Traumas turn into compassion

By Mary Stamp

By combining faith and psychology, Unyong Statwick, an ordained interfaith chaplain and certified Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) educator at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane, turned trauma in her childhood and adult life into tools to be present with patients and families in their times of trauma in hospital stays.

A certified CPE educator—formerly called “CPE supervisor”—Unyong trains students to engage the whole of their life stories into tools to help them accompany people in health crises.

CPE is interfaith professional education for theological students, ordained clergy and laypersons. Through supervised encounters with people in crisis, they deepen relationships and self-understanding. Patient and family encounters along with feedback from peers and the certified educator heighten awareness. Students also engage in theological reflection about the real-life situations.

Providence Sacred Heart has intensive and extended programs. The extended program is four hours of class and 15 hours of clinical work each week for 30 weeks from September to April. The intensive program runs 12 weeks each quarter with one week break between units.

Unyong, after earning a master of divinity degree in 2003 from the Assembly of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo., decided to study CPE. While waiting to do that in the summer of 2004, she earned a master’s degree in professional counseling at the seminary.

She was then hired as staff chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Springfield and worked there until 2018. During that time, she earned a doctoral degree in psychology at the Institute for Professional Psychology, completing it in 2010.

Deciding to focus on ministry, Unyong finished training as a CPE supervisor in 2015, started as a supervisor in 2016, and became a manager until 2018. When the program closed, she came to Providence Sacred Heart in January 2019 as certified educator to supervise and train students in the Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program.

There are currently three local students, and one from Walla Walla.

Continued on page 4

Kiantha Duncan brings new style of leadership to NAACP Spokane

At a recent march by the Red Wagon in Riverfront Park protesting George Floyd’s murder, the crowd chanted “Black Lives Matter.” After each chant, Kiantha Duncan brings new style of leadership to NAACP Spokane.

It’s an example of her understanding that many people, including herself, have common ground in traumas from childhood—adverse childhood experiences, known as ACES.

Those experiences include physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect, and family-based domestic violence, incarceration, substance abuse, mental illness and divorce/separation, she said.

Kiantha loves and listens to people to help them move beyond their differences in rank, race, religion or roots. She gathers people in hospitality around her dining room table, people of different cultures, perspectives, backgrounds, sexual orientations, and “situations of being housed or unhoused.”

People who come don’t know which they may encounter to share stories, ideas, lives and love, and to build empathy and community.

Kiantha invites people to release and recycle those traumas by letting go, letting love guide them and leading others to healing.

While the NAACP Spokane works for justice, equality and equitable life, she said she seeks to accompany patients and families in their pain.

Legislative Conference is Jan. 30

The 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30, on Zoom will look at issues before the 2021 Washington State Legislature.

The keynote speaker is Walter Kendrick, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church, who will speak on “Beyond Words: Doing Justice” based on his involvement with the Governor’s Task Force on Independent Investigations and the Governor’s Commission on African American Affairs, as well as with the Spokane Ministers Fellowship, Spokane Coalition Against Racism, NAACP Spokane, Carl Masey Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center and The Fig Tree.

Four panels will respond to his presentation and offer reflections. They will be moderated by Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ. Panelists are Kiantha Duncan, president of NAACP Spokane; Phil Misner, assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Northwest; and immigration issues led by the St. Ann’s and St. Aloysius Task Force on Independent Investigations and the Governor’s Star Baptist Church, who will speak on “Beyond Words: Doing Justice.”

Continued on page 5
The Fig Tree is recruiting team leaders this year instead of table hosts for its Lunch-Time Benefit at noon, Friday, March 5, and its Breakfast-Time Benefit at 8 a.m., Wednesday, March 10.

Both events will be virtual, but organizers are still determining which formal formats to use for a meaningful live and pre-recorded event.

“Team leaders are important as the main folks responsible for bringing us people to attend, hear our story and donate to support our work,” said editor and publisher Mary Stamp.

“The benefits bring in about $34,000 to supplement income from ads, sponsors, partners and other giving that supports both the Fig Tree monthly newspaper and the annual Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources.

“We invite people interested in being team leaders to let us know they will help,” Mary said.

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

The situation continues.

“These people have no access to a shelter bed to stay safe and warm,” Mary said. “It’s not the way things ought to be.”

There is no narrative in the piece, just graphs and some music to help the pictures tell the story.

For information, email rcsactlylala@gmail.com or see it at https://youtu.be/i8UOnMO0V7w.

Virtual Benefits will be March 5 and 10

### Hate Studies Institute plans conference

In this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, hatred and divisiveness, racial inequality and climate injustice, understanding how dehumanization and othering harm communities and the world is as critical as ever, said Kristine Tretiaas, director of the Institute for Hate Studies.

The multidisciplinary field of hate studies gather people to share new understandings to address hate in any one of its manifestations—such as racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, religious intolerance, ethnio-violence, anti-immigration animus and animals.

The sixth International Conference on Hate Studies, “Justice and Equity: Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope,” is scheduled to be held on Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 4 to 6, 2021, at Gonzaga University. It is an interdisciplinary academic forum on hate, related social issues and the role of education to create socially just and inclusive communities.

Kristine said lessons learned and plans that emerge will help educators, researchers, advocates and others better analyze and combat hatred to lead to communities being committed to peace, human rights, and justice.

For information, visit www.gonzaga.edu/ICOH.

### River City Youth Ops plant seeds for youth

The River City Youth Org (RCYO) has nurtured partner-ships, such as with YouthBuild Spokane to offer older youth an AmeriCorps education award in addition to RVCO’s stipend for learning experiences.

It is broadening involvement with West Central Episcopal Mission, now called the West Central Abbey, and building a council of partners to improve the lives of those in West Central, he said.

RCYO will provide produce as well as training in growing and empowering them. Despite that, many model resilience, finding new ways to move forward. Planting seeds and ideas, youth grow to give to the community.

Kristine said the pandemic offered lessons and meaningful connections, but youth lost time interacting with peers and sharing in experiences to educate and empower them. Despite that, many model resilience, finding new ways to move forward. Planting seeds and ideas, youth grow to give to the community.

For more information, visit www.rcyo.net or call 535-7433 or visit youthops.org.
Jennifer Hackenbruch helps people journey to the end of life. "My life has been a journey of exploring different faiths from around the world, including Christianity," she said.

When Jennifer returned from India, she planned to enter the Peace Corps. While filling out the application, she was invited to Sandpoint, where she met her future husband Chris. The Peace Corps was put on hold, while they dated, then married. Then Jennifer learned about a position at HONI and moved to Coeur d’Alene.

“My work is my calling,” she said. “There’s been much death in my life: my mother, my older brother and, just recently, my father.

“My experience of death and grief allows me to wrap my mind around the fact that my patients are going to die,” she said, “and it’s okay. I am only meant to have them for a short time before giving them back. Because of my experiences, I am able to be present and hold space for those who are experiencing death, dying and grief for themselves.”

Jennifer and Lisa Selander, HONI’s most recently-hired chaplain, cannot meet the needs of all patients with whom they work, she said. “So we access resources from the community, such as priests and other pastors. It is about meeting patients’ needs. Most of our patients refuse spiritual care or need someone else to provide it. We are here to make sure they get care they need from us or someone else.”

Both have met prejudice against women in spiritual leadership roles. "One woman called and asked me to come talk with her moth- er," Jennifer said. "When knocked on the door, she explained, ‘You’re a woman!’ She refused to let me in to see her mother.

“We do our best to reach out to the community to help provide our patients and families the spiritual support they need. If that is a priest, pastor or elder from the community, then I work closely with a number of local faith-based organizations to provide it,” she continued.

While much of Jennifer’s ministry revolves around accompanying patients and family members through the experience of death and dying and making their end-of-life journey a little less hard, she has additional responsibilities. HONI relies on volunteers in all aspects of caring for its clients, so Jennifer works with spiritual care volunteers.

“I work with our volunteer coordinator to interview spiritual care volunteers to guide them as they care for patients,” she said.

“Some volunteers are religiously nor- mally. Typically, she helps with training new volunteers. She has met monthly with spiritual care volunteers for training and connection. She has provided an “Exploring Death and Dying” in which she asks folks from different faith traditions to talk about their tradition and their dying rituals. These are offered to staff, volunteers and community members. In addition, she has worked with HONI’s community outreach coordinator, meeting with different faith leaders in the community to offer education and to work with their members to let them know what hospice is, what HONI does, and why people should come on services.

“Much misinformation is out there about hospice,” she said. “Many folks believe one has to be actively dying to receive hospice services. They may think we just offer medications to help the death process. None of that is true.

“The sooner people access services, the more help and support they will receive during their process, through their end-of-life journey,” she said.

Hospice of North Idaho is community-owned. It offers full services to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

“We are here to help people live comfortably after all treatments have been explored, until they die,” Jennifer said. “It is common to have people on services for many months. We even love some folks back to health, graduating them from services.”

The pandemic curtailed Jenni- fer’s ability to use volunteers to offer training both in-house and in the community.

Jennifer connects with people who have forgotten God in nature. She knows God is within and she connects to God through prayer and mediation.

“Before each visit, I center myself and ask God to move through me to meet the needs of the people and families for their greatest good,” she said.

For information, call 208-772-7994, email hackenbruch@ honi.org or visit hospiceofnor- thinidaho.org.

By Kaye Hult

Spiritual care coordinator for Hospice brings interfaith sensitivity

Jennifer Hackenbruch meets patients and families where they are spiritually.

She describes hospice as a partner in one’s journey through end of life. “We are here to support people in reaching their goals during this time. We are here to assist them in living until they die,” Jennifer said. “It’s about the patients and families, and their beliefs, the way they hold their pain and their thoughts about death and dying.”

Jennifer never considered working as a hospice chaplain before she came to HONI three and a half years ago. At that time, she had not completed the neces- sary Clinical Pastoral Education units for the job, which agreed to pursue once she began working.

She brought with her years of exploration of and experience with different faiths as the sought to make sense of her own beliefs, which led to her being ordained as an interfaith minister.

Her spiritual seeking has given her the ability to walk with oth- ers from many different faith backgrounds or nonfaith per- spectives.

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Unyong grew up in Gwangju in southern South Korea, graduating from college in 1985 and teaching middle school English and Korean history a year and a half. Then she married an American and moved to Tennessee.

Her husband wanted to go to Bible college and be a missionary. She expected to be a minister’s wife, but her now ex-husband became depressed and dropped out of seminary and ministry. They separated in 1998 and divorced in 2000.

Unyong chose to study psychology because of the mental illness of family members. Her ability to understand the trauma she experienced gives her sensitivity as a chaplain.

Her family had been a soldier in the Korean War, defected to South Korea. He suffered PTSD, drank heavily and was abusive, dying of complications from drinking when Unyong was 11. Two older brothers were mentally ill and had violent tempers, abusing her as a teen. Her sister, who was four years older, married early to escape the violence. After her father died, her mother taught school, but being an only child, Unyong was 11.

All her family but her sister have since died. She has two grown daughters who live in Missouri, one has bipolar disorder and the other struggles with social anxiety.

Faith played a role in her journey to healing. There were five churches—Catholic, Baptist and Presbyterian—in Hwasoon, her small village.

“I went to church to meet God,” she said. “Because I played piano, I was pianist at a Presbyterian church. She felt called to understand suffering and the meaning of life from a spiritual and psychological perspective.

“How could I engage people living in suffering and pain out of my suffering and pain?” Unyong asked.

In seminary, she went to a therapist and by sharing her personal, painful family stories, her healing journey began. She realized she had PTSD from her traumatic upbringing.

“I wanted to contribute to the world so my suffering and pain would not be wasted,” said Unyong, who found seminary and CPE in line with her call. “One day, I realized I was content, at peace from the emotional suffering,” she said.

As chaplain six years at Mercy Hospital—five on night shift—she met people experiencing trauma and acute suffering.

“From my training, I could provide a calming presence to minister to them,” she said.

There were an average of three to four deaths a night and trauma from vehicle accidents, domestic violence victims and suicide attempts.

“I accompanied patients and their families, addressing their fears,” she said.

“God is tangible for me. Mysteriously, as a teen, I felt God’s presence through my own abuse. I wondered, ‘Does God care for me? Does God see me?’ I felt God’s presence and ‘Yes, I am with you.’ After that experience, any lingering fear left me,” Unyong said.

Once when talking long distance to her teenage daughter, Unyong said she engaged with the woman about her fear about where her mother’s soul would be going.

“Seeing her love for her mother, she assured the daughter, ‘God also loves your mother.’

A pastor’s mother had surgery after an accident. More than 50 church members came to the hospital and prayed. When the surgeon came out to say he might not make it, her daughter asked: ‘What would God want you to do?’

“I did not have an answer. I just accompanied the teen with a calm presence,” Unyong said.

We give people a safe space, sacred space to do their own reflection and come up with their own answers to their questions: What did I do? Why is this happening to me?” Unyong continued.

“They shrinking comes out of their experience and upbringing as they face death of a family member or their own death,” she said.

Unyong said a chaplain is God’s loving presence as they ask if the crash or cancer is God’s judgment.

“We let them reflect and find the answer on their own, respecting their dignity,” she said. Because of COVID, she said.

CPE educator invites students to help families on healing journey

Continued from page 1 doing the 12-week residency units, and five students joining on Zoom from Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., Illinois, Montana and California for the extended unit program.

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To qualify, organizations need to be a 501(c)(3) and request an application from STA Business Development Manager, Delana Combs at dcombs@spokanetransit.com. Learn more at SpokaneTransit.com/CAP.

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Kiantha Duncan’s skill is to walk hand-in-hand with people

Continued from page 1

less a fighter-advocate, and more someone who loves people into the understanding, healing and change that overcomes hate, fear, misunderstanding and difference.

“My skill set and gifts are different from speaking at protests,” she said. “It is to bring people together to build stronger collective action. It is to walk hand-in-hand with people, to use kindness to move people into the equity journey to live in a world that is more equitable for—has space for—people of color,” she said. “I don’t want to fight. I want to love you to pieces and talk you into justice, equality and equity.

“Children do not learn through harsh punishment. That just scares them. We don’t want to scare people into an equitable world. We want people to understand why it’s the healthiest way to be,” she said. “Kiantha is about love,” said a source who knows her well and because God created people.”

Kiantha came from personal trauma, raised partly by her grandmother. Sexual abuse began at age three. At seven, she was beaten, she went to live with her father, who was incarcerated half her first 10 years. At 16, she ran away and was out of foster care. At 16, she was a teen mom. Her son turned her life around from the trauma and poverty in which she grew up in the segregated North Side of Milwaukee, Wis.

There everyone around her was black—family, friends and neighbors—but teachers, police and people in power were white.

Kiantha’s approach also relates to her growing up in a large black church, Ephesian Missionary Baptist Church, founded by her uncle. There she attended Sunday School, vacation Bible school, youth choir and choir, learned beliefs about God and developed her character.

Later attending a Church of God in Christ, she learned “how God is and moves and expects us to be.”

“I learned there is not one religion, but are many answers and paths to the same thing. I do not talk about God much. I want people to see God in how I behave, act, care and build bridges,” she said.

With Fellowship of Affirming Ministries in Seattle, she helped found Liberation, an affirming church that is now part of the United Church of Christ.

“Love of God is deeper than anything we can quantify or qualify, larger than a denomination,” she said.

Kiantha’s lifelong learning led to my nonprofit leadership,” she said. Knowing Sylvia Brown most of her years in Seattle, Kiantha moved with her to Spokane in 2015 when Sylvia’s employer wanted a Spokane office. They married after moving.

Kiantha continues consulting with people on personal and professional development. She also worked a year with Empire Justice.

“Philanthropy is my first love. My two grandsons are my second love. My third love is talking with people,” said Kiantha, who gives lectures and leads workshops.

“My goal is to help as many people as possible and support community with my philanthropy,” said Kiantha.

Consulting with Black Futures, a cooperative fund supporting black communities in Washington’s 39 counties, she helps them increase black mental and physical health, improve black wealth, preserve black culture and ensure people of color are protected in health care. She also consults with Better Health Together on equity.

She finds there is much work to be done on race in Spokane, and finds it is one place to open a space on opportunities.

About three years ago, she heard Curtis Robinson, then NAACP Spokane president, speak at the Black Student Union at Gonzaga University. He invited her to help the chapter. Kiantha became a member at large and then a vice president.

The 101-year-old chapter has many historic supporters and allies, Kiantha said. Under Kurtis, it grew from 100 to 500 members, developed new energy and leadership.

As president, Kiantha said, NAACP Spokane follows tenets of the national organization, building collaboration to create political, educational, social and economic equality rights, to eliminate race-based discrimination and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons,” she said.

“The NAACP fights for justice, equality and what is right,” Kiantha said. “With people committed to that, we walk with people who seem to have nothing in common with the NAACP, to help them understand that the organization is about equality, because without equality for all groups, there was no peace.”

“Seeing issues as puzzles, I lead others to look at how to put the pieces together and where there are gaps,” she explained. “We will do creative things to build the organization’s capacity.”

For information, call 206-225-4736, email kiantha.duncan@gmail.com or visit naacpspokane.org.
Conference affirms that ethics, tribal values are needed in new treaty

The Ethics and Treaty Project with the Cowlitz Tribe and Washington State University Native American Affairs recently virtually held the seventh annual conference on “One River, Ethics Matter!” about issues in renegotiating the Columbia River Treaty based on justice and stewardship, not just power, irrigation, transportation and flood control.

The ethics conference for the river promotes the idea that all are stewards of the land and water.

Physician and conservationist John Osborn along with retired Lutheran pastor Tom Soeldner founded the Ethics and Treaty Project to facilitate conferences based on 1) hospital ethics about who decides for and speaks for critically ill patients; 2) the Columbia River Pastoral Letter for the spiritual, social and ecological transformation of the river, and 3) the Truth and Reconciliation processes on institutional racism in South Africa to provide a platform to highlight a historical wrong and speak truth related to the impact of dams on the river, the tribes and first foods like salmon.

The first conference in 2014 in Spokane was followed by gatherings in Portland, Boise, Reedsport, Long Beach, Coos Bay, Spokane, Ridgefield (online) and others joined tribes to oppose coal export terminals. And others joined tribes to oppose coal export terminals.

For high school students who want more credit, visit our website: campsanders.net. For further details or a tour of the campground, contact John Osborn at 208-892-4842 or campsanders@gmail.com.
Many share the voice of Columbia River needed in treaty renegotiation

Continued from page 6

Nathan said the Cowlitz had harvested, smoked and dried eulachon (smelt), lampreys (eel) and salmon, which are endangered species and need to be protected by the treaty.

He helps the Cowlitz acquire land in traditional areas to preserve pristine habitats, oak woodlands, lupine, white tail deer and mountain goats. He is working on a nearly $50 million Salmon Restoration Project to create habitat for smelt, lamprey and salmon.

The third panel, “Rivers through our Vision,” speakers were John Marsh, policy analyst with the Cowlitz. Jim Heffernan, policy analyst with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Sandra Luke chair for the Land and Resources Sector of the Kutenax Nation in British Columbia, and three youth, Emma Johnson, Shay Way and Rosalie Fish. They envisioned the watershed’s future with attention to spiritual, community, ecological and ecosystem realities.

Their visions include: free flowing water to restore the estuary health; restoring fish passage, and collaboration of Columbia Basin tribes to restore ecosystem function.

Jim qualified his presentation noting that the Yakama Nation spoke for the Columbia Basin stakeholders related to the Columbia River Treaty. Jim and John Marsh said the decision for the U.S. Department of State was to continue or modernize the treaty. They outlined how the Columbia Basin tribes collaborated to create a regional forum that provided a consensus recommendation to them in 2013 that included the need to integrate ecosystem function into a modernized treaty. By 2016, they decided to move forward with negotiations with Canada.

The U.S. and Canada initiated formal discussions in 2018. Though initially denied a seat at the negotiating table, Indigenous Nations in Canada gained observer status in April 2019, but Columbia Basin tribes in the U.S. were allowed to send only technical representatives with limited participation. When negotiations resume in 2021, Columbia Basin tribes want to sit at the table, as the Indigenous Nations are now.

Sandra envisions healthy citizens and communities speaking their languages and celebrating who they are and were, managing their ancestral lands and resources as self-sufficient, self-governing nations.

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January 2021 - The Fig Tree - Page 7

The 8th ‘One River: Ethics Matter’ conference will be in 2021 in Okanagan in British Columbia. Follow updates at https://celp.org/ethics-treaty-project/

Our promise to bring hope.
Please consider donating to the Catholic Charities Christmas Tradition. www.cceasternwa.org/donate

about land and water, and the land and water will care for us. Water is life, my life, your life and the life of our children and the people to be.

Closing the conference, Tanna said “all of us are ancestors in the making, so we need to think and plan for seven generations. I look to move forward so my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren have a better future.”

For information, call 509-539-1290 or email sfountain@wsu.edu or john@waterplanet.ws or visit https://celp.org/ethics-treaty-project/.

Jim Heffernan - policy analyst
Emma Johnson - youth voice
Sandra Luke - Ktnuxaa
Shay Way - youth voice
Rosalie Fish - youth voice
Martin Wells - retired bishop
Celia Delaney - Klamath Tribe - counselor with Cowlitz
Pauline Terbasket - Okanagan Syilx Tribe

Taylor Aalvik - Cowlitz natural resources

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Pullman, WA
509-334-7898
Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 pm

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January 2021 - The Fig Tree - Page 7

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January 2021 - The Fig Tree - Page 7
How are COVID Vaccines Being Made?

Here are some answers to questions you may have about the COVID-19 vaccines currently being produced, tested and approved.

How are COVID vaccines being produced faster?

Usually vaccine testing and production are done as separate steps, but because of the pandemic, vaccines are being developed on parallel tracks - meaning we’re still doing both steps, just at the same time.

How are the vaccines being tested?

Several different COVID vaccines are in testing right now. Each of them goes through more than one clinical trial; first with a small group of volunteers, then a couple hundred, then thousands.

How will the vaccines get approved?

Not all COVID vaccine versions that go through clinical trials will make it to the final stages of testing and approval. Produced vaccines that do not pass will be destroyed. But for those that do make it past clinical trials, a team of medical experts will examine test results and possible side effects. If the vaccine works and it’s safe, it gets approved. Then it gets to you.

GU-Catholic Charities’ immigration law program expands

Since launching in October 2019, the Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic at Gonzaga University School of Law has served more than 70 low-income individuals and their families in need of immigration legal assistance in the Spokane area.

With a gift from Ed and Beatrice Schweitzer, it is expanding efforts by adding a faculty chair and the Border Justice Initiative.

Megan Ballard, a Gonzaga Law School faculty member since 2004, is the first Catholic Charities professor of immigration law and policy. Her expertise is on immigration, forced migration and refugee resettlement.

She also facilitates efforts to increase access to immigration-legal services for communities in need. In spring 2020, she led a trip to the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona with law students, staff and alumni to assist asylum seekers with their applications.

“The position allows me to merge my commitment to student professional growth with exploring the impact of law and policy on immigrants’ rights at our borders, as well as boundaries that limit belonging,” she said.

Megan will also be the first Border Justice Initiative director and formalize the law school’s efforts to assist immigrants at borders through student advocacy training, strategic partnerships and educational programming.

The initiative creates a process for law students to gain hands-on legal experience by providing direct assistance to immigrants at the border and in this region.

She said the program will help “break down barriers that exclude immigrants from full civic engagement—from being welcomed contributors to schools, communities, workplaces and other realms of society.”

Students will study historical and legal facets of U.S. immigration, attend immigration court, conduct workshops and directly assist immigrants in navigating the legal process.

For information, call 513-3752 or email ballard@gonzaga.edu.

CME forges partnership to provide reliable internet access to students

After months of planning, Community-Minded Enterprises (CME) announced a partnership with Spokane Public Schools (SPS), the Washington Childcare Centers Association (WCCA) and Comcast to furnish reliable internet to thousands of school age children by bringing Lift Zones to Spokane County child care providers, so they better connect to online learning at no cost.

“We knew there was need,” said Lee Williams, CEO of CME.

“Child care sites weren’t prepared for internet usage needed for online learning when COVID-19 hit. We had to do something so children wouldn’t be left behind.”

Installation of Lift Zones began in late November.

Kris Workman, senior director, Comcast in Spokane, said: “These safe spaces can offer families support when at-home connectivity is either not available or a student is unable to participate at home.”

Working with nonprofit partners and city leaders, Comcast is providing WiFi in facilities to help students go online, participate in distance learning and do their schoolwork.

For information, visit www.community-minded.org.

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Long-time effort to change street name results in Whist-alks Way

By Catherine Ferguson SNJM

On Dec. 14, 2020, the seven Spokane City Council members voted unanimously to change the name of Fort George Wright Drive to Whist-alks Way.

The name change initiated by a grass roots group and Council members Karen Straton and Betsy Wilkerson, was strongly supported by the Spokane Tribal Council, who were asked to propose the new name for the mile-and-a-half road.

The Tribal Council reached out to Tribal Elders to recommend a name, followed with support of the name from tribal leaders from Colville, Coeur d’Alene and Yakama Tribes.

“We reached out to these tribes because their ancestors fought alongside ancestors of the Spokane Tribe. This is the proper tribal protocol according to tribal customs,” said Carol Evans, chairwoman of the Spokane Tribal Business Council.

After more than 120 years of honoring a man whose cruelty brought the killing and starvation of many Indians of the various tribes who made their livelihoods along the rivers of Eastern Washington, this new name will correct the historical record.

The name will honor the peoples who first inhabited the Spokane region by honoring a woman warrior, Whist-alks, who was the wife of Quaalchan, one of the warriors who was hanged by Colonel George Wright in May 1858 along Hangman Creek.

In achieving the name change, the grass roots group and City Council members accomplished what others before them had been unable to do.

Why now? Attempts were made in the 1980s and again in 1993.

According to Rusty Nelson, former director of the Peace and Justice League of Spokane (PJALS) and one of those involved in previous efforts, a part of the process required agreement of those who lived along the street: Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC), the Unitarian Universalist Church (UUC) of Spokane, at 4340 W. Fort George Wright Dr., had also previously called for changing the name of the street.

In August, 200 people rallied in the ULC parking lot to challenge honoring someone who organized genocide and terrorized the first peoples of this land, slaughtered 800 horses on the shores of the Spokane River in September 1858, burned down the tribes’ barns with wheat and food, and lured tribal leaders for peace talks beside Hangman Creek where 17 were hanged.

Indigenous speakers shared stories, thoughts and insights on renaming the street, walking, driving or riding to an intersection with prominent signs and shared more stories of the atrocities that had happened.

Todd Eklof, pastor, said the church had tried several times to change the name to remove the constant reminder of the pain Col. Wright had caused, and as a step to right historical wrongs and recognize how racism has been part of the community.

The time was right because of the events that have propelled a national movement to address racial injustice and rethink the kinds of historical figures who are honored in monuments, street names and public spaces.

Betsy acknowledged, “It’s just the whole tone of the country right now so people know enough about it to seek the change.

In the process, because the City of Spokane is named for the Spokane Tribe, who were some of the original inhabitants of this land, the Spokane Tribal Council led the effort to determine the

hance our traditional values by living and teaching the inherent principles of respect, honor and integrity as embodied in our language and life-ways,” she said.

“Our efforts on the Coulee Dam legislation were finally successful,” she said.

This legislation assured the Spokane Tribe will receive compensation for the harm they experienced when their land was inundated by Coulee Dam. Other tribes had received such compensation in earlier legislation.

“In addition, our 2019 application for Indian gaming was approved by the Department of the Interior,” she said.

As a result, the Spokane Tribe operates casinos on the West Plains near Spokane and in Chewelah.

Carol is particularly proud of the work they have done on language preservation.

“We worked hard on language preservation. Our fluent speakers were down to just a handful, it is important to have a language back,” said Carol, highlighting the healing power of learning one’s own language.

According to the Spokane Tribe Language and Culture website, “Preserving the language and culture has caused a new sense of pride and dignity in the people. Many of the social problems of the past have been erased and our people are healthy in all aspects of their lives.

Besides these achievements, the Spokane Tribal Council continues to work on improving health care, expanding work force and housing opportunities, addressing drug addiction and other social issues.

The unanimous acceptance of the name change by the Spokane City Council not only affirms the desire to honor the ancestors who lived on this land but also acknowledges the work of their descendants to honor their Indian tradition and culture.

As they voted on the name change, Spokane City Council members expressed their satisfaction at being able to support the name change.

Betsy affirmed “I am so happy to be here to make this happen.”

Council President Breean Bengs also expressed his appreciation: “I am thrilled we are where we are today.”

At the same time, many present acknowledged that this is only one step, and there is much work to do.

In particular, representatives of the Native American Alliance of Policy and Action, who represent the about 16,000 Native people from various tribes who live in Spokane and who gave their support to the name change, encouraged the council to form a working group that includes them to give more voice to the urban Indians in policy decisions.

Tami said that first the Spokane Planning Commission studied the name-change proposal before referring it to Spokane City Council.

With the vote, the next step is to make new street signs and put them up at post-COVID time when they can have a ceremony.

For information, call 458-6505 or visit spokanetribecom.
Difference makers are leaders who bring justice and compassion

“Difference makers” is what The Spokane-Review is calling people whose stories they have been covering recently. “This shows how many people who make a difference because of their faith and values.” That is how The Fig Tree defines its mission.

We rejoice that The Spokane Review in joining us in this heARTening, hope-filled venture about what people are doing because they care, seek justice, build and peace and serve the community. We add the piece of “because of faith and values” as our style for covering “religion news.”

We welcome them because there are simply too many stories to cover and we do not have the space in 12 pages to fit all the details they can add as stories carry over one or two pages. Sometimes, like a Dec. 22 story on Twa- netae McClain, her story of how she has been able to heal from the stories of her efforts over the years, and those of her mother, Debra. The S-R story gave extensive background into her community involvement with her mother, her working for uranium-mine cleanup, studying environmental science, working to improve the air quality on the Spokane reservation, carving canoes and starting the River Warrior Society aiding community elders and helping after wildfires on the reservation. It’s an ongoing story.

It’s the kind of news that gives people hope and helps them realize they, too, can make a difference.

It’s not just black, cherry stories, but it’s stories, as many in this issue, about people who have struggled and experi-
enced trauma. Racism brings violence by the pain, they emerge to decide they want to walk beside others who are experi-
encing struggle and trauma, not just on the personal level but from injustice, oppression, hate, stereotypes, isolation and exclusion.

It’s especially heartening to have such news when the whirlwind of politics con-
tinues to spread anxiety on the one hand and offer assurance of calm on the other hand. After all the stress and disruption COVID has brought us, with seeming endless inactivity, it’s reassuring to have some news of the avenue forward of possibilities, not chaos, for the new year.

Whatever the changes, we still need to be called by the examples of people who know they must continue to find ways to respond to the new problems and new opportunities to make a difference in their own lives, their families, their commun-
ties, their cultures, their societies, their nations and the world—as have many who spoke at the recent ethics conference on the Columbia River.

The article on leadership gives us a new perspective that leadership is not power over others but sharing power with others to move people toward justice, equity and inclusion.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Daily commitment to hike, with dogs, reminds hiker to ‘rejoice always’

“Joy-in-a-Dog Suit” brings me joy as I struggle up a difficult hill. I smile just because it is there. This is found is some of the most unexpected and surprising places.

In the last 281 days, I have learned that the climbing the toughest hill always leads to the most views; the most beautiful places and the most hope comes when it is the most unlikely. The frost creates lace patterns on dry weeds. On the rainiest days, the soil is nourished and more fertile. After the death of foliage on the coldest winter days, spring returns with glorious color. Even after the loss of so much, there is still hope and promise.

God created the world this way—a way that reminds us who holds us in the palm of his hand. A way that reminds us that even in times of deepest despair, we are not left alone. That by itself is cause for great joy. That is a promise from God. “We will never be left a lone, for I am with you,” says the Lord. “I will not leave you in 

Lauri Clark-Stratt - Fig Tree Board

Some elected officials have stoked threats, harassment and acts of violence. “The threats, racial vitriol and violence continue. They must stop. Our faith demands we speak out against these horrific acts, and urge all people of faith and good will to do the same,” stated Rev. Dr. Peter W. guns. We have lost friends and family members. We are scared. We are on edge. We can’t recreate holiday gatherings or experience the joy of being together. We can’t worship in our sanctuary, and we celebrate holidays together. My church has been life-giving. It is my sanity to inten-
ditionally walk inside the artistry of God’s creation looking for joy. It reminds me of the awesomeness of our ever-present God, no matter how difficult life can be. Even when it is freezing cold outside and people can’t gather for food because of fear and uncertainty with this crazy new pandemic, God’s blessing and love fuel my body and alleviate stress—the YMCA and the Jiu Jitsu gym—and the places I have gone my entire life fed my soul—the church—were closed. If this was causing panic in me, what was it going to do to the sanctuary for others? I felt lost and helpless. For a moment, I felt useless. This was way too difficult! That was when we started our hikes, 281 days ago, as of when I sat to write this. We started because we wanted the daily exercise. We started because Zak was just getting the hang of liking his spaces and places to use his camera. We started be-
cause it gave us an excuse to get out of the house in a socially distanced way. I take phone pictures of Zak when he is skiing and I put them on Facebook hoping friends see them.

What has happened is I have discovered joy in the most unexpected and surprising places in the midst of—and given a voice to—some of very difficult times. Getting up each morning at 5 a.m.—and I am NOT a morning person—and going outside amid the quietness has been such a blessing in life. It is my sanity to inten-
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Yub Nub, my energetic Pomeranian, was pulling me up that last hill towards the finish line. With 281 days of hikes, I had been up it multiple times, but it never gets easier. I was tired. Zak, my son, was not far ahead of me, yet nowhere in sight. The mountain top was just that—seven-pound Pom, R-2, sprinted down the hill with a goofy, happy look on his little face. I was a little behind him around my feet, then disappproached again back up the hill. I laughed and trudged up the hill, feeling useless. This was way too difficult! That was when we started our hikes, 281 days ago, as of when I sat to write this. We started because we wanted the daily exercise. We started because Zak was just getting the hang of liking his spaces and places to use his camera. We started be-
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### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 30</td>
<td><strong>The Fig Tree Delivery</strong>, pick up at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, 10 a.m., 535-1813</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td><strong>The Color of Compromise</strong>, an open Zoom book study with Andre Dodge, Restoration Church and Spokane Friends, 327-7852</td>
<td>Check for plans at <a href="mailto:rntimel51@gmail.com">rntimel51@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td><strong>The Fig Tree Mailing</strong>, pick up at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, 10 a.m., 535-1813</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td><strong>Winter Farmer’s Market</strong>, Pavilion at Riverfront Park, 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td><strong>The Fig Tree Benefit and Board</strong>, Zoom, noon, Benefit, 1 p.m., Board, 535-1813, email <a href="mailto:mary@thefigtree.org">mary@thefigtree.org</a> for link</td>
<td>Check at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td><strong>Peace and Justice Action Committee</strong>, working on national legislative priorities on war, peace and police reform, 5:30 p.m., Zoom, <a href="mailto:slichty@pjals.org">slichty@pjals.org</a></td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 7, 14, 21, 28</td>
<td><strong>Taize Prayer Service</strong>, The Ministry Institute, Zoom, 4:15 to 5 p.m., 313-6765, <a href="mailto:bartletts@gonzaga.edu.org">bartletts@gonzaga.edu.org</a></td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td><strong>Sabaes Qae? Speakers Series</strong>, Hispanic Business / Professional Association membership meeting, 6 to 7:30 p.m., hbpa@<a href="mailto:spokapomena@gmail.com">spokapomena@gmail.com</a>, hbpapokone.net</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td><strong>Showing Up for Racial Justice Committee</strong>, book discussion on How to Be an Anti-Racist, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870, <a href="mailto:slichty@pjals.org">slichty@pjals.org</a></td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 14</td>
<td><strong>Martin Luther King Jr. Fifth Grade Children’s Program</strong>, Coeur d’Alene and Post Falls schools, Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, North Idaho College Schuler Performing Arts Center, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., 208-765-3802, idahohumanrights.org</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td><strong>Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion</strong>, Humanities Washington, Clarence Moriwaki shares the story of Bainbridge Island, 6:30 p.m., humanities.org/event/6-it-not-happen-again-lessons-of-the-japanese-american-exclusion-37</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td><strong>Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration and Speaker</strong>, Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
<td><strong>Martin Luther King Jr Day Rally and March</strong>, Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
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<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 21</td>
<td><strong>From Crime to the Classroom: How Education Changes Lives</strong>, Though Amri, Humanities Washington, 6 p.m., humanities.org/event/online-from-crime-to-the-classroom-how-education-changes-lives-2</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 21</td>
<td><strong>Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change</strong>, Brian Henning, professor of philosophy and environmental studies at Gonzaga University, 6 p.m., <a href="https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-5">https://www.humanities.org/event/online-heating-up-the-ethics-of-climate-change-5</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td><strong>Civil Conversation in an Angry Age</strong>, David Smith, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies now at the University of Washington, Humanities Washington, 6 p.m., humanities.org/event/online-civil-conversation-in-an-angry-age-5</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 26</td>
<td><strong>Grant Forsyth</strong>, chief economist of Avista and former economics professor at Eastern Washington University, 7 p.m., zoom link at peg splitter/events</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<td>Jan 26</td>
<td><strong>“Is Truth Really Dead in America?”</strong> Humanities Washington, WSU professor Steven Stehr, 6:30 p.m., humanities.org/event/online-is-truth-really-dead-in-america-3</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td><strong>Showing Up for Racial Justice Committee</strong>, national legislative priorities focused on war, peace, and police reform, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870, <a href="mailto:slichty@pjals.org">slichty@pjals.org</a></td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>**Eastern Washington Legislative Conference with keynote speaker, panel, discussion, workshops and legislative briefing, “Beyond Words: Doing Justice,” Zoom, 8:50 a.m. to 1 p.m., 535-1813, 535-4112, <a href="mailto:event@thefigtree.org">event@thefigtree.org</a> or register online at <a href="https://livestream.givelively.org/event/the-fg-tree/beyond-words-doing-justice-virtual-2021-eastern-washington-legislative-conference">https://livestream.givelively.org/event/the-fg-tree/beyond-words-doing-justice-virtual-2021-eastern-washington-legislative-conference</a></td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td><strong>The Fig Tree Delivery and Mailing</strong>, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, 10 a.m., 535-1813</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td><strong>The Fig Tree Benefit and Board</strong>, Zoom, noon, Benefit, 1 p.m., Board, email <a href="mailto:mary@thefigtree.org">mary@thefigtree.org</a> for link</td>
<td>Check for plans at milkspokane.org</td>
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**Note:** Check for plans at milkspokane.org for all events.
‘Transformative’ leadership incorporates justice, equity, inclusion

K
ingston University’s School of Leadership combined moves students beyond “command and control” leadership to awareness of just, equitable, inclusive leadership models.

As the nation today seems divided on leadership models—power over with—a new book expands on “transfor- mative” leadership, a concept developed by Carolyn Shields of Wayne State University in 2010.

Leadership models sound theoretical, but they describe how individuals, organizations, communities, societies and na- tions function. Historically, different models have been practiced and studied: authoritarian, bureaucra- tic, participative, team, situational, managerial, democratic, democratic, charismatic, consultative, spiritual and servant. Other concepts are transnational, transformational, transmuting and transformative. It is all relative: just as words define meanings, so do the words define relationships and goals of an approach, which inform when and how people act.


Kristine’s and Jim’s 15-page chapter is on “Developing Learner Identities through Coun- tering Othering.”

“Othering is the process when we define and secure our own positive identity through stigmatization of an other,” Kristine said. “We can choose to treat ‘us’ and ‘them’ or ‘in-groups’ and ‘out-groups,’ she said.

Kristine, director of the Insti- tute for Hate Studies at Gonzaga, a Gonzaga leader- ship studies doctoral graduate and director of the Institute for Hate Studies from 2008 to 2010, values the thinking behind trans- formative leadership, because it increases understanding and justice to equity in organi- zations.


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