in 2003 from the family of a Chinese herbalist, who had bought it in the 1940s, and two years ago bought the other 21 acres to save as farmland. His house there was built in 1897.

He previously owned 1.3 acres on Maringo Dr. on the Spokane River across from Millwood as a precursor to this farm.

While his family's farm is conventional, Eden Urban Farm uses organic practices, and is working toward certification. He is also updating it as a place to create a small community.

So far, he has cleaned out 400 cubic yards of trash, metal and wood from the creek banks and farm, with about 100 cubic yards more to clean.

Pat Mannhard does the farming.

This year, Jim and his partner, Tarawyn Waters, will again sell produce at the Spokane Farmers Market, which opens May 10 and the Perry Street Thursday Market.

He also sells to restaurants and hopes to triple their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscribers to 30 members this year.

CSA is a partnership between farmers and customers, who pay "seed money" at the start of the growing season for a season's worth of produce.

Farmers provide a portion or "share" of the farm's produce to each member. Each week CSA subscribers pick up their boxes at a stand on the farm.

"In good years, subscribers receive more vegetables, and in

bad years, fewer," Jim said.

In the greenhouse, they grow arugula, lettuce, kale, lettuce mix and starts for the field. Besides familiar vegetables, they will also have produce like ground cherries, Japanese turnips and horseradish. Urban Eden Farm uses only organic and non-GMO seeds.

"We use organic methods on the land, fertilizing with manure, coffee grounds, and brewery and winery waste," he said.

In the early 1970s, he did hydroponics, compost bins and vermiculture (worms).

Growing up, Jim learned from his grandparents the value of the only things on their table—except the salt and pepper—being from the farm. They grew their vegetables and fruit, and butchered their own pigs and cattle.

For information, call 534-1638, email jim@EarthworksRecycling.com or visit urbanedenfarm.com.

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Providence sister committed to building international, intercultural ties

Sue Orłowski, SP, who completed two three-year terms as superior of Sisters of Providence at Mount St. Joseph in Spokane in January 2013, is looking for new opportunities as she settles in a community with four other sisters at 1008 E. Boone.

She seeks ways to help implement directions made at the 2012 General Chapter in Montreal where sisters again identified Sisters of Providence as “an intercultural, international, intergenerational and interdependent community.”

The chapter encouraged sisters to live in other countries and learn other languages. The directions also suggested local houses with community members be mixed-age and include sisters of different cultures.

Because Sue knew some Spanish, she went to Chile from October to March, returning with insights from living in a different culture to help the congregation and local houses welcome women from other countries, and women who do not speak English or know American culture.

She will also continue her passion for care of the environment, stirred by her love of nature, particularly birds. Her bedroom walls are covered with nature photographs, including some of the 925 birds she has seen since becoming a birder in 1990.

While at Mt. St. Joseph, Sue wrote two letters a week on environmental issues—such as the Keystone XL pipeline, mountain-top removal mining and coal trains—for sisters to read and sign if they wished, and to inform them on environmental issues.

“To me, God is present in nature. When we destroy part of nature, we destroy part of God,” said Sue, who was a registered nurse and taught medical assisting at community colleges in Springfield, Mass., and Edmonds, Wash., before entering the Sisters of Providence in 1980 at the age of 32.

She then was a patient and staff educator at Providence hospitals in Yakima and Portland, worked with sick and dying sisters at St. Joseph Residence in Seattle, and taught medical assisting for nine years—applying Sisters of Providence values to work with students who had low self-esteem because of divorce or abuse—at Clark Community College in Vancouver, Wash.

Recently, Sue shared insights from her five months in Chile and her experiences with Spokane-area Sisters of Providence, including those in the house where she lives.

In Chile, she first spent five weeks with elderly sisters at an infirmary in Santiago. She had intended to go for a year, but returned after five months to heal from injuries sustained when she was robbed in Valparaiso.

Then she went to Valparaiso to assist at Casa de la Providencia Hogar por Las Ninas (House of Providence, Home for Girls), where, Mother Bernarda Morin first began a Providence ministry in Chile. The hogar houses 73 girls from five through 18 years old, who are wards of the state.

“Our role as Sisters of Providence is to work with poor and vulnerable people,” she said.

Sue shared background on the sisters starting the home in 1851. Five sisters had been sent from Montreal to Vancouver, Wash. When they arrived, they were told



Sue Orłowski, SP, is surrounded by reminders of nature she loves.

to return, because most people in the Northwest had left for the gold rush in California. They boarded a ship to sail down the South American Coast, around the tip and back to the East Coast. Near Chile, the boat had a problem and had to dock in Valparaiso.

When the people saw the sisters, they said they had been praying for sisters to come and work with poor women and orphan children. They felt the sisters’ arrival was an answer to their prayers. So the sisters stayed.

In her first week there, she was attacked and robbed half a block from the hogar. A man knocked her down when he ripped off her fanny pack, leaving her with several broken ribs and bruises, and disturbing chronic back and neck problems.

When she walked back to the hogar, the sisters did not understand her English, and she did not know enough Spanish to say what happened. They thought she had tripped. They took her to a clinic, rather than the emergency room. Only when a sister who knew some English had her write what happened did they realize she had been attacked and robbed.

With pain from the injuries, she had to rest and couldn’t volunteer at the hogar or the Jardin Infantil Preschool, where children might jump up to hug her.

“I try to find God in every experience, even if it is tough. I tried to be positive. I sent emails every day, sharing my experiences and observations,” Sue said.

“While resting in a chair on the patio, I listened to pigeons coo and saw how many different colors

they were, even though, as an intermediate-level birder, pigeons were the last thing I would have considered watching,” said Sue, who enjoys going on walks to hear birds sing and identify their calls.

“When a person loses something, another thing takes its place, so pigeons were just the thing to keep me occupied while I healed,” she said.

On four birding field trips in Chile, she saw 118 new birds.

Because she couldn’t work with the children, she helped the administrator wrap Christmas presents and helped shop for food at the market. When she had less pain, she attended hogar functions. When she was stronger, she went on outings to the beach or park.

On outings, 25 girls, four staff, a driver and large garbage bags of food fit into a van that were intended for eight people.

Now back in Spokane, she wants to start a fund to raise money to buy a bus for the hogar.

“I met my goal of seeing what it is like to live in another country,” Sue said of insights she gained.

One insight was realizing people do things in different ways. She noted cultural differences and gained new ideas: Chileans’ begin counting with their little fingers, rather than their pointer fingers. Parking garages have green lights above open spots. Calendars start on Monday, not Sunday.

There are many ways to do the same thing, she commented.

“I also came to understand why people who are learning English may say, ‘yes,’ when they don’t mean yes. It’s like, ‘Yes, I hear you.’ In Chile, I said ‘si’ when I did

not understand what people said. I didn’t want them to keep repeating what they said,” she said.

“Little cultural differences help us understand different ways of doing things and different ways of being in community,” she said. “Community is important. Living in a group, it helps to realize there are many ways to do things.”

At the house where she lives, the two younger sisters are from other countries—one from Vietnam and one from El Salvador. The U.S.-born sisters are 65, 70 and 85.

“We come together as a group and discern what we need to do and where we need to go,” Sue said. “In community, one sister may not have a certain skill, but someone else does. We need to learn from each other to become who we need to be.”

Prayer life, Scripture reading and faith sharing help younger and older sisters, and sisters of different cultures learn from each other, she said.

For information, call 487-0336 or email sueosp1@msn.com.

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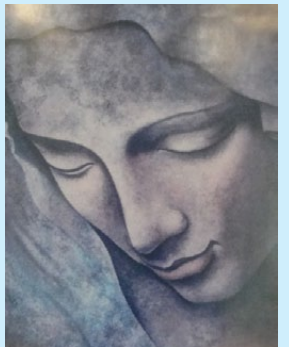
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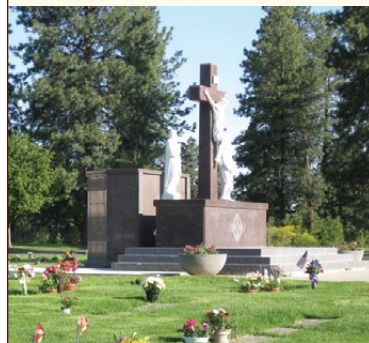


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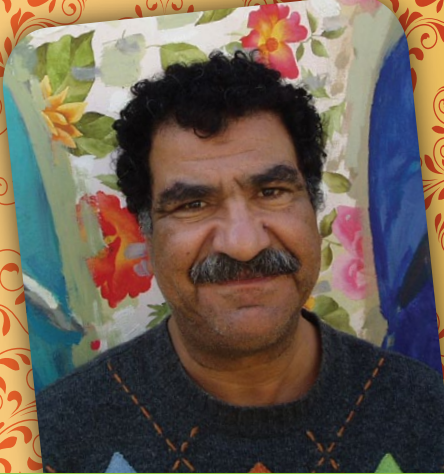
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Irene Boehm's story bridges historic and contemporary issues of hate

Continued from page 1
 the United States and the world. The testimonies are "a bridge between history and contemporary issues," Spielberg wrote, for people to learn "of the terrible consequences of hatred and racism" and to realize that they "have power to bring about change and act against intolerance."

In 2012, Irene and several Seal Beach, Calif., residents told an eighth grade class of their experiences in World War II, and the Korean and Vietnamese wars. That year, she was one of 17 survivors speaking for the Chapman University Holocaust Art and Writing Contest.

"I never wrote my stories. I keep them in my head," said Irene, who belonged to a Seal Beach Holocaust Survivors Club.

In March 2013, Irene moved to Spokane to live in a retirement community near a grandson.

In the 1950s, she had settled in Los Angeles after coming from a displaced persons camp with her husband, Al, and two daughters.

Born in 1919 after her father, a baker, returned from being a prisoner of war in Siberia in World War I, Irene said her family feared Communists because of that and local experiences of harassment.

Because Polish Jews fled to Hungary after Germany invaded, the Hungarian government required Jews to legally prove their Hungarian ancestry. Lacking money to hire a lawyer, her father sent three of his daughters, Irene, Margaret and Ilyona, to Budapest to work as nannies for a year, but it took more than a year. A week before they had enough money, the government took his license, and he could no longer work, so the sisters stayed in Budapest.

Irene worked for a couple, who were dentists. Even though their Jewish parents had become Christian, the husband was taken to a forced labor camp. Irene continued to work as nanny.

When military police began picking up Jews, the woman arranged with a reporter for Irene to have false papers that said she was Christian and her father was a farmer. She had this paper April 7, 1944, when Germans came.

Jews put on yellow stars and had a 5 p.m. curfew. Irene could not visit her sisters, so she introduced Margaret to her landlady as a friend, so she could move in.

Irene went one day with the reporter to a villa he was building beside the Danube. A rich old widow, who lived there, feared the Russians would come and take everything. The reporter asked Irene to stay to take care of her. Irene gained papers as a nurse.

"Margaret stayed in Budapest and helped people in the Jewish ghetto, throwing food over a fence to them. She became Christian," Irene said. "She was a hero. I just watched out for myself."

Irene befriended the widow and was silent when she and friends laughed about Jews being killed.

In the winter, the woman let Hungarian military police stay in the villa's cabins.

At night, a lieutenant serenaded Irene.

When a gendarme came one day because someone said Irene was Jewish, she thought they would kill her. She gave him her false papers. He took them.

The lieutenant who serenaded her asked the gendarme, "Why are you bothering this girl? She is not a Jew. I went to school with her."

Later, Irene told the lieutenant she was a Jew. He did not believe her until she read the Hebrew words on a cloth she had to cover matza at Passover.

It didn't matter. He loved her. He offered to help her escape, but soon Russian soldiers came, and the Hungarians left for the front.

As the war was coming to a close, the widow went to Budapest to be with her nephew.

When English and Russian planes dropped bombs at night, Irene's bed shook. She was not afraid because by then, "life did not count for anything."

German soldiers came. The reporter's niece came to dig up gold the family had buried, but could not leave, because the train tracks had been bombed.

The two stayed in the villa.

On Dec. 6, two Hungarian soldiers had found two chickens the Germans had cleaned to eat. They asked Irene to cook them.

While they sat at the kitchen table, Russian soldiers came, and the Hungarians fled. So the Russians ate the chickens the Germans had cleaned and the Hungarians had cooked, she noted.

That night, a Russian soldier raped her. She went to a doctor the next day, and the village asked two young men to come and pro-

tect the women.

Later two soldiers asked to make the villa a hospital. When she said she was a nurse, they said they would take her to their headquarters, but instead took her to a house, took her clothes and locked her in a room. One day when the guard was quiet, she asked a woman for something to wear so she could leave.

Running on the main road to the villa five miles away, she saw five sick boys walking slowly, Jews returning from a forced labor camp.

"I said I was Jewish and I would take care of them at the villa," Irene said.

She boiled their lice-infested clothes, and in the village traded a barrel of wine for half a pig to feed them. Two brothers, who were religious, said they would "pray that I would have a good life," Irene said.

Another day, they were sitting around the stove talking. Russian soldiers came, took her and raped her until she passed out.

She decided to leave. She and one of the boys went by sleigh across the river to a village. Russians there were forcing Hungarians to clean up war damage.

They found a place to sleep in a kitchen, but she knew she had to escape. They walked for three days. Some others joined them, going to a city, where they found a house to stay.

Then Irene went to Budapest and met her sisters.

She learned her parents were put in train cars and taken to Auschwitz, where they were gassed and put in ovens. She learned from Auschwitz survivors what fate they likely met there.

Her younger sister, Ilyona, fled on the underground to Yugoslavia, where Germans shot her. A plaque on her tomb in Budapest honors her. Another sister, Frieda Freedman is buried in New Jersey.

In Budapest, Irene met her husband, Al Boehm, who had been in a forced labor camp.

He came all summer to a flea market stand where she and her cousin sold cigarettes.

In the fall, they each shared that they were going to the temple for the holiday. One day she went to dinner with him, his mother and sister. In a few weeks, they married and lived with his mother. Irene nursed her.

Hoping to go to Israel, they

went with Polish people to Vienna, but only Poles were being accepted. So they lived four years in a displaced persons camp—in a stall in a crowded former horse barn. The U.S. quota for Hungarian Jews was small. Her older daughter was born at the camp, and her younger daughter on a navy ship on the way to America.

For several months, they stayed at an uncle's summer resort in the Catskills, and then went to Los Angeles. Al worked in the office

of a housing complex developer.

Irene learned English by reading children's books to her daughters. She volunteered with PTA, Girl Scouts and other agencies. She had many jobs—Hungarian nightclub cook, a surgical orderly, a children's hospital supply room worker and factory worker.

After they retired, they moved to Seal Beach, where she and Al volunteered with RSVP.

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Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 26, 2014
 11 am-2 pm
 John A. Finch Arboretum

Spokane County residents who complete the activities may take home a free compost bin. Limit one per household. Bins provided by the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Please arrive no later than 1:30 pm and bring proof of residency.



For more information call the Recycling Information Line 625-6800 or go to www.solidwaste.org

Spokane Regional Solid Waste System

Partial funding provided by WA State Dept of Ecology.



Caring, loving action and justice are outcomes of being empowered

As we celebrate The Fig Tree's 30th anniversary, it has been a time this spring to reflect on "where we have been and where we are going" with The Fig Tree media.

We'll sing a Salish song with those words in mind at our Anniversary Dinner on Wednesday, April 30 at Whitworth's HUB.

Each year at our benefit events, we have asked our readers for support for our regular costs. We expect to reach our 2014 goal of \$20,000 from the benefits.

This year, we are asking those who are able to give an added pledge of \$300 to \$3,000 a year for three to five years, above their current support. The goal is to have the base for a stable salary for a staff person to help share the workload and invest in building a long-term, sustainable base of

support for The Fig Tree media.

We invite you to consider being one of those donors. We include comments of benefit speakers below in Sounding Board and have the benefit video, "Empowering People," at youtube.com/watch?v=xXWtGpQoQig to motivate donations and be resources people can use to share our story with others.

The anniversary is a time to celebrate our story, to share who we are and why we do what we do. Media each lend their own versions and visions of news by the selection of content and slant they publish.

My grandson brings home assignments to mark if a statement is a fact or opinion, if it's true or false. Along with learning how to read, he is learning to discern

about content and its truth. Information shapes our world views, political views, understandings and misunderstandings of reality. Information and how it is packaged can disempower or empower.

Fig Tree stories look at different perspectives of familiar stories. We share insights of each person we interview, because each person has a nugget of wisdom to add.

We give glimpses into people's lives as we tell how they are living their faith and values. The "who" is a life journey that is the context to "what" the person is doing, "how" he or she does it and engages with other people "where" and "when." Our stories feature reflection on "why" people are doing what they are doing.

"Why" do they care? "Why" do we care?

"How" does others' caring fuel our caring?

The basic journalism questions are the basis of our coverage. We just tend to ask beyond the conflict, sensation and celebrity many media use to "sell" the story. That's where empowerment begins.

If we're divided, we don't connect with people who differ with us. If we're anxious about nuances, we may lose sight of the big picture. If we focus on celebrities, we lose the value and insights of each person. We empower people by stepping outside the usual "news" mode.

Caring, loving action—involvement—that reduces suffering, ends injustice, builds peace and improves quality of lives is the outcome we hope happens.

Mary Stamp - Editor

We can't afford to have our neighbors' children be illiterate

Throughout our country, many schools are in crisis, pulled in all directions by interest groups and reflecting the gross inequalities that afflict our economy and society.

What messages are we giving our children when we make it increasingly difficult for them to succeed in school?

Susan Nielsen, an associate editor at *The Oregonian* newspaper, recently took this slant when she began an opinion piece with, "Take fewer classes," said the principal. "Sleep in," said the counselor. "That's good enough," said the superintendent."

According to her, some adults in Oregon have been telling school children, especially teens, that "school is worth skipping." They have done it by shortening the school

year, eliminating electives and ignoring the requirements for minimal instruction time. School should be a place where the lesson planned is the lesson taught, but often the law of unintended consequences pops up.

The transgressions are not identical, but schools across the country have tried various ways to meet demands of pressure groups and lower budgets. There are varied approaches among and within the states.

The usual school year is about 180 days, or 36 weeks. Until recently, discussions about its length have centered on the need to add days and weeks. Lately, school districts have been subtracting days, some as many as 30—six weeks of information and competence development lost.

After retiring, my husband and I moved to Spokane. One of the first neighbors to call on us invited us to join a group of retirees that met for lunch and discussion at a local restaurant. He said their main interest was local schools. He didn't sound positive. Jim went to one meeting. The group complained how dreadful local schools were, emphasizing how horribly dressed pupils walking by them were. Their solution was to defeat school levies. Jim told the man who invited him, "I can't afford to have my neighbor's children be illiterate."

One approach by such groups is the demand, "Get rid of frills. Teach the basics." Music, art and many electives are cut to save money and focus on math and science.

However, everything is connected. Research shows a correlation between success in math and studying music. A math teacher to whom I'm related has noticed that band members are among her strongest students.

The first violinist in a string quartet I listen to was concertmaster of a symphony orchestra until he went to graduate school to become an epidemiologist. One quartet's cellist was a medical student who had played with another orchestra.

There are few cure-alls for this situation, but an infusion of realistic optimism might help. Volunteering at local schools or being active in a positive group could help teach children to value school and education.

Nancy Minard - Contributing editor

Excerpts & Summaries

Sounding Board

Benefit Speakers

The Fig Tree is motivated by a strong sense of God's call to use gifts to fulfill unmet needs in the community. Its stories of people of all walks of life who are attempting to further God's kingdom make Spokane a better place. The Fig Tree's belief that individuals and institutions can make a difference in the lives of people have been an inspiration to me and to countless people.

The Pacific Northwest is known for its secular character as the least churchd region of the United States. The religious voice is overlooked and diminished, but The Fig Tree offers a prophetic word in this secular culture. It sheds light on causes, issues and people who are motivated by their religious convictions to make a difference in the world.

The Fig Tree recently uplifted the Rev. C. W. Andrews and his wife, Doris, who have served in Spokane for 40 years on behalf of their congregation, Calvary Baptist. They have stood by countless individuals, black and white, as they have struggled to find food, shelter and clothing and as they encounter the unfair justice system.

Give generously to support this institution, which helps give people a voice in the community and offers a prophetic word.

Dale Soden
Whitworth history professor

Mary Stamp is a person with courage and vision, a person in the work for the long haul. Her sensitivity, deep faith and great hope have served the region's ecumenical community well.

Vatican II Council's Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World says the joys and hopes, griefs and anguish of people in our times, especially the poor and vulnerable, are the joys and hopes, griefs and anguish of every Christian.

The Fig Tree expresses our interconnectivity with humanity. Stories of people in every church are connected with humanity and with people around the country.

As I have traveled around the country, I

have not seen any other ecumenical newspaper like The Fig Tree.

I love the theme, "Empowering People." The subthemes are also important: hope, action and justice. Hope is vision for the future and a dream of what can be. The Fig Tree expresses hope in ecumenical and interreligious endeavors, as we come together and get to know one another.

Justice is the right ordering of relationships. Imagine how the culture and world would change if we could effect the right ordering of relationships. We have work to do for the dream and vision to come to be.

We look to the promise yet to be, we need to act and we need to know each other better. That deepens our relationships and our appreciation of one another in our different faith communities.

Be generous. Generosity plants seeds for the future. We never know what the crop will be, but we know God will give the increase.

Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad
of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane

What The Fig Tree does fits with what United Way is doing:

- United Way talks with people about their aspirations. We hear that people want to live in a safe place where people care, support and create opportunities for each other. The Fig Tree does that and fosters a sense of community.

- The Fig Tree is a connector. Connections the Fig Tree makes with us in our reading and meeting gives us a sense of belonging. It sustains us as we reach out to others. If we want to change things in our community, we have to do it by working together.

- The Fig Tree is a platform for caring.
- The Fig Tree represents a commitment to do better to help people improve their lives, embracing the past but having foresight to say we have to do more, we have to change and we have to be relevant.

Janice Marich
United Way of Spokane County

Often people ask teens, "What's wrong with you?" At Crosswalk, we ask a different question, "What's right with you?" Crosswalk helps kids see their own strengths and capabilities. This question is the starting point for teens' lives.

This is how The Fig Tree and VOA are alike. The Fig Tree shines light on what is right in our neighborhoods, communities, our country and the world, emphasizing hope and illustrating the good.

Like Crosswalk, The Fig Tree helps people understand each other, breaks through divisions, connects people, stirs compassion and opens a dialogue that benefits everyone. It not only backs up the work of local nonprofits like ours, but also it amplifies our efforts to transform Spokane and the people who live and work here.

Bridget Cannon VOA's
Crosswalk teen shelter

Most of the 14 years I've taught media literacy at Whitworth, I've been on the board for the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, which has recognized Mary Stamp and The Fig Tree for promoting media literacy and media responsibility.

The Fig Tree is a consistent partner in promoting both media literacy and alternative voices in the region. It does so without the acrimony of most media, without trying to sell you something or using fear to do it.

Given media influence on our culture, the NWARD believes this power requires the responsibility of stewardship.

As users of media, we also have a responsibility for stewardship, for maintaining and protecting alternative and positive media that don't scare us and that show us we can make a difference.

Jim McPherson,
Whitworth journalism professor

When I began as bishop, someone in an open forum asked what my detailed strategy and mission were. I said that at the heart of what we do is communication. We need each other and need to be con-

nected with each other and our interfaith communities. What we do as community is about connection, collaboration, cooperation and communication.

The Fig Tree is a great resource as a professional publication. It is about public participation in the community to make things happen. It links us to stories and to each other. It provides critical leadership and makes a difference. It informs and inspires us. It builds our community.

When I traveled on weekends in my early years, I distributed Fig Trees to churches. I'm a believer and a supporter. Join me in giving thanks for this unique, essential ministry, and give generously to serve the faith communities and the whole community. This ministry changes communities for the better.

Bishop Jim Waggoner
Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

Over my seven years in Spokane, I have seen the tremendous impact of The Fig Tree in our community. Even before my ministry as an associate dean at Whitworth and my election as the first woman president of the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship were featured in The Fig Tree, I still looked forward to getting it. There was always someone I knew featured. There are always uplifting stories about ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things.

I've lived in other places around the country, but I have never seen another community newspaper devoted to the faith community that is the quality of The Fig Tree, highlighting stories of people sharing their values, promoting justice and making a difference in the lives of others through their acts of service.

Stories are powerful. The Fig Tree does a great job of gathering human-interest stories that exemplify faith in action, stories that empower, inspire and keep us informed of the great things our brothers and sisters are doing to make Spokane a better place to live.

Roberta Wilburn, president
Spokane Ministers' Fellowship

Calendar of Events

Note on locations: Eastern Washington University (EWU), Gonzaga University (GU), Whitworth University (WU)

- Apr 3** • **"Making Meaning of the Death of Jesus: Insights New and Old,"** Mary Boys SNJM, Holy Names 125th Anniversary Talk, Cataldo Hall, GU, 7 p.m., 313-3572
- **"Dealing with the Dragon: China's Foreign Policy,"** Neal Sealock, adjunct professor for global strategy at Whitworth, Weyerhaeuser Hall, WU, 7:30 p.m., 777-3834
- Apr 4** • **First Friday at Lutheran Community Service,** survivor artwork and interactive art projects, 210 W. Sprague, 5 to 8 p.m., 747-8224
- Apr 6** • **Annual Dinner Auction,** Common Ministry at Washington State University, Banyans on the Ridge, 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. auctions follow, 509-332-2611, office@interfaith-house.com
- **"Meet Your Farmer,"** Between the Ridges, Bella Terra Gardens, 660 Bella Terra Rd, Zillah, Wash., 1 to 4 p.m., 961-4692 or email davidhacker916@gmail.com
- Apr 7** • **"Women and the Wage Gap: Not Celebrating Equal Pay Day,"** 207 Monroe Hall, EWU, Cheney 1 p.m., 359-2898, cvines@ewu.edu
- Apr 7-12** • **American Indian Heritage Week,** North Idaho College, Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center, Coeur d'Alene, 208-769-3365, nic.edu/events/
- Apr 7-13** • **16th Annual Get Lit!,** Auntie's Book Store, Bing Crosby Theater, EWU Cheney campus, Garland Theater, Riverpoint Campus, outreach.ewu.edu/getlit/
- Apr 8** • **Mindfulness Meditation 101,** Tuesday Series begins, Dori Langevin, St. Joseph Family Center Chapel, 1016 N. Superior, 7 to 8:30 p.m., 483-6495 x 133, sjfconline.org
- **"Cossacks Are Coming: A Historical Approach to the Russian-Ukrainian Relationship,"** Kevin O'Connor GU associate professor of history, Jundt Art Center Auditorium, GU, 7 p.m., oconnork@gonzaga.edu
- Apr 9** • **Our Kids: Our Business** 8th Annual Luncheon and Training, "Navigating the Cumulative Toll of Life: How to Keep on Keeping on," Laura van Dernoort Lipsky, Trauma Stewardship Institute, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 p.m., Training in Conference Center's Theater, 1:30 to 4 p.m., okob2014.eventbrite.com
- **Unity in the Community Committee,** Community Minded Enterprises, 25 W. Main Ste 310, 5:30 p.m., mahenderson@west.com
- Apr 9-30** • **"Out of the Shadows,"** Palestine Film Festival, Spokane Community College Arab Club and Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 7 p.m., 9th "Slingshots" at Hagan Center; 16th "Al Helm," 23rd "Miral," 30th "Children of Ibdaa" and "One Family in Gaza" at The Lair, 838-7870, pjals.org/film-festival
- Apr 10** • **Women in Science and Engineering** Panel, Whitworth University HUB, 7 p.m., hletourneau14@my.whitworth.edu
- **Crime Victim's Resource Fair,** STA Plaza, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Apr 12** • **Spring Fling Champagne Brunch** and Silent Auction, YWCA of Spokane, Anthony's at Spokane Falls, 510 N. Lincoln St., 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 326-1190, ywcaspringfling14.eventbrite.com
- **44th Annual Lu'au,** Whitworth Hawaiian Club, Na Pu'uwai o Hawaii, Hixson Union Building, 5:30 p.m., entertainment at Cowles Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., 777-1000, news.whitworth.edu
- Apr 12-19** • **Spokane Gives,** community initiative to celebrate volunteerism, SpokaneGives.org
- Apr 13** • **Timothy Egan Lecture,** author of *The Worst Hard Time*, and New York Times columnist, Weyerhaeuser Hall, WU, 2 p.m., 777-4424, gscott@whitworth.edu
- **Handel's Messiah Easter Devotional,** 13608 E. Belle Terre Ave., 7 p.m., 922-0612, mbwagstaff@comcast.net
- Apr 14-20** • **Spokane Ministers' Fellowship Holy Week** Services, Morningstar Baptist Church, 3909 W. Rowan, 6:45 p.m. Monday to Friday, Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., 777-4603, spokaneministersfellowship.angelfire.com
- Apr 15** • **President's Leadership Forum,** "International Security: An Insider's View," Mark Sullivan, former director of the U.S. Secret Service and co-founder of Global Security and Intelligence Strategies, Spokane Convention Center, 7:30 a.m., 777-4974, iaevents@whitworth.edu
- Apr 14-19** • **"Seven Last Words of Jesus** on the Cross: A Compass for Our Lives," Fr. Joachim Hien, 14-16: Women's Retreat, 17-19: Men's Retreat, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., skrause@ihrc.net
- Apr 16** • **"Contemporary Issues** in Feminist Research: An Exploration of American Women in the 21st Century as Targets of Violence and Racial Aggressions," Bayyinah Jeffries, of African studies, 207 Monroe Hall, EWU, Cheney, noon, 359-2898, cvines@ewu.edu
- **Coffee and Contemplation,** "The Big Story

- and the Little Story," Jerry Sittser, author and Whitworth professor, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 to 11 a.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Apr 17** • **Second Harvest's Fifth Annual Partner** Agency Conference, Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd., 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 252-6252, jdoak@2-harvest.org
- **"The Power of Art in Egyptian Revolution,"** Tahrir Square artist Mohamed Abla, lecture, reception and exhibit at Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 1001 W. Sprague, 6 p.m., 464-7071
- Apr 18** • **Ecumenical Tenebrae Service,** Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 7 p.m., 838-4277
- Apr 19** • **"Green Up Coeur d'Alene Earth Day** Celebration," Kootenai County Environmental Alliance, 3 p.m., Coeur d'Alene Library, 702 E. Front St.
- **Sandpoint Earth Day Celebration,** Forrest Bird Charter School, 614 S. Madison, noon to 4 p.m., 208-265-9565
- Apr 20** • **Easter Sunrise Service,** organized by Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 N. Government Way, 6:30 a.m., 368-9541
- Apr 23** • **HOME Childcare Scholarship Fundraiser** Tea, 205 Monroe Hall, EWU, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Apr 23, 24** • **Visiting Lecture Series,** Faythe Levine, researcher, multi-media artist, curator, author and collector in Milwaukee, Wis., Wednesday at Spokane Falls Community College Building 24 Room 110, at 11:30 a.m., and at Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture Auditorium, 6:30 p.m., Thursday at EWU Art Department Auditorium, noon
- Apr 24** • **Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach** Center Annual Benefit Breakfast, Okechukwu Ojogho, MD, specialist in transplant surgery at Providence Health & Services, Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. 7:30 to 9 a.m., www.mlksokane.org
- **Family Promise** Night at the Civic Theatre, 747-5487, familypromiseofspokane.org
- Apr 25** • **"Anita,"** documentary on Anita Hill, Women's and Gender Studies and Communication Studies, Magic Lantern Theater, 25 W. Main #150, 6 p.m., 359-2898, cvines@ewu.edu
- **Stand Against Racism,** GU Multicultural Education Center, Gonzaga Law School Barbieri Courtroom, noon to 1 p.m., 313-5835, www.gonzaga.edu/UMEC
- Apr 26** • **Earth Day Spokane,** Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 208-755-5323, kerry.costigan@gmail.com
- **Earth Day Fair,** Boundary County Fairgrounds, Bonners Ferry, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 208-290-2720
- **Healthy Kids Day,** Spokane Valley YMCA, 9 a.m. to noon, 777-9622, mberry@ymcasokane.org
- **Sukiyaki Dinner,** Highland Park United Methodist, 611 S. Garfield, noon to 6 p.m.
- **Spring Compost Fair & Arbor Day Celebration,** Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 625-6800
- **Remembering Generations – Family Search** Symposium, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 10405 W. Melville Dr., Cheney, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 838-6489 or visit rememberinggenerations.com
- Apr 26, 27** • **Annual Fair Trade Event** of the Charity and Justice Committee, St. Joseph's Parish, 4521 N. Arden Rd., Otis Orchards, Saturday 2 to 7 p.m., Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., www.stjoeparish.org
- Apr 27** • **Haru Matsuri** (Spring Food Festival), Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry St., 10:30 a.m., 534-7954, www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org
- **CROP Hunger Walk,** The Lair at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St., noon register, 1:30 p.m., walk along Centennial Trail, 468-4099, goss301@gmail.com
- **"Saving Our Future: Rescuing Children from the Holocaust,"** Yom HaShoah Observance, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 7 p.m., 747-3304
- Apr 28** • **Human Rights Banquet,** Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, Coeur d'Alene Inn, 414 W. Appleway, 208-765-3932
- **"Do You Buy It?"** Video Contest, Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media for ages 13 to 18, www.nwresponsiblemedia.org
- Apr 30** • **The Fig Tree 30th Anniversary Dinner,** Michael Kinnamon and Mary Stamp, Whitworth University HUB, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 535-1813, mary@thefigtree.org, www.thefigtree.org (flier)
- May 2** • **Weekend of Healing for Women,** "Consider Him," Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224, ext. 109
- May 3** • **One Million Meals,** WU Field House, 9 a.m., noon, 3 and 6 p.m., 503-936-2371, whitworth.edu/onemillionmeals
- **"May Day...Mayday: Finding Peace in a Busy Life,"** Patricia Novak, OSF, Franciscan Place at St. Joseph Family Center, 1016 N. Superior, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 483-6495 ext. 133

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New congregation adopted Earth Care Pledge when it formed in 2013

By Deidre Jacobson

Retired pastor of 24 years and executive presbyter of the Inland Northwest Presbytery for 10 years, Rick Melin has taken the leadership role in his home church, Latah Valley Presbyterian, becoming an Earth Care Congregation, a designation by the Environmental Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Latah Valley, the newest congregation within the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, chartered on April 21, 2013 decided to be an Earth Care Congregation.

Earth Care Congregations take the "Earth Care Pledge," agreeing to do a specific number of actions in four categories: worship, education, facilities and outreach.

"There is plenty of scripture involved in earth care," said Rick. "A favorite verse of mine is Psalm 24:1, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.' We are keepers and tillers of the land. I want to leave the planet in better shape for the next generation."

Latah Valley has an earth care team, made up of members who attended a six-week class on the environment and set goals: outdoor worship once per month through the summer, one worship service in the spring with a complete earth care theme—including the sermon, hymns and prayers—and redeveloping the church's prayer path.

Other ways the church participates in the Earth Care Pledge are:

- Organic flowers decorate the sanctuary.
- They use glass coffee cups for



Community garden is part of church's Earth Care action.

coffee hour, cloth towels in bathrooms and all washable dishes and silverware at dinners

- Sunday school and vacation Bible school have some earth care curriculum included. Often, classes are held outside.

- The church building incorporates energy conservation through heating and cooling, lighting with motion sensors and effective heating of water.

The church's board approves proposals from the earth care team. The pastor, the Rev. Ed Hart is ex-officio on the team.

The earth care team applies for recertification each year. They meet and decide what to accomplish in the next year, setting the year's goals and presenting their proposal to the church board.

"The church building is new," said Rick "and well designed, but we seek further energy conservation, so we will install barrels to catch rain water."

As outreach to the community,

the congregation grew a community garden, which contributed over 120 pounds of fresh produce for Second Harvest.

Rick has long held an interest in the environment, camping and enjoying the outdoors as a child.

His early ministry was serving rural congregations. He learned about farming and soil conser-

vation and crafted sermons that were meaningful to people close to the land.

Rick represented the Northwest on a national organization, Presbyterians for Earth Care, from 2010 to 2012.

That group developed the Presbyterian Earth Care Program, instructing Presbyterian congregations how to care for nature.

Latah's earth care team meets on Sundays for discussions.

One month, they challenged the congregation to pick up a piece of litter every day.

Now the group has designed and ordered reusable cotton shopping bags for each member of the congregation.

"We try to walk the talk, modeling behavior for others," said Rick. "I am proud of my congregation and hope to encourage others to follow suit."

For information, call 448-4194 or visit latahvalley.org/earth-care.html.

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