

33RD YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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

Small group takes small steps to act

By Mary Stamp

A small group at Faith Lutheran Church in Leavenworth read a book in 2013 that inspired them to embark on a community solar project.

When they read Frances Moore Lappé's book, *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want*, the group was struck by her assertion that climate change can still be stabilized if millions of people take small, deliberate actions.

Essentially, the six decided to work towards creating the world they want.

"We didn't want to be immobilized by the sense of hopelessness that so many people feel about climate change," said Lisa Therrell, chairperson for the church's Earth Stewardship Group

"We wanted to do something to make a difference with climate change by reducing carbon emissions," said MaryCarol Nelson, a member of the group and one of the project organizers of the Icicle River Middle School community solar project.

Another group member, Barbara Rossing, a professor at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, suggested doing a solar project in the community.



Lisa Therrell told what a small group accomplished in Leavenworth.

She said solar panels would be "a visible sign of the church's commitment to a vision of hope for the future of the world."

Barbara learned about Washington's Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Incentive Payment Program.

Their project would be "a small, but important, step to help our economy transition away from fossil fuel-dependence, a vital energy shift, reflecting our love for God's people and all creation," said Barbara, who had already installed 39 panels at her home.

The group worked for a year with consultant Ellen Lamiman of Energy Solutions in Winthrop, the Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) and Cascade School District. Ellen handled the technical aspects of designing the system and navigating the program requirements.

Four Faith Lutheran members recruited investors and donors to support the first community solar project in Chelan County. In June 2014, 96 photovoltaic solar panels were installed on the Icicle River Middle School roof. The panels produce 19,680 watts, enough to power three homes.

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Cathedral presents art exhibition to stir interfaith understanding, respect

The power of art to communicate is key to "The Bridge" exhibit that will be on display during June at the Cathedral of St. John at 127 E. 12th Ave. in Spokane.

The Very Rev. Bill Ellis, dean of the cathedral, said that throughout history famous artists have created works that both subtly and not so subtly politicize, sometimes intentionally to humanize or dehumanize individuals and groups.

"The Bridge" exhibits art works of 47 internationally recognized and emerging artists who come from 15 countries—men and women of Muslim, Christian and

Jewish backgrounds.

Their diverse voices speak to the challenges and hopes of attempting to cross "what bridges us to each other." They also uplift "what people hold in common across their creeds and cultures."

"The Bridge" opened in Paris in February 2015 during the United Nation's World Interfaith Harmony Week, just after the shooting at the office of Charlie Hebdo, a French satirical weekly magazine. That event is part of the increasing chasm and discord among faiths and ethnicities in the Middle East and the West.

Paul-Gordon Chandler, art curator, author, interfaith advocate, social entrepreneur and art patron is bringing the 2015-16 traveling exhibition. It is the seventh exhibit of CARAVAN, a peace-building-through-arts nonprofit that seeks to build bridges for interfaith understanding and reconciliation.

Paul-Gordon, an Episcopal priest with standing in the Diocese of Spokane, is the founder and president of CARAVAN.

He has ties to the cathedral in Spokane where he has preached and "sojournd" over the years, said Kay Rafferty, chair of the cathedral's exhibition organizing committee.

The exhibit, Kay said, is designed to trigger questions about "where we go from here."

Believing that art can build respect, understanding, sharing, friendship and harmony, Paul-Gordon has developed "nomadic" art exhibitions shown worldwide rather than in a fixed location. They are often in sacred spaces, rather than galleries or museums,

Continued on page 12

NW alliance media salon looks at racism in media

As part of its efforts to educate people on media responsibility, the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NWARD) recently held a "Media Salon" discussion on "Media and Racism," looking at how media portray Muslim, immigrant and African-American communities.

NWARD board member Ben Cabildo, program director of Community-Minded Enterprises, said attacks on multi-ethnic communities are nothing new. For example New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley attacked Chinese immigrants, who built railroads across the United States, saying they were "unclean" and must go, Ben said.

"Each wave of immigrants has been criminalized and dehumanized," he said. "Media attacks have often been followed by attacks by mobs. Given that history, I am concerned about what I am now hearing in media."

Another NWARD Board member, Heather Crandall, on the faculty of the master's program in communication and leadership studies at Gonzaga University, said, "Media teach us what to consume, what to value, how to vote, and what to believe about ourselves and others. Media teach us to internalize racism, so it's important for us to understand the effect of media on our culture."

Raymond Reyes, associate academic vice president and chief diversity officer at Gonzaga University, facilitated discussion by a panel that included Sandy Williams, editor of The Black Lens; Wilma Cartagena, president of the Club de Latinas de Spokane, and Admir Rasic, a Muslim in Spokane for 16 years and a member of the Spokane Interfaith Council

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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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Faith bodies effective in addressing human needs

Faith-based communities are increasingly effective in addressing humanitarian needs, according to the World Council of Churches general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit.

"There is a remarkable change towards acknowledging the role of faith-based communities and their resources to address humanitarian needs," he said at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), May 23 to 24 in Istanbul, Turkey. "This is promising for those who need more assistance, and it is promising for the constructive cooperation needed."

The summit was the first of its kind in the United Nations' 70-year history, as UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon called for humanity to be placed at the heart of global decision-making.

The summit was built on the principle that stakeholders must act on five core responsibilities: preventing and ending conflict, respecting rules of war, leaving no one behind, working differently to end need and investing in humanity.

"It comes at the time of great needs and with resources for humanitarian aid shrinking. What is available should be used more to mobilize local capacities and to use the competence and human resources at hand, such in churches," Olav said, calling for global actors to work to prevent humanitarian catastrophes, such as wars, environmental degradation and climate change.

The WCC's representative at the UN in New York, Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, said religious institutions and faith organizations have established relationships of trust and familiarity in local communities because they are present before crises, are first responders and key providers of assistance during crises, and stay after international organizations leave. He also said churches also have a role in preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as promoting peace building and reconciliation because of the Christian imperative to promote human dignity.

Leaders of WCC and WEA meet

Leaders and representatives of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) met May 20 in the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland, to explore possible areas of future cooperation.

Participants reflected on developments in society and churches, and on evangelical and ecumenical movements. They shared plans and discussed possibilities for closer collaboration on such areas as "public witness and peace-building in inter-religious contexts" and "theological reflection, education and formation."

WCC general secretary, Olav said, "Christians and their communities around the world are aware today, as never before, that life is in peril. So many dangers—climate change, poverty, economic injustice, threats to health, violence and war—endanger humanity and can drain our hope."

WEA general secretary, Bishop Efraim Tendero, also affirmed the need for a closer cooperation between the WEA and the WCC: "In our growing cooperation we can build on years of discourse and mutual understanding. This is not a quick rush into a changing situation, but a thought-through move towards more cooperation of Christians on a global scale."

"We owe it to our constituency that we talk with the leadership of global Christian bodies and seek better understanding and closer cooperation wherever possible," he said.

They discussed concerns about religion and violence.

"All religions can generate extremists, but Christian teaching about salvation through Christ rejects all kinds of religious violence," Efraim observed, aware that the nature of religion is to make truth claims about what ultimately exists and how people relate to the divine.

"A religion becomes extremist when it uses force or violence to impose truth claims on other people or to apply those truth claims to its own members. As religious leaders, it is our duty and call to promote, to teach, to foster the peace in our traditions," he said.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Resource Directory deadlines are in June

During June and July, The Fig Tree staff and volunteers will be finalizing the 2016-2017 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Agencies.

Final corrections and updates, as well as ad copy are due by June 15, so the camera ready copy can go to the printer in early July.

Businesses, congregations, ministries, agencies and organizations wishing to assure they have

enough copies for use during the coming year need to have their bulk order requests in by June 30, to assure that enough copies are printed.

The 11,500 copies printed for the 2015-16 edition are nearly all distributed.

"There has been great demand for the printed copies to share with those who need access to resources to find housing, education and jobs, particularly people emerg-

ing from poverty," said Malcolm Haworth, editor of the directory, which is published in partnership with Community Colleges of Spokane Headstart/ECEAP.

The Fig Tree Board's Annual Meeting is at noon on Thursday, June 2. The board reviews the year, and elects new board members and officers.

For information, call 535-4112 or 535-1813, or email resourcedirectory@thefigtree.org.

Cindy Algeo retires from housing agency

Cindy Algeo, executive director of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium for 20 years, is retiring and Kay Murano is the consortium's incoming executive director.

Kay has been development director at Volunteers of America

since 2012. Before that she was a grant writer and administrative assistant at Catholic Charities.

The two will be honored at an open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, July 14, at the SNAP Administration Office, 3102 W. Fort Wright Dr.

The Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium fosters collaboration among nonprofits and housing developers to increase the number of affordable homes for renters and homeowners.

For information, call 325-3235 or visit slihc.org.

Family caregivers gain tips at conference

Frontier Behavioral Health's Family Caregiver Support Program presents the 2016 Family Caregiver Conference Wednesday, June 22, at the Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St.

The theme, "You Put the Care in Giving!" celebrates efforts of unpaid caregivers of disabled adults in the community by providing speakers, breakout sessions, a community resource fair, games and door prizes.

Brenda Avadian, author and founder of thecaregiversvoice.com, is the featured speaker. Another presenter is registered nurse Mary Ann Wilson of the nationally recognized Sit and Be Fit television exercise program.

Educational sessions will address caregivers' legal options and emotional wellness, and offer a caregiver support group experience.

In addition, a panel will

answer questions on geriatric psychiatry, Alzheimer's and related dementias, pharmacology and medical equipment.

More than 30 businesses and nonprofits will provide information about community resources and support for family caregivers and their loved ones.

Five CEU credit hours are available to paid caregivers who pre-register to attend.

For information, call 458-7450.

Unity in the Community will be Aug. 20

Unity in the Community will be held from 10 to 4 on Saturday, Aug. 20, at Riverfront Park with the theme, "Embracing Culture and Diversity."

"For 21 years, Unity in the Community has been successful and garnered the support of vital sectors of the Spokane community," said April Anderson, co-chair with Mareesa Henderson. "Last year, it drew more than 25 sponsors, 150 vendors, hundreds of volunteers and 10,000 attendees from the area's diverse population. We gave out 2,000 bags of school supplies."

Both believe the community needs to respond to diversity with more than just tolerance.

"We need to embrace our different cultures," said April. "We need to come together to understand each other."

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church organized the first Unity in the Community in 1994 at Liberty Park. By 2007, it outgrew that park and moved to Riverfront. It was under AHANA (African American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American) and then Community-Minded Enterprises, before becoming an independent nonprofit in 2014.

The festival features diverse entertainment, a cultural village, displays, games, arts, food, and activities for adults, including a job fair and health screening.

At 5:30 p.m., Friday, June 3, is a Rooftop Extravaganza benefit at Umpqua Bank, 111 N. Wall.

For information, call 599-6669, email nwunity@icloud.com or visit nwunity.org.

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www.nwunity.org

Panelists tell how their communities are invisible or featured negatively

Continued from page 1 and the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force.

Raymond reminded that “courageous conversations can create caring communities.” He asked panelists to describe current conditions of media coverage of their race and religion.

Sandy then told how Malcolm X said in 1964 that media made a criminal look like a victim and a victim look like a criminal, so “we hate people who are oppressed and love the oppressor.”

She is frustrated by images of black people in Spokane media. Blacks make the news if they are criminals, athletes or entertainers.

“We need a different view of blacks. In the 1990s, there was the African American Voice,” she said, telling why she started The Black Lens.

She listed some ways media portrayal of African Americans is distorted.

- Media underreport positive news on African Americans.
- Media cover negative news on African Americans and make negative associations.
- Media use problems to frame the view of blacks, showing blacks on welfare or dropping out of school.
- Media miss stories about black people’s lives and talk about statistics.

A report on news coverage in New York City by four major news channels revealed over-reporting the racial identity of



Admir Rasic, Wilma Cartagena and Sandy Williams discuss bias.

black crime suspects, she said.

“**Repeated exposure** to unbalanced reporting reinforces cultural biases and creates a hostile environment,” she explained.

The first issue of The Black Lens in January 2015 looked at the police use-of-force report after Spokesman-Review coverage said use of force was not racially biased.

“I thought that was good, but I read the report, and it said blacks are 2 percent of the population but 10 percent of those involved in use of force cases,” said Sandy, seeing a racial bias in those statistics.

Wilma, who now lives in Wenatchee, said “invisibility is a factor for people of color and immigrants. I’m a Latina, but not an immigrant, because I’m Puerto Rican. I was born a U.S. citizen. I have an accent and I’m brown, but I’m a U.S. citizen.”

Many assume she must be from Mexico, Central or South America, and must be illegal.

“There is no such thing as

‘illegal.’ That term erases people who are undocumented,” she said.

“I’m acutely aware of what it is to walk in a brown skin. We are invisible in media. There are no Latino reporters,” she said.

“People with brown skin are seen as a group to demonize and dehumanize,” she said.

“I do not agree with assimilating. It erases culture. In media, I do not see anyone who looks like me. It erases me. We need to challenge assumptions that come from media,” Wilma said.

Admir said Islam is covered more than any religion, but it’s in a negative way. American Muslims are especially underrepresented. We need to see more coverage of Muslims who act positively. Since Sept. 11, coverage has been high, but 92 percent is negative. The 25 most common terms media outlets use for Muslims are negative, he said.

“How does it happen? Right wing hate groups endorse

Islamophobia. Negative coverage shapes perceptions of Islam and Muslims, and leads to mainstreaming hate. Islamophobia leads to hate attacks,” Admir said.

“I am a peaceful person and oppose wars, but when I state my opposition to the U.S. military intervention in Iraq, my American patriotism is questioned. I’m quiet, yet Muslims are viewed with suspicion,” Admir said. “Muslim rights are human rights. We need media to serve us, too.”

Media Salon discussions

help members of the community understand dynamics of media coverage and how they impact people and communities.

NWARM is a regional center for excellence in media, presenting educational events to inform people how media shape attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors.

For information, call 313-6491 or email crandallm@gonzaga.edu. CMTV’s video on the panel will be shown on Channel 14, at 8 a.m., 2:30 and 5 p.m. Tuesdays, and at 10 a.m., 3 and 6 p.m. Saturdays.



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2016 CROP walkers raise \$6,366 for hunger

Forty walkers raised more than \$6,366 in the 2016 CROP Hunger Walk held May 15 at Spokane Community College.

The church with the most walkers was Moran United Methodist. The church raising the most money was St. Stephen’s Episcopal, and the individual raising the most money was Retta Nickell. They were awarded gift baskets from Christ Kitchen, said walk coordinator Randy Goss.

The Spokane CROP Hunger Walk, which started in 1979, was the first such walk in the Pacific Northwest, said Amber Blake, Church World Service regional coordinator in Seattle.

“CROP has a direct impact on response to hunger in a multifaceted way, overseas and locally,” she said.

Amber announced before the walk that over the years, Spokane’s walk has involved 88 unique organizations and raised more than \$707,051.

Also speaking before the walk on Sunday, May 15, was Nate



Moran United Methodist walker wears new T-shirt

Osterholm, associated students director of student resources at Spokane Community College. He told of the CARE Center on campus for Community Awareness, Resources and Engagement, developed after a

food and security survey at SCC.

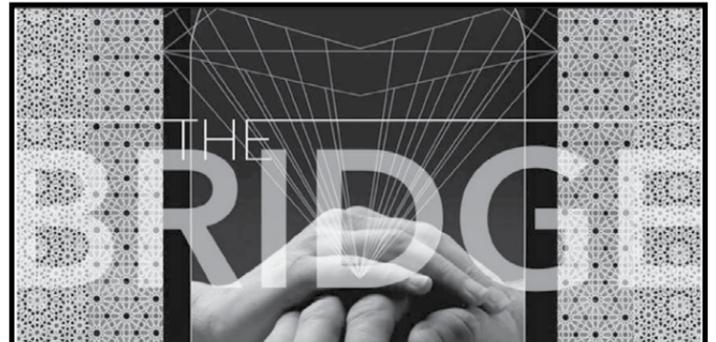
The top 15 participating groups in 2015 were St. Stephen’s Episcopal and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Moran and Audubon Park United Methodist, Millwood Presbyterian, North Hill and Country Homes Christian, Spokane Friends, St. Mark’s Lutheran and Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ churches.

Local recipients of 25 percent of the funds are Meals on Wheels and Family Promise. The rest goes to national and international hunger efforts.

This year, the local organizers created a T-shirt with an image of the Monroe Street Bridge.

The local sponsors for this year’s walk were Arby’s, Yaden Construction Specialties, Inc., Spokane Community College and R.W. Goss Construction, Randy said.

For information, call 468-4099 or email goss301@gmail.com.



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RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Solar panels at school inspire others to use solar

Continued from page 1

“Under Washington’s Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Program, a solar project can be designed to allow a community jointly to donate to and invest in a solar installation on a public property. A nonprofit, in this case Faith Lutheran, can be the project administrator,” said Lisa.

Investors receive an annual payment based on energy produced through June 2020, which allows them to recover their investment, she said.

“We thought the school would use the power generated, but it was easier to put the energy back into the power grid,” Lisa said. “The school receives Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) payments from the Chelan County PUD for electricity generated.”

Through SNAP, the PUD makes small-scale solar and wind power more cost-effective for customers who donate a little extra on their utility bills. Individuals, schools and nonprofits are generating solar and wind power, building a base for renewable energy in the county. There were 15 more individuals and businesses installing solar panels in 2015, according to the Chelan County PUD.

When some questioned why installing solar panels would be part of a church’s ministry, Lisa said that creation care is integral in the church’s mission statement: “To incarnate the gracious, healing and reconciling presence of God through sacramental worship, congregational nurture, and ministries of peace, mercy and justice for all Creation.”

“Contributing clean renewable energy into the regional grid helps reduce dependence on carbon-emitting fuels,” said Lisa.

“Faith Lutheran, a congregation of 100, has a reputation for instigating good things,” she said. “The community has trust in the goodwill of the church to come through with a project.”

Other past projects of Faith’s Earth Stewardship Group have included having a potter make 100 ceramic mugs and soup bowls to save on paper waste, installing a bike rack at the church, and offering seminars on gardening.

Care of creation comes naturally to Lisa, who has lived in Leavenworth for 24 years. She retired there after 34 years of working with the U. S. Forest Service in Washington and Idaho as a wilderness manager and planner, managing the interface between people’s desire for recreation and leaving wilderness natural and undisturbed.

“I assessed how to do the least damage,” said Lisa, who gradu-



Solar panels on middle school enough for three homes

ated in 1981 in biology and environmental studies from Seattle Pacific University.

“I was always nature oriented and started learning about plants and birds from my mother. I liked being in the woods,” she said of living near Issaquah, where she grew up.

She attended a church, but left it, frustrated by consumptive attitudes parishioners held towards creation. As she moved with her work with the Forest Service, she tried different churches, a Presbyterian church in Roslyn, Wash., and a Methodist church in Grangeville, Idaho.

Visiting Holden Village in 1985 introduced her to the Lutheran church and its belief that creation care is important.

She moved to Leavenworth in 1992 and started attending Faith Lutheran.

Lisa said that Faith’s Earth Stewardship Group also worked with the City of Leavenworth and Project Bayern to install recycling bins where tourists can leave cans and bottles.

“With the Clean Water Act, the nation’s tap water is good,” she said.

“There are parts of the world where I would not drink the water,” said Lisa, “but most bottled water is from a tap. The water in Leavenworth is from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. It’s clean, fresh, treated, filtered and tested for 72 contaminants.

“We would like to promote Leavenworth as a sustainable tourist destination. We want to work with motels to be less resource consumptive,” she said.

Lisa and Barbara also par-

ticipate in Climate Conversations North Central Washington, an ad hoc group that advocates for response to climate change. They also link with groups like Leavenworth Sustainability Alliance to encourage businesses to develop new ways they can be sustainable, and work with Earth Ministry in Seattle on education programs.

Recently the Methodist pastor, and members of Faith Lutheran and Our Lady of the Snow Catholic Church read and studied the Pope’s encyclical Laudato Si, “Care of Our Common Home.” About 20 people met six times over the winter, and have now become an ecumenical group.

Environment is just one of Faith Lutheran’s outreach efforts, Lisa added.

People from the church helped start the Community Cupboard Food Bank, which provides relief services, and an Empty Bowls event to raise money for the food bank.

Then came cooperative housing and a free clinic, managed by Upper Valley MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity), which Faith Lutheran helped form in the 1980s. MEND also has an adult family home for the developmentally disabled.

Meanwhile, Faith Lutheran has engaged with the local immigrant population and is offering English as a second language and citizenship classes.

“We are a small church, but act on our faith by extending God’s love and providing service to our community,” Lisa said.

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Summer Church Camps 2016

Faiths offer summer camping programs full of reflection and adventure

Many elements go into the summer experiences faith communities in the region provide at their camps.

Some denominational camps offer one-week age-group camps, while others offer age-group cabins and activities at multi-age camp weeks. Some offer specialty camps for art, ranching, backwoods and mission service.

To compete with the many other activities available in the summer, church camps now have much more than swimming, crafts, canoeing, hiking, camp games and campfires.

Waterfront activities include sailing, wakeboarding, water skiing, tubing, paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboats, fishing, river floating outings, and inflatable floating blobs, slides and trampolines.

To add to adventure and community building, there are high



Paddlers explore on Lake Coeur d'Alene from Camp Cross. Photo courtesy of Colin Haffner

ropes, low ropes, challenge courses, rock climbing, mountain boarding, mountain biking, a climbing tower and zipline, white-water rafting, survival skills and horseback riding.

At the faith-based camps, the

goal is to deepen the understanding and commitment of those involved in churches of the sponsoring denominations and to introduce faith to children and youth with no church experience.

Part of the faith development

piece is for campers to experience the wonder of God in the natural setting. Another part is to build life-long friendships and community relationships through the activities, adventures, meals, singing, Bible study and reflection

based on a curriculum or theme.

Some camps are run by paid staff at the camp much of the summer. Volunteer counselors and leaders plan and coordinate activities at other camps.

Attendance at most of the camps, even those operated by denominations that are declining, is steady or up, and most camps have facilities so they operate year-round as places congregations and other groups rent for retreats. Camps are continually upgrading facilities to offer more hotel-like rooms, as well as cabins and tents.

Camps draw people by advertising, word-of-mouth, church channels, postcards, billboards, legacy, visits and social media.

Directors of six camps in the region recently shared what's up this summer at their camps and insights into their operations and programs.

N-Sid-Sen prepares for fire safety by cutting trees, plans to purchase mattresses

Part of a restful, rejuvenating camp or retreat experience is to have a good night's sleep, said Mark Boyd, managing director of N-Sid-Sen on the East Shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

So the Pacific Northwest Conference United Church of Christ camp and conference centers, N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs at Port Orchard, have launched a campaign to replace 334 mattresses by next season with \$250 commercial mattresses.

Given that they are not slept on every night, some mattresses at N-Sid-Sen have lasted since the 1970s and 1980s, said Mark.

Awareness of damage by 2016 area wildfires led N-Sid-Sen to look at its forests surrounding cabins and lodges on 80 acres on the lake side of Highway 97 and on 200 acres east of the highway.

Working with a forester, Mark said they cut down 20 percent of the trees near cabins and lodges, trees dying or diseased because of bark beetles or root fungus.

Now that he knows how to recognize unhealthy trees, he noted when he recently drove across the state how many fir trees are dying.

"Part of being stewards of the forest is to be aware, clear underbrush and to replant with species like white pine that are resistant to root fungus," said Mark, who expects to replant next spring.

At each week-long, age-group and family camp and retreat session this year, he will tell why it was necessary to thin the trees and be stewards of the forest.

Campers can go on shoreline walks, hike to Inspiration Point, play volleyball and basketball, and join in big group games in the meadow. Other activities include swimming, water skiing, tubing, sailing, canoeing, paddle boating,

paddle boarding and kayaking.

Because the camp depends on volunteer leaders and counselors, he and Wade Zick, managing director of Pilgrim Firs, are developing a program to train counselors and leaders aged 15 and older to increase the pool of volunteers available and trained to help run camps.

For the 2016 season, N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs are using "Fearless Faith: Courage in

Community," a curriculum to help campers draw courage from biblical characters, their friends, families and communities of faith to help them stand up to mistrust, injustice and fear in society. The program invites campers to reflect on life, forgive others, change attitudes and welcome people, Mark added.

Throughout the year, N-Sid-Sen connects with campers and members of the region's United Church

of Christ churches through Facebook.

Almost every day, Mark posts a reflective entry, connecting a photo of a sunset, water, meadow, flowers, woods or other camp scenes with a faith insight.

Many people comment—not on Facebook but in person—about how they appreciate the postings.

"It's a way to remind folks who do not live in places like this how they need to slow down, look

around and see what's important," Mark said. "We are hit with so much misinformation as mass media try to keep us distracted."

I say look around, look at our lives, our moments and our times," he said.

Through Facebook, he primarily reaches parents, who are the ones to decide about their children going to camp.

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

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Lutherhaven celebrates its 70th year of providing summer camps on Lake Coeur d'Alene

To celebrate its 70th summer of camping, Lutherhaven plans an anniversary party from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28, with a carnival day of games, waterfront activities and more.

In 1945, Lutheran churches of the Inland Northwest bought 16 acres overlooking Mica Bay and eight 1930s-era Civilian Conservation Camp buildings from the Avery, Idaho, area for \$500. They established it as a camp for all Lutheran denominations.

More than 1,000 people attended its official dedication in May 1946. The first camp was held in late June. That summer, 650 campers came.

Until 1973 when Lutherhaven hired its first year-round executive director, it was just a summer camp. Indoor plumbing and meeting spaces were added for winter retreats.

Now more than 1,500 children come to the camp each summer, said Lauren Gust, marketing associate. The camp serves about 12,000 guests each year, including 7,000 children and youth, coming



Idaho Servant Adventures participants work on an outdoor chapel at the Shoshone ranch. Photo courtesy of Lauren Gust

to different programs.

Today, the camp is on 60 acres. A secondary site, purchased in 2009 from the U.S. Forest Service at the base of the Bitterroot Mountains on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, includes the Shoshone Mountain Retreat and Shoshone Creek Ranch. It is on 35 acres surrounded by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The ranch includes horse riding and pioneer experiences for eight children and youth each week.

Today, Lutherhaven is more than a summer camp.

It also serves children and teens through day camps in churches, ranch camps, camps for children with special needs, leadership camps, Idaho Servant Adventures, outdoor education and winter youth retreats.

It serves families with family camps, group rentals, work weekends, and its camping and RV sites.

It serves adults through men's

and women's retreats, older adult programs, meetings, events, conferences and volunteer opportunities.

This summer a new program, Castaway Camp, replaces the Homestead Camp, in which campers stayed in tents in walking distance to the main camp. The new camp brings the canvas-walled tents into the main camp. Campers will still learn basic survival and cooking skills, while enjoying all the regular activities of summer camp.

Lutherhaven is renovating its year-round retreat center with hotel-style bedrooms and bathrooms.

The summer activities have expanded over the years to include a challenge course, high and low ropes, group-building exercises, a climbing tower with a zipline and water toys.

Summer camps are for multiple ages with cabins for each age group. The age ranges vary each week.

Lutherhaven has 65 staff hired over a summer, with about 30 of

them on site each week.

Lauren said camp experiences allow campers to "encounter creation, create community and commune with Christ."

About a third of campers are un-churched and learn about Jesus for the first time, she said.

For information, call 208-667-3459, ext. 117, or email marketing@lutherhaven.com.



New camps mean campers can attend more

Camp Cross on the western shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene has brought back a Mid-High camp and is starting an arts camp, said Colin Haffner, executive director of the camp for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane for five years and program director for three.

The Mid-High Camp for eighth to 10th graders was dropped a few years ago because of low registrations, but there has been a steady rise in camper numbers.

The arts camp for fourth- to ninth-graders connects art with faith and spirituality. Leaders will help campers with music, drama, fiber arts and writing.

With new camps, youth in fourth grade and above will be able to attend multiple camps—their age group camp, mid-high and art camp. There are six sessions for youth, plus a mini camp for children entering grades two or three, and family camps the weekends of July 4 and Labor Day.

Campers connect with the program, nature and the outdoors.

"Despite many sports camps, there is a trend to attend sleep-away camps to build lifelong friendships and community, and to be outside for a week of swimming, canoeing, kayaking and hiking," said Colin.



Frisbee is among many camp games. Photo courtesy of Colin Haffner

The forest setting on the lake is conducive for faith formation, building strong bonds that transcend social and economic differences, he said.

For some campers, it may be the first time they eat three meals a day and sleep in the same bed for six days, Colin said.

"It's amazing to hear stories campers share with us. Many leave saying camp is an amazing part of their lives," he said.

Colin continues in off-season to see and hear stories of campers as they interact and give each other support through Facebook and other social media, their means

for year-round connection.

"They tell of experiencing God, learning to pray and learning how the church can work in their lives," he said. "At and after camp, most campers feel good about their experience of faith in contrast with people who use religion to spread hate and exclusion of some groups of people."

"We create a community that says you're part of this community, a friend accepted for who you are, and that this community is there for you even after you leave camp."

For information, call 723-3790 or email colinh@spokanediocese.org.



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Summer Church Camps 2016

Ross Point addresses campers' fears in its program theme and in fire safety

Given the fears many experience in these times and the usual fears children have growing up, staff at Ross Point Camp on 60 acres on the Spokane River at Post Falls decided to use the theme "Fear Not!" for its 2016 four age-group camps and a family camp.

"By adopting a theme and using Bible verse for the weekly programs, volunteer directors feel they have more creativity than they do with a curriculum," said John Batchelder, executive director for the past 16 years. "The Scripture is Jesus' promise in Matt. 28, that he will be 'with you until the end of the age.' If Jesus is with us, we don't need to be afraid."

Not only does John help camp directors develop the theme, but also most directors have come for several years and know the camp.

Directors work with eight paid counselors, aged 20 and older, and other trained counselors. They received advanced materials and



Photo courtesy of John Batchelder

Ross Point has climbing wall.

had a three-day training in April about expectations for their age groups.

"They are trained to assume authority without being bossy and to be positive role models," John said.

"It's important for campers to feel safe," he said. "Counselors help campers live in community, understanding boundaries for behavior. There is to be no sarcasm or bullying.

"When they test, and boundaries are enforced, the campers feel better," John said.

To expand safety, John is participating in a webinar on "Preparing Youth Camps in the Pacific Northwest for Wildland Fire in 2016."

It is being offered online by Washington State University Extension Services at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 1. Information is available by emailing mike.jensen@wsu.edu.

With safety in mind, camp staff

cleared combustible material from around buildings, and staff has an active assailant (shooter) policy, given the recent shooting of a pastor in Coeur d'Alene.

"Young people today fear because of mass shootings. A psychologist with the American Camping Association said that if campers know how the camp is prepared, they feel safer."

Safety is important so the camps can create the one-to-one relationships among campers and with counselors, and relationships in small and large groups for sharing and interacting.

"Relationships draw campers back year after year," John said. "Given social media use, personal relationships are valuable. We give people a time and place to interact."

This year, he expects a total of 300 youth to attend the four camps, plus 180 at family camp, including people from four area American Baptist churches, in-

dependent churches and with no church background.

In addition, Camp Journey, which is for children with cancer, draws 120 campers and 80 volunteers.

The rest of the summer, other churches use the facilities and lead programs with their own curricula. Ross Point provides a lifeguard and leadership for its high and low ropes courses, climbing tower and cooperative games.

With its new addition to the lodge, Ross Point is now available to small groups with no minimum group size. Recently, three small groups used the meeting space.

"Last year was one of the best financial years ever," he said. "In addition, in the last few years, we have had more junior high campers than ever because of our collaboration with several independent churches."

For information, call 208-773-1655, email john@rosspoint.org or visit rosspoint.org.

Twinlow camps are multi-age, plus specialty camps, including a service camp

Kristen Moon, assistant director of camping and retreats at Twinlow, said the United Methodist camp offers multi-age camps from June 19 to Aug. 7, with programs for elementary, middle school and high school ages. Games, crafts, lake time, Bible study and cabin placement is based on age groups.

Twinlow also has several specialty camps.

A junior/senior high fine arts camp offers singing, music, dance, painting, drama and drawing.

Two junior high and one senior high water sports camps offer wakeboarding to canoeing all day; an elementary lake camp has water sports and tubing, and there is a fishing and sailing camp.

High schoolers can also participate in a two-week counselors-in-training camp.

In addition, Twinlow also has an Explorers Program for elementary and junior high campers to sleep in tents in the back woods, cook their meals outside and learn to care for the environment.

A new high school program, Rock and Water, is for teens seeking adventure—rock climbing, white water rafting, hiking and lake activities. They sleep in tents in the woods.

There is also an adult adventure camp for 19-to-35 year-olds.

Twinlow continues its Idaho



Camper catches fish at fishing camp. Photo courtesy of Kristen Moon

Mission Project. Every week youth groups from United Methodist and Lutheran churches in Colorado, Utah, Oregon and Washington stay at Twinlow and go out to serve in nearby missions—Second Harvest, Elder Help, Habitat for Humanity, Fish Creek Restoration Project and Children's Village. Late in the day, they do camp activities.

With 207 youth registered in 2016, these camps, which build community and a commitment to serve, are full, said Kristen.

Twinlow also has Camp in a Van, which it takes to 500 day-

campers in nine communities in Montana, Idaho and Washington. Staff take a van with materials for vacation Bible schools.

"We're on a lake and have boats. Campers can come here and try new activities. Today American children go outside less than they should. They watch videos and play video games, rather than being outside connecting with the Creator," she said. "Here campers grow to love nature so they want to protect it."

Campers come back year after year, and have a sense of ownership, that Twinlow is their camp,

said Kristen, who is motivated when campers tell her how camp experiences changed their lives.

For information, call 208-352-2671 or email kristen@twinlow-camp.org.

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Camp Spalding adds nature program so campers learn to appreciate creation

Camp Spalding is building a year-round, 1,300-square-foot Nature Pavilion to house the summer craft and nature programs.

"The nature program guides campers as they explore the natural world. The pavilion serves as a base. For example, campers explore the woods and water, bringing back samples to look at through a microscope to see God's finely tuned world and discover what that world says about the God who loves them," said Andy Sonneland, executive director for 25 years.

They will do plant identification, find animal tracks and learn how the ecosystem works.

"We will connect campers to nature in an intentional way, so they can know God better by seeing creation as a gift," he said.

In the summer, the pavilion's four garage doors will be open. The rest of the year, the doors will be closed and the building heated for meetings of up to 50 people.



Water activities excite campers. Photo courtesy of Andy Sonneland

Camp Spalding/Clearwater Lodge, a ministry of the Presbyterian Churches of the Inland Northwest, is north of Newport on Davis Lake. It has 42 paid summer staff,

mostly college students or graduates.

During a daily activity time, campers can choose rock climbing, ropes, mountain boards, mountain bikes, horses, archery, boating, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, crafts or water toys.

From 120 to 180 campers come each week to age-group camps, about 1,600 a summer.

For Andy, the value of camp is taking young and old away from daily routines to have fun and to hear, consider and respond to Jesus' call to follow him.

"Week after week, some make a first decision, and others are inspired to go deeper in faith," said Andy. "That is what's important to me, and it's our 1957 founding mission."

Middle and high school campers also come to fall camps with their youth groups, rather than as individuals, as in the summer.

"Our mission is to complement the church youth and education programs as a place to reflect and regain spiritual focus outside of daily routines," he said.

Over the last 20 years, campers have changed from two-thirds in Presbyterian churches to 30 percent, and many of the 70 percent have no church backgrounds, Andy said.

"That has happened as churches have decreased in size," he said. "So we advertise in the community and welcome people outside our historical constituency."

For information, call 710-3440 or email andy@clearwaterlodge.org.

Habitat store reopens, Blitz Build underway

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane's Store opened Wednesday, June 1 at the new location, 1805 E. Trent. Store hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. The store relocated to the former Pacific Wholesale Florist Building.

"This central location will provide new opportunities for the store and the affiliate, increase awareness and partnerships, and allow the organization to serve more families in need," said Michelle Girardot, CEO of

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane.

It has good access to I-90, and is near downtown Spokane and the University District. There is more parking space and easier access for donating and picking up large purchases, she said.

In its 16th year, the retail outlet for new and used building supplies, has raised more than \$2.5 million for Habitat home building in Spokane County.

Habitat-Spokane provides permanent housing solutions for families living within 25 to 60

percent of the area median income.

The annual Blitz Build kicks off at 8:30 a.m., Monday, June 6, at the Blitz Build site, 400 E. I St. in Deer Park. It concludes on June 17. Habitat has been "Blitz Building" for 14 years.

Volunteers will frame four homes from the foundation up in partnership with candidate families. It will finish and dedicate four other homes.

For information, call 534-2552 or email mgirardot@habitat-spokane.org.

Cuts to domestic violence funds affect two agencies

Transitions and the YWCA in Spokane received notice in May that Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will not fund \$233,217 in services for survivors of domestic violence in the coming year. As HUD continues to restrict funding to specific types of housing programs, units available to assist women, particularly survivors of domestic violence have been cut, said Mary Tracey of Transitions.

Last fall, HUD funds were not reinstated to programs at the YWCA. The loss of \$155,796 affected support services. HUD said they would no longer fund this type of service, despite the crises faced by women fleeing domestic violence, she said.

In May, there was another blow to the safety net when funds were eliminated for both the YWCA's transitional housing and

Transitions' Miryam's House and Transitional Living Center.

Between the programs, nearly 60 families were affected with 90 percent of the women they serve attempting to stabilize after fleeing domestic violence.

Sixteen units were lost in April. Major support services were lost a few months earlier, Mary said.

"Survivors face a myriad of challenges when trying to rebuild their lives after experiencing family violence. These barriers include emergency shelter and transitional housing historically funded by HUD, and work readiness supports a woman needs to access permanent housing. With ending supportive services dollars and funding for transitional housing, survivors are left with fewer options at a highly desperate moment in their lives," said Regina Malveaux, YWCA

chief executive officer

For information, call 328-6702 or email mtracey@help4women.org.

FOR meets at Seabeck

"Persevering FOR Peace" is the theme for the Annual Northwest Regional Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Conference and the FOR USA Centennial Celebration from Friday to Monday, July 1 to 4 at the Seabeck (Wash.) Conference Center.

Keynote speakers are Jamila Raqib who works on strategic nonviolent action and Erica Chenoweth, an authority on political violence and alternatives who co-authored *Why Civil Resistance Works*. There are scholarships for youth and young adults.

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Local retirees start Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps for retirees in Spokane

Plans are underway to start a Spokane Jesuit Volunteer (JV) EnCorps for individuals 50 and older to engage in transformative experiences of intentional service that combine service, community and spiritual formation.

Currently, there are programs in Seattle, Portland, and Bend, Ore. Like them, the Spokane group will employ the years of experience of older adults in the community on behalf of social and ecological justice, said Karen Beal, program manager in Portland.

The team that is forming the Spokane program includes retirees who are volunteers.

- Kevin Pratt, the core team leader, recently retired as director of career development and alumni mentoring at Gonzaga University.

- Bob Stirling worked in child welfare and was later on the faculty at Eastern Washington University's School of Social Work until retiring in June 2015.

- Bev Austin retired eight years ago. She was a counselor and teacher for 20 years at Gonzaga Prep, and coordinated service learning at a Jesuit high school in Indianapolis, where she also did adult spiritual formation.

- Vic Forni, once a Jesuit volunteer, retired several years ago as the CEO of United Way.

JV EnCorps members commit to 10 months of part-time service from September through June in local organizations. They meet monthly to explore Jesuit Volunteer values of community, simple living, spirituality, and social and ecological justice.

Grounded in the Catholic Ignatian tradition, JV EnCorps welcomes people from all faiths.

"We partner with many local nonprofits to provide JV EnCorps members with fulfilling opportunities to serve their Spokane neighbors," said Karen.

JVC Northwest celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. It started in 1956 in Copper Valley, Alaska. JVC Northwest now engages 150 Jesuit volunteers and 70 JV EnCorps volunteers in the Pacific Northwest in volunteer service in solidarity with persons living on the margins of society.

"With two Jesuit Volunteer communities already in Spokane, JVC Northwest fills a social justice role here. As JVC Northwest's program for older adults, JV EnCorps will add to this work," she said.

Kevin and Bob are both 1971



Kevin Pratt and Bob Stirling are on the team developing the program.

graduates of Rogers High School and attend St. Aloysius parish.

After retiring last summer, Kevin wanted to be engaged in the community. He had encouraged Gonzaga graduates to consider JVC Northwest opportunities to live values, have an impact and be spiritually nourished.

"Part of my value as a Catholic is concern for those on the margins of society, those with the greatest needs and least resources," Kevin said. "I want to do the community service piece and be in community with people discussing issues and how we as individuals, communities, governments, churches and organizations can address issues of social justice."

The JV EnCorps will be an opportunity for him to reflect on complicated issues and frustrations about finding solutions," said Kevin, who worked for 35 years with students to help them find purpose and meaning, and find ways to make a difference through their careers, rather than just having jobs to earn money.

For older people who have not been in ministry, JV EnCorps is a way to align their work and lifestyles with their values during their retirement, he said.

Kevin, who earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1976 at the University of Texas in Austin, a master's in education counsel-

ing at Whitworth in 1982 and a master's in human resource management at Gonzaga in 1987, counseled students to help them discern how to use their gifts in meaningful ways.

"Too many people just go through the motions to make money," he said.

Kevin stays connected to the Catholic Church, despite issues and disappointments over the years, because "the church is a powerful resource." He is drawn to the Jesuits' spirit of inclusiveness and commitment to social justice, "finding God in all people and things, in both simple and profound ways, and engaging with contemplation in action."

At this stage of life, Kevin said he has more questions than answers.

Bob is interested in seeking volunteer opportunities for participants as his role in organizing the JV EnCorps. He has volunteered for Catholic Charities for many years and knows about opportunities in the community.

In 1977, Bob, who grew up in Chewelah and moved to Hillyard in 1960, worked with VISTA in Colville to help start a day care and a community drama group.

In 1980, he earned a degree in applied psychology at Eastern Washington University and in 1996, a master's of social work.

He served as a community educator in the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands from 1984 to 1987, helping start children's programs and challenging clear-cutting of rainforests.

Experiencing culture shock when he returned to the United States, he was a Peace Corps recruiter in Detroit until 1988. Then he returned to Spokane to work with immigrants and refugees at the Headstart and Institute of Extended Learning programs on N. Monroe.

After his 1996 degree, he worked on child welfare, then as faculty field instructor at EWU and in recruiting students to study social work. His spiritual journey has led him to be involved with St. Patrick's, St. Ann's and St. Aloysius parishes.

"My faith inspires me to serve and to give back," he said. "JV EnCorps is a way to do that."

Bev's undergraduate degree from Gonzaga was in sociology. She earned a master's in social work at Eastern Washington University in 1985 and also has post-graduate religious studies and spirituality work there.

Her experience as a spiritual director and retreat facilitator will be useful as she serves as facilitator of monthly sharing and reflection sessions of the volunteers, helping them relate their volunteering with the program principles and their own faith.

Since returning to Spokane three years ago, she has been volunteering.

"I'm involved because the program combines Jesuit education, Ignatian spirituality and my love for community service," Bev said.

Vic first came to Spokane in 1973 as a Jesuit volunteer teach-

ing at Immaculate Heart School in DeSmet on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation for a year. He met his wife, Jon, who was also teaching there.

The next year he was a Jesuit volunteer with Catholic Charities, assisting with Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs. He had completed a bachelor's degree in humanities at Providence College before becoming a Jesuit volunteer.

He then worked 10 years with Catholic Charities and 25 with United Way before retiring 10 years ago to care for his mother-in-law, who lived to be 99 and died in 2012. Since then, he has continued volunteering with the Council on Accreditation, which accredits nonprofit agencies.

"I'm on the organizing team for JV EnCorps because I'm committed to JV Northwest values—simple living, social and ecological justice, community and spirituality," Vic said, noting there were four Jesuit Volunteers in Spokane when he first came, and there are now 12 to 15 a year.

The Spokane team seeks to recruit 10 volunteers by Aug. 15. The program begins in September.

Volunteers will serve five to 10 hours a week with Catholic Charities, Volunteers of America, food banks and other agencies.

For information, call 251-3262, email jvespokane@jvcnorthwest.org or visit jvencorps.org.



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Understanding propaganda helps people discern truth and falsehood

Propaganda is the stuff of political campaigns. It has often been the tool of dictators to manipulate public opinion.

Propaganda includes a host of techniques: bandwagon appeal, glittering generalities, name calling, "plain folks," cause-and-effect mismatch, bad logic, faulty analogy, vague terms, unwarranted extrapolation, flag-waving, evading questions, unclear policy, repeating lies, repeating slogans, loaded words, simplistic solutions, authority, exaggeration, fear, disinformation, scapegoating, transfer, testimonial and the list goes on.

We see these techniques in political campaigns, advertising and even the news. Many TV news anchors have turned current events and investigative reporting into infotainment, treating political campaigns as weather reports and sports competitions.

No wonder the celebrity of the GOP candidate for President rises every time his name is mentioned as he tweets, shocks, is interviewed and has the last word with another tweet. Media have allowed this free publicity, because it brings good ratings.

The more his name is mentioned and he is in front-page news or prime time, the more his popularity seems to grow, regardless of his rantings, name calling, jingoism, authoritarianism and narcissism.

He has eliminated "equal time" for other candidates, once a requirement for public airwaves. Attention to the Democratic frontrunner still vets her—a woman—over and over, but there is little pursuit of the GOP candidate's fraud trial being delayed until after the election, his unwillingness to show his tax returns, his bad business dealings and his fluctuating policies.

The media seem gullible, chasing the popularity trail and bombastic comments that diminish voices of reason.

There's more to see than calling out the game of propaganda, which we will do.

There's also the money game.

News on the super propagandist makes money even for liberal candidates and media. Candidates play on fear of their opponent to raise money for ads.

Who wants to stop the flow of donations into their pockets to impede a propagandist who wins media attention with fewer ads?

Every time media report a poll about narrowing margins, they stir anxiety that opens people's pocketbooks. Might it eventually leave some so fatigued of the campaign they don't vote or stop donating?

Is propaganda duping even seasoned journalists, given that it plays into definitions of news—conflict, unusual, sensation, celebrity and sex. Many seem blind to their complicity. Are some emerging and voicing concerns?

What are some of the propaganda techniques and how do they work?

- **Bandwagon:** Propaganda asks people to jump on the bandwagon with a popular candidate to be on the winning side. Polls play to this mindset.

- **Repetition:** Propaganda repeats simple slogans to make a point. Repeating lies over and over may make them seem true. The message has a few points, repeated over and over. Repetition makes an audience remember the message.

- **Name calling:** Propagandists use name calling and labeling to attack and diminish their opponents, arousing fear, prejudice and hate, rather than appealing to rational arguments based on facts.

- **Scapegoating:** Propaganda blames an individual or group to distract attention, so the propagandist doesn't need to take responsibility. It uses false accusations, rumor and guilt by association. It misrepresents an opponent's stand.

- **Fear:** Propaganda stirs fear, uncertainty and anxiety to make people want simple, authoritarian solutions. It uses generalities

to oversimplify complex issues.

- **Celebrity:** Propaganda creates celebrity or a personality cult, while appealing to plain folks.

- **Disinformation:** Propaganda twists truth, cherry picking truth to match the propagandist's purposes. It creates false history, uses half-truths, exaggerates truth, assigns new meanings to words, draws false conclusions, misuses statistics, takes quotes out of context, and associates something negative with something good.

- **Dehumanize:** Propaganda stereotypes to demonize and dehumanize an opponent as subhuman, immoral or worthless, undermining his/her credibility.

- **Confuse:** Propaganda bombards a political opponent with rapid-fire questions, too much misinformation and vagueness to confuse and inhibit response. It uses thought-stopping clichés. The propagandist offers no clear, consistent policy solutions.

- **Glittering generalities:** Propaganda uses glittering generalities and emotionally loaded language. It appeals to patriotism, drawing on emotion, not reason.

- **Stretch boundaries:** With a message that is outside the bounds of acceptance, propaganda expands the bounds of acceptance or makes less desirable positions seem more acceptable.

- **Isolation:** Propaganda cuts people off from their usual social support systems, isolating them from their prior communities, beliefs and values. It plays up divisions.

Propaganda gives misleading information—misinformation—to promote or demote a candidate, cause, ideology, agenda, viewpoint or product.

Merriam-Webster defines propaganda as false or exaggerated ideas or statements that are spread to help a cause, politician or government.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum says propaganda conjures "images of false-

hood and manipulation, brainwashing and servility. It is the antithesis of objectivity, rationality and truthfulness."

Will rational discussion of policies and issues sway people from fears that make authoritarianism appeal?

Now, along with "mass" media, run by educated journalists, professionals working for major corporations, we have online media that make everyone reporters of their versions of news.

Are either concerned about freedoms of press, speech and assembly, or representative government?

Is propaganda just negative manipulation through lies to destroy democracy or can it be turned for the public good as people challenge it to create an educated, healthier, progressive citizenry? Repetition is also positive tool for teaching and learning.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum website notes that in contrast to "an educator who aims to foster independent judgment and thinking," a propagandist discourages reflection.

We need to be reminded that propaganda does not always achieve its goals. It may result in backlash, if an audience is not receptive or is offended.

How vulnerable, susceptible and gullible will people of faith be to being swayed by the current political propaganda appeals? Will we be drawn away from our values because the choices are not pure?

Will we opt for caring or hate? Is the choice really between liberal, conservative, progressive or moderate?

Will we be pulled by emotions and anger, or look for reasonable solutions?

Will we talk with each other?

Most important, will we persevere through the far-too-long election season without being fatigued? Will we turn off media? Will we vote?

Mary Stamp - Editor

Reflections

Sounding Board

Solidarity

Faith, environment groups align in solidarity with indigenous people

The faith and environmental communities, which have been in solidarity with the Lummi Nation to challenge the proposed location of the Gateway Pacific Terminal coal export facility at Xwe'chi'eXen, also known as Cherry Point, Wash., celebrate that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided in May to deny permits needed to build the terminal.

The decision upholds treaty rights and honors the U.S. government's commitments to the treaties.

The Northwest bishops and denominational executives have a commitment to solidarity with the region's tribes on that and other environmental and treaty issues.

Jessie Dye – Earth Ministry

"This win is a testament to the power and leadership of the Lummi Nation and the dedication of supporters, concerned families, health professionals, business leaders, tribes, communities and elected leaders who helped make this happen," said Jessie Dye of Earth Ministry.

"We celebrate this landmark victory but we are not done. We will continue to fight until our communities are no longer threatened by dangerous coal export proposals," she said. "Specifically, we will leave no stone unturned in our opposition to Millennium Bulk Logistics in Longview and the Fraser Surrey project in British Columbia."

Mike Petersen – Lands Council

Also commenting, Mike Petersen of The Lands Council in Spokane, a member of the Power Past Coal Coalition, is grateful to the Lummi Nation and local people who have worked since 2013 to stop the proposal.

"Because Spokane would receive the rail traffic for this facility and others, stopping these facilities is vital to stopping fossil

fuel. We look forward to working on clean, renewable energy proposals," he said.

Jace Bylenga – Beyond Coal

A public hearing was held May 26 in Spokane on a proposed Longview terminal.

"In a desperate attempt to save their crumbling industry and protect their bottom lines, the world's largest coal companies want to send millions of tons of coal through our communities every day to ports on our coast," said Jace Bylenga, associate organizing representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign. "Millennium Bulk Logistics wants to build the largest coal export terminal in North America in Longview. It would threaten our health, safety, air and water, leaving us with little to no benefit.

"Coal trains already disrupt our communities and local economy. More coal exports mean more air and water pollution, more traffic, and more toxic spills," he said. "If the companies get their way, they'll send 44 million metric tons of coal through Longview every year. That would bring 16 dirty coal trains through Spokane County and surrounding communities every day. Just one accident would be devastating."

The Power Past Coal Campaign urges people to tell the Army Corps of Engineers to reject the Longview terminal, Jace said.

Faith community's solidarity

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Bishop Martin Wells works to oppose the coal terminals because of the commitment of Northwest bishops and denominational executives made in a letter of apology to the indigenous people in 1987. They renewed their commitment in 1997 and 2007, when Martin first signed on. The faith leaders will renew that commitment again in 2017.

The faith leaders acknowledge the

historical disrespect of traditional Native American spiritual practices and traditions, and promise "to honor and defend the rights of Native Peoples," including "access to and protection of sacred sites" and working to "end political and economic injustice against tribal communities."

In 2014, as part of the Totem Pole Journey from coal mines in Wyoming and Montana to Cherry Point, Lummi leaders invited faith leaders to a commitment in face of the threat to native peoples from mining, transport, burning and disposal of fossil fuels, and its impact on climate change.

The proposed coal export terminals would damage native fisheries protected by treaties and would poison air and water.

Coal trains serving terminals would cut across lands sacred to indigenous peoples, and impact the health of those communities.

Martin and Episcopal Bishop Jim Wagoner, Jr., of Spokane, and church leaders across the state promised to stand with the tribes to defend their lands and fishing rights. Martin and Jim signed a statement in 2014 in Spokane on the grounds of the Episcopal Cathedral of Spokane.

"It's hard to make up for past wrongs, but this was one way in the present day we can offer support," said Martin, who keeps the Synod Council informed of his advocacy.

He also sees his involvement with local tribes and the Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) on the Columbia River Treaty as part of his commitment, too.

"Our Synod territory includes most of the Columbia and Snake River Watersheds. That geography itself offers a call on my life as bishop of this synod," he said.

In 2014, he participated in an educational forum at Gonzaga University on renewal of

the Columbia River Treaty. Two months ago, there was another conference in Boise with Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho, advocating for fisheries and salmon restoration as part of relicensing the Hells Canyon dams.

For Martin, challenging coal transport and terminals, and his work on the Columbia River Treaty are part of his environmental consciousness, awakened in college and by his growing recognition of the interdependence of life and the need for harmony between human inhabitants and nature.

Martin knows the decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deny the permit to develop a coal terminal at Cherry Point is not the end of the story, and there's more for the faith community to consider.

"It's not a good day for the coal industry. The mining company in Wyoming that was going to send coal by rail has filed for bankruptcy protection because the price of coal is low," he said. "We must also remember that hundreds and thousands of people in the coal industry will lose their livelihoods.

"We must address global warming. Through history, there were other times the nation had to walk away from an economic asset because of a deeper cause," Martin said.

As religious leaders call for the protection of life and the Earth, they remind people to love their neighbors, standing in solidarity with Native neighbors to safeguard the traditional lands, water and sacred sites from destruction, and being cognizant of those who will need to find new ways to earn a living, Martin said.

For information, call Jessie at (206) 632-2426, Mike at 838-4912, Jace at 209-2385 or Martin at 838-9871 or email jace.bylenga@sierraclub.org mmwells@ewaldsynod.org.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
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| <p>June 1 • "Healing Hearts Northwest - Into the Heart of Rwanda and Rising from the Ashes," documentary on Healing Hearts team in Rwanda, The Bing, 901 W. Sprague, 7 p.m.</p> <p>June 1-3 • "Powerful Praise! Music Conference," Opportunity Presbyterian Church, 202 N. Pines Rd.</p> <p>June 2-30 • "The Bridge" interfaith East-West art exhibition, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 127 E. 12th Ave., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m., stjohns-cathedral.org and oncaravan.org</p> <p>June 3 • "Unity in the Community Rooftop Extravaganza, funds for school supplies, bike helmets and scholarships, Umpqua Bank Rooftop/5th Floor, 111 N. Wall St., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., nwunity.org</p> <p>June 3-5 • "ArtFest, Coeur d'Alene Park in Browne's Addition, 160 artisans, food and music, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 456-3931, artfest@northwestmuseum.org</p> <p>• "Serenity 12-Step Retreat, "Practical, Simple and Basic: The Genius of the 12 Steps," Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>June 3-19 • "The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later," Stage Left, 108 W. Third, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., 838-9727</p> <p>June 4 • "June Bug Fun Run, Lutheran Community Services Northwest benefit, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Green St., 9 a.m., 343-5020</p> <p>• "Stand Up for Mental Health," Spokane Youth N' Action, The Modern Theater Spokane, 174 S. Howard St., 6 to 8:30 p.m., 892-9241, passages-spokane.org</p> <p>June 6-17 • "Habitat-Spokane Blitz Build, 400 E. I St., Deer Park, 534-2552, habitat-spokane.org</p> <p>June 6-July 1 • "Fall Folk Festival Call for Performers, due July 1, 828-3683, fallfolkfestival@moxxee.com, spokanefolkfestival.com</p> <p>June 7 • "Red Kettle Concert, benefit for Sally's House-Salvation Army, The Bing Theater, 901 S. Sprague, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>• "Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, "The Power of Mercy in a Troubled World," IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5 to 8 p.m. 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>June 10-26 • "The Hostage," Ignite Community Theater, 10814 E. Broadway, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., 795-0004, igniteonbroadway@gmail.com, igniteonbroadway.org</p> <p>June 11 • "25th Annual Pride Parade, "From Silence to Celebration," OutSpokane, Downtown Spokane, noon to 1 p.m., 2016 Rainbow Festival, Riverfront Park, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., outspokane.com</p> <p>• "PFLAG Spokane, Perkins Restaurant, 12 E. Olive, 6 to 8 p.m., spokanepflag.org</p> <p>June 13-17 • "Summer Seminar, "Confronting Overload & Depletion: Finding a Better Way," Center for Organizational Reform, corhome.org</p> <p>June 14 • "Unity in the Community Committee Meeting, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 651 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org</p> <p>June 15 • "A Pilgrimage of Mercy," Silent Day of Prayer of the Jubilee of Mercy, Fr. Daniel Barnett, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>June 16 • "Road to Discovery," tour of Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Deacon John Ruschinsky and Sr. Mary Eucharista, SMMC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>June 18 • "Be Fit to Serve Challenge," Hutton Settlement, 9907 E. Wellesley, 9 a.m., 5.5-mile total body challenge, 315-5023, befittoserve@yahoo.com</p> <p>June 20 • "NAACP Spokane Membership Meeting, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com</p> <p>June 22 • "Family Caregiver Conference, "You Put the</p> | <p>Care in Giving," Frontier Behavioral Health's Family Caregiver Support Program, Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., 458-7450</p> <p>June 25 • "Filipino American Cultural Gala, cultural entertainment, dinner and dancing, Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute Commons Building, 5 to 10 p.m., 999-3565</p> <p>June 27-July 1 • "Retreat for Men and Women, "Exercise of Contemplation in Action, Fr. Jeffrey Core, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, ihrc.net</p> <p>July 1-4 • "Fellowship of Reconciliation Centennial National Conference, "Persevering FOR Peace," Seabeck, Wash., forseabeck.org</p> <p>July 7-10 • "Herbal Wisdom for Today," Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000, spirit-center@stgertrudes.org</p> <p>July 12 • "Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, "The Crisis of Leadership in our World," IHRC, 5 to 8 p.m. 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>July 16 • "South Perry Street Fair, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., southperrystreetfair.com</p> <p>July 18-22 • "Whitworth Institute of Ministry, "For Such a Time as This: Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century," with Brenda Salter McNeil of Seattle Pacific University speaking on reconciliation and author Mike Breen speaking on mission, 777-3275, whitworth.edu/WIM/</p> <p>• "Retreat for Spiritual Direction, "Moving in God's Direction, Mary Sharon Moore, MTS, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>July 20 • "Spokane Community College Mobile Food Bank, Adult Education Center, 2310 N. Monroe St., noon to 2 p.m., 533-4604</p> <p>July 22-24 • "Julyamsh Powwow, Kootenai County Fairgrounds, 4056 N. Government Way, julyamsh.com</p> <p>July 25 • "Lord Teach Us to Pray," Silent Day of Prayer, Mary Sharon Moore, MTS, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>July 25-26 • "Hoopfest 3-on-3 basketball, Downtown Spokane streets, 324-2414, spokanehoopfest.net</p> <p>July 29 • "Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center Capital Campaign event, Umpqua Bank, 111 N. Wall St., 455-8722, fgandy@mlkspokane.org</p> <p>July 31 • "Spokane Valley Cycle Celebration with 10- to 50-mile bike rides and bike rodeo, Mirabeau Meadows Park, 13500 E. Mirabeau Pkwy, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 459-5081, info@valleyfest.org, cyclecelebration.com</p> <p>Aug 3-10 • "Ignatian Silent Retreat, "Praying and Contemplating in the Ignatian Way, Fr. C. Hightower, SJ, IHRC, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>Aug 13 • "Garland Street Fair, 900 W. Garland, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 939-8970, garlanddistrict@gmail.com</p> <p>Aug 20 • "Unity in the Community, Riverfront Park, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., nwunity.org</p> <p>• "Market & Artisan Day, Silver Lake Mall, 200 W. Hanley Ave., Coeur d'Alene, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 928-9664, charity@thefamilyguide.org</p> <p>Aug 23 • "Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad, "The Church—A Prophetic Leader of Relationships in a Global World," IHRC, 5 to 8 p.m. 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p>Aug 26-28 • "Gathering at the Falls Powwow, Riverfront Park, Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday, 1 and 7 p.m., Sunday, noon, 325-5502, gatheringatthefallspowwow@gmail.com, gatfpowwow.org</p> <p>Aug 31-Sept 5 • "PigOut in the Park, Riverfront Park, 921-5579, spokanepigout.com</p> <p>Aug 31 • "Fig Tree Mailing and Distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E 24th Ave., 9 a.m., 535-1812</p> <p>Sept 1 • "The Fig Tree Board, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., 535-1813</p> <p>Sept 3 • "Market and Artisan Day, River Park Square, 808 W. Main Ave., Spokane, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 928-9664, charity@thefamilyguide.org</p> |
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Exhibition of art on three faiths is intended to spark discussion, connection

Continued from page 1
so “the contemplative nature of those spaces” can further the exhibition’s message.

After living his first 18 years in the French-speaking, Muslim-majority, West African country of Senegal, Paul-Gordon majored in theology at Wheaton College and at Chichester Theological Seminary, a Church of England institution in England.

He has worked in the Islamic world in faith-based publishing, relief and development agencies and churches.

From 2003 to 2013, Paul-Gordon was rector of an international English-speaking Episcopal/Anglican church in southern Cairo, Egypt, serving 30 nationalities from many denominations and faiths. Part of the exhibit’s proceeds will go to Educate Me, a program to educate underprivileged children in Cairo.

Bill, who has been at the cathedral in Spokane for 10 years, said the exhibit is important for the Cathedral of St. John to host.

During his summer 2014 sabbatical, Bill spent three weeks “doing art” at the Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth learning to draw, painting watercolor pieces and weaving.

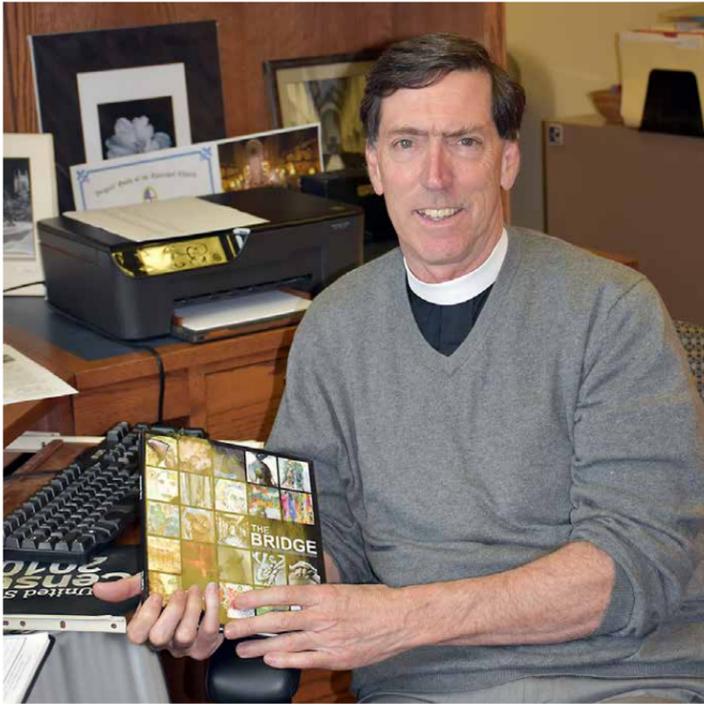
“I took my sabbatical in art because I have spent most of my life in other realms,” he said.

Bill also spent three weeks in London visiting secular and religious art galleries.

“I discovered that art is an important medium that can tell the truth and tell lies. I saw World War II propaganda art and Picasso’s Guernica, showing what bombing from the art does to people. It depicts the horror, pain and death that happen to real human beings,” Bill said.

He also pointed to the power of the Pulitzer Prize winning photo of a Vietnamese girl, Trang Bang, running down a street screaming after being burned by napalm.

“It made people realize that war kills human beings. That little girl is your girl. That picture showed



Bill Ellis believes art can humanize and dehumanize people.

that the Vietnam War was killing people. War, discrimination and hatred kill and damage little girls. The photo washed away the patriotic propaganda with realization that our bombs and napalm were killing people,” he said.

World War II propaganda of Germany, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States dehumanized the foes, likening them to animals, rapists, pillagers and subhuman beings, Bill said.

“Art has a responsibility, a moral obligation, to tell the truth about our common humanity across every race, creed and time,” he said. “It is one of the most effective mediums for humanizing people. It can force us to face the implications of what we do when we dehumanize others.”

“The Bridge tells the truth of three great religions—Christianity, Islam and Judaism—humanizing people and making people aware of their common humanity,” Bill said.

Speaking on behalf of the organizing committee, Kay pointed out that the exhibit “lifts a veil and offers hope, as it opens discussions

about religious backgrounds, histories and communities coming together as faith-based people.”

The cathedral, she said, has been opening its doors to partnerships and conversations with people of different faiths, especially with the involvement of Skyler Oberst, a cathedral member and

president of the Interfaith Council.

“We had speakers in Lent focus on the Middle East. Our congregation is interested in knowing what is going on in the Middle East,” Kay said. “We need to be an agent for good relationships among faith groups in Spokane.”

“Art has a way of inspiring our minds and hearts in ways that no amount of talking can do,” she said.

Kay expects exhibit visitors to come in and be filled with questions and thoughts on what is possible to bridge between faiths.

“It should set us up for more groundwork,” she said.

Kay hopes the exhibit will inspire people of many faiths in the region to come together, as they have been doing through Spokane Interfaith Council’s Meet Your Neighbor events.

“We hope that people leave the exhibit asking, ‘What can I do now?’ and curious to learn more and be more thoughtful. In this election cycle, there have been many superficial remarks.

“Are we smart enough as we progress in the 21st century, or will we let our understanding be flattened by combative comments?” said Kay.

“Art softens the edges to help us

engage in conversations to deepen our perspectives so we can move toward reconciliation,” Kay said.

The exhibit will be hung on June 2 and open for First Friday Art Walk on June 3.

Starting June 6, the hours are noon to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, and noon to 8 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays.

For information, call 838-4277, email k.raff@comcast.net, bellis@stjohns-cathedral.org, or oncaravan@gmail.com or visit stjohns-cathedral.org/bridge-0.

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THURSDAY at 4:15 PM

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The Ministry Institute invites you to pray with music, readings and silence in the style of Taizé prayer. Our prayer for the Healing of Creation begins March 31, 2016.

Taizé Prayers will be on Thursday, June 2 and 9, July 7 and 14, and Aug. 4.
For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu.

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