

CELEBRATING  
OUR 30TH YEAR

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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest  
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# Pastor, wife mark milestones

By Mary Stamp

In 2014, milestones for the Rev. C. W. (Chet) Andrews and his wife, Doris, are 40 years, 50 years, 55 years and 124 years.

It's his 40th year serving as minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Spokane. The church is planning a celebration on May 4 and 5.

It's his 50th year in ministry.

It's their 55th wedding anniversary.

It's the 124th anniversary of Calvary, the oldest black church in Washington.

Through the good days and bad days, the hills and valleys, they have weathered the years by respecting and loving each other, being at home the same people they are in the church and community.

"In many ways, we are opposites," Doris said. "He wants to go out. I like to stay home. I like to shop, but he does not. We understand our differences and know each other well."

So she has found her place, acclimating to what he enjoys, and he has done the same.

She worked at Spokane Falls Community College from 1988 to 2008, coordinating continuing education and summer programs, and took some child development



C.W. and Doris Andrews share about their lives.

and general studies classes there, but mostly she has chosen to stay at home and take care of the family and him.

"I still do it. I like taking care of the home," she said.

It shows in their orderly home, with dinner plates on the table mid-day, ready for the next meal.

"He needs a place to come to be away from the confusion of ministry and serving in the community," Doris said. "Despite frustrations at work, he was able to come home and focus on the children."

The Andrews have five children, 14 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. With four children and their families living in Spokane, they often come home for dinner, with Doris doing all the cooking.

"Faith keeps me grounded, so I am calm about things. I tend to be quiet, and he does most of the talking," Doris said.

At the church, she has also done tasks that keep Chet free to do the "work he is called to do." Sometimes she is just there to answer the phone and do other things to keep things running smoothly. She helped organize the 124th anniversary, served as vice president of the

*Continued on page 4*

## Speakers at March benefits will tell how The Fig Tree empowers people

Speakers for The Fig Tree's 2014 Benefit Breakfast and Benefit Lunch will tell how the newspaper, resource directory and online media empower people through sharing stories of hope, justice and action.

In 2014, The Fig Tree is celebrating its 30th year of publication. In 1984, it started with the goal of covering religion news, but has shifted over the years to define its focus as covering stories of people who make a difference because of their faith and values and on connecting people to work together on justice and service.

The breakfast buffet begins at 7:15 a.m. and the program at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The lunch buffet begins at 11:45 a.m. and the program at noon, Friday, March 14, also in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

Breakfast speakers include Dale Soden, history professor at Whitworth University; Bridget Cannon of Volunteers of America's Crosswalk teen shelter; the Right Rev. Jim Waggoner, Jr., bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, and Twa-le Abrahams,

director of air quality for the Spokane Tribe and organizer of the SHAWL Society efforts to clean up uranium waste on the reservation.

Lunch speakers are Roberta Wilburn, associate dean of graduate studies in education at Whitworth and president of the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship; Jim McPherson, Whitworth journalism professor and member of the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media at Gonzaga; Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane, and Janice Marich, vice president of community relations for United Way of Spokane County.

A video and slide show will share stories of the past year. The video includes the story behind the design of the masthead and logo, the choice of the name, the emerging mission and the unique role of The Fig Tree media.

Editor and founder Mary Stamp will also offer insights related to the mission of the newspaper and resource directory over the last 30 years.

*Continued on page 3*

## Siddharth Kara reports on trafficking as slavery

For Gonzaga University's Presidential Speaker Series lecture author Siddharth Kara will share his research on modern slavery, including documentation of 1,300 cases in 30 countries, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, in the McCarthy Athletic Center.

Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh invited Siddharth, who advises the United Nations, the United States and other governments on anti-trafficking policy and law.

"He pulls back the drape that covers the misery and horror experienced by millions, highlighting problems associated with how goods and services are produced and consumed," said Thayne. "Globalization and technology have had a dramatic impact on human trafficking. Siddharth helps us see and understand those living at the margins, and demonstrates how we can begin to tackle entrenched, complex problems through research and engagement."

His book, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, was the co-winner of the 2010 Frederick Douglass Award at Yale University for the best non-fiction title on slavery. Being developed as a feature film, it's the first book on modern forms of slavery to win the prize.

Published in 2012, *Bonded Labor: Tackling the System of Slavery in South Asia*, his second book, offers a view of debt bondage in South Asia from 11 years of research in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Previously, Siddharth was an investment banker at Merrill Lynch in New York, and ran his own finance and consulting firm for several years before studying sex trafficking, which he first encountered in a 1995 visit to a Bosnian refugee camp.

For information, call 313-3572 or visit [gonzaga.edu/kara](http://gonzaga.edu/kara).

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

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#### WCC leader discusses 'justice and peace' in Iran

In a recent visit to Iran, World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit underlined the important role of faith leaders, religious communities and governments to work together for the cause of "justice and peace."

He was in Iran Feb. 15 to 20, where he met with representatives of WCC member churches and participated in the seventh round of dialogue between the WCC and the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue (CID) in Tehran. He met with Ali Jannati, minister of culture and Islamic guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Abouzab Ebrahimi, president of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization.

Olav stressed the strategic role Iran could play for peace and stability in the Middle East region, including Syria. He also stressed the necessity of inter-religious dialogue and cooperation to enhance mutual understanding and open listening to one another.

He was inspired to see "churches giving a Christian witness through their presence and service in the Iranian society."

The WCC delegation was also hosted by the Armenian Prelacy of Isfahan, where they had the chance to explore some of the historic cultural sites of the city. The delegation there learned about the Christian presence in Isfahan, which has existed since the 17th century, as a witness of the intercultural and inter-religious legacy of the Iranian communities.

#### Dialogue explores challenges of modernity

An international team representing the WCC and its long-standing dialogue partner, the Center for Inter-religious Dialogue in Tehran held the seventh round of dialogue under the theme "Modernity and Spirituality," leading to an exchange with Shia Muslim counterparts.

The dialogue Feb. 15 and 16 in Tehran is part of ongoing meetings between the WCC and the center since 1995. The papers offered made it clear that for both Muslims and Christians, the possibilities and difficulties presented by modernity were a creative challenge to their faiths.

Clare Amos, the WCC program executive for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation, commented, "We were treated both to a stimulating intellectual diet in which we learned much about the spirituality of the Shia path of Islam, and the concerns of modern Iranian society."

#### WCC condemns use of armed drones

The WCC Executive Committee has condemned the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) saying that they pose "serious threats to humanity" and the "right to life" while setting "dangerous precedents in inter-state relations." The WCC expressed these concerns in a statement issued Feb. 12, when the committee met in Bossey, Switzerland.

The statement adds that UAV technology is permitting countries like the "United States of America, Israel, Russia and the United Kingdom, to move towards systems that would give full combat autonomy to machines."

It calls governments to "respect and recognize the duty to protect the right to life of their subjects and oppose the violation of human rights."

"The use of UAVs, first made operational in the Balkans war, has subsequently escalated in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia, and most recently in Pakistan," according to the statement that calls the international community to "oppose the unlawful policies and practices, particularly of U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan."

The statement urges the "U.S. government to ensure justice for victims of unlawful drone strikes, including family members of the victims of unlawful killings" and to provide effective access to remedies, especially restitution, compensation to families of civilians killed or injured and adequate protection for their rehabilitation.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Spring CROP Hunger Walks planned

This spring communities across the United States will hold CROP Hunger Walks to support anti-hunger work around the corner and around the globe.

In the Inland Northwest, the Spokane CROP walk is Sunday, April 27, starting at noon at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St. For in-

formation, call 468-4099 or email goss301@gmail.com.

The Sunnyside Ministerial Association is planning a walk Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9 a.m. at Chief Kamiakin School. For information, call 837-4314.

CROP Hunger Walks support Church World Service's work of providing balanced diets, live-

stock, income-producing animals, seeds and tools to grow food. A portion of funds return to the walks' communities for food banks, shelters or other local hunger programs. Walk organizers invite congregations to participate in the local walks.

For information, call 206-988-1622 or email pn@cwsglobal.org.

### Film festival gives taste of Jewish culture

For the 10th year, the Spokane Area Jewish Family Services (SAJFS) is presenting the Spokane Jewish Cultural Film Festival on March 27, 29 and 30 at the Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main.

The program brings international films to Spokane to share Jewish life and culture, said Rabbi Tamar Malino, co-director of SAJFS.

In addition to providing cultural enrichment, the festival raises funds to help support SAJFS's outreach to elderly people and people experiencing hardship.

SAJFS distributes hundreds of

pounds of food, and makes many visits to people isolated in their homes, at hospitals and in nursing homes, Tamar said. They also provide monthly social events for seniors and assistance to individuals in crisis."

At 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27, the film, "Ballad of the Weeping Spring" pays homage to "The Magnificent Seven," with a legendary musician member's career ending after a tragic accident. Twenty years later one member reunites the remaining members to help a friend.

After a 7 p.m. reception at

Boots Bakery and Lounge, 24 W. Main, the newly released film, "Bethlehem," will be shown at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 29. It tells the story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant.

"Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy" at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 30, examines the role of Jewish composers and lyricists in creating the modern American musicals. It includes clips of performances and archival footage.

For information, visit www.sajfs.org.

### Flannery lecturer will discuss solidarity

Shawn Copeland, professor of systematic theology at Boston College, will speak on "Toward a Mystical-Political Theology of Solidarity" for the 38th Annual Flannery Lecture at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 20, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

In her lectures, she says that for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of human and humane

living to be effective, it must be grounded in basics like compassion, conversation and solidarity. She connects King's notion of the beloved community and the notion of the mystical Body of Christ.

The Flannery Chair of Roman Catholic Theology is an endowed gift to further theological study and teaching at Gonzaga.

Shawn, a former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, is a former convenor of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium. She is author of more than 100 publications, including "Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race and Being" and "The Subversive Power of Love: The Vision of Henriette Delille."

For information, call 313-6782.

### Fulbright scholar tells about women in Egypt

Lobna Saeed, Fulbright language teacher from Cairo, Egypt, will speak on "Women Rising, Women Uprising: The Status of Women in Egypt" for International Women's Day from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 8, in the Academic Center at the

Riverpoint Campus of Eastern Washington University.

There will hula dancing from Whitworth's Hawaiian Club, plus workshops on reproductive rights, feminism, domestic violence and a woman's philosophical approach. Sponsors include

the women's and gender studies departments at EWU and Whitworth, the American Association of University Women, Planned Parenthood and the United Nations Association of EWU.

For information, call 359-2898 or email cvines@ewu.edu.

### SEEL spiritual directors lead Novena of Grace

The 87th Annual Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier will center on the theme, "Following Jesus to Jerusalem" from Saturday, March 8, to Sunday, March 16, at St. Aloysius Church, 330 E. Boone. The

presenters, who are spiritual directors in the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL) program, are Beverly Austin, Sherry Fischer, the Rev. Steve Kuder, SJ, Jim Pearson and Sister Elaine Thaden, OSF.

Beverly has worked for more than 20 years in Jesuit secondary education. Sherry has been a pastoral minister at St. Aloysius for 15 years. Steve is a professor in religious studies at Gonzaga University and presides at Sunday liturgies at St. Aloysius. Jim has been a teacher and coach in the

Catholic school system for 30 years and now teaches at Gonzaga Prep.

Elaine, a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia, has ministered in Spokane for 25 years at St. Charles School, St. Ann Home and St. Joseph Family Center. Daily novena services are at 12:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. The 5:15 service includes mass. There will also be a blessing with the St. Francis Xavier relics at the end of each service.

For information, call 313-5896 or visit www.stalschurch.org.

### FOR head speaks in Spokane

The featured speaker for the Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference, Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., is the Rev. Kristin Stoneking, executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), the oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in North America.

Kristin is completing a doctoral

degree in interreligious studies and nonviolence education at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, is sponsoring the conference with an 8:30 p.m. reception on Friday, and workshops and the keynote from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit pjals.org/2014conference.

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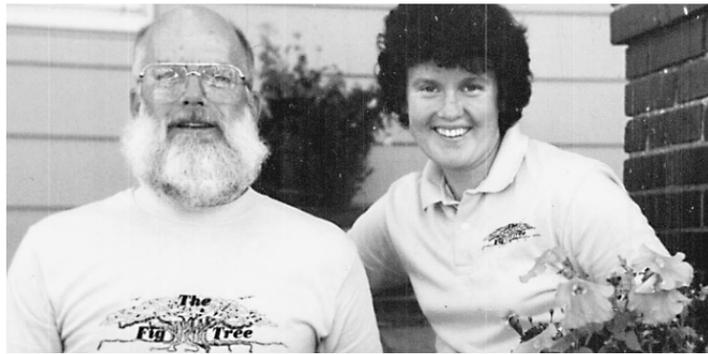
# Benefits are opportunities to give financial backing to unique media

*Continued from page 1*

The benefit breakfast and benefit lunch gather both people who value *The Fig Tree* media and people who are interested in learning about them.

“We celebrate not only our 30-year milestone, but also our ongoing application of just-peace or solutions-oriented journalism. Today’s focus is on connecting people in the faith, nonprofit, human services and civic communities to be aware of what people are doing and be encouraged by the many efforts,” said Mary.

Along with raising funds, the



**Yaya Senklip, right, will share in a video the story behind the logo.**

benefits are times to articulate our model of journalism,” said Mary, “to tell *The Fig Tree* story. Like public broadcasting, *The Fig Tree*

is available free and is supported by sponsors and advertisers.

“While media are not direct service, if people are informed they are inspired and become involved in service and advocacy to care for people and advocate for policies that improve their lives,” she said.

“For example, we see that when mainstream media focus attention on disasters, projects or issues, people are motivated to give and to help,” Mary said. “As that media attention wanes, our media continue to tell stories of how faith and nonprofit communities work to restore lives, reach out

in creative ways and act to make society more just.

“Those who live their faith and values give us a plethora of stories to share,” said Mary.

In 2014, *The Fig Tree* has made improvements to its website at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org) and is using Facebook and Twitter to help connect people with other resources.

Table hosts cover the cost of the food for the guests they invite. There are still openings for hosts.

For information or to RSVP by March 6 for the breakfast and March 10 for the lunch, call 535-1813 or email [mary@thefigtree.org](mailto:mary@thefigtree.org).

## *Michael Kinnamon uplifts power of stories at 30th Anniversary Dinner April 30*

“Telling Stories of Belonging Together: Ecumenism as a Movement of Communication” is the theme for ecumenist Michael Kinnamon’s speech during the 30th Anniversary Dinner for *The Fig Tree* at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, at the Whitworth University HUB.

He has taught or lectured across the United States and in countries around the world, and is author or editor of a dozen volumes in ecumenical or denominational studies.

At Seattle University’s School of Theology and Ministry, Michael is visiting professor of ecumenical collaboration in interreligious dialogue.

“I have long been a reader of *The Fig Tree*, not only because it provides information about ecumenical activity, but also because it puts a face on many of the actors,” he said about his immediate acceptance to speak. “Ecumenism is not primarily about dialogues and documents.

It is about relationships. *The Fig Tree*, in my experience, captures this in its stories and, thus, contributes to the reconciliation it chronicles.”

When Michael was elected general secretary of the National Council of Churches in 2007, he was an internationally recognized scholar and leader in the Christian unity movement.

**30th Anniversary Dinner is at 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 30 at Whitworth University’s HUB**

He was general secretary of the Consultation on Church Union, which became Churches Uniting in Christ, from 1999 to 2002. He was executive secretary of the WCC’s Commission on Faith and Order from 1980 to 1983 and had a major role in drafting its document, “Toward a Common Understanding and Vision of the WCC.”

From 2000 to 2007, he was professor of mission, peace and ecumenical studies at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and professor of theology and ecumenical studies at Lexington,

Ky., Theological Seminary from 1988 to 2000 and dean of the seminary from 1988 to 1998.

Michael was assistant theology professor at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, from 1983 to 1988 and acting dean from 1986 to 1988. He was a visiting professor at United Theological College and South Asian Theological Institute, Bangalore, India, in 1987 and 1997.

Before he was named to head the NCC staff, Michael was a member of its Governing Board and chair of the Council’s Justice and Advocacy Commission.

He oversaw the commission’s development of resolutions and statements on a wide range of justice and peace issues.

He chaired the NCC’s Ecclesiology Study Task Force from 1993 to 1997.

Michael earned a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1980 in religion and literature. He studied at Tel Aviv University from 1969 to 1970. His bachelor’s degree is from Brown University in 1971.

He has written on the ecumenical movement, *The Vision of the Ecumenical*

*Movement and How it has Been Impoverished by its Friends* (Chalice Press) and *Can a Renewal Movement Be Renewed? Questions for the Future of Ecumenism*.

He wrote the official report of the Seventh Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and he is the co-editor of *The Ecumenical Movement: An Anthology of Key Texts and Voices*, a tool for students of ecumenism.

He contributed to two other staples of ecumenical literature, *The History of the Ecumenical Movement* and the *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement*.

Michael was ordained in 1976 and has ministerial standing in the Disciples of Christ and the International Council of Community Churches, a Christian association of ecumenically co-operating Protestants and Independent Catholics.

He has been active in the mission and ministries of his denomination and has been a frequent speaker at Disciples and United Church of Christ national and regional gatherings.

For information, call 535-1813 or email [mary@thefigtree.org](mailto:mary@thefigtree.org).

### **Whitworth holds conversation on unity**

In partnership with Whitworth University, the Presbyterian Church USA is holding a live and online Conversation on Unity with a Difference Wednesday, March 12, to Friday, March 14, at Seeley Mudd Chapel Sanctuary at Whitworth. Participants will consider issues of race, gender, and religious identities, and how disciples of Jesus Christ might constructively engage these realities in ways that exhibit the love and justice of God. Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to noon, Friday. For information, call 777-4345 or email [mclaassen@whitworth.edu](mailto:mclaassen@whitworth.edu).

### **Friends of Compassion features religion editors**

The Friends of Compassion in Spokane will present a program on “Good News about Good Works and Good People: Is Compassion Contagious?” at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 19, at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct. Mary Stamp, editor of *The Fig Tree* media, and Tracy Simmons, editor of the Spokane Faith and Values website, will describe their work, their missions and their motivations. For information, email [john.hank@me.com](mailto:john.hank@me.com).

### **Leadership training planned March 26 to 28**

The Leadership to Make a Difference Institute, a partnership between University of Idaho Extension and the Spirit Center at the Monastery of St. Gertrude will present “Leadership to Make a Difference” on Wednesday, March 26, to Friday, March 28, at Spirit Center, 465 Keuterville Rd. in Cottonwood, Idaho. The training helps people develop leadership abilities and learn skills to make a difference. Topics include leadership styles, leading effective meetings, building teams, dealing with conflict, partnering with others and courageous leadership. For information, call 208-962-2000 or visit [www.Spirit-Center.org](http://www.Spirit-Center.org).

### **Professor presents retreat on beauty and justice**

Patrick McCormick, professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University and author will present a retreat, “God’s Beauty: A Call to Justice” Friday, March 28, to Sunday, March 30, at Spirit Center in Cottonwood, Idaho. “Beauty—in God, creation, our neighbors and vibrant communities—calls us to love one another and practice God’s justice,” said Patrick, who teaches Christian ethics, medical ethics and Catholic social teachings. For information, call 208-962-2000 or visit [www.Spirit-Center.org](http://www.Spirit-Center.org).

## Join us for *The Fig Tree’s* 2014 Deepening Our Roots



### **Benefit Breakfast** **Wednesday, March 12**

Buffet begins 7:15 a.m.  
Program is 7:30-8:30 a.m.

### **Benefit Lunch** **Friday, , March 14**

Buffet begins 11:45 a.m.  
Program 12-1 p.m.

**BOTH at Cataldo Hall  
at Gonzaga University**

*Celebrating 30 years  
of stories of faith in action*

*The breakfast and luncheon are complimentary.  
Guests will be invited to donate to support *The Fig Tree*.*

**CALL 535-1813 or 535-4112**

**email [mary@thefigtree.org](mailto:mary@thefigtree.org)**

**The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202**

## Couple believe everyone deserves to be respected, in and outside their homes

Continued from page 1

women's ministry, and has been Christian education director.

Her family moved from New Orleans to Yakima when she was five for her mother to pursue employment.

She and Chet met after he came from near Selma, Ala., where a brother lived. He was the youngest of 17 children of Jessie and Edna Andrews, who were sharecroppers. Growing up in times of segregation, he walked two miles to school and worked both before and after school in the fields. After his siblings finished high school, they left the community.

When his father died in 1958, his parents had been married 64 years.

"Sharecropping was not for me, so after I graduated I went to Yakima in 1959 to visit my brother and work. I found different jobs and worked hard."

Chet served seven years in the U.S. Army, where he became a non-commissioned officer. He later embarked on a career with Western Electric, with which he traveled extensively throughout the United States.

"This chapter of my life closed after 20 years of service, when I yielded to the compelling call to full-time pastoral service," he said.

In 1963, he became the assistant pastor at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, where the pastor mentored him.

While most of his learning to be a pastor was on-the-job training, he also did some studies at Selah Bible College while he was in Yakima.

He first came to Spokane in 1968, and then he, Doris and their family moved to Spokane in 1971. They began attending Morning Star Baptist, and he worked with the Rev. Freeman Simmons for three years until he came to Calvary Baptist in 1974, first as interim minister, and then called seven months later as pastor. He still serves there today, 39 years later.

Chet has served on many committees and boards in Spokane and throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the Spokane Human Services Department, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Spokane Police Department and Spokane Ministers' Fellowship. He has served as a past president of the North Pacific Baptist Convention and assistant chaplain at Whitworth University.

In 1998, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity from Whitworth University. That came about because in 1992, a shooting at Calvary Baptist led to an offer by Whitworth to offer classes to African-American pastors. A group of 25 students from Whitworth had come to the church the third Sunday of January as they had done for many years. The son of a Whitworth professor fired a shot from the balcony that ricocheted off a pew. The young man went outside and took his life.

Chet and some other pastors took up Whitworth's offer, and took classes there.

For 14 years, he has been co-teaching a January Term class on African-American preaching with Whitworth professor Ron

Pyle.

"For me, God comes first, then family and then the church," he said. "I can't be effective in the church without caring for my family.

"I love and have compassion for people. I understand what they experience, because I've been in the hog pen," Chet said. "I know what it means to find the path back to righteousness. I don't look down on anyone. I extend my hand to anyone, to people of any color."

Married 55 years, he believes taking the marriage vow before God is important.

"Growing up in a large family, I saw good times and bad times. It was an example for me. I knew the road would not always be easy. I believe we need to trust each other," Chet said. "God knows our hearts, so we can't be a phony.

"I'm for real at home and in the community," he said.

"If Doris says she doesn't like something, I try to meet her needs to make her happy and she does the same for me," he said.

Chet believes it's important for couples to be kind to each other, to do simple things, like saying "good morning" and "good night," and keeping each other informed of where they are.

After 55 years, he can tell if something is bothering her, so they talk about it.

"Love hides a multitude of faults," he said, noting that the same dynamic is true

in a church.

Many people have lost faith because someone in church leadership has made blunders in his/her ministry, he said.

Chet finds that people today are less faithful and less respectful. Some feel anything goes, even in the church.

"People are peculiar. We love and we hate," he said. "We need to pray for each other. We are the living epistles. We are the only Bible some people will see, so ministry comes in many forms to reach many lives."

Doris added, "I see a lack of respect for self and others, especially among young people. If we have more respect for one another it will make a difference. Everyone is due real respect, even when they disrespect you."

Chet said, "People often get bent out of shape over nothing. People need to set their hearts right. God does not care for one race over another. We are a nice mix of people in our church," he said.

Over the more than 50 years of marriage, Chet and Doris have seen some aspects of society improve because of the influence of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., but they know still more changes are needed.

"I rejoice in what has happened, but I pray for a better day," he said.

"Jobs need to be more available for all God's people," he said. "We sing 'We Shall Overcome,' but I ask 'When?'"

For information, call 747-8793, email candrews@whitworth.edu or visit www.calvarybaptistchurch-spokane.com/WELCOME.html.

We are the only Bible some people will see.

## Center drops day care and offers free after-school drop-in program

Liberty Park Child Development Center, a faith-based outreach ministry, now operates a free after-school drop-in program for school-age neighborhood children. The center closed its licensed day care because of cuts in state funding for day care that made access to the program difficult for too many needy families.

They now offer a no-cost Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) pre-kindergarten and faith-based school-aged drop-in programs for children in Spokane's East Central and South Perry neighborhoods.

The center, located in the Liberty Park Terrace Apartments, a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subsidized housing project, partners with the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest.

Spencer Grainger, director, said the after-school program primarily serves families in the Liberty

Park Terrace apartments, where the center is located, but it is open to all neighborhood children.

"There are many refugee families, and, because of the language barrier, many of the parents cannot help their children with homework," he said. "About half the children we serve have English as a second language."

Previously, many neighborhood children ran around the apartment complex after school, he said. With the drop-in program free, they are able to participate.

The ECEAP program includes family support and leadership development for parents of 40 low-income families, Spencer said.

Some families have no income. Some are homeless. Most are non-white. A third of the families at Liberty Park Apartments are refugees who do not speak much English and are sometimes illiterate in their native languages.

Most of the refugees are Burmese, Sudanese, Eritrean and Iraqi.

"We work closely with parents to prepare their children for public education and to ensure they can find work, learn English, apply for public assistance, negotiate the legal system and pursue their personal goals," he said.

ECEAP has no Christian education component, but the after-school drop-in program, called "The Champions," does.

Participants are of the same demographics as the ECEAP program. It is not childcare but "a youth development ministry," Spencer said. "The program fosters cross-cultural communication, conflict resolution, compassion and creativity."

In addition to helping the children with homework, the children talk about the "fruits of the spirit," like love, joy and peace, and engage in Bible lessons.

The children also play outside as weather permits. They also do crafts and play games inside.

The coordinator for The Champions is David Jones, who has worked in international youth ministry. He spent 12 years in Ukraine, working with orphaned children, and learning the people's language and customs.

Parents and volunteers from local universities and churches assist with the program.

Funding is from donations by churches and individuals.

"Statistically, students participating in after-school programs have better class attendance, higher grades, better test scores and better behavior in school," Spencer said. "Youth crime rates peak between 3 and 6 p.m., so the program is part of community safety, providing constructive, spiritually nourishing activities."

He added that success in educa-

tion, life skills and relationships gives children the ability to move out of generational poverty.

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# Camp expands facilities, programs counter to national decline in church camps

By Kaye Hult

While nearly 40 percent of church camps across the United States have closed in the last 20 years, Ross Point Camp and Conference Center in Post Falls, Idaho, is expanding. Over the years, they developed a facility that accommodates 200 people. Now they find those limits are being stretched.

About 10 years ago, the board of directors of this camp of the American Baptist Church of the Northwest drafted a three-phase plan to expand and improve the camp property. The camp's board is working closely with the executive director, John Batchelder, to bring the vision into reality.

**Phase one will be completed** when the 2014 summer camping season begins.

John said this phase involves an addition and renovation to the central camp building and office, expanding it into a 9,400-square-foot lodge, called Ponderosa Lodge. The building will include three offices, open-space gathering areas on the main and upper levels, four meeting rooms, a game room and the camp store.

The current store will be remodeled to house six individual shower and bathroom facilities.

"The vision of this phase, which will cost nearly \$1 million, is to round out the services we offer for all our groups," John said.

In addition to Ponderosa Lodge, the site includes an RV and tent area, 12-bed cabins and motel-like rooms in Riverside Lodge.

John said the second phase of their expansion will add a second Riverside Lodge motel-style unit, increasing the adult facilities by 54 beds.

The third phase will expand the dining hall, increasing the seating from 200 to 300.

**Groups using Ross Point Camp** at 820 Ross Point Rd. include not only churches and gatherings of the American Baptist Church, but also many other nonprofit organizations.

John said use of the camp and conference center evolved over the years. Originally the camp, created on land purchased in 1948, was set up as a place American Baptists could come to grow their faith surrounded by natural beauty. Now about 70 percent of the people who use the facilities come from outside groups. The



Lodge construction continues through winter.

center has shifted from emphasizing programming to offering inviting space and experiences away from the pressures of everyday life.

The camp will offer their regular youth camps in June and July for campers from the first grade through high school, plus a family camp from July 27 through August 2. During the year, they offer two youth retreats, plus a men's retreat and a women's retreat in the early spring. Camp alumni are invited to a reunion in early July.

Ross Point seeks to provide an opportunity for initial Christian commitment and Christian growth in an outdoor setting apart from the daily routine of home, school, work or other activities.

They want those who come to develop a personal relationship with Christ; to learn to love God, self and others; to learn how to live in Christian community as Christ intended; to discover and develop personal gifts, talents and abilities, and to practice stewardship of Creation.

**John referred to a study** done nearly 20 years ago by the Presbyterian Church USA. It reported that about 70 percent of missionaries and ministers accepted a call to their ministry in a camp setting.

"That translates to other denominations as well," he said.

Faith, personal and group development happen in the midst of such camp activities as softball, swimming, outdoor games, beach volleyball, canoeing, miniature golf, campfires and more.

A team-building challenge course includes a climbing tower with three sides and six avenues to

the top, a bouldering wall, a high ropes course, a zip line, a giant swing and other team-building activities to develop self-confidence and trust and build group cooperation, problem-solving and unity.

**Different churches and groups** bring different experiences to the setting.

Immaculate Conception plans to use the camp for a silent retreat.

When St. Mary's of Egypt Greek Orthodox Church does programs at the camp, John interacts with the priest, who wears his flowing robes.

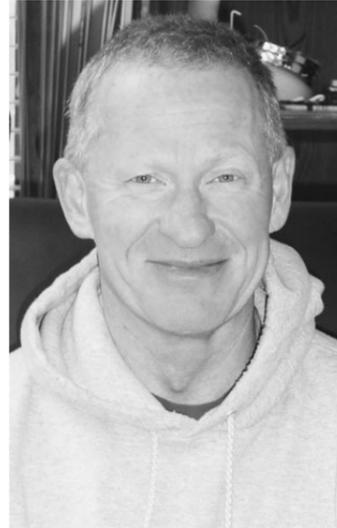
In addition to church camping activities, Ross Point hosts school groups and small businesses. The camp offers team-building programs on communication, servant leadership, relational leadership and emotional intelligence to build self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management.

Ross Point staff members offer an emotional, experiential component for students at the Veterinary School at Washington State University (WSU). The annual Veterinary Leadership Experience draws people from around the world in June.

In August, first-year veterinary students come to the annual three-day Cougar Orientation and Leadership Experience, which WSU offers in partnership with Utah State University.

"They can know all the medicine they want, but if they can't relate to their clients, they will not be able to help them," John said.

Other business, government and university groups also use the facilities, including the Post Falls



John Batchelder

SWAT Team.

For nine years, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has used Ross Point for a weeklong program for children with cancer. This year, it moved the program to the YMCA in Spokane.

**Parents requested** that Ross Point also continue the program there, as Camp Journey. It will provide a community of hope for children and families dealing with childhood cancer, John said.

Camp Journey in early August will allow young cancer survivors to leave worries behind for "a magical week," immersing themselves in a fun outdoor camp experience tailored to their needs. The camp will have trained pediatric oncology staff on site.

There is no cost for the resident and day camp children because of funds Ross Point raises through such events as its Sweetheart's Ball on Friday, March 21, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort.

John, who came to Ross Point in 2001, when the former director Paul Ledbetter retired, began

camp ministry in 1983 at Camp Utaba in Utah. He served as director for several other camps, coming to Post Falls from Albany, Ore.

**Before entering camp** ministry, he spent six years traveling with a Christian drama company throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

John manages seven year-round staff and nearly 40 seasonal staff.

The camp ministry, to which he feels called by God, involves a variety of activities that use his gift of administration, his faith, his enthusiasm and energy, and his ability to maintain the physical site.

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# Wacky hair, dirty clothes dissuade volunteers until they see the scared kids

When Bridget Cannon first began volunteering with Spokane's Crosswalk teen shelter of Volunteers of America 20 years ago, she felt intimidated by the street kids and runaways with weird piercings, wackadoodle hair and bad attitudes.

She volunteered four years and was hooked, even after she completed a certificate in teaching at Eastern Washington University in 2002. She was hired in 1998 as shelter supervisor. In 2001, she became independent living coordinator for foster children, then family services specialist, helping reunite youth with families, then Crosswalk program manager. Now she is director of youth services.

Over a year, about 1,000 youth from ages 13 to 21 come to Crosswalk for a warm bed, hot meal, dry clothing and hygiene items.

"They also come because they choose to be there," Bridget said. "They need something different in life, starting with a meal or a shower. After we deal with their basic needs and they know we are adults they can trust, they ask us to help them move out of their predicament."

Beyond meals and showers, Crosswalk is a place to help youth find a caring adult to talk with and begin to go back to school by taking classes there.

"The environment at Crosswalk is holistic education, not just focusing on the academic," Bridget said. "We come to know who they are and what their strengths are. We see them relax."

"At first, I had seen what many other people see. The kids are different," said Bridget. "We humans do this. We see some people as being something other than what we are. We put them on the outskirts. Sometimes it's a leper, a prostitute or a Samaritan. Sometimes it's a runaway right here in Spokane."

She explained that the teens often lack personal hygiene, have dirty clothes or use foul language as their defense to keep people away.

"Some kids' defense becomes offensive, so they are scary. They don't want another adult to hurt them," said Bridget, who had been a cook in New Jersey while and after earning a degree in history in 1982 from Juniata College in Huntington, Pa. When she moved to Spokane, she cooked at a restaurant. She decided she did not want all her friends to be from work, so she volunteered at Crosswalk.

During her first few weeks of volunteering, a girl, who looked like the girl next door, came in.



Bridget Cannon started as a volunteer and now is director of youth services.

She didn't look like the others.

"She was upset, but after a few minutes we pieced together her story," Bridget said. "She was from California and her mother had kicked her out, because she had been cut from the high school basketball team."

Her mother had sent her to Spokane to live with her father, but had not called to tell him. He didn't want her. So just before Christmas, he dumped her in front of this shelter in a city where she knew no one.

"It wasn't that her situation was worse than the others," she said. "It was nothing compared to some of the things I've seen, but I watched her cling to the staff and I saw how afraid she was."

She didn't have the heavy eyeliner or baggy clothes to hide behind, because she had not learned she needed a tough exterior to protect herself by scaring everyone around her.

"Because of that, I could actually see her," Bridget said.

The Crosswalk staff advocated for her, talking with her mother and helping work things out. When the situation was stable, Crosswalk bought her a bus ticket and sent her home.

"Even after this girl was tucked back safely in her California bed, I never forgot what I saw," Bridget said. "That's when I started seeing past the crazy hair and dirty fingernails."

"I started seeing the teens for what they were beneath all that. They were terrified children, alone and scared to death," she said. "I could finally see them, and so I invite others to see them."

"If anything, Christianity teaches us that the different people are important. Our differences make us a strong and diverse human family," Bridget said. "Under it all, we are the same, children of God, dependent on God and each other for help."

"Churches have been around since day one," Bridget said. "Some of the churches here from the beginning are still bringing meals and volunteers on their appointed day of the month."

Churches also do events to raise funds. A church replaced broken tables the youth used in the school with new tables. Some churches have come to sort food in the food bank or clothing in the clothing bank.

"Volunteers grow to accept, love and nurture the kids," she said. "The faith community does so much for Crosswalk."

Founded in 1985, Crosswalk is an emergency shelter, a school and a group of life saving and life-changing programs working to break the cycle of youth homelessness. It provides emergency shelter every day of the year. Its services are free and voluntary.

It is a program of Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Youth who come to Crosswalk have had complicated personal histories that include family conflict, lack of education, substance abuse, mental health issues, high risk for depression and suicide, sexual abuse and/or parental abuse.

Crosswalk restores hope and encourages personal responsibility among the young people by

providing family reconciliation services, clothing and personal hygiene items, employment assistance, life-skills training, parenting classes, access to medical and mental health care.

Its programs also include access

to substance-abuse treatment and prevention, tutoring and enrichment activities, college scholarships, transportation and access to transitional housing.

Crosswalk teen shelter in Spokane and Crosswalk North Idaho, a drop-in center in Coeur d'Alene, both serve meals to nourish homeless youth and to gain their trust, so staff and volunteers can begin to support them in making changes.

Meal providers include churches, civic organizations, businesses, families and individuals who bring one meal a month. Often those who prepare the meals stay to serve the meals and visit with the youth.

Other VOA programs in the region include a home for transitional and permanent housing for pregnant and parenting teens, young women, disabled and chronically homeless adults, homeless veterans, young men and chronically homeless veterans.

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# Kosher Dinner broadens awareness of Jewish food, culture and people

Given that one of the ways to reach people is through food, Temple Beth Shalom's annual Kosher Dinner reaches not only stomachs, but also touches the hearts, minds, souls and spirits of those who attend.

It offers an experience in cross-cultural awareness and understanding about what the general culture and Jewish culture have in common, and about what Christians and Jews share, said Ron Klein, coordinator of the entertainment for the 73rd annual Kosher Dinner.

The dinner will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 9, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

People who come, he added, also see many people in the healing professions involved in preparing, cooking and serving the meal, as well as entertaining before the meal and selling baked goods before and after.

Most temple members help with some part of the dinner. Some do the same job every year. Some work on the sound. Some are ushers. Some sell baked goods. The person who serves meals may be a cardiologist. The person who pours beverages may be a nurse practitioner or lawyer.

"We invite the community to temple to have food, a party and entertainment, and for a time for us to get to know each other," Ron said. "It's not about making money, but we hope to break even on expenses for the food and preparation."

Ron, who grew up in and has been involved in Jewish communities as he moved from Boston to St. Louis to Seattle to Spokane, has been active in different ways with Temple Beth Shalom's Kosher dinners since he moved to Spokane in 1982.

After completing studies in psychology at Boston University, he earned a doctoral degree in psychology in St. Louis and then was on the faculty at the University of Washington Medical School in Seattle. An opportunity opened to practice at Sacred Heart Medical Center.

"Spokane is a smaller community, so the Jewish community is smaller, and Temple Beth Shalom is both the spiritual home and a community center for the Jewish community here. In Boston there was a community center with clubs, basketball and swimming, and a different building for the services and Hebrew school," Ron said.

At Temple Beth Shalom, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews come to services and social events. Services are part in Hebrew and part in English.



Ron Klein coordinates entertainment for 2014 Kosher Dinner.

For the first 10 years, Ron worked in the kitchen where he found strong camaraderie.

Then one of the entertainers asked him to do a skit.

"I left the kitchen that year and made my way onto the stage," said Ron, who did skits for several years until he formed a singing group with three other members.

"People enter and first sit in the sanctuary to listen to music and performers while they wait to be ushered into the hall to be served," he said.

Entertainment groups had already included klezmer musicians—Chutzpah (nerve) and Kosher Red Hots. The Shabbos Shaynas (beautiful women of the Sabbath) sing liturgical music and prayers.

So there was interest in singing songs by the many Jewish songwriters of popular and American cultural music, such as George Gershwin, Harold Arlen and Irving Berlin; rock 'n roll and Broadway show songwriters like Carole King, Jerry Lieber, Frank Stoller Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg wrote all the music for the "Wizard of Oz." Steven Schwartz wrote "Godspell" and "Wicked," which is coming to Spokane in May.

"These are songs known by many of the people who come to the dinner," said Ron. "We thought it would be a new niche that would be fun for us to do and fun for the audience to hear."

So 14 years ago, The Mavens (connoisseurs or judges) were added to the entertainment lineup. Sometimes their sets focus on a songwriter, and other times on a theme.

Beyond Jewish writers, one year they presented Beatles music because their pianist loves their music. The audience sang along.

Last year, 10-year-old twins, Ellie and Lilly Huffman-Parent sang liturgical music, show tunes and camp songs a capella.

"They were a hit and will be back on stage this year," Ron said.

"With the goal of the dinner being to help people know who we are and connect with us as members of the community, music is also a way to do that," he said.

When two women who had

been chairs for the entertainment retired, Ron jumped in as emcee and chair of the entertainment committee. He coordinates when and for how long the seven acts perform, each rotating through the day as about 2,500 diners await their meals.

"We are pleased to reach out to people in Spokane and the Inland Northwest. Many remember coming as children," he said.

"Like any multicultural experience, it broadens people's views of who people are and helps them move away from stereotypes," Ron said. "It opens awareness of the intertwining threads of culture as part religious and part social."

Ron believes that the popular annual event helps people overcome outdated, inaccurate notions about Jews from 50 to 80 years ago.

"It's possible for people to be educated and have limited awareness of the contribution of Jews to American culture," he said. "So it's important to expose the wider community to the Jewish community, so they understand, 'Oh, you're like me in many ways.'"

"Many Christians tie in with Jewish literature of the Old Testament, so they have a sense of our shared history and heritage," Ron added. "What we do at the dinner is today. It connects the ancient with the modern."

Because stereotypes about

Jews led to the emergence of hate-groups in this region, there are security people at the dinner.

He said the Jewish community is like a large family, there for each other in times of need and in celebrations of life passages such as births, weddings and funerals.

As a psychologist, Ron is motivated by the Hebrew idea of "tikkun olam," a tenet that to be Jewish means having a responsibility to heal the world.

"One way to do that is to take from what prayer books say and do what we can to make the world a better place," he said. "So many Jews are in healing professions, applying healing to real life and the needs of the community. Many Jewish lawyers represent under-represented groups. Many other professionals have their motivation from tikkun olam."

Beyond what he learned from studies of the discipline of psychology, Ron said that because he grew up as part of a minority community, he understands subtle issues individuals in minority groups face.

"I did not learn sensitivity to issues minority people face from graduate school," he said. "I knew and lived what it means to be a minority. The understanding is reinforced by literature on psychology."

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# Death penalty abolition advocates applaud moratorium, continue efforts

Shar Lichty, death penalty abolition organizer for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS), said she cried tears of joy about Governor Jay Inslee's announcement on Feb. 11 of a moratorium on the death penalty.

"I had known it was a possibility, but, still, I was surprised. I have been working since 2006 to abolish the death penalty and since 2009 with the Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group (INDPAG)," she said.

Nancy Nelson, former co-director of PJALS, in addition to forming INDPAG 30 years ago, had helped establish the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, "so there are deep ties within PJALS on the issue," Shar said.

INDPAG had expected there would be an execution in 2014, so the moratorium means that while Inslee is governor, "there will be no murders by the state," Shar said.

"It will give us breathing room and momentum to work on leg-



Shar Lichty's work to abolish the death penalty will continue.

islation to abolish the death penalty," she said. "It gives us hope that public momentum will grow to pressure legislators.

"In his announcement, the governor made good points about equal justice under the law not being served and in raising ques-

tions about whether the death penalty is being applied unfairly and unjustly," she said.

Shar pointed out that unequal application of the death penalty has been evident in the geographic and racial disparity, with half on death row being African-American.

"I came to a moral stance on the issue in my childhood, when I thought people did not have the right to decide who lives and who dies," she said.

In 2006, the Spokane Community College student awareness league partnered with PJALS to bring Sr. Helen Prejean to speak. That speech motivated Shar to enter social justice work.

Shar said she is "morally motivated" because the death penalty is unfair, costly and inhumane. She added that it does not make society safer, it is not a deterrent and it kills innocent people.

The INDPAG and its sub committees will focus on a plan to invite the family of a murder victim for reconciliation to speak in

Spokane, challenging the notion that victims' families need the death penalty to receive justice.

The group also plans to recruit a three-person faith panel to visit congregations for educational programs.

"Most major denominations oppose the death penalty," she said.

Another educational effort will be a performance of "The Exonerated," which shares stories of five people exonerated from death row.

So INDPAG's effort will continue as faith outreach, public education and legislative advocacy.

"For the nation to abolish the death penalty, 26 states need to have abolished it, because the Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was cruel, but not unusual treatment. It will be "unusual," when 26 states abolish it. Then the Supreme Court will have to change its ruling," Shar said.

"There are now 18 states with no death penalty," she said.

For information, call 838-7870 or email [pjals@pjals.org](mailto:pjals@pjals.org).

## Catholic bishops support moratorium on death penalty, pledge to keep raising awareness

The Catholic bishops of Washington State applauded Gov. Jay Inslee's decision to impose a moratorium on executions during his term of office and added their support for public conversation on capital punishment.

In a letter thanking the governor for his decision, the bishops repeated their support for abolishing the death penalty and pledged their assistance to the governor in raising awareness about the moral and practical reasons for ending executions here.

In his announcement, Inslee, who said that use of capital pun-

ishment is inconsistent and unequal, called for "a conversation about ensuring equal justice under the law."

In their letter, the state's Catholic bishops referred to past statements of the Washington State Catholic Conference that called into question justification for the use of capital punishment and outlined the bishops' reasons for opposing executions by the state.

"The people of Washington are confronted with unanswered questions regarding capital punishment," Washington's bishops wrote in their 2009 statement on

the death penalty.

Questions they raised included: "Is it fairly applied? Are innocent people executed? Are our motives revenge or safety? Is the punishment of death a cost-effective means of ensuring public safety?"

The governor has "taken a positive step by halting executions in Washington state" while he is the state's chief executive, the bishops said in their letter.

"We hope this will lead to a fruitful discussion about the dignity of human life, help us find answers to the compelling questions surrounding the death penalty and

eventually lead to abolishing the practice of executions in Washington State," they said.

Inslee said he will issue a reprieve for death penalty cases that come to his desk, but that the moratorium does not commute the sentences of death row inmates or grant them pardons.

Insisting that the state must hold individuals accountable for their crimes, the bishops also noted that the "real tragedy of criminal murders, however, is that there is no way to rebalance the scales of justice, and that taking a human life in the name of retribution does not breed justice or bring closure, but only continues the cycle of violence and hatred."

The bishops pledged to work with the governor and other leaders to "seek the most effective means to achieve justice, while at the same time turning away from violence as a solution to social problems."

The Catholic Bishops of Washington State are:

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of the Archdiocese of Seattle; Bishop Blase J. Cupich of the Diocese of Spokane; Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of the Diocese of Yakima; and Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

For information, call Greg Magnoni 206-382-4962 or 425-829-5520.

### Church clerk commends death penalty suspension as first step

On Feb. 21, Robert Wiese, of Deer Park, clerk of the Spokane Friends Church, wrote a statement commending the suspension of the death penalty as a first step to address the need for a state constitutional amendment to abolish "a violent and cruel tradition of 'legal revenge' that further darkens the already misguided practice of punitive justice in our culture."

Robert calls for restorative justice and ending the cycle of state-sanctioned violence that "only imprints itself as a failed, destructive and therefore contradictory solution to violence."

He knows some are disappointed or angry about the moratorium, including some who

lost family members. He hopes they will seek healing through forgiveness and reconciliation rather than vengeance.

"Where the gift of grace abounds, there exists no need for a human being to die at the hand of a violent state-sanctioned justice system to satisfy an institutional exploitation of emotional gratification. At the end of the day, it will be empty emotion that sweeps over the revengeful. Those lost through violence will not be returned by violence," he said.

Robert pointed out that it's understandable there are tears of anger and loss because of violence, but he said "tears of hatred, anger, revenge and bit-

terness" are "exhausting, empty and lonely tears."

He calls for mourning together, mourning the loss of a loved one, the loss of all innocence and the unfulfilled potential in the life of the perpetrator and the families of those who committed a violent act.

"When we hold all in the light of Christ's love, only then can there be a release to a better life and legacy for those left behind and those that will come later," he said, hoping the state will move to a model of restorative justice that teaches children a positive example.

For information, call 327-7852 or email [spokanefriends@gmail.com](mailto:spokanefriends@gmail.com).

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 or email [info@beginningexperienceofspokane.us](mailto:info@beginningexperienceofspokane.us)

# CEO of Partners International brings business expertise to faith work

By Deidre Jacobson

After 27 years of corporate business experience, Larry Andrews felt God was calling him to do work that was more faith-based.

Since February 2013, he has been president and chief executive officer of Partners International (PI) at its headquarters in Spokane at 1117 E. Westview Ct.

He is working to revive, refocus and cast a new vision for the organization, which connects the global church by partnering with indigenous leaders through 59 ministry partners in 37 countries as they bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ “to the least resourced and least reached people in the world.”

“We accomplish this by engaging in Christ-centered partnerships with indigenous ministries that spread the Gospel, build the Church, transform communities, and empower women and children. Our focus is to create accelerated, multiplied Kingdom impact by engaging the whole Body of Christ in building up and strengthening the indigenous Church and planting churches,” he said.

Originally formed as the China Native Evangelistic Crusade (CNEC), Partners International was born out of a conversation between a lay leader, four businessmen and a missionary in China. When they met in a Seattle living room in 1943, they agreed that if China was to be reached with the Gospel, the work would have to be done by Chinese Christians, Larry said.

At the time, the idea that indigenous believers could be entrusted with the resources to do God’s



Larry Andrews

work was not common.

PI’s first partnership was with a Chinese evangelist, Calvin Chao, and his “preaching bands” that took the gospel into China’s interior.

“That initial transformational partnership has led to hundreds of partnerships in more than 50 countries,” he said.

“PI’s partners around the globe are local Christians who have a visionary passion to share God’s love with their own people,” Larry said. “They speak the language, understand the culture and live at the same economic level as the people they serve.”

The organization focuses on capacity building that helps the ministry partners become successful, sustainable organizations to transform their nations for Christ.

In Spokane, Partners International is building community connections to have impact on

global ministries.

Some examples are placing volunteers and interns from Whitworth University, partnering with Union Gospel Mission to reintroduce women into the workforce as PI volunteers, and partnering in ministry with more than 18 churches in Eastern Washington and Idaho.

PI recently received a major donation from Life Center Foursquare Church for ministry partners in the Philippines to do community development and outreach after the recent typhoon Haiyan there.

For nearly seven years, Partners International has been working on a church-building ministry in Ghana with Whitworth Presbyterian Church.

Gifts of prayer, time and funds from U.S. partners help build the church, empower women and children through education, economic empowerment and spiritual care, and transform communities through health care, clean water and micro-enterprises.

“We have reached about 1 million people with the light and love of Jesus Christ in 2013, saw 56,307 new believers, planted 1,595 new churches and trained more than 16,842 local leaders,” he said. “The Lord has given us a vision to reach more than 10 million people over the next 1,000 days, all in the least reached places on earth.”

Having grown up Catholic, Larry said he “walked away from faith” when he went to college, but his senior year in 1982, he began attending a 2,000-member, non-denominational church.

After three months, he made a

commitment to accept Jesus and was baptized. He bought a guitar and music became part of his gift in worship.

“I felt a conviction that every place I would go in life, I would serve, and there would be a ministry for me,” he said.

Over the years, he has been involved in such ministries as church planting, worship leading, men’s ministry, small group leadership, prison ministry, financial stewardship ministry, children’s ministry, outreach ministry, camping ministry and Bible study leadership.

Larry studied business operations management and management information systems and earned a master’s degree in business from California State University, Chico. He began at Procter and Gamble, moving to Ohio and working 17 years with that firm.

His work in information technology (IT) with Procter and Gamble, led to his move to Hewlett Packard where he developed general managerial skills with information technology as the “core competency.” Along with working in Ohio and California, his 27-year-career included six years in Singapore.

Larry’s journey to Partners began after awareness he wanted to retire from the corporate world and fulfill a deeper calling to serve the Lord more completely.

“In December 2011, the Lord told me that 2012 was going to be a transition year,” Larry said.

He took an early retirement opportunity, effective Oct. 31, 2012.

For nine months after that, Larry felt God sharpened his vi-

sion to find an executive servant leadership role with a Christ-focused organization that had a global mission to reach the poor, orphaned, enslaved and neglected with sustainable solutions and support, and equip local churches.

Through reading, he sharpened his objective. He also hired an executive coach and participated in a five-month structured process.

Larry views the opportunity with Partners International as “a divine calling,” one that God had prepared him to do for almost 30 years.

He began by conducting 50 interviews with employees, asking them to fast and pray as they looked at every aspect of the organization.

They developed a set of values and code of conduct. Larry said 2013 was about looking at the end-to-end mission, re-tooling, re-equipping, re-visioning and re-energizing the organization.

“We exist to seek out and create lasting, meaningful, respectful partnerships with courageous Christian leaders around the world, and to fuel, fund, serve and support their God-given vision,” Larry said.

“My prayer is to lead us to continually expand our passion, vision, reach and effectiveness by extending the same passionate partner relationships we have in the hard places of the world with every investor that gives their time, talent and treasure to support our vision for ministry,” Larry added.

For information, call 343-4000, email [larrya@partnersintl.org](mailto:larrya@partnersintl.org), connect on Twitter at @partnerseco or visit [www.partnersintl.org](http://www.partnersintl.org).

# Installing pastor calls for church unity to bless, renew and refresh the city

Speaking at the historic installation of the first woman as president of the ecumenical Spokane Ministers’ Fellowship, the Rev. Dwayne Hunt, pastor at Abundant Grace Fellowship in Memphis, Tenn., observed that even though national chain stores give the impression that cities look alike, each city and its people have differences and personalities.

Dwayne was the pastor and mentor for the Rev. Roberta Wilburn, who was being installed, when she was in Memphis.

“Each city has its own spirituality,” he said. “Much of God’s dealing with us is about our city.”

He said God told the Israelites in captivity in Babylon to pray for the city in which they live. He told of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem for not knowing the “things that make for peace.”

“What is Jesus’ message to the city of Spokane and who does Spokane say Jesus is?” he asked, suggesting that because Christ is the “Son of God,” churches are not just messengers to bring truth and deliverance, because the Son is about relationships.

“Are relationships happening among us?” Dwayne asked. “Are we in right relationships?”

“It’s not about how well pastors preach or how many come to church, but whether people know by Christians’ love that they are in right relationships with one another,” Dwayne said.

He also challenged pastors and others gathered that they need to know what to do in the times in which they live.



The Rev. Dwayne Hunt installs the Rev. Roberta Wilburn

“God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, but God says, ‘Behold, I do a new thing.’ Times change so fast we measure time in nanoseconds. Every corporation and business tries to figure out how to get ahead. I just bought an S4 cell phone and then the S5 came out. We are constantly working to improve things. Christians need to deal with a fast-moving society or they become irrelevant and uninteresting,” Dwayne said.

Christians are responsible for caring for both the older and the younger generations. “We think young people are to come to us, but we need to go to them, to minister in their context, to know what to do for each particular occasion,” he said.

Dwayne commented that politicians give out keys to the city that don’t open anything, but God gives pastors keys to the success of their city to unlock it spiritually,

to bless the city spiritually.

Dwayne installed the Rev. Amos Atkinson as vice president, Pastor Joe Veliz as secretary, the Rev. Eugene Singleton as chaplain and Pastor A.S. Rhodes as

treasurer, calling them to promote the peace, unity and effectiveness of Spokane’s churches.

James Wilburn, president of the Spokane Chapter of the NAACP and Roberta’s husband, recounted both her academic credentials and her reliance on God through two bouts of cancer. She has been cancer free for 10 years.

He said after working as associate dean of graduate studies in education and diversity initiatives at Whitworth University, she now knows that Christian higher education is her calling.

In installing her, Dwayne said the votes to elect her affirm her, so she knows she is trusted to pro-

vide leadership of the fellowship.

“God is doing something special in Spokane through a woman,” he said, pointing out that women bring different perspectives.

“Stand together as one church to shake the city,” he said. “Together as one church we are whole, so the city will be blessed, renewed and refreshed.”

Citing the fellowship’s motto—“dwelling together in unity”—Roberta said that when people are one, nothing can be withheld because each brings different talents to share to bless the city.”

For information, call 777-3252 or email [rwilburn@whitworth.edu](mailto:rwilburn@whitworth.edu).

**No One Shall Die Alone Training & Orientation Saturday, March 15**

8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. St. Pius X Catholic Church’s Faith Formation Center 625 E. Haycraft Ave., Coeur d’Alene

You are invited to join No One Shall Die Alone, an interfaith group of volunteers who offer comfort and support to people who are dying.

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## Milestones stir reflection on who we are, and why we do what we do

Milestones in life help us to be in the moment and to know where we are because we can see where we have been and can see where we are going. The hills and valleys may obscure for some that vision, making us believe we are stuck in what is really a fleeting moment.

When we come to milestones, we take time to think, to reflect on the past and to envision our future.

Stories in The Fig Tree may not always be about milestones in years, but they serve as milestone moments for those who share their stories to see how their present lives, ministries, serving, caring, healing, building and advocating arise out of years of their faith and values. They give people a chance to pause and reflect on what they are doing and why they are doing it.

Fig Tree news may be about transitions in leadership, new approaches to programs, new perspectives on people, new twists to familiar events, new ventures in building, new public policies and renewed com-

mitment to vigilance in face of efforts to undermine the public good.

Something negative may spark positive action. The action may inspire others when they feel discouraged or dis-empowered.

When media repeat the assumption of some that families of victims of violence want the death penalty for closure, many may assume that's true. It is also true that many long for reconciliation and healing.

When media repeat the assumption that poor people deserve to live in poverty because they don't work hard enough, they help erode the wellbeing of low-paid workers, who long to share in the wealth they create.

When media repeat assumptions about a religion, a culture, a race, a gender or any people, they build on stereotypes and divisions that erode relationships and access to power.

When media repeat the reports on disasters, injustices and people's needs, they serve the public good and draw response.

The Fig Tree does not bury the bad news, but our spin is not to dwell on it, because there's more to the story. Instead of sensationalizing conflicts, celebrity and concerns, our slant is to see those dynamics as motivation for everyday people to serve, care, heal, build and advocate to change injustices, incongruities and insensitivities.

As we share such stories, we find each person we interview offers nuggets of wisdom, seeds of hope and sparks for action.

We tell who does what, when and where. We tell how they do it and interweave why out of their faith and values they act.

Why do they care? Why do we care? How does others' caring fuel our caring?

Information selected for our consumption shapes our world views, our political views, our understandings and our relationships.

As we prepare for our 30th Anniversary Dinner April 30 and for our Benefit Breakfast March 12 and Benefit Lunch March 14, we take time to reflect. Our speakers will

share how The Fig Tree and its Resource Directory connect and empower people. The video we are preparing shares the story of how "The Fig Tree" was chosen as our name and how its design reflects the communication ministry that has emerged.

As we look ahead, The Fig Tree Board of Directors plans to start a special multi-year pledge campaign to help us move into our future. The goal is to provide a stable salary for additional staff we need to help carry the workload and free up time to build relationships and expand our constituency. We need the consistency of staff to do that.

Underwriters can pledge according to their ability.

The board will announce the campaign during the Benefit Breakfast, Benefit Lunch and 30th Anniversary Dinner.

The campaign will be a new way for supporters to help us celebrate our past and create our future.

**Mary Stamp**  
Editor

## From personhood and free speech, corporations claim religious freedom

Corporations have accepted the personhood and freedom of speech bestowed on them as Citizens United by the Supreme Court, and some are now moving on to claim freedom of religion rights in order to circumvent certain requirements of the new health care system.

This has led me to wonder how far this is going to go. I have many questions, many of them impertinent.

I am also reminded that when Art Buchwald, that sharp-eyed commentator on our culture and skewerer of the pretentious, announced that he would no longer be writing his newspaper column, someone asked him why he chose that particular moment. His answer was that the news had become so unbelievable that it was difficult to find anything to satirize.

My point of view, at present, is that much of what passes as news today is its own satire.

At other times, there is nothing but satire

that will point up some forms of weirdness.

What further rights are there for corporations, as people, to claim?

Let's continue for a while with freedom of religion. At least a half dozen state legislatures are considering bills similar to that vetoed in Arizona. Some of them include identical language about wanting to eliminate situations that "burden the exercise of freedom of religion."

Is the same group writing all of them?

Will there be information posted at the doors of businesses outlining the religious scruples of corporate headquarters? Or will we have to continue to draw our own conclusions from the hymns being played over the PA system? Will there be a quiz administered just inside the door or at the cash register, or will we be evaluated as we shop? If we flunk the test, will the cashier refuse to ring up the contents of our cart, or will a note be added to our sales slip gently telling us that maybe we would be

happier shopping somewhere else next time? Will religious tracts be distributed? Will the cashier offer to pray with us about our "situation"?

What other rights do corporations want to claim? What sorts of behavior should they be held to? Are advertisements for "door buster" sales simply encouragement to riot? Should crowd permits be required?

If they want the right to vote in the elections they have the right to finance, will it be "one corporation, one vote" or will the corporation have as many votes as it does employees? Will corporations be able to run for office? If elected to Congress, will they have to remove all their lobbyists from the capital? Doesn't law prohibit a current member of Congress from being a lobbyist?

If a product manufactured by a corporation kills or maims users of that product, will the corporation be held criminally liable? How do we set bail for a corporation? Can a corporation be tried for murder?

How do we pick up a corporation's passport—cancel its offshore bank accounts? How do we carry out capital punishment on a corporation?

In lesser cases, what kind of community service would a corporation be required to do? Picking up all those tracts that have been dropped outside the stores? More basically, who stands in for the corporation at a trial? Maybe there will be a slight revision of the business organization chart as they take a cue from professional baseball and add a Designated Scapegoat to the roster.

What's next? Second Amendment rights could be interesting. How would a corporation exercise its right in those states that have Stand Your Ground laws? Maybe we will see a march straight through the Bill of Rights, similar to General Sherman's march through Georgia.

**Nancy Minard**  
Contributing editor

Letter to the Editor

## Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

**I want to thank you** for such full thoughtful coverage of *Pilgrimage through Loss* and the Krista Foundation in The Fig Tree's article in the February edition.

I so appreciate that you are such a careful editor that lets interviewees read the article ahead and that you worked with our tight schedule in light of the Asia trip. Your publication is such a gift to the community and your faithfulness to this publication deserves an interview with you! In deep appreciation,

**Linda Lawrence Hunt, PhD**

I am writing to you as the Director of Victim Advocacy and Prevention for the Sexual Assault and Family Trauma Response Center at Lutheran Community Services Northwest regarding the "Date Grape Kool-Aid" Controversy that has arisen.

I am humbled and honored to speak on behalf of the 837 survivors of sexual violence my team provided free service to in the last year, and for the thousands of children, women and men we have been with during medical exams, reporting to police, countless hearings, defense interviews, brutal trials, support groups, and many crisis and traumatic breakdowns in my program's 34-year history of advocating for survivors of sexual violence in Spokane.

Sadly, although we reach many people through our work, there are many more who never call for help. People who are told the worst thing that ever happened to them was

just a misunderstanding, a joke, like "date grape." For this reason they may never seek needed health care, needed justice, or hope for their own future. This happens because you and I allow it to happen. Just last month the White House Council on Women and Girls reported:

"Sexual assault is pervasive because our culture still allows it to persist... violence prevention can't just focus on the perpetrators and the survivors. It has to involve everyone. In order to put an end to this violence, we as a nation must see it for what it is: a crime. Not a misunderstanding, not a private matter, not anyone's right or any woman's fault. Bystanders must be taught and emboldened to step in to stop it. We can only stem the tide of violence if we all do our part."

In April, I will have been working at LCSNW for 13 years and every day I learn something new from our clients. I can tell you, every joke told about sexual violence does two very harmful things that no community or individual should tolerate. First, it makes rape more socially acceptable; perpetuating the problem, the prevalence, and the impact on each of us as neighbors, friends, co-workers, parents, siblings, and citizens.

Second, it minimizes every survivor's experience. It takes a person who often already feels small, damaged, frightened, disrespected, shameful and alone and it reinforces those feelings. Each time we

laugh or turn a deaf ear to these so-called jokes we validate a crime victim's worst fears. It lets them know that we find them to be insignificant, damaged, not respectable, and that they deserve to feel ashamed and alone. Our community should come to the aid of people who have been harmed in this personal way. Anything less is unacceptable if we value health and justice.

Sexual violence is a real problem in Spokane. In 2013 our confidential sexual assault crisis line received nearly 1,500 calls. These calls are placed in private, by people in their darkest moments. Usually, the only other person who knows is the one picking up the other end of the phone. Being an advocate, I am faced with the scope of violence in Spokane on a daily basis and it breaks my heart.

This joke, this play on words referencing date rape, didn't happen in private. It happened in public. It is up to each and every one of us to step up. I hope the community I love will continue to come forward and support neighbors who have been victims of one of the most disturbing crimes I can imagine. Spokane is home to many great restaurants and nightclubs. We should support those that make Spokane a better place. We should ask our friends to do the same.

My colleagues and I are here to help survivors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 624-7273.

**Erin Williams Hueter - LCSNW**  
Director of Advocacy & Prevention

**We live in days of constant**, changing stimulation, and we're always in danger of losing a deep focus for life.

Jesus in his most provocative mode, calls us to remember the fundamental teachings of the faith: the blessedness of those left out by suffering, mourning, hunger or persecution.

The fact is that we are called to be salt and light—distinctive!—in the world.

The ancient law is still in effect for all of us captured by sin.

The call is for us to love both our neighbors and our enemies.

Jesus' words will be pure grace for those who need the comfort and promise of his love in the midst of loss and fear.

Jesus' words will help define life for those looking for an ethic of life in a world of cheap death.

Jesus' words are a challenge for all those who don't believe in the power of sin and death, and Jesus will ask us to be bigger human beings, giving up our prejudices and our carefully nurtured animosities.

This is the miracle of faith in our world today.

It both offers and demands everything, the promise always coming first, but quickly followed by a demanding reality, what will be called elsewhere "the narrow gate."

**Bishop Martin Wells**  
Eastern Washington Idaho Synod  
Evangelical Church in America

# Calendar of Events

- Mar 2,9,16** • **How to Be a Jew in the Free World,** Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave., 443-0770, rabbihahn@gmail.com
- Mar 5** • **"Crafting Unity:** Connie Soto Murphy Art Exhibit," Crosby Main Floor, Gonzaga University, noon to 2 p.m., 315-5836, unityhouse@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 6** • **"Girl Rising,"** documentary of nine girls facing injustices, sponsored by YWCA and She's the First, Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 E. Sprague, 7 p.m., 326-1190
- **Great Decisions Lecture:** "The International Trading System and Washington," Robert Hamilton, governor's advisor for trade policy, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7:30 p.m., 777-3834 or snewman@whitworth.edu
- Mar 6-Apr 10** • **Beginning Experience Coping Classes,** St. Aloysius Parish Center, 330 E. Boone, 7 p.m., 534-1797
- Mar 7-8** • **Peace and Economic Justice Action** Conference, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 8:30 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 838-7870, www.pjals.org
- Mar 7-15** • **"Pride and Prejudice,"** Cowles Auditorium Stage II, Whitworth University, 7:30 p.m. Mar 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2 p.m., Mar 9, 777-3707, ejohnson@whitworth.edu
- Mar 8** • **International Women's Day,** Lobna Saeed, Whitworth Fulbright scholar from Egypt, Riverpoint Campus, Spokane Academic Center Room 20, 10 a.m. to noon, 777-4484, jbrown@whitworth.edu
- Mar 8-16** • **Novena of Grace,** St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 330 E. Boone, 12:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. 313-5896
- Mar 9** • **17th Annual Baby Fair,** Lutheran Community Services anti-trafficking coordinator, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 242-2500, MikeRuiz@clearchannel.com
- **73rd Annual Koshers Dinner,** Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., 747-3304, www.spokanetbs.org
- Mar 10** • **Corazon Scarves** benefit sale, support Sandi and Brian Thompson-Royer's work in Guatemala, 3 E. 40th Ave. 6 to 8 p.m., 863-7005.
- Mar 11** • **YWCA Race/Social Justice Book Club,** YWCA, 920 N. Monroe, 5:30 p.m., 326-1199, ywcaspokane.org
- **Unity in the Community Meeting,** Community Minded Enterprises, 25 W. Main Ste 310, 5:30 p.m., mahenderson@west.com
- Mar 12** • **The Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast,** "Empowering People: Hope Justice, Action," Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 7:15 a.m. buffet, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., program, 535-1813, thefigtree.org
- **Veterans Resource Fair,** Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 333-7274
- Mar 12-14** • **"Unity with Difference** Conversation," Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth University, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mar 12, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mar 13, 9 a.m. to noon Mar 14, 777-4345, mclaassen@whitworth.edu
- Mar 13** • **"Women of Color:** Struggles and Triumphs," social science instructor Angela Finnie on "Barriers for Women of Color" and CCS Chancellor Christine Johnson on "Breaking through the Glass Ceiling," Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene, 8 a.m. to noon, 533-8836
- Mar 14** • **The Fig Tree Benefit Lunch,** "Empowering People: Hope, Justice, Action," Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University, 11:45 a.m. buffet, noon to 1 p.m. program, 535-1813, thefigtree.org
- Mar 15** • **MAC 100 Stories,** "Big Moments," Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 456-3931
- **Women in Agriculture Conference,** multiple locations: Colville, Nespelem, Prosser, Pullman, Republic, Roseburg, Spokane, Walla Walla, Wenatchee, Yakima, Bonners Ferry, 509-745-8531, www.WomenInAg.wsu.edu
- **"No One Shall Die Alone" Training,** St Pius X Faith Formation Center, 425 E. Haycraft, Coeur d'Alene, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., 208-659-0186
- Mar 18, 25** • **"Discovering the Hidden Ground of** Love," The Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 6 p.m., 483-6495
- Apr 1, 8** • **PFLAG,** Bethany Presbyterian, 2607 S. Ray, 7 p.m., spokanepflag.org
- Mar 19** • **"Good News about Good Works** and Good People: Is Compassion Contagious?" editors of The Fig Tree and Spokane FAVs, Friends of Compassion, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 7 p.m., 535-4112, john.hank@me.com
- Mar 20** • **"Toward a Mystical-Political** Theology of Solidarity," Flannery Lecture, Shawn Copeland, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 7:30 p.m., 313-6782
- Mar 22** • **Soul Collage II,** Franciscan Place, 1016 N. Superior, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 483-6495
- Mar 25** • **WSU Annual Women's Recognition** and Symposium, news correspondent Hattie Kaufman, M.G. Carey Senior Ballroom, WSU, Pullman, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 509-335-2972, women.wsu.edu
- Mar 26-28** • **Leadership to Make a Difference,** Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, 465 Keuterville Rd., Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000, spiritcenter.org
- Mar 27** • **"Inequality for All,"** Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, Foley Teleconference Room, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., pcActionCouncil@gmail.com
- **4th Annual Diversity Monologues** on "Power of the Voice," Jepson Wolff Auditorium at Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 315-5836, unityhouse@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 27, 29, 30** • **Jewish Film Festival,** Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main, 7:30 p.m. Thursday/Sunday; 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. film, Saturday, sajfs.org
- Mar 28** • **"God's Beauty: A Call to Justice,"** Patrick Mc Cormick, Gonzaga professor, Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, 465 Keuterville Rd., Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000
- Mar 31-Apr 5** • **WSU Spokane Diversity Week,** Riverpoint campus
- Mar 31** • **YWCA program on domestic violence,** Riverpoint, noon
- Apr 1** • **"Sex Trafficking and Modern Slavery,"** Siddharth Kara, McCarthy Athletic Center, 7 p.m., 313-3572
- Apr 2** • **Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery,** St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Apr 3** • **The Fig Tree Board and Event Planning,** Emmanuel Family Live Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon, Anniversary Dinner Planning, 1 p.m., board, 535-1813
- Apr 4** • **International Parade of Nations,** South Campus Facility, Riverpoint campus
- Apr 6** • **Poor Clare Tea,** Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1115 W. Riverside, 991-7058
- **Annual Dinner Auction,** The Common Ministry, Washington State University, 720 NE Thatuna, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 509-332-2611, office@interfaith-house.com

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<b>Thursday, March 27</b>	<b>Saturday, March 28</b>	<b>Sunday, March 30</b>
<b>BALLAD OF THE WEeping SPRING</b>	<b>BETHLEHEM</b>	<b>BROADWAY MUSICALS</b>
	7 pm - Reception	

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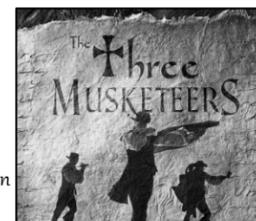
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# SHAWL Society reports on uranium mine cleanup and need for vigilance

Twa-le and Deb Abrahamson of the SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water and Land) Society recently reported on the status of cleanup at the Ford Mill Site, the Midnight Mine and uranium levels in well water on the Spokane Reservation.

They and other tribal environmental leaders met with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice, following up on an Environmental Justice Summit, which had been scheduled in October 2013 and was canceled because of the government shutdown.

Matthew Tehada and Jiesa Jackson came to Spokane recently to meet with them at the Environmental Justice Office. Other tribes have scheduled times to meet with them to share their concerns about environmental justice and their updates about environmental issues on their reservations with the EPA.

**The Spokane Tribe's list** of environmental concerns comes from managers and members related to the Ford Mill Site, the Midnight Mine, and uranium in well waters. "We had an Environmental Justice grant to test the wells," Twa-le said, adding that they are also looking at future needs and updating how the Columbia River Treaty relates to tribes.

**"We are pushing to include** the environmental health of the river in that treaty, as well as power production and flood control, and the passage of salmon over Grand Coulee Dam," she said.

Another concern relates to having Washington State water quality standards for the river be set with a target of people being able to consume two pounds of fish a day, rather than just 6.5 ounces.

Twa-le said that will mean limiting discharges from upstream sources of pollution in Canada and Idaho, as well as Washington.

**"We also ask the EPA** to work intentionally with tribal communities, not just tribal leadership, so that more voices in the communities can be heard," she said.

Twa-le is air quality project manager for the Spokane Tribe. Attending the meeting with her were staff for wildlife, water quality and planning.

"Tribal council members are also concerned about the impact of oil and coal transport," she said, pointing out that both will have impact on air and water quality.

**In December, the plan for stages** of the Midnight Mine cleanup was released, giving specifications for the clean-up with proposals at given time intervals, Twa-le continued.

"We are more than halfway through the time of the design for cleanup. Now is the time for comments to review where we are," she said. "Comments include discussion of sequencing related to which pit to fill first or second, and where the water will go."

Twa-le framed with her hands about one cubic foot to indicate the amount of paper in a document on the design.

"We now have more information," she said. "Ninety percent



Deb and Twa-le Abrahamson report on clean-up on reservation.

of the design will be ready, so we can put bids out next year. We are unsure who will document assistance or what technical assistance and experts the EPA will provide to review concerns for community members."

Comments were heard, but Twa-le said there needs to be more community involvement and opportunity for community responses.

**The SHAWL Society** has been working since 1994 to clean up radioactive contamination and toxic wastes that remain on the Spokane Reservation from mining there between 1955 and 1981. Twa-le's mother, Deb Abrahamson, founded it to educate people on the concerns.

The Dawn Mill Site at Ford, which is off the reservation, is overseen by the Department of Health (DOH), because it is in a separate jurisdiction. If the mine company is not on the clean-up schedule, the DOH is unable to enforce it, Twa-le said. The company has been delaying.

That was the first site that led Deb to start SHAWL, because her house is downstream from it.

**"While that site is open,** the company is able to dump there for free. It was closed only briefly. The timeline is to pay \$500,000 a month for disposal costs to transport sludge from the water treatment plant from the mine through the reservation to Hanford once Ford is closed," she said.

"There has been a report of two plumes leaking from that site. We planned a community meeting. It was canceled and not rescheduled," said Twa-le.

"They say they are collecting data, but they have enough data to know plumes are leaking into ground water from Tshimikian Creek, a small creek that is the eastern boundary of the reservation. The mill site is on the other side. The tribal fish hatchery is near there," she said. "The Department of Health is doing extensive studies, allowing Ford to expand the site. Recent tests found plumes in ground water."

**While the community water** system passed for radiation levels, wells were not included. With a grant in 2012, the tribal foundation began testing a well at the house closest to the mine. As it

continues to test across the reservation, it has found elevated levels of uranium, radium and gross alpha radioactivity in nearly 35 percent of wells, Twa-le reported.

To deal with elevated levels, the tribe is connecting the homes close to the community to the tribal water system. It is going house to house to explain different filtration systems.

**Twa-le's office is also doing** radon testing in homes, and finding that air quality in homes is 25 percent elevated for radon.

"For mitigation to improve the air quality in homes, the tribe can install vent systems with funding from the water treatment grant," she explained.

The tribe has funds from a \$450,000 HUD imminent treatment grant that came in six months ago and an environmental justice grant that came about the same time, she said.

**Deb said that** the Spokane Tribal Business Council approved on Feb. 21 to the 2011 purchase of 80 acres of fee land (privately owned) on the reservation to Newmont Mining Co., which plans to remove four feet of topsoil and

use soil under that for clean fill of the uranium mine pits.

**"SHAWL is concerned** because the decision was made in a closed session and because it increases the footprint of the operation," she said. "As one elder said, 'They will dig a hole to fill a hole.'"

She realizes the decision was made because the option presented was that trucks would "race" through the community every two minutes with fill dirt from off the reservation, according to the original proposal for the clean-up. "However, we can set the speed limit and limit the hours for access," she explained.

**The business council approved** right-of-way access for the mining company to go over reservation land. Newmont has a reclamation plan for the acres, and when that is done, Newmont has agreed to sell the land back to the tribe for \$1, Deb said.

"The decision has divided people. It sets a precedent that corporations can buy land and dilute the reservation," she said, "undermining our sovereignty."

For information, call 258-8952 or email shawlsociety@yahoo.com.

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