

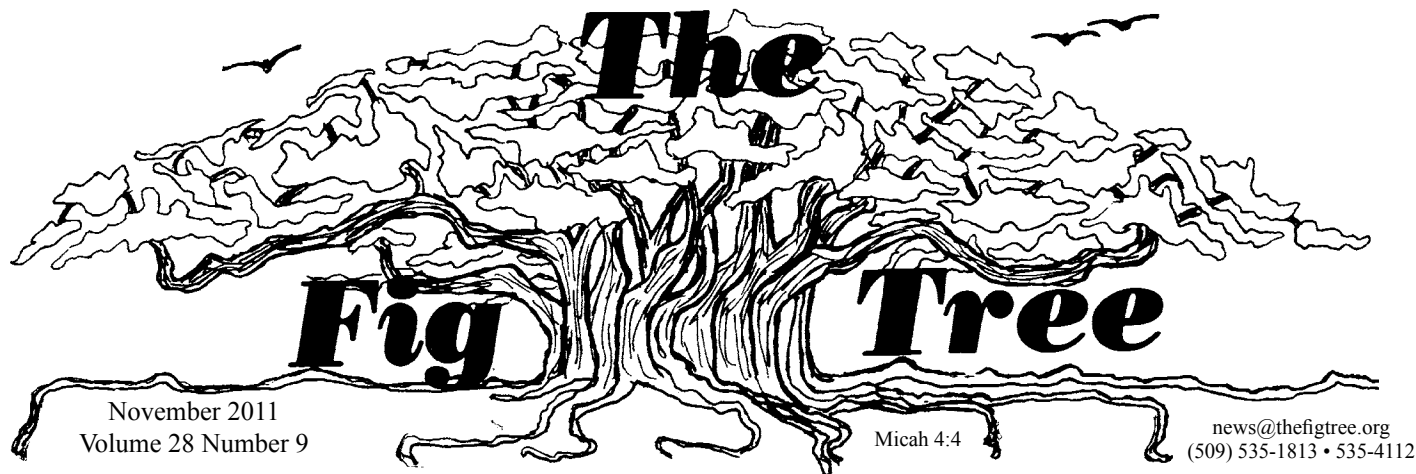
## STORIES INSIDE

Marketing fair trade means educating - p. 5

Clergy join Occupy Spokane presence - p. 7

Spokane joins Hunger, Homelessness Week - p. 9

Mission workers report persecution of Roma - p. 13



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(509) 535-1813 • 535-4112

Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest  
online in color at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org)

# Chance encounter changes lives

By Josiah Brown

Meeting Sirirat Pusurinkham from Thailand changed Nancy Cabe's life. What started as a chance encounter in Louisville, Ky., has evolved into a 14-year friendship and a ministry with women and orphans in Thailand.

While sightseeing before a Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering in 1997, Nancy asked a stranger to take her picture next to a horse. Little did she know she would encounter this stranger several more times at the conference and at her hotel.

This stranger was Sirirat, a recent graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, who was returning home to Thailand to be a pastor.

Over the course of their conversations, Nancy began to learn about child prostitution, which was the focus of Sirirat's doctoral dissertation. Learning that there were more than 800,000 child prostitutes in Thailand tugged at Nancy's heart.

After running into Sirirat four times during the conference, Nancy realized "God was bopping her on the head to do something." Sirirat started sending cross-stitching from Thailand, which Nancy sells at the



Nancy McCabe and Sirirat Pusurinkham share concern about orphans in Thailand.

Jubilee International Marketplace at First Presbyterian Church in Spokane each year.

That first couple of years Nancy received small boxes of cross stitching and was delighted to make a few hundred dollars, but now she receives crates full of it and can raise more than \$2,000 at the sale.

For Nancy, this is her way to address the problem of prostitution in Thailand. Because the women in Sirirat's community can now make a little money through sewing, they don't have to resort to selling their bodies.

Being the chair of the mission committee at First Presbyterian Church at the time, Nancy was also able to put Sirirat's project into the church's mission's budget. The next year Sirirat made her first trip to Spokane to report to the committee on her ministry.

During Sirirat's second trip to Spokane, she mentioned she was dreaming of opening an orphanage to take care of six children, who had been orphaned by AIDS. Hearing Sirirat's estimate that it would cost only \$5,000, Nancy said, "Let's go find some money."

The orphanage, which ended up costing \$34,000 dollars, was

*Continued on page 4*

'All Hands on Deck'

## Alliance celebrates media literacy

The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NW-ARM) will hold its annual membership drive and celebration of media literacy efforts in the region, "All Hands on Deck," 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, at KSPS Public Television, 3911 Regal St.

At the event, NW-ARM will present the 2011 Bill Niggemeyer Award for Media Excellence to Don Higgins of the West Central Community Center, Ted McGregor of The Inlander and Karen Michaelson of Tincan.

The event will also feature speakers addressing ways to improve the quality of mass media

in the community and the region.

They discuss media literacy issues related to race, drugs and alcohol, money and politics, cyber-bullying, body image, net neutrality, peace journalism, stories omitted, masculinity and independent media, looking at problems and good practices.

The award is named for Bill Niggemeyer, an educator and founding member of the NW-ARM, a thoughtful, relentless peacemaker, and a man with a drive to improve the community. The award is presented annually to community members committed to promoting awareness of and

change for media literacy and media responsibility, said John Caputo, director of NW-ARM.

Don, who recently retired as executive director of the West Central Community Center, has worked in his career to address effects of poverty on children, working on programs to assist the social and economic revitalization of low-income families. He helped develop NW-ARM and served on its board.

Ted earned a master's in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, creating a business plan for an alternative weekly hometown newspaper, *The Pacific Northwest Inlander*. He launched *The Inlander* in 1993, publishing a news, arts, commentary and events.

Karen is founder and executive director of Tincan, a nonprofit that uses information technology and interactive media for education and community development, including work with at-risk teens and adults in entrepreneurship and e-commerce.

For information, call 313-3567 or visit [www.nwresponsiblemedia.org](http://www.nwresponsiblemedia.org).

## Associate editor retires, will assist as volunteer

Among announcements of changes this month at The Fig Tree is the retirement of associate editor Yvonne Lopez-Morton as of Dec. 23.

Yvonne said she will be focusing on some family priorities and on her ongoing volunteer commitments.

"I am not walking away from The Fig Tree. I started my affiliation years ago as a volunteer and will continue helping and supporting this community resource as you move into the future," she explained.

"I will continue to write and to assist with the March benefit events as a volunteer," she said.

"My two-and-a-half years as associate editor working part time with The Fig Tree have been rewarding and have nurtured and reinforced my passion and lifelong commitment to both journalism and social justice," she commented. "It has been an incredible way to end my long career."

Yvonne said that her time working with The Fig Tree has taught her to see the community's possibilities from a perspective of "the good work" of individuals, congregations, faiths and organizations that value and respect everyone.

Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp said that Yvonne has been "an asset in building the base of support, in interacting with staff and volunteers, and in providing quality editorial content. We appreciate we that she remains committed to sharing her unique skills with us and to continuing to assist us as a volunteer," she said.

For information, call 535-4112 or email [yvonne@thefigtree.org](mailto:yvonne@thefigtree.org).

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100  
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111  
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#### Journal analyses greed in global economics

"Greed and Global Economics" is the theme of the latest issue of *Ecumenical Review*. In view of the current economic, financial and ecological crises, theologians, economists, an ethicist, and an historian provide an analysis of the issues of economic justice and structural greed. *Ecumenical Review* is the quarterly journal published by the World Council of Churches in partnership with Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.

"Greed kills, and it is even more widely lethal when it is structural, benefitting only a few rich and creating a wide gap between the rich and the poor both within nations and between nations," guest editor Rogate Mshana, director of the WCC program on Justice, Diakonia and Responsibility for Creation, wrote in the editorial.

Contributors to the issue include the Rev. Konrad Raiser, general secretary of the WCC from 1993-2003, the Rev. Michael Taylor, former director of Christian Aid, and Lucas Andrianos, who heads the Institute of Theology and Ecology at the Orthodox Academy of Crete.

#### Water issues need a political solution

Rommel Linatoc reflected on the issues of water and sanitation from an ecumenical perspective in the Philippines at the recent Global Forum of the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) of the World Council of Churches titled "Like a Tree Planted by the Water." He was one of 20 delegates from around the world at the event in Nairobi, Kenya, represented the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, which recently joined EWN and the Christian Conference of Asia.

He shared with Kenyan journalist Fredrick Nzwili that EWN is engaged in education, advocacy, networking and lobbying in relation to water and sanitation in the Philippines.

"In education, we refer to water as a basic right that the government and other civil societies' members need to address together," he said.

"In advocacy, we are linking it with other issues like mining, environment and issues about creations.

"In networking, we are lobbying our senate and congress to pass resolutions that can advance this cause, particularly to uplift the conditions of those who are in marginalized situations," Rommel said.

He explained that about 60 percent of Filipinos are affected by unsafe water. The challenge in winning policy reforms is that many government officials are corrupt, he said, even threatening the life of anyone who advocates for indigenous people's protection. Last week a priest was killed.

In that setting, the main hope is in networking with international partners and friends to really raise these issues to the United Nations commission on human rights, he said. The Ecumenical Water Network enables Filipinos to engage both in secular and theological discussions on the issue of water.

"Because the church and councils I work with are church related institutions, our regional and worldwide networks help us address water issues holistically," he said. "For us, water is an issue of human rights and dignity. Once that dignity and human right is eradicated from each individual then it become a political issue and some of our churches don't want to be involved. However, I think water is a political matter that needs to be addressed politically."

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service planned

"Giving Thanks" is the theme for the annual Spokane Inter-faith Council of Spokane Community Thanksgiving Service at 10 a.m., Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave.

Rabbi Michael Goldstein and a speaker from Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest will speak, along

with presentations on "Giving Thanks" by representatives of Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, Hindu and New Thought communities.

"With all the changes within our world today, such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Spokane, we can still be thankful," said the Rev. Joe Niemiec, pastor of the

Center for Spiritual Living and chair of the Spokane Inter-Faith Council.

Participants may bring canned goods and nonperishable food items for Second Harvest or may bring a gift for the offering which will be shared by Second Harvest and the council.

For information, call 534-1011.

### Legislative Conference will held Jan. 21

The theme for the 2012 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on Saturday, Jan. 21, will be "Render Unto Caesar: Reclaiming Our Prophetic Voice."

A panel of bishops, church executives and leaders will discuss their denomination's recent stands on economic justice. There will

also be a keynote address and workshops on the state budget, advocacy in congregations, moving from despair to hope, and environmental issues.

The Rev. Paul Benz, co-director of the Faith Action Network of Washington, and Scott Cooper, director of Parish Social Services

of Catholic Charities Spokane, will present summaries of issues before the state legislature.

Organizers with the Faith Action Network and The Fig Tree said it will be at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave.

For information, call 535-4112 or 206-625-9790.

### Hospice revisits perspectives on dying

Hospice of Spokane will host the premier of "New Perspectives," a national educational series called "Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief." It is set to be held on several dates in November and December.

More than 40 years ago, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross developed the

"Five Stages of Dying," later called the "Five Stages of Grief."

The two-hour video conferences will explore current theoretical perspectives on death, dying and grief, emphasizing models developed since the 1969 publication of Kübler-Ross' book.

After the video, a half-hour local panel discussion will be held.

Hospice of Spokane is hosting the video conferences at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, noon, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2:45 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6 and 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7

For information, call 456-0438, email [aflanigan@hospiceofspokane.org](mailto:aflanigan@hospiceofspokane.org) or visit [www.hospiceofspokane.org](http://www.hospiceofspokane.org)

### Fall Folk Fest celebrates region's diversity

The 16th Annual Fall Folk Festival celebrates the Inland Northwest's cultural diversity through more than 40 musical groups, dancers, storytellers and crafts from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, and noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Lair at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene.

"This community event is designed to promote awareness of the many and varied cultural and ethnic traditions in the region and to provide a showcase for sharing these traditions in a spirit of community," said Sylvia Gobel, festival chair.

Community and regional sponsors include the National

Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission, Humanities Washington, Spokane Community College, Avista, Pacific Northwest Inlander, Spokane Art Supply, and Rick Singer Photography.

For information, call 624-5693 or email [clcspo@msn.com](mailto:clcspo@msn.com) or visit [spokanefolkfestival.org](http://spokanefolkfestival.org).

### Martin Luther King Center benefit is Nov. 9

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center's Annual Benefit Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St.

This benefit luncheon enables the center to provide culturally responsive educational and social services to improve the quality of lives of children, youth and families, said Brittni Allen, program coordinator.

Located in East Central Spokane since 1970, the family outreach center offers education, enrichment and family support services throughout Spokane County.

In preparation for the 2012 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration, the center has announced the annual essay contest. Events are being planned for Jan. 14 to 16, 2012.

The Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Holiday Adopt-a-Family Gift Program applications are available through Nov. 14 for families at 125 percent of the national poverty guideline of \$27,938 for a family of four.

Gifts, dinner makings and decorations from organizations and individuals will be distributed Dec. 15 to 21, said Brittni.

For information, call 455-8722 ext. 200 of visit [www.mlkspokane.org](http://www.mlkspokane.org).

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- \$16, \$28, \$56, \$108, \$250
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Spokane, WA 99202

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Eugenie Alexander

#### Intern - Josiah Brown

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Lorna Kropp - Website Developer  
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and 2nd Harvest present the

**Thanksgiving Interfaith Service**  
Thursday, November 24 - 10 a.m.

**'Giving Thanks'**

Temple Beth Shalom  
1322 East 30th Ave.

Bring canned goods for 2nd Harvest  
Financial contributions shared between  
Second Harvest and  
the Spokane Interfaith Council

### Coalition informs people of coal export proposals

The Power Past Coal Coalition of more than 50 organizations, including the Sierra Club, Climate Solutions, Spokane Riverkeeper and The Lands Council, recently sponsored a public forum to inform people of coal export proposals in Washington that would affect Spokane County.

"Washington has made major strides in ending our reliance on coal by setting a date to move our last coal-fired power plant—TransAlta—off of coal," said Bart Mihailovich of Spokane Riverkeeper. "In what would be a giant step backward, coal companies are now threatening to export tens of millions of tons of coal through the Pacific Northwest to foreign markets."

The coal export terminals proposed in Cherry Point, Gray's Harbor and Longview in Western Washington would draw 50 or more 1.5-mile-long coal trains through Spokane County.

"Local residents are concerned about the health, safety and economic impacts of these projects: diesel pollution, coal dust from open trains, the risk of derailments, noise, property devaluation, and impeding traffic," said Bart.

For information, call 835-5211 or visit [www.powerpastcoal.org](http://www.powerpastcoal.org) or [www.coalfreewashington.org](http://www.coalfreewashington.org).

### World Vision event seeks to strengthen efforts

Whitworth University is hosting a World Vision "Targeting Hope" Conference from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, in the Seeley Mudd Chapel at Whitworth.

The event is designed to encourage and strengthen community organizations and individuals to work together to improve the wellbeing of children and youth, said Daryl Geffken, promotion coordinator.

Workshops include Rep. Kevin Parker on human trafficking; Whitworth University president Beck Taylor on U.S. poverty and its effect on early childhood development; Chris McCabe of Avista talking about people of faith working in community-based organizations; Rhosetta Rhodes, chief of staff at Whitworth, on what to do about Spokane's underperforming schools; Joe Whitwer of Life Center on world relief and development aid.

World Vision hopes to equip local leaders to transform communities by working together, said Daryl.

For information, call 844-3782 or email [dgeffken@zagmail.gonzaga.edu](mailto:dgeffken@zagmail.gonzaga.edu).

### Family Promise of North Idaho resumes services

Family Promise of North Idaho, part of the former national Interfaith Hospitality Network, reopened to serve families on Oct. 30. The Cardboard Box City held in October raised more than \$12,000.

"We are grateful to our community and the individuals who have donated to Family Promise to help children and their families come out of the cold and get back on their feet," said Cindy Wood, executive director.

There is still need for ongoing financial support from the community to help families continue to realize their hope of getting into homes, she said.

For information, call 208-777-4190, email [cwood@familypromiseni.org](mailto:cwood@familypromiseni.org) or visit [www.familypromiseni.org](http://www.familypromiseni.org).

### Our Place collects blankets to keep people warm

Our Place Community Ministries has launched its 2011 Blanket Drive to keep people warm with donated blankets, sleeping bags, winter coats, warm clothing, scarves, hats, gloves, boots and tents. Donations are received between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Our Place, 1509 W. College.

For information, call 326-7267 or visit [ourplacespokane.org](http://ourplacespokane.org).

## Fig Tree staff, interns increase online interactions

### Collaboration produces directory translations for refugee elders

Fall has been a season of changes for The Fig Tree, along with the retirement of associate editor Yvonne Lopez-Morton.

Eastern Washington and Gonzaga University interns who served last spring and summer opened doors to increase The Fig Tree presence online.

In September, Josiah Brown, a local student studying online with City Vision College in Kansas City, Mo., began an internship to apprentice to learn journalism skills, to write and edit, and to learn and expand online presence and social networking.

Another new facet of Fig Tree work is collaborating with World Relief to translate resources in the directory for elderly refugees and immigrants.

### Interns expand online presence

Josiah, a major in nonprofit management, will gather calendar and news items, share them on Facebook and Twitter, write features, edit and assist with nonprofit operations tasks.

Having had experience in urban ministry, house building and African mission since junior high at Spokane's First Presbyterian Church, he said he wanted to sharpen his communication skills.

The February 2011 Fig Tree features a story about his involvements, which range from a Whitworth Jan Term 2010 studying poverty, hope and altruism in Tanzania; fall 2010 studies at the Denver Urban Semester of Mile High Ministries; January to June 2011, as a missionary apprentice in

Senegal, and summer 2011 on Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine and Israel.

Mary said The Fig Tree seeks to provide opportunities for more communication department interns from area universities.

In the summer, Mary Hazuka wrote features, gathered news and expanded Fig Tree presence with Facebook and on Twitter.

Josiah will build on that and will learn website development to integrate the social networking tools with the website.

He is adding news online to draw people to the website to in-depth articles and resources.

### Facebook builds connections

Malcolm Haworth, directory editor and ecumenical/interfaith consultant, has also added to the Facebook use by creating conversations and directing people to resources and discussions in the wider faith community.

For example, he recently started the Inland Northwest Coalition for the Common Good, a Facebook group—informally related to the new state Faith Action Network and The Fig Tree—to build connections and conversations in the faith community.

Several pastors and lay people are conversing daily on that group.

"Since we first had a website committee develop an overall vision in 2004, we have been growing into that vision and incrementally improving our website as our limited budget has allowed," said Mary. "We originally estimated it would take more than \$1 million to develop a multimedia website.

"Now, however, with new social networking tools, YouTube and partnering with KYRS for streaming audio, we are able

to provide more of the online resources we intended and we have enough traffic to develop more advertising online," she said.

With the retirement of several people who have done bulk deliveries for many years, Mary said there is also need for more volunteers.

Writers' training sessions in the spring, summer and fall have increased the pool of writers.

"With Yvonne's retirement, we will be looking at our overall staffing needs," Mary said.

### Directory translations offered

As a service to elderly refugees and immigrants, The Fig Tree is partnering with World Relief, and Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington to publish online translations of selected resources from The Fig Tree's 2011-12 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources.

Mark Kadel, executive, Colleen Daniels and Susan Hales of World Relief approached directory editor Malcolm Haworth with the idea of collaborating, rather than doing redundant research to create their own directory.

Colleen and Malcolm have selected agencies. Translations of the agency names and descriptions will be done in Russian, Nepali, Burmese and Arabic for publication online now. They will be published in print in summer 2012.

Mark said elders in the refugee and immigrant communities will have the resource information available so they can decide what resources fit their needs, without asking their children or grandchildren to translate.

For information, call 525-4112.

# Bazaars

Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Auctions & Meals

Lake City Assembly of God  
Medical Lake  
5th Annual Hollyfaire  
Sat. Nov. 5 - 9 am-4 pm  
400 E. Grace - Medical Lake  
Crafts • Food • Collectibles • Party Lines

Windsong School Winter Faire  
Natural handcrafted gifts

Saturday, Dec. 17 • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Mukogawa Fort Wright • 4225 W Fremont Rd.  
For more information, see [spokanewindsongschool.org](http://spokanewindsongschool.org)

Come to the...  
**St. Luke's Snowflake Faire!**  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
5th & Wallace  
Coeur d'Alene  
208-664-5533  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
Supporting Local Charities  
Gifts  
Crafts  
Found Treasures  
Baked Goods  
Fun!

**SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR**  
Proceeds benefit local charities  
**Friday, Nov. 4**  
Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am  
Bazaar 10 am - 1 pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
Corner of 5th & Bernard  
CALL 624-9233 by Oct. 28 to pre-order Lefse (pre-orders required) scandinavian cookies meatballs & flatbread

 **JUBILEE**  
INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE  
Friday, Nov. 11 10 am - 8 pm  
Saturday, Nov. 12 9 am - 4 pm  
TRADITIONAL HANDCRAFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
a celebration of fair trade  
Bring a friend ♦ Shop ♦ Do Justice ♦ Enjoy a cup of Jubilee Java  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
318 S. Cedar in downtown Spokane  
(located at the Maple Street exit off I-90)

**St. John's Cathedral BAZAAR**  
at 12th & Grand  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
**Saturday, Nov. 12**  
Lunch  
11:30 am to 1 pm  
Vintage Style Show  
Raffles  
Food & Crafts

## Render unto Caesar Reclaiming our Prophetic Voice

Eastern Washington  
Legislative Conference

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Episcopal Cathedral of St. John  
127 E. 12th Ave. - Spokane

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For information, contact

Malcolm Haworth - The Fig Tree - (509) 535-4112  
The Rev. Paul Benz - Faith Action Network (206) 625-9790

**FAITH ACTION NETWORK**  
A Partnership for the Common Good

## Tie of two women keeps Spokane congregation, community busy

*Continued from page 1*  
finished two years later in 2003.

In 2006 the government of Thailand said the boys would have to leave because they had become teenagers and shouldn't be living together with the girls. Again without hesitation Nancy decided that they couldn't kick the boys out. So efforts began to build a second orphanage.

The second dorm was finished in 2008 and cost \$84,000. Together the two buildings currently house 26 orphans.

For the building dedication, which Nancy attended, half the village of 5,000 came. Even though the overwhelming majority of the community is not Christian, there is strong local support.

Visiting the orphanage for the first time moved her "to tears over and over."

Conversing with Sirirat before going she learned neither dorm had any beds. In another leap of faith she told Sirirat to go ahead and buy the beds, and despite some doubts she was able to raise the \$3,000 in the short time before she left, from her friends and church community.

"I had assumed that they were sleeping in beds," Nancy said.

When she arrived the kids were clutching their new beds because most had never had a bed before.

In March 2010, a group, including

Nancy, from First Presbyterian Church visited the orphanage for a week. They played games with the children, took them on field trips, and did projects around the orphanage. They also brought money to purchase water purifiers, a washing machine and several commercial sewing machines.

For Nancy it was inspiring to reconnect with the children she met on her first trip.

"They worm their way into your heart. You can't ignore them, you have to help them," she said.

More than being just a project she raises money for a couple times a year, the orphanage has become part of her life.

"What started as a random meeting in Louisville evolved into a true friendship," said Nancy.

When Nancy's daughter died of leukemia in 2001, Sirirat came to Spokane to offer support and pastoral care.

It is a mutual relationship.

The next time that Sirirat came to Spokane was just after her sister died. So Nancy ministered to her.

In addition, Nancy uses her involvements to benefit Sirirat's ministry.

**Sirirat Pururinkham from Thailand speaks in Spokane Nov. 11 to 22**

Serving on the Presbyterian Church's Churchwide Gathering Coordinating Team, she was responsible for purchasing tote bags for everyone coming to the gathering. So she contracted with Sirirat for 3,000 bags, providing income for more than 100 women and money for the orphanage.

When Nancy sells cross-stitching from Thailand both the women in the community and the orphanage benefit. Part of the money provides women with a fair wage, and the rest helps keep the orphanage running.

Growing up in Montana she never thought she would become so involved with an orphanage in Thailand.

"I never would have done this if God had never bopped me in the head, four days in a row," she said.

Participating in the Presbyterian church since her childhood exposed Nancy to being caring and compassionate at a young age. A member at First Presbyterian Church in Spokane since 1965, she has been involved in various ways—from leading the mission committee to representing the presbytery at synod.

She sees her involvement with the

orphanage in Thailand as "a beautiful example of listening to God and responding to God's calling."

Next Nancy will raise money for a women's center on orphanage land, a place where women in this patriarchal society can congregate, sew and do Bible study.

"The women have learned to love the community of sewing together," she said.

Estimating that they need \$15,000 more to finish the center, she hopes to raise that money on Sirirat's upcoming visit to Spokane from Nov. 10 to 22.

"We can stick our heads in the sand and ignore that prostitution is taking place and that orphans are left without moms and dads, or we can talk about it," Nancy said.

Sirirat will be at the Jubilee International Marketplace, which is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 at First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar. She will preach at Millwood Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Nov. 13, and speak between the services at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Nov. 20.

She will also speak at the Spokane Coalition on Human Trafficking at 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14, at World Relief, 1522 N. Washington St.

For information, call 238-6448 or 747-6580.

## Abuse Recovery training planned in North Idaho

"Embracing the Truth About Domestic Abuse!" is a community, faith-based training on domestic violence that Abuse Recovery Ministries and Services (ARMS) is offering from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 19, at Dalton Gardens Church of Christ, 6439 N. 4th in Dalton Gardens, Idaho.

Featured speakers are Stacey Womack, founder of ARMS from Hillsboro Ore., Pastor Rich Schaus, director of Union Gospel Mission's Women's Crisis Shelter in Spokane, and Christine Jones with the Post Falls Police.

Kootenai County has the highest rate of domestic violence in Idaho, said Jackie Eborall, ARMS associate.

The training for faith and other community leaders is to raise recognition and understanding of domestic abuse, and teach how to make appropriate referrals, she said.

ARMS is a faith-based ministry providing 15 weekly classes for women who are or have been in an abusive relationship. Two classes are being offered in the Coeur d'Alene area.

For information, call 208-691-4680 or email admin@armsonline.org.



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# Marketing fair trade involves educating and connecting people

By Mary Stamp

For Sarah Calvin, marketing for Ganesh Himal Trading Co., in Spokane means sharing ideas of fair trade and stories of fair trade producers to inspire people to make conscientious choices about what they buy.

Despite the global economic crisis, she said Ganesh Himal is doing well.

"It's significant that fair trade continues to grow and we are selling to more new stores," she said.

"In this economy, people are more conscientious about how they are spending their money. The economic trauma has shifted people's consciousness, so people are more interested in buying fair-trade products," Sarah added.

**Ganesh Himal's annual Thanksgiving Weekend Festival of Fair Trade** brings attention to fair trade, giving attendees the opportunity to talk directly with fair-trade importers and offering handcrafts from around the world from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday through Sunday, Nov. 25 to 27, in the lobby of the Community Building at 35 W. Main.

This holiday sale features products available through Inland Northwest fair-trade businesses, including items from Guatemala, Chile, Mexico and around the globe through Moonflower Enterprises, Conosur Imports, Singing Shaman Traders, Corazon Scarves and Kizuri, plus shoes from Spain sold by Katie Frankhauser.

Sarah said the local vendors who are participating are members of the Fair Trade Federation and



Sarah Calvin said fair trade acknowledges global interdependence.

follow its fair-trade criteria as they work directly in long-term partnerships with artisans.

"This year's festival will feature handcrafted clothing, jewelry, housewares, pottery and more from around the world—made in sweatshop-free environments. Purchases of these products support artisan cooperatives, small farmers and sustainable economic development in some of the world's lowest-income regions," said Sarah.

People who don't need to buy things can donate to projects, such as the Baseri Clinic in Nepal, the girl child education fund in Nepal or a girls' orphanage in Chile.

Ganesh Himal Trading, which started the festival, has been importing fairly traded products since 1984.

Sarah came to Whitworth from Los Angeles. She said that a Jan Term trip to Guatemala with Ron Frase in 1989 inspired her global interest and planted seeds

for her interest in fair trade.

After completing her degree at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, she lived there 13 years, working for nonprofits, with developmentally disabled children and as a courier traveling to Asia for the Asian Reporter. Sarah visited Thailand, Laos, Burma, Vietnam and Indonesia.

She decided to start her own import business, Indras Imports, choosing the name based on a Hindu story about the Indras net and interconnectivity. The Indras net is a net in the sky that stretches to eternity. At every cross-section, there is a jewel, she explained. If one jewel is changed, the change is seen in all the jewels.

She said that, like Hinduism, Buddhism emphasizes the idea of interdependence.

Introduced to Buddhism in Asia, she said it has also influenced her interest in fair trade. She went on several trips to Burma, Thailand and Laos studying Buddhism in monasteries and participating in retreats. In Spokane, she has taken some classes with Buddhist nuns from the Sravasti Abbey near Newport.

"Fair trade acknowledges the interdependence of people and the environment everywhere," she said. "That awareness contributes to people becoming conscientious consumers."

Seven years ago, she began to work as an apprentice with Ric Connor and Denise Atwood, owners of Ganesh Himal and found her niche as part of a team doing creative marketing of fair trade and fair-trade products,

and educating people by sharing stories of producers.

"I bring stories of producers to the forefront," she said.

"I have also learned the importance of the organic growth of a business, growing in a slow, sustainable way, rather than making quick expansion," she said.

Sarah particularly values the opportunity to work in partnership with producers in Nepal and elsewhere to help them produce products with their own cultural and aesthetic sense, while being sensitive to what products will sell in the United States.

"They send us incredible designs, and we work with them to create a product that will sell in our market," Sarah said.

While working in a women's co-op in Nepal before coming to Ganesh Himal, she helped design a wide-strapped messenger bag with local artisans. Ganesh Himal still sells it.

"Fair trade is playing a strong role in the global economy as people become aware of globalization and problems associated with it," she said.

"Many good things are coming out of the economic and environmental turmoil," she said. "People are becoming more selective about what they buy, more concerned about the inequities of the global economy, and more sensitive to how products are made and where products come from."

For information, call 448-6561 or visit [www.festivaloffairtrade.com](http://www.festivaloffairtrade.com).

## Church's annual Jubilee market grows to include 30 fair-trade vendors

Since starting 23 years ago with only one vendor, First Presbyterian Church's annual Jubilee International Marketplace, a fair trade sale, has grown to 30 vendors.

The marketplace will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the church, 318 S. Cedar.

The vendors range from local ministries like Christ Kitchen and Transitions for Women, to international organizations such as Ten Thousand Villages and Maya Earth Coffee.

More than 2,000 people attend the sale each year purchasing

between \$60,000 and \$65,000 worth of products. Because the sale is a ministry of the church, all that money goes to those organizations and fair trade businesses.

The products at the sale are fairly traded. The majority of them come from artisans in developing countries, who lack outlets to sell their work.

Some products come from ministries in Spokane that provide employment. People can give donations in someone's name, for the person who has everything.

The sale has become a way for many in the congregation to be involved in fair trade. Putting on

the sale requires 100 volunteers, ranging in age from five to 95.

"We hope the sale will be a catalyst for people to think differently about their shopping decisions," said Mary Frankhauser, one of the key people who helped to start the sale.

She sees the sale as more than a simple craft sale.

"I don't do craft sales, but I do promote fair trade and economic justice," she said. "The Bible is full of references to economic justice. We can't ignore that."

This year, First Presbyterian Church is offering a three-week Sunday morning class around the Jubilee sale, which is titled

"Everything Counts."

The class will center on the idea that "everything we do in life affects other people" and how that relates to fair trade.

The first two classes will be before the Jubilee sale and will feature different vendors sharing about why they are involved in fair trade.

The last class will be after the sale and will help people think, "Now that we have had this

experience, what is our next step," she said.

"Throughout the year the rest of our decisions are equally as important as they are on that weekend," Mary said.

The "Everything Counts" class began at 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 30. It is also on Nov. 6 and 13 at First Presbyterian Church.

For information call 747-1058, email [maryfrankhauser@gmail.com](mailto:maryfrankhauser@gmail.com) or visit [www.spokaneipc.org](http://www.spokaneipc.org).

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# Economy has impact on people and reduces number who can afford counseling

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

As director of counseling services at St. Joseph's Family Center in Spokane, Catherine Armstead sees the psychological impact of the economic recession.

"Counseling is a luxury when your finances are minimal or non-existent," she said.

A person may need therapy, but still has to pay the rent or house payment, feed the family or pay for medications.

"We have multiple calls each week, sometimes each day, from people who have no income but need or want counseling," she said. "They have nowhere to go."

"It can feel as if there is no way for the person needing counseling and having to make decisions how to use the small amount of money they have," she observed.

St. Joseph's mission, she said, honors community values and provides services people can't access through other programs.

Given the struggles people face, she finds it fulfilling when someone she is counseling makes positive changes.

"People come to counseling for various reasons and if their internal motivation is less than their external motivation, their readiness for change may not be high," said Catherine.

Such internal conflict may reduce a person's commitment to follow through with moving issues in their lives to resolution.

She said that if they cannot have counseling it complicates any existing mental health concerns by adding stress to their issues.

A career centered on a passion for counseling and helping others overcome personal and family challenges brought Catherine three years ago to St. Joseph's Family Center, which was founded and is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

Catherine said its outpatient counseling, spiritual and healing arts focus on the development of the whole person, strengthening families and creating a healthier community.

Her staff includes three marriage and family therapists, a mental health counselor, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, a social worker and administrative staff.

In addition to administrative tasks and fund raising, she also provides personal counseling services with center clients.

The key issues clients face are depression, bipolar disorder and anxiety, as well as couple and relationship issues.

Counseling and mediation services support children through seniors as individuals, couples and families.

Staff also offer classes and



Catherine Armstead is fulfilled by positive changes clients make.

workshops on relationship enhancement, anger management and parenting children of divorce.

Catherine said that the parenting children of divorce classes, for example, help parents understand how divorce or separations affect their children at different developmental stages. In addition they learn how to create a supportive and safe climate for their children in order to reduce the impact of conflict and acquire communication skills.

Sessions for anger management are separate for men and women. Participants learn the nature of anger, ways to identify the triggers, alternatives to aggression when angry, coping skills and personal strength.

Catherine said it's important for people to learn to express anger constructively rather than destructively, to be aware of how anger affects their life and learn to deal with angry outbursts, strained relationships and personal frustration.

SJFC accepts most insurance plans and, while they receive no government funding, they provide services to seniors on Medicare. They do not accept Medicaid. Fee assistance is available to those who qualify.

The center raises funding from

private donations and through local fund-raising events.

Catherine was born in Spokane where she lived for 19 years before pursuing her educational and professional goals. She was away from Spokane for 34 years and then returned to Spokane in 2006 to be closer to family and also pursue new job opportunities.

She has bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Central Washington University and a doctorate from Washington State University.

Her career has included working for school districts and higher education, including serving as staff psychologist and multicultural services coordinator at Eastern Washington University when she returned to Spokane where she was a psychologist and the coordinator of Multicultural Services.

Her individual counseling, crisis intervention and outreach to the university community addressed issues such as relationships, depression, eating disorders, academic performance, substance abuse, self-esteem and childhood physical/sexual abuse.

As coordinator of multicultural services, she served as a liaison for diverse students to ensure their academic and student-life success.

Catherine, who was raised a Pentecostal and has attended several of Spokane's historic black churches, said she was raised in a home that was committed to helping others less fortunate.

She said that her mother, through church activities, was always collecting things for others.

Knowing there was always someone struggling more than their family, she said her faith taught her "to think of others before yourself," so it was natural for her to pursue a career that focused on how she could help others.

When asked how faith in-

tersects with counseling she explained that a person's idea of the connection between their faith, health and healing is personal.

"When clients talk about their faith being important to them, I work with them to bring that into counseling," Catherine said. "I don't impose my own values on them but work with them to clarify how they want to utilize their faith in counseling."

She explained that for those that are really motivated and make a commitment to change, their faith becomes a positive force in their healing.

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## Occupy Movement and Faith Communities

### Area clergy march, show solidarity with Occupy movement in region

Clergy and laity from Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, United Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist churches have recently expressed solidarity with the Occupy Spokane movement's presence at Monroe and Riverside to express a call for economic justice.

They said their motivation comes from scriptural calls for jubilee, for sharing and for loving neighbors.

On Friday, Oct. 15, the Rev. Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church reminded more than 300 gathered at the corner that Martin Luther King, Jr., had "the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals every day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

"The ultimate challenge is where people stand in difficult times," Happy said, pointing out that more men of color are in prison at Airway Heights than are studying at Washington State University, Whitworth University or the Community Colleges of Spokane.

He was one of several clergy present.

Dan Morrissey, professor of corporate law at Gonzaga University, explained why the Occupy movement is using the claim, "We are the 99 percent."

He said the cause is "right and just" when the top 1 percent receives 25 percent of the income and owns 40 percent of the wealth in this country. He added that the chief executive of one corporation made \$32 million last year and the next executive in that company

made \$28 million.

"Corporate America is sitting on money that could put young people to work," he said.

At the Saturday, Oct. 16, rally and march, nearly 500 people walked from Riverfront Park through downtown Spokane, stopping outside banks. There were more than 10 pastors, marching wearing their vestments, collars and stoles.

**Chants of marchers included:**

- "Banks got bailed out. We got sold out."
- "We are the 99 percent."
- "Who's got power. We do, people power."
- "Corporations are not people."
- "We say people. They say profit."

Their message was a clear challenge to corporate greed and a call for economic justice.

On Oct. 24, about 17 clergy and laity from the various mainline Protestant churches gathered with their crosses and clerical garb at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ and marched to the Occupy Spokane site, stopping outside several corporate banks to pray, swing an incense burner and sprinkle holy water—symbolically calling for



Eight of 17 clergy and lay people who marched Oct. 24 stopped on the route to pray outside downtown banks on their way to the Occupy Spokane site.

healing of and by the banks.

George Taylor, a retired Presbyterian pastor visiting from Victoria, B.C., told of his recent participation in Occupy Washington, D.C.

"Participants are clear about their goals. We believe in economic justice for all," he said. "We are worried about our country. We are good folks, reasonable people."

George anticipates that as mainstream media see people participating and as the movement gains strength, they will recognize that the church's role in the Occupy Movement is to tell truth to power that wealth needs to be spread around for all to share from Wall Street to Main Street.

"Canadians are protesting, too, but we are calling it 'resistance' to what is going on in our two countries with corporate and political leaders unable to solve the problems," he said. "We spend \$2 billion a week on the war in Afghanistan and are cutting back on programs for people in the United States."

The Rev. Alan Eschenbacher of All Saints Lutheran Church said he had worked in the business and financial world for 22 years. When he was there he believed it

was right to make money and to invest money.

"I gradually became convinced that people need to understand when they have enough," he said. "What's enough? When we have enough, we need to share it with others."

In his ministry serving a meal for homeless people in Browne's Addition, he said he meets many people who do not have money and who can't play or participate in the game.

*Continued on page 8*

### National, world leaders voice support

With the Occupy Wall Street movement now in every state and more than 900 cities around the world, national religious leaders are speaking out.

The United Church of Christ's Collegium of Officers released a statement saying, "we live in a very rich country in a rich world; however many continue to suffer the consequences of greed on the part of a few. There is enough for all if we share and if we organize our life together in ways that care for each other."

Despite the varied messages of those in the protests, the UCC officers see the protests as "a reminder that thoughtful, faithful, and committed people can make a difference when voices are united for the common good."

The director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness has urged faith leaders to join the movement saying, "faith has a role

to play in the leadership of these movements."

However he warns that religious leaders shouldn't seek to control the movement "but to model to participants how to express themselves through nonviolent means."

Even the Vatican has aligned themselves with the movement saying, "the basic sentiment behind the protests is in line with Catholic social teaching. The economy should be at the service of the human person and strong action must be taken to reduce the growing gap between the rich and poor."

In addition, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church also affirmed that "the growing movement of peaceful protests in public spaces in the United States and throughout the world in resistance to the exploitation of people for profit or power bears faithful witness, in the tradition of Jesus, to sinful inequalities in society."

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# Clergy pray for and symbolically purify banks downtown

Continued from page 7

"Capitalism is a game," he said. Alan's prayer outside one of the banks was for "those who enter to understand the ramifications of wealth."

**The Rev. Linda Crowe**, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ said: "I'm here because I know too many people who are just hanging on by their fingernails financially."

Those people are both church members and people who come to the church doors.

"Their numbers have increased," she said. "Economic justice is the issue."

**The Rev. Mike Denton**, Pacific Northwest United Church of Christ conference minister, participated in the walk in Spokane, visited the site three times in Seattle and visited with people from the Chicago site when he was in Chicago.

"This movement is a basic piece. It's something many of us have been waiting for, for a long time," he said. "It's a Pentecost moment in the life of the church."

"The church is at its best in these times, when it brings its moral sensibilities to the world. The church is frequently at its best when the world is not at its best," he said.

**"The moral arc of the church** is moving in tandem with the moral arc of the world," he said. "More and more members of the faith community are coming out to demonstrate."

"Chicago Theological Seminary students are building a golden calf that will become part of the demonstrations," Mike reported. "We have a false idol in money."

He said that on Oct. 24, the movement was about one month old in the region. He knows that more clergy are mentioning the movement in prayers and sermons.

He reported that he knows that within the United Church of Christ Conference, there are Occupy gatherings in Moscow, Yakima, Ellensburg, Wenatchee, Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Chewelah, Northport, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and Anchorage.

His presence in Spokane was in relationship to a movement among clergy to join delegation visits, opportunities for those who haven't joined other activities to be part of an event for religious leaders to say, "Thank you," and to ask occupiers what religious folks could do to support them. On Oct. 24, there were clergy delegation visits in San Francisco, Oakland, Boston, Chicago, New York, Akron and Spokane, Mike said.

Outside another bank, Lynda Maraby, an urban missionary and Eastern Washington representative on the Faith Action Network board, prayed: "Lord, we know who you love. You do not love wealth and power. We depend on your power."



The Rev. Jim CastroLang, the Rev. Deb Conklin, Bishop Martin Wells and the Rev. Andy CastroLang

**At another bank**, the Rev. Kris Christensen of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Central Spokane, prayed: "Oh God, whose name defies any captivity of our naming, may your Spirit come on those who rule with money and power, and stir in their hearts compassion for the lost and least. In the name of your son."

Kris said that from serving in a poor part of town she sees people who are being "further ground into poverty in the economic system. It can't continue. I can't be silent any more."

While Episcopalians may hesitate to talk about evil and sin, Kris asserts that "what is happening to the most vulnerable is sin."

**In front of the downtown mall**, the Rev. Jim CastroLang, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Colville, noted: "God is present here with us and is not happy about the divide between the rich and the poor. God is here and God's love reigns, even in stores and banks. God of love, teach us to love, to share, to protest faithfully. You love and respect all people. Empower everyone that our voice will be heard speaking truth to power and wealth."

Jim later affirmed: "This is what the Gospel is about."

In Colville, he has been preaching that the church's role is about more than making people feel good.

"We can't stop there. The church is to be God's voice for justice in the community. God's vision for the world is that there not be a divide between the rich and the poor," he said.

"I sense we are in an historic time, but it will take hard work. Pastors have busy lives. We need

to deepen our commitment if we are to sustain our involvement," Jim said.

He reported that Occupy Colville meets at 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, and noon, Saturdays. Twenty-five people gathered on Saturday, Oct. 22.

At the Occupy Spokane site, clergy came in solidarity to say thanks to those who stand on the corner, sharing the messages and receiving affirming honks from passing cars.

**The Rev. Kevin Dow** of Highland Park United Methodist Church said: "I felt I couldn't not be here. I've been worried for a long time about the growing gap between the rich and the poor, wondering when it would become intolerable enough."

"More and more people are out of work and depend on others to help them survive. There have been increasing numbers of people coming to the food banks and becoming homeless," he said. "We need to be about the business of sharing and caring for one another."

**The Rev. Jane Nelson-Low**, a retired Episcopal priest who served six years in Wallace, Idaho, said that in the biblical tradition of Leviticus there is the Jubilee tradition.

"It's a process for wealth to be redistributed on a periodic basis. Every 49 years, the land was to be returned to its original owners to prevent the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few and to prevent passing it down generation to generation," she said.

Recognizing that was public policy then, she said the 21st century needs to find its own techniques, aware that "God's will is that no one be obscenely rich

discussing the Occupy movement among other issues.

Kris said that the role of Protest Chaplains is to be available to the Occupy Spokane participants, to be a resource, a presence and a training source on dealing with conflicts that arise so the movement can be healthy.

One idea is for pastors of different denominations to each take different days of the week to be present, such as the United Church of Christ on Mondays, the Episcopalians on Thursdays and the Methodists on Fridays.

"Part of our presence can help those holding signs and waving when people with mental illness, using drugs or in need of resources approach them," said Kris. "We can be there to be a listening presence and a referral resource."

**The Rev. Andy CastroLang** said she is "tired of the wicked levels of inequity."

She said that Americans need to remember that the government is an incomplete project and "we are part of it."

She expects things may get worse as people work to make the country better for everyone. As a downtown pastor, "it's so in my face who is sick, homeless and hungry on the street outside our building. It's getting worse. With the cutbacks, there is less money than ever."

The church itself has less money to help people with rent or bus vouchers, so she has to refer people to other programs, some of which are referring people back to her church for help.

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## Couple in mission concerned about repression of Roma in Europe

As Doug and Liz Searles share in Eastern Washington churches about their mission work since 2007 with the minority Evangelical Reformed Church in predominantly Catholic Poland, they remind each listener to be attentive to God's call to share God's love in the world wherever they are.

They also encourage Polish Christians to be attentive to God's call to mission—teaching, preaching, listening, loving, caring and inspiring—where they are.

Just as they raise awareness in Poland, they are informing people here about persecution of the Roma people in Eastern and Central Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Liz and Doug, who have served as missionaries since 1997—in India and China—are now in Poland, where their work is supported by a joint appointment by the Presbyterian Church, USA, and the common Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ.

In October and early November, they spoke to churches of those denominations in Yakima, Spokane, Clarkston, Pullman, Tonasket, Ephrata, Othello and Richland, before going on to share in Western Washington through Dec. 18.

"Reaching out globally matters," they told the congregation at Veradale United Church of Christ on Oct. 23. "It saves lives both spiritually and physically.

"We come as people transformed by mission, a link in a circle of ministry in which everyone is transformed," said Liz.

"We are your hands and feet abroad, and you are our hands and feet here," said Doug.

The Searles seek to inspire Polish Reformed churches to reach out in a land where their Protestant churches are marginalized.

Liz described the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland as having had a 20-year period of recovery since the country ousted the Communists. Previously, Poles had suffered occupation under Hitler and Stalin.

"People are living their way into reconciliation with each other in a post-atrocity environment," said Doug.

Lodz, Poland, where they serve, lost a third of its population—more than 230,000 people—during the Holocaust, including the pastor of the Reformed Church who perished in a death camp.

"The scars of history continue to divide communities," Liz said. "In some towns, Protestants are identified with Germans, who were 'cleansed' out of parts of Poland when postwar borders were drawn."

"The result of having lived in a



Doug and Liz Searles' remind people in the Northwest and in Poland to listen for God's call.

climate of fear can be fearfulness today," she said. "Fear is an expectation that something bad will happen, even though there may not necessarily be a present reality to be dealt with."

For today, it means some Poles and some congregations "hold onto a siege mentality, a fear that leads to survivalism. Such churches may feel that they must be armed fortresses against the world.

"The result is atrophy that makes it hard to reach out in love," Liz said. "Perfect love, however, casts out fear."

The Searles said one message they have brought to the Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland has been, "Fear not!"

Another is that it's okay to demonstrate a joyful faith and that worship and service can be fun.

Along with those messages, they encourage churches to overcome their prejudices about the Roma, formerly known as Gypsies, and to reach out to them.

"The term, 'Roma' is what most who migrated from India about 1,000 years ago prefer to call themselves," Liz said. "It means 'person.' 'Gypsy' in most Central and Eastern European languages

is part of the verb 'to steal.'"

Although gypsies used to travel in caravans or wagons, Doug pointed out that since the 1960s and 1970s, they have been settled travelers. There are now 12 million in Europe, a marginalized minority living in shanty ghettos outside cities, stigmatized, loathed, persecuted and facing human-rights challenges.

The Searles reported that during the third week of October, a community of 400 Roma, Sinti and Irish and English "Travelers" were evicted from a longstanding settlement at Dale Farm in the United Kingdom. The government is spending \$28 million to remove them using tasers and bulldozers, and providing no replacement shelter.

"Western Europe is forcibly transporting Roma East to the poorest countries, such as Bulgaria, Romania and Kosovo, and then closing the borders," said Doug. "Ninety-nine percent are unemployed."

Under communism, Roma were taken care of by government programs, but under capitalism, no one will hire them, he said.

They have been taken from their homes and offered no other

places to live or find shelter.

Liz said many compare the economic and social climate of Europe today to the 1930s.

"Those parallels are chilling she said. "As the economies contract, people seek scapegoats. Neo-nationalist movements and xenophobia are on the rise. Recent elections in Central and Eastern European countries have put in far-right members of Parliament who run for office on a platform of cleansing the country of the 'Roma problem.'"

"The Roma remember that nearly 1.5 million of them died in the Holocaust," she said.

The Searles showed a video depicting expanding ghettos on the outskirts of cities, communities

with no water or electricity. Children are segregated to attend substandard schools. Their parents have no jobs.

The video shares comments of rural Roma telling how their lives are depressed, working in the fields for only enough to eat for one day, living 12 people to a room. Most Roma live on less than \$2 a day. Most are born, live and die without being registered, so they cannot be citizens or find jobs.

Part of the difficulty for the Roma is that they are not one group, according to the video. They are separated by national borders and speak different languages, so their "activism is disjointed."

"Doug and I cannot solve the problems of Roma or the fears emerging in Central and Eastern Europe," Liz said, "but we can plant mustard seeds. We can encourage believers in Europe to speak out and act on behalf of Roma in a climate of ethnic cleansing, exclusion, stigmatization and violence."

The Searles have begun to build relationships to encourage capacity-building, advocacy and ecumenical efforts to improve the acceptance of, access for and inclusion of Roma,

Their work supports evangelism, ecumenical relations, reconciliation and outreach in a land where Protestants are a marginalized minority. Their work also includes music ministry, youth camps and retreats, teaching English, small group gatherings and leadership development.

For information, visit [globalministries.org/mee/countries/poland/](http://globalministries.org/mee/countries/poland/).

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# National news service pilots online religion news project in Spokane

Religion News, LLC, a new nonprofit based at the University of Missouri, has started Religion News Spokane, as the first of 20 websites around the country to provide "secular online coverage of religion news."

It will feed local news into the national multi-media website of its partner, the 78-year-old, Washington, D.C.-based Religion News Service (RNS). Then RNS will send it to its subscribers, which include 100 secular daily newspapers.

Religion News, LLC, received a three-year \$3.5 million Lilly Endowment start-up grant includes setting up and designing 20 community websites and salaries of community editors, said Tracy Simmons, editor and manager of Spokane's site.

She explained that in 2009, Advance Publications, Inc., which purchased RNS in 1994, sought to sell it. So the Religion Newswriters Foundation, the charitable educational arm of the Religion Association (RNA), created Religion News, LLC, which gained its nonprofit status June 1, 2011, acquired the for-profit RNS and returned it to nonprofit status.

"We will cover religion from a secular standpoint because our audience is secular media," Tracy said.

In her 10-year career, she has experienced the decline of religion coverage in mainstream media.

Tracy, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in theology in 2003 at Eastern New Mexico University and a master's there in 2008, was religion and education reporter for the Victoria Advocate in Texas,



Tracy Simmons, right, photographs clergy march to Occupy Spokane.

education reporter and online religion editor for the Lubbock Avalanche Journal, and religion reporter for the Waterbury, Conn., Republican-American, until they ended their faith section.

In 2009, she started Credible.com a multimedia website with blogs and daily religion news. In August, she moved to Spokane to start Religion News Spokane.

Credible.com and Columbus, Mo., may be the second and third "hyperlocal" sites. Tracy explained that "hyperlocal" is a journalism textbook term that originally referred to one zip code area.

RNS is using the term to refer to one community. She sees Spokane and Spokane Valley as her coverage area.

RNA president Steve Maynard was recently quoted in an RNS online press release saying that as newspaper circulation has fallen and publications have struggled for profits, religion reporting became a lower priority.

RNA, he said, informed members in May that the news service would not seek to gain a competitive edge over other RNA members nor would sites be established in areas where dailies have religion reporters.

Debra Mason, executive director of RNA and the Religion Newswriters Foundation, and a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, said in a May 18 online press release that the goal is to maintain and expand coverage of religion news in small and mid-sized media markets.

She said she envisions that the program will provide opportunities for religion news writers, expand RNS coverage and build on existing social networks to create "an economically viable model for local religion news."

Although Tracy chose to come to Spokane to be near family in Pullman and Western Washington, she said that Spokane has more than 435 congregations and faith groups. She is aware that Spokane is in the None Zone—where most people checked "none" in a survey on religious preferences.

With local feeds from community sites, the RNS newspaper and online subscribers will receive more news, she said.

Recently, Tiffany McCallen, national community manager in Columbus, Ohio, told The Fig Tree their journalism model is like mainstream media. In covering religion news of all

faiths and topics, it includes how controversial national issues and how everyday faith stories affect local communities.

She said the goal is for local sites to be self-sustaining, supported by ads, donations and other fund raising.

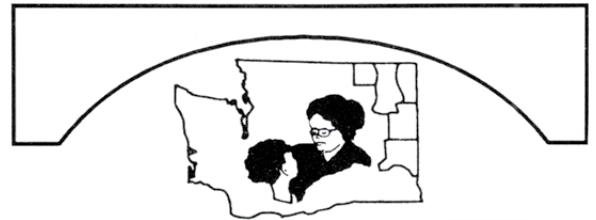
Religion News Spokane has started a construction website and social networking through Twitter, Facebook and Foursquare.

Tracy is also recruiting volunteer bloggers "to generate community-based content," she said.

Tracy, who grew up in a born-again Christian home and attended a United Church of Christ church when she was in Connecticut, said the new website is expected to launch in early 2012.

For information, call 240-1830 or email [tracy.simmons@religionnews.com](mailto:tracy.simmons@religionnews.com).

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## Hospice hosts national educational video

Hospice of Spokane will host the premier of "New Perspectives," a national education series called "Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief," on several dates in November and December.

More than 40 years ago, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross developed the "Five Stages of Dying" later called the "Five Stages of Grief."

The two-hour video conferences will explore current theoretical perspectives on death, dying and grief, emphasizing models developed since the 1969 publication of Kübler-Ross' book.

After the video, a half-hour local panel discussion will be held.

Hospice of Spokane is hosting the video conferences at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, noon, Thursday, Nov. 17, 2:45 p.m.,

Tuesday, Dec. 6 and 8:30 a.m., 456-0438, email [aflanigan@hospiceofspokane.org](mailto:aflanigan@hospiceofspokane.org) or visit [www.hospiceofspokane.org](http://www.hospiceofspokane.org)  
Wednesday, Dec. 7  
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# Institute director reflects on ways economy intersects with nonprofits

Despite the fluctuating economy, Nate Greene is optimistic that The Ministry Institute can grow and continue to carry out its mission of faith education, spiritual renewal and ministry leadership.

To support this growth, it plans to expand the residential buildings the institute owns on the block surrounding its main building at 405 E. Sinto near Gonzaga University's campus.

Implementation of these plans will provide sufficient revenue to cover overhead costs and expand the number of scholarships available to the institute's program students, he said.

As executive director since 2009, the former Ford auto dealer and Eastern Washington University economics professor believes "we have to find a way to jump start the economy."

He considers stabilizing the housing market as "key to the much needed recovery."

Nate said that declining home prices depress consumer spending, which in turn causes high unemployment and other economic ills.

He also said that the planned improvements to The Ministry Institute's residential buildings "are important to the financial health of the organization, because the weak economy has caused a significant drop in the organization's donations."

The Ministry Institute evolved from the Mater Dei Seminary, which was founded in 1981 by Father Armand Nigro, SJ, and two other Jesuit priests as a seminary for second-career men.

In 1994, the seminary became The Ministry Institute at Mater Dei and began programs for lay, ordained and vowed Catholics and non-Catholics in Gonzaga's religious studies program.

In addition, the former CREDO and FOCUS programs, which brought priests and nuns from around the world for sabbatical studies, became part of The Ministry Institute's program.



**Nate Greene seeks to strengthen Ministry Institute's program.**

The Ministry Institute has 12 to 20 students—mostly priests and nuns who come to strengthen their ministries through the academic, sabbatical and language programs available at the institute and Gonzaga University.

"These individuals come to increase their language skills, discern directions in their ministries, develop skills for their appointed assignments and learn how to be better servant leaders," Nate said. "The institute provides individually tailored programs for our students—especially the international students—that include participation in the university and local faith communities."

As part of its outreach to the community, the institute's Saturday "Skills for Service" workshops are open to the public, he said.

"These workshops cover religious and self-reflection topics that are relevant in today's world," he pointed out.

Another event open to the community is the Tuesday afternoon Taize Prayer, a form of prayer rooted in song, silence and readings, often from Scripture.

The workshops and services are opportunities for people in Spokane and surrounding communities to meet and engage in dialogue on ethics, spirituality and self-improvement with program students from around the world.

"We make efforts to involve the priests and nuns here in local parishes and retirement communities, where we encourage them to share their life journeys and experiences on being religious in developing countries," said Nate, who attends several Catholic parishes.

He often finds their faith is deeper than many Americans' faith, because in their homelands there are fewer Catholics and they live in areas of great need.

"To them, faith is their life. They live and die every day

in faith," he said. "Hearing of children dying of malnutrition in their homelands, I realize how much we as Americans take for granted."

"Although I grew up poor, I did not think of myself as poor," Nate said.

He gained an understanding of poverty when he lived two years in the Air Force in Turkey. There was no running water, electricity, phone or television."

Before he started at the Ministry Institute, Nate said he went to church and thought that was all there was to faith.

"Now I realize that we as a western country can help people in developing countries, not by telling them how to do what they need to do, but by sharing our expertise in engineering, health care or education to support their efforts to make their lives better," Nate said.

His life exemplifies his economic theory about working hard to make life better.

"Although my family had little money, we were expected to be educated and have a good life. Work was ingrained in us as children. The Catholic schools expected us to excel, to be somebody," he said.

Although his family attended African Methodist Episcopal (AME) churches, Nate's parents sent his sister and him to a Catholic school in Charleston, S.C., for a quality education. He

converted to Catholicism during his undergraduate studies in economics at Talladega College in Talladega, Ala. After graduating in 1965, he was drafted.

He had met his wife, Roberta, growing up in Charleston. She attended one of the four AME churches there.

After four years in the Air Force, overseas and in San Antonio, Nate earned a master's degree in economics in 1972, while Roberta completed a degree in urban studies at Trinity University.

Learning Ford Motor Co. was recruiting people who had master's degrees and had served in the military, he signed up and worked in sales and marketing for seven years in Buffalo, N.Y.

Next he owned an airport rental car business in Charlotte, N.C., which he sold to buy Center Ford in 1986 in Spokane. For 22 years, he operated it as Empire Ford until selling the dealership back to Ford and closing it in 2007, when Nate began teaching some economics courses at EWU. He still teaches some evening courses.

As he comes to know international students, he added that he becomes more personally aware of global interconnections economically, and the needs and importance of faith worldwide in addressing economic and social issues that have impact on people's lives.

For information, call 313-5765 or email [greenen@gonzaga.edu](mailto:greenen@gonzaga.edu).

## Peacemakers from Jerusalem speak in Spokane

Two peacemakers from Jerusalem, Elyahu McLean and Sheikh Ghassan Manasra, will share "Stories of Hope from the Holy Land: Grassroots Arab-Jewish Peace Efforts that Do Not Make the News" at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 28, at Country Homes Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 8415 N. Wall St.

Elyahu is director of the Jerusalem Peacemakers, a

network of religious leaders and peace-builders in the Holy Land.

The organization hosts the Abrahamic Reunion of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Druze leaders seeking to reclaim religion as a voice for peace.

Ghassan is director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Nazareth, which promotes tolerance and interfaith dialogue through training Jewish, Christian and Muslim high school teachers

and principals to teach tolerance.

For information, call 466-3414, email [onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com](mailto:onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.jerusalempeacemakers.org>.

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## Friends of Compassion gathers diverse people, learns about homelessness

Even after the Dalai Lama turned down an invitation to Spokane, John Hancock and several others continued to engage in conversations to promote his call for compassion.

John's interest in Buddhism began when Venerable Thubten Chodron from the Svarasti Abbey near Newport spoke to his Rotary group in 2009.

He was intrigued that Buddhism is both a religion and a philosophy, so it can be practiced by people for whom it's not a religion. He also found Buddhist philosophy to be similar to the mission of Rotary: "Service above self."

Along with others seeking to pursue compassion, he helped start Friends of Compassion, organizing gatherings for people of diverse religions, philosophies and points of view so they would become acquainted.

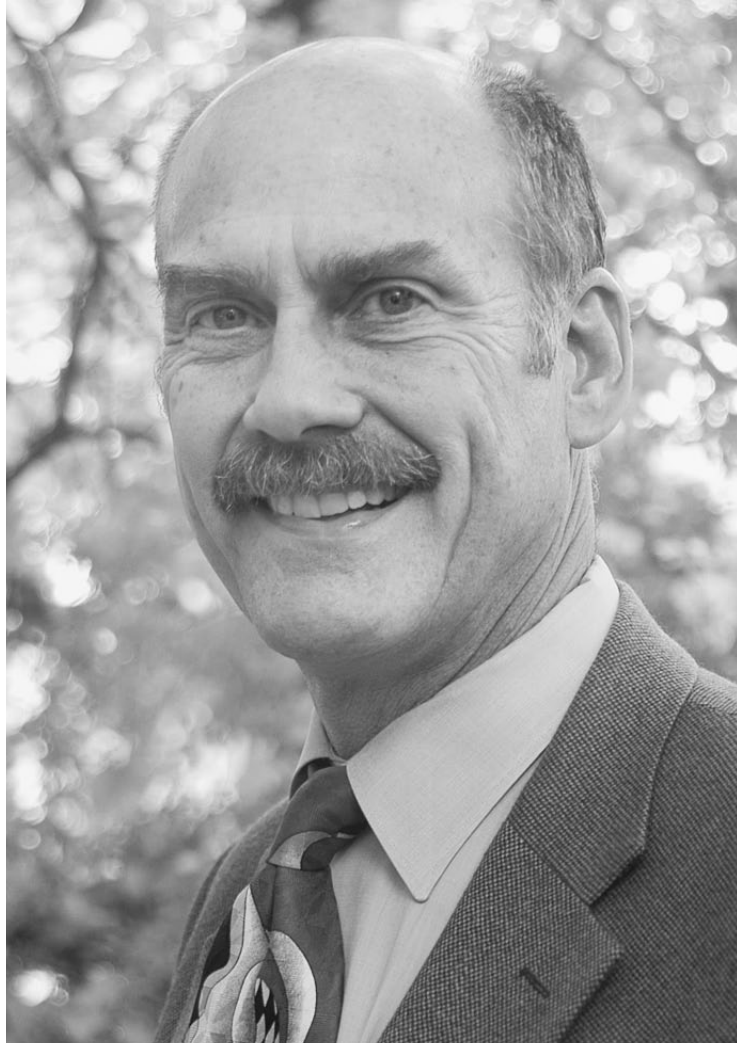
He listed goals of Friends of Compassion in Spokane:

One is to develop understanding of what the word, "compassion," means and where it's found in many faiths, philosophies, law and public policies.

"When we learn to emphasize what we have in common, differences fade and we can work on areas where we agree," John said. "We can be a diverse group, if we stick to compassion and do not compare doctrines."

The second is to find which organizations are already acting compassionately.

The group is meeting at different locations—such as the Spokane Islamic Center and Radha Yoga. To learn about homelessness, they met at Shalom Ministries at Central United Methodist Church and Volunteers of America (VOA). By introducing members to



John Hancock continues to encourage practicing compassion.

agencies working with homeless people, Friends of Compassion hopes some may volunteer and expand their awareness of urgent issues in Spokane. The group plans to go on an Urban Plunge into downtown services.

The third goal is to identify local issues for which compassion may offer new solutions.

Friends of Compassion has focused on the first and the second goals to elevate volunteerism and

raise compassion to the public consciousness, John said.

The group's website at [friendsofcompassion.com](http://friendsofcompassion.com) links to people engaged in compassionate practices and announces activities.

Friends of Compassion, which has a mailing list of about 300 and an average attendance at monthly gatherings of 45, involves Buddhists, Catholics, Lutherans, Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, people of other spiritual practices

and people with philosophies rather than faith. It is a blend of lay and religious professionals.

"Our goal is to speak in plain English, not the shop talk of one religion or academic philosophical or psychological practice," said John.

The three goals were developed as part of the process inviting the Dalai Lama around a focus on indigenous people, educational opportunities, business ethics and the natural environment in this area.

"We asked if the local institutions of education, government, health care and religious bodies can be compassionate, or if only people can be compassionate," John said.

"The Dalai Lama adopted compassion as the foundation of public policy, education, commerce and diplomacy, seeing it as a public virtue, not just a religious virtue," he said.

John added that locally at Eastern Washington University, the Compassionate Interfaith Society is the largest non-sports and non-Greek organization.

John's father was a Methodist minister who served in a small town in Iowa. He was a liberal in a conservative place, having gone to theological school at Boston University with Martin Luther King, Jr.

"He had a pragmatic view that it did not matter what god one believed in, but what mattered was how we lived our lives," John said.

Having read the Dalai Lama's book, *Ethics for the New Millennium*, on Buddhist philosophy, hearing the Dalai Lama speak in Seattle in the spring of 2009 and then having Thubten Chodron speak at Rotary started a chain of events for John.

"Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., are my two life models and heroes," he said, explaining that his faith pilgrimage has been outside any congregation.

"Other philosophies and other religions appealed to me," said John who has worked four years

with his own company, Deep Creek Consulting Company, doing grant writing and institutional development for nonprofits.

He came to Spokane in 1999 as the executive director of the Spokane Symphony. Previously he was a French horn player and musician, teaching at the University of Michigan and at Murray State University in Kentucky.

He earned a master's in music in 1977 at Boston University and a doctoral degree at the University of Michigan in 1983. In 2002, he attended the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

John said that Friends of Compassion has been "informed by" the international Charter for Compassion, launched by Karen Armstrong, a former nun; the Universal Compassion Movement, led by Geshe Pelyge, a Buddhist monk who is a visiting professor at Gonzaga University, and by the work of the Dalai Lama.

"We are not sponsored by another organization, but remain affiliated with the Downtown Rotary and Svarasti Abbey," John said.

For him, compassion is "the daily practice of being kind and generous."

As a Boy Scout, he said, he had tried to follow its motto to "do a good turn every day."

"Now I understand being helpful as more than an activity," he said. "It's a state of mind, because there are opportunities to love others all around us. It becomes a habit, not an activity. That makes me a happier person."

Friends of Compassion meets at 7 p.m. on third Wednesdays. Information on themes, speakers and locations is at [friendsofcompassion.com](http://friendsofcompassion.com).

John said the group is "strategically disorganized, with a loose committee of leaders and advisors, a service committee and a communication committee."

For information, call 244-8559 or email [john.hank@me.com](mailto:john.hank@me.com).

## Community college students prepare and serve meal at the House of Charity

For 15 years, the Student Awareness League at Spokane Community College has served the community of Spokane.

Out of their awareness that every day hundreds of thousands of homeless people walk U.S. streets, searching for food and shelter, the students decided to prepare and serve a Thanksgiving lunch for homeless people at noon, Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific.

"Spokane has many charitable programs and nonprofit organizations assisting with clothing, sheltering and feeding homeless people, but not enough to service all in need, said Pamela Weinert, a member of the league.

She invites people to "imagine that a family member or friend being homeless—the fear, unhappiness and discrimination

they would face daily."

"What could you do to help your loved one? What do they require to survive and thrive? How could your presence bless and improve the quality of their life?" Pam reflected.

She also invites people to put themselves in the shoes of someone who is homeless and consider that person's frustrations, sadness, resentment or anger

"Practice compassion during your next encounter with someone who is less fortunate than you. Greet them with mindfulness. They are human and have feelings, too," Pam said.

Through the Student Action League, she said hundreds of students and faculty give of themselves.

She invites individuals and businesses to donate food for

the Thanksgiving meal. For information, email [vandergall@yahoo.com](mailto:vandergall@yahoo.com).

# Future of Feeding Hope

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RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING

# Spokane joins in educational events for hunger, homelessness awareness

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, Nov. 13 to 20, is an opportunity to educate people on stereotypes about, the impact of, and solutions to hunger and homelessness.

Co-sponsored nationally by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness, the Spokane Homeless Coalition is coordinating local efforts.

Various local initiatives will urge action by the community, government leaders, businesses and media.

**"This is a time to learn** what the real issues are in our community when it comes to homelessness," said Madelyn Bafus, chair of the coalition's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Committee.

She said the Spokane City Council will read a proclamation recognizing Spokane's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14, in the City Council Chambers.

Spokane County will also read a proclamation at the County Commissioner Hearing, 5:30 p.m., Nov. 8, lower level of the Public Works Building, 1029 W. Broadway.

**The coalition is leading** a city-wide homeless winter-needs drive 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15 with drop off sites at the Homeless Resource Center, 520 Walnut and at Valley, North and South side Shopko stores.

Items needed include new and gently used coats, gloves, scarves, winter boots, socks, hand warmers, plastic ponchos, shampoo, toilet paper, detergents and dog food.

**Throughout November**, Our Place Ministries at 1509 W. College will accept these items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

**The Spokane Mental Health Homeless Outreach Team's** annual Winter Wear Pick Up is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, at First Covenant Church, Second and Division.

From 7 to 10 a.m., also on Friday, the Global Credit Union, 1520 W. Third Ave., will receive personal care items.

**Transitions' Women's** Hearth is hosting an open house from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, 902 W. Second Ave. A concert at The Bing Crosby Theater follows.

For 20 years, the Women's Hearth, a women's drop-in day center, has been a safe, welcoming place in downtown Spokane where homeless and low-income women can access services and find community and opportunities for personal growth.

"We are now seeing about 85 women a day, when just two months ago we were seeing 60 women a day," said Dia Maurer, director of Transitions.

**"Today we have 10 times** the number of calls than we can help from women seeking transitional housing at Miryam's House and Transitional Living Center," she said. "Almost half of them have zero income."

**"Food for Thought,"** an annual community dinner will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 17 at Shalom Ministries, 518 W. Third Ave. The meal is provided, prepared and served by students at Gonzaga University



Deidre Jacobson on the staff at Miryam's House visits with Dorothy Hooper, a resident.

and Whitworth University.

"This dinner is an occasion to have a personal conversation with someone who is homeless and put a face to homelessness," said Madelyn.

**The need for information** and access for food, cash and medical resources will be addressed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18 when Washington Department of Social Health Services eligibility specialists will accept and process applications for assistance at First Covenant Church, Second and Division.

According to a 2007 report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), on any given night about 750,000 men, women and children are homeless in the United States.

**Spokane County's One Day** Count of Homeless last January revealed that 1,273 citizens were homeless, including 359 children.

The next One Day Count is January 26, 2012 in conjunction with the Homeless Connect Resource Fair.

Statistics show that a high number of homeless live in shelters and transitional housing while others are living without shelter.

Over a year, the NAEH reports that between 2.5 and 3.5 million people will live either on the streets or in an emergency shelter.

**To allow more people to avoid** freezing temperatures, the City of Spokane's Human Services Department is asking the community's social service agencies to apply to be "warming centers" for the homeless this winter. The city will request that selected sites

be opened, starting this month and continuing through Feb. 28. These centers will be in addition to regular homeless shelters throughout Spokane.

**America's homeless people** represent all demographics, including single men and women, more than 600,000 families with 1.35 million children and more than 100,000 veterans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service has reported that nearly 50 million Americans, including almost 17 million children, are also food insecure and do not know where they will find their next meal.

**According to Second Harvest** of the Inland Northwest, food distributions at their food bank outlets have increased 60 percent over the past three years.

"We have seen an unprecedented number of people seeking food assistance," said Melissa Cloninger, director of corporate and community relations. "This is the new norm, and we expect to see higher numbers of people for the next five to six years."

Second Harvest is once again collaborating with KREM TV and weatherman Tom Sherry for the annual Tom's Turkey Drive, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19.

**Community members may visit** any Rosauers grocery store and purchase a turkey or full dinner or make a cash donation between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Volunteers will be available to receive donations.

Last year, Tom's Turkey Drive raised more than \$100,000 and provided more than 10,000 holi-

day meals. The meals will be distributed 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 22 at the Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana. Recipients must have an ID and proof of their current address such as a utility bill.

**"People start lining up hours** ahead," said Heather Byrd, Salvation Army's director of development and communication, "and this year we are expecting more people than ever."

"Many people who come to us for assistance today were once donors and now find themselves in need because of loss of income or jobs," she said.

Heather said it takes more than 500 volunteers to assist with the distribution from intake and monitoring parking to one-on-one distribution. To volunteer, call 329-2721.

In addition to Thanksgiving dinner distributions, people can sign up to receive toys for their children through Toys for Tots.

**Faith events include** two memorial services to honor homeless people who have died.

One service is at noon, Friday, Nov. 18, at Central United Methodist Church, 518 W. Third Ave., and a second service is at noon, Monday, Nov. 21, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington.

**Other events include** the Oxfam Hunger Banquet from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10, in the Lair at Spokane Community College, and a Hunger and Homeless Awareness Walk, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20, starting at 1101 College St.

According to SCC student organizer Cole Gerard, the Hunger Banquet's goal is to help people see what poverty really looks like. Guests will randomly select a paper from a basket that indicates if they are from a low, middle or high income area of the world and will be fed according to local traditions.

"Those who picked low income will sit on the floor and be served rice and water. Those who pick middle income will be seated in chairs and go through a buffet line to get their rice and beans. Those who pick high income will be seated at tables and served spaghetti, salad and juice," Cole said.

For information, visit [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org), [www.studentsagainsthunger.org](http://www.studentsagainsthunger.org) or [www.spokanehumanservices.org/homeless-coalition](http://www.spokanehumanservices.org/homeless-coalition).

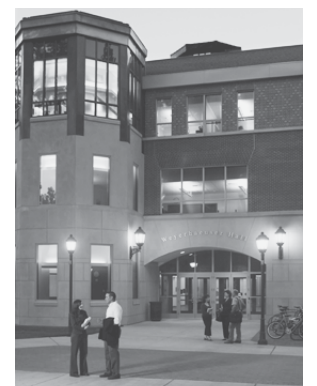
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## Economist considers world economy an “un-economy” unfair and more

There must be a word for the phenomenon, but it doesn't seem to have shown up in crossword puzzles yet. Sometimes when reading or doing a web search, our eyes rest on a word in an unrelated article, directing our eyes in another direction.

The term “un-economy” has recently come to my attention that way.

It seems to have been coined by Stewart Wallis, an English economist who is associated with the New Economics Institute and who has been honored for his work as international director of Oxfam.

According to him, our world economy now is an un-economy. It is unfair, unsustainable, unstable, and it is making too many people unhappy.

The unfairness is reflected in many areas, including the growing divide between the income of rich and the poor, and the growth of the financial sector in our economy.

We are hearing regularly that 1 percent of the population currently takes home 40 percent of the earned income in this country. In 1985, the financial sector represented 16 percent of domestic corporate profits. By this decade, it had grown to 41 percent.

For the most part, this growth has not created any real products or jobs. It represents creation of financial instruments that make more money for those who already have plenty—as shown by their ability to invest in these exotic creations. One example is collateralized mortgage obligations, which cut mortgages into itty-bitty pieces and issued them as insurance against mortgages going bad.

The unsustainability is reflected in a shareholder economy which is concerned primarily with short-term interests, such as the bottom line, and emphasizes ever-increasing productivity. It seems logical

to assume that there must be a limit to how many times a company can downsize its workforce while demanding more from the remaining workers.

Stewart Wallis advocates for a stakeholder economy, in which workers, consumers, the environment and future generations are taken into consideration.

Our current recession is an example of an unstable un-economy. Throughout the world there is a skewed distribution of resources such as food, water, land and energy. Why should greed have first claim on all resources?

Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourner* magazine, has been visiting Occupy Wall Street (OWS) and listening to demonstrators. He sees reflections of the un-economy in the concerns of the demonstrators and has two suggestions for those on the sidelines: 1) Don't expect a list of demands. Occupy

Wall Street is providing opportunities for the discussion of real problems. 2) Don't worry about endorsing Occupy Wall Street, instead, engage with the movement.

As he points out, many of the various elements that have been drawn together in the Occupy movement do not endorse each other.

Jim asked a young man he met at Occupy Wall Street what churches could do to support the movement, and he was told that they could provide inspiration, consultation and presence. Jim suggests, among other things, listening and taking food.

Jim Wallis and Stewart Wallis have no familial tie. They just seem to be drawn together by their common interests in a just economy.

Are we ever going to reach the point where justice is a civil right?

Nancy Minard - editorial team

## Pope, Vatican's Oct. 24 document on global finance worth discussing

Mainstream press seems slow to pick up that Pope Benedict XVI and Vatican officials see that Catholic social teaching and the Occupy Wall Street movement agree the economy should serve people and the gap between rich and poor needs to be reduced, according to a report by Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service.

A 13-page document on global finance issued on Oct. 24 by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace indicates that “the basic sentiment” behind the protests is in line with Catholic social teaching. Cardinal Peter Turkson, the council president, said that U.S. protesters are focusing on Wall Street because it is a financial structure

whose power extends all over the world, according to Catholic News Service. He said that people who suffer from the way financial markets operate have a right to say, “Do business differently” and to hold corporations and institutions of society accountable as they do with their government.

The Vatican also said it sees need for an

international authority to govern the global financial market and for governments that bailed out banks to help the global economy.

That document at <http://www.zenit.org/article-33718?l=english> offers food for reflection, conversation and action.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Letter to the Editor

## Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

## Cuts hitting most vulnerable requires work for compassion and justice

Over the last two years, budget cuts at the state level have eroded our social safety net. Now, Governor Christine Gregoire has called a special session to deal with further shortfalls in the state budget. State agencies have been advised to prepare for additional cuts of up to 10 percent. The cuts are likely to fall hardest on social services, health care, education and corrections.

Those of us who work with the poor, the elderly, the disabled and the sick know that further cuts to our most vulnerable will create suffering of a magnitude that we, as Americans, are not prepared to see.

In a Dec. 15, 2010 press release, the governor said, “For the functions that government no longer will be able to provide, we must turn to neighbors, private charities, faith-based organizations and other local programs. Our communities, more than ever, will be asked to step up.”

She reaffirmed that appeal in a press conference in late October.

Perhaps this comment is made in desperation. Perhaps the governor believes

that we have that capacity. Either way, as the leader of a faith community, I invite the governor to spend a day with me. If she did, she'd understand that churches and nonprofits have already stepped up, even as their resources have shrunk.

At Holy Trinity Episcopal's weekly meal for those in need—HT Dinner Table—we used to serve 60 to 80 people each Wednesday night in our parish hall. Empty seats at the tables allowed volunteers to sit and eat with our guests. Last week, it was standing room only, and guests spilled out of the hall and into the courtyard. Lately, we have been at capacity at the beginning of the month and in overflow by the third Wednesday of the month—an increase of about 40 percent.

Every month is getting more challenging. Our next step is to create a second dining room in the church nave, a move which will require more volunteers, more flatware, more dinnerware and more food. Once the church is full—and based on the current trend, we believe it will be—we will be

forced to turn people away.

If the governor visited the HT Dinner Table, she would see another sign of the ever-widening economic gap—the “new poor.” They are turning up at Holy Trinity, bewildered by their tumble out of the middle class and ill-equipped to survive in poverty. Most are new to the neighborhood and to the “system.” Right now, we can give them a meal, a kind word and a referral. It's harder to provide them hope.

Other churches and organizations are similarly overwhelmed by current need. Our Place Ministries, West Central's center for emergency services, has been running out of food on a regular basis. In the hygiene room, they distribute toilet paper, shampoo and feminine hygiene products with great care so that they don't run out. They are always in need of blankets and sleeping bags to offer at least some protection from the oncoming winter.

There remains only one more way that faith communities and nonprofits can step up. We can match the hand of compassion

with a hand of justice. We can stand a little taller and step a little closer to the leaders whose decisions are decimating those we love and serve. We can organize ourselves, our boards, our congregations and our “clients” to cry out for justice. I say “organize” because the only way we'll be heard above all the political noise is if we cry out together, at the same moment, in the same direction.

The special session begins on Nov. 28. We need to be clear that further cuts will leave more people without food, shelter and health care. As a result, people will die. We need to urge all people of faith to call and write their legislators and the governor and demand another way.

A number of pastors and interested others are working together to strengthen our hands of compassion and justice. Anyone feeling called to care for the lost and the least and to require more from our leaders, may email me at [trinitykris@gmail.com](mailto:trinitykris@gmail.com).

The Rev. Kris Christensen  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

## Faith-based social justice work is important part of growing congregations

In the last few months, two paragraphs from two different pieces have really stuck with me. The first is from a report from Hartford Seminary and the Hartford Institute for Religion Research titled, “The Compassionate Congregation”:

“Congregations working for social justice with a broad array of social outreach ministries are more likely to express that their congregations are vital and alive. A strong, positive correlation exists between having a wide breadth of social ministries and having a high vitality congregation. Almost 90 percent of those with a high level of justice programs are vital, compared to only 46 percent who have little involvement in justice issues. Almost 80 percent of those congregations with a great deal of involvement in outreach show high vitality, compared with 56 percent of those with low involvement and 46 percent of those with limited.”

This paragraph is an amazing affirmation for many churches and a challenge for

others. In the last year, some have tried to suggest any faith-based social justice work is an expression of something in opposition to a faithful life.

Many of us may have heard—from some we know and love in our churches—the fear that, if we become involved in social justice work, our church-life will fall apart.

There are even wagging fingers of some who suggest the church or a pastor has no right to speak up on issues of injustice, inequality and violence. This piece suggests social justice work isn't simply important but is a vital part of a church's health.

The second paragraph is from an article by Joshua Goldstein in *Foreign Policy Magazine* titled, “Think Again: War,”

“...the last decade has seen fewer war deaths than any decade in the past 100 years, based on data by researchers Bethany Lacina and Nils Petter Gleditsch of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo. Worldwide, deaths caused directly by war-related violence in the new century

have averaged about 55,000 per year, just over half of what they were in the 1990s (100,000 a year), a third of what they were during the Cold War (180,000 a year from 1950 to 1989), and a hundredth of what they were in World War II. If you factor in the growing global population, which has nearly quadrupled in the last century, the decrease is even sharper. Far from being an age of killer anarchy, the 20 years since the Cold War ended have been an era of rapid progress toward peace.”

This article ends with these words:

“Similarly rapid shifts in norms preceded the ends of slavery and colonialism, two other scourges that were once also considered permanent features of civilization. So don't be surprised if the end of war, too, becomes downright thinkable.”

While the first piece names some logical reasons for churches to be involved in social justice work, this article names the

moral imperative.

There have been many days I have gone home under a cloud of futility, convinced that working for a better world was a quixotic, useless, hopeless effort. This article has turned that on its head.

I'm more excited and willing to do this work, now, than I have been for a long time.

It ends up that it was never naïve to believe things could get better. It was naïve to believe those who said “things couldn't get better.”

If churches don't continue to be part of this good work, we are not just abandoning a “program,” we are denying God's redemptive presence among us and God's call to us to be part of that movement.

The church being involved in the work of social justice is no small, easily dismissed thing. It is this faithful work that means life for the church and hope for the world.

The Rev. Mike Denton  
Pacific Northwest United Church of Christ conference minister

# Calendar of Events

- Nov 1-29 • **"Give a Little Warmth"** Blanket and Winter Clothing Drive, Our Place, 1509 W. College, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 326-7267
- Nov 3 • **"The Philosophy of Man,"** Fr. Armand Nigro, SJ, The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 313-5765
- **Ladies Nite Out: An Auction to Remember,** Spokane Valley Partners, Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd., 5:30 p.m., 927-1153
- Nov 4 • **First Fridays with the Bishop,** "After the Fall: Challenges of the Church in Eastern Europe," Bishop Blase Cupich, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 11:15 a.m., 448-1224
- Nov 4-6 • **Thirst Seminar,** Spokane Masonic Center, 1108 W. Riverside., 7 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday/Sunday, 455-7654 ext. 81
- Nov 5 • **Losses of Our Lives Retreat,** Spirit Center, 465 Keuterville Rd., Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-964-2000
- **Northwest Coalition for Human Rights,** Student Union Building, University of Idaho, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 208-885-4285
- **St. Joseph Family Center Partners in Hope,** Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W. N. River Dr., 6 to 9 p.m., 483-6495 ext. 112
- **Fair Trade Catalogue Party,** The Book Parlor, 1425 W. Broadway, 6 to 7 p.m., 328-6527
- **KYRS Anniversary/88.1 Launch Party,** Masonic Center, 1108 W. Riverside, 7 p.m., 747-3012
- Nov 5-6 • **International Fair Trade Craft Sale,** Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 N.E. Campus Ave., Pullman, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, 208-773-5616
- Nov 7 • **Christ Kitchen Fall Luncheon Benefit,** First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar St., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., 325-4343
- Nov 8 • **Christ Kitchen Men's Christian Luncheon Benefit,** First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar St., 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., 325-4343
- **"What Does It Mean to Be the Church Today?"** Bishop Blase Cupich, Catholic Diocese of Spokane, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m.
- Nov 9 • **Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Benefit Luncheon,** Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln, 11:30 a.m., 455-8722 ext. 200
- **Deconstructing Thanksgiving,** Foley Teleconference Center, Gonzaga University, 7 p.m., 313-4105
- Nov 10 • **Judy Shepard Lecture,** "The Meaning of Matthew," Cowles Auditorium, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-4263
- **"Food Sovereignty and Roots of Migration: Defending Corn and Culture in Oaxaca,"** Eleazar Garcia, Witness for Peace, Weyerhaeuser Hall at Whitworth University, 7 p.m.
- Nov 11-12 • **Jubilee International Marketplace,** First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 720-0035
- **Mission Catalyst Inland Northwest Missions Conference** with Luis Palau, Ajay Pillai and George Verwer, Calvary Spokane Church, 511 W. Hastings, mcinw.org, 995-5027
- Nov 11-13 • **Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat,** Spirit Center, Cottonwood, 208-964-2000
- Nov 12 • **Skills for Service Workshop,** The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to lunch, 313-5765
- **Advocacy as Church Ministry,** Faith Action Network, First Lutheran, 530 W. Bonneville, Pasco, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 547-4622
- **World Vision Targeting Hope,** Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth University, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 777-4345
- **Caritas Outreach Ministries Benefit,** Shadle Park Presbyterian, 5508 N. Alberta, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 327-5522
- **Annual Cultural Dinner,** Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University, 5 to 8 p.m., [aszotkowski@zagmail.gonzaga.edu](mailto:aszotkowski@zagmail.gonzaga.edu)
- Nov 12-13 • **Fall Folk Festival,** Lair, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene St., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 624-5693
- Nov 13 • **Catholic Charities Fair Trade Sale,** Assumption Parish, 3624 W. Indian Trail Rd., 358-4273
- Nov 13-19 • **Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week,** Volunteers of America, 747-5487 – see p. 13
- Nov 15 • **Homeless Winter Needs Drive,** Homeless Resource Center, 520 S. Walnut, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., 455-6275
- **"Perspective on Religious Practice in the Pacific Northwest,"** Greater Gonzaga Guild, Patricia O'Connell Killen, GU academic vice-president Herak Room, McCarthy Athletic Center, N. 801 Cincinnati, 10 a.m., 313-6095
- **Women Transitioning Women Benefit Concert,** Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague Ave., 7 to 9 p.m., 328-6702
- Nov 16 • **Spokane City Forum,** First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar St., 11:45 to 1 p.m., 777-1555
- Nov 16-17 • **"Beyond Kübler-Ross: New Perspectives on Death, Dying and Grief,"** Hospice of Spokane, 120 S. Arthur, 456-0438
- Nov 17 • **Food for Thought Dinner,** Shalom Ministries, 818 W. Third Ave., 5 to 7 p.m., 838-1431
- Nov 18-20 • **Making a Meaningful Christmas Retreat,** Spirit Center, Cottonwood, 208-964-2000
- **"The Dignity and Vocation of Women: Rest and Inspiration for Weary Women and Frazzled Moms" Retreat,** Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Church, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224
- Nov 18 • **Whitworth International Festival,** HUB at Whitworth University, 6:30 p.m., 777-3796
- Nov 19 • **Women's and Children's Free Restaurant,** Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Rogers High School, 1622 E. Wellesley, 4 to 7 p.m., 324-1995, [www.wcferspokane.org](http://www.wcferspokane.org)
- Nov 20 • **Catholic Charities Fair Trade Sale,** St. Augustine's Parish, 428 W. 19th, 358-4273
- Nov 21 • **Catholic Charities Candlelight Vigil,** House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific Ave., 5:30 to 7 p.m., 358-4266
- Nov 24 • **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service,** Interfaith Council, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 10 a.m., 534-1011
- **Trilingual Mass of Thanksgiving,** St. Joseph Parish, 1503 W. Dean, 10 a.m., 328-4841
- Nov 25-27 • **Festival of Fair Trade,** Community Building, 35 W. Main, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 464-7677
- Nov 28 • **"Stories of Hope from the Holy Land,"** Elijah McLean and Sheikh Ghassan Manasa, Country Homes Christian, 8415 N. Wall, 7 p.m., 466-3414
- Nov 30 • **Fig Tree distribution,** St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Dec 1 • **Fig Tree Board,** Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., 535-1813
- Dec 1-15 • **Silence the Christmas Noise: Advent Retreat,** Spirit Center, Cottonwood ID, 208-964-2000
- Dec 2 • **First Fridays with the Bishop,** "News from Baltimore: Report from the Annual Bishops' Conference," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., 448-1224
- Dec 2-4 • **"Being Conscious of God's Contact with Us,"** Sister Cathy Cahill, OSF, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224
- Dec 3 • **"Justice Rising: The Advent Call to Solidarity,"** Fr. John Heagle, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, Providence Auditorium, Sacred Heart Medical Center, 20 W. 9th Ave., 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 206-223-1138
- **Field of Diamonds House of Blessings,** "Winter Wonderland" Christmas Tea, Church of Berachah, 508 E. 25th Ave., noon to 4 p.m.

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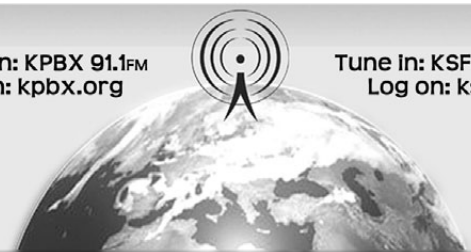
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## Okanogan author with South African roots remains vigilant on human rights

Having grown up in a middle-class South African family, author Bea Alden knows how “a deep societal wrong can seem to be acceptable and customary.”

In these times, she is concerned about diminishing respect for human rights in the United States and around the world.

While Bea is now often absorbed in painting the scenic mountains, rugged rocks and soft foliage she sees around her home in the Okanogan Highlands, she remains attuned to how governments treat their people.

She and her husband Leon moved there in 2006 when he retired as pastor at Pioneer United Methodist Church in Walla Walla and they wanted to live in the countryside.

In 2000, Bea retired from a 20-year career in the insurance industry and decided to write a book recounting and reflecting on her early years and how “a child born into such a culture and, not exposed to any alternative view, might easily learn to reflect the abuses of that society,” she said.

“This phenomenon is not confined to South Africa,” she pointed out.

The title of the book, *Liongold*, is a metaphor for a comparison between the gold mining industry and the golden lions, which symbolize South Africa. White gold barons made fortunes and, with black labor, created modern cities, which afforded a comfortable existence for white families through exploitation of the native people and the native environment.

The book describes how no one in South Africa, black or white, escaped the effects of apartheid’s written and unwritten rules about race, class, money and roles of men and women.

In addition, Bea draws a parallel in her book between the “indescribable cruelties the government enacted behind the scenes” and violence in her own home.

The veil of secrecy in which she grew up was also part of her family life because her father, who she describes as “a brilliant chemical engineer,” was bipolar and shifted from being nice to “being weird, violent and ugly,” she said.

Her mother, a piano teacher, was ambitious for a more socially prominent place in Johannesburg Society than their family could afford, Bea said.

In the 40s and 50s, many women had Cinderella illusions of gaining prestige through their marriages, she added.

Her mother, however, saw



Bea Alden paints in the studio her husband built behind their home near Tonasket.

there was more. She joined the Black Sash movement with other white women, who stood in rows outside government buildings to protest apartheid in the late 1950s. Many whites, as well as blacks who worked against apartheid were put under house arrest or “disappeared,” Bea recalled.

The British nuns teaching at the Anglican girls’ school Bea attended also expressed their opposition to apartheid. When the nuns wanted to build a recreation center for the school’s servants, the government “disallowed the project on the grounds that the area was ‘not zoned for blacks.’”

*Liongold* describes how black women who did the housework of the white housewives—such as in her home—lived different lives from her middle-class family.

They ate from tin plates, not china. They rode in green busses, not the red ones like white people rode, and they were forced by law to live in separate areas from whites. All public facilities were segregated.

“We did not see the violence happening behind the scenes,” she said, “but when I was 11, my eyes were opened by reading Uncle Tom’s Cabin, realizing that we did not call the Africans ‘slaves,’ but their lives were not much different from U.S. slaves,” Bea said.

“Under apartheid, only whites voted and participated in government,” she said. “For them housing, education and jobs were much superior to the conditions for native people. Whites almost wiped out the native African experience.”

“One of the evils was that the system took people who disagreed and shut them up. They would be arrested and held without trial, or would simply disappear,” she said.

So Bea carries that awareness into her life here today. She is

concerned that the fear stirred on 9/11 in the United States, “has led us bit by bit to put up with an erosion of individual rights” from the “sometimes intrusive airport security checks to denial of habeas corpus—a right to prevent detention without trial—for prisoners at Guantanamo, for example.

“I believed that is one thing a civilized society would not do,” she said. “It’s disillusioning given the ideals America says it has.”

Bea worries that U.S. politics could be running into a cycle toward repression with even, perhaps, religion falling prey to repressive politics, as it did in South Africa. She is uncomfortable with the feelings of enmity between the right and left wings in this country.

“I hope it’s a cycle that will turn around,” she said.

Bea shared how her life progressed to living in the United States. She studied social work at the University of Witwatersrand and earned a bachelor’s degree in English and psychology at the University of South Africa in 1966.

She and her first husband came

to Rochester, N.Y., from 1960 to 1963 for his doctoral studies on radiation biology. In the 1960s, Bea was delighted to find college students protesting.

“It seemed like paradise,” she said. “Americans seemed to have open minds. The United States was a place of opportunity, growth and change compared with the fascist South African regime.”

Later that marriage dissolved, and Bea met and, in 1978, married Leon Alden, a United Methodist

pastor in Kennewick.

“It was culture shock adjusting to being a pastor’s wife,” she said. “I was not into teas or baking casseroles. It was also hard to be a pastor’s wife and not be able to express my political opinions freely, except my opinions about South Africa.”

For many years after moving to the United States, Bea felt she could do little to assist those suffering under apartheid except give talks to women’s, church, business, school and community groups to “extend knowledge about what an evil system apartheid was.”

Then she learned about Amnesty International, a global movement to end human rights abuses, and began writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience around the world.

She appreciated having a way she as an individual could help free prisoners.

For Bea, the Gospel message is summed up in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ teaching people to care for the least and not to judge “but to learn to accept each other, to look at our differences and resolve them.”

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