

40TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FEATURES 80+ EVENTS**



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

EWU prof gives back to Ethiopian village

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

Kassahun (Kass) Kebede, a professor of sociology at Eastern Washington University, journeyed halfway around the world to Cheney to establish Libraries in Ethiopia, a literacy program in his home country.

His “walk” to his current home and role as associate professor of sociology and justice studies at Eastern Washington University began in rural Ethiopia.

His parents, who didn’t finish school, believed education was important. They sent him and his siblings to the closest school, which was miles away.

“I walked to school every day. Other children walked more,” said Kass. “It was cold to walk without gloves at 8,000 feet in the highlands.”

Reflecting on his parents’ advice to tell his story, he shared how he went from rural Ethiopia to Cheney.

“Few would believe a kid who sometimes walked barefoot to school, and who studied and read by kerosene lamp went to university and now teaches in the U.S.” Kass said.

“God helped me. That’s why I remember the kids back home



Kassahun Kebede has started Libraries for Ethiopia for his home communities.

who struggle like I did. Even though things improved, they haven’t changed that much in the 20 years since I came here,” he said.

In rural Ethiopia and most rural towns, there are no bookstores or libraries. So Kass started Libraries for Ethiopia to improve literacy.

“When I was growing up, no one read for pleasure. I never owned a book until I graduated from college. It was expensive,” he said. “When I was in school, the only textbook was used by the teacher. I was active and talked in class. Teachers encouraged me.”

Once a teacher gave Kass her only textbook to take home. Excited to read it under the kerosene lamp, he spilled coffee on it. Embarrassed, he didn’t return to school for a week because he felt he had failed his teacher.

His mother confronted him. “One book, one stain. You have to go back and tell her what happened.” It took courage to tell her. The teacher asked him to pay 5 Ethiopian Birr, less than \$1, but a hardship for his family, who owned their land, grew their food and were self-sufficient, but bought little.

Continued on page 4

Kizuri is vibrant shop for fair trade, celebrates with Festival of Fair Trade

By Mary Stamp

During Thanksgiving weekend, Kizuri, the fair-trade retail store in the Community Building at 35 W. Main, is presenting the 2024 Festival of Fair Trade.

“We are excited to make this a vibrant, fun community event with new goods from different vendors, live music and good food as we strive to create connection,” said Jillian Joseph, owner of Kizuri, who is planning the event with Austin Zimmerman and Kira Attwood of

Ganesh Himal Trading Co.

Additional fair-trade vendors will fill the Community Building lobby from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 29 and 30. For customers who shop on Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m., only Kizuri will open.

The annual Festival of Fair Trade has typically been held in partnership with Ganesh Himal Trading Co., a wholesale company that held the first fair-trade sale when founders Denise Attwood and Ric Con-

ner returned from Nepal to sell \$400 worth of wool sweaters in Denise’s parents’ basement.

In a recent blog at ganeshhimaltrading.com/blog, Ric describes beginning their business more than 40 years ago with “guerrilla vending.” He went to college campuses, set a load of sweaters on a table and sold them until security told him to move on. The first festival and campus vending grew into the thriving business Ganesh Himal Trading is today, providing consistent income to more than 600 artisans in Nepal, said Austin,

It’s quite a shift from early years of fair trade to today’s sales of products made by handcrafters around the world and locally through a network of producers, wholesalers and retailers who follow standards of one of the national or international fair-trade organizations, like the Fair Trade Federation or Fair Trade USA.

Beyond meeting fair-trade standards, relationships with artisans are key.

“Spokane is unique in that

Continued on page 6

FAN Dinner introduces new executive director

The Faith Action Network Annual Dinner celebration and fundraiser on the theme “Transforming our Future Together,” will be held at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 17, in Renton and Spokane, and will be livestreamed. In Spokane, it will be at the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N. Division. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. The dinner is at 5 p.m., and the program begins at 6 p.m.

At the dinner, FAN will introduce its new executive director, Joyce del Rosario, who begins Nov. 1 to move FAN into a new chapter of work bringing together people of diverse faiths.

“We do not know the results of the election, but we know the threat of Christian nationalism to our democracy and religious pluralism will continue,” said Carol Jenson, FAN board chair. “As a multi-faith organization advocating for policies to promote the common good, FAN is a witness to an alternative for our state and nation.”

“The dinner celebrates legislative victories from this past year and look ahead to plans for 2025,” she said. FAN gathers people of diverse faiths to work for justice and compassion.

Joyce brings experience in community development, non-profit and higher education management from work as director of multi-ethnic programs at Seattle Pacific University, as assistant professor and director of community engaged learning at Pacific School of Religion in Spokane and as executive director of New Creation Home in East Palo Alto, Calif.

She earned a bachelor’s in speech communication at the University of Washington in 1996, a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2000, and a master of theology in 2016 and a doctor of philosophy in 2019 from Fuller School of Intercultural Studies.

For information, call 206-625-9790, email fan@fanwa.org or visit fanwa.org/annual-dinner.

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WCC concerned about tensions for Koreans

World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Jerry Pillay expressed concern over the escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula. On Oct. 15, North Korea blew up the northern sections of road and rail routes that once linked it with South Korea. "It amplifies that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in January officially severed relations with South Korea and abandoned the goal of achieving peaceful Korean reunification.

"In such a challenging moment, the ecumenical commitment to just and sustainable peace must be reasserted. We are committed to renewed efforts for peaceful co-existence in the region and unity of the Korean people," he said.

WCC supports work of Nihon Hidankyo

The WCC welcomed news on Oct. 11 that the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nihon Hidankyo. The Japanese organization of survivors, hibakusha, of the 1945 nuclear bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were recognized for their work, calling for a world without nuclear weapons. They share their testimonies to make known the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, helping change the moral acceptance of these weapons. The WCC and member churches have spoken out against nuclear weapons since their founding in 1948, when the WCC described the prospect of war with nuclear weapons a "sin against God and a degradation of man."

Gutiérrez was pioneer of liberation theology

WCC leaders give thanks for the life and work of Gustavo Gutiérrez Merino, the Peruvian Dominican priest and a pioneer of liberation theology, who died Oct. 22 at the age of 96.

At a November 1969 international theological conference cosponsored by the WCC, he presented a paper in which theology was seen as a critical analysis of the Christian presence in the world. He asked about the relationship between salvation in Christ and the human struggles for emancipation in history: How does the Christian church engage in a dialogue of salvation with Latin American people in search for emancipation not only from sin and egoism, but also from systemic oppression?

Gutiérrez's paper was an advanced outline for his book that marked a step forward in the decolonization and contextualization of Christian faith in Latin America and around the world: *Teología de la Liberación: Perspectivas (A Theology of Liberation)*, originally published in Spanish in Lima in 1971.

WCC general secretary Jerry Pillay said he was "overwhelmed by his ability to put into theological words what we were feeling in South Africa under the oppressive system of apartheid."

Born in 1928 in downtown Lima, Peru, Gutiérrez's early years were marked by poverty and a disability. After five years studying medicine in Lima, Gutiérrez accepted the call to priesthood and studied humanities and theology in Chile, France and Rome.

He was first a pastor and second a theologian. "Our spirituality is our methodology," he said. Chaplaincy with Catholic university students, pastoral work in poor quarters of Lima and accompaniment of base ecclesial communities led him in 1974 to establish Instituto Bartolomé de Las Casas for lay theological formation. It was named after a 16th century Dominican who condemned the cruel treatment of Native populations by Spanish settlers.

Former WCC president from Latin America and the Caribbean Ofelia Ortega said Gutiérrez taught a new way of doing theology, where liberation is announced from historical, political and theological perspectives. She quoted him: "The poor are understood not in isolation but as members of a culture that is not respected, of a race that is discriminated against and of a social class that is exploited," said Ofelia.

His theology resonated with ecumenical initiatives for ecumenical youth/students and the church and society movement, which stands against oppression.

Walter Altmann, former WCC moderator said, "Through his life Gutiérrez remained faithful to his assertion that the commitment towards the poor is central to the Christian faith."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree fall campaign goal is \$20,000

The Fig Tree's fall fundraising campaign, Harvest Festival of Sharing, is underway with about \$5,000 of its goal of \$20,000 raised by Oct. 24.

It is an opportunity for sponsors to renew their support and for new people to join those who are sponsors to strengthen the work of this unique media venture as it shares stories, connects people, fosters reflection, builds understanding and inspires solidarity among diverse people.

"Our work is particularly crucial in this time when many media sow division which benefits those in power and those competing for power," said editor Mary Stamp. "That divisiveness keeps people from trusting and respecting each other so they work together to spread the love, care, justice and shalom that most faiths teach."

Without working together, people cannot achieve the solutions needed for people to live

together in dignity and community.

Mary celebrates The Fig Tree's persistence over 40 years, promoting media literacy, providing community resources and connecting people who are making a difference.

"Ongoing donations, at any time, make a difference for us in carrying on 40 more years," she said.

For information, visit thefigtree.org/donate.html.

Folklore Society recruiting new members

The Spokane Folklore Society is recruiting new committee members for the next Fall Folk Festival

The 2024 event will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10, at the Spokane Community College Lair.

"We seek new committee members with fresh ideas, perspectives and a commitment to serving as team members," said

Sylvia Gobel, festival director.

"Several members retire from the board after the 2024 festival. Before they go, they are eager to share their knowledge with new members," she continued, inviting interested people to share in "creating the most diverse, multicultural, free event in the Inland Northwest."

Volunteering with the Fall Folk Festival is a way to become an integral part of the Spokane

arts and cultural scene. The committee particularly needs a publicist and grant writer.

"As we approach our 29th year of the festival, we are thankful to everyone who has participated in its production and growth since 1996," Sylvia said. "It has grown from humble beginnings to draw more than 5,000 attendees."

For information, call 828-3683 or email director@spokane-folkfestival.org.

ALTCEW moves to new office in October

Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, the local Area Agency on Aging for Spokane, Whitman, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties, moved to a new office in October.

They are dedicated to a smooth transition so they can serve the needs of older adults, adults living with disabilities and caregivers during the move.

Beginning Nov. 5, their in-person services will be available at

1313 N. Atlantic, Ste 3000, with business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. The phone, email and fax are the same.

The move means they can expand their services and enhance their ability to support the aging population. The new office, a few blocks from the previous one, has more space and improved accessibility for staff and clients.

"We are thrilled about this move and the opportunities it

brings to enhance our services," said Lynn Kimball, executive director. "Our new location will provide a more welcoming and efficient environment for our clients and staff, supporting our mission to improve the quality of life for older adults and adults living with disabilities in our community."

The Community Living Connections Helpline is 960-7281.

For information, call 458-2509 or visit altcew.org.

PJALS benefit supports justice efforts

At its annual Benefit Luncheon Sept. 25 and its Virtual Watch Party on Oct. 9, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) raised more than \$32,700 of its goal of \$37,000 for its Fall Fund Drive, said Shar Lichty, development director.

The event video, "Grounded by our Roots: We Grow," highlighted 49 years of PJALS efforts to organize for racial equity, economic justice, peace and

human rights.

Along with providing a 2024 Voter Guide, PJALS programs include its Peace and Justice Action Committee, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Young

Activist Leaders Program and Building Organizing Leadership Development.

For information, email pjals@action.pjals.org or visit pjals.org.

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Spoken River features stories of river

Spoken River, the annual fundraiser to support the Spokane River and the work of Spokane Riverkeeper, features stories of the Spokane River from artists, writers, trivia masters and storytellers. It will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Spokane Convention Center.

The evening will feature live music, a silent auction, guest speakers, appetizers, beverages and the opportunity to connect with river enthusiasts who seek to safeguard the health and beauty of the Spokane River.

For information, visit spokaneriverkeeper.org.

Salvation Army plans Kettle Kick-Off

The Salvation Army Spokane seeks local businesses to join in its Annual Corporate Kettle Kick-Off from Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 12 to 14, bringing businesses together to ring bells for four- to eight-hour shifts at The Salvation Army's Red Kettles. Funds raised in these kettles and virtual kettles are used locally for vulnerable children and families at Christmas and into the new year.

Participating businesses are eligible for "Golden Bell" awards at a Celebrate the Season BASH on Friday, Nov. 15, at the Spokane Convention Center. The BASH includes a dinner, prizes, ugly sweaters, awards and a photo booth.

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers in Spokane and Stevens counties.

For information, call 325-6810 or visit registertoring.com.

First Presbyterian hosts Hymn Festival

First Presbyterian Church of Spokane hosts "Hymn Festival: Celebrating Music of Faith" at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 10, at 318 S. Cedar. This event features guest organist, Ethan Haman from Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and Derrick Parker, conductor of First Presbyterian's Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir.

It is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Church Music Institute and the American Guild of Organists.

For information, call 747-1058 or visit spokaneffc.org/events/hymn-festival.

'No Place to Grow Old' film screened

A screening and discussion of the documentary "No Place to Grow Old" will be presented from 6 to 7:45 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga University. The documentary, directed by Davey Schaupp and produced by Humans for Housing, sheds light on the systemic challenges that homeless seniors face, specifically in Portland, Ore.

After the screening, Gonzaga graduate and producer Michael Larson, director of Humans for Housing, will host a discussion. This event seeks to raise awareness about homelessness among aging populations.

For information call 957-5539 or visit gonzaga.edu/news-events/events/2024/11/14/no-place-to-grow-old.

Pastor, photographer presents exhibit

Gen Heywood, pastor of Verdale United Church of Christ and professional photographer, has paired phrases from The Pledge of Allegiance with complicated images of the U.S. flag in her photographic exhibit on "The Pledge of Allegiance."

The exhibit will show from 4 to 7 p.m., Fridays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays from Nov. 1 to 30, at Gonzaga University Urban Art Center. At a First Friday reception on Nov. 1, Gen will be present.

"The photographic essay comes with a personal hope that we, as a country, will find our way back to being a United States where we work together for a more perfect union," said Gen.

As the guests enter this experience, she encourages them to take time with each image, to look deeply and allow for a wide range of emotions, which may range from peaceful to hostile.



Gen Heywood

"Some images contain ironies that arise between the words of the Pledge and the situation of the flag. Sometimes there is humor. The possibility for internal and communal conversations develops as each person witnesses the condition of the flag's fabric, the setting of the image and the words of the pledge," Gen explained.

This project is one way Gen offers opportunities for people to remember their common humanity.

"These two icons of our nation are subjects that anyone who has attended public school or who has become naturalized citizens recognize as belonging to all of us," she said.

The exhibit has been viewed virtually twice. It was presented to a Gonzaga class on leadership and communication ethics and to a National Park Photography Expedition Master Class.

"In both situations, people came to it with caution and an edge that transformed into conversation. The day after the presentation to the master's degree class, two photographers of opposite political views were still talking about it," Gen said.

For information, email genheywood@gmail.com.

LCSNW seeks refugee foster families

"Be the Village: Refugee Foster Care," a new model for Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), seeks to surround a family and foster youth with support.

Faith communities offer a natural system of support, Kelsey Doerr, foster parent recruiter for LCSNW's Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program.

"We hope that one interested family in a congregation would become a licensed family, then other members can offer meals, rides to after-school activities or respite care for the family," she explained.

The recent list of youth waiting to enter the program has increased beyond capabilities of the URM programs in the

U.S., she said, adding that every licensed family is another youth who can be served.

"We hope communities can come together in this time of need. One bilingual church in the Tri-Cities has embraced Be the Village and has five families

moving forward with licensing, including their pastor. We hope the program can have similar success around the Inland Northwest," said Kelsey.

For information, call 343-5075 or email Kelsey.doerr@lcsnw.org.

German group sets dinner and concert

The German-American Society Celebration of Pioneer Day, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2 will be held at Deutches Haus, 25 W. Third, with a \$25 rouladen dinner with knödel and red cabbage prepared by Alpine Deli.

There will be music with the Concordia Choir and Lilac City Voices, and dancing to the Good n' Plenty Band.

For information and to RSVP, call 954-6964.

Bazaar Day in Cheney

Saturday, Nov. 2

Cheney United Methodist - 4th & G Sts
St. Rose of Lima - 460 N. 5th St.
Cheney Congregational - 423 N. 6th St.
St. Paul's Episcopal - 625 C St.

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Kassahun Kebede's mission is to improve literacy in Ethiopia

Continued from page 1

"I struggled. My mother and I scrounged up things so I could repay the teacher. I learned it wasn't worth missing a week of school because I stained a book," he said, noting that the memory stays with him.

For him, the Libraries in Ethiopia project is a way to rectify the scarcity of books. He believes every child has the right to books, because they open opportunities, as they did for him.

"The last time I went to Ethiopia, I gave kids free books. I tell kids, 'Take it. It's yours to take home. Read it, read it again and stain it with coffee,'" he said with a big smile.

When Kass and his friends started primary school, there were 180 students. Many dropped out. By 12th grade, there were just 18 students.

Students who could afford to go to a better school in the city left. He couldn't afford to, so he attended a newly opened high school run by a Norwegian charity 40 miles outside the capital, Addis Ababa. The school was under-resourced. With the support and help of his elder sister, he finished high school when he was 18.

He was the only student from this school to pass the national exam to go to college. Kass attended Addis Ababa University bachelor's degree program from 1993 to 1996. It is one of three colleges, so the competition to attend was high.

"Addis Ababa was like Paris compared to where I grew up," he described.

"My parents were happy. They didn't expect me to finish high school, given our limited resources. College was more challenging as a first-generation student. I didn't know how to navigate the university and struggled because classes were harder than high school," he said.

At one point, Kass thought finishing high school was enough, and he had done all he needed to do, but his sister wanted him to continue his studies and study law. Instead, he studied sociology, a field in which he could use values from his upbringing.

"I never heard about sociology. I told my parents a sociology degree would give me the opportunity to work for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In Ethiopia, they pay

well," he said.

Kass was the first in his family to complete college, graduating in 1996. He worked with the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Jimma, in Southwestern Ethiopia.

He connected with an NGO that created employment opportunities for single mothers, using UNICEF funds to fix broken sewing machines so women could learn embroidery and become self-sufficient. He was proud to realize sociology has practical applications.

"It can make a difference in people's lives," Kass said.

After a few years he went back to college, earned a master's degree in social anthropology at Addis Ababa University, and became a lecturer there. He met a professor from Syracuse University, who recommended him to study in their doctoral program in sociology, starting in 2004.

Coming to Syracuse University in northern New York was life changing. During one of the deepest snowfalls, he experienced a shock. After walking to class one frigid snowy day in 2006, he found classes were canceled. He felt like quitting, but realized he was there for a reason.

"I finished in 2012. It was dreamlike. It has been a long walk," said Kass, who worked the next three years at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Although he earned tenure there, he wanted to teach at a larger, diverse university where he could do research.

In 2015, he started at Eastern Washington University, teaching medical sociology, global migration and global social problems, while researching immigration issues. He is interested in immigrants who come to the U.S., how they adapt, their impact on their new culture and their relationship with their home country.

Kass asks, "Are they becoming more American? As they are, do they lose interaction with home or connect more?" He also observes immigrant health issues and how cultures affect health.

Kass grew up a devout Ethiopian Orthodox. His heritage is integral to who he is.

"When I waiver, I return. I try to be philosophical. I don't go far from the Orthodox tradition," said Kass, who worships at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, at an Ethiopian Orthodox Church

and watches videos.

"It's in my system, deep in my blood. People try to teach me to follow other Christian traditions, but I return to the Orthodox tradition. It's how I grew up and became God-fearing. I had opportunities to stray, but I'm not curious about other things," he said.

"My faith made me humble. It made me focus on my studies and instruction. It reactivates me when I veer off," Kass said. "It informs me to give back to my community. U.S. culture also influences me with the idea of serving the community, giving back without expecting a thank you, just passing it forward."

When Kass would say, "Thank you," the professor who invited him to Syracuse would respond, "Don't thank me, pass it forward." That idea stuck: "As I did for you, you should also do for others."

Kass dreams one day of establishing a library in Ethiopia and telling the professor he finally paid it forward.

The U.S. has been good to Kass. His son and daughter are doing well in school. Area wheat farms with meadows dotted with cows remind him of where he grew up—despite cold winters.

Then he remembers the Ethiopian kids who walk to school often barefoot. Many do not attend school—only 35 percent of rural children attend school and only six percent of primary school students read at grade level.

"How do I help?" he asked.

This question inspired him to start the literacy campaign for children in his hometown, Sendafa-Beke. He envisions helping five-to-15-year-olds who want to read, by providing a welcoming place prioritizing health and literacy, a place with tables and chairs, a space to read books in Amharic, Oromo and English, and to eat healthy snacks.

He returned to Ethiopia two years ago to do research to understand community needs. He learned that in the 20 years since he left, the number of students in K-12 had tripled. There are three new high schools, but they have limited resources.

On his third visit this summer, Kass shared his vision for a library with the mayor and community members. They liked it and offered an empty building.

"Now we need to repair the building and fix the leaky roof

so the library can receive books. There is also a need for tables, chairs and bookshelves.

Kass established the library project as a nonprofit and has a GoFundMe on Facebook. His goal is to raise \$20,000. He has raised a quarter of the funds needed to renovate the building.

He is working with Open Heart Big Dream (OHBD), a Seattle nonprofit promoting literacy in Ethiopia. It prints colorful, mother-tongue, early-reader children's books. Rather than ship them, he will buy books from them in Ethiopia for about \$4 each.

Kass is sharing about the proj-

ect with area churches and other organizations.

For information, call 541-808-8595, email hailekk2021@gmail.com or visit <https://libraryatsendafa.com>.

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Jewish community continues to advance Holocaust, genocide awareness

By Mary Stamp

As Hershel Zellman and Mary Noble began meeting in October with the committee planning the spring 2025 Community Observance of the Holocaust at Temple Beth Shalom, they are reminded of the critical need for education about the Holocaust and genocide.

Mary's parents were Holocaust survivors and told her stories of their experiences. In a 2006 Fig Tree article she said those stories became part of "the fabric of my life."

In 1994, Mary suggested expanding Temple Beth Shalom's observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, to be more than an event attended by a dozen temple members. She felt it would be appropriate to begin the following year, which would be the 50th anniversary of the liberation of concentration camps near the end of World War II.

In April 1995, Temple Beth Shalom hosted the first Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust. Participants and attendees included many who were not Jewish. The Community Observance has continued for 30 years, except during COVID.

It takes place each year in late April or early May, coinciding with the "Day of the Holocaust," observed by Jews around the world. Up to 400 from around the Inland Northwest have attended.

"Our mission initially was to honor the memory of victims and to celebrate survivors of the Holocaust, supporting the effort to NEVER FORGET the Holocaust and to say NEVER AGAIN to genocide like the Jews experienced under the Nazis," said Hershel.

"Over time, we realized remembering is not enough. We wanted to engage a new generation to learn the lessons of the Holocaust and apply those lessons to their lives. We hoped this would engender respect for those considered different, help mitigate hateful inclinations and have an impact on the occurrence of genocides," he added.

In 2007, they created a writing contest for students in Inland Northwest secondary schools. In 2015, they added an art contest.



Hershel Zellman and Mary Noble promote Holocaust education.

They see those contests, using different themes each year, as ways to invite students to learn about what happened then and in other genocides.

The committee of 19 people is comprised of some Jewish community members as well as educators—two middle school, two high school and two retired high school teachers, plus two college professors and one retired college professor.

Reading *The Diary* of Anne Frank has been a staple for Holocaust education since Mary was a teenager, but she and Hershel wonder if it is enough, given the prevalence of Holocaust denial and distortion.

"Genocide and targeting Jews has been part of the history of the Jewish people," she said.

Given that Anne Frank's diary was written before Anne was captured and experienced the horror of concentration camps, Mary wondered, "What would she have written about that experience?"

Hershel also said that, while *The Diary of Anne Frank* introduces many people to the Holocaust with a message of hope and a call to see humanity in people, there is need to dig deeper.

He suggests reading "Night" by Elie Wiesel, which graphically describes the author's experience in the concentration camps and death camps, degradation and other "awful stuff." Along with that, Hershel believes it's important to share historical background such as on the pogroms, the Crusades and European exclusion.

"Students need to study that to

address genocide," he said. "Holocaust remembrance is about more than reminding people that 6 million European Jews died. It is also to honor the 3 million European Jews who survived, to say genocide is evil and to commit to the work necessary to prevent it."

"We want kids to learn a lesson from the Holocaust so they feel empowered to speak up, challenge bullies, respect other people, realize ordinary people can do horrific things and realize ordinary people can do extraordinary things," Mary said.

They are disappointed that few teachers invite students to participate in the contests or do Holocaust education.

In April 2019, a bipartisan Holocaust Education Bill unanimously passed the Washington State Senate and the House. The bill "strongly encouraged" public schools to teach the Holocaust from grade 6 up.

In February 2024, a Senate bill to make education on the Holocaust and genocide *mandatory* in Washington failed to move out of committee.

"I realize it is a hard subject for teachers to teach," said Mary. "Teachers on our planning committee acknowledge that, even though it is challenging and may upset students, it is important."

Last spring, the first place high school art contest winner,

Mackenzie Winchell, presented to the Carla Peperzak Middle School her stained-glass piece, "Ometz"—Hebrew for "courage." Her piece was inspired by Carla's efforts as a teen to protect 40 Jewish people.

At that event, Hershel and Mary spoke with Spokane Public Schools (SPS) Superintendent Adam Swinyard who expressed concern about the rise of antisemitic incidents occurring in SPS secondary schools.

"We talked with him about meeting with leaders of the Spokane Jewish community to address the problem," Hershel said.

Now representatives of the Jewish community are meeting with the SPS to introduce curricula in eighth grade English classes that addresses antisemitism and the Holocaust. Another opportunity to expose students to these subjects occurs when studying World War II in 10th grade world history.

Most of the art and writing entries to the Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust contests come from those classes.

"Currently it is optional for teachers in those classes to talk about the Holocaust and genocide. The goal is to make it an integral part of the curriculum," Hershel said.

Aware many teachers feel uncomfortable teaching this because they lack background, Mary and Hershel offered some resources.

- There are videos of survivors' stories available from the Seattle Holocaust Center for Humanity. It also sends teaching trunks and speakers around the state.

- KSPS Spokane Public Television created a video, "Spokane Voices of the Holocaust," available on its website. It features stories of local Holocaust survivors Eva Lassman, Carla Peperzak and Cora der Koorkanian.

- At Gonzaga University, Kristine Hoover and Clement Lye are co-producing a documentary, "Carla the Rescuer," sharing

Carla's life and Holocaust education presentations she has given at area schools, to allow her story to be shared for years to come. It has been submitted to several film festivals and will be presented in Spokane soon.

"The bottom line for me is to introduce children to lessons of the Holocaust in a way that reaches more students than those who write essays and submit art projects each year," said Hershel.

Hershel and Mary know those contests and the Spokane Observance have an impact.

Mary asked a student member of the Spokane Student Advisory Board with the Seattle Holocaust Center why she became involved in Holocaust learning and found out that the previous year she had played in the Lewis and Clark orchestra at the Holocaust Remembrance and was very moved.

"Parents thank us for doing the contest because they feel it is important for their children to learn about the Holocaust," said Hershel.

"There are little sparks of light here and there. We hope those sparks will have a ripple effect," said Mary.

Hershel and Mary, who are retired physicians, are committed to continue their efforts.

"As the world changes, we may need to change how we do the observance," said Mary.

Hershel said survivors speaking out about their Holocaust experiences has the most impact with student groups. Some in the second generation are stepping up to teach in classrooms as their parents did.

"We continue to hope that reaching out to teachers and students will make a difference," said Mary "We find optimism and hope in Anne Frank's words: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

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Fair trade is about creating and sustaining relationships with producers

Continued from page 1

we had a fair trade community before ‘fair trade’ was a term,” said Jillian. “Our Festival of Fair Trade is one of the longest running fair-trade marketplaces in North America.”

She said fair trade is about creating partnerships with economically and socially marginalized artisans, so they have resources to educate and care for their families, improve their communities and grow their businesses to alleviate poverty and have sustainable development.

“Producers set prices based on their value, not large corporations setting prices for their own profit,” she explained.

Kizuri’s web page describes fair trade as transparent relationships between producers and suppliers, worker compensation based on true costs, safe and healthy workplaces, workers sharing in decisions, child labor not being used, environmentally sustainable practices and respect for culture.

The store features gifts and clothing that are fair trade, earth friendly and local, following fair-trade principles, environmentally responsible business practices and giving back to the community, said Jillian, who has owned Kizuri more than five years.

Ganesh Himal Trading is changing ownership. Ric and Denise have begun to transition the business, with Austin purchasing Ric’s shares in 2019 and Kira Attwood, Denise’s niece, joining the team in August, preparing to purchase Denise’s shares. Austin and Kira will continue the partnerships with artisans in Nepal.

Since 2001, the Festival of Fair Trade has been held in the Community Building. It was one of the first events in the newly renovated building when plastic tarps still covered the floor and before the volunteer-run Global Folk Art moved there in 2002.

Oscar Haupt of Conosur Imports with products from Chile, and Felipe Gonzales and Maria Cuc of Maya Color with coffee and products from Guatemala were there in the first year.

In the following years, the festival was held in conjunction with Global Folk Art, a non-



Kira Attwood, Austin Zimmerman and Jillian Joseph.

profit started in 1980 through the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. It was run by a board, a part-time manager and volunteers.

In 2008, Kim Harmson turned the nonprofit into a for-profit business she named Kizuri. In 2019, Jillian bought it.

Kizuri has worked closely with Ganesh Himal Trading to host the annual festival. This year, Kizuri is taking the lead, and Ganesh Himal is helping with organizing. It will sell some but fewer goods as a vendor.

“It made sense for Kizuri to be the focus of marketing because, as a retailer, it relies on brand recognition with customers,” said Austin. “Ganesh focused on wholesale operations and doesn’t need name recognition.”

“We continue to support Kizuri because it is crucial for the health of fair trade in Spokane, as the only fully fair-trade retail store,” she added.

Ganesh Himal continues to nurture educational and relational aspects of fair trade in the community.

For Kizuri, Jillian said, while the Festival of Fair Trade is the biggest shopping weekend of the year, it’s primarily about community.

“It gives me life as we enter our busiest month, because shopping at Kizuri connects people to other shoppers as well as to the local and global vendors who come together for the event,” she said. “I love seeing new and familiar faces at the festival.”

With Ganesh Himal having less space, there is room to highlight other vendors. Some have participated in the festival for decades while others are new.

Sandi Thompson-Royer and Brian Royer of Resilient Threads will return with textiles from Guatemala. Kristin Wilkinson of Trades of Hope returns with women-made accessories.

New vendors include Sironka, a Maasai batik painter, who painted one of the letters in the Black Lives Matter mural on the downtown wall. He will do a live demonstration of painting a large batik, showing the energy he brings to his work.

Rachel Ferguson of Sweet Grass Massage Therapy and Wellness Studio at the Community Building will sell skincare products and baked goods.

For other groups joining the festival follow Kizuri’s social media @kizurispokane and receive their newsletter at shopkizurilcom.

At the festival, Kira will represent Ganesh Himal Trading.

“I grew up around Ganesh Himal, helping Ric and Denise with shows in my grandparents’ house, in the old Magic Lantern and at Riverfront Park events,” she said. “I have been inspired by their connections with artisans and the vision of fair trade. I’m excited to join the Ganesh Himal team.”

“The festival continues to support artisans around the world through trying times. This year Kathmandu, Nepal, had horrific

flooding in the monsoon,” said Austin. “It’s not the first time our partners have experienced a natural disaster. Despite the impact of climate change, fair trade is growing with more wholesalers around the world.”

Jillian commented on changes since the two years of chaos during COVID, when artisans could not ship and there were supply issues. Now that has smoothed out.

While Kizuri and other retailers continue to support small businesses and shopping locally, businesses report that fewer people are going downtown.

“We made it through COVID but still need support. COVID changed routines. Now more people work at home and fewer come downtown to eat or shop,” Jillian

noted. “So the festival is designed as an event to draw people with vendors, music and food.

“**The festival is** our annual opportunity to celebrate the fair-trade ethos with those in our community,” said Jillian. “Together we can create a better world for people and the planet through fair and sustainable trade.”

For information, call 464-7677, email jillian@shopkizuri.com, or visit shopkizuri.com or ganeshhimaltrading.com

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B.C. researcher committed to building justice in the Columbia Basin

From her research on the Columbia River Basin (CRB), Joanne Taylor of Kelowna, B.C., sees a need for transboundary governance, especially because the Agreement in Principle (AIP) for the renegotiated Columbia River Treaty (CRT) still emphasizes hydropower sharing and flood control.



Joanne Taylor chairs transboundary governance symposium.

Photo courtesy of Joanne Taylor

To explore next steps, she chairs groups organizing the 2024 Columbia River Transboundary Water Governance and Ethics Symposium from Tuesday to Thursday, Nov. 12 to 14, at Gonzaga University.

Participants will engage in education and dialogue on the treaty, emerging initiatives and governance options.

Born in Vancouver, B.C., Joanne moved at 10 with her family to farmland inherited from her Russian Doukhobor ancestors in the Kootenay region of eastern British Columbia. After high school, she moved with her family to Kelowna, B.C., for college.

She earned an associate bachelor's degree in political science at Okanagan College in 1983. Then she backpacked and worked in Asia, including eight years teaching English, when she met her husband, an architect in Tokyo, Japan. They moved to Kelowna in 1996 to start a family.

In 2012, she earned a bachelor's degree and in 2013 began a master's in environmental anthropology and in 2019, a doctoral degree with focus on the CRT.

Her doctoral research, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), studied food security and food sovereignty in traditional lands of the Ktunaxa First Nation and the yaqan nu'kiy of the Creston Valley of British Columbia during climate change and the CRT renegotiation.

With a postdoctoral SSHRC fellowship, Joanne did research at UBC Okanagan, on agricultural adaptation to climate change in the Cariboo (Secwepemc) and Okanagan (Syilx) Regions of British Columbia since the BC Water Sustainability Act of 2016.

In 2023, she received a second SSHRC fellowship to explore what an International River Basin Organization (IRBO), a citizen-led governance model, might look like for the Columbia River Basin.

With this project, the Universities Consortium on Columbia

River Governance (UCCRG) together with the One River, Ethics Matter project has helped the symposium for public education and citizen dialogue on water quality, salmon reintroduction, climate change and governance.

While Joanne's family is non-indigenous, her Doukhobor heritage has inspired her commitment to social justice. The Anabaptist Doukhobors fled persecution from 1885 to 1905 in tsarist Russia for breaking from the Russian Orthodox Church and holding pacifist beliefs. Invited to Canada, they settled in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta, and finally the Kootenays in B.C.

"We did not experience what Indigenous people did with residential schools, Indigenous scoops, missing/murdered women and children, and ongoing violence, but we experienced discrimination," said Joanne. "My father and uncle went to residential schools which were used to break up ethnic groups by taking children from families that did not conform to the dominant power structure of the day."

"As part of immigrants who were marginalized, I seek to right historic wrongs colonization wrought on Indigenous people and to advocate for those in society who are oppressed," Joanne said. "People with privilege and power, as I have with postsecondary education, have a duty to use our knowledge to advocate with and by those without privilege."

With her drive for social justice activism, Joanne considers the CRT is an example of discrimination against groups to push them to conform to structures of colonial society.

"Salmon restoration is a human rights issue," she asserted.

"Food is a human rights issue."

The original CRT was ratified in 1964 without consulting with communities or Indigenous people, she said.

In Canada, three First Nations—the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Secwepemc Nation and Ktunaxa Nation—were at the table to renegotiate the CRT. Still, ecosystem function and fisheries restoration were not included in the agreement that came out in July.

Canada plans a public review of the AIP in 2025.

"Climate change was only considered in that scientists and hydrologists will offer models of receding glaciers, unpredictable rainfall, fires, drought and heat domes. They will look at impacts on water for irrigation, agriculture, hydropower, flood control, fisheries, tourism, transportation, fish and Indigenous Peoples," she said. "It's a balancing act, given problems in the upper reaches of the Columbia Basin, such as extreme drawdowns of the Arrow Lakes," she explained.

The goals of Tribes and First Nations to bring back salmon require more fish ladders and ways to help salmon over the dams. The Okanagan Nation

have returned salmon with collaboratively funded transboundary techniques like Swoosh, which "is a successful example of transboundary collaboration," she said.

In 2024, the Biden Administration gave \$1 billion to revitalize salmon in Oregon and Washington. Canada also provided funds to the three Nations in 2019 to revitalize fisheries, restore ecosystems and repair habitats to return salmon.

"We need to think about the Columbia as one river and one ecosystem, a one river approach," Joanne said.

"We are at a critical time with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP) and climate change. Renegotiating the treaty was an opportunity to seek solutions under ethical imperatives that guided Indigenous Peoples in stewarding the lands since time immemorial," Joanne said. "The Indigenous Peoples have the solutions, and we must continue to be led by their principles and values of respect and reciprocity," Joanne said.

At one time, the Columbia River Basin had enough salmon runs to feed all of North America—Turtle Island to many Indigenous people, she added. The salmon provided food security and food sovereignty and guided people to make decisions to protect natural resources for seven generations.

"We need to work with Indigenous people to protect the environment in a sustainable, ethical way," Joanne affirmed. "We recognize the complexity of socio-political problems colonialism created for Indigenous peoples. It is our responsibility to come together with federal governments, fisheries and NGOs to preserve, protect and restore salmon runs in the CRB."

Joanne urges Indigenous, non-

indigenous, environmentalists and NGOs to gather, collaborate and advocate to restore fisheries.

At the symposium, organizers hope to create, engage and establish mutual respect for a future symbiotic, Indigenous-led IRBO.

The conference steering committee includes researchers from universities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia, plus NGOs, One River Ethics Matter, North American Youth Parliament on Water, Bringing Home the Salmon and the UCCRG.

Last year, more than 460 people heard more than 30 speakers at a virtual symposium, but said they wanted to meet in-person the next year, which is now.

The advisory committee of 23 experts, a steering committee of nine and nine volunteer youth planned the November 2024 symposium to propose policy for CRT negotiators, but they realize the treaty is not the mechanism for Indigenous-led, collaborative governance.

Nov. 12 includes a walk to Spokane Falls and the North American Youth training.

Nov. 13 offers presentations by CRT negotiators, basin people sharing perspectives, a panel on climate change, a break-out working session on transboundary issues and a keynote by Jeanette Armstrong, a Syilx Okanagan, who teaches Indigenous philosophies and ecological methodologies at UBC Okanagan.

Nov. 14 addresses water pollution, reintroducing salmon, governance models, intergovernmental agreements and mechanism for governance, next steps and youth ideas on where we go from here.

For information, visit gonzaga.edu/climate-institute/events/columbia-river-symposium and columbiabasingovernance.org.

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350 Spokane interfaith team announces plans for upcoming programs

The 350 Spokane Interfaith Committee shares what it is doing and plans to do, and it invites area congregations to tell them what they doing to promote environmental stewardship and justice.

“We want to improve networking among faith communities to build community among those who care,” said Janet Farness, program development co-coordinator and a member of St. Mark’s Lutheran.

The team gathered in September at the home of Anita and Bob Dygert-Gearheart who have a water-wise perennial garden. They ate fresh produce as they reviewed 2023-2024 activities and planned for 2025-2026. Each shared what calls them to creation care and environmental justice.

“The 350 Spokane Interfaith Committee formed in 2018 to provide an opportunity for faith/interfaith groups to collaborate on climate issues and to assist these groups with resources for education, legislative initiatives and joint activism,” said John Wallingford of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John, who is one

of the founders.

They reviewed their 2023-2024 accomplishments.

- The multi-day Hope for Creation Conference on “Spirituality of Environmental Care” in conjunction with the Expo ’74 50th anniversary, gathered speakers from Mormon, Jewish, Evangelical, Episcopal and Spokane Tribe traditions, and included workshops, a Jubilee Event at Temple Beth Shalom, two preaching events, two hikes, a healing the earth vigil and an “environment-in-body” program.

- The six-week “Wake Up World, Hope Through Understanding” curriculum, developed by Bob and Anita, was offered with eight faith communities, giving 100 learners understanding of the climate crisis and how to address it. The curriculum is available at wakeupworld.earth.

- Three Eco-Anxiety Cafes were held in the summer with 35 individuals sharing concerns to address the psychological burden of the climate crisis. Two college students, Elliott Weidemann and Isabella Rossi, in collaboration

with Anita and Janet, hosted the cafes. More are planned.

- Members set 2025-2026 plans. They will reach out to faith/interfaith communities to welcome new participants. John is the contact at jewallingford@gmail.com.

- They will facilitate the Wake Up World curriculum in new settings. Anita is the contact at adygertgearheart@hotmail.com.

- They will offer community learning opportunities through movie nights and other events. Anita is the contact.

- They will share about xeriscaping and water-wise landscaping at faith campuses, such as Manito United Methodist. Sandy Ward, Manito pastor, will share about their project. Her contact is 747-4755 or manito-umc@gmail.com.

- A subcommittee will offer Eco-Anxiety Cafes with Elle McSharry, coordinating that effort at elle@ellcsharry.com.

- They plan to connect faith communities who want to participate in or are offering Earth Day programs. Janet is the contact at jkftahiti@comcast.net.

“We will continue our multi-generational focus and meet monthly on Zoom at 7 p.m., second Wednesdays,” said Janet, referring people to Adam Bartholomew at aglb43@me.com to be added to the meeting list.

For information, call 425-417-5217 or email janet.farness@gmail.com.

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Freedom Fund Banquet promotes education

The Freedom Fund Gala, the Spokane NAACP branch’s annual fundraiser, supports a scholarship fund for local high school students entering higher education.

The keynote speaker for the 2024 banquet from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Double-Tree Hotel, is actor, author and activist Hill Harper, who played Dr. Marcus Andrews on ABC’s *The Good Doctor*.

Hill is also a New York Times bestselling author, with works such as *Letters to a Young Brother*, offering inspiration and guidance to young people. In addition, he advocates for social justice, financial literacy and community empowerment.

The banquet begins with a VIP reception at 5 p.m., a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. and the main event at 7 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Supporting the dinner enables the Spokane NAACP to further its mission and continue the fight against the assault on civil and human rights.

At the event, the Spokane NAACP recognizes achievements of individuals and entities who have contributed to the fight

for civil and human rights and have laid the foundation to ensure justice and equity for future generations.

Spokane NAACP works to ensure political, educational, social and economic equity, to eliminate race-based discrimination and to affirm the health and wellbeing of all persons.

It promotes a world free from racial discrimination through its committees on education, health care, criminal justice, youth and young adults, environmental justice, LGBTQ+, civic engagement and communications.

For information, email president@spokanenaacp.org or visit spokanenaacp.org.

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River City Youth Ops lays foundation to empower today's youth

By Sofia Sanchez - Intern

Kate Burke, the executive director of the River City Youth Ops, is back, bringing fresh energy to the organization after spending some time in politics.

Growing up in Spokane, she worked 14 years ago for the River City Youth Ops. Ten years ago, she served on the board.

Kate hopes River City Youth Ops will lay a foundation for today's youth as it has for so many youth in West Central Spokane. The nonprofit promotes social services and job training such as growing food on small urban farms.

Now she is working with the board and neighborhood to expand it from its focus on summer and fall agricultural programs to include programs that run year-round.

A 2007 graduate of Lewis and Clark High School, Kate received an associate degree from Spokane Falls Community College before working in politics, first as a legislative aide to State Senator Andy Billig and then serving as one of the youngest members of the Spokane City Council.

"I offered a progressive voice in traditionally conservative Eastern Washington," she said.

Kate has worked in various nonprofits, promoting food and agriculture as ways to express her commitment to helping her community and empowering young people. For example, she founded the Spokane Edible Tree Project, a volunteer group collecting fruit from trees in public areas of Spokane that are donated to local food banks.

In addition, she has fought for the rights of homeless people, BIPOC communities and the LGBTQ+ population in Spokane.

Kate brings insights from these involvements to her role now with River City Youth Ops, which has a new office at Salem Lutheran Church, 1428 W. Broadway.

According to its mission, River City Youth Ops creates opportunities for youth enrichment in their neighborhoods through community engagement, job training and education.

The organization's goal is to create a diverse community of empowered, skilled and capable youth, working to strengthen their local environments. Some of the values are community, hope, purpose and opportunity.

Their meaning is found in building and maintaining productive relationships with their neighborhoods, the earth and each other. The organization seeks to nurture the full potential of every program participant, recognizing that each resident of Spokane



Kate Burke guides youth program with new ideas.

plays a vital role in creating a more peaceful, productive, unified community. The program believes all youth have the ability to make their lives and the world more sustainable and intentional.

"Coming back to Spokane after traveling around the United States, Latin America and Europe, I saw this job opportunity and took it," Kate said.

She is now moving the organization forward with plans to grow by adding fall, winter and spring programming.

Central to her vision is the importance of community involvement and forming partnerships to meet the evolving needs of the West Central neighborhood.

"This fall, we launched our newest program—a West Central bike bus. It's similar to the concept of a walking school bus, but with bikes, riding with kids to and from school," Kate said. "It's a way to reach more kids and promotes new, environmental ways to get to school, along with helping raise attendance rates." River City Youth Ops had 40 bikes available and gave away 30 bikes, helmets and locks. They set up a route with "bus stops" where students meet them. Usually, six or seven join in the morning, because crossing guards go earlier. In the afternoon with crossing guards, 10 to 12 join them. Fridays they take an extended fun ride.

On Oct. 18, Kate said she expected they would continue perhaps two more weeks until it's too cold.

"We also provided gloves," added Kate, who is a bike rider and rides with the kids, but said a volunteer proposed the idea.

High schoolers had training in skills to ride a bike to school and ride by themselves to school.

"We've traditionally focused on agricultural programs, like teaching kids how to garden in scattered plots throughout West Central and selling their produce

at markets," said Kate, "but now, our board wants to create more year-round programming.

"This opens up so many possibilities," she said, asking, "How can we adapt our programs for the fall, winter and spring? We're still excited to keep our agricultural projects going during the summer."

Community engagement is at the core of Kate's leadership philosophy.

She knows that meaningful change can only happen when the community is actively involved, and she's committed to creating partnerships that address the unique needs of the neighborhood.

Kate said her leadership style is grounded in collaboration, with an emphasis on involving the youth in decision-making.

"I believe that young people should have a voice in shaping the programs and services that affect them, and I'm dedicated to creating an environment where their ideas and perspectives are valued," she said.

Kate pointed out that "the most important thing is to figure out what the needs are and how

we can support and help the community."

She expects that re-engaging with the community through the bike bus program is going to help build the community and connect in the neighborhood.

"Working with different nonprofits and organizations who focus on West Central Spokane, we seek to help figure out what and where the needs are and where the gaps are, so we can help with the neighborhood," said Kate.

The organization had a reunion over the summer, drawing 45 attendees, including past participants, staff and board members. The program started as Project Hope but was renamed River City Youth Ops in 2019.

"It was great to see everyone gathered in one place, with people who had been involved since the organization's inception mingling with newer members," Kate said.

One observation she made was that many past participants, now in their 20s, expressed a desire for even more contact with their classmates who went through the program to have attended. In response, a plan is underway to establish an alumni group, which will help them connect with others who were part of the organization in their earlier years. It promises to be an exciting initiative, Kate said.

Looking to the future, she has set her sights on several key goals for River City Youth Ops.

The long-term vision includes establishing a safe and welcoming space, specifically for the youth River City Youth Ops serves. She proposes that the space provide food and mentors so the youth can do their homework or just hang out and build community.

"This space would be a place where kids can come to learn, grow and find the support they need in a secure environment," Kate said.

Strengthening the organization's internal structures is a top priority, ensuring that they have the foundation needed to support their growing programs.

Kate is also focused on expanding the range of services.

Her passion for the work is evident in everything she says and does.

She's proud of the impact River City Youth Ops has had on the young people who have been a part of the organization over the years.

As she leads River City Youth Ops into this new chapter, Kate's vision is clear: "to continue building a community where every young person has the opportunity to thrive."

For information, call 703-7433, email kate.burke@youthops.org or visit youthops.org.

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During the final session of the General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Oct. 6, President Russell Nelson announced that 17 new temples will be built throughout the world, including one in Coeur d’Alene.

“We are overjoyed at the an-

nouncement of a new House of the Lord to be built in the Coeur d’Alene area. Temples assist faithful members of the church in our journey to know and follow Jesus Christ,” said Elder Hal Hunsaker, area authority seventy.

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Yakama youth find healing by reconciling their faith and culture

Dancing Our Prayers (DOP) is a team of Native students from the Yakama Nation who travel locally, regionally and nationally to share “spirituality and ways of life as followers of the Jesus Way,” said Dewy Bill, director.

Dancing Our Prayers is about reconciliation and healing between Christians and Native Americans.

It is a program of Mending Wings, a nonprofit leadership development, and cultural and spiritual revitalization program, started in 2006 to help Yakama youth “fly again.”

As students drum, dance and share testimonies, they engage in conciliation, justice and healing between Christians and Native Americans. Forming relationships with church members is part of their goal.

Dewy, 21, became involved with Mending Wings in the seventh grade and with Dancing Our Prayers in eighth grade.

Growing up in the Indian Shaker Church, he responded at the age of 14 to an altar call to surrender his life to Jesus. Ordained at 17 as a traveling missionary, he often opens and closes Wednesday Mending Wings services with prayer and song.

Although called “Indian Shaker Church,” it did not integrate Indigenous ways, dancing or clapping. It has a mix of theologies and ways of worship that include Catholic, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Gospel and Baptist church traditions.

“At Mending Wings, I learned that to dance is to pray,” said Dewy, who graduated from the Yakama Nation Tribal School in 2021, spent a year internship with Mending Wings and was hired in September 2023 as director of the Dancing Our Prayers program. He is one of 12 on the Mending Wings staff—three full-time, one part-time and eight volunteers.

Through Mending Wings, he found a sense of who he is and gained self-worth that keeps him from following in the footsteps of his parents and many of his 12 siblings, who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction.

He said part of the struggle for many youth is thinking they need to choose between their culture and faith.

“It’s okay to be who God made us to be and to honor God. It’s also okay to be a culture bearer,” said Dewy, who takes Dancing Our Prayers groups of 15 to 20 students to visit congregations in the region two weekends a month from October to May.

Every other year, they go on a two-week trip, like an August visit to a Presbyterian church in Orlando, Fla., and performing at Universal Studios. Two years ago, they met members of the Lumbee Tribe and local congregations in Charlotte, N.C. He learned that the Lumbee, who do not have a treaty, lack land, hunting and fishing rights and more, making him realize the importance of cultural transmission.



Dewy Bill helps youth connect faith and culture.

“We are culture bearers to the next generation of Native and non-native people who do not know the Yakama Nation,” he said. “We help Native students find themselves here and across the nation.”

In ninth grade, Dewy shifted from dancing to drumming and singing English songs that glorify Christ. Many songs for DOP are written by Jonathan Maracle, a Mohawk from Canada and friend of Corey Greaves, director of Mending Wings.

“Some sing faith songs to drumbeats. Songs praise God and speak of forgiveness, gratitude and the river of life,” Dewy said. “One song tells of the beauty of life as we join hands in a circle and do a friendship dance to glorify the Creator.”

The words express values and virtues of Christian faith and Yakama culture.

“As Native people, one way to worship is to dance, because, as one elder wrote in a poem, our grandmothers and grandfathers danced. Dance lives in our hearts and our blood. We dance for babies, elders, those who have left this world, whole tribes and facing hardships we experienced from the government and church. We dance to pray and to heal,” Dewy said.

“We pray by dancing before the Lord, like King David in the Scriptures did,” he said. “While the songs use words, through dancing and moving, I can express what I can’t express in words.”

From 35 to 70 students from Wapato, Toppenish, White Swan, Granger, Selah and Yakima come Wednesdays to a church building in Wapato.

At 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, a team will visit Covenant United Methodist Church in Spokane. It will join the Sunday, Nov. 3, worship at Community United Methodist in Coeur d’Alene.

“We visit many denomina-

tions—United Methodist, Lutherans, Covenant, Presbyterians and nondenominational—and ecumenical gatherings,” Dewy said.

Mending Wings is a relational ministry, not one of coming and leaving. It goes to churches to build ongoing relationships and connections.

Teams build relationships and friendships on weekend visits, because students stay with families. Taking time to talk one-to-one, they form relationships that extend beyond the weekend, giving students extended family ties throughout the Pacific Northwest and the U.S., he said.

In May 2024, the group visited Pioneer United Methodist Church, in Walla Walla. Before going there, they learned that the Rev. James “Father” Wilbur, a Methodist missionary and pastor of the church in the 1880s, also worked from 1864 to 1892 as an Indian agent and ran the Fort Simcoe Boarding School on the Yakama Reservation. (An online report said he twice complained to President Lincoln about treatment of tribal members by Indian agents.)

“There was healing, recognizing that we came full circle in going there. It took us closer into the conciliation piece,” Dewy said, noting that some students felt awkward at first.

“We met with the pastor and found the church in a moment of reflection on their past with the Yakama people,” he said. “Being there in person was important for an ‘aha moment’ of peace and unity as we came together. They pledged not to repeat the past. We all pledged to move forward as a church and God’s people.”

“As the service progressed

with student testimonies and dance, and with acknowledging our common history, we felt welcome,” he added.

Dewy said Fort Simcoe Boarding School still impacts the tribe through generational trauma from the hurts great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers experienced. Few speak the Yakama language, a legacy of the fear of punishment boarding schools instilled in Native students for speaking their language.

Hurt and fear that passed from great-grandmothers to grandmothers to mothers discouraged them from learning to speak the Yakama language so they could not pass it on, Dewy clarified.

“My grandmother was fluent but doesn’t remember words,” he said. “Boarding schools broke the Indian spirit and Indian heart.”

Dewy knows only a few conversational sentences in Yakama.

Now, however, all reservation schools teach classes in Yakama every day. Elders teach teachers and others in the community Thursday evenings.

Preserving Native language is integral to maintaining tribal culture and identity, Dewy said.

“My faith in Christ is also important. I follow Christ and go to church through ups and downs

in life, because I know someone deeply loves me,” he said.

Saddened by the addiction of family members, he said, “I am empowered spending my life worshipping the wonderful powerful Creator who made me. I have a sense of purpose. I seek to be a role model for youth.”

Addiction, as part of the intergenerational trauma, breaks ties to Yakama cultural traditions, knowledge and language, he said.

Dewy wants to help others break that cycle both by turning to “Someone Higher”—Christ—and reconnecting with traditional Yakama cultural values.

“Christian and Native virtues and values coincide. Both value relationships, respect community and learning from each other,” Dewy said. “Sharing our ways as churches and Native organizations builds people up.

“I love the church and what it stands for, and I love my people, so I work to bring the two together to tear down walls colonization built and to build bridges of peace and healing,” he added. “The values also coincide in calling us to take responsibility, take care of ourselves and be in community.”

For information, email dewy-mendingwings@gmail.com.

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2024 Veterans and Thanksgiving Meals

Prepared by The Fig Tree and United Way of Spokane County

- Nov 1** • **Launch of KREM Cares Tom's Turkey Drive** website at krem.com/article/weather/toms-turkey-drive/toms-turkey-drive-2024-how-to-donate-meal/293-c23ed536-fde5-412b-b630-b78922d022fa.
Signups begin at 5 am Nov. 1. Like last year, many meals will be distributed at neighborhood food banks and pantries and three Mobile Markets to meet people closer to their homes and reduce long lines.
Check 2ndharvest.org or thefigtree.org for locations, times and contacts to sign up and check supplemental programs for clients only.
- Nov 1-20** • **We CARE Thanksgiving & Christmas Box** sign-up, Reardan, 818-0146, RVSP at bit.ly/3zGK9kZ.
- Nov 9** • **Crossroads Church**, 1118 S King, Airway Heights, 2 p.m.
- Nov 15** • **Pottluck, Sinto Senior Center**, noon, \$12, salad or side, call 327-2681.
• **Victory Outreach Church**, 1401 N Monroe, 413-1448, 5 to 7 p.m.
- Nov 22** • **Northeast Community Center Family BINGO**, 4001 N Cook, 4 p.m., turkey dinners to winners.
- Nov 23** • **Neighbors Feeding Neighbors**, Spokane Valley Partners, 10814 E Broadway, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 230-9350, 200 meals first come first served, drive-thru & pick-up.
• **Calvary Spokane**, sign up for home delivery 9 a.m. to noon, calvaryspokane.com/thanksgiving, 467-2860.
- Nov 24** • **St Ann's Catholic**, 211 E. 1st, 1 to 2 p.m., 535-3031
• **Kingdom for Christ Ministries**, State & 2nd, 3 p.m., 558-1148, to-go meals.
- Nov 25** • **Parkside Church**, 423 N Lincoln, Sandpoint, 263-2676, 4 to 6 p.m., 276-6897, free community meal.
- Nov 26** • **Shalom "Dining with Dignity"** meals, Shalom Ministries, New Community Church, 518 W. 3rd, 1 to 2:30 p.m. 455-9019.
- Nov 26** • **Friends Giving, Corbin Senior Center**, 12 p.m.
• **Southside Community Center**, 3151 E. 27th, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 535-0803
• **Greenhouse in Deer Park**, 125 N Park, 1 to 5 p.m., 276-6897, greenhousedp.com - 150 meals for clients, 100 register online with Tom's Turkey Drive.
• **Parkside Church**, 1428 1st, Newport, 4:30 to 6 p.m., 263-2676, 276-6897.
- Nov 27** • **City Gate**, 170 S Madison, 12 to 2 p.m., 455-9670
• **Greater Spokane County MOW**, Silver Cafés, 11

- a.m. to 1 p.m., 482-0803; Airway Point Senior Apts, Airway Heights 13520 W. 6th; St John Lutheran Church, 223 S Hallett St, Medical Lake; Spokane - Clearview Senior Living, 4827 S. Palouse Hwy.; Corbin Senior Center, 827 W. Cleveland; Hillyard Senior Center, 4001 N. Cook; Martin Luther King Jr Community Center, 500 S. Stone; Spokane Valley: Appleway Court, 221 S. Farr; Spokane Valley Senior Center, 2426 N. Discovery.
 - **Union Gospel Mission**, 1224 E. Trent, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 535-8510, single & families sit-down, non-sober grab-and-go.
 - **One Heart Spokane**, delivery to Spokane families. 724-7396, oneheartspokane.churchcenter.com/giving, needs donors.
 - Nov 28** • **The Salvation Army**, 222 E. Indiana (gym), 11:30 a.m., Thanksgiving meal for 200, 325-6821.
• **Greater Spokane County MOW**, cold turkey, deliveries to homebound clients 60+, 924-6976, call to sign up for MOW. Volunteer drivers needed.
• **Ponderosa Bar & Grill**, 11205 E Dishman-Mica Rd #101C, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 934-1979, free meal - donations accepted to sponsor Christmas meals.
• **VFW Post 3067**, 29 E. 1st, Deer Park, 276-5761, free dinner for veterans and families - donations accepted.
• **VFW Post 51**, 300 W. Mission, 1 p.m., 327-9847, free dinner for veterans and families.
• **Fresh Soul**, 3029 E. 5th, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., 242-3377, 100 meals.
 - NO date** • **SAN Pride**, 822-7190, spokanepride.org, SAN Holiday Box meals, turkey dinner for 250+ people impacted by HIV and the greater LGBTQIA+ community in need. Safe space to pick up a holiday box or delivery if needed.
 - Veterans Day/Appreciation Meals**
 - Nov 7** • **Southside Community Center**, 535-0803
 - Nov 8** • **Sinto Activity Center**, 1124 W. Sinto, noon, 327-2861, Veterans free, others \$12, 327-2861
 - Nov 9** • **Thanks for Giving**, Veterans Appreciation & Benefit Show, Corbin Senior Center, 827 W. Cleveland, 6 p.m., 327-1584
 - Nov 11** • **Corbin Senior Center**, 12 p.m., 327-1584
• Check American Legion, VFW, other veteran centers
- More details are in online calendar at thefigtree.org.



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Group in India, social worker recognized

The hate-crimes tracker website Hindutva Watch and social worker Landon Turlock are recipients of the 2024 Gonzaga University Center for the Study of Hate's Eva Lassman "Take Action Against Hate" awards. They will be honored at the Human Rights Awards Banquet from 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., sponsored by Human Rights Spokane.

Take Action Against Hate awards are presented to one individual and one organization that challenge hate and make positive change, following in the footsteps of Eva Lassman, a Holocaust survivor and anti-hate advocate.

"Our committee considers the degree nominees engaged in action and awareness-building

locally, nationally or globally," said Aaron Danowski, who chaired the awards committee.

"We are attentive to efforts that demonstrate impact," he said.

Hindutva Watch, founded by Kashmiri journalist Raqib Hameed Naik in 2021, documents hate crimes and hate speech aimed at religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, in predominantly Hindu India.

Hindutva is the ideological movement to make India a Hindu nation. The Washington Post described Hindutva Watch as India's most comprehensive dataset of hate crimes, documenting more than 4,000 cases to date.

Landon, a community leader in Edmonton, Alberta, is dedicated to combating hate and dis-

crimination, collaborating with colleagues at Coalitions Creating Equity and StopHateAB to produce a report, course, documentary and guide to inform how organizations respond to hate crime reports and support survivors in Edmonton.

Landon was appointed as a hate crimes community liaison by the Alberta government in 2022. Landon works with Cecilia Mzvondiwa to engage with hundreds of Albertans and recommend best practices for Alberta to prevent and respond to hate crimes. Their collaboration with the Edmonton Police Service led to better training and support for hate crime survivors.

For information, call 313-5368 or email nailen@gonzaga.edu.



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SCAN ME

Tom's Turkey Drive connects partners, like 'a huge team sport'

Eric Williams, community partnerships director at Second Harvest, describes Tom's Turkey Drive as "a huge team sport," relying on many partners, each doing their part.

For most of Tom's Turkey Drive's 25 years, Laura Papetti has worked at KREM-TV with Tom Sherry, partnering with Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest, Rosauers, Franz Bread, Numerica, Itron, Starbucks, Washington Dairy Farmers and now many community food pantries that are doing the distribution.

For the first few years, Laura's role was primarily as a reporter.

"Then I helped run the drive through KREM, as the community marketing arm, while Second Harvest focused on the logistics," she said.

Eric praised her dedication, saying she takes 10 days off after one Tom's Turkey Drive and then returns to work on the next one.

Tom, whose name is on the drive, continues to return to Spokane from his retirement in Arizona to help with organizing and promotion.

"We want the turkey drive to be a low-barrier, non-judgmental way to get a meal," he said.

Tom is in town in November, even helping volunteers sort and bag potatoes and apples. Potato farmers donate 40,000 potatoes to Second Harvest for the drive.

Eric said that when Tom comes for a meeting, "he lights up the room and inspires us. He's not just a showman who is the voice and personality behind the drive. He's dedicated to it."

"We started weekly meetings this year in January," he said. "Tom's Turkey Drive is actually a year-round event because we have to order turkeys in advance—usually in February."

Advance orders and requests are needed for Rosauers to order 8,500 turkeys and Thanksgiving canned goods, for Franz to order 100,000 rolls and stuffing for 8,500 meal boxes, for Washington Dairy Farmers to supply milk and for Partners Inland Northwest in Spokane Valley to recruit volunteers for the drive, including for sign-up beginning Nov. 1 and for distribution on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

By ordering early, Rosauers can get bulk discounts on the turkeys and canned food.

Laura said KREM begins shooting videos for promotions in May and June. It launched a new logo this summer.

Starbucks, gives Tom's Turkey drive profits from two hours of sales on Nov. 15, raising thousands of dollars—\$30,000 in 2023—and spreading aware-



Volunteers load Turkey Drive food boxes. Photo courtesy of Second Harvest

ness about the drive at all of its outlets. Laura said one task is printing buttons to give to all who buy at Starbucks that day.

"Numerica helps us print T-shirts for Rosauers employees to wear," she said. "Rosauers customers donate \$25 to pay for one Tom's Turkey Drive bag."

There is also a kids art contest.

"It's one massive project," Laura described. "Our goal is to include the community in the campaign to fight against hunger, which is Second Harvest's task every day."

Eric had a challenge two years ago when Second Harvest couldn't find enough canned yams—a supply issue—so some families received canned olives.

"COVID created a shortage in some traditional Thanksgiving foods," said Laura. "Our goal is to provide thousands of boxes containing a robust, healthy meal for Thanksgiving."

Last year they supplied 6,000 turkeys and meal boxes. This year they will provide 8,500. The numbers went down last year from 11,000 a few years ago, as partners decided to distribute at the neighborhood level so people can connect with nearby resources.

In early years, Tom's Turkey Drive distributed about 2,000 turkeys and meal boxes at The Salvation Army. Then it moved to the Spokane Arena to serve more people. With COVID, it shifted to be a drive-through pickup at the Spokane County Fairgrounds, but some were in line from 8:30 until 10 or 11 a.m.

"That was efficient in one sense but was large and impersonal. We felt it lost the person-to-person connections that make it more effective," Laura said.

Now Tom's Turkey Drive distributes through 20 food pantries, mobile markets, nonprofits, out-

reach programs and community centers. Some hand out 50 boxes and some more than 200 boxes.

"We meet people near to where they are," she said. "In the neighborhood settings, we have regained human connections in which volunteers can strike up a conversation with people to ask about what other help they may need," Laura explained.

Neighborhood centers offer multiple services. People coming for a turkey and box can discover the variety of other resources.

"KREM offers expertise in digital and TV media but could not feed people without partnering with Second Harvest," Laura pointed out, noting that over 25 years, Tom's Turkey Drive has served 800,000 meals. "That would not happen if just TV people were involved."

"We can tell the story of hunger, and it's important to do that, but we could not do it without our partners," she said.

Laura, who grew up in Alaska, earned a degree in political science and journalism at the University of Northern Colorado in 1992, and did postgraduate studies and worked in Montana and Alaska before coming to Spokane. At KREM, she has been a reporter, anchor and community marketing director, coordinating the station's com-

munity outreach, particularly Tom's Turkey Drive.

For Second Harvest, Tom's Turkey Drive is an amplified version of what they do 365 days, working with partners like grocers, farmers and food processing/packaging companies.

"Long-time partners provide the food donations through Second Harvest," said Eric, noting that volunteers are at the heart of Tom's Turkey Drive.

"We give out food boxes until we run out," said Laura.

On the status of hunger and food donations in the region, Eric reported: "As food costs are slowing their rise, many partners are seeing more working families, people with jobs, accessing food pantries."

Inflation, which he said has been a factor for 30 years, affects costs for Second Harvest in buying food, fuel and equipment.

"We are blessed to be in an area with so many farmers who donate part of their crops. Ninety percent of the food we offer is donated by farmers, grocers and food processors," he said.

Second Harvest has served 5,500 people per week each of the last three years, distributing 35 million pounds of food a year—17 semi-truck loads a week—in five North Idaho counties and 21 Central and Eastern Washington counties—an area of 52,000 square miles.

For information, call Eric at 252-6264 or email Laura at lpapetti@krem.com.

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Faith communities have ongoing ways to assist after hurricanes, disasters

For trusted ways to support hurricane and other disaster relief and recovery, many donate through their faith communities, which have channels and programs to direct assistance to communities.

They also have people in those communities to respond, often forming Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (at nvoad.org), working with other faith communities and local nonprofits to “mitigate and alleviate” the impact of disasters. Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) help communities best use their resources.

After disasters, faith communities often work together to coordinate efforts of teams from faiths and denominations, local houses of worship, and faith-based nonprofits. Some churches like the Reformed Church in America mobilize teams to travel to areas affected by natural disasters to work with local churches to help people rebuild homes and lives.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is supporting people affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. It also offers resources for congregations such as worship materials for times of storms and flooding.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provide immediate relief, such as water, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since hurricanes require a long-term response, LDR provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, unmet needs and emotional and spiritual care (elca.org).

The Presbytery of the Inland Northwest reports that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PEA) is deploying National Response Team members to Tampa Bay Presbytery, the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. They have approved initial assistance grants requests and expect more requests from presbyteries affected to respond to needs in their communities. They invite continued prayers for those affected and responding, as well as gifts (pda.pcusa.org).

The United Church of Christ (UCC)

has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster well after their plight fades from the headlines. UCC Disaster Ministries invites prayers and gifts, as something people can do to help alleviate suffering, rebuild homes and restore communities. “Gifts make a difference to those who are struggling during these difficult times and enable needed assistance as we stand with impacted communities in the years ahead,” said Kent Siladi, interim director of philanthropy for the UCC (ucc.org).

“Whenever disasters strike, the United Methodist Church (UMC) responds with the knowledge that disaster response and recovery is a vital part of our church mission,” said Sheila Miranda, associate for connectional ministries in the Inland and Seven Rivers district newsletter. She quoted David Valera, executive director of connectional ministries.

“Response and recovery happen on five levels at once: our Conference-wide efforts, work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), district response and recovery, local church efforts and community support,” David said. He explained that there are usually three stages in disaster response: 1) response by local authorities—police, fire, ambulance, search and rescue; 2) relief through UMCOR/Volunteers in Mission—trained in rapid response, and 3) recovery through UMCOR/Volunteers in Mission.

United Methodists use “a 1-10-100 formula in estimating the three stages of disaster response. This means a 4-day response calls for 40 days of relief and 400 days of recovery,” he added.

“Historically, we as a church take on active leadership in the recovery stage of disasters. As you prayerfully discern how and what type of support you may want to give, consider the great need long after all the media hype to a disaster has ended,” David recommended (umcor.org).

His description is valid for the disaster relief and recovery efforts of all faith communities.

The National Council of Churches has Hurricane Helene Emergency Response

Resources. It has compiled a library of hurricane emergency response efforts from several of its communions and partners. This library is available to be shared and to help those impacted by this devastation (info@nationalcouncilofchurches.us).

Church World Service works ecumenically to provide supplies in disasters including hygiene kits, emergency cleanup buckets, school kits and blankets (cwsglobal.org).

The ACT Alliance connects more than 100 church-backed relief and development organizations worldwide in 125 countries with a budget of \$1.5 billion to provide emergency food aid, shelter, water and sanitation, along work working to reduce poverty (actalliance.org).

Catholic Relief Services has been on the front lines of disaster response for decades. Gifts provide food and water, shelter, medical care, education and training to help communities recover and build resilience—before, during and long after emergencies fade from the spotlight. Support is critical for lifesaving work—sometimes even before crises are reported by the media (crs.org).

Episcopal Relief and Development has worked more than 75 years “to heal a hurting world, guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity.” Mandated by Jesus’ words in Matt. 25, it reaches 3 million people annually with clean water and more as it responds to disasters and emergencies with immediate relief and long-term support.

It’s appeal is for people to help ERD all the time so it is prepared to act, working through “a global network of local faith and community partners to support people impacted by disaster in the immediate aftermath and long-term” (episcopalrelief.org).

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) joins with Adventist Community Services (ACS) to assist victims of recent hurricanes on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist churches.

“As a global humanitarian agency that responds to an average of two disasters each week, we understand the critical importance of providing timely access to

recovery resources,” said Imad Madanat, ADRA’s international vice president for humanitarian affairs (adra.org).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints website on the disasters says that “following Christ is not a casual or occasional practice but a continuous commitment and way of life that applies at all times and in all places.” It adds that church members feel “it is our duty to follow the Savior’s example and help those in need, whoever they are.” One way is through emergency response efforts (churchofjesuschrist.org).

The Church of the Nazarene provides ways for local Nazarene churches to respond to assist communities in need in practical, tangible ways to meet mental, emotional and spiritual health, as well as to provide physical relief (<https://usacanadaregion.org/compassionate-ministries>).

World Jewish Relief works with local partners globally to help people survive and rebuild their lives in the midst of conflict, disaster and the climate crisis (worldjewishrelief.org).

Baha’i have a **Humanitarian Relief Fund**. The **Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity** Foundation in Taiwan provides international humanitarian aid. The **World Hindu Federation** provides aid in disaster areas and conflict zones. **Islamic Relief USA** is on the ground when a disaster strikes, providing food, water, shelter and more, and helping rebuild lives.

To find other disaster ministries, visit thefigtree.org/2024directorybooklets.html (click Ministries), or search online.

Wherever and whenever there are hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tornados, heat waves, tsunamis, landslides, wildfires, drought, winter storms, cyclones, pandemics, accidents, war, terrorism and other disasters, people of faith and their organizations are present to give aid because they care, love and seek to bring healing and justice.

We tend to send donations when there is a disaster, but we can always share in supporting ongoing disaster recovery.

Mary Stamp - Editor & Marijke Faksaiieiki - Editorial Associate

Letters to the Editor

Sounding Board

Commentaries

Faith leaders invite listening, hearing, speaking and speaking truth

“Speak, Lord, we are listening” has been our diocesan theme for the past year. With this theme we have stated our intent, our willingness and our commitment to listen to God. We have asked God to speak to us.

I wonder how we have listened.

I wonder what we have heard.

In my own life this past year, I have asked God to grant me curiosity and openness to others. I have sought the courage to seek out those whose voices I might normally avoid. In doing so, I have found that I have had to work on strengthening my own capacity for loving my neighbor.

Love God, love our neighbor. We are invited to listen deeply to God and neighbor so that we might grow in our own capacity for love of God and neighbor. We are called to listen, to understand, to learn, to develop. We are called to listen so that we might love in concrete actions.

Listening to those who are different than we are is in short supply these days in our world. Our political spheres do more shouting-over than listening to one another. People running for office say they listen to “the people,” but rarely do any listen to those who might vote for a different side. Listening in many circles is done to rebut, not to understand. We already know that what will be shouted out this month as we get closer to an election will only be negative. The followers of Jesus

are called to show a different way, and if we don’t, who will?

At the diocesan convention on Oct. 20, we learned about our understandings of differences and how we might work to listen in order to love better. We were invited to listen, learn, and act on both the individual and the congregational level. We were asked to stretch, and perhaps be challenged about our own understandings of the ways of the world. Yet, all of this is done for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of the Way of Love.

Jesus doesn’t desire that we be content with a world of discord, violence and division. It might be uncomfortable to truly listen to perspectives and ideas of someone who thinks about issues differently, even just a simple issue of which hymns to sing.

The willingness to truly listen to learn and understand and love is what is critical for us to have today.

Speak, Lord, we are listening.

How shall you listen to God this month? What do you long to hear?

Let us to spend time listening to God, and listen to our neighbor, and seek to learn and understand, that we might better love.

Bishop Gretchen Rehberg
Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

Meeting for the first time virtually on Oct. 1 and 2, 2024, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Conference of Bishops issued a statement on the need to speak the truth.

The conference, an advisory body of the ELCA, includes 65 synod bishops, the presiding bishop and the secretary.

“We know that the power of truth is greater than the power of deceit,” the statement read in part.

“We, the members of the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, speak with one voice to condemn the hateful, deceptive, violent speech that has too readily found a place in our national discourse. We lament the ways this language has led to hate-fueled action.”

The statement continues: “We refuse to accept the ongoing normalization of lies and deceit. We recommit ourselves to speaking the truth and pointing to the one who is truth.

“We find courage in our collegiality and implore the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as our partners and friends, to join us as we

- **“Pledge to be vigilant guardians** of truth, refusing to perpetuate lies or half-truths that further corrode the fabric of our society.

- **“Commit to rigorous fact-checking,** honoring God’s command to “test everything; hold fast to what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

- **“Reject the use of humor that** normalizes falsehood, remembering that

our speech should “always be gracious” (Colossians 4:6).

- **“Boldly advocate** for the marginalized and oppressed, emulating Christ’s love for the least among us.

- **“Courageously interrupt** hate speech, standing firm in the knowledge that all are created in God’s image.

- **“Lean in with curiosity,** engage with those who think differently and “put the best construction on our neighbor’s action” (Luther’s explanation of the Eighth Commandment).

- **“Amplify voices of truth.”**

For information, visit elca.org/News-and-Events/8247.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Conference of Bishops

I belatedly read the October Fig Tree. Amidst all the usually high-quality articles and invitations, I was particularly impressed with your editorial about faith/values and the media. I could almost sense you wanted to name names as you contrasted presidential candidates. But I was particularly appreciative of the questions you ended your reflection with. Thank you. I hope you get some well-deserved recognition for calling the media out for those times when they soft-pedal their journalistic obligations.

Paul Graves - Faith & Values
Columnist - Sandpoint

Calendar of Events

Area codes for phone numbers are 509 unless otherwise listed.

- To Dec 3 • Harvest Festival of Sharing – The Fig Tree**
Campaign to raise \$20,000, thefigtree.org/donate.html
- Nov 1-30 • Coaster Benefit for Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS)**, Trackside Studio, 115 S. Adams, 5 to 8 p.m., 863-9904
- Nov 1-3 • Yuletide, Spokane Art School**, 503 E. Second, Ste B., Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 325-1500
- Nov 1, 2 • Dia De Los Muertos**, Nuestras Raices, 1214 E. Sprague, Sat, Sanza Azteca, Ballet Folklorico de Spokane, Mariachi, brianda.p@hbaofspokane.org
- Jubilee Fair Trade Marketplace**, First Presbyterian, 318 S. Cedar, Fri 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Nov 1-7 • Indigenous Women's Health Week**, Spokane Tribal Network and Helmxip Indigenous Birth Justice Network Partners, 258-4535, spokanetribalnetwork.org
- Nov 1-30 • "The Pledge of Allegiance,"** Gen Heywood's exhibit, Gonzaga Urban Art Center, Fri 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., genheywood@gmail.com see page 3
- Nov 2 • Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner**, Sons of Norway, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 12 and 2 p.m., RSVP by Oct 31, 326-9211, sonsofnorwayspokane@gmail.com
- Diwali Open House and Gala**, Runway 4 Event, 6095 E. Rutter, #3, 1 to 4 p.m., 6 p.m. to midnight
- What is a Chief?** How Native Values Can Teach Resilience, John Halliday, a Muckleshoot Tribal member of Suwamish ancestry, 2 p.m., humanities.org
- Blessings & Beyond Ball**, Night of a Million Dreams, Coeur d'Alene Action, 37914 Nukwalqw, Worley, 5:30 to 10 p.m.
- Pioneer Day**, German-American Society, Deutsches Haus, 25 W. Third, 6 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m., concert, 954-6964, germanamericansociety-spokane.org
- An Evening with Friends**, Project ID benefit concert, Montvale Event Center, 1019 W. First, 6 to 9 p.m., 475-1881
- 3rd Annual Bazaar**, Colbert Presbyterian Church, 4211 E. Colbert, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 220-0840
- Nov 2, 3 • Dancing Our Prayers**, Covenant United Methodist, 4 p.m., Sun, Community United Methodist, Coeur d'Alene, 10:30 a.m., dewymendingwings@gmail.com, see page 11
- Nov 3 • Intentional Community Gathering**, Harmony Woods Retreat, 100507 S. Keeney, 1 to 4 p.m., 993-2968
- Bhangra and Bollywood Dance Fitness**, Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.,
- Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 • Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR) Coffee**, Saranac Commons, 19 W. Main, 9 a.m., scarsspokane.org
- Nov 4 • Prayer for the Nation**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 7 p.m., 747-6677
- Nov 4, 11, 18 • Journaling Together as Spiritual Practice**, Kim Morgan, online, 6:30 p.m., kimemorganworkshops@gmail.com, kimemorgan.com
- Nov 5 • Election Day**, submit ballots before 8 p.m.
- Mission Community Outreach Center Fundraiser**, Spokane Valley United Methodist, 115 N. Raymond, 12 noon, 536-1084, 4mission.org
- Uplifting Native Voices Celebration**, North Central High School, 3 to 5 p.m., maryfr@spokaneschools.org
- Nov 5, 12, 19, 26 • Heartistry: Artistic Wellbeing**, Spark Central, 1214 W. Summit Pkwy, 3 to 5 p.m., 279-0299
- Nov 6 • Women Lead Fall Luncheon**, Hemmingson Center, Gonzaga, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., womenlead@gonzaga.edu
- Dementia Warning Signs and Early Diagnosis**, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 10:30 a.m., 444-5300
- Nov 6, 7, 8, 18 • Medicare Enrollment Events**, SHIBA and ALTCEW, for open enrollment to Dec 7 in Spokane & Whitman counties, various locations and times, 625-4801, action@altcew.org
- Nov 6-7: Farmington Library, 203 Main, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Albion Library, 310 N "F", 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Argonne Library, 4322 N. Argonne, Spokane Valley, 6 p.m.
- Nov 7: Spokane Valley Library, 22 N. Herald, 1 to 4 p.m.; Endicott Library, 324 "E", 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Nov 8: Neill Library, 210 N. Grand, Pullman, 2 p.m.
- Nov 18: Garfield Library, 109 3rd, 2 to 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 • SCAR Meeting**, Saranac Commons, 19 W. Main, 12 noon, scarsspokane.org
- Beginning Buddhism**, Sravasti Abbey nuns, "Open Heart, Clear Mind" by Venerable Thubten Chodron, Souls Center, 707 N. Cedar, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 447-5549
- Nov 7 • Day of Prayer on "Marian Spirituality of \ Popes, John XIII and John Paul II,"** Fr. Mariusz Majewski, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., ihrc.net
- Shaping Asian American Wellbeing**, Asian American Therapist and Q & A Series, Hemmingson at Gonzaga, 5 to 8 p.m., rsvp at acspokane.org
- Spoken River**, Spokane Riverkeeper, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, 5:30 p.m., 279-7000
- Purposeful Generosity**, Mark Michael, World Relief Spokane, Spokane Valley Library, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 8 • World Cooking: Afghan Food**, Chef Arzoo Arian, online, 6:30 p.m., scld.org
- Unit Souzou: Constant State of Otherness**, Taiko drumming and Japanese folk dance, Panida Theater, 300 N. First, Sandpoint, 7 to 9:30 p.m., (208) 263-6139
- Nov 9 • Cozy Comfort Community Resource Fair**, Spokane Youth For Christ, 4603 N. Market, 9 a.m. to noon, 327-7721, info@spokaneyfc.org
- St. John's Cathedral Bazaar**, 127 E. 12th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., stjohns@stjohns-cathedral.org
- EWU Racial Restrictive Covenants Project** Workshop, How to File a Racial Covenant Amendment Form, Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3 p.m.

- Spokane NAACP Freedom Fund Gala**, Double Tree Hotel, 322 N. Spokane Falls Blvd, 5 to 9 p.m., naacpspokane.com/freedom-fund-gala-2024
- Community Healing Evening**, Kiantha Duncan and Kibi Anderson, Spokane Civic, Theater, 1020 N. Howard, 6 p.m., info@soulfulbykiantha.com
- Nov 9, 10 • Fall Folk Festival**, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene, Sat 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 533-7000
- Nov 10 • Death Café**, Spokane Public Library, Rubicon's Edge Consulting with Samantha Potter, 906 W. Main, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 425-3904, deathcafe.com/deathcafe/17431
- Hymn Festival**, Ethan Haman, organist, with Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian, conductor Derrick Parker, American Guild of Organists Spokane, 3 p.m., 747-1058, spokanefpc.org/events/hymn-festival
- Spokane String Quartet**, Haydn, Brahms and Schumann, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, 3 to 5 p.m., 624-1200
- Women's Hearttenders Group**, Harmony Woods Retreat, 5 to 8 p.m., 993-2968
- Nov 11-Dec 1 • Holidays for the Homebound**, Meals on Wheels gift bags for seniors, mowspokane.org
- Nov 12 • Eastern Washington Legislative Conference** planning meeting on Zoom, 2 p.m., kaye@thefigtree.org, 535-1813
- Nov 12-13 • Farm and Food Symposium**, Spokane Conservation District, CenterPlace, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 535-7274, info@spokanecd.org
- Nov 12-14 • Columbia River Transboundary Water and Ethics Symposium**, Gonzaga University, gonzaga.edu/climate-institute/events/columbia-river-symposium.
- Nov 12-15 • The Salvation Army Corporate Army's Red Kettle drive** for businesses, registertoring.com, Nov 15, Celebrate the Season Bash Fundraiser Dinner, see page 3
- Nov 13 • Hope-Full 2024**, Celebrate Hope, Joy and Community, Compassionate Addiction Treatment Spokane, Woman's Club, 9th & Cedar, 6 p.m.
- 350 Spokane Monthly Meeting**, Zoom, 7 p.m., aglb43@me.com
- Nov 14 • On Childhood Migration from Central America**, Javier Zamora, online 1 to 2 p.m., scld.org
- Free Immigration Clinic**, Latinos En Spokane, 1502 N. Monroe, 5 to 7 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
- Peace and Justice Action Committee**, Zoom, 5:30 p.m. slichty@pjals.org
- A Night to Sip and Support**, NAMI Spokane, Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad, 6 to 9 p.m., eventbrite.com/e/a-namispokane.org
- The Firsts: Latina Struggles** in the United State with Maria Chavez, online, 7 p.m., humanities.org
- "No Place to Grow Old,"** documentary and discussion on homeless seniors, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Gonzaga, 7:45 p.m., 957-5539, gonzaga.edu/news-events/events/2024/11/14/no-place-to-grow-old, see page 3
- Nov 14, 28 • Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 714-1770
- Nov 15-16 • Spokane Handweavers' Guild Show and Sale**, Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad, Fri, 2 to 7 p.m., Sat 12 to 6 p.m., 465-359
- Nov 16 • Dementia Friends Champion Training**, North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne, 10:30 a.m., 893-8350
- "Carl the Collector,"** PBS series on autism, Northwest Autism Center at West Central Community Center Gym, 1603 N. Belt, 11:30 to 1 p.m.
- Faith Action Network Annual Dinner**, "Transforming our Future Together," Ruby River Hotel, 700 N. Division, 5 p.m., (206) 625-9790, fan@fanwa.org, see page 1
- Fall Serenade**, Music Conservatory of Sandpoint, 110 Main, 5 to 6 p.m., (208) 265-4444
- Nov 18 • Evening with Fr. John Riccardo**, benefit for IHRC, St. Joseph Parish, Otis Orchards, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
- Open Mic with Viktor Valentin** + Native Heritage Celebration, Red Room Lounge, 7 p.m., 521 W. Sprague, 838-7613, redroomloungespokane@gmail.com
- Nov 19 • Caregiver Training Series**, Colfax Library, 102 S. Main, 1 p.m., 777-1629, dementia@altcew.org
- Nov 21 • Spokane Human Rights Champions Award Banquet**, Human Rights Spokane, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, 5 to 8 p.m., 313-5368, nalien@gonzaga.edu
- Nov 21, 22 • Handel's Messiah**, St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th, Th 7:30 p.m., Fri 7:30 p.m., 838-4277
- Nov 23 • Salmon Tales and Celebration Fundraiser** for Salish School of Spokane, Hemmingson at Gonzaga, 6 to 8 p.m., salishschoolspokane.org/salmontales2023.htm
- Nov 24 • Taize Service**, IHRC, 6:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Nov 28 • Community Meal**, The Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana (gym), 12:30 a.m., 325-6821 (call to confirm time)
- Nov 29, 30, Dec 1 • Festival of Fair Trade**, Kizuri, 35 W. Main, Fri & Sat 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sun 12 to 4 p.m., 464-7677, jillian@shopkizuri.com
- Nov 30 • El Mercado**, A.M. Cannon Park, 1920 W. Maxwell, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., latinosenspokane.org
- MAC Holiday Kick-off Celebration**, Northwest MAC, 2316 W. First, 4 to 6 p.m., 456-3931
- Spokane Youth Symphony 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Alumni Concert**, The Fox Theater, 1001 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., 624-1200
- Dec 2 • Mantras, Mudra, and Meditation**, South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St., 6 to 6:45 p.m., 444-5300
- Dec 3 • Fig Tree Development/Benefit (noon) and Board** (1 to 3 p.m.), meetings on Zoom, 535-1813
- Ongoing • How to Meditate**, with Sravasti Abbey Buddhist nun Venerable Sangye Khadro, online, 4 p.m., 447-5549, office.sravasti@gmail.com
- To Dec 15 • Cover and Coat Drive**, Hatch Breaker + Burr, 25 W. Main, 992-4795, hatchbreakerburr.com, forge-wa.org

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Fig Tree writer joins NETWORK's Nuns on the Bus tour in East

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

On September 30, as a nun and a member of the NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice's Advocates Board, I joined a bus crew of four other nuns, three friends and nine staff members to begin a two-and-a-half-week Vote Our Future Tour with Nuns on the Bus and Friends.

The tour hit the road visiting 20 cities in 11 states with a goal of motivating Catholics and others in the communities we visited to Vote Our Future: So everyone thrives, no exceptions!

NETWORK is an inclusive, national, Catholic advocacy organization open to all who share similar values. Founded by Catholic Sisters 52 years ago, it has educated, organized and lobbied for federal policies that serve the common good, honor the dignity of all and foster an inclusive, multiracial, multifaith democracy.

In choosing to go on its ninth national bus tour, its first in-person tour since 2018, NETWORK acknowledges the critical nature of this presidential election. The purpose of the tour was to encourage people to become informed, and be multi-issue voters, deciding who to support based on their values and the candidates' positions.

My leg of the tour was the first week. We traveled from our launch site at Love Park in Philadelphia, stopping at Allentown and Scranton in Pennsylvania, at Brentwood, Baldwin and Ithaca in New York, New Haven in Connecticut and then heading to Pittsburgh back in Pennsylvania.

At each stop in the tour, we had one or more of four kinds of events: a rally, a press conference, a site visit or a town hall.

On my leg, we had rallies in Philadelphia and New Haven where speakers from the bus were joined by local politicians whose beliefs and actions promote the six freedoms that form the core of NETWORK's message.

Rally speakers encouraged voters to find and support candidates who promote the following values and teachings of Catholic Social Justice: 1) the freedom to be healthy, 2) the freedom to live on a healthy planet, 3) the freedom to participate in a vibrant democracy, 4) the freedom to care for ourselves and our families, 5) the freedom to be free from harm and 6) the freedom to live in a welcoming country that values dignity and human rights.

In Philadelphia, the closing rally speaker was a friend on the bus, Cassandra Gould, an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, working for the Faith in Action



Catherine Ferguson, SNJM, is second from left. Photo by Jacob Schatz

Network. She roused the crowd with a metaphor to emphasize the importance of voting for candidates who support the common good for our multi-issue lives.

"Do you know the story of David in the Bible?" she asked. "What did he do? He used a rock to stop Goliath who was harming the people." Then she made the connection, "Your vote is a rock. If you don't use it, it sits there and does nothing. So go vote. Use the rock to vote your values for the common good. Ensure everyone has the freedoms they need to thrive. No exceptions!"

On our journey, we had site visits to learn of the successes of folks working in collaboration with local politicians for the common good.

The first was on day two of our journey in Allentown. The Nuns on the Bus & Friends met with Gregory Edwards, pastor, and the staff of the Resurrected Life Community Church United Church of Christ. In 2011, they established the Resurrected Community Development Corporation. Their leadership is accomplishing amazing things in the community through the Res-

urrected Life Children's Academy, Pre-K Counts program, the James Lawson Freedom School and the Pennsylvania Family Counts Initiative.

Sister Quincy Howard, OP, another nun on the bus, explained: "We were floored by the phenomenal work that their leadership is accomplishing in the community. Their leaders are tirelessly confronting resource scarcity and systemic racism to literally resurrect their community, beginning with educating their children.

"Their work has 1) cut the high murder rate of children to ZERO for two years in a row, 2) taken ownership and put to use iconic downtown church properties for worship and robust services to the community, 3) secured \$9 million to plan a school "directly in the hood" and build centrally located affordable housing, and 4) decreased the dropout rate of high school students to 2 percent."

Gregory passionately described the need for these programs.

"If our children are not well educated, they become invisible and disposable," and the Resurrected Life Community is not going to let this happen, he said

violence and other violence on the street and in schools.

When asked to envision what the region would be like if the key freedoms were actualized, one participant said: "If we were free from harm, I could get on the subway day or night and feel safe."

Another connected with the freedom to be healthy: "I would get all the health care I need and have no worries about paying high prices for it."

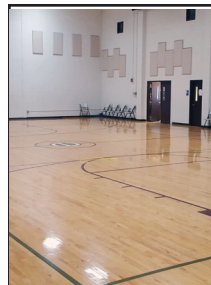
At the end of this event—and all events—everyone was invited to take a magic marker and sign the bus. As I left in Pittsburgh, we had hundreds of signatures, good wishes and messages for politicians on the bus. I imagine by the time the tour ended in San Francisco, it was difficult for people to find a space to sign.

Nuns on the Bus and Friends Vote our Future continued until Oct. 18 with different nuns and friends for its next two legs. Leg two visited Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Gary, Milwaukee, and Chicago. The highlight for this leg was a reunion of all who had ever ridden on any bus tour to come and celebrate.

From there, the bus drove without its crew to Tucson, where it picked up again on Oct. 13, with a new crew and visited Nogales and Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Bakersfield, San Jose, Redwood City and San Francisco.

Participants marked each step along the way with their mantra, "Vote so everyone thrives, NO EXCEPTIONS!"

For information, visit nuns-on-the-bus.org.



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