Campers grapple with nature, values

By Mary Stamp

Over The Fig Tree’s 35 years, dynamics of camping and retreats for faith communities have changed in many ways and remained the same in other ways.

The Fig Tree 36th Year of Publication

The Spokane Tribe seeks health study, services - p. 8

Great-grandmother challenges smelter - p. 9

Pastor shares insights on Unitarian Universalists - p. 12

Four young adults spend 10 months serving Spokane community, churches

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In playful, wild-and-crazy moments, teen campers forge lifelong friendships at Ross Point Camp. For July 4 last summer, they painted red, white and blue stripes on their cheeks to celebrate the holiday.

Unity in Community is 25

The 2019 Unity in the Community, which starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Clocktower Meadow of Riverfront Park in Spokane, is celebrating the 25th year as the region’s largest multi-cultural celebration.

“Many people can’t even imagine what is a vital part of our mission, she said. “April Anderson, co-organizer of the Unity in the Community with Mareesa Henderson.

Unity in the Community was founded in 1994 by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under Pastor Lonnie Mitchell in Liberty Park to break down racial and cultural barriers. In 2004, AHANA (African American, Hispanic and Native American Association) under Ben Cabrillo took on responsibility for continuing Unity in the Community. In 2007, it moved to Riverfront Park. Unity in the Community is now an independent nonprofit coordinated by April and Mareesa.

Participants celebrate and share their cultures, identities or communities. It is also an opportunity to connect people to resources. Access to services, especially underrepresented people, is a vital part of our mission, she said.

Other highlights include free K to eighth grade school supplies, live entertainment and more than 100 vendors as part of the 2019 Unity in the Community. For more information, call 208-773-1659 or visit rosspoint.org.

More on camps on page 5

Continued on page 4

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The Cultural Village showcases many cultures in the region, including those of American Indians, India, Burma, Bulgaria, Turkey, Persia, Tonga, The Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, West Africa, Scandinavia, Germany, Hong, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, China and more. Children entering the village are given a “passport” they take to each booth to be stamped to use to receive school supplies.

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Continued on page 3

For information, call 208-773-1659 or visit rosspoint.org.
The Fig Tree's 2019-20 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources

The deadline for The Fig Tree's 2019-20 Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources is May 4. When final page updates must be done, layouts will be completed and printed in June.

It will go to the printer to be published in July.

Volunteers are helping with ad sales, recruiting partners, editing and preparing for the mailing. In August and September, bulk sales will be delivered. Those wishing quantities of the Resource Directory for use by staff and to share with clients/parishioners will have to place their orders in June. 15.

Community partners who contribute $500, $1,000 or more will have their logo on the cover. Among the community partners committed by May 4, tree press time is Banner Bank, the Sisters of the Holy Names, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Second Harvest, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, the Community Foundation, the Arc of Spokane and Washington Trust Bank.

As of May 31, $26,000 of the $20,000 budget for ads were committed, and $8,650 of $11,500 for community commitments were received.

To join Resource Directory underwriters, call 535-1813 or email maryl@thefigtree.org.

Camino pilgrims plan Mass, dinner in July

Sister Michelle Cleveley, canon to the ordinary of Churches for Pentecost: "To prophesy is to tell the truth. No rank or order is able to exert a monopoly on the truth." They add that "no falsehood or lie can change the dignity and rights of all people, both Israelis and Palestinians.

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane invites congregations to send teams to the College for Congregational Development Sunday to Saturday, Aug. 4 to 10, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. Rockwood Blvd. in Spokane.

The college is a comprehensive training program for clergy and lay in congregational and organizational development, said Susan Cleveley, canon to the ordinary for the diocese.

The college is a two-year program that includes readings, homework, presentations, working in teams, the completion of a content exam and the completion of two back-home projects.

Because the college seeks to improve the way leaders function in congregations, congregations want to send clergy-lay teams.

Susan said the diocese is the only U.S. and Canadian dioceses to adopt the program, starting in 2014 with a grant.

The eight-day intensive summer training draws people from around the U.S.

Susan became involved with the program in 2009 and graduated in 2010 as a trainer for this diocese and two other dioceses.

Both books are written with humor and spiritual reflections as he faced the challenges of the pilgrim life along the Way.

During dinner, there will be brief talks and reflections. All pilgrims who have already walked, those who are intending to walk and those who are simply "pilgrims at heart" may share their "pilgrim stories and adventures."

Donations are welcomed for the Camino website, https://americanpilgrims.org/.

Diocease holds congregational development event

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Holocaust survivor speaks at Chadah in Spokane

Irving Roth, one of few living Holocaust survivors, will speak at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, at the Jewish Chabad of Spokane, 4116 E. 37th Ave. Born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in 1929, he survived the horrors of the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. He immigrated to the United States in 1947. His memories of the Nazi death camps never faded. He devotes his time to educating young and old on the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils of prejudice and anti-Semitism. He received a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and resides in Nassau County, N.Y.

For information, call 443-4116 or email rabbihahn@gmail.com.

Spokane’s Kizuri fair trade store has new owner

Kim Harmon sold Kizuri, the fair trade store in the Community Building, to Jillian Joseph as of May 1. When Kim and Jillian met five years ago in Rwanda, Kim said she secretly knew that Jillian would be the perfect fit for Kizuri. After living in Senegal, Paris and New York City for five years, Jillian returned home to Spokane.

“The time was right for both of us,” said Kim. “I am confident that she will do amazing work. I am looking forward to spending time with my first grandson. I can’t begin to tell you what these last 10 and a half years have meant to me. The support, friendships and conversations I have had have enriched my life tremendously and fueled my commitment to continue working for a better world. I will miss you all, but I will fill in at Kizuri occasionally.”

For information, call 464-7677 or visit kizurispokane.com.

RSVP Fair introduces volunteering opportunities

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Spokane County, sponsored by the YMCA of the Inland Northwest since 1975, will host a volunteer recruitment fair to connect adults 55 and over with volunteering opportunities in the community. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, June 12, at the Southside Community Center, 3515 E. 27th Ave.

Representatives from more than 20 nonprofits will offer information on volunteering opportunities for older adults, like reading to children, feeding hungry families and offering companionship. Justin Eisenstadt, director of the RSVP program, cited a study that said many people report improvements in their health, decreased depression and less social isolation from volunteering regularly.

For information, call 344 7787 or email rsvp@ymcainw.org.

Out Spokane Parade and Festival is June 8

The Out Spokane Parade and Festival will run from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 8, in Riverfront Park. More than 10,000 people are expected for the parade, which is followed by the Rainbow Festival at the park’s Lilac Meadows east of the Clock Tower.

There will be entertainment, a resource and business fair, a family-friendly area and the Odyssey Teen Zone. The celebration continues into the evening with an All Ages Dance Party and fireworks display.

For information, call 720-769, outspokane.com.

Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16

The annual Juneteenth events are June 14 to 16 in Spokane. The Pillar Awards Show is from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, June 14, at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 E. Greene. The Juneteenth Celebration BBQ will be from 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 15, at Liberty Park, 1623 E. 4th Ave. It is an opportunity to recognize African-American history and culture in commemorating the end of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865. A Father’s Day Brunch is from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 16, at the Kitsap Out Outreach Community Center, 500 S. Stone.

For information, email invjc@ymcainw.org or visit invjc.org.

Out of the Shadows auditions for actors, shadows

Auditions for actors and shadow actors for Out of the Shadows Theater’s production of “The Music Man Jr.” will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 26, at Lutheran Academy of the Master, 4800 N. Ramsey Rd. in Coeur d’Alene. The Shadow Theatre casts people with disabilities of any age as actors. They are paired with shadow actors who assist them in rehearsals and performances.

Volunteers build and transport sets, manage microphones, serve as stage crew, costume assistants and ushers, and do publicity. The plays are Nov. 1 to 3, and Nov. 8 to 10 at the Kroc Center Theater. For information, call 208-818-095 or visit outoftheheadonshadow.com.
Rachel has also met with the Yankeetown'sPCPC, which justified European settlers converting indigenous people and taking their lands. “I have no illusion about XPLOR, he applied. We work under grants, limited interaction with young people living on the streets. For three years, Rachel worked as caregiver in an assisted living center downtown has been “ad- ventureous” because it’s open to women whatever their condition. At New Leaf, he makes deliv- eries, works in the kitchen, hosts events, holds bake sales and provides lunches. Participants learn job skills in catering meals and baking. “I have no illusion that non- profit work will save the world. Nonprofits often clean up after the mess systems make,” Nathaniel said. “We could operate shelters for 5,000 years but still have women living on the streets.” Nonprofit work was a natural step for me, because I grew up believing people of faith are to do justice. From connecting with the Spokane Alliance, I gained clarity about liturgical order and selecting songs for worship. “I needed a transition that pro- vided structured support after college to gain life skills,” said Nathaniel, who did an internship at Keononia Farm in Americus, Ga., in the spring of 2018. He wanted to do a year of service and after learning about XPLOR, he applied. Working with homeless women at the Women’s Hearth drop-in center downtown has been “ad- venturous” because it’s open to women whatever their condition. At New Leaf, he makes deliv- eries, works in the kitchen, hosts events, holds bake sales and provides lunches. Participants learn job skills in catering meals and baking. “I have no illusion that non- profit work will save the world. Nonprofits often clean up after the mess systems make,” Nathaniel said. “We could operate shelters for 5,000 years but still have women living on the streets.” Nonprofit work was a natural step for me, because I grew up believing people of faith are to do justice. From connecting with the Spokane Alliance, I gained clarity about liturgical order and selecting songs for worship. “I needed a transition that pro- vided structured support after college to gain life skills,” said Nathaniel, who did an internship at Keononia Farm in Americus, Ga., in the spring of 2018. He wanted to do a year of service and after learning about XPLOR, he applied. Working with homeless women at the Women’s Hearth drop-in center downtown has been “ad- venturous” because it’s open to women whatever their condition. At New Leaf, he makes deliv- eries, works in the kitchen, hosts events, holds bake sales and provides lunches. Participants learn job skills in catering meals and baking. “I have no illusion that non- profit work will save the world. Nonprofits often clean up after the mess systems make,” Nathaniel said. “We could operate shelters for 5,000 years but still have women living on the streets.” Nonprofit work was a
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decision. As a pastor in an aging congrega- tion and denomination, I had limited interaction with young adults. I wanted to intersect with young adults to learn from them. A spiritual companion is not a
spiritual director or counselor,” he said. “We discuss the world and our place in it.” In the first month, Colby, who had felt crippled by his faith in college, figured out his faith direction. Nathaniel finds it refreshing to be with spiritual companions sharing frustrations with church and doubts without considering it dangerous. Not seeing a future for the church unless it is involved in working for justice, he has been excited to learn about churches’ roles in challenging the Doctrine of Discovery in the U.S. and ending apartheid in South Africa. “Inspired by faith, hope and love, we will act for greater purpose,” he said. Emily is rehearsing that the role of faith is to work with people and the community “in authentic relationships despite our back- ground stories or political views.” Spokane always working with older people at Country Homes. Rachel was accustomed to wrestling with faith in Heartbeat Organic, but has been learning about liturgical order and select- ing songs for worship. Emily and Nathaniel are help- ing Country Homes look at alter- native uses for land the declining- member mainstream church owns. They are helping the church explore ways to use its land for the
greater good. Emily believes it may be pos- sible to match church-owned land with the need for affordable housing. Nathaniel is applying rela- tionship-based organizing in the church, learning about decision- making and change makers in the
1960s church. At North Hill Christian, Colby and Rachel help as lay leaders planning worship, events and a retreat.
Camp presents timeless truth, adapts to change

The challenge for Camp Spalding since 1957 has been to hold to its mission as a camp of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, while it adapts to the ever-changing culture. “The truth of the Gospel is constant, but we need to present the timeless truth in a way that makes it relevant in the changing culture,” said Andy Sonneland, who has been executive director for 28 years.

He said church camps still bring record attendance as they draw children and youth away to be with older, “cool” role models, talk faith with peers in the midst of a week that is “a blast” with many activity options and facilities that keep pace with expectations of youth today.

Activities at Camp Spalding on Davis Lake near Newport include boating, swimming, horseback riding, rock climbing, raft projects, camp games, new friends and new memories.

From June 9 to Aug. 19, campers come by age groups to regular or pioneer camps, arts camp and family camps.

More than 80 percent of Camp Spalding’s support comes from fees from summer camps and guest groups through the year. Individual donors contribute $150,000, and four percent of its income is from churches. This summer the camp has a new infrared and is breaking ground for other projects.

Andy said the main change is that 20 years ago, two-thirds of campers were from families attending area Presbyterian churches. Last summer, 30 percent were from Presbyterian churches and 70 percent were from the community.

For information, call 509-731-4244 or visit campspalding.org.

Boys at Camp Spalding interact through a game. Photo courtesy of Camp Spalding

Holden draws people away from world to see the world

For more than 100 years, Holden Village has drawn people away from the world’s distractions into the mountain wilderness in the Cascades above Lake Chelan. In week-long communities, they explore issues of the world.

Chuck Hoffman, co-executive director of Holden Village along with his wife, Peg Carlson Hoffman, said Holden is always evolving. Its beautiful setting was changed by the 2015 Wallowa-Whitman fire and then by remediation of mine tailings and water pollution from the copper mining once done there. Full summer programs resumed in 2017.

“We transform with people who come and reflect on the world, and reflecting the world,” he said. “Holden tries to stay in tune with what we are called to do next. Our topics and conversations relate to the needs of the world.”

Through community conversations, workshops on faith and inner reflections, community participants potentially go from their mountain-top experiences back into the world with new ideas and another way of being, he said.

“We consistently focus on our responsibility for the Earth and creation. How can we change our lives and gain discipline in the ‘pursuit of less’?” he said. “We need to live simpler lifestyles with our food, purchases and consumption. We need to make changes in our lives so we preserve the Earth. For its part, Holden uses food from sustainable, local sources.

“We need to reform our relationships with the Earth, one another and the Divine,” said Chuck, anticipating a “robust summer” from June 10 to Aug. 26 and leadership on the “Unity of Love.”

About 100 faculty, including some from South Africa and Northern Ireland, will help guests look at “how deeply fractured we are” and “how we are called to love and justice.”

About 120 staff serve the 300+ who come each week in the summer. About 60 year-round staff serve smaller guest communities who come fall, winter and spring.

Powered off the grid by a hydro plant, there is less power because of lower water flow from fall storms. Professors from several colleges lead January classes, and a growing number of colleges bring May-term classes.

We continue to grow our community around the world from those who were the forerunners in their 20s in the 1960s to the newest generation of young people and families, Chuck said. About a third of those who have come in the last two summers and this summer are new to Holden.

“The fire and remediation changed the landscape, leaving scars, but new growth coming up through gray landscape is like resurrection,” he said.

“The fire and remediation are a backdrop to learn about climate change, and fires replenishing as well as destroying,” he said. “It makes us appreciate of God’s creation and the Earth, from which we come, and calls us to manage its gifts and resources.”

For information, visit holden village.org.

Holden community gathers for summer vespers. Photo by Hannah Lauber

‘The Way of Love’ permeates camps and all of diocesan life

Camp Cross, a rustic camp on 110 acres on the east shore of Lake Coeur d’Alene, continues to impact lives and retain traditions developed since it opened in 1923, said John Palorine, director for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane’s camp and year-round canon for youth ministries.

“I hear many stories of how camp changes lives,” he said. “We seek to develop future church leaders at camps and in youth ministry.”

Families across generations—children, parents and grandparents—are part of Camp Cross’ tradition as a place outdoors to gather and grow in faith, as well as to hike, swim, canoe and kayak, he said.

This year, the camp, youth ministry and diocesan ministries are reflecting on the theme, “Walking in the Way of Love,” inspired by national Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Summer camp staff on site all summer oversee facilities and camp life. Volunteer resource teams of clergy and lay leaders develop activities and lead discussions on how the power of love can change lives.

“Our leadership model is a community or sacred circle,” he said. “Everyone is a leader—campers, staff and volunteers. Each has gifts and is equally important. Each listens with respect. That’s how we love.”

As last year, national musicians and leaders are coming through Youth Presence Ministries, an organization John started in 2013 to train youth ministers. For senior high camp, Aug. 4 to 10, a team from the Episcopal Diocese of Utah’s Camp Puddle will come.

There are two adult sessions and family camps from June 14 to Aug. 10, plus other groups also use the camp until October.

In addition to camps, John will lead a youth pilgrimage to Ireland and Northern Ireland for 22 young people ages 16 to 22, from Aug. 14 to 22. The group will connect with the Church of Ireland’s peace and reconciliation work and explore Celtic spirituality.

For information, call 624-3191 or visit campcross.org.

Sometimes the soul needs space.

Take the journey within. Retreats at Spirit Center www.Spirit-Center.org

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Promotes independence and choice.
Enhances the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

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Salk Middle School – 6411 N Alberta St.

Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 8-11 • July 15-18 • July 22-25 • July 29 – Aug. 1

For information, call 509-354-4648

Spokane Public Schools

for campers

Register online @ www.spokaneschools.org/summerstemcamps

If you have any questions call 509-354-4648

Spokane Public Schools

Byrne Middle School – 4118 W Spruce

313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu

For information, visit holden village.org.

NO Taizé prayer service during the summer

We will NOT have Taizé prayer in May, June and July 2019.

May you have a most blessed summer.

We hope to see you in August!

Check on times in August by contacting Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu

Summer 2019 - The Fig Tree - Page 5
Lutherhaven finds new ways to recruit campers

For 26 years, Bob Baker has been executive director of Lutherhaven, which was founded in 1946. Lutherhaven Ministries now includes Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d’Alene, Shoshone Mountain Retreat and Ranch up the North Fork of the Coeur d’Alene River, Twinlow and Lazy F Servant Adventures and Lutherhaven Day Camps.

“It’s the 106th year for Lutheran camping, which started near Pittsburgh,” he said.

“Church camps change with changes in the culture, society and churches,” Bob said. “With mainstream churches declining in numbers, fewer campers come from the church pipeline. We have new pipelines and have 120 percent more campers this year than in 2018, when we had a 120 percent increase over 2017. About a third are Lutherans, a third from other churches and a third unchurched.”

While many baby boomers went to church camps, generation X and millennials did not, so benefiting camps are not in their vocabulary,” he said.

Another shift is from paper registration to online registration.

“We keep our website up-to-date and have ‘real-time’ feedback about the registration process,” Bob said. “People have hired a social media manager. This is our second summer with no paper brochure.”

Another change is that camp once drew more middle and upper middle class youth. With more single parents, last year Lutherhaven Ministries gave $190,000 in write-off, helping 64 percent of campers, subsidizing 1,000 children and youth. A Tanzanian camper learned about Lutherhaven on the internet. Last year 18 from Shanghai, China, found the camp through connections. This year 24 campers are from Shanghai.

Over a year, about 14,000 use Lutherhaven facilities, and 6,000 in the summer. About 450 come from around the nation to Idaho Servant Adventures—to paint houses, build fences, repair homes, do roofing, clear trails, do weeding and other services.

To keep up with demand, Lutherhaven is building a $800,000 dining hall at Shoshone, now in its 21st year, because it ran the programs there expanded to fourth graders through high school.

“The camp teaches that God loves and forgives, and Jesus loves us, because it’s easy in the world to be pulled away from that truth,” said Bob, adding that camp draws people into churches as campers bring friends.

“Instead of being plugged in to a device eight hours a day, they are out in the beauty of God’s creation building relationships with peers, guided by caring young adults mentors,” he said.

The 2019 theme is “Adventure Awaits,” based on Ephesians 5:1 and 2 on walking the way of love. Different age groups come at the same time, so parents send all their children one week.

Lutherhaven has also started a camp for 180 seniors—in their 80s and 90s—to come with wheel chairs, walkers and canes.

For information, call 208-667-3459 or visit lutherhaven.com.

Twinlow’s new director was its assistant

United Methodists account for 30 percent of campers and retreatants at Twinlow Camp on Spirit Lake in Rathdrum, Idaho, said Kristeen Moon, who was an assistant director for five years and became director March 15 when Tyler Wagner retired.

Having grown up in camping, she was on the staff three years at Lazy F, another United Methodist camp near Ellisburg, after graduating in political science from Pacific Lutheran University in 2013.

Growing up in Douglas, Wyo., she went to a Baptist camp. She became United Methodist in college.

“I felt a call from God to do camp ministry,” said Kristeen. “I was director, camp grew on track with its mission.”

Twinlow staff and board are reviewing the long-term vision of providing children with hospitality on holy grounds, and welcoming everyone in a safe space for retreats, relaxation, renewal and experiencing God’s love.

“There’s a new twist in the modern world. With everyone bringing their ideas to camp and with social media connectivity, it’s hard for them to get away. Things change fast. Camp needs to keep up, but not stray from what we do,” she said. “With cell phones, 24-hour news and a barrage of information, camp is an important place to rest.”

Summer camps are June 23 to Aug. 16, and Twinlow is also open year-round for retreats with partner groups.

There are four programs each week—third to sixth grade elementary, sixth to ninth middle school, and ninth to 12th high school, plus Idaho Mission Projects. Age-groups have separate programs but come together for meals and games. There are shorter primary camps for first to third graders. Family camp is July 3 to 7. The Idaho Mission Projects will draw 13 youth groups this summer.

Twinlow and Lazy F are two of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church’s four camps in the region. The others are Ocean Park Camp at Ocean Shores and Camp Indiana on Puget Sound.

For information, call 208-352-2071 or email Kristen@twinlow.org.

MLK center program like camp

Some summer opportunities for youth are right in Spokane, such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Centers’ 10-week Summer Youth Academy for low-income, ethnically diverse children ages five to 12.

It offers character education to promote self-esteem, positive values and interactions. Activities also bridge gaps for students behind in literacy or math. Plus there are field trips and recreational activities.

For information, call 868-0856 or visit mlkspokane.org.

Disciples peace interns travel camp-to-camp to lead discussions

While most Northwest Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) campers in 2019 will go to Gwinwood Camp near Lacey, some may go to Canoe Ridge Camp near Lincoln, Mont., because in January 2020, the Northwest and Montana regions will become one region.

This year, the region promoted both camps, said Chris Snow, who is in his second year as youth and children’s ministry coordinator for the region and his sixth year as pastor at North Hill Christian Church in Spokane. He also advises the Regional Youth Commission, which plans a winter retreat for middle to high school youth at Camp Koinonia near Cle Elum.

Gwinwood is owned by West side congregations. Canoe Ridge West is owned by Montana congregations. Zephyr, previously owned by east-side congregations, was sold six years ago.

“Peace Works” is the theme for 2019 Gwinwood camps. Elementary children going the week of July 7, 8, and junior and senior high sessions the week of July 14. Weekend camps include a grandparent and grandkid camp, an intergenerational camp, and a camp on Oregon Trail Theology at Canoe Ridge West.

In the last 30 years, Chris said the region has grown aware of how to include and care for children and youth with developmental and physical limits. Because some may need to rest from sensory overload, camps are looking to provide a space with two adults so they can take time out to rest and re-center, he said.

Volunteer staff lead programs, and counselors oversee cabin time and facilitate small groups.

Each year, national Disciples of Christ trains young adult peace interns. They then travel camp-to-camp across the U.S. to lead conversations on reconciliation, peace and justice.

“It unites the camps across the country and provides young leaders experience in guiding justice conversations,” said Chris, who graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 2009 and served three years as youth and outreach coordinator at First Christian Church in Salem, Ore., before coming to Spokane.

For information, call 326-5400 or email csnow@disciplewmu.org.
Many youth coming to camps want to learn about social justice about the danger of giving up. They want to move beyond cynicism to avoid the temptation to justify violence. They want to see all lands and cultures, and the people of the world. Hollis, who grew up in Portland, Calif., was drafted in 1968 after graduating in English from Fresno State College. The culture shock of seeing the extreme poverty of people living in shacks made of crushed cans, timbers and plastic roofs in a Korean city with a golden domed cathedral overwhelmed and disabled him, so he was honorably discharged early.

He worked 21 years with the County Parks and Recreation in Fresno, where he helped found the Fresno Center for Non-Violence. In Spokane, after 12 years with the United Church of Christ, Hollis invited members of the community to join Veterans For Peace in its work for peace and justice globally, removing the barriers between countries, cultures and the people of the world.

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Community meeting urges health study, services for Spokane Tribe

Two new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff reports, for the Midnite Mine Superfund site on the Spokane Indian Reservation recently presented an overview of the background for the site and the cleanup at community meetings in Wellpinit and Spokane. Others at the Spokane meeting advocated gathering data to improve health services and education for people experiencing after-effects of exposure to radiation.

Linda Meyer, EPA remedial project manager, and Kay Morrison, EPA community liaison, said they prepared the presentation partly for their own awareness and understanding of what happened.

They updated the EPA Midnite Mine Superfund website, which is at https://www.epa.gov/superfund/midnite-mine. It includes the background and information on cleanup activities, health and environment, updated reports, photos and videos, and more.

“The Newmont Mining Corporation, which is responsible for the cleanup, asked the EPA a year ago to change the background radiation level that determines the cleanup,” said Linda. “Based on technical analysis, we recommended not doing that,” she said. “It took 12 years and much legal work to put the agreement in place. We have no reason to change the cleanup level.”

Ricky Sherwood, Spokane Tribe Midnite Mine community liaison, said that in 2019 spring through fall construction will move 2.1 million cubic yards to fill Pit #2, and a fourth pit will be constructed.

Brian Crossley, manager of the Spokane Tribe Water and Fish Program, announced the groundbreaking of the SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land) Society.

“SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land) Society initiated community education with the EPA, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Health, Tribal Social Services and Tribal Education,” he said. “We need an adequate database of the number of people who died of cancer, the number in treatment for cancer and the number diagnosed with cancer, so we can address the health needs of present and future generations,” said Deb. “Chronic exposure means our community has experienced horrendous health problems,” she said. “It will compound in future generations because the half-life of uranium is thousands of years.”

Kay knows the community wants to understand health impacts. She said that while the Center for Disease Control’s Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) analyzes effects of toxic substances on health and teaches people how to prevent exposure, it does not provide health services. Deb is glad the EPA revamped the website to provide relevant information. She hopes Indian Health Services will eventually provide services and cancer education.

Tracey Morgan, who worked on a study by Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, reported that the study found a 46 percent rate of cancer on the reservation compared with 18 percent in the U.S. as a whole.

Among the concerns, she said, is the number of cancer-related deaths now. In the 1970s, young mothers who cleaned workers’ clothes first got cancer and died. Many women also worked at the Sherwood mine,” she said. “For 50 years, people had access to unfiltered areas around the mine’s open pits.”

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Tracey Morgan, who worked on an innovative program, Luis Munircez, clinical assistant professor at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, said he is conversing with the tribe on developing health services with students.

In closing, Carol thanked SHAWL and the community for bringing concerns to the Tribe. “Many were ignorant about having ore in their houses,” she said. “We need to be vigilant and bring experts to do assessments of homes even now.”

Regarding studies and surveys on causes of death, she pointed out someone with cancer may die of something else. Her father worked at the mill site and qualified for a Radiation Exposure Compensation Act benefit. He had cancer, but COPD was listed on his cause of death. “We can’t change the past. When the mine came, our parents had no place to work. We were fed because they worked there. They did not know what it would mean,” she said. “Now we pay the price.”

Sharing stories, as Carol did, is one way to gather data that may not be in records.

It’s not easy, Deb said, because “people in pain do not want to talk about family members who passed. It may be painful, but it’s important for future generations and our leaders.”

For the Earth Day Vigil in April, she wanted to do an exhibit with faces of people who died of cancer, but few families responded.

Some don’t share because they don’t want to be a burden, but sharing can be a way to challenge injustice, bring health services and educate people, they said.

For information, contact Linda at 206-535-6636, linda.meyer@epa.gov, or Ricky at 458-6586, ricky@spokanetribre.com.

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FāVS Center open house is June 22

An open house for the FāVS Center from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Saturday, June 22, includes a tour of the building at 5115 S. Freya, an interfaith blessing and ribbon cutting, a welcome from Tracy Simmons, executive director, City Council Member Lori Kinnear and other local dignitaries.

Origin Church, which is closing, gave SpokaneFaVS an online religion news publication, the building and three-acres so people can gather in a neutral space for worship, classes, retreats, weddings and other events.

For information, call 240-1830, email tracysimmons@SpokaneFaVS.com.

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Pilgrim Feast of Saint James

JULY 28, 2019, 5:00 PM

Mass & Blessing of New Pilgrims with Pilgrim Dinner Following

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Retired teacher informs herself and community on proposed smelter

For 55 years, Phyllis and Ted Kardos have had a 240-acre farm south of Newport, Wash. Now they have retired there, and most of their six children, 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren live in the area. Although pollution from a proposed silicon smelter four miles away might not blow over their farm, the facility would disrupt their rural lives.

So Phyllis joined others in the community and region to challenge it. She read in the newspaper that a Canadian company, HiTest, now called PacWest, bought three parcels of land—187 acres—up from Highway 41 a mile outside Newport and 14 acres from the Public Utility District (PUD)—to develop the smelter. PacWest first inquired about power in 2015 and was working with state representatives.

After a 2017 county commissions meeting, she and others began acting.

“Energy, and Newport needs jobs, smelting would generate 766,131 tons of greenhouse gases, 649 tons of sulfur dioxide and 935 tons of nitrogen oxides,” said Phyllis. In the first phase, there would be two furnaces, a 150-foot stack and a smelter complex, plus a coal rail spur through forests, agricultural land and open spaces disrupting rural life, she said.

However, Pend Oreille County, with a high poverty rate, she wondered if it was a “sacrifice zone.” She knows polluting industries often locate near poor or minority communities, assuming there will be little opposition. The Kalispel Tribe, however, forced HiTest to relocate from a first site proposed near their reservation. Pend Oreille County, however, has a high poverty rate, she wondered if it was a “sacrifice zone.”

In December 2017, she and eight others formed Responsible Growth Northeast Washington (RGNEW), acknowledging the need for jobs, but challenging if smelter jobs were best.

“Based on our analysis, the smelter, we seek ways to revitalize Newport,” Phyllis said.

Another group, Citizens Against the Newport Silicon Smelter (CANS) formed in Idaho, because the “air-shed” crosses the border.

Concerned about the airshed and watershed, the Kalispel Tribe continues to challenge having it in the county. They recently opened a casino with an events center, restaurant, fresh food market and gas station, and plan to develop an RV park and cabins to draw tourists.

Phyllis said county commissioners support the smelter for jobs and taxes. She has met with the City of Newport and Washington Senator Patty Murray. Because of division, she said, most local churches have not taken a stand or held educational events.

Buddhist monks at Sarahs Abbey, Carmelite Sisters at the Hermantown Convent and 27 of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia have written letters opposing the smelter.

As a member of St. Anthony’s parish and inspired by Pope Francis’ “Laudato Si” encyclical calling people to “be good stewards of the land,” Phyllis would like churches to build dialogue and be informed. She has done much research and has given more than 25 presentations in Sandpoint, Metadine Falls, Elk, Blanchard, Newport, Pend Oreille, Spokane and other communities.

Responsible Growth North-East Washington believes a smelter is contrary to the open spaces, forests and agriculture promoted in the 2005 Pend Oreille County Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan’s goal of preventing urban sprawl.

“The economic growth should stay within the plan,” said Phyllis. RGNEW represents those who want 400 construction jobs and 150 long-term jobs, but we are rural, not urban. We need sustainable economic growth that protects the environment and people’s health. We can do that through tourism, art, education and training centers. Industry, such as a smelter, would make it hard to build on tourism,” she said.

RGNEW’s members have researched the proposal and found:

Crystaline silica would be mined from a mine in Golden, B.C. Blue coal (anthracite, said to be cleaner burning) would come by train from Kentucky or South America. Coal would be shipped from the South Dakota. Wood chips would be burned in two furnaces at 300,000°F.

Phyllis Kardos researches and reports on Newport smelter.

Public hearings for an environmental impact report.

There is litigation about the PUD land sale. Three of the four parcels were publicly owned. Pend Oreille District #1 declared them surplus two years ago and sold them to PacWest. For access, Pac West bought a 14-acre parcel owned by Pend Oreille County.

Rick Eichstaedt, director of Gonzaga’s School of Law Environmental Law and Land Use Clinic, supervises law students who took up a case to determine if that sale was legal.

In March, Judge Judy McKay agreed the sale was irregular, but said she was not authorized to overturn it. In April, Rick and the students filed an appeal to the Washington Court of Appeals.

Rick said PacWest has not paid the DOE to write the environmental impact statement, nor has it paid the PUD for a design to hook into the electric grid. In addition, the solar panel producer in Moses Lake is closing because of losing its market to China, he said. Based on the State Environmental Policy Act, he recently requested an environmental analysis before Pend Oreille County Commissioners rezoned county land, including the smelter site.

“There are so many pieces. It’s like a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. It’s exhausting,” Phyllis said of the need to educate people so they can write letters and raise funds for legal actions.

She considers consumer demand for silicon for computers, airplanes and other products, as well as solar panels, part of over-consumption.

“All our lives, Ted and I have opposed exploiting natural resources and furthering global warming. Then we wake up one day, and the threat is in our back yard,” Phyllis said. “We could say we are too old, our knees hurt, or we have to focus on family, but we said we can act. We have to protect what we have and keep our area rural.

“My faith keeps me focused on protecting human health and God’s creation for our grand and great-grandchildren. We want them to know what is important in life. If I let people destroy my backyard, who am I as a Christian? My legacy is to stand up,” she said, “because I can act here.”

Phyllis’ family moved to Clark Fork, Idaho, in the 1940s. After she married Ted, he worked with the Forest Service in Newport, and they bought the farm. In 1983, she earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Eastern Washington University. Then from 1985 to 2005, she taught in Grayling and McGrath, Alaska. She and her family returned sum to the farm.

For information, call 509-447-7938 or 671-1763 or email phyllis_jean@yahoo.com, rgnew.org.
Natural resources head offers science for Kalispel Tribe's opposition to silicon smelter

Mike Peterson, executive director of the Lands Council, studied the proposed smelter site's environmental effects and submitted comments to the Department of Ecology (DOE) as it develops an environmental impact statement.

The Lands Council finds the proposed configuration unacceptable, he said, but the DOE can explore options and “do the right thing so the smelter does not pollute the air, water, land, wildlife and humans.”

Seeking to be a steward of the air, water and land, the tribe has gathered information on impacts on communities, nature and the world, he said. “We are sharing information and stories on our website.”

He wonders if solar energy will reduce emissions and is concerned the silicon may go to other products.

Deane said smelting is from ultrapure quartz (silicon dioxide), mined from the earth. The process is energy intensive, requiring high heat to split the two oxygen atoms from the silicon atom. The smelter would use metallurgical grade quartz (silicon dioxide), 649 tons of sulfur dioxide and 935 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.

Regulations are important for permitting the process, he said.

PacWest needed a special permit to fast track it, so there have been public hearings for comments. The environmental community has expressed concern, he said.

“The best way to reduce carbon is with more efficient lights, heat and transportation,” he said. “Considering that more people are choosing to use energy to improve their standard of living, we want to produce more energy with less carbon,” he said.

“Deane said PacWest failed to implement any energy, the process must be as clean as possible.

“Whether the smelter is at Newport or elsewhere, the question is how much silicon dioxide and nitrous oxide it produces,” Mike said. “Emissions need to be reduced to the acceptable level to comply with state and federal environmental laws. If that's not possible, we may need to rethink solar.”

“Any silicon smelter should reduce air pollutants and track emissions, so producing solar panels does not pollute,” he said.

A third question is the siting. Often, polluting industries locate in low-income communities—a form of environmental injustice,” Mike said. “Originally, the plan was for the smelter to be on the Kalispel Reservation. Then PacWest moved to Newport, a rural town where people don’t want smokestacks at the edge of their property. Pend Oreille County has cheap electricity.

“Wherever a silicon smelter is located, it is dot not deserve the right to develop an environment project under the protection of Assisi Parish influence his belief that "we need to take care of people."

As a tribal employee, he shares tribal values and admirers the tribe’s perseverance through their history.

He urges citizens to pressure state and federal regulators, politicians and the corporation. The Kalispel and other tribes in the Northwest and Alaska have written letters of opposition.

For information, call 993-8679 or email dosterman@knro.org.

Mike said labor unions want jobs, but it’s not a matter of jobs or no jobs, it’s to have jobs as clean as possible. He believes silicon smelters should not be built.

He said the DOE will take a year to do an environmental impact report, which will be available for public review during meetings for dialogue to inform people.

In contrast, the process for relicensing dams was contentious, but professionals at DOE can collaborate in dialogue and became partners, he said.

We are not binary, just for or against something. We need to have dialogue. We need to find the sweet spot.

Deane said Francisco values from the Carmelites and Franciscans of Assisi Parish influence his belief that “we need to take care of people.”

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June 7 • Healthy Kids Day
July 4 • Independence Day
July 21-28 • "Come to the Quiet,"
August 1 • Viet Nam Peace Convention
August 16 • Elephant Appreciation Day
August 18 • Montana Poetry Out Loud
August 18-25 • "A Sip of Silence"
August 22-26 • "A Prayer Beyond the Beginnings: Journey to Divine Intimacy with St. Teresa"
August 22-26 • "The Cancer Adversity: Is There an Advantage?"
August 25 • "SACRED LANDS   SACRED LIVES"
August 25 • "Spiritual Perspective"
August 29 • "A Tea Talk on the Virtue of Encountering Others"
October 18 • "Meditation, yoga & Riverwalk each morning."
October 19 • "The World From My Kitchen Table: The Search for Peace Through Food"
Pastor shares history of, insights on Unitarian Universalist Church

On the occasion of Spokane hosting the National Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly Wednesday to Sunday, June 19 to 23, at the Spokane Convention Center, Todd Eklof, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, offered background on the denomination and local congregation, along with information on the event.

The 3,000 delegates are gathering for worship, witness, workshops, connecting and business that includes bylaws changes, electing board members and voting statement of conscience, “Our Democracy Uncorrupted,” suggesting ways to preserve U.S. democracy.

After a public closing service at 10 a.m. Sunday, there will also be a witness action on racism downtown.

Workshops will cover anti-racism, white supremacy and inclusion issues, plus topics like lay ministry, stewardship, treasurers and music. The Spokane Alliance will lead a workshop on involving impact. Todd Eklof said, “There are communities of color in organizing work. Another workshop is on Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams, who grew up in Spokane. Keynote speakers are Richard Blanco, a gay immigration poet, and the fifth poet to read at an inauguration, President Obama’s second, and Robin DaleAngelo, author of White Fragility.

Todd explained that the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church has a congregational polity, a bottom-up organization of autonomous individual churches that select and call their ministers. There are organized districts and regions that have gatherings, too.

Unitarians and Universalists each began in the 1700s in the U.S. Unitarians, a liberal branch of Christians, founded Harvard University. Universalists believed in universal salvation. They merged in 1961, he said.

The UU symbol is a chalice surrounded by two circles, one representing Unitarians and one for Universalists. The chalice symbol came from World War II when the Unitarian Service Committee used a chalice as a sign for friends who would help Jews escape Eastern Europe.

“The chalice represents the value of the individual and the necessity of community,” he said.

Todd told of early Spokane pastors.

The local UU Church was founded in 1887. Its first minister, Edwin Wheelock, arrived in Spokane with a bounty on his head, wanted in Virginia for preaching a sermon supporting abolitionist John Brown. Edwin had started schools for freed slaves in Louisiana and Texas.

From 1913 to 1916, John Dietrich, who founded Religious Humanism, gave lectures at 10 a.m. Sundays in what is now the Bing Theater. He came to Spokane a few months after being convicted of preaching heresy by the Dutch Reformed Church.

The next pastor, M.M. Manugaur, was born in Turkey and founded the Rationalist Society. He believed Jesus was a myth, not a historical person.

These speakers drew crowds to what was more a lecture series than a church, said Todd.

In 1921, the church became a smaller community, meeting in different places, including sharing space with Temple Emanu-El, beginning in the 1930s. In 1943, it bought what is now the Glover Mansion, and later built a church on the property.

In the 1950s and 1960s, by Rudy Gilbert, the church organized public discussions on Communism, the United Nations, Medicare and the Vietnam War.

The pastor in the 1970s and 1980s was Bill Houff, a scien
tist and activist who informed people of radiation leaking into the ground, air and water on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, which made the plutonium for bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He helped establish the Hanford Education Action League, that created public pressure to release information that led to shutting down the nuclear reactor that made those bombs.

In the 1990s, Linda Whittenberg led the church in re-establishing relations with Unitarians in Felsotakos, Romania, beginning cultural exchanges, visits and friendships.

Outgrowing the space beside the Glover House, in 1995, the UU Spokane moved to its present building at 4340 W. Wright Dr. Since coming in 2011, Todd has helped church members and others support Washington’s referendum supporting marriage equality for gays and lesbians, turning 25 percent in Eastern Washington favoring it by 47 percent in the county and 55 percent in the city, he said.

“Washington was the first of two states to legalize same sex marriage by popular vote,” said Todd. “From there, it spread over the U.S. and the world.”

Also in 2012, the church supported the state’s initiative to decriminalize marijuana, which he said cut the number of stops and searches by police in the state in half, reducing contacts with police and populations.

The UU Church of Spokane has been active in environmental stewardship within the congregation, among its members, and in challenging the safety of coal and oil trains coming through Spokane. Eventually Governor Jay Inslee turned down the last coal and oil export facility proposal.

Members partner with organizations like the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, the Spokane Alliance, and other groups involved with activism and giving voice to concerns on contraceptive freedom, the environment, immigration and Palestinians, Todd said.

“In our weekly Meaningful Movies, we look at what issues are calling us right now,” he said. Members are in a local coalition of people who go to the International Transportation Center where immigration officers pick up immigrants. They raise money for bail and legal assistance, as well as informing people on their rights.

Todd, who grew up and was ordained in the Southern Baptist Church, graduated from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, before going to South Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earned a master’s degree at Spalding University, a Catholic school in St. Louis, and a doctor of ministry degree at Meadville-Lombard, a UU school in Chicago. He became a Unitarian minister in 1999.

“Unitarians, who are less than one percent of the U.S. population, have about 1,000 congregations and about 200,000 members,” he said. “Our church has about 400 members, with 300 attending the two Sunday services.”

“Most UU congregations seek to create the open, inclusive, supportive community that people need for their lives and seek to have impact on the world to make it a better, more just place for everyone,” he said.

“Our mission is to create community, find meaning and work for justice. We champion justice, diversity and environmental stewardship in the wider world,” Todd said.

He described Unitarian Universalist “theology” as non-theistic, not defined by one doctrine or theology, but sharing principles in community.

“We are different individuals with different beliefs. Some have no beliefs. Some gravitate to Buddhist theology or philosophy. Some have theistic leanings. Differences do not separate us or cause contention,” he said.

Todd told of the 1970s as “one more progressive than its reputation as the conservative part of the state.

“I engage in more issues here than I would in a larger city,” he said. “There is political diversity here, and many in Spokane have progressive values.

“Spokane’s UU Church was part of Spokane before it was Spokane,” Todd said. “We have a rich, colorful history here with many movers and shakers among our compassionate, intellectual, caring, active members.”

For information, call 325-6383 or visit us.spokan.org.