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FEATURES 60+ EVENTS



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

People build ‘beaver’ dams to clean water

By Mary Stamp

To help restore a wetland area along Thompson Creek as it flows into Newman Lake, Kat Hall, director of The Lands Council’s Restoration Program, organized teams last fall to do what beavers do: build dams.

Working with Gonzaga’s School of Engineering and Applied Science and its “Best Dam Team,” they built “beaver dam analogs” (BDAs) by weaving tree branches through wooden posts pounded in across the creek at intervals over a length of 3,000 feet.

People are building “beaver” dams in other Northeast Washington locations where such dams are needed and beaver populations have declined as farmers and ranchers drained wetlands, said Kat.

She organized teams of staff and volunteers in October for the Beaver Dam Analogue (BDA) Thompson Creek Project to help keep sediment down in the creek to improve the water quality of the creek and lake.

Beaver dams do three things for the environment:

- They create pools or ponds that slow the flow of water to be absorbed to recharge the aquifer



Kat Hall organized teams of volunteers to build Beaver Analog Dams.

that is depleted as more people use the water.

- They assure that the dams filter sediment in the water so the water quality improves.

- They make the water pond behind the dams to create wetlands that are of value for wildlife.

“If there are beavers in the area to build dams, great, but areas that are drained and channelized lack habitat for beavers,” Kat said.

“Healthy rivers wind and meander. Native vegetation along them slows and absorbs flooding,” she explained.

“Many of the region’s streams and wetlands were ditched and channeled to direct irrigation water for agriculture—crops and cows. As streams were ditched, spring runoffs eroded sediment off the land, degraded the water quality and lowered the water table,” she said. “Those factors make it hard for native species to survive, reducing food for beavers.”

“Without habitat for beaver, human beings have come in to make beaver dams to do what beaver dams are supposed to do,” Kat said.

“Building BDAs in a creek
Continued on page 4

‘Diversity, equity and inclusion’ are advanced for everyone at Whitworth

The words, “diversity, equity and inclusion,” and programs associated with them are often assumed to be just for people of color, but those words “are for everyone,” asserted Roberta Wilburn, who started as interim chief diversity officer at Whitworth University in the summer of 2021.

“Building cross-cultural and cross-racial understanding is a journey, not a destination,” she said.

Roberta wants Whitworth to be Martin Luther King Jr.’s beloved community.

So she has been immersed in

bringing those words—diversity, equity, inclusion—to life in people’s lives through her life and ministry, but particularly through her years at Whitworth.

During her nearly 14 years at Whitworth, she has met one-on-one with students of color and white students.

She helped hire and support her predecessors Larry Burnley and Lorna Hernandez Jarvis during her years as dean of the department of education.

After leading a recent book study with Whitworth leaders, she told them the next step was

implementation.

“We are all brothers and sisters in Christ at Whitworth, even though not all students are Christian. There are Muslims, Jews, agnostics and more,” she said.

In 2020, Roberta retired to develop Wilburn and Associates, a consulting company with her husband James to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. They were also thinking of moving nearer their grandsons.

“God and Whitworth had something else in mind,” said Roberta, who helped start Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Whitworth, hiring Larry and Lorna, and working with them.

When Lorna left in June 2021, Whitworth President Scott McQuilkin asked her to be interim.

“I did not want the program to backslide,” she said, but she waited to start after spending a month with her new grandson and his brother in Mississippi and two weeks with another grandson in Maryland.

When Larry left, Roberta debated applying, but liked what
Continued on page 5

Spring Benefit Events boost Fig Tree efforts to spread hope

“Spreading Seeds of Hope” is what The Fig Tree newspaper, Resource Directory, online media and events do day to day. It’s also the theme for The Fig Tree’s Spring Benefit Events to inspire giving to support the day-to-day work of this ministry.

The events are midday on Friday, March 4, and morning on Wednesday, March 9. Groups gather half an hour before the programs on Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Friday and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The programs begin on the hour, at noon Friday and 8 a.m. Wednesday. Individuals may sign in beginning 11:45 a.m. Friday on YouTube Live or 7:45 a.m. on Zoom. Those wishing to attend must send their emails to receive the links.

Mary Stamp, editor, and Dale Soden, board member, will emcee the Friday event live from Hamilton Studio, which is preparing a video telling The Fig Tree story, giving an inside look at who does what work as staff, board and volunteers—and why.

Hamilton Studio is pre-recording speakers—people interviewed for stories in 2021 and 2022. Four speak at each event.

Telling in a few minutes why they value The Fig Tree and how it intersects with their efforts are Jeanette Hauck, CEO of YWCA Spokane; Mark Finney, pastor of Emmaus Church and refugee resettlement leader; Ginger Ewing, co-founder and executive director of Terrain; Benjamin Watson, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church; Gen Heywood, convener of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience and pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ; Cam Zorrozuva and Virla Spencer, founders of The Way to Justice; Walter Kendricks, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church and organizer with Spokane Coalition Against Racism, and David Gortner, pastor of St. Luke Episcopal Church in Coeur d’Alene.

For information, call 509-535-1813, RSVP at event@thefigtree.org, visit <https://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html> or <http://www.thefigtree.org/2022BenefitsInvitation-RSVP.pdf>.

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
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WCC Central Committee plans Assembly

From Feb. 9 to 15, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) met virtually to continue planning the 11th WCC Assembly that will be held in August and September in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Ioan Sauca, its acting secretary general, spoke at a press conference, reflecting on the theme, “Christ’s love leads the world to reconciliation and unity,” and its significance for the assembly: “The theme announces God’s love in Christ for all creation. It speaks to the essence of our faith and the reason for our community. It inspires our common call to walk, pray and work together for justice and peace, for reconciliation and unity, for renewal and healing.”

Agnes Aboun, the moderator for the Central Committee, said the WCC has also moved forward together with other communions, “but what is more important is that we have moved forward together with human communities and social movements in addressing issues of justice. The pilgrimage of justice and peace has offered us a framework to relate to each other.”

In his report, Ioan expressed appreciation for the global fellowship of churches, acknowledging the losses during the past year while also offering hope for transformation. He expressed regret that the Central Committee could not meet in person in Geneva but was thankful that they could pray together, share with one another and move together in an online meeting.

With the WCC 11th Assembly just six months away, he said, “The commitment and resilience of the churches to continue their ministry and diaconal service to all God’s people has been inspiring and transformative,” he said. “It continues to amaze me how much we have achieved together as a fellowship of churches in spite of the pandemic.”

What gives him hope in times of uncertainty? The life and witness of the WCC member churches, he said.

Ioan said a biblical, theological approach “obliges us to enter into dialogue with people of other faiths and people who have no faith, because we are all members of the same human family.

Agnes shared developments since the 10th Assembly in Busan: widening of ecumenical dialogue, deepening bilateral dialogues and broadening the number of groups we relate to, such as the Pentecostal and Evangelical movements.

“The WCC has moved together with other communions, with human communities and social movements in addressing justice issues,” Agnes added. “Through communication, the WCC has kept together, worked together and prayed together. We were able to harness stories of hope, stories of resilience, stories of patience, stories of innovation.”

Agnes said the WCC’s Thursdays in Black campaign gathered momentum during the pandemic as men and women overcome the challenges that generate unwanted violence.

On holding the assembly amid challenges posed by the pandemic, the central committee recommended regular monitoring, noting that April is a critical moment for accommodation contracts, budget considerations and registration.

The Central Committee provisionally approved bylaws of a new Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing to build on the legacy of the former Christian Medical Commission (1960s-1980s) and to galvanize churches’ efforts on health as a credible counterpart to international health organizations.

The WCC governing body also approved the WCC Gender Justice Principles document for WCC staff, governing bodies, commissions and reference groups, because of its commitments to gender justice.

The Central Committee also reaffirmed the importance of cooperation between churches and ecumenical partners to continue the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, affirming the themes of truth and trauma, land and displacement, gender and racial justice, health and healing, climate justice and decolonizing churches and ecumenical spaces.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Whitworth hosts event on health equity

Whitworth University is hosting a bioethics symposium on “Achieving Health Equity: This Too Is Our Lane, Structural Racism in Health Care.”

Physician Rachel Issaka, assistant professor of gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of Washington, will speak on structural racism in healthcare via Zoom from Seattle at 7 p.m., Thursday, March

10 at Weyerhaeuser Hall.

Rachel does health equity research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center on reducing colorectal cancer mortality by increased screening in underserved populations, with funds from National Institute of Health (NIH), Medicare and Medicaid.

She contributed to guidelines for the Centers for Disease Control, and advised the President’s

Cancer Panel and the COVID-19 Prevention Network that had oversight for NIH vaccine trials.

“She will discuss disparities in healthcare on racial and economic lines,” said Aaron Putzke, Whitworth biology professor, “work we need to hear as we lean into issues of injustice.”

For information, call 777-4433 or email dsoden@whitworth.edu.

YWCA honors women of achievement

YWCA Spokane honors eight women at the 40th Women of Achievement Awards Celebration from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 24, at the Dav- enport Hotel.

The event, which is YWCA- Spokane’s primary fundraiser, has honored more than 250 women leaders over 40 years.

The keynoter, Retired Admiral Michelle Howard, was the first woman to command a U.S. Naval ship, be a four-star admiral and vice chief of naval operations,

the second highest rank in the Navy. She was the first African- American woman to reach three- star and four-star in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and to command a Navy ship.

Proceeds support YWCA ser- vices for domestic violence victims and their children: an emergency shelter, counseling, legal services, job readiness, childcare and Pre-K programs, said Kelsey Martin, the luncheon co-chair with Yvonne Smith.

Recipients of 2022 Women of

Achievement Awards are Dawn Wolski, arts and culture; Hannel Sanchez, Carl Maxey Racial and Social Justice; Nancy Mahoney, business and industry; Fawn Schott, community enhance- ment; Lee Williams, education; Alison Gregoire, government and public service; Oludunni Oluwoye, science, technology and environment, and Sarah Dix- it, Young Women of Achieve- ment.

For information, visit ywca- spokane.org/woa2022.

FLLC offer photojournalistic contest

For a Photojournalistic Story Contest, Faith Leaders and Lead- ers of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho (FLLC) invite photographers to tell a story through five to ten images with text on “It’s Time to Do Something About”

The contest is for middle and high school students, and adults using a digital camera. The dead- line is June 30.

The top prize is \$150. A runner up in each age group will receive \$100. The event will be judged over the summer. Winners’ stories

will be displayed in the fall.

This is FLLC’s third contest for people in the Inland Northwest to share their gifts and visions. The first was an art contest and the second was a short story contest.

For information, email FLL- Conscience@gmail.com.

Recovery Café app improves sobriety

Recovery Café Spokane, a program of Community-Minded Enterprises (CME), has en- hanced a text communication application to provide resources to help clients maintain sobriety.

“It’s a breakthrough,” said Christine McMackin, Recovery Café manager. “Members can access assistance 24 hours a day with a few clicks on a cell phone.”

CME added Quiq App with a \$50,000 grant from Coordinated Care’s Community Investment Fund. Coordinated Care partners supported the app from the start.

“Technology in behavioral health removes barriers for treat- ment and complements tradition- al therapy,” said Beth Johnson, CEO of Coordinated Care. “An app can impact equity issues and engagement in one’s health.”

Bozeman, Mont., company Quiq developed the app working with CME on an app to help par-

ents with young children access resources at the start of COVID.

The app helps CME connect parents and caregivers with educational materials, said Jan Thoemke, interim CEO for CME.

It uses artificial intelligence to contact a CME staff member. Clients find resources based on their answers. The app links those needing more help to a

CME Recovery Services staff.

Recovery Café relocated Feb. 1 to CME’s new Recovery Services building, 622 E. 2nd, with CME’s State Opioid Response, Substance Abuse Block Grant, Child Care Assistance Program and Founda- tional Community Support.

For information, call 822- 8040 or email jillj@community- minded.org.

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Habitat’s Women Build is March 16 to 19

Women will volunteer to help Habitat for Humanity Spokane build affordable homes during a four-day building event March 16 to 19. They will join Habitat families in hands-on building opportunities, not requiring any prior experience, empowering the women as they help address the housing crisis in Spokane County.

Participants will learn new skills through an experience geared to improve community. Women Build encourages women to break down stereotypes, learn skills to build new homes, come together and have fun.

Congregations can help by providing lunches for about 60 volunteers. For information, call 535-9517.

PJALS plans Membership Meeting March 9

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) 2022 Membership Meeting will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, on Zoom. The PJALS Steering Committee and staff will announce plans for the spring and summer. They will tell of ways people can be involved, and report on activities and finances. For information, visit pjals.org.

River City Youth Ops seeks board members

River City Youth Ops (RCYO) in West Central Spokane is seeking community members to serve on its growing board of directors. Applications are due March 18.

RCYO seeks people committed to farm fresh food and neighborhood youth. It is an urban farm network that creates opportunities for youth enrichment through community engagement, job training and education. Its seasonal programs teach youth ages 12 to 18 environmental stewardship and entrepreneurship through growing and selling of fresh food. RCYO pays youth stipends, provides educational opportunities and connects them with community service.

For information, call 990-3010, email stephanie.watson@projecthopespokane.org or visit youthops.org.

Camp Gifford seeks stories, photos for 100th

To mark the 100th anniversary of Camp Gifford in 2022, The Salvation Army is seeking stories, quotes and photos from campers who have attended Camp Gifford during the past 100 years.

By April 15, individuals are asked to send stories, quotes and photos with their names and years they attended Camp Gifford.

Camp Gifford is the oldest Salvation Army camp operating in the same location in the United States, said Brian Pickering, development and communications director.

For information, call 325-6810 or email brian.pickering@usw.salvationarmy.org.

HBPA matches students and professionals

Hispanic Business Professional Association’s (HBPA) mentor program is matching students, young professionals and returning professionals to an HBPA mentor through its Latinos Unidos en Accion (LUNA) program

HBPA is interested in advancing Hispanic/Latinx students through “celebrating scholastic achievement, encouraging higher education, establishing lifelong educational and professional goals while increasing awareness and pride in the diversity of Hispanic culture,” said Fernanda Mazcot, HBPA president.

LUNA is a student-community engagement program designed to introduce students and young professionals to Spokane by connecting them with resources, services, scholarships and academic recognition to enhance the academic, cultural and emotional well-being of the individual.

For information, call 557-0566 or email asociacion.hispana-spokane@gmail.com.

Mardi Bras parties gather items women need

Through Mardi Bras Parties, held around Tuesday, March 1, Volunteers of America and Transitions offer an opportunity to help meet basic needs of more than 1,800 women experiencing homelessness and involved at Hope House and Women’s Hearth.

Congregations and individuals are hosting online Mardi Bras parties and inviting friends to give deodorant, tampons, bras, underwear, socks and bus passes.

For information, call 688-1117 or email development@voa-spokane.org or visit help4women.org.

Catholic Charities opens Pasco housing

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) broke ground on Pasco Haven, its newest affordable housing complex in Pasco to provide affordable, permanent, supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The project at 20th Ave. and Lewis St. includes 60 housing units for vulnerable people.

Pasco Haven is the first affordable housing project of its kind in Pasco. It will provide a long-

term housing option for chronically homeless individuals.

It offers wrap-around resources on site that allow residents to begin healing from the traumas of intergenerational poverty, chronic homelessness, and substance abuse by providing safe and affordable housing—units will average \$196.

“Every person needs a roof over their heads before they can move forward in their lives,” said Rob McCann, president and

CEO of CCEW. “Pasco Haven staff will meet residents where they are and help them move forward in their lives.”

Catholic Charities is partnering with the Greater Colombia Accountable Community of Health, the Benton Franklin County Continuum of Care and other organizations to provide additional services to residents.

For information, call 455-3046 or email andy.robideaux@cceasternwa.org.

Author speaks at symposium

Diana Butler Bass, columnist, author of 11 books and advocate for progressive Christianity, will present the 40th Roger Williams Symposium on Saturday, March 26, to Monday, 28, 2022.

An American historian of Christianity and writer on American religion and culture, Diana will speak on “Freeing Jesus in Our Lives and in the Public Square” at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 26, at Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus St., Pullman in person and on Zoom.

She will lead a workshop on “Religion in the News: Trends Shaping Religion and Culture,”

from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, March 27, at St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman.

The Foley Institute will host her talk on “The Shifting Landscape of American Religion and Politics,” at 12 p.m., Monday, March 28, in person at the Foley Speaker’s Room, 308 Bryan Hall at WSU and streamed on the Foley Institute YouTube channel: <https://foley.wsu.edu>

The events are sponsored by The Common Ministry at WSU and the Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Service and Public Policy.

For information, visit interfaithhouse.com or pullmanucc.org.

MiA launches helpline

MiA launched Spokane’s first bilingual domestic violence and sexual assault helpline on Monday, Feb. 14. Primera Conexion will support Spanish speaking survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As Hannel Sanchez, director, became involved in Spokane in 2017, she realized there was need “for a culturally responsive helpline for the people and by the people.”

With Primera Conexión, MiA offers a confidential support system, crisis intervention, safety planning and resources for people experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault and provide a way for them to communicate in their native language with advocates who are culturally responsive, as well as trained based on the state requirements for domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy.

Many in the Spokane Latinx community feel they have no

voice or options when it comes to leaving an abusive relationship, Hannel said, because of their documentation status, language barriers or lack of employment.

MiA’s vision is to “guia la comunidad de sobrevivencia a bienestar” or “guide the community from survival to wellbeing.”


MiA, as a nonprofit, receives grants from businesses and community members to support its mission of empowering survivors.

For information, call 383-8038 or visit miaspokane.org.



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Volunteers drive in posts, weave branches

Continued from page 1
helps the sediment settle, fills up the deep channels and gradually raises the stream to the flood plain level, drawing the water table up with it,” Kat said.

In addition, the upper watershed of Thompson Creek has old logging roads which channel a flow of phosphorous-laden sediment into Newman Lake. From the accumulation of those nutrients in the lake, there are blooms of algae, some of which are toxic to dogs and humans.

Kat started early in 2021, filing for permits in January and February, so The Lands Council could build 18 dams in October and November on Thompson Creek.

The council partnered with the Partners for the Fish and Wildlife Program at Turnbull Wildlife Refuge and Gonzaga.

Turnbull staff and a Gonzaga engineering class designed the BDA complexes. Mica Peak High School and EWU students helped build the dams.

To build them, volunteers used a post driver powered by a diesel air compressor to pound 8-to-10-foot posts in a line across the stream bed. Then the volunteers wove one-inch, 12-foot ponderosa pine seedlings or small branches from the bottom to the top of the posts. Small dams have eight posts and large dams have up to 70 posts.

Pine seedlings were cut from private land near Medical Lake and in Riverside State Park as part of a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) effort to thin forests for fuel reduction to prevent wildfires and improve forest health, Kat said.

“I love the synergy of working with private landowners, the DNR and state parks on forest thinning,” she said.

The BDAs last one to five years or more. The posts and branches biodegrade gradually.

“I hope to see a difference in spring floods and lower phosphorous levels in the lake,” Kat said.

“I’ve always wanted to improve the environment and help people live better lives,” Kat said, noting that the balance of critters, wildlife, trees and shrubs needs to be restored. “Being outside in the natural world connects people with spiritual values.”

The Lands Council also works with tribes. It partners with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s restoration along Hangman Creek. It has planted trees and installed BDAs. It is also partnering on a biochar program with the Kalispel Tribe.

“When we do restoration, we do cultural resource reviews, letting tribes know what we are doing and where we are doing it and giving them the opportunity



Thompson Creek BDA Restoration Project paper shows posts driven into the creek and pine branches that will be woven around them.

to participate,” she said.

Growing up outside New York City, Kat did not want to live there with traffic and shopping malls, even though it was 10 minutes to the ocean. She had her eyes set on moving west.

After graduating in 1994 from Cornell University in Ithaca, she did a two-year agroforestry project in Cameroon with the Peace Corps, volunteered another year and then backpacked with a friend in Southern and East Africa.

Back in the U.S., she took a job with the Serve Alaska Youth Corps in Juneau, maintaining hiking trails and doing environmental education. Then she did short-term jobs in Alaska, working on a fishing boat one summer, doing trail maintenance, working at a fish hatchery and organizing outdoor therapy for disturbed youth.

From 2001 to 2003, she completed a master’s degree in environmental management at Yale University and returned to work three years with the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

She came to Spokane to contract with The Lands Council and was hired in 2007 as staff for the environmental health program. That evolved into outdoor environmental education with middle and high school youth.

“We took them to do environmental restoration as science projects in classic outdoor-education programs, including planting trees, testing water quality and hiking,” said Kat.

“When people are outside, planting trees, they learn about trees and how trees help rivers,” she said. “The goal is for kids to connect or reconnect with nature by getting their hands dirty and feet wet. When they are off their devices, we instill values as we

converse outside with the youth.

“Kids learn science while snowshoeing up Mt. Spokane. Many complain while hiking up, but at the top, they are in awe. On the bus back, many say it was the best experience of their lives,” Kat said. “I’ve been doing that for 14 years and plan to continue.”

She works with Maia Inniss on outdoor youth education and a Northeast Spokane project to plant 200 street trees to absorb storm water and build community.

The Lands Council recently hired Naghmana Sherazi as climate justice program director to deal with local and regional climate issues. Its new public lands program director, Adam Gebauer, is leading a forestry coalition and wildlife programs for beaver and caribou.

The Lands Council’s executive director, Amanda Parrish, added that the council is planning its 27th Annual April Showers Auction for Saturday, April 16, to raise funds to support restoration and revitalization of Inland Northwest forests, water and wildlife.

Kat said The Lands Council is also working on riparian restoration to plant trees and shrubs along streams 1) to improve water quality by preventing soil erosion as roots keep the soil in place; 2) as a buffer to break down and filter contaminated runoff of pesticides from farms and roads, and 3) to shade and cool the water temperature so the water holds dissolved oxygen for fish and macroinvertebrates—like aquatic insects—and supports natural vegetation for wildlife habitat.

For information, call 209-2403 or email khall@landscouncil.org.

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Expanding diversity on campus is about recruiting and retaining

Continued from page 1
she was doing in education, plus she was on the Diversity Committee and working with students.

In early September, she hosted a delegation of five members of parliament from Kenya.

“Interested in diversity, equity and inclusion, they looked us up and found we were serious about it. They wanted ideas they could implement to apply it to cross-cultural conflicts among their tribes,” she said. “Most were women, so they were also interested in gender equality.”

They spoke to classes, met the mayor for a government perspective; met African American leaders on city council, in churches and on the school board; met with Native Americans at Northern Quest, and met with the Spokesman Review to learn how they cover issues of diversity.

In February, she arranged events for Black History Month.

A key part of Roberta’s role is diversity advocacy, which means ensuring search committees look at diverse candidates and treat them fairly.

She also meets with the president and provost’s monthly “courageous conversations,” because she believes diversity starts at the top.

“Leaders must understand diversity, equity and inclusion for the university to be effective,” Roberta said. “Before activities comes awareness, but I want practical implementation.

The president’s cabinet did an intercultural assessment of where they are, and then she talked to each to help them develop their own intercultural plan.

Recently, they read *Subtle Acts of Exclusion* by Tiffany Jana and Michael Baran on how to understand, identify and stop micro-aggressions. Then they discussed how to implement ideas.

“We always try to make sure we are sensitive to different groups, not just African Americans,” said Roberta, who meets with different campus cultural groups to learn their perspectives and how they are doing, what their concerns are and what changes are needed.

“Students should flourish and have good experiences on cam-



Roberta Wilburn returned to Whitworth to promote diversity.

pus,” she said, noting that Shawn Washington, the associate dean of student success and equity, focuses on student diversity equity and inclusion.

In the summer, Whitworth offers Bucks Bridge, a weeklong orientation to acclimate incoming BIPOC and first-generation students and parents to campus.

“Whitworth intentionally recruits diverse students. When I came to campus, I was one of very few African Americans on campus,” said Roberta, who raises funds for scholarships.

“We are intentional about recruitment and programs recruiting students and faculty. It’s important but not enough to draw students and faculty. We want them to stay,” she said, knowing from years of working with students how hard it is for many to be away from home for the first time in a new environment.

Roberta told of encouraging an African-American student to apply early for the Act Six leadership program, which offers a full scholarship. The student thought she would have to enter the military to afford to go to college. Roberta helped her with the strenuous application process.

In their first year of college in Spokane, many students of color want to go home, so Whitworth’s diversity, equity and inclusion staff help them acclimate and overcome uncertainties about whether they can succeed. During students’ second year, Whitworth wants to be sure students feel included as they acclimate to the lifestyle on campus.

“The first two years are critical. Students need to work through the ‘imposter syndrome’—the belief that they do not belong here,” Roberta said.

With support in studies, students make friends and participate in campus life. Then they learn they can do it and become leaders and academically successful the last two years.

“Some things are in place, but there are gaps. We need to do more,” said Roberta. “What it takes for each to succeed differs. In conversations, we can draw out needs and address them before their concerns become problems.”

After George Floyd’s murder, she heard students’ racial trauma. “It’s also important to address

issues with white students. Many grew up in mono-cultural communities. All they know about people of color is what they see on TV, and it’s skewed,” she said.

“We need to educate white students to understand and accept students of color,” she said. “We need to see potential conflicts and say no to trends that are inappropriate or offensive.

“White students are part of diversity. Some think ‘white’ is not a culture, but white students have cultures,” she said.

“Many have not been taught about experiences of people of color in elementary to high school,” she said.

“We teach the administration, faculty and students to understand why they respond as they do,” said Roberta, as we seek to live Whitworth’s mission “to provide its diverse student body an education of the mind and the heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity.”

“God calls us to love our brothers and sisters, and help as best we can,” she said. “While many students are Christian, many are not, but Christian faith guides our work.”

Faculty integrate faith into lessons without proselytizing by encouraging students to ask questions.

“Some white students don’t want to deal with diversity,

equity and inclusion because they don’t want to be blamed for slavery, residential schools or the Japanese incarceration. It’s not about blame, but going forward to build the beloved community in which we care for our brothers and sisters,” Roberta said.

When one student wrote in a paper that he was racist and didn’t like women, she said, “Let’s talk.”

The next year, they met monthly to talk about race and gender. It turned out he was afraid of being like family members who did not embrace diversity, she said.

“We move the diversity needle by building authentic relationships with people of diverse backgrounds. I get to know you and you get to know me. It’s not as threatening as some think,” Roberta said.

For information, call 777-4215 or email rwilburn@whitworth.edu.


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Hope for Creation prepares for Expo '74's 50th

For Earth Day 2022, The Hope for Creation Conference will kick off a celebration to commemorate the approach of the 50th anniversary of Expo '74, the first World's Fair dedicated to the environment.

The Hope for Creation event will include experts in care of the land, discussion groups on the intersection of faith and secular actions, a street fair, music, art, exhibits and food trucks. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 127 E. 112th Ave.

With Expo '74, Spokane instantly became a global leader on the environment, said John Wallingford, coordinator of the event.

"People have loved living here because we had clean water and clean air, and the land was unspoiled," he said.

"We knew then that the burgeoning global population would stress the environment, and it has," he continued. "Not a day goes by that we are not bombarded with reports of the effects of climate change."

John sees that Spokane is still responding.

- Last fall, the city adopted a Sustainability Action Plan.
- Gonzaga became the first U.S. university to join the Laudato Si Action plan.
- Area wheat farmers are adapting agricultural practices to changing precipitation.
- Avista is modifying retention and release of runoff.
- Area foresters are adapting forest management to address increased wildfire risk.
- Spokane's motto is "Near nature, near perfect."

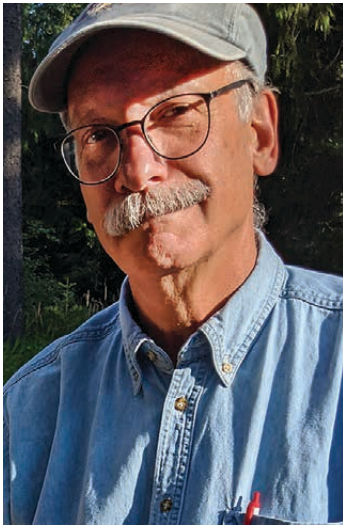
John realizes that people feel stressed about the environment. Some are emotionally overwhelmed. Some suffer physically. Some are in denial.

Despite that, he said that faith teachings provide guidance and give reason to Hope for Creation.

He cited Gen. 2:15 in the King James version that God put man "into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

Other translations use the words "work it and take care of it" (NIV) or "cultivate it and guard it" (Good News), or "to tend and care for it" (Living Bible).

"The need to care for the land became a central theme in the Promised Land, which was hilly and dry, not the rich vegetable garden of the Nile Delta in Egypt," he said. "The need to care for the land reflected the need to depend on God to provide, because of assurance



John Wallingford organizes creation care event.

in Deut. 11:12, that God cares for that land."

John also cited Chief Sealath: "Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls earth befalls the sons of the earth. This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the earth, he does to himself."

This year, John said, is a shmita year in the Jewish calendar, the seventh year when the land is to lie fallow and rest.

The 50 years since Expo, are a biblical jubilee, when the land debts are to be forgiven.

"Humanity's debt to the land during the last 50 years is im-

mense," he said. "We need a new course, a fresh start."

The Episcopal Church—which is the Anglican Church in England—sits between Roman Catholics and Protestants, sharing beliefs with each and finding each holding beliefs the other does not accept, but still are part of the same family, he explained.

"We know some folks believe care for the environment is only a human responsibility, and some believe the wellbeing of the Earth is only in God's hands," John said. "There is truth in both of these views, and that each has value for the other."

"The Episcopal baptismal covenant asks seven questions. The answer to each is 'I will, with God's help.' That position of human responsibility, in proper relation to God, is our Hope for Creation," John said.

"We had Expo, we have the Sustainability Action Plan, and we need to imagine together how to care for the land in the future," he said.

For information, visit whitworth.edu/hopeforcreation.



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Carl Maxey Center opens doors and opportunities for Black community

Sandy Williams, who has been editing The Black Lens, is turning her focus for the next year to developing the Carl Maxey Center in East Central Spokane as a neighborhood cultural center and gathering place to provide programs and services for the African American/Black community.

Remodeling a 3,000-square-foot, 1920s building at 3114 E. 5th Ave. was set for completion in February, and she plans an opening—pending COVID—when it's finished. That is the first of four phases of development.

Even while construction was under way, the center began offering services.

The Carl Maxey Center seeks to change lives of Spokane's African American/Black community by expanding educational, economic and cultural opportunities. Its programs address 1) racial/social justice and equity; 2) business/workforce development and economics; 3) education and advocacy, and 4) cultural enrichment.

"The center seeks to uplift, empower and transform our community to design solutions that address challenges," Sandy explained. "We are doing a lot with a few folks."

The nonprofit board includes Betsy Wilkerson, chair; Walter Kendrick, vice chair; Curtis Hampton, treasurer; Terrie Ashby-Scott, secretary, and members at large, Wilhelmenia Williams and Sylvia Brown. Brianna Rollins is program coordinator; Dorothy Hood is bookkeeper, and contract consultants provide rent and utility assistance.

"We have provided more than \$700,000 in rental and utility assistance so far. It is specifically targeted for Spokane's BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) community. We recently received additional grant funds from the City of Spokane to continue the work," said Sandy.

"It's a big lift for a little organization," said Sandy.

The Carl Maxey Center has also received funds to provide technical assistance and support to Black businesses, because COVID has had an impact on busi-



Sandy Williams wears the Carl Maxey Center T-shirt.

nesses, especially Black ones. They formed the Black Business and Professionals Alliance in winter 2020 to provide networking opportunities, address barriers to success and connect them with financial resources.

"In spring 2020, we created the Black Business Directory, listing more than 50 businesses at blackspokane.com, so people would know what businesses were available and are better able to support them," she said.

"It's exciting to discover businesses I did not know and help others find them," she said.

The alliance has held three online round tables offering information on what people need to start a business.

With COVID, there have been many grants to help businesses succeed, but local Black businesses had difficulty accessing them, so they created a program to provide one-on-one support.

"The Black Business Support Team has three consultants who assess what a business needs—a bank account, business cards, record keeping, a logo or business license—and we find grants to cover the costs. We helped 20 businesses move to the next level to be sustainable," Sandy said.

In 2021, the Carl Maxey Center joined with the Hispanic Business and Professional As-

sociation, Multiethnic Business Association/AHANA, the Inland Northwest Business Alliance (the LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce), the Spokane Independent Metro Business Association (SIMBA) and the Native Business Center.

The center partnered with Comcast to create a student tech fund, providing students with access to technical equipment or knowhow for remote learning, helping 25 families buy computers, headphones, desks and equipment for hot spots.

"We have been doing that while finishing the first phase of the center," she said.

"We started the Carl Maxey Center because people wanted a place to come and feel at home, a place that reflects them, a place to do programs and hold events," Sandy said, describing four phases for developing the center.

Phase one: a meeting room for speakers and workshops.

Phase two: a cultural library, conference rooms, staff offices, an art exhibit area and coffee shop.

Phase three: shared office space—like the Community Building downtown for nonprofits—with computers, fax machines, copiers and mailboxes for starting businesses.

Phase four: a multimedia center with equipment to produce videos, a radio station and the newspaper, to give people access to media to find their voice.

"It's a big endeavor to have all that in one place and partner with East Central Spokane neighbors, such as Impanda drumming and dance classes, Spokane Public Library at Liberty Park, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, and Michael Brown, who runs Fresh Soul and Spokane Eastside Reunion Association (SERA) after-school and job training programs for young people.

"We want organizations to work together," said Sandy, whose family came to Spokane when she was 12, after moving with her father's Army career to California, South Carolina, Hawaii and Germany.

After high school in Cheney, she left and returned several times. She earned a degree in psychology in 1983 at Washington State University and a master of fine arts in film and video production in 1998 at the University of Southern California. She worked in Boulder, then Los Angeles and came back to Spokane to work in HIV/AIDs education. She returned to LA and came back to Spokane in 2006 to work in suicide prevention.

For her mother, Wilhelmenia, a member of New Hope Baptist Church, Spokane is home.

"Now, with the Carl Maxey Center and The Black Lens, Spokane feels like home," she said.

"When I left and came back every few years, little seemed to change. Even though different people came and went with the military, higher education and other jobs, we had the same conversations," said Sandy.

While spending time with her father when he was sick, Sandy played with Adobe InDesign software and decided she could put a newspaper together. Before he died in February 2015, she published two issues.

"At first my goal was simply to tell positive stories, but on the first page of the first issue, I covered the Use of Force Report about the Spokane Police Department, which I did not feel the Spokesman Review covered accurately," she said. "I thought if I created a community newspaper, we could also host events and that would take care of the problems our community was experiencing, but it didn't."

Sandy gathered friends for a backyard BBQ in 2018 and discussed what needed to happen so Spokane would change. Ideas emerged. She gained more ideas as she drove from place to place delivering The Black Lens.

One day, she saw an abandoned building on E. Fifth and felt it was "crying to have someone take care of it." She asked her mother to look at it with her.

Standing in the building, they knew it was what was missing.

She decided to honor Carl Maxey after an East Coast friend suggested the center be named for someone in Spokane.

"Who else but Carl Maxey, the civil rights attorney," Sandy said. "Our board agreed immediately. We made Carl Maxey Center T-shirts two years ago. Whenever I wear mine, people tell me of Carl's impact on their lives."

"With the Black community continuing to experience effects of historical trauma, having a Carl Maxey Center will be healing," she said.

With turnover in the Black community, the percentage of Blacks in Spokane's population remains the same as decades ago.

"Young people do not stay. We need ways to keep young people here. Much is about creating jobs and opportunities," she said, "and an environment and a culture so they want to stay here."

Sandy, who has found opportunities in Spokane, hopes the center will do the same for the next generation.

"I could not have started The Black Lens in LA or NYC. Here young people can be a big fish in a small pond," she said.

While she develops the center, The Spokesman Review will include quarterly Black Lens inserts.

For information, call 795-1964, email sandy@blacklensnews.com or visit carlmaxeycenter.org.



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Events raise funds to end domestic violence

Three Gatsby Gala, Fundraiser and Auction events will feature entertainment and gourmet food to benefit the work of the Spokane Regional Domestic Violence Coalition (SRDVC) and Stop the Silence Spokane to end the violence in Spokane.

An Inaugural Event will be at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11, with Chef Dan from Kismet. An evening Gala will be at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 12 with Chef Michael from Wiley's Bistro. A brunch at 11 am, Sunday, March 13 will be with Chef Alex from South Perry Lantern.

"As Spokane County residents bear a disproportionate burden of the many forms of violence, we are committed to ending that vio-

lence. County law enforcement receive domestic violence calls at a rate nearly twice the state level. The trend has worsened over time," said Annie Murphey of SRDVC.

Spokane has the highest rates of domestic violence in Washington state, with more than 3,300 reported cases annually, 25 percent of all criminal cases, she added.

With COVID, the event is both online and in person with seating

following health district protocols of social distancing and less than 50 percent occupancy.

For information, call 481-3522, email amurphey@srdvc.org or visit endtheviolencespokane.org.

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Three housing advocates offer solutions to housing-homeless issues

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

A workshop on Housing and Homelessness at the Jan 22 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference featured three advocates for solutions to different aspects of the housing crisis in Spokane.

Terri Anderson, co-executive director of the Tenants Union of Washington State, said the best way to decrease homelessness is to keep tenants in their housing and, to do, that Spokane needs laws to protect tenants. Currently landlords can displace tenants with no formal process or declared reason by issuing a 20-day no-cause notice to vacate to terminate a month-to-month rental agreement.

"It is nearly impossible in Spokane's tight market for a tenant evicted this way to find housing and pay move-in costs in 20 days because in this market more than 99 percent of the affordable housing is unavailable," she said.

The 2022 legislature is considering a bill to require landlords to provide 180 to 220 days' notice



Ben Stuckart presents on Zoom workshop.

for rent increases over a certain amount, allowing tenants to terminate a lease for a rent increase over a certain amount and limiting late fees to \$75.

Other reforms needed, Terri said, include removing a box on rental applications that asks about incarceration history, limiting conditions under which a landlord can retain a damage deposit and providing more tenant recourse if a landlord does not properly maintain the property.

Julie Garcia, executive director and founder of Jewels Helping Hands, emphasized the needs of the homeless.

"Spokane has a great need for low barrier spaces," she said, pointing out that there are laws in place which should ensure this, but the last two mayors have not prioritized complying with them. She decried the lack of emergency services this winter.

Ben Stuckart, executive director of the Spokane Low Income

Housing Consortium, underlined Julie's point, saying that, because of inadequate services and planning, 162 homeless persons died on Spokane's streets in 2021.

He indicated that despite laws requiring the city to provide adequate shelter space for the homeless, city officials used expensive options and closed shelters during frigid temperatures.

From previously serving as Spokane City Council president and visiting Copenhagen to learn about a Danish approach to housing, Ben provided some history for the current housing crisis in Spokane and explained the more effective approach to housing in Denmark where housing is considered a human right.

Ben suggested increasing the population density of some regions of the city zoned only for single family residences. He said these areas came about because of covenants binding residents not to sell to certain people and where previous redlining also put up a barrier to affordable housing.

The three discussed several bills before the Washington State Legislature, which ends March 10. These bills address some of the difficulties they highlighted: One restricts the retention of damage deposits in rental housing (HB 1300). Another provides tenant protections during and after public health emergencies, provides legal representation in eviction cases and authorizes landlord access to state rental assistance programs (HB 5160). A third requires landlords to accept rent payments by mail or on site and to allow various forms of payment, not just electronic payment (HB 5749).

For information, visit fanwa.org or see all the workshops at thefigtree.org/ewlc2022videos.

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Kristine Hoover discusses 'Securing Our Democracy'

By Kaye Hult

Kristine Hoover, director of the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies and professor in the School of Leadership Studies, presented a workshop on "Securing Our Democracy: Division and Practices to Create Belonging" at the Jan. 22 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

She showed a video of Maya Angelou saying her life may have had many clouds in it, but it also has had many rainbows—people who were kind to her. "I don't ever feel I've not had help," she said, inviting people: "Prepare yourself to be a rainbow in some else's clouds. Be a blessing to somebody."

That set the context for the workshop on understanding hate, mobilizing to address division, engaging democracy and taking on practices that create belonging.

Kristine showed slides of charts and resources to explain about hate and its impact on democracy.

"Leadership is an enactment of values about who we are and how we relate to others to coun-

ter inequity and discrimination," Kristine said.

She told of groups who migrated to the Inland Northwest to create an ethno-state of Aryans as part of the Christian Identity Movement. Their Declaration of Independence said Aryans ought to be free and independent as a nation with no ties to the United States. They declared themselves anti-Semitic and anti-government.

The Kootenai County Task Force for Human Rights bankrupted that group in 2001 and turned their land into a peace park. They recently sold it to fund the Greg Carr Endowed Chair of Human Rights at North Idaho College, she said.

Kristine showed hate maps prepared by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League, and clarified nuances between labels for different hate acts, such as bias, stereotyping, bias motivated violence and more.

She told of the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force's Hate Documentation Project for

Spokane through which individuals can report hate crimes at www.reporthebias.org.

Kristine celebrated the formation of Spokane's first Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion in December 2021.

To help people deal with

change, resistance and threat, she uplifted the power of story to encourage communities and individuals to act for the good.

For information, visit gonzaga.edu/hatestudies, or see all conference workshops at thefigtree.org/ewlc2022videos.html.

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Editorial Reflections

In showing that rivals can live in peace, Olympics challenge war games

The spirit of the Olympics, the gathering of athletes from many nations provided quite a contrast to the pending or not pending invasion by Russian troops near Ukraine.

The war games standoff, with distrust, animosity, fear, troop movements, counter threats and enemy images, played in the background as athletes swooped down slopes, flew in the air doing twists and turns, skated with artistic and technical expertise, raced around tracks and competed in a myriad of “games” in the cold.

Yes, they are rivals. Yes, some are there only to win. Yes, there was a doping scandal. Despite that, many participants admired the skills of competitors from other countries—hugging each other after a run down the slopes or across the ice. Some returned just to be there.

They know each other. They meet each other at many competitions. Behind the scenes—even behind the competition—is

a community of competitors who display a camaraderie and friendships that supersede their competition for gold, silver or bronze.

They are all great athletes and meet each other continually in global competitions. They know how tricky it is to have a perfect performance. Snow, ice, wind, temperatures, nerves and other conditions may vary on the same slope or rink when they compete. There is chance, as well as expertise. There are the judges’ calls and hundredths of a second differences in time between many of them. Photos are often needed to determine whose skate or ski crossed the finish line first.

Yes, they compete *for* a nation, but they are also people of different nationalities competing for their own or other nations.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach opened the Winter Games with the Russia-Ukraine tensions in mind, and a plea to give peace

a chance: “In our fragile world—where division, conflict and mistrust are on the rise—we show the world, yes, it is possible to be fierce rivals while at the same time living peacefully and respectfully together.” Athletes can show the world how it looks for people to “respect rules and each other.” While competing for the highest prize, he said, the athletes “live peacefully together in the Olympic Village,” and engage in “peaceful competition, building bridges, never erecting walls, uniting humankind in all our diversity.” The Olympic ideal is “promoting peace and human understanding,” he said.

The Olympics are an opportunity for intercultural encounter to build relationships among young athletes, crossing international boundaries and ideologies.

From studies at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey near Geneva, Switzerland, I knew a Greek Orthodox leader in the World Council of Churches (WCC) who

worked with both the WCC and the IOC because both foster global ties to build understanding and friendships that lead some to seek peace and justice.

Ecumenism builds respect and trust needed for a healthy world. It comes out of an awareness that competitive expressions of faith actually turn people off because they counter faith teachings to love.

Both global sports and faith gatherings have the potential to instill bonds across divisions of nations, beliefs, cultures and races. People become attentive to what happens within and among nations, aware that conflicts and oppression affect people they know personally.

Both the recent Olympics and the upcoming WCC Assembly plant seeds that have the potential to bear fruit beyond the scope of either event through relationships and perspectives nurtured in new bonds that are life changing.

Mary Stamp - Editor



Hate Studies Conference

Sounding Board

Commentaries

Educator warns of far-right influences seeping into mainstream spaces

Joan Braune is concerned about the influence of fascism and far-right groups seeping into the culture in spaces like schools, academia, video games, renaissance fairs, comic books and even faith communities.

Most of her five years in Spokane have been a crash course in the history of fascism in the Pacific Northwest. Joan, who is involved with Gonzaga University’s Institute for Hate Studies, spoke at the November International Conference on Hate Studies.

“Given that fascism is a social movement seeking power, we need to know that we only defeat it with other social movements that promote what we want, like economic and racial justice,” said Joan.

She encourages teachers to educate themselves and converse with students on how to respond to issues that arise, so they are not intimidated by anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi or white supremacist groups in their community. Students want to learn about fascism, she added, because some of their friends are being drawn into it.

Conversations, interactions and connections can strengthen interfaith ties and awareness of one’s faith to counteract hate as such groups want to take over layers of culture to seem to be a normal option in conservative politics.

She also encourages Christians to be attuned to how anti-Semitism may show up unconsciously in their faith.

Even though Vatican II Council encouraged the Catholic Church to engage in dialogue with the Jewish community, Joan hears generalizations, such as, “the Old Testament is about the law, and we are about love,” or “Don’t be like the Pharisees.”

“We need to be aware of how we may contribute to anti-Semitism or Islamophobia as we teach and study our faith,” said Joan, who earned a bachelor’s

in philosophy and mathematics in 2006 at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She also earned a master’s in philosophy in 2008 and a doctorate in 2013 at the University of Kentucky, before becoming a lecturer in philosophy at Gonzaga University.

Joan grew up in an interfaith household. She attended Catholic parish education classes and Mass with her Jewish mother, going on to a Catholic University. “Being Jewish is part of my identity,” she said. “It’s why I do interfaith work.”

Joan helped start Bridges Not Walls for dialogue between Christians and Muslims in Spokane.

At a 2018 rally for immigrant rights, someone learning that Joan, as a Catholic, was interested in fighting Islamophobia, connected her with members of the Muslim community, including Muslims for Community Action in Spokane (MCAS).

In discussions, they realized that Catholic involvement in Islamophobia and hate groups was national, not local, but they wanted to educate Catholics and bring them into community with Muslims.

In December 2020, they drew nearly 75 people to a forum at Gonzaga on Mary/Miriam in Catholicism and Islam. This December, they held a “Welcoming Afghan Refugees” event with MCAS, Refugee Connections Spokane, the Islamic Center and World Relief Spokane, attended by about 250.

That group has also held an Iftar dinner at the Saranac, hosts online forums and has a reading group.

Education and connections help overcome misunderstandings from people who promote hate and seek to divide people, she said, noting that such ideas seep into academia through research, activities, theories, platforms and organizations.

People are not shouting racial slurs,

making Nazi salutes or waving swastika flags, so the spaces look from the outside to be scholars engaging in ordinary academic activities, rather than being connected to violent movements, she said.

“The attack on critical race theory was started by the far right,” Joan added, warning that some think tanks whip up fear, using white nationalist or fascist talking points as they campaign to shut public education and create more private schools.

“Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) follows attacks on universities and K-12 education locally,” said Joan.

Fear is spread about critical race theory to threaten those who teach the U.S. history of racism, she said.

Hate groups want to keep children and youth, who lack a sense of belonging or community, afraid, angry and vulnerable. Then they use misinformation to recruit them, such as with online memes and jokes, she explained.

Joan urges parents and educators to talk with their children—not to ban them from internet but to help them grow to be responsible citizens.

While some in K-12 say it’s free speech until it becomes disruptive, Joan wants parents, teachers and students to be in conversation. “Schools need to educate on hate group recruitment, so they understand what students are being exposed to and how to counter it.”

Schools may say, “Hate has no home here, this is not who we are,” but Joan knows teachers and students of color, or who are LGBTQ, Muslim or Jewish, experience racism, exclusion and micro-aggression. By acknowledging what is happening, teachers and parents can ask what they can do so they are not a place hospitable to this hate.

Joan realizes that for this generation of 18-year-olds, political categories of

“normal” are different, given the political climate of most of their years.

Conversations may not always bring resolutions, she said, noting it’s important to decide who it’s possible to debate and have dialogue with, because the far right has manipulated “free speech” as a tactic.

“It does not help to debate overt fascists, but we can have good debates and conversations with sincere conservatives,” she said.

Joan calls for reclaiming spaces.

If someone running for office uses openly white nationalist speech, she said it’s important to call them out.

“De-platforming, such as shouting down a speaker, may silence someone,” Joan said, “but education is needed to build alternative spaces for discussions, where students find meaning and belonging, and treasure diversity. If we don’t build those spaces, angry, alienated people looking for meaning may move to the right.

Joan said appropriate responses include community education, protests, cultural events, outreach and mutual aid or direct aid to people. In addition, schools can collaborate with community centers and arts organizations. Activist groups, nonprofits and charities can collaborate.

“For safety, we need to know when hate happens so the whole community, including conservatives in coalitions, can mobilize,” she said.

Since the 1980s, many have called for leaving hate for cops to address, not giving it more media attention to avoid increasing its influence.

Joan encourages people to reach out to local organizations doing anti-hate work, including the Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies.

For information, email braune.joan@gmail.com, visit gonzaga.edu/iohs or joanbraune.com.

Researchers present dynamics for people leaving extremist groups

Presenting at the fall 2021 Gonzaga Conference on Hate Studies, Jackson Liguori discussed research he and Lisa Spanierman, a professor at Arizona State University, have done on ex-white supremacists who left extremist communities and began to speak out against hate.

Using a combination of studying literature—particularly sociological and criminological literature—and interviews of ex-white supremacists, they provide insights he believes may be useful for encouraging some members of hate groups to leave.

What motivates those in hate groups to

leave? Jackson listed five possibilities: 1) seeing harm that violence does and becoming disillusioned with it as a method, 2) becoming disillusioned with the hate group because of unmet expectations, 3) conflict with family, friends or romantic relationships not in the group, 4) a desire to go back to work or continue school, or 5) time in prison or a mental health facility.

Sometimes someone in a hate group begins a relationship with someone in a community they have marginalized, he added.

In their research, they identify two processes needed for someone to leave an extremist hate group and become a

former extremist: de-radicalization and disengagement.

In their study and interviews with nine people who left hate groups, they also learned some dynamics that make it hard for someone to leave a group.

Using examples from the nine, the researchers discussed some aspects of leaving. Those leaving give up a key element of their identity and have to create a new one in a new social environment. They also have to convince the public they are no longer affiliated with the hate group.

In the transformations Jackson described, some went on to speak against hate

in their recreated identity. Some former white supremacists experienced violent threats and actions to themselves and their families from hate group members and the public. Most had a period of isolation while there were changes in their social networks. One was homeless for a while.

As part of the transformation, several described a period of introspection and found counseling helped with healing.

Jackson and Lisa hope their study helps psychologists work with those leaving hate groups and develop therapeutic approaches for both hate group exit and rehabilitation.

For information, email jbliguor@asu.edu.

Calendar of Events

NOTE: Except where otherwise listed, the area code for phone numbers is (509)

- Mar 1** • **Spokane Homeless Connect, Spokane Convention Center**, Spokane Falls Boulevard, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., kari.stevens@dshs.wa.gov, 458-2509 x338
- **Fat Tuesday Mardi Bras Parties** for Hope House and Women's Hearth, hosted by many groups, voaspokane.org, help4women.org
- **Sinners & Saints Last Night of Decadence Party & Silent Auction**, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Heavenly Special Teas Shop, Café & Tearoom, 1817 N. Division, 5:30 p.m., standrewsepisopalchurch.betterworld.org/events/
- **Prepare Your Garden for Spring**, Cheney Library, 610 1st St., 6 to 7 p.m., 893-8280
- Mar 1-5** • **Inlander Restaurant Week**, 100 restaurants serve 3 course meals with The Big Table, InlanderRestaurantWeek.com
- Mar 2** • **Ash Wednesday Silent Day of Prayer Time for A Change**, Fr. Victor Blazovich, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Mar 3** • **Spokane Homeless Coalition**, Zoom, 9:30 a.m., spokanehc.com/
- **Meet the Junior League of Spokane**, Cascadia Public House, 6314 N. Ash, 6 to 8 p.m., facebook.com/juniorleagueofspokane
- **Propagation from Seeds and Cuttings**, Spokane Valley Library, 1200 E. Main, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 893-8400
- **Beautiful Gardens in Art, Nature Art and Photography**, Barbara Murray, CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., Spokane Valley, 7 to 9 p.m., 535-8434
- Mar 4** • **"Spreading Seeds of Hope,"** The Fig Tree Spring Benefit on Youtube Live, small groups at 11:30 a.m. Zoom, gather by 11:45 a.m., program noon, 535-1813, event@thefigtree.org, thefigtree.org/donate.html
- **Women's Leadership Summit**, Washington State University (WSU) Alumni Assn., 1 to 2:30 p.m., 335-6914, amber.mendenhall@wsu.edu
- **Gina Chavez, 2020 Latin Grammy Nominee for La Que Manda**, bilingual vocalist, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., 313-2787, mwpac@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 4-6** • **Festival of Contemporary Art Music TORCH** Presentation and Concerts, WSU, 335-7696, michellew@wsu.edu, events.wsu.edu
- Mar 4-26** • **Contemporary Native American Art Exhibit** on the human rights crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Gonzaga Urban Arts Center, 125 S. Stevens, 7 p.m., art@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 4-31** • **March for Meals**, Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels, 924-6976, gscmealsonwheels.org/events
- Mar 4-6, 8-12** • **Novena of Grace**, St. Aloysius Catholic, 330 E. Boone, 7 p.m. 313-5896, stalschurch.org
- Mar 5,6** • **Masterworks: Genesis of the Spokane Symphony**, celebrating 75th anniversary in 2021, 5th: 3 p.m., 6th: 3 & 8 p.m., spokanesymphony.org/
- Mar 6** • **Make Every Day a Miracle!**, Tushita Meditation Center, Ven. Thubten Chodron, 7:30 to 9 a.m., sravastiabbey.org
- Mar 7** • **Tools for Life**, Disability Action Center NW, Best Western University Inn, Moscow, 8 a.m.
- **NEWA Combined Nonprofit Network Meeting**, Washington Nonprofits, online, noon to 1 p.m., washingtonnonprofits.org/learning/learning-calendar/
- **Annual Celebration – Connection**, Greater Spokane, Inc., Spokane Convention Center, 3:30 to 7 p.m., web.greaterspokane.org/events/
- **Climate Change in the Rural Northwest: Learning from Malden**, Scott Hokanson, of the Pine Creek Community Long Term Restoration Group, Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga, 6 to 7:30 p.m., climatecenter@gonzaga.edu
- Mar 8** • **Central Washington Nonprofit Network Lunch & Learn**, online 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. washingtonnonprofits.org/learning
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 5:30 p.m., jarcher@pjals.org
- **Prepare Your Garden for Spring**, Spokane County Library District, online 6 to 7 p.m., scldevanced.info/signup/
- March 9** • **"Spreading Seeds of Hope,"** The Fig Tree Spring Benefit on Zoom, small groups at 7:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m. gather, 8 a.m. program 535-1813, email event@thefigtree.org
- **6th Annual Women Lead Spokane 2022 Conferences**, Gonzaga School of Leadership Studies, in-person at Hemmingson Center, and online, 8:30 a.m. womenlead@gonzaga.edu
- **Spokane Community Colleges Diversity Speaker Series**, Naomi Shihab Nye, poet, editor, songwriter and novelist, Hagen Foundation Center for the Humanities, 1810 N. Greene, Bldg. 15, 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., 533-8400
- Mar 10** • **2022 Health and Wellness Fair**, Disability Action Center NW, Latah Fair and Events Center, 1021 Harold, Moscow, 11 a.m. to 6

p.m., dacnw.org

- **One Second of Hate: A Story of Forgiveness**, 7 p.m., humanities.org

- **"Achieving Health Equity: This Too Is Our Lane, Structural Racism in Health Care,"** Rachel Issaka, Whitworth Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7 p.m., 777 4433, dsoden@whitworth.edu

- Mar 10, 24** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., slichty@pjals.org

- Mar 11** • **Leadership Spokane Gala**, Northern Quest Resort & Casino, 6 p.m., leadershipspokane.ejoinme.org/2022registration

- Mar 11-13** • **Gatsby Gala Fundraiser and Auction**, Stop the Silence and Spokane Domestic Violence Coalition, Woman's Club of Spokane, 1428 W. 9th, Mar 11 & 12: 6 p.m., and Mar 13: 11 a.m., silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php

- Mar 12** • **Cabin Fever Virtual Gardening Symposium**, 9 a.m., brownpapertickets.com/event/5342757

- **KPBX Kids' Concert** Special Encore Broadcast, 1 p.m., spokanepublicradio.org

- Mar 13** • **Monthly Medicine Buddha Puja**, Sravasti Abbey, 6 to 7 p.m., sravastiabbey.org

- Mar 15** • **Medicare Workshop: Medicare Resources**, Coeur d'Alene Public Library, 702 E. Front Ave., 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

- **Gonzaga Journal of Hate Studies** Call for Papers deadline, jhs.press.gonzaga.edu

- Mar 16** • **Free Legal Clinic**, Latinos En Spokane, 1502 N. Monroe, 6 to 8 p.m. latinosenspokane.org

- Mar 16-19** • **Women Build**, Habitat for Humanity Spokane, habitat-spokane.org/WomenBuild/

- Mar 17** • **What to Expect at the Conference**, Washington Nonprofits, online, 12 to 12:45 p.m. washingtonnonprofits.org/learning

- Mar 17-20** • **A Bright Room Called Day**, Tony Kushner, Weimar Republic in 1930s Germany, Magnuson Theatre College Hall, Gonzaga, 7:30 p.m.

- **Straw Bale Gardening**, online 6 to 7 p.m. https://scldevanced.info/signup/calendar

- Mar 19** • **Straw Bale Gardening**, Airway Heights Library, 1213 S. Lundstrom, 11 a.m. to noon 893-8250

- **Sweets Before Supper Gala**, 2022 Women of Distinction Celebration, Girl Scouts, Davenport Grand Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 800-918-9344

- Mar 21** • **NAACP General Membership Meeting**, zoom, 7 p.m. spokanenaacp@gmail.com

- **The Samurai Code – How Bushido Changes Lives**, Humanities Washington talk, Lori Tsugawa Shaley, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Liberty Park Library, virtual, events.spokanelibrary.org

- Mar 22** • **Eastern Washington Legislative Conference** planning committee, Zoom, 1 p.m., 535-1813, event@thefigtree.org

- **Becoming Planetary: From the Personal to the Political**, Karen Liftin, University of Washington political science, Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga and online, 5 to 6:30 p.m., climatecenter@gonzaga.edu
- **Close Up on War**, Book Reading, Mary Cronk Farrel on Vietnam War photographer Catherine Leroy, Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main, 7 p.m.

- Mar 23** • **#InlandStrong Virtual Book Club**, Radium Girls Kate Moore, Central Library, Virtual Events, 12 to 1 p.m., events.spokane.library.org

- **Diamonds in the Rough: The Gentrification of Rural Washington**, Okanogan, online, 5:30 p.m. humanities.org/events/2022-03

- Mar 24** • **Executive Director Coffee Hour**, Washington Nonprofits, online, 9 to 10 a.m., washingtonnonprofits.org/learning/

- **40th Annual Women of Achievement Awards**, YWCA Spokane, Admiral Michelle Howard, The Davenport Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 789-9305, woa@ywcaspokane.org

- Mar 25** • **Double Crossed; The American Missionary Spies of WWII**, Moses Lake Museum, 401 S. Balsam, 6 p.m., humanities.org/events/2022-03

- Mar 26** • **Drive-through Treasure Hunt Book Fair**, Junior League of Spokane, Martin Luther King Family Center, 500 S. Stone, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., bookfair@jlsokane.org

- **Craft and Talk in Spanish**, online, Spokane County Library District, 2 to 3 p.m., https://scldevanced.info/signup/calendar
- **El Mercadito Spokane**, Latinos En Spokane, West Central Community Center, 2 to 6 p.m. info@latinosenspokane.org

- Mar 26-28** • **Roger Williams Symposium**, Diana Butler Bass, interfaith-house.com, pullmanucc.org

- Mar 29** • **Vegetable Gardening 101**, Moran Prairie Library, 6004 S. Regal, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 893-8340

- Mar 30** • **"From an Economy of Secrets to the Synodal Way: What the Church Can Learn from #MeToo"** Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Flannery Lecture, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga, 5 to 6:15 p.m.
- Mar 30, 31** • **Spokane Symphony Chamber Soiree**, Barrister Winery, 7:30 p.m., spokanesymphony.org

- Apr 6** • **The Fig Tree Distribution and Mailing**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 535-4112, development@thefigtree.org

- Apr 7** • **The Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meeting**, 12 to 3 p.m. 535-4112, mary@thefigtree.org

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Holy Names Sisters grant helps support newspaper, directory, interns

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

Since the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) began their Ministry Grant Program, they have been supporting the Fig Tree with funds ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

In 2006, when the Sisters eliminated their four United States and Ontario Canada Provinces to merge into one Province, the Sisters wanted to continue to offer support to the many good ministries being done by Sister volunteers or by Sisters carrying out special projects. This was the beginning of the Sisters of the Holy Names Ministry Grant Program.

Sister Rosemary Delaney from Oakland, Calif., chair of the grants committee explained, "Each year the province sets aside about \$100,000 for grants to Sisters connected with ministries who don't otherwise receive monetary support from the SNJM community. Even though the grants are relatively small—up to \$5,000, they make a big difference in people's lives."

The grant is simple to obtain and requires little in the way of reporting. Each year in the fall, an application form is sent out to community members and in the spring, another form to report how the funds were used is returned to the grant committee.

There are only two criteria for the grant: a Holy Names Sister has to be connected with the organization some way, and the work has to be in line with the mission and vision of the Sisters.

Before her death in 2006, Sister Bernardine Casey, one of the founding members of the Fig Tree, began applying for SNJM Ministry Mini Grants from 2002 to 2005 for website development and rural outreach projects. She saw it as a way to help provide support for the Fig Tree. She filled out applications for the mini grants, explaining how the work of the Fig Tree supported the mission and vision of the Sisters.

Each year since then, a Holy Names Sister connected with the Fig Tree in some way has followed in Bernardine's footsteps by submitting the grant application. The Fig Tree has received between \$2,000 and

\$5,000 each year for particular needs as identified by editor Mary Stamp, including capacity building, training writers and editors, supporting stipends for freelancers and interns, and resource directory community partnerships.

Because of COVID restrictions, many programs had special needs this year. Twenty-two organizations from Spokane to Peru and Haiti received grants to help support their ministries.

The grants assist programs for the homeless in Oregon and California, a community center for women, children and gender diverse people in Portland, and food pantries in Portland and Blue River, Ore. They enabled schools to offer scholarships and

educational materials to needy students in Spokane, Portland and Oakland, and those offering spiritual retreats to make them available to some who can't afford them.

In Peru, because many schools were online in COVID, the grant helped support needs of children in the poorest areas of Lima and its suburbs. It provided transportation for children cut off from education to areas where they could be tutored.

Testimony from those who received grants demonstrates how important a small boost is to the work of these ministries.

In California, Sister Lois MacGillivray, an active member of the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) and a member

of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Parish writes: The AFC works to feed and house the persons living in the community without shelter. This year it is working to secure Safe Spaces for people living in vehicles. It is partnering with the Warming Center, a low threshold program, taking in anyone who comes. It has added storage, laundry services and showers to its services.

She said that when homeless people have storage, they can move around the community without being identified as homeless. We believe one's own clothes are an extension of the concept of 'home.'" Lois said.

At Our Lady of Refuge parish, a project of Sister Nicki Thomas provides scholarships for technol-

ogy assistance that helped one beneficiary help in the community and another prepare a better life for her children.

In Haiti, a ministry grant is a used at Santa Chiara Children's Center clinic, a refuge and a safe harbor from the violence and hunger that exists every day in Haiti.

"The Sisters are happy to be able to provide this support and encouragement to so many worthy ministries," said Rosemary.

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



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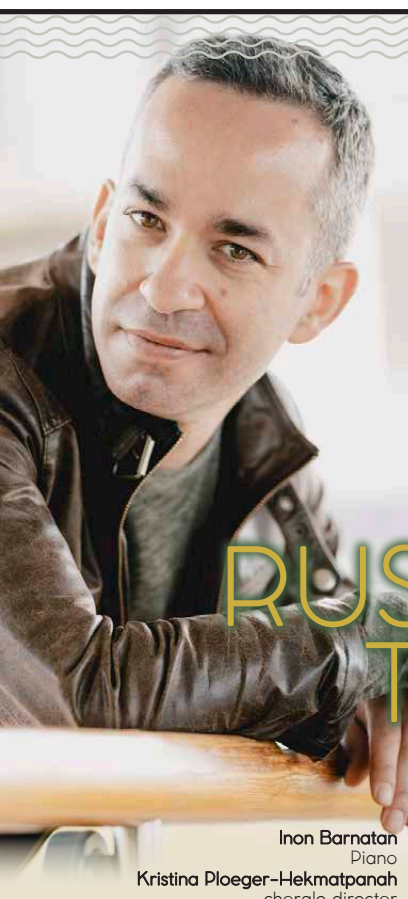
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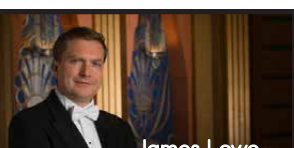
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Kristina Ploeger-Hekmatpanah
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Masterworks 7



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