

38TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest
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Professor invites dialogue, respect

By Marijke Fakasiieiki

In teaching classes, speaking at symposia and publishing insights, Scott Finnie, professor in Africana studies at Eastern Washington University (EWU), feels called to create Martin Luther King Jr.'s beloved community.

His approach is to validate students and others, to draw them into interaction and dialogue in which they ask and answer questions.

"I want to help people discover not just what they think but why they think what they think. How did they reach their conclusion on Black Lives Matter and how do they justify it," said Scott.

"Most people change their dynamic if they see where they are and where they want to be," he said. "Unless there's self-reflection in an education setting, there won't be much education."

Educate comes from "educare," which means "to draw out."

For Scott, that happens by engaging students' thought processes and critical thinking to find out how they think, reflect on and judge their own thinking before they assess a subject.

To have students reflect on affirmative action, the death penalty



For Scott Finnie, "education" means "to draw out," invite self-reflection.

or the Black Panthers, critical thinking is key, he said.

Through his company, Engaging Teen Concepts, he offers diversity training and presentations that show the power of communication and mutuality at high schools, community colleges, police departments, universities, courts, medical groups and more.

EWU's Africana Studies Program and Scott's teaching have evolved over the years. In 1991, he began a master's in American history on civil rights history at EWU. That challenged him to consider teaching. In 1992, he started teaching in the Black Studies Program, which later became African Studies, then African-American Studies and now is Africana Studies.

"Africana" refers to African Americans, and the 54 nations of Africa and people of African descent transplanted to the Caribbean and Latin America.

After Scott earned a doctoral degree in 2000 on the U.S. civil rights movement in Gonzaga University's leadership studies program, he became a full-time faculty member at EWU.

In 2007, he earned tenure as Continued on page 4

Martin Luther King Day goes online bringing words of challenge, dreaming

By Mary Stamp

For Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2022, Gonzaga, Eastern Washington, and Whitworth universities and the Martin Luther King Community Center collaborated to present "A Dream Remembered: The Past, Present and Future of Black Excellence" Jan. 17.

About 80 gathered on Zoom to celebrate King's life, legacy and leadership, guided through words, songs and dance by Tere Graham, Gonzaga's program manager for social justice programming at Unity Multicultural Education Center.

Jackie Lee, GU Black Student Union president read a poem, "Soldier for Civil Rights," describing exhaustion in the fight: "I get up and I'm shot down. I get up again and I'm shot down." When black leaders are not heard, she said, "I'm only toughened by my scars that turn to steel. I wonder what it would be like to not always have to be a soldier."

Robin Kelley, Gonzaga's new chief diversity officer, said King challenged racism, poverty and militarism, seeking to end them with nonviolence and civil disobedience.

"Civil disobedience is resisting obedience to unjust government demands with nonviolent means," she said, quoting King: "Civil disobedience is not lawlessness, but a higher form of lawfulness that brings about obedience to bring human laws to conform with divine laws."

While the global pandemic, Jan. 6 insurrection, voter suppression laws and 7,759 hate crimes in 2021 highlighted inequities, Robin sees changes: The FBI warns about white supremacist groups. Shifting demographics will make America multicultural by 2042.

King, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was arrested 29 times, saw nonviolent response as crucial and twice as effective as violence in changing lives, relationships and communities.

Robin said nonviolence is not passivity or acceptance. It's about working in solidarity and inclusion despite being knocked down.

Janese Howard, a Shadle Park High School student, admires MLK for standing for Continued on page 7

Speakers offer an overview of issues before legislature

At the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, gathering about 140 people from faith communities in the region, Kristin Ang of the Faith Action Network (FAN), Mario Villeneuve and Donna Christensen of the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC), and Jessica Zimmerle of Earth Ministry/Interfaith Power and Light gave an overview of issues coming before the 2022 Washington State Legislature from Jan. 10 to March 10.

Donna and Mario presented WSCC priorities: the state budget, respecting life, human dignity, aging people, people with disabilities, immigration, education, restorative justice, health care, economic justice, children and families, affordable housing, workers' rights and care for God's creation.

Mario said they support increasing the personal needs allocation for state financial care from \$1,000 to \$2,382, still less than the cost of living: \$2,900 per person. He said the Catholic bishops oppose proposals to expand access to assisted suicide, such as reducing the waiting time. WSCC supports bills expanding broadband access and overseeing permanent supportive care.

Donna discussed bills to provide a monthly diaper subsidy for parents and caregivers, to protect renters from excessive rent and fee increases and to allow unaccompanied or homeless youth to receive health care without parental consent.

Mario also pointed to the need for more permanent supportive housing to reduce homelessness, assuring better outcomes for people struggling with housing and other issues with the assistance of case managers and 24-hour staff.

For information, visit wacatholics.org.

Jessica is working with WSCC and FAN on bills to promote environmental justice.

The Growth Management Act includes climate change in up- Continued on page 3

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
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Churches pray for Tonga after volcano impact

Churches from the Pacific Islands and across the world continued to pray for support and care as Tonga copes with the aftermath of the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano on Jan. 14 that triggered up to 15-meter tsunami waves that hit parts of the archipelago. Other Pacific islands and Pacific Rim countries were also affected by the tsunami.

"Most outside communication was disrupted," said the Rev. James Bhagwan, general secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches, asking people to continue to pray for Tonga and the Pacific in the midst of challenging activity in the Pacific Ring of Fire, cyclone season, COVID-19 and climate change, he said.

On social media, Lord Fakafanua, speaker of the House in Tonga's Legislative Assembly, wrote: "Tonga needs immediate assistance to provide fresh drinking water and food. Details on a disaster relief fund will be announced so those looking to help can contribute to relief efforts."

In a pastoral letter to church leaders and people in Tonga, World Council of Churches (WCC) acting general secretary Ioan Sauca expressed solidarity: "In the midst of chaos and uncertainties, be assured of the constant prayers of the worldwide ecumenical movement. We stand in solidarity with you. We pray God will guide churches and political bodies responding to people's needs as the needs change in the coming days." In face of seeming insurmountable challenges, he urged Tongans to not lose hope.

Support given to close Guantanamo Bay prison

The WCC supports a renewed call issued by interreligious leaders from the United States for the prison at Guantanamo Bay to be closed, and for justice for those being held. In a Jan. 11 letter from, among more than two dozen others, the National Council of Churches (USA), T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and Islamic Society of North America, religious leaders called for President Biden to ensure that all people held at Guantanamo Bay are either released, agree to a plea deal or receive a fair trial in a federal court.

"Many people sent to Guantanamo were never involved in terrorism," the letter reads. "Even today, 20 years after the prison opened, most prisoners have never been tried or convicted of any crime." The letter said that, although the right to a trial is a bedrock American value, it has been denied to those at Guantanamo. It urges U.S. leaders to uphold American values.

Volume looks at history of ecumenism

A webinar organized by the WCC Jan. 18 to 25 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, introduced "A History of the Desire for Christian Unity: Vol 1: Dawn of Ecumenism," the first of three volumes on the history of ecumenism. It traces long-term roots of ecumenism from the 19th century and into the heart of the 20th, helping people understand and be acquainted with the past to look forward to the future of ecumenism.

Pandemic has impact on the world's churches

On Jan. 20, Ioan Sauca, WCC acting general secretary, joined "The Pandemic, the WCC and Global Health," a discussion at the Institute for Ecumenical Studies of Angelicum University. "Since the pandemic started, the WCC has, while mostly working remotely, reoriented its work to equip the world's churches to address health care and pastoral challenges posed by the pandemic and to minister in the presence of illness, death and disruption," he said. "Since churches and the WCC are into health and healing, a Ministry Support Team was assembled."

He said digital innovations have enabled the WCC's programs to work together virtually with their constituencies.

"From the pandemic, we have learned of our shared vulnerability—and shared fate—as one humanity," Ioan said. "We feel more keenly the fragility of human life. Now we all more consciously value the connections we share with each other in family and community, nation and world. Perhaps the pandemic will seed a new readiness for real social change and commitment to our one humanity in this one world."

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Benefit theme is 'Spreading Seeds of Hope'

The Fig Tree's virtual Spring Benefit Events in 2022 are 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Friday, March 4 on YouTube Live, and 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., Wednesday, March 9 on Zoom.

For both events, there will be a gathering time before the program for people to meet and converse in small groups. The Fig Tree is recruiting people to host those groups as a way to help us invite people.

The speakers are people who were featured in Fig Tree articles in 2021-2022. They will give brief comments on the theme, "Spreading Seeds of Hope."

For 2022, The Fig Tree is partnering with Hamilton Studio to pre-record videos of speakers and prepare a promotional video. The Friday event will be online live on YouTube from their studio. After the events, the presentations will be available online.

Speakers are: Jeanette Hauck, CEO of YWCA Spokane; Mark Finney pastor and refugee resettlement leader; Ginger Ewing of Terrain; Benjamin Watson of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church; Gen Heywood, conveyor of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience and pastor of Veradale United Church of

Christ; Cam Zorroza and Virla Spencer, founders of The Way to Justice; Walter Kendricks, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church and organizer with Spokane Coalition Against Racism, and David Gortner, pastor of St. Luke Lutheran in Coeur d'Alene.

The video will feature an inside view on the staff, board, writers and volunteers' commitment to share stories of people who are making a difference and to connect people with each other and with resources that improve their lives.

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

Jewish Film Festival presents 11 films

Spokane Area Jewish Family Services (SAJFS) presents the 18th annual Spokane Jewish Cultural Film Festival (SJCF) Thursday, Feb. 17 to 27 in a hybrid format, pending COVID-19 conditions.

An opening night screening and post-film discussion are in person with COVID precautions at the Garland Theater, and virtual access to films and programs. The festival offers in-person schmoozing and watching films on the big screen, plus the convenience of attending

virtually," said Neal Schindler, director of SAJFS.

There are six feature films and five shorts, the most ever for the festival. Films include "Pops" and Q&A with director Lewis Rose, "A Jew Walks into a Bar" and discussion with director Jon Miller, "Kiss Me Kosher" and discussion with Elizabeth Goldstein, plus "Neighbors," "American Birthright" and "A Starry Sky above the Roman Ghetto."

"The film festival enhances the cultural life for the Jewish community and the region as a

whole," he said. "It's more than a cultural event because proceeds support SAJFS human services like check-in phone calls, client consultations, advocacy, transportation, a food bank, and rent and utility assistance for families and individuals facing challenges.

Since 2005, the festival has shared the diversity of Jewish life and culture with the community, said Neal.

For information, call 747-7394, email director@sajfs.org or visit the festival website at sjcff2022.eventive.org.

Homeless Connect is rescheduled March 1

The 10th Annual Spokane Homeless Connect, originally set for Thursday, Jan. 27, has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, at the Convention and Expo Center because of the skyrocketing number of COVID cases.

Spokane Homeless Connect is a project of the Spokane Homeless Coalition with more than 1,400 individuals and 100 agencies, ministries and churches serving the homeless and marginalized in Spokane County.

"We planned every precaution we could to ensure safety, but COVID cases aren't expected to peak before the end of the month, making it too dangerous for guests and service providers," said Kari Stevens, chair of the organizing committee,

"We didn't make this decision lightly, because we're aware that needs among our homeless friends have grown and intensified in the last two years," she said

The City of Spokane is also postponing the Point In Time

count and coordinating it with the new date.

Each Homeless Connect offers a variety of services under one roof for anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. It brings together volunteers and case-workers from many nonprofits and service providers who serve the goal of ending homelessness, she said.

For information, call 458-2509 or email kari.stevens@dshs.wa.gov.

Jewels Helping Hands opens new space

Jewels Helping Hands opened its new space at 1817 E. Springfield on Feb. 1 and will announce an open house, said Julie Garcia, executive director.

They need help with moving their operations: a food bank,

clothing bank, bus program, laundry cards and showers.

Service providers support the clients on site. People can pick up sack lunches, food, supplies, clothing, hygiene products, sleeping bags and other necessities.

"We need desks in service provider rooms. We will have conference rooms and computer services so people experiencing homelessness can access the internet," Julie said.

Jewels needs storage racks and

bins, shelves, coffee urns, restaurant equipment, a walk-in freezer and supplies to serve food.

They also seek more volunteers to help sort clothing, make outreach bags, interact with clients and serve food.

"This is a community building for service providers and persons regardless of their housing status," Julie said.

For information, call 263-5502 or email jewelshelpinghands@gmail.com.

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Interfaith panel looks at issues of concern and impact of faith teachings

Buddhist, Christian, Muslim and Jewish panelists conversed at the January Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on issues and challenges in mobilizing their communities to act.

Melissa Opel, one of three volunteer ministers assistants at the Spokane Buddhist Temple, a Jodu Shinshu Buddhist Temple, sees ongoing prejudices to the Asian American Pacific Islander community reminiscent of the landscape that led to the incarceration Japanese-American citizens in World War II.

She said this sangha's school of Buddhism in the U.S. addresses prejudice against the Asian community. The temple is sensitive because its founding reverend experienced incarceration. Having the temple shut its religious services in COVID has cut people from a safe haven, especially in today's divisiveness.

Naghmana Sherazi, of Muslims for Community Action and Support (MCAS) described the Spokane Islamic Center as an "umbrella for Muslims from around the world," with different languages, cultures and foods. Many are cautious in addressing issues because of Islamophobia.

"We prefer to fly under the radar on issues, but as immigrants, we are a welcoming community to newcomers," she said. "With

refugees and asylum seekers in our community, we are concerned about social justice.

"When we pray, we stand shoulder to shoulder to show all are equal in the sight of God, but the pandemic has made it difficult to congregate according to our tradition," she said.

Jeremy Press Taylor, a member of the Conservative tradition Temple Beth Shalom and Reform tradition Congregation Emanu-El, is studying for a master's in social work at Eastern Washington University and organizing the Spokane Jewish Coalition for Social Justice.

He said the Jewish community in Spokane affirms that all are made in God's image and deserve human rights. Their community is supporting Afghan refugees coming to Spokane.

Benjamin Watson, his family's seventh generation of preachers in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, said nationally the AME Church is an activist faith community. New to Spokane, he is developing partnerships. For him, top concerns tend to be challenging stereotypes, housing redlining and economic injustices.

"The church is a centerpiece in our community. Christians are to be involved," he said. "We can't separate religion and politics."

Panel moderator Anastasia Wendler of Gonzaga University Religious Studies asked about overcoming obstacles and about responding to issues without making waves because of religious, cultural, racial and historical fears.

Benjamin said, "Where there is a small population of African Americans, as here, response is different from in Atlanta, where there are more African Americans so the black voice is heard."

Melissa noted Buddhist teachings get in the way of social justice, but the temple is passionate to assist with low- or no-barrier resources for homeless people.

"Buddhist teachings say we need to change from within. We are ignorant and may make a situation worse if we join or launch a campaign," she said. "From Buddhist teachings, we want to do no harm. In acting, we may not know all the conditions."

While the Christian community understands from Paul that each person needs to be transformed within by renewing their minds, the faith community needs to "ensure wellbeing for all," Benjamin said.

Jeremy said sometimes it's wise to step back and get past polite conversations.

"Different communities may not understand each other, and different people inside our own congregations also need to understand each other," he said. "We need relationships so we

can grow together in understanding and strategically engage with others in stronger actions for social justice."

Naghmana said Islam focuses on community and service, so inter-communal relationships are important. In the Spokane Islamic Center, many like her are involved in the community and work with community groups. With MCAS, she helps many connect with people in need.

On the environment, Benjamin said people from African descent, like indigenous people, recognize they are one with the earth and need to care for what they were created from.

"As individuals recognize they are one with the earth, we will see changes," he said.

Melissa said "a main teaching of Buddhism is to free all sentient beings from suffering, so naturally Buddhism is about ecological care. We need to be stewards of the earth. It is what sustains us if we want to breathe and eat."

Jeremy added the Jewish community partners with organizations that support the environment and river cleanup.

Panelists told of partnering. **Naghmana works** with the Faith Action Network to inform people on legislative bills, to understand pros and cons on issues, to meet and hold legislators accountable for their votes and to give testimony on bills.

"It's important because we are affected by decisions," she said.

Melissa said the Spokane Buddhist Temple is small, with just 30 members, so it is involved in small actions, such as collecting coats, gloves and hats for homeless people through Jewels

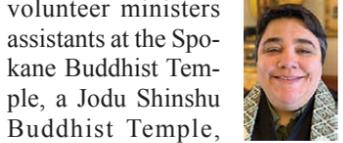
Helping Hands.

Benjamin said local AME congregations encourage individuals to be involved in the community, while looking to the wider church leadership to support with acting on national issues.

Jeremy explained: "Coming from an exodus tradition, we want to welcome strangers and are partnering with Refugee Connections. Because of our concern about racism and anti-Semitism, we have a robust relationship with the NAACP Spokane, and share the struggle for racial justice and human rights," he said. "We also work with the Spokane Alliance on affordable housing, health care and just wages, and with the Spokane Human Rights Commission."

"Our tradition offers a clear template on how to treat people. We believe in justice and treating all with dignity in the path to freedom," he said. "No one is free until everyone is free."

The full discussion is online through thefigtree.org videos.



Advocates focus on common issue priorities

Continued from page 1
dates to comprehensive planning. The Lorraine Loomis Act for Salmon Recovery Act requires zones around rivers and streams to have trees and vegetation to keep the water cool.

The Renew Recycling Act reduces plastics wastes 100 percent by 2031 by fees on packaging manufacturers.

The Energy for All Act caps energy bills for low-income customers at 3 percent of household income.

Contact earthministry.org. **Kristin**, FAN's new policy engagement director, suggested that people can follow FAN's priorities, racial equity and economic justice, and the status of bills on its legislative agenda

online at fanwa.org. **Economic justice issues** include expanding free lunches, create a multilingual online tool for applications, increasing safety net supports of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), increase Aged, Blind and Disabled monthly cash grants, making paid family and medical leave more equitable, expanding the Working Families Tax Credit, a Tax on Excessive Wealth (over \$1 billion), and making colleges more affordable and equitable, she said.

Reforms to criminal justice call for having an Independent Prosecution Unit prosecute deadly force by police, and addressing police officer accountability, solitary confinement and

juvenile sentencing. Housing/homeless acts include the Housing Justice Act to prohibit discrimination against people with prior convictions.

Civil and human rights concerns include equal access to health care for all low-income people regardless of immigration status, unemployment benefits for undocumented workers, protecting low-income people and people with disabilities from utility disconnections, and bills for gun responsibility and missing indigenous persons.

Other bills offer more equitable health care access, to ensure that future hospital consolidations do not restrict certain kinds of care, and to improve health-care worker safety and patient care.

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'Education is the purest act of love'

Continued from page 1
 associate professor and in 2010, he became a professor. In 2014, he became director of the department.

Scott, who came from Oakland to play basketball at Gonzaga, said that now, in teaching African and African-American history at EWU, he focuses on issues of social justice, related to racial inequity, affirmative action and grassroots civil rights movements. For him, that's under the umbrella of activism through servant leadership.

He believes "all people of God are at a round table where there is interaction, acceptance and trust."

His ethos of a round table rather than one-way education influences Scott's interactions to foster interdependence and mutuality as he meets people, teaches a class or speaks to an audience.

"Education is the purest act of love. I want to learn about you. As a servant leader, I listen. I treasure people and get to know them to honor and validate them," Scott said.

"Once someone feels honored and validated, they have a boost to reach their potential and capacity. That is what Christ did by becoming human and dying for us, because he treasured our potential and our capacity," he said.

As a Bible-believing Christian, Scott studies church history and the Greek language, the original text of the New Testament.

"I love the Bible and things related to my Savior," said Scott. "I became a Christian at age 14 after my older brother died and I wondered, 'What is the meaning of human life?'"

That experience opened him to spiritual reality as he asked, "What is our origin, purpose and destiny? Where did we come from? Where are we now? Where will we be going?"

To answer those questions, he realized he had to seek Christ. His experience of receiving the Lord shaped his education, career and reaching out to people.

To him, incarnation means "we are here to reach out and communicate. God becoming human shows that credentials, achievements, attainments or degrees can be either barriers or bridges."

Scott said the greatest lesson in the Bible is that it is better to be a bridge, so to communicate these topics to students, he focuses on interaction.

He also has published his research. In 2019, he co-authored a book, *Unlocking the Master Narrative*, with Angela Wissner

from Spokane Community Colleges Communications Program.

The theme was to help people see how Eurocentrism presented a narrow narration of history, marginalizing or making invisible non-European people.

Their focus in the book is to connect history with communication studies.

"Martin Luther King Jr. said most of our race problems stem from our not knowing how to communicate with each other," Scott said.

The book offers a bridge for people to move out of "the blinding nature of the master narrative."

"Often there's no validation of the black experience because the master narrative or Eurocentric perspective wipes out the African narrative or lived experience," he said. "Some in the white community don't have an experience of the black community, so they receive their narrative from a validating perspective."

In journals, Scott has also published more than 12 articles about teaching on a predominantly white campus, affirmative action, civil rights and servant leadership.

He has spoken on affirmative action, black mass incarceration and a comparative study of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X at universities in Oxford, England; Glasgow, Scotland; Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Brisbane, Australia.

"As an African American, it is a golden opportunity once I show people of European descent that I am there to open up a brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity," said Scott.

"Our warped history and narrative has divided us, allowing privilege for some and disadvantage for others. I point a finger at the context and imbalance we inherit," said Scott.

"When I speak of my white brothers and sisters, that melts down the wall of fear and the stereotype of a black man trying to tell a white person, he or she is the problem," he said.

"As brothers and sisters, we can have meaningful dialogue," Scott explained.

For him, the key to change is trust, because, with trust, real dialogue produces mutuality. That approach advances African

American history.

"By sitting down to dialogue, we can learn our contexts. If we can see we've inherited a mess, then as brothers and sisters we can step back as objective social scientists, and look at the tree in front of us," he said.

For Scott, the murder of George Floyd was horrible, a lynching watched on a cell phone.

"What is it about whiteness and police authority that has created a lack of justice in this country. Let's step back and see it, not just as one incident. There are many episodes that we are mourning," he said, calling for systemic change that comes from people seeing systemic issues.

"Who are you? Who am I? What do we think? We need to collectively move forwards and upwards," said Scott, who is hopeful.

"I engage in an educational exchange based on the potential of the human heart. Prejudice is a sickness of the human heart. Self-reflection moves us to reverse inequity through dialogue," Scott said.

"To look at history is to look at human nature. To look at human nature is to look at ourselves," he said. "By looking at history, human nature and ourselves, we are overwhelmed by one basic common theme: the ironic inconsistencies of human nature.

"Each of us—individually and as groups—is a walking paradox," said Scott.

He believes that bias, discrimination and prejudice related to fear, ignorance, insecurity, cultural myopia and selfishness can be remedied.

Fear can be remedied by exposure, ignorance by formal and informal education, insecurity by dignity, cultural myopia by immersion and selfishness by sacrifice, he said.

For Scott, the remedies are found in Martin Luther King Jr.'s steps to the beloved community: 1) know the difference between hearing and listening, 2) spark trust by validating others, 3) develop trust that allows for true mutuality and 4) celebrate differences as strengths, not as liabilities.

For information, call 879-5170 or email finniescott@gmail.com.

ORGANIC METHODS

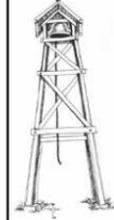
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Professor is a wilderness guide leading students to explore natural world

By Asher Ali

Jonathan Moo likens teaching students theology and environmental studies at Whitworth University to being a wilderness guide, taking them places he has been, but letting them explore, discover and come to their own conclusions.

For 11 years at Whitworth, he has taught courses that focus on the New Testament, Greek and exegesis, faith in relation to science, ecology and environmental ethics. He guides students through questions that led him to pursue creation care, but lets them decide for themselves what the best way is for them to answer their own questions.

As a wilderness guide teacher, he also hopes students might come to love the places he takes them the way he does, but “it’s ultimately their journey to find new paths and new ways of looking at the landscapes we explore,” Jonathan said.

For him, part of being a wilderness guide means taking his students into the natural world.

Jonathan leads a class in the Cascade Mountains every other January, where he brings students from many sides of the science-faith spectrum to explore the beauty of the mountains and the relationship between science, faith and ecology. The opportunity to see students from diverse backgrounds and beliefs make new connections between science and faith and to begin to love and understand the natural world is why Jonathan loves teaching.

He also draws on his graduate training in both wildlife ecology and biblical studies in a number of books and articles he has written, including his 2018 book, *Creation Care: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World*. The book analyzes biblical texts from a perspective focused on the entirety of God’s creation rather than just human beings.

Jonathan’s aim is to draw attention to how God’s love and purposes for the whole creation mean that Christians have an obligation to care for the earth because God created the world to serve more than just humanity.

“The world is not simply a backdrop for the human drama, but all of creation is caught up in the drama of Scripture, from the beginning until the final vision of a new creation in which all things are made new,” Jonathan said.

This call to action started in the form of questions he had when he was younger. His father, Douglas Moo, who co-wrote the book, *Creation Care*, with Jonathan, has been a scholar of the New Testament for 40 years and is the Kenneth Wessner professor of the New Testament at Wheaton College Graduate School.

While Jonathan was growing up in Illinois, his parents often took him outside, sparking his love for the natural world. He



Jonathan Moo hopes students follow his path to creation care.

learned there is never a question relating to theology that’s off the table for a Christian to ask, because solving these problems helps Christians grow in faith.

“My parents had a profound impact on me. They showed me what it means to follow Christ in a context where no question was off-limits and where there was no suggestion that Christian faith and science could not go together,” Jonathan said. “In fact, the Christian faith provides a basis for doing good science. The example my parents set and seeing my father’s work as a biblical scholar prepared me to follow in his footsteps and study scripture and theology myself.”

Jonathan’s interest in theology came later in his academic journey. In master’s studies in wildlife ecology at Utah State University, he wrestled with his faith and with the apathy and apparent failure of the Christian church to take seriously ecology, climate change and the responsibility to care for the earth.

“I was fascinated with the natural world and moved by the ethical challenges science threw up for me,” Jonathan said. “I found myself asking bigger questions about how science and faith go together. The more I studied the natural world and recognized threats to it, the more I longed to see Christians take more of a lead in restoring our relationship to the earth and caring well for it as part of our love of God and love of neighbor.”

After graduating from Utah State, Jonathan went to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston and then to the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, where he earned a doctoral degree in biblical studies and studied early Jewish and Christian conceptions of the natural world.

He then worked at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion on a project exploring the connection between Christian faith and environmental studies.

natural disasters in a biblical light to see how Christians might understand and respond to disaster,” Jonathan said. “The hope is to think better about how to respond and engage in times like these and to prepare for and, where possible, prevent and mitigate the impact of future potential triggers of disaster.”

He challenges the idea of a cosmic fall, which is sometimes derived from Genesis 3, and used to excuse human involvement in and responsibility for disasters like the current pandemic.

The pandemic made educators’ jobs like Jonathan’s more challenging as they shifted their teaching online or to hybrid formats. It was difficult for his classes, so he was glad to return to in-person classes this year.

He has been pleased to see his students continue to excel despite the challenges of this time.

Jonathan said his students encourage and inspire him. That along with his delight in the natural world and biblical faith, enables him to do his work with joy and hope for the future.

He believes the Christian hope for the reconciliation for all things in Christ can inspire and sustain faithful work to care for creation.

Jonathan said that it is easy for environmental activists and climate justice advocates to grow discouraged, and Christians, too, lament injustice and all that is lost and being lost, but biblical hope can inspire Christians to persevere even in dark times.

“Redemption is not a concept of human beings escaping this world, but instead of this world being restored,” he said. “This can enable perseverance, hope and even joy in this world in all of its brokenness. This world is still beautiful and good, and God hasn’t given up on it.”

His passion for creation care and teaching led him to his role as professor of theology and environmental studies at Whitworth University. In 2014, he was Whitworth’s Innovative Teacher of the Year, and the classes of 2018 and 2020 named him Most Influential Professor.

In September 2019, Jonathan became the Lindaman Chair, a role that rotates through Whitworth’s senior faculty every four years. It gives professors time for research and expanding their sphere of influence on national discourse on their topics. He often speaks on Christianity, climate change and the environment.

As Lindaman chair, Jonathan focuses on studies relating to the book of Revelation, climate change and a new project on belonging and limits.

He explores how Christians’ understanding of belonging shapes students’ engagement with each other, God, technology and the natural world. He seeks to discover what limitations humans might embrace for their own flourishing and the flourishing of the rest of creation.

During the pandemic, he worked on natural disasters.

“With COVID-19, I returned to work I had done on framing

He is a keynote speaker for the “Hope for Creation” Conference the Cathedral of St. John is hosting April 22 and 23.

For information, email jmoo@whitworth.edu.

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Symphony offers variety

The Spokane Symphony is hosting multiple concerts in February with its own musicians and other groups at Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox and off-site with something for everyone, from the comedy of Patton Oswalt to a variety of music, said Alison Highberger, public relations manager.

Music includes Spokane Symphony and Northwest BachFest classical offerings, and country music Feb. 24 with Collin Raye and The Frontmen of Country, benefitting Cancer Care Northwest Foundation, to Beatles vs. Stones: A Musical Showdown Feb. 26.

The Spokane Symphony's Masterworks 5 Concert, conducted by music director James Lowe, features concertmaster Mateusz Wolski performing a solo selection from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D major, Op.35. Free tickets for Masterworks concerts are available to people 18 or younger, said Alison.

"Mimosas and Masterworks" on Saturday, Feb. 5, is a behind-the-scenes glimpse at an orchestra's final rehearsal.

James' LoweDown Talk Thursday, Feb. 3, at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture previews the Masterworks 5 concerts.

For information, call 842-2943 or visit spokanesymphony.org.

MOW has new director, building and kitchen

Beth Alcorn, executive director of Mid-City Concerns Meals on Wheels, has retired and the Board of Directors has named Owen Esperas, whose experience in nonprofit leadership includes Second Harvest.

Beginning as a board member and becoming a care manager before being director, she led Mid-City through obstacles and gave it a solid foundation.

In 2019, the roof needed to be rebuilt. When COVID struck, staff faced both construction and the pandemic.

The board redesigned the meals program and kitchen, so all meals are freshly cooked in the new building.

As associate director, Owen was key in the kitchen improvements and has worked closely

with Beth for months.

For information, call 456-6597 or visit mowspokane.org.

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Universities host online MLK Day speakers on 'A Dream Remembered'

Continued from page 1
truth, fairness and equality. Before singing, "What a Wonderful World," she said "if his dream became reality, this world would be a wonderful world."

Scott Finnie, head of EWU's Africana Studies Department, reflected on the past and King's awareness that "there were many ugly pages in American history that were obscured and forgotten, but America owes a debt to African Americans." He asserted "this country could be great but lacks the indispensable element of greatness, which is justice."

With 225 years of slavery until 1865, segregation lasted from 1619 to 1964.

"Jim Crow separated people by more than skin color. It also separated them by the mythical idea that blacks were inferior. Jim Crow was a fictitious character played by white minstrels, portraying blacks as mindless buffoons," he said.

King went after both outward and inward characterizations of the myth of inferiority. In his "I Have a Dream" speech and others, he sought to change African Americans inside, Scott said.

"**King used nonviolence** as a powerful, just weapon that cuts without wounding, because wounding leads to more physical violence. Non-violence ennobles the one who wields it, transforming leaders, inspiring, mobilizing and empowering us to look at ourselves," he continued.

For too long African Americans saw themselves through others' perceptions, measuring their soul by how the world saw them with amusement and contempt, he said. MLK and Malcolm X changed black's interior perceptions so they could sit at the table with others.

King thought justice would come as systems of injustice were overturned.

Scott calls for "rising up again" and embracing activism as the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act have now been suspended in 19 states.

"We still need to work to bring the imperative of justice and dignity for all," he said.

Michael Betheley, co-chair of the Inland Northwest Juneteenth Coalition, quoted King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that. Be light and love."

"Our reality was once someone's dream for hope, for education, to own land, to raise children. They desired strongly to change, exceed their limits, break their bonds and chains. A dream is not a mirage. It can be attained. Make your dream a reality," he challenged.

Freda Gandy, director of the MLK Community Center, reminisced how usually 3,000



Robin Kelley



Freda Gandy



Stephy Nobles Beans

Photo of Scott Finnie on p. 1.

people would gather at the Spokane Convention Center before marching on the streets.

"We can still make space to honor MLK, which our center does 365 days a year," she said.

"**I came to the MLK Center** 21 years ago as a single mother with a four-year-old and began to volunteer," said Freda, who came at 18 from Mississippi, not knowing she would go days before she saw another person of color

At EWU, she studied social work to be a school counselor. She said Scott's mentoring and meeting other students of color

gave her a sense of belonging.

Today the MLK Community Center is a 52-year-old nonprofit social service agency that began as a drop-in recreation center as a safe place for youth. It is a comprehensive social service agency.

The center improves the quality of life for children, youth and families through culturally responsive educational and social services under King's vision of equal respect, treatment and accessibility for all.

It serves three-year-olds to adults in their 80s, offering early learning, before and after school programs, family services, senior services, a community court and a food bank.

"I encourage people to get involved with the center 365 days," she said. "In addition to our diverse staff who represent the multicultural, multiethnic people we serve, we need volunteers."

By sharing her story as a stressed single mother on public assistance, Freda communicates her understanding of parents as she seeks to help them be the best parents they can be. She is grateful for all the mentors who listened and helped her be the leader she is today.

"Although we can't have a rally and march, I am thankful we can gather to honor MLK and his dream, which is our responsibility each and every day," she said.

Mona Martin of the Spokane Children's Dance Center danced with a colorful dress and banners to words and music on King's dream.

Stephy Nobles Beans, associate chaplain for diversity equity and inclusion ministries at Whitworth University, author and screenwriter, praised King's dream that his four children would be judged by the content of their character and all would be seen as created equal.

"Looking at the past, present and future, we see the legacy of heroes and sheroes, leaders and trailblazers of black excellence who gave their best," she said. "They left a path for young people to follow with their blood and tears, their rallies and protests. They lifted their voices to sing for justice, freedom and equality."

"**From the tapestry of slavery**, bearing in 400 years of pain, black youth can weave a tapestry for the future, remembering they are from the legacy of kings

and queens," Stephy said, challenging them to remember they are future stakeholders, leaders, creators and professionals.

"**Remember and dream.** You are the innovators and entrepreneurs who will impact our future and the world because you are young, gifted and blessed. I dare you to dream. You are the future. You are black excellence," she added, sharing her message for

black young people, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to be the best they can be.

"**We need all voices**," she affirmed in closing. "It's not just a black thing. It's not a white thing. It's about all people remembering the dream."

For information, call 313-5836, email umec@gonzaga.edu or visit mlkspokane.org

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Lunar New Year returns after 89 years

For the first time since 1933, Spokane will celebrate Lunar New Year in Downtown Spokane. Festivities begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 5, at Riverfront Park's Central Pavilion.

There will be Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultural organizations, artists, food trucks and performers, plus a fireworks show at 7 p.m. to ring in the Year of the Tiger.

"It is incredible to bring this event back to Spokane after 89 years, and especially after difficult years for the Asian communities," said Vina Cathcart, event committee chair.

"This unifying celebration not only marks the Lunar New Year but also provides the community an opportunity to share in an essential part of Asian culture and heritage," she said.

Spokane's United We Stand and the Spokane Hispanic Business Professionals Association (HBPA) will co-host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic.

Spokane's United We Stand is a multicultural organization that unites Spokane and Asian communities through education, cultural experiences, engagement and volunteer opportunities.

For information, visit spokaneunitedwestand.org.

Tenants Union offers phone lines

The Spokane office of the Tenants Union (TU) of Washington is receiving calls for education, counseling and organizing. In COVID as staff works remotely.

Terri Anderson, director, said tenants threatened with eviction for unpaid rent may apply for rental assistance. Those outside Spokane, call 456-SNAP; those in the city, call 855-582-3973, Family Promise at 747-5487 or Carl Maxey Center at 795-1886, or visit my.spokanecity.org/covid19/resident-assistance.

Tenants with 14-day pay or vacate notice, 10-day comply or vacate notice or an eviction summons call the Right to Counsel Tenant Line at 855-657-8387.

Those with a dispute call TU counselors Amber at 319-0009

(English) or Salvador at 957-9071 (Spanish and English) from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m.

To form a tenant building association or volunteer, call 558-7126. For information, 464-7150, email terria@tenant-union.org or see www.tenant-union.org.

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Rising costs lead Habitat North Idaho to build multi-unit housing

By Kaye Hult

When James Casper became executive director of Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho November 2016, land prices were rising at a rate of 4 percent a year.

By 2019, land prices and appreciation for building single-family homes rose, so a 1,100-square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bath house was appraised for \$225,000.

“That was overpriced from our point of view then. Now appreciation jumped 40 percent last year,” James said.

So Habitat North Idaho began to look for an alternative way to provide housing.

At 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 5, they are dedicating six affordable housing units for local low-income families at 3433-3439 N. Fruitland Ave. in Coeur d’Alene. They broke ground in 2019 at Kunkel’s Corner for their first multi-unit complex. Families will move in during February.

Named for the late Greg Kunkel, a construction supervisor with Habitat’s A Brush of Kindness home repair program, the unit starts a shift from building single-family homes to multi-unit condos on a land trust.

“We are doing this to ensure homes remain permanently affordable for families,” said James, noting that construction was slowed by the pandemic and supply chain issues.

When he first came to North Idaho, Habitat bought land and built a house to meet a family’s needs. It then sold the house to them at about half the price, giving them a no-interest mortgage.

They did that because homeowners put in sweat equity—helping build the house or doing other tasks for 12 to 18 months. Partnering with the community, other labor is volunteer. Some materials are donated. After 10 years, a homeowner had access to the market value. Habitat forgave the rest of the mortgage and gave them full control of the equity.

“We make it so families can be successful,” James said.

At Habitat, James learned that people on the margins don’t control their own destiny. They work, but have limited control over what they can afford.



Through Habitat, James Casper helps improve people’s lives.

“At Habitat, we keep them from falling through the cracks,” he said. “That need is now part of the public consciousness.”

Habitat’s new approach in North Idaho spreads the benefit to multiple families for multiple generations.

“With land values going up, building homes becomes a long-term affordability problem,” he said. “With condominiums and land leases, we own the land and there is a cap on equity access with the crazy appreciation.”

Condos offer more living units per piece of dirt. Each unit is personalized for the family. Habitat’s ownership of the land stabilizes the tax cost to clients.

“A condo contract requires maintaining the building, so we don’t have to come back and revitalize units 40 years later,” he said. “We’re not doing anything new. Condominiums with owners retaining the land lease have existed for a long time. It’s just our specific format that is unusual.”

A condo is self-sustaining and reflects the true cost of ownership for each generation, he said.

“Finding reasonably priced property is the biggest challenge,” he said. “Small lots cost \$80,000 to \$90,000. The six-unit project would have been only three individual houses.”

Habitat has to think toward future projects, James said, in order to find appropriate land.

They just broke ground on the next project, 21 units in four buildings near the first. They plan

to build one building a year, with a five-unit one next. The five families are lined up.

When James first came to Habitat, he found the job a perfect fit, requiring background he had in sales, accounting and construction, even though he had never thought of working in affordable housing.

“I’d never experienced housing as unaffordable until I came and realized our clients’ issues,” said James, who began working when he was 15 in 2003. Earning \$10 an hour at a call center, he and his brother, then 16, rented a two-bedroom town house in Idaho Falls, splitting \$450/month rent, which was affordable.

Soon he began selling high speed internet. As a new concept, sales were easy. By 2008, the economy changed. People’s finances were tighter. High speed internet was no longer new.

“I couldn’t control whether the product I sold improved people’s lives,” James said. “I wanted to do something I felt good about. After the financial crisis, I wanted to work at cost for those who wanted to improve their lives.”

James, who started a construc-

tion company with his father to do repairs and remodels, earned online associate’s degree in marketing from American Intercontinental University and an online bachelor’s in accounting from Kaplan University. Telecommuting to the University of North Dakota, he earned a master’s in public administration in 2017.

Seeking a job to help people improve their lives, he chose to work with Habitat North Idaho, which was founded in 1989 to eliminate substandard housing in Kootenai County by building and preserving safe, affordable homes. It’s an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a worldwide, nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent and affordable place to live in dignity.

Habitat North Idaho’s A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) program was developed because older homes need repairs. Often older people who own them can no longer keep up the maintenance. ABWK helps them maintain their homes.

“ABWK is tilted toward the increased consciousness about how we grow older gracefully. There are more efforts to help people age in place,” he said.

ABWK now works with the Disability Action Center (DAC) to install ramps. DAC is installing temporary ramps for people with acute problems.

Wheelchair ramps are not covered by medical insurance. A quality one costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000, James said.

Habitat realized the need usually is not temporary, so they found a way to offer permanent solutions. They build ramps using aluminum and grated metal come in sections, that can be readily broken down, moved and put back together.

“We break even and offer zero-interest loans, so people can pay them off,” said James. “This is a classic nonprofit thing. Nonprofits do what the market doesn’t do well. With Habitat, people pay for our services.”

For information, call 208-762-4663 or visit northidahohabitat.org.

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Each year, each issue is the same but new in this journalistic journey

Yet another round and another year as we prepare for the Spring Benefit Events, similar but never the same as new people engage in preparations and new speakers share their stories. One new element is that in COVID, we began slowly renaming the events from Lunch to Lunch-Time and Breakfast to Breakfast-Time and now to “Spring Benefit Events” just at the different times, to be joined online in different ways.

Producing each edition is a similar process. We gather another round of new ads and interview new people to piece together stories like a puzzle without given shapes. Interviewing, writing and editing tools are our paint brush, pen and chisel, forming the pieces to fit together.

Through editing, we chisel out the pas-

sive voice and make it active—not only to make for more concise reading but also to move us into action. We take out and insert commas to improve understanding. All the nuances of editing are designed for clarity and holding reader attention, without hyping conflict, violence, celebrity or other tricks of infotainment news.

In this issue, two professors lend insights into how and what they teach at the university level. Other stories give a glimpse of online events: the legislative conference, the hate studies conference and a Martin Luther King Day remembrance. Finally, two people tell of opening a publishing house to include local voices.

It’s new but old with reminders of struggles educators, racial justice advocates, human rights proponents, book

publishers and communities of faith face. Through their stories, we move beyond their struggles to ways their engagement plant seeds of hope in us.

We don’t leave readers with the negative, the wounds or scars, but draw out the story to see how injuries and injustices shape people and what visions they have to move them and us beyond the brokenness. Each interviewee shares, aware that their efforts continue. They are on the road to resolutions and persevere toward love, justice, peace and creation care. They may be at an “already now,” but keep moving toward the “not yet” they trust will come.

Therein lie the seeds of hope that impel us on in our pursuit of Martin Luther King Jr’s vision of the beloved community in which all live in justice and peace under

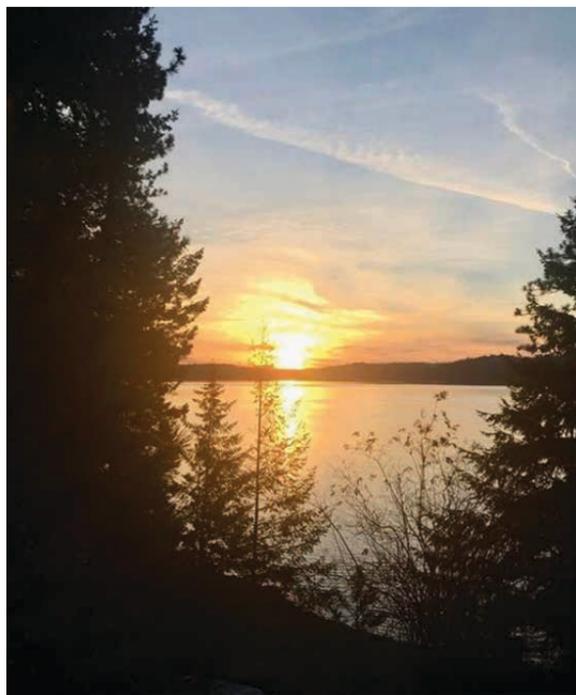
their own vine and fig tree in peace and unafraid. That’s the vision of The Fig Tree from Micah 4:4. The verse sits on page one between the roots of The Fig Tree logo in each issue.

With that vision, The Fig Tree seeks to nudge people toward a reality in which “every encounter with another human being is an encounter with the Source of all Being and every encounter with another seeker of truth is an encounter with the Source of all Truth,” as I often quote BBC broadcaster Pauline Webb’s words at the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver, B.C.

Those words underlie our journalistic journey over 38 years of listening, writing and editing.

Mary Stamp - Editor

‘Between the trees’ in poetry and photos connects people with camp



Between the trees
I can see so much more
An always changing
scene
That leaves me comforted
I want to nestle in deep

Between the trees
I can hear so much more
The eagle’s morning cry
The rising sun’s sigh
Here I can hear

Between the trees
I can feel so much more
Beneath the early wind
I feel my soul opening
Making space for the
love

Between the trees
I can love so much more
Knowing the world is
providing
Holding all in its embrace
Showing me God’s face

Between the trees
I can learn so much more
Of the gifts I have to give
Providing possibilities to all
Without question or intent

Between the trees
I can find my place
Begin to understand my role
To be in part rather than
a part
Involved from root to crown

Poem/Photo by Mark Boyd

He is the managing director as N-Sid-Sen, the camp and conference center of the Pacific Northwest United Church of Christ on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Living and working in that setting, he takes the opportunity almost daily to share a ministry of poetry and photography. He shares the images and insights several times a week on Facebook—facebook.com/groups/4887409558—reminding people throughout the region of the beauty and spiritual insights stirred in the surroundings of their “home on the lake.”

Keynote Speech

Sounding Board

Presentation

Priest sees hope for ending divisions

As his 10 years as chaplain to Congress ended in COVID times, Fr. Pat Conroy SJ recognized the particular difficulties of these times but noted that being in Washington, D.C., in the best of times is difficult.

As COVID struck, many legislative activities were left to the “real workers,” the D.C. staff who take the calls and read letters while members are in their districts.

“My ministry turned to be one with this community of workers who are important to the work of government in providing for the common good,” he said.

Turning to the people gathered Jan. 22 on Zoom for the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference, he said in a pre-recorded video that their responsibility as faithful citizens is to work to provide more hope, and to lessen and end the divisiveness in the political sphere.

“How do we engage in what Pope Francis considers “the holy work of politics and legislating,” knowing politics is about providing for the common good?” he asked.

“There is plenty of division, anger, judgment in the battleground on the political scene. What we bring to the battleground is none of that,” Fr. Pat said. “We are engaged in this work to bring hope, healing and reconciliation. If we engage in the political process with the hope of mobilizing for the future with more compassion and healing, we must address the divisiveness in our own hearts.

“Politicians are used to and expect argument. They live in a dynamic of winners and losers. We do not need to contribute to that,” he said, hoping that those at the conference

seeking the common good will engage with their minds at peace.

He advised that when they encounter political workers and politicians to see them not as an enemy but as children of God who, if they are properly motivated, are also working for the common good.

“Then there is hope of a positive future of saying goodbye to divisiveness,” he said.

In COVID times when normal ways are set aside, Fr. Pat said it is particularly important for people of faith to bring hope and healing in the midst of brokenness.

He also urged them to work to free themselves from bringing their own demons, anger or hurt to engagement with politicians.

“That way we can converse with and convert others to a vision of the future that is more inclusive and can work with politicians to produce a healthy future,” Fr. Pat said.

“At best, politics is about the common good. At worst, it can be divisive and lead to anger, frustration and negative energy that lead to more poverty, despair and hopelessness,” he said. “If we take care of our personal business and ask the Divine to help us be an avatar of hope, a presenter of peace and reconciliation, we can encounter the best selves of politicians, so we engage them as public servants, not adversaries.

“As we encounter them as public servants, we can enter in hope for an effort to make politics a servant to the common good,” he said.

“In the U.S. experience as a republic democracy, we can be a shining light to all God’s children,” Fr. Pat challenged.

Hate Studies Conference Speaker

Tools help counter hate speech

By Kaye Hult

Tracey Hayes, assistant professor in communication and leadership studies at Gonzaga University, identified verbal, written and behavioral forms of hate speech proliferating on social media to attack or discriminate against a person or group based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, color, descent, gender or other identity factor.

During a presentation on “Hate Groups and Hate Speech” at the International Conference on Hate Studies, she noted that neither banning hate speech nor countering it with facts works.

“Banning forces hate groups underground. That makes them invisible so people forget to plan to counter hate. Then it rises up again,” Tracey said.

She suggested engagement rather than censorship, pointing out that the United Nations strategy supports more speech, not less. It says countering hate speech is everyone’s responsibility as individuals, society and government.

Tracey recommends focusing on ways to counter the message, noting that those engaging in hate speech use the “Big Five Techniques” of narrative, myth, affect, embodiment and spectacle.

Knowing those tools helps people

understand how hate messages are created, spread and readily accepted. Organizations countering hate speech can point them out and use them to turn people from the hate messages.

- **Narrative is** telling stories to invite mutual identification around shared values. Stories help people bond and act together.

- **Myth works** within the narrative to add purpose and investment in the story.

- **Affect is** the opposite of reason. It invokes fear or another emotion as a motivator.

- **Embodiment is** action, such as blocking a building entrance or turning one’s back on someone in disagreement.

- **Spectacle is** a striking, realistic performance or display.

Tracey said politicians regularly use the Big Five, to play into people’s fear of not attaining the American dream under their opponent’s policies.

On digital media, hate speech is ungovernable and decentralized. Social media circulate hate speech widely and openly at rates of speed not possible before. It can use coded language to flout laws and regulations, Tracey said.

So in the digital age, people need to recognize, reject and stand up to hate speech, she said.

For information, email hayest@gonzaga.edu.

Calendar of Events

Area Code is (509) unless otherwise listed.

- Feb 2, 9, 16 • **"All We Can Save,"** Earth Ministry book study, online, 6:30 p.m., earthministry.org
- Feb 2, 9 • **Virtual Storytime,** Liberty Park Library, online, 10 to 10:30 a.m., events.spokanelibrary.org
- Feb 3 • **Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meeting,** online, 12 to 3 p.m., 535-4112, mary@thefigtree.org
- **American Democracy's Indigenous Roots** and Future, noon, humanities.org/events
- **Medicine Buddha Puja,** Sravasti Abbey, 6 to 7 p.m., sravastiabbey.org/event
- Feb 4 • **Black History Month Group Exhibit,** Gonzaga University Urban Arts Center, 125 S. Stephens, noon, art@gonzaga.edu
- **Spokane International Film Festival** presents Best of The Northwest, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague Ave., 7 p.m., https://protect-us.mimecast.com
- Feb 4, 5 • **Black Business Expo,** Black Business & Professional Alliance, Wonder Building, 835 N. Post, 4 to 8 p.m.
- Feb 4, 11 • **Xyanthe Naider, Anti-Racism Training,** WSU online, 11 to 11:30 a.m., Andria Donnenwerth, 335-9264, andria.donnenwerth@wsu.edu
- Feb 5 • **Mimosas and Masterworks,** Spokane Symphony, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 10 a.m. to noon, foxtheaterspokane.org, 624-1200
- **Lunar New Year Celebration,** Riverfront Park, Spokane United We Stand and Hispanic Business Professional Assn., 1 to 7 p.m., vinatrn@gmail.com, 557-0566
- Feb 5, 8 • **Masterworks 5: Pictured Within,** concert master Mateusz Wolski, Spokane Symphony, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 5th at 8 p.m., 8th at 3 p.m., spokanesymphony.org
- Feb 7, 21 • **Monday Action Meetings,** Stand with Children, Legislative Session, 6 to 7 p.m., bitly/standmondays
- Feb 8 • **Listen Like You Mean It: How to Be a Better Listener** from the Boardroom to the Dinner Table, Ximena Vengoechea, WSU online, 9 a.m., amber.mendenhall@wsu.edu
- **"Middlelife: Rajah Bose"** Art Exhibition Opening and Lecture, Bryan Oliver Gallery, Whitworth, 5 p.m., 777-3258, smoo@whitworth.edu
- **Peace and Justice Action Committee,** PJALS, online, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., jarcher@pjals.org
- **The Complex World of Pain,** Shadle Park Library, virtual event, 6 p.m., events.spokanelibrary.org
- **Climate Action Meeting,** 350 Spokane, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 350spokane.org
- Feb 9 • **Humanity in Print: Literature and Human Rights,** 1 p.m., humanities.org/events
- **UU Monthly Climate Action Roundtable,** online, 5 to 6 p.m., earthministry.org
- **Changing Climate,** Fire Regimes, and the Future of Western Northern American Forests, Lands Council, Hemmingson Center, 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Estate Planning 101,** Spokane County Library District, 6 to 7:30 p.m., www.scl.d.org/february-2022
- **Visiting Writers Series:** Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet Natalie Diaz, WSU Pullman, Compton Union Building, 7:30 to 9 p.m., 432-3430, makhani@wsu.edu
- Feb 10 • **Interfaith Advocacy Day,** Faith Action Network, online, 9 a.m. to noon, bit.ly/IFAC2022
- **Executive Director Coffee Hour,** Washington Nonprofits, online, 9 to 10 a.m., washingtonnonprofits.org
- **Rural Nonprofits Gathering,** Washington Nonprofits, online, 10:30 a.m. to noon, washingtonnonprofits.org
- **Medicare-Related Cost Savings,** Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, SHIBA and WA State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Spokane County Library District, 1 to 2 p.m., scl.d.evance.info
- Feb. 10 to 14 • **Meals on Wheels of Spokane Cinn-A-Gram,** deadline for Feb. 14 pick up, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. shauna.brink@mowspokane.org, mowspokane.org/events/cinnagram
- Feb 10, 24 • **Showing Up for Racial Justice,** 5:30 to 7 p.m., slichty@pjals.org
- Feb 11 • **Zuzu Africa Acrobats Performance,** EWU Showalter Hall, 4 to 7 p.m., rrodriguez2@ewu.edu
- **Sweetheart's Ball,** Habitat for Humanity North Idaho, Silent and Live Auction and Buffet Dinner, 5 p.m., northidahohabitat.org
- Feb 12 • **Free Asylum Application Workshop,** Gonzaga School of Law, Shadle Park Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 7 p.m., 558-9359
- **Double Crossed: The American Missionary Spies of WWII,** 7 p.m., humanities.org.events
- Feb 12 & 13 • **Northwest BachFest,** Jason Vieaux, Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad Ave., 12th at 7 p.m. and 13th at 3 p.m., 838-3006, foxtheaterspokane.org
- Feb 15 • **Dance as Cura Personalis,** Gonzaga University Repertory Dance Companies Showcase, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., dance@gonzaga.edu
- Feb 16 • **Silent Day of Prayer, "Wonderous Encounters,**

- A Journey through Lent,"** Sister Sharon Bongiorno, FSPA, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- **Double Crossed: The American Missionary Spies of WWII,** Spokane County Library District, 7 to 8:30 p.m. scl.d.evanced.info, or humanities.org/events
- **Dance as Cura Personalis,** Annual Screen Dance Film Festival, Department of Theatre and Dance, Gonzaga University, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., dance@gonzaga.edu
- Feb 16, 17 • **Chamber Soiree No. 2,** Barrister Winery, 1213 W Railroad Ave., 7:30 p.m., spokanesymphony.org
- Feb 17 • **Poetry Celebration for Black History Month,** Liberty Park Library, Virtual Event, 11:30 a.m. to noon, events.spokanelibrary.org
- **An Evening with the Author of Braiding Sweetgrass,** Robin Wall Kimmerer, Center for Climate, Society and the Environment, Gonzaga University, 5:30 p.m. Zoom, climatecenter@gonzaga.edu
- Feb 17-27 • **Spokane Jewish Cultural Film Festival,** 11 films, Spokane Jewish Family Services, hybrid, sajfs.org/our-programs/sjcff
- Feb 19 • **Black History Month Youth Empowerment Program Art and Storytelling Clinic,** 845 S. Sherman, The Way to Justice, https://linktr.ee/TheWayToJustice
- **Annual Viva Vino & Brew Scholarship Fundraiser,** Shriner's Event Center, Hispanic Business Professional Association, 7217 W. Westbow Blvd., 6 p.m., hbpaofspokane.org
- Feb 18 to 19 • **Banff Mountain Film Festival,** Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague, 7 p.m., bingcrosbytheater.com
- Feb 21 • **NAACP General Membership Meeting,** zoom, 7 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com
- Feb 22 • **New Member Orientation,** Washington Nonprofits, noon, washingtonnonprofits.org
- **"The War That Destroyed America"** The William Davis, SJ Lecture, featuring Benjamin Hopkins, Gonzaga University History Department, Jepsen Center, 7 p.m. gonzaga.edu/news-events
- Feb 23 • **#InlandStrong Virtual Book Club – Sing, Unburied,** Sing by Jesmyn Ward, Central Library, virtual events, 12 to 1 p.m., events.spokane.library.org
- **One Second of Hate: A Story of Forgiveness,** online, 1 p.m., humanities.org/events
- **Laughing Matters: Asian American, Comedy and Inclusion,** 6:30 p.m., humanities.org/events
- Feb 24 • **Ciencia para Ninos en Espanol! Taller de Equilibrio/Science for Kids in Spanish: Balance Workshop,** Spokane County Library District, 4 to 5 p.m. scl.d.evanced.info
- **Healing Harmonies,** benefit for Cancer Care Northwest Foundation, Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, 8 p.m., foxtheaterspokane.org
- Feb 25 • **Africana Studies Silent Auction,** Monroe Hall, EWU, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rrodriguez2@ewu.edu
- **Interfaith Dialogue with Matthew Kaemingk (Christian) and Shadi Hamid (Muslim),** Whitworth University and Neighborly Faith, Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7 p.m., Janna Breedlove, jbreedlove22@mywhitworth.edu, 777-5443
- Feb 26 • **El Mercadito,** Latinos En Spokane, West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt, 2 to 6 p.m., 558-9359, facebook.com/latinosenspokane, latinosenspokane.org
- **Gonzaga Choirs Social Justice Concert,** Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- **Whitworth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Concert,** Sanctuary, St. Luke Lutheran Church, https://youtu.be/OcJSx5bH0pU, 777-3280, music@whitworth.edu,
- Feb 28 • **Black History Canvas Painting,** Monroe Hall Room 205, EWU, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. rrodriguez@ewu.edu
- **Emmaus Scholars Lecture,** Randy Woodley, Whitworth Campus Ministry and Speakers and Artists, Beeksma Family Theology Center, 7 to 8:30 p.m., 777-3337, dtaylor@whitworth.edu, whitworth.edu/Emmaus
- Mar 1 • **Spokane Homeless Connect,** Spokane Convention Center, 334 W Spokane Falls Blvd., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 458-2509 x338, kari.stevens@dshs.wa.gov
- Mar 2 • **The Fig Tree Distribution and Mailing,** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 535-4112, development@thefigtree.org
- **Ash Wednesday Silent Day of Prayer Time for A Change,** Fr. Victor Blazovich, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., ihrc.net
- Mar 3 • **The Fig Tree Benefit and Board Meeting,** 12 to 3 p.m. 535-4112, mary@thefigtree.org
- Mar 4 • **"Spreading Seeds of Hope," The Fig Tree Benefit Event** on YouTube Live, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 535-1813, event@thefigtree.org
- March 9 • **"Spreading Seeds of Hope," The Fig Tree Benefit Event** on Zoom, 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., 535-1813 event@thefigtree.org

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Bitterroot Mountain Publishing provides avenue for local authors

By Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

"You ought to write a book." That was the message a student gave to Larry Telles, chair of the board of directors for Bitterroot Mountain Publishing House, 20 years ago.

Larry, who worked in graphics for 60 years, taught multi-media courses in the Coeur d'Alene area and was president of the Idaho Writers League, was asked to give a week-long seminar on silent film to Road Scholars, a nonprofit providing educational travel for older adults.

When he learned the seminar was two and a half hours daily for five days, he created a pamphlet for participants to supplement his presentation. The second day, one student said he found the pamphlet so fascinating he stayed up until 1 a.m. reading it.

After many tries, Larry sensed none of the major publishing houses would be interested in a book like his from an unknown author, so he decided to begin his own publishing house.

About that time, Anna Goodwin, a published author from Coeur d'Alene and a psychotherapist with an expertise in post-traumatic stress, heard from the editor at her publisher about changes in the publishing industry.

He said books without the potential for large sales, especially from first-time or unknown authors would rarely be accepted. Even though books contained important information and were well written, big publishing companies were mostly interested in profits.

"I believed some of these books were important for people to read—the stories, especially stories of resilience were things people needed to hear," Anna said, explaining her motivations.

Both Larry and Anna investigated the possibility of finding a publisher for books they felt provided information that benefited people or on topics interesting for their own sake. Knowing five major publishers would overlook manuscripts from authors in this area, they decided to establish Bitterroot Mountain Publishing House LLC in Hayden, Idaho.

Between its foundation in 2008 and today, the company has published 32 books, about two a year. Its seven-member board of directors—mostly published writers—selects meaningful, well-written manuscripts that represent diverse genres: fiction, non-fiction, and children's books.

The board decides after reading and discussing a synopsis and 30 pages of a manuscript.

Bitterroot Mountain is different from large publishing houses and self-publishing. In



Anna Goodwin and Larry Telles run a publishing house.

large publishing houses, once a manuscript is accepted, an author loses most control over it, but continues to own the rights to it.

At Bitterroot Mountain, authors they accept have exclusive access to publishing and marketing resources of Bitterroot Mountain. Manuscripts are edited and proofread professionally. The book cover, jacket and illustrations are designed professionally. A professional formats the book for print, and as an e-book and an audio book.

Once a book is published, it is added to a catalogue at Ingram, the distributor, and becomes available on Amazon to be printed on demand.

"Amazon has 85 percent of the

market so to sell books we need to go there," Larry explained.

People whose books are accepted pay for the services—usually \$1,500. Authors pay annual dues of \$60 to have their book on the Bitterroot Mountain website. Volunteers mentor authors, serve on the board, do the paperwork for ISBN numbers and other tasks.

Most authors are from the Pacific Northwest but one is from Missouri. Because work is done electronically, authors can be from anywhere, Larry said.

The website shows diversity in the books they have published.

In one case, a Native American man wrote a book about his journey of self-discovery and realiza-

tion. It included vision quests and stories full of wry humor, wisdom and profound appreciation of the beauty and wonders of the natural world, said Anna.

One Last Time, a Coeur d'Alene organization that grants last wishes to dying people, sponsored *Faces of the Rising Sun*. Nada, the author, died before it was published. It is listed on Amazon.

Anna wanted to include in her book, *How to Cope with Stress after Trauma*, a poem by Patrick Overton, a veteran and professor at Columbia College. When she contacted him, she discovered that he had written many insightful essays and poems. She brought his work to Bitterroot Publishing. Today the website features a reissue of his *Rebuilding the Front Porch of America*.

Another book, a memoir of resilience and perseverance is by Liberian Marsilius Flumo, now a teacher in the Spokane public schools. In *A Son's Promise*, he tells of his struggle from boyhood to manhood, motivated by his mother's determination to give him a life he could only dream of in rural, tribal Liberia. In return, she told him to write

the story of her agony and quest for good lives for her children.

Recently a local police detective wrote a book and wanted to have it published. He died before that happened. Now his daughter is working with Bitterroot Mountain Publishing to have his work published.

One of their biggest challenges is marketing the books.

"Authors often 'don't want to do all that other stuff,' like public speaking, marketing or writing a second book because sometimes the second book sells first," Larry said, adding that, despite all the work, he is having a good time.

For information, email ltelles@icehouse.net or jargoodwin@msn.com, or visit bmphmedia.com.

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