Pastor gathers interfaith leaders for ongoing efforts in ‘moral revival’

By Kaye Hult

Genavieve Heywood has had a passion to stand up for justice throughout her life and now in her leadership as pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ in Spokane Valley and in the community beyond its doors.

Last January, Gen attended a meeting that the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) hosted to introduce the Poor People’s Campaign (PPC) to Spokane. Gen was not only involved in organizing the event, but also she has learned from the people of many races, cultures and nationalities she has met.

She realized there was little presence from people with a spiritual perspective, so she invited spiritual leaders in the area “from A to Z”—Atheists to Zoroastrians—as she put it, to gather and discuss how they could offer spiritual support and advocacy for what PJALS was planning.

With the invitation, she included the principles for the Poor People’s Campaign to make it clear what the group would stand for.

The PPC suggests four areas of focus: systemic racism, poverty, militarism and ecological devastation.

“As a diverse group of spiritual leaders, we can model what it means to repair the breach … and move toward developing the beloved community,” Gen wrote in the letter. She suggested they could broaden their focus to Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Gen sent a second letter, asking faith leaders from a variety of faith communities to sign on.

Eventually 50 representatives of different faith communities signed on.

Continued on page 6

International Holy Names leader promotes justice and education

Sister Catherine Ferguson, SNJM, settled in Spokane in 2017 after years of study, teaching and justice action.

The previous 15 years she educated people and advocated for justice through UNANIMA International, a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the United Nations, and through her leadership with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) in the United States, Canada and worldwide.

Catherine headed UNANIMA from 2001 to 2011, then served from 2011 to 2016 as superior general of the SNJM based in Longueuil, Quebec.

UNANIMA connects 20 congregations of Catholic sisters to educate and influence policy makers at the United Nations on behalf of women and children—especially those living in poverty—in a new and the environment. It brings voices, concerns and experiences of 20,000 members in more than 80 countries—women who work as educators, health care providers, social workers and development workers—to the UN headquarters in New York. Two of UNANIMA’s campaigns are Water = Life and Stop the Demand (for human trafficking).

SNJM international justice commitments focus particularly on the struggle against human trafficking, access to water, and advocacy for refugees and migrants. The Holy Names Sisters have a network of schools, a university, clinics and community centers based on their commitment to “educate, contemplate, liberate.”

In January 2017, Catherine moved to Spokane, where she previously studied at Fort Wright College, taught two years at the Academy and worked and served from 1989 to 1995 as Washington provincial leader at the Convent of the Holy Names.

For 18 months beginning in 1987, her commitment to justice was deepened by research engaging with base communities
Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches (WCC) Executive Committee adopts statements
The World Council of Churches (WCC) Executive Committee adopted seven statements from its 70th anniversary meeting.

- "The Fig Tree and the Pacific": This statement focuses on the nuclear testing in the Pacific and calls for nuclear disarmament.
- "Justice, Economic Justice, Health Care, Reconciliation in Ethiopia": This statement addresses challenges in Ethiopia and calls for justice.
- "Rape and Violence": This statement calls for an end to violence and rape.
- "National, Regional and Local Levels": This statement calls for strengthening work on various levels.
- "Women and Men": This statement supports women's rights and gender equality.
- "The Ecumenical Movement and Nationalism": This statement addresses the role of the ecumenical movement.
- "The Executive Committee": This statement highlights the role of the Executive Committee.

The WCC secretary Olav Fykse Tveit offered a look back, as well as forward.

"The ecumenical movement has been seen as emphasizing that we are called to live in discipleship here and now for the transformation of God's will today," he said. "God wants the world to believe, to receive, to be renewed today."

He called for a renewed commitment to justice and peace.

"Time is passing, and we with it," he said. "Yet we remain one with the many believers who came before us, those who have shown their hope as an anticipation that leads to their participation in the mission of God."

The Executive Committee said that, although much work has been done in the 70 years, there are increasing problems and challenges. It called for strengthening the work on creating "just communities of women and men" through more advocacy.

Ofelia Ortega tells of WCC's achievements
Rev. Ofelia Ortega Suárez, who has been in her position for 20 years, said she has the spirit and enthusiasm of a young woman, which is reaching out to the community to invite businesses and agencies to help write the costs, so The Fig Tree can reach the goal faster.

"Our goal is to raise enough so we can support additional staff to help with The Fig Tree’s work," said Mary Stamp, editor of The Fig Tree. "We are seeking volunteers to help on days of the events and to help promote the event online."

World Relief plans fundraiser on Dec. 5
World Relief in Spokane is planning a fundraising event, "Around the Table: A thousand refugee families—26,103 in 2017.

The planning committee has meetings scheduled at 1:30 p.m., Thursdays, Nov. 29, and Dec. 13. They will make final arrangements in January.

For information, call 535-4112, or 535-1813, email resourcesdirector@thefigtree.org or share the flyer online at www.thefigtree.org/FigTreeEvent.pdf.

Religious Ecumenical CenterFaith News

Legislative Conference is January 26
"Inform, Inspire, Involve" is the theme for the 2019 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Spokane United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond.

The Rev. Jim CastroLang, Eastern Washington United Methodist Conference representative from The Fig Tree and Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, will moderate a panel discussion on the "mythic" of the Children Action Network on immigration and family separations.

The Fig Tree is seeking hosts for Benefits in March
Plans are underway for The Fig Tree’s 35th Anniversary celebration and Benefit Breakfast. The theme is "35 Years of Information, Impact, Inclusion." The Benefit Breakfast will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8, and the Benefit Breakfast Committee invites WCC representatives to The Fig Tree and Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington to join in the panel discussion.

The Fig Tree is currently recruiting hosts to sponsor tables and/or give a presentation. It is reaching out to the community to invite businesses and agencies to participate.

Christmas Bureau gives gifts to families
Catholic Charities, Volunteers of America, and Spokane's Washington Review are collaborating again this December for the annual holiday assistance program to provide gifts, food, toys, books, and grocery store vouchers for thousands of low-income individuals and families.

From Wednesday, Dec. 12, to Friday, Dec. 21—excluding Sunday, Dec. 16—the Christmas Bureau will open from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the AG Building.

There is one grocery store voucher per family, books for children under 17 and toys for children 17 and younger.

Since 1945, the Christmas Bureau has offered "help and hope" to thousands of needy families—26,101 in 2017.

World Relief plans fundraiser on Dec. 5
Relief in Spokane is planning a fundraising event, "Around the Table: A thousand refugee families—26,103 in 2017.

The theme is "35 Years of Information, Impact, Inclusion." The Benefit Breakfast will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8, and the Benefit Breakfast Committee invites WCC representatives to The Fig Tree and Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington to join in the panel discussion.

The Fig Tree is currently recruiting hosts to sponsor tables and/or give a presentation. It is reaching out to the community to invite businesses and agencies to participate.

World Relief Spokane plans fundraiser on Dec. 5
World Relief in Spokane is planning a fundraising event, "Around the Table: A thousand refugee families—26,103 in 2017.

The theme is "35 Years of Information, Impact, Inclusion." The Benefit Breakfast will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8, and the Benefit Breakfast Committee invites WCC representatives to The Fig Tree and Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington to join in the panel discussion.

The Fig Tree is currently recruiting hosts to sponsor tables and/or give a presentation. It is reaching out to the community to invite businesses and agencies to participate.

More than 500 volunteers work to review required documentation, sort gifts and distribute them. Volunteers interested in assisting in 2019 may fill out a volunteer application online.

After Thanksgiving, the Spokane-Spokesman-Review publishes articles about the bureau and names donors.

For information, call 358-4270 or email bkrause@cpspokane.com.

Religious Ecumenical CenterFaith News

The Fig Tree is-readers supported

The Fig Tree is-reader supported

BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________
PHONE ________________________________

☐ $20-50 Sponsor  ☐ $50-100 Friend  ☐ $100-500, 1st Writer  ☐ $42 for bulk order of 10
☐ $350/year pledge for five years

SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Fig Tree, 1233 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays  ADS - 4th Tuesdays

It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editor/Publisher/Editorial - Malcolm Haworth
Webmaster/Designer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Assistants - Laura Oakes, Barb Bangart
Editor/Publisher/Editorial - Malcolm Haworth
Webmaster/Designer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Assistants - Laura Oakes, Barb Bangart

The Fig Tree is reader supported

The Fig Tree is-reader supported

BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________
PHONE ________________________________

☐ $20-50 Sponsor  ☐ $50-100 Friend  ☐ $100-500, 1st Writer  ☐ $42 for bulk order of 10
☐ $350/year pledge for five years

SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Fig Tree, 1233 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays  ADS - 4th Tuesdays

It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editor/Publisher/Editorial - Malcolm Haworth
Webmaster/Designer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Assistants - Laura Oakes, Barb Bangart, Winnie Palfatine, Mary Arney Bailey

The Fig Tree is-reader supported

The Fig Tree is-reader supported

BECOME A SPONSOR!

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________
PHONE ________________________________

☐ $20-50 Sponsor  ☐ $50-100 Friend  ☐ $100-500, 1st Writer  ☐ $42 for bulk order of 10
☐ $350/year pledge for five years

SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Fig Tree, 1233 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays  ADS - 4th Tuesdays

It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editor/Publisher/Editorial - Malcolm Haworth
Webmaster/Designer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Assistants - Laura Oakes, Barb Bangart, Winnie Palfatine, Mary Arney Bailey
Continued from page 1

in charge of a base community. The father had lived two years in exile in Argentina, because he was on a death list. After she left, Pinochet lost a plebiscite ending his dictatorship, despite attempts to divert people to prevent them from voting. The next election restored civilian rule in Chile, which was historically a democracy.

She was in Lima at the end of a military dictatorship as a new president was democratically elected. She also saw how inflation made survival among the poor's food budgets and priorities go on hold. She went down. When they came up, the ruling party had the lead. She returned to the U.S. expecting to have a year to write, but instead was elected to serve as provincial superior for Washington at the Convent of the Holy Names in Spokane from 1989 to 1995. After that, she finished her doctoral work and traveled to inter- national work, first serving a year as an English language intern at the Pax Christi headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, going to consultations in the Philippines, Asia, Latin America and Europe. She learned not only about European countries but also about the United Nations. She is said that U.S. news does not give “nuances of where we fit in the big picture, but focuses on presidential politics.” After retiring, she worked from 1997 to 2001 with the Inner City Law Center in Los Angeles, addressing homelessness and aiding the lawyers to force slum landlords to compensate families for harm they suffered in their slum apartments, such as cockroaches and bite. Following the 4th World Con- ference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Holy Names Sisters and other religious communities had explored starting an NGO to lobby the United Nations and to influ- ence international policy being made by world leaders there.

Alone, the Sisters of the Holy Names believed they were not big enough or international enough to be an NGO, so they partnered with the Franciscans International. Catherine, still in Los Angeles, went to Brussels, Belgium, going to the few UN documents the U.S. has signed. The U.S. helped negotiate the few UN documents the U.S. has signed. She had earlier worked on human rights, such as the right of women, toaddress homelessness and aid to refugees with World Relief and helped volunteers with World Relief and helped refugees with World Relief. She also saw how inflation made survival among the poor's food budgets and priorities go on hold.

In 2011, Catherine’s election to the UNANIMA executive board as superior general of the Sisters of the Holy Names made her the first American woman to be elected as superior general of a major religious congregation. Catherine, who was born in Brazil, became part of a group of religious women who have traveled to visit every place in the world, from Buenos Aires to Accra, in order to study and discuss the needs of the women in those countries. She has traveled to Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and many other countries.

In 2015, Catherine was elected as superior general of the Sisters of the Holy Names, becoming the first woman to hold this position. She has continued to work with UNANIMA, which focuses on women's rights and gender equality.

In addition to her work with UNANIMA, Catherine has also served on the board of directors of several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that work to promote human rights and social justice. She has worked with organizations such as the Catholic social justice lobby and the Lisa Brown campaign.

Catherine has also been involved in the Catholic Church's social teaching, and has spoken about the importance of women's rights and gender equality in the Church's teachings.

In conclusion, Catherine Ferguson, SNJM, has dedicated her life to working for social justice and human rights. Her work with UNANIMA and other organizations has helped to advance the cause of women's rights and gender equality around the world.

JOIN US FOR THE 2019 EASTERN WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019
9 A.M.-3 P.M.
SPOKANE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
115 N. RAYMIRE ST. • SPOKANE VALLEY

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT
MALLORY HAWORTH - THE FIG TREE • 509-315-8173
SCOTT COOKSON • CATHOLIC ACTION NETWORK • 509-482-2737
PAUL BENZ • FAITH ACTION NETWORK (206) 625-9790

TO RSVP
SEND SUGGESTED DONATION OF $20 ($15 each 5+, scholarships)
TO THE FIG TREE • 1323 S. PERRY ST • SPOKANE WA 99202
EMAIL 535-4112 OR 535-1813 OR EMAIL INFO@THFIGTREE.COM
EXTRA DONATION FOR DISPLAYS: $10 large table, $5 half table

DEEPENING OUR ROOTS

BENEFIT LUNCH
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019

OPENING LITURGY WITH A BLESSING OF THE FOOD

BENEFIT BREAKFAST
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

BENEFIT BREAD AND BRUNCH

GUESTS WILL BE INVITED TO DONATE TO SUPPORT THE FIG TREE

CALL 535-4112 OR 535-1813 OR EMAIL MARY@THFIGTREE.COM

THE FIG TREE: 1323 S. PERRY ST, SPOKANE WA 99202
Teacher wants to educate students so they can make a difference

Continued from page 1

They did not take the usual 10 years of residence required to be a citizen, because “there were so many miracles and witnesses, and because he was martyred,” she said. “I could see his tears and her tears and others saw a halo in the sky.”

While she was there Luisa was wounded in a car crash. When she woke up she was on a wall in memory of “the martyrs” and the massacres.

As a child in the United States, she lived in Los Angeles and across the border into the United States to Tuscon, Los Angeles and El Paso. Her mother married again and they moved around often. Luisa sometimes visited her parents, often went to San Salvador about 30 minutes by bus to meet with Army friends. She had been a teacher in El Salvador.

Tanis worked under him baptizing, preaching, teaching the Bible and theology, caring for families suffering because of the war in local Christian groups, called base communities.

“My father’s preaching was prophetic and powerful, following in Romero’s footsteps,” Luisa said. “He knew that might be dangerous. He might disappear as many others did. We always wondered if we would be the next.”

The family lived in El Salvador for 20 years. After three days we learned if we would be the next. They then moved to a house in Arizona. They went in different cars to Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, where the Rev. John Johnsen was a leader. The sanctuary movement, was pastor for 35 years. “He is a saint, too,” Luisa said.

After two weeks they went to her older brother in Los Angeles. While she was there they returned to high school. Because they were undocumented and in danger, Transito agreed to become a sanctuary family.

People from St. Ann’s in Spokane came and drove them to Spokane. The Orellanas lived from 1985 to 1990 in the base of St. Ann’s rectory.

“Ft Gino Piccoli, the priest at St. Ann’s was another saint,” Luisa said. “He embraced us. The community welcomed us, people who had been killed. He said, ‘It was like Pentecost—the true gospel of welcoming strangers.’

While high school, Luisa lis- tened to teachers and others talk, repeating and writing down what they shared. Even if she did not understand it all, she thought about being a nun, but decided not to follow that path.

Luisa completed her studies and earned a diploma from Ferris High School.

Friends talked of going to universities, but because she was undocumented she could not officially go. A parishioner sug- gested she sit in on classes. She did not officially go. A parishioner suggested she sit in on classes. She talked with one university presi- dent, saying she just wanted to get an education so she could teach, even if she did not become a nun. Adrian Romero invited her to come to his class. He was teaching 1 Corinthians and talking about the first Christian communities. He asked Luisa to tell the class about base communities. After that, he helped her find a place to sit in class.

Eventually, an immigration attorney from Arizona, Father David Orellana, took Luisa to Tucson to fill out paperwork to get permits to stay, but they were not permits to work or study.

They then moved to a house on Montgomery. For nine years they lived there. In 1996 they moved to Spokane. In 1999, they were able to apply to be citizens. Luisa was engaged for five years to marry her hus- band, Thomas, whose family was active at St. Ann’s. She postponed the wedding until she could apply for her green card.

Luisa studied for six years, first majoring in psychology to deal with the trauma she experienced, and then studying to be a teacher.

One day in a store, a woman said, “You look just like Luisa!” She suggested that Luisa could teach ESL in Spokane Public Schools.

“I fell in love with my first job. My classes taught girls to 3. After- noons, I taught 4th to 6th graders. Later I taught at the Newcomers Center at Ferris, traveling every week to teach ESL at seven high schools,” she said. “Then I began teaching adult classes at SCC.”

“I look forward to giving my students hope. Like me, many went through a silent period for so long. They started to talk,” she said.

Now Luisa just teaches ESL for the Community Colleges of Spokane Institute for Extended Learning at SCC, working with and encouraging others who have experienced war and trauma, and left their countries with sadness. She wants to give them English so they can be educated and make a difference in the future.

Now her siblings are teachers, and other family members speak English and other work in Spokane and in Seattle.

“Some say immigrants come to Rob the people’s jobs, but we worked hard to have the jobs we have,” Luisa said. “We came here to give and to help those who suffer.

“I hope that by telling my sto- ry more people will live in love, compassion and understanding, so other immigrants will not go through so much to find freedom and a safe place to live,” she said.

Twice a month, Luisa attends St. Ann’s to sing Mass with her brother. Twice a month she attends the church, which supports and visits a village in El Salvador each month. Once a month, she leads a service at St. Joseph.

Knowing a modern saint, she continues to carry St. Romero’s message of love for all people.

Call us for your commercial printing and mailing needs!

Fast, friendly service:
- Web Printing - table cards, booklets, catalogs, etc.
- Screen printed products - clothing, calendars, etc.
- Full-service bindery - Direct Mail
typesetting/layout/imagetooling

Locally Owned & Operated
2120 N. Dollar Blvd. Spokane, WA 99212
509.534.3625

Check out your choices at Spokane Public Schools!

Enrollment opens Jan. 1, 2019
spokaneskool.org/enrollment

Spokane Public Schools offers a portfolio of educational programs that can choose the one that is right for you.

Interested in having your child attend a school other than your neighborhood school? Visit spokanek12.org to apply for your top choices any time.

Kindergarten registration starts March 1.
All kindergarten families need to register at their neighborhood school even if they have applied to attend an alternative school.

Questions? Contact enrollment@spokaneskool.org
509.534.7935

###

**Check out your choices at Spokane Public Schools!**

**Enrollment opens Jan. 1, 2019**

Schools offer a wide range of options, including:

- Elementary schools
- Middle schools
- High schools
- Special education programs

**Enrollment Process**

1. Visit spokanek12.org to apply for your top choices any time.
2. Kindergarten registration starts March 1.
3. All kindergarten families need to register at their neighborhood school even if they have applied to attend an alternative school.

**Questions?**

Contact enrollment@spokaneskool.org
509.534.7935

Spokane Public Schools
Weaving his way through a career in commercial news broad- casting and then as an air reporter, Gary Stokes served as general manager for CBS and NBC stations in Dayton, Nor- folk, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Buffalo, Houston, Birmingham and back to Norfolk from 1980 to 2005. Gary Stokes found his niche in public broadcasting first with Alabama Public TV in Birmingham and then in 2011 with KSPS-TV in Spokane.

For him, the pressure to pro- duce a targeted bottom line for a corporation was much less appeal- ing than the mission-driven focus of public broadcasting to broaden horizons by educating, connect- ing, enlightening, inspiring and engaging people.

“Public broadcasting needs to raise funds to meet its budget, but it’s not the same pressure as meet- ing the target numbers for profits in commercial media,” Gary said. “I like our mission-based work.”

Now Gary feels he is better able to live up to the principles and ideals of public broadcasting and feel good and able to give back to the community and world. In commercial media, he asked the questions he was supposed to, knowing they might bring not the depth of answers needed.

“I now see coverage I could and should have done in a different way,” he said.

He’s no longer producing news, but still has a passion to keep up with news. From 5 to 7 p.m., he watches HBO News, Nightly Busi- ness Report and PBS NewsHour. “I’m a news guy at heart,” he said, noting he also appreciates how Frontline researches and answers, not the questions, giving journalism that focuses on the answer questions.

NewsHour gives people time to know they might bring not the depth of answers needed.

Gary Stokes finds niche in public broadcasting.

Has Fontanini figures

FOR THE FIG TREE • PAGE 5
Continued from page 1

This group is now Faith Leaders of Conscience (FLLC).

After sending the letter demanding the reunification of children with their families, they developed a meditation booklet for people going from Spokane to Olympia to take part in the Poor People’s Campaign Moral Mondays last spring, to keep them centered on the campaign’s principles and issues.

“We hoped to include quotations from atheists, Wiccans, non-spiritual traditions, as well as Muslim, Jewish and Christian,” Gen said.

“We hoped to send spiritual companions along to be available to people needing help re-centering. The PCC is a moral call committed to nonviolence,” she said.

Barbara Miller, from the Silver Valley Community Resource Center, began attending the meetings and talking about how the Silver Valley, the Coeur d’Alene area and the area were all a part of the largest Superfund site in the United States, a major ecological concern for the entire area.

By June, the Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience began to talk about how to address that situation, which also touched on issues of poverty and health for the region.

The group is now planning an event to address those concerns on Earth Day, April 22, 2019.

The FLLC has other events planned.

From 1 to 8 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, the leaders are planning a workshop on “Why Race Matters” at Veradale United Church of Christ, 611 N. Ponder Rd.

On Thursday, Feb. 21, they will show the movie, “The Sultan and the Saint,” at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave. This is the story of Francis of Assisi meeting with the sultan of Egypt in the middle of the Crusades.


“Neither. It’s not clear. It describes the interaction of two different faiths crossing battle lines, listening to each other, and being changed by the conversation.”

The show for the temple’s youth night, followed by a small panel representing Jews, Muslims and Christians, who will answer questions.

In March, the FLLC plans to hold a workshop on the “Strength of Nonviolence.” That is still in the planning stages, as is the April Earth Day rally on the Superfund site.

“I struggle with the reality that most of the participants, though not all, in the FLLC are Christian,” Gen said. “Some people are the single representatives of their group. The invitation is open for atheists, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and leaders of other groups to join us in being a moral voice.”

Gen invites representatives to join the planning meetings, which are at 9:30 a.m., on first Wednesdays.

Recently the group worked by email to edit a statement to read at the Oct. 3 vigil at Temple Beth Shalom as a memorial to the 11 Jewish people shot at a synagogue in Pittsburgh (see p. 10) and shortening it for a letter to the editor.

Soon after Gen came to Veradale UCC in June 2014, she began to expand the church’s outreach into the community.

“I want the church’s threshold to be a fluid place, where the going out and the coming in are natural and easy,” she said.

To that end, the church, which has about 25 attending Sunday worship, extends a welcome to the community, opening the church in its yard to the public and renting spaces in its community garden to the community. The church shares produce it raises with community members and N-Sid- Sen, a United Church of Christ camp on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Veradale UCC members also participate in an ecumenical Days for Girls program with a nearby Latter-day Saints church, in the annual Martin Luther King Day March, the Women’s March, the March for Science, the March for our Lives and the Pride Parade.

In the fall, they collect coats and backpacks for Progress Elementary School across the street. They also take monthly collections of supplies for homeless women at Hope House and of food for Spokane Valley Partners.

On Saturday, Gen offers photography workshops with field trips. She began it as a way to gather people of the church and the wider community to build relationships based on a common interest.

At a recent celebration of Franco of Assisi, the congregation brought pets to be blessed. Members in the photography workshop took pet portraits.

Programs do not specifically have a Christian emphasis.

“I continually make it clear that all people are welcome at Veradale, because all are God’s children, no matter what they believe,” she said.

Gen has known since she was 11 that she was called to ministry.

“When she told her parents, they responded by telling her three things: ‘Women don’t do those things,’ ‘No one will want to marry you.’ You can’t live off the collection plate.’”

The last two concerned her more than the first, because she wanted to marry and have children, and her father/first re-mined the family that they lived on the edge of poverty.

“I decided that, whatever I did, I would be my ministry,” she said.

She grew up in Durham, Me. During her senior year of high school, she spent six months in Germany. She attended Emman-uel College in Boston, graduating in 1979 with a double bachelor of arts in German and music therapy.

While there, she attended wor-ship one Sunday at Old South Church in Boston. An obviously pregnant pastor was preaching that day.

“Right then and there, all the objections of my family to being a minister went away,” she said.

After graduation, she supported herself as a music therapist while she attended Andover Newton Theological School part time.

She earned her master of divinity degree in 1989.

In 1999, she married. They had two children. The marriage did not last, so Gen has raised the chil-dren on her own. Her son recently graduated college. Her daughter is in high school.

Gen said she has had “a long relationship with the Holy Spirit,” beginning in childhood, through college, ministry in churches in Maine, moving to California, marrying and divorcing, and then moving to Washington state.

“God is with me, real in my life as a gift, a light in human form,” she said.

“I was always advocating for justice and fairness,” she said.

I feel compelled to bring people be- continued...
Rabbi Tamar Malino of Temple Beth Shalom recently said her congregation was simply awed by the amount of support they have received in the wake of the Oct. 27 shooting that killed 11 and wounded six in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Temple Beth Shalom seats were filled and many stood along the sides as nearly 1,000 joined in the Oct. 30 Vigil in Memory of the Massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue. The following are excerpts from Rabbi Malino’s words at the vigil.

The Tree of Life Synagogue, like Temple Beth Shalom:  
• is a place where people come to greet one another and to greet each other for the Shabbat morning prayer;  
• is a place where children run down the aisles, teenagers socialize with their friends, elderly are accompanied to their seats, and members lead Hebrew chanting and study sacred text;  
• is a place where members celebrate important moments in their lives; and  
• both house multiple congregations, who often worship at the same time.

The Tree of Life Synagogue, like Congregation Emanuel-El which shares the Temple Beth Shalom building, hosted a National Refugee Shabbat to acknowledge and learn about the suffering of those fleeing persecution around the globe, and what we can do to help.

The Tree of Life Synagogue, like every synagogue in the country, is a place where Jews gather to be in the company of one another, to connect to the Divine, to be inspired and to feel safe.

When the synagogue was attacked, our safety was shattered. We grieve with the victims and their families. We grieve for the violence that has been done to us as a people and the violence that has been done to others. We grieve, and we are frightened.

The Anti-Defamation League documented a 57 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States in 2017, compared to 2016—bomb threats, assaults, vandalism, anti-Semitic postcards and literature.

Anti-Semitism is more visible in the U.S. than it has been in many decades, perhaps more than it has ever been. Whether it comes from ignorance or hatred, we cannot now, even if we want to ignore its presence.

As Jews, our response to anti-Semitism, as it has been for centuries, is a refusal to be cowed. Instead we celebrate our heritage, turrets, is a refusal to be cowed, to ignore its presence. We cannot now, even if we want to, ignore its presence.

We know this situation is not unique to us. As Rabbi Judah Sacks, the former chief rabbi of the UK, put it, “Anti-Semitism begins with Jews, but it never ends with them. A world without room for Jews is one that has no room for difference, and a world that lacks space for difference lacks space for humanity itself.”

So we are frightened, not just for ourselves, but for everyone living in a world where this kind of anti-Semitism, along with so many other forms of racism, bigotry and hatred are rampant and have evoked violence.

It is particularly horrible when it occurs in houses of worship, where individuals are at their most vulnerable, most open and most trusting. Recently, there was a shooting of two African Americans in a grocery store in Kentucky, and before that, the perpetrator tried to enter a predominately black church, but fortunately couldn’t get in.

In recent memory: 26 people were killed by a shooter in a Texas church in 2017, and nine people were killed by a shooter in a historically black church in South Carolina in 2015.

We are not only frightened. We are outraged in the face of such evil. As Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union of Reform Judaism, commented, it is outrageous that “we live in a time when we have to temper our loving welcome of strangers” in order “to protect our communities from violence and hate.”

Tonight we invite you into our tent, the tent of our synagogue and the tent full of Spokane residents, the tent that seeks to be a safe, welcoming place for everyone of every race, religion and ethnicity.

We are frightened, we are outraged, but we are also grateful:  
• to all who do so much work in the greater Spokane community to combat anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry in all its forms;  
• to all of us who live honorably and intentionally in our daily lives, speaking respectfully with neighbors, and rooting out the anti-Semitism and racism that reside in our own souls however we can; and  
• to each other for coming together to grieve, console one another and stand up for the values we all hold dear.

Orthodox Rabbi Vizt Greenberg reminds us that the Jewish tradition values every human being as created in the image of God with “three inherent dignities: infinite worth, equality, and individuality.”

He added that the Jewish vision of Tikvah Olam imagines improving the world—until it fully sustains these dignities for everyone. He said that “we can turn inward or reach outward. We (Jews) are a nation of immigrants. We are stronger because of our diversity. The most challenging times are also the most critical times for building bridges and relationships, growing compassion and understanding.”

As we share our voices, we remember the dead, articulate our communal values and that the strength to be not just frightened, outraged and grateful, but also hopeful.

Hopeful that the future will bring healing and repair, that we can bring light into the darkness, that we can grow in compassion and understanding and that we can replace hate with love. For information, call 747-3304.

For Giving Tuesday

Make a Difference

DONATE TO HELP

The Fig Tree share stories

The Resource Directory improve lives

Join with supporters in the Inland Northwest to spread hope, connect people, build understanding challenge hate and inspire love

• Donate by credit card at http://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html
• Send a check to The Fig Tree 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202
• Respond to our December appeal by mail

Jingle Books

Give the Gift of Literacy this Holiday Season

Collection boxes for new and gently used K-3 books are in area libraries, bookstores, businesses, banks and the Kootenai County School District office through Dec. 13

Books will be given free to children in grades K-3 at Kootenai County Elementary Schools from Dec. 14 to 16

For information, call 208-966-4823 or email heartofcda@gmail.com

December 2018 - The Fig Tree - Page 7

Just Trade

fairly traded crafts from around the world

inside

Brused Books
235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898
Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Moving?
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

• Full-time trained movers  
• Trucks & all equipment provided  
• No move too small  
• No move too big.

CALL TODAY: 509-928-4738

The Holy Days/Christmas/Year-End Giving

To spread hope, connect people, build understanding and that we can grow in compassion with them. A world without room for difference, and a world that begins with Jews, but it never ends with them. A world without room for Jews is one that has no room for difference, and a world that lacks space for difference lacks space for humanity itself.”

For Giving Tuesday

Make a Difference

DONATE TO HELP

The Fig Tree share stories

The Resource Directory improve lives

Join with supporters in the Inland Northwest to spread hope, connect people, build understanding challenge hate and inspire love

• Donate by credit card at http://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html
• Send a check to The Fig Tree 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202
• Respond to our December appeal by mail

For Giving Tuesday

Make a Difference

DONATE TO HELP

The Fig Tree share stories

The Resource Directory improve lives

Join with supporters in the Inland Northwest to spread hope, connect people, build understanding challenge hate and inspire love

• Donate by credit card at http://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html
• Send a check to The Fig Tree 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202
• Respond to our December appeal by mail

Jingle Books

Give the Gift of Literacy this Holiday Season

Collection boxes for new and gently used K-3 books are in area libraries, bookstores, businesses, banks and the Kootenai County School District office through Dec. 13

Books will be given free to children in grades K-3 at Kootenai County Elementary Schools from Dec. 14 to 16

For information, call 208-966-4823 or email heartofcda@gmail.com

December 2018 - The Fig Tree - Page 7

Just Trade

fairly traded crafts from around the world

inside

Brused Books
235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898
Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Moving?
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

• Full-time trained movers  
• Trucks & all equipment provided  
• No move too small  
• No move too big.

CALL TODAY: 509-928-4738

The Holy Days/Christmas/Year-End Giving

To spread hope, connect people, build understanding and that we can grow in compassion with them. A world without room for difference, and a world that begins with Jews, but it never ends with them. A world without room for Jews is one that has no room for difference, and a world that lacks space for difference lacks space for humanity itself.”

For Giving Tuesday

Make a Difference

DONATE TO HELP

The Fig Tree share stories

The Resource Directory improve lives

Join with supporters in the Inland Northwest to spread hope, connect people, build understanding challenge hate and inspire love

• Donate by credit card at http://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html
• Send a check to The Fig Tree 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202
• Respond to our December appeal by mail

Jingle Books

Give the Gift of Literacy this Holiday Season

Collection boxes for new and gently used K-3 books are in area libraries, bookstores, businesses, banks and the Kootenai County School District office through Dec. 13

Books will be given free to children in grades K-3 at Kootenai County Elementary Schools from Dec. 14 to 16

For information, call 208-966-4823 or email heartofcda@gmail.com

December 2018 - The Fig Tree - Page 7
Fairfield churches sell ‘extra’ building, focus on serving community

After merging four years ago as one congregation, Zion Lutheran and First Presbyterian Church—now Fairfield Community Church—had both buildings for sale.

For a while, they alternated worshiping at both buildings, but two years ago chose to worship at Zion Lutheran, where they have a preschool serving 18 children. The previous summer, they worshiped in the First Presbyterian building.

In March, two weeks before Easter, they sold the Presbyterian building to the Stillwater Mennonite Church in Plummer-Worley. Three years ago, six Mennonite families had moved there from Ohio when their original community grew to 25 families. The tradition is that when they have that many, they split and some move to relocate. The group now has 11 families.

“It’s interesting how God works,” said Paul Anderson, pastor of the combined church that continues to affiliate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Presbyterian USA denominations.

“We kept it on the market waiting for the right price. The Mennonites bought it for $180,000 cash. It was a good deal for both churches, because it’s God’s church,” said Paul who has served in Fairfield 14 years, his first church after graduating from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1994.

The Fairfield Community Church now saves on costs of maintenance and heating two buildings, and “the beauty is that the building is still being used as a church building, not being worshiped there,” he said.

The proceeds are being invested in a house in Spokane and Presbytery. Some funds will be used to support the church and some to support other outreach.

For the decision to sell the Presbyterian building, the vote was close to unanimous to accept the offer.

“These are faith-walking people,” Paul said, “not relying on how they feel, but willing to sell the building grandpa helped build. God is not about a building. Some lament what was, but many are excited about a new experience of being the church.”

The process of bringing the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches together continues, including plans to have a new sign.

In addition, they had hanging pictures going back to the early years in the 1890s and early 1900s. Members decided those pictures needed a new home.

“One grandmother’s daughter might be in the picture, but it’s not who we are any more,” said Paul, who told the director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center. The museum welcomed having the pictures to display as part of the community’s heritage.

With Fairfield increasingly a bedroom community for Spokane, Spokane Valley, Pullman and Plummer—where many work at the casino—there are many new people in the community.

Some new residents have retired, while some long-time older residents are moving closer to town. Young families from the urban areas are also buying Fairfield houses, which are affordable. Houses in Fairfield do not stay for sale long. Most of those who commute to work also commute to church and shopping.

Paul noted that only one member of the Fairfield City Council has lived there all his life. The others have no roots there.

“Our challenge is to minister outside the walls to new people,” he said.

“We are all ministers,” he said, “and we are to find ways to share love for God in Christ. We are God’s hands and feet. We need to be good followers as God leads and guides us.

“A leader needs to be open to new ways to lead. We look for new ways to do ministry always,” he said.

People from area churches worked together after the shooting a year ago in Freeman High School. While there were no students in the church, members were affected. Some went to a vigil in Spokane Valley, but Fairfield Community Church opened that evening as a place for people to come to pray and be together, and 250 came.

“Spontaneity opens us to do ministry in new ways,” he said, “so the shape of our ministry evolves and changes.”

For information, call 283-2209 or email pastorpaul6@gmail.com.

Sign welcomes children, youth and adults to vacation Bible school. Photos courtesy of Fairfield Community Church

The Fig Tree

The Fig Tree is still seeking some 2018 Resource Directory Community Partners

TO FUND 50-150 copies ($200 - $600) copies we have given to agencies to share

SEND TO The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, 99202

Children’s Christmas Joy Drive

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.

Event: Fri, Dec. 7, 10-4pm & Sat, Dec 8, 10-3pm

We need your help to provide gifts to 1,000 children, infants through 6th grade, this Christmas Season. We need help collecting new underwear, hats, gloves and scarves for each child. They will also receive an age appropriate book.

Your help in making this a truly joyful Christmas for many local children is greatly appreciated.
Stories of the miracles that transform people’s lives, because of the generosity of the community bring tears to Susan Foster-Dow, vice president of mission and strategy with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington. The goal in raising funds for Catholic Charities’ Annual Collection—now through Jan.—is to share those stories.

“We appeal for donations from the general public to support the work of Catholic Charities’ staff and to serve clients based on ‘need not creed,’ she said in a letter to Spokane-area Catholic Charities. “About 90 percent of clients and staff are not Catholic.”

The Collection, which is gathered from Nov. 15 into January, will fund Catholic Charities programs for all of 2019—from crisis response and emergency services through promoting stability through housing, food and care for seniors, to programs that advocate for people to improve their lives.

“The portal to stable housing for people who are experiencing homelessness is our shelter system with the House of Charity, Rising Strong and St. Margaret’s,” Susan said, adding that Catholic Charities also provides disaster response and emergency services.

“Rising Strong provides up to 18 months of shelter and programing for families who appear in court because of substance use or disorders impeding parenting. Using funds for housing and services, we help families stay together and heal through counseling, job training, education, child care and health treatment for substance abuse and other disorders,” she said.

Catholic Housing Community provides apartments for low-income seniors, people with disabilities and formerly chronically homeless individuals and families in Eastern Washington.

Through funds from tax credits, Catholic Charities has built Faith Haven, Bader Haven, Donna Hansen Haven, Sisters Haven in Spokane; Pope Francis Haven in Spokane Valley; St. Michael the Archangel Haven (for veterans and families) in Walla Walla; Desert Haven and Guadalupe Haven in Othello, and Tepyac Haven and Bishop Topel Haven in Pasco.

The Catholic Charities Collection provides funding for the social services for housing residents, as well as the dozen other programs of Catholic Charities throughout the region.

It has to do with Spokane, Catholic Charities provides services in Walla Walla, Pasco and the many smaller communities in the Catholic Diocese of Spokane. That includes Volunteer Chore Services, counseling, immigration and legal services, CAPA/ PREPARES and parish social ministry.

Susan said that CAPA (Childbirth and Parenting Assistance) and PREPARES (Pregnancy Parenting Resources) serve women and children from pregnancy through a child’s fifth birthday, as a pro-life approach designed to help end the cycle of intergenerational poverty. CAPA serves people in Spokane and Spokane PREPARES serves people through more than two-thirds of parishes in the diocese.

“Why do we do tangible,” said Susan, noting that the community can see how the support of people makes miracles happen inside the “haven” housing units, inside shelters and in their lives.

“We are focusing on and celebrating the miracles that happen as we support people,” she said.

“All day, every day, people come by and hand off diapers for CAPA, books or a meal for families in need of housing, and checks from a church or club group. The same day, those donations may go back out to people in need.”

Someone who walks in and needs a jacket, umbrella, or help with a utility bill or plane ticket to a relative’s funeral can receive that help through the parish social ministry office.

While some organizations have stopped doing direct service for a lack of funds, Susan said that Catholic Charities is able to leverage monetary and in-kind donations to do them.

“We can’t do that without the support of the community,” Susan said.

“We help to give people a home, because without a home address and place to feel safe, people find it hard to access and benefit from other services,” she said.

People in incredible suffering often do not know where to turn. A woman experiencing domestic violence may come with her children seeking a safe place to stay,” she said.

For 2018, the Collection raised $1.3 million.

“We are committed to our mission of offering dignity to every person as part of our Catholic social teaching, so we can provide assistance on a wet spring day or dry summer day,” she said.

Susan’s family lived in small towns in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming before they settled in Spokane so their children—four daughters—could have a Catholic education. She first became involved with Catholic Charities while attending Gonzaga Prep, volunteering to help people by giving them time and energy as her parents encouraged her to do.

At Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., she studied foreign service and diplomacy, specializing in China. After a graduate fellowship in Taiwan, she finished a master’s degree at Gonzaga University.

“I believed working on a global diplomatic level was important, and it is, but I am called now to work in my own backyard to improve my community,” Susan said of her involvement with Catholic Charities.

When she returned to Spokane, she immediately heard Donna Hanson, who was then the executive director of Catholic Charities.

Susan Foster-Dow promotes Catholic Charities’ Collection.

In addition to discussing the Catholic Charities Collection, Susan offered some clarification about recent changes at the House of Charity.

“It was unsustainable for us to do this in a safe and healthy way,” she said. “Now House of Charity is open seven days a week, and only closed during the day to clean. More people are on the streets as a result. We now have 25 men and about 50 women in the emergency sleeping shelter, providing meals, case management and support services.”

Meanwhile, the city is looking at opening shelters in more locations, rather than concentrating services in just one area of the community, Susan added.

Susan said of her involvement with Catholic Charities while attending Gonzaga Prep, “I believed working on a global diplomatic level was important, and it is, but I am called now to work in my own backyard to improve my community.” She has continued her involvement with Catholic Charities.

While she is Catholic and sees her work as an outgrowth of her faith, she said: “I take pride in the fact that Catholic Charities does not push any version of faith or religion on people in need.”

“Rather its focus is to provide help as people seek to improve their lives,” Susan said. Catholic Charities reaches out foster dignity and to break the cycle of poverty in the community today and in the future.

For information, call 358-4250 or email development@ccspokane.org.
For comments of Mayor David Con-
don, see online at thefigtree.org.

Faith leaders, Leaders of Conscience, Pastor express grief at shooting

Faith leaders surround Venerable Chodron, Millien OSF, and Naghmna Sherazi.

I hope I might dare to speak on behalf of so many gathered here as Christians.

I remember gathering together four years ago in response to the graphic violence done against this congregation. Since then, I have enjoyed many other gatherings of learning, fellowship, and faith—joyous times.

Tonight, we gather in mourning and with renewed resolve. After learning of the tragic shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue, I sent word to Rabbi Tamar and Rabbi Elizabeth that the members of Manito Presbyterian Church were outraged and that we would stand by you, that we are with you in soli-
darity and love.

By what design, accident, sequence of circumstances am I so very blessed?

I hope you to know that we deeply appreciate the work and mission of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society that helps refugees of all faiths even as we seek to support their resettlement here in Spokane through World Relief.

Speaking for your neighbors at Manito Presbyterian Church, it is without hesita-
tion and unaltered resolve that we condemn white supremacy and anti-Semitism in all of its forms—espe-
cially acts and attitudes of racist hatred and violence. It is with deep sadness that we recognize that hate crimes and acts of anti-Semitism are on the rise and, because of this, working against this growing evil requires renewed focus and constancy in our Christian churches. In this commitment we engage from community to community.

Your separate identity will foster your tribalism,

Those in power will cut your opportunities

So when ‘they’ speak out.

I’ll say no.

I’ll speak out.

Because I’m not you,

I’ll be there.

I’ll say no.

I’ll protest.

I’ll speak up.

I’ll protest.

I’ll speak up.

I’ll say yes.

I’ll be there.

I’ll say no.

I’ll protest.

I’ll speak up.

I’ll say yes.

I’ll be there.

I’ll say no.

I’ll protest.

I’ll speak up.

I’ll say yes.

I’ll be there.

I’ll say no.
Calendar of Events

Nov 29, Dec 13 • Eastern Washington Legislative Conference Planning Committee, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1:30 p.m., 535-4112, info@thefigtree.org

To Dec 17 • Tree of Sharing, pick up tags with gift requests at Riverpark Square, Northtown and Valley Malls, 808-4919, mcconnellts@gmail.com

Dec 1 • “Healing Racism Multicultural Responses in a Local Context,” Ana Hernandez, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., revmonica@saint-andrews.org

Dec 3 • Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra, Martin Williamson Theater at the Fox, 7:30 p.m., 624-1200, foxtheaterspokane.com

Dec 5 • International Human Rights Day 10th Anniversary, Bonner County Human Rights Task Force and the Foundation for Human Rights Action and Advocacy, “The Role of Journalism,” Sandpoint High School Auditorium, 1 to p.m., 208-347-6502, kbracew@gmail.com

Dec 11, 13, 15, 20 • Ornament Making and Decorating, 11th at North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne, 4 p.m., 13th at Otis Orchards Library, 2233 E. Wellesley, 3:30 p.m., 15th at Argonne Library, 4322 N. Argonne, 11 a.m., 20th at Spokane Valley Library, 12004 E. Main Ave., 4 p.m., 835-8390

Dec 12 • Hispanic Business/Professional Association lunch, Perkins at Division & Olive, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., hspbusiness@gmail.com

Dec 12-21 • Christmas Bureau, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, AG Building, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 534-4270, bkrause@ccspokane.org

Dec 13 • Showing Up for Racial Justice, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-8780

Jingle Books Donation Deadline, collection boxes around Coeur d’Alene, 208-964-4283, heartofc@comcast.net

Dec 15 • Handle’s “Messiah,” First Presbyterian Church, 316 S. Main, 1:30 p.m. Sing-along rehearsal, 3 p.m.

Dec 15, 16 • Singing Nuns, “Christmas Around the Globe,” Mt. St. Michael, 8500 N. St. Michael's Rd., 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 467-0966, singingnuns.com

Dec 16 • German American Service, Eberhart Schmidt and the Concordia Choir, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 314 E. 24th Ave., 3 p.m., 928-2955

“Messiah,” St. John’s Music Series, Kantorei Chancel Choir and Collegium Orchestra, directed by Timothy Westerhuis, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 3 p.m., 838-4277, spokane.kantorei@gmail.com

Dec 17 • NAACP Membership Meeting, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokna.org

Dec 18 • Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Holiday Party, 35 W. Main, 6 to 8 p.m., 838-7870

Dec 21 • “How Saint Nicholas Became Santa Claus,” Cocoa and Contemplation with children, parents and grandparents, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 620 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 448-1224, kparker@ihrc.net

Dec 29 • Winterfest: A Celebration of Holiday Traditions—Filipino, Norwegian, Bulgarian/Russian, Italian, German, Guatemalan, Chinese, African-American, Coeur d’Alene Tribe traditions, Riverpark Square Mall, 4 to 7 p.m., 928-9664, charity@thefamilyguide.org

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

December 2018 - Spokanepublicradio.org

Wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Joy-Filled New Year

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Joy-Filled New Year

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

A Peaceful Place to Pray and Purify

6910 S Ben Burr Rd, Spokane, WA 99223

(509) 448-1224

or online at www.ihrcenter.org

Visit our Virtual Retreat online

“LISTEN”

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING

ALL SEASON LONG

MORE INFORMATION AT SPOKANEPUBLICRADIO.ORG

SPOKANE PUBLIC RADIO

December 2018 - The Fig Tree - Page 11

C H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr.
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN

Spokane, WA 99207

497-9863 OR 484-5221

Corazon Scarves Boutique!

Look Beautiful! Do Good! Scarves, trips and more! www.corazonscarves.com

in program of Amigos de Corazan WA 501c3

Gift Baskets

Locally owned nutrition stores since 1977

Valley

North

South

533-0544

533-0544

538-4661

522-3655

522-3655

599-325-4443
The Red Cross mobilizes people from around the United States and from American Samoa. They come together to work as a team. John has worked with many of the same people on different disasters.

“When we get a call, we find out who is going. Relationships help. We know each other’s strengths and weaknesses from working and spending evenings together,” he said.

Red Cross volunteers are there for support clients. It’s the worst time in their lives, John said. “Nothing is more devastating than to lose everything and not know what to do next. If they lose their driver’s license or ID, they can’t cash checks or withdraw money,” he said. “We help people focus so they make informed decisions. We don’t make decisions for them. We identify barriers for them and mobilize resources to assist. We support local governments who run the response and nonprofits who support the disaster response.”

“The Red Cross is multi-faceted, so John also responds locally and in the state when there are fires. As a part of a Disaster Assistance Team (DAT), he takes calls from people who may be neighbors and friends with wild fires and house fires.

“We respond to twice as many people in house fires, as in disasters,” he said. “Big disasters get press, but it’s as devastating to lose your house in a fire here as to lose a house in a major disaster. The feelings are the same, but the support system is better, because others are not affected.

“For big disasters, there are three days of media coverage, then none, but everyone is still devastated,” he said.

Space heaters can actually increase your winter bill if used improperly. Only use them to heat a single, occupied room, and be sure to lower the temperature setting on your furnace while the space heater’s in use.

For more ways to save this winter, visit myavista.com/winterbill.