Barton School marks its 50th year

By Mary Stamp

Fifty years ago, after Amsel Barton retired from teaching at Eastern Washington State College, his desire to help people improve their lives through gaining literacy and job skills led her to start the Barton School at First Presbyterian Church in Spokane.

That adult basic education school, based on volunteers teaching one-on-one, has helped many refugees and immigrants learn English and become economically independent.

Barton School will celebrate its 50th anniversary from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar.

Several former students and teachers will join in celebrating their years of friendships and learning.

“In preparing for the 50th celebration, we have been talking with early students who have had successful careers in art, business and vocations,” said Mildred, who grew up in Alabama and came west to teach.

She taught home economics at North Central and Lewis and Clark High Schools before she started as a volunteer teacher at Barton School.

Wanting to help people change their lives for the better, Amsel did not plan to start a ministry. She had visited welfare and employment agencies and offered to volunteer to help adults improve their skills, but they did not accept her offer. So she told her vision to William Lindsay, her pastor, and he offered some Sunday school rooms.

Although she expected the students to be American-born, the first student was a Japanese war bride, recently divorced and the mother of three school-aged children. She wanted to learn to read and write English. The second student was her friend, another serviceman’s Japanese wife. Wives of other service-men from Korea, Thailand, Italy and Japan were early students.

Over the years, thousands of students have come as refugees and immigrants from 72 countries. They reflect world political divide - p. 5

Calendar on page 11

Pastor's frequent moves gave him appreciation of, insights into diversity

After retiring in 2015 from 35 years in ministry, the Rev. Rick Matters and his wife settled back in Spokane where he was born and had studied.

His ministry now is serving part time as vicar at the diverse parish of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Kennewick and walking alongside people to build racial equity.

Framing both ministries is Rick’s background of not really “settling down” in his life, moving every few years until he was 40—not just cross-town moves but to diverse places and cultures within and outside of the United States.

As a child, Rick lived at different times in Nigeria and Ghana, where his father worked six years with the Ford Foundation. He attended boarding schools part of those years in Switzerland. Between semesters, he spent time with his family in Africa, both experiencing privileges colonialism confers on Europeans and being immersed in West African cultures.

“I respected Nigerians and Ghanaians, but as I matured I came to understand the experience of being an African in the world, and of those many young people also disagreed with government policies, his attitude changed.

In recent years, his appreciation for the U.S. has deepened because of his racial equity work, especially with people of color.

After graduating, he helped found and worked at the Whitworth Early Learning Center. Next he and Andrea moved to Seattle. He worked at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Home Center and taught kindergarten, and Andrea was a nurse at a hospital.

While attending St. Mark’s, the Episcopal Cathedral there, he received his call to the Episcopal priesthood and they went to New York City for him to attend General Theological Seminary.

During his freshman year, he felt like a world citizen, not a part of any country. He had missed much from 1962 to 1969, and had learned about President Kennedy’s assassination from a tearful Nigerian who told him how sorry he was.

Rick found it difficult to identify as an American during the division over the Vietnam War and civil rights, but because many young people also disagreed with government policies, his attitude changed.

In recent years, his appreciation for the U.S. has deepened because of his racial equity work, especially with people of color.

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Continued on page 4
The Center For Justice has selected Dainen Penter to lead the organization into its 20th year and champion its mission.

Dainen Penter, on Jan. 23, brings more than 15 years of experience as a lawyer in private practice and non-profit leadership. The 1997 graduate of Whitworth plans two Speakers and Artists Lectures this spring. Linda Schearson, professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University, will speak on “Biblical Women in Pop Culture: An Academic Marriage.” At 7 p.m., Thursday, March 14, in the Johnston Science Center Auditorium at Whitworth’s Weyerhaeuser Hall, Dainen will present new findings from “Stories encourage reflection and dialogue,” she added. “We help individuals and groups network, pool ideas and resources and join in common action.”

The directory connects people and builds awareness of how the faith, nonprofit and civic communities serve. In 2016, The Fig Tree published 12,000 copies, and, with the help of community partners, 16,000 copies in 2018. Recently, the Advent Lutheran Church in downtown Spokane gave The Fig Tree a grant of $420 for its media and education ministries. The fund supports ministries in the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. For information, call 353-353 or email event@thefigtree.org.

## Dainen Penter is Center for Justice Director

The Arc believes having a disability should not prevent someone from enjoying a life of independence and choice.

The Fig Tree benefits goal is $50,000 for 2019

## Whitworth offers Speakers and Artists Lectures

### Professor speaks on Chief Garry

David Beine, dean of the College of Global Engagement and professor of intercultural studies at Great Northern University in Spokane, will present a lecture on “The Case of Spokane Garry” at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, on campus at 611 E. Indiana. Great Northern University is a new private liberal arts university located in the former site of Montana State College.

The book is on the dispossession of Garry from land he occupied and farmed since 1864. William Lewis wrote the Case of Spokane Garry, the first biography of Chief Garry, who was influential in settling Spokane.

David will present new findings on the disputed location of this land and offer stories of characters involved in the land dispute.

The conference is followed by an invitation roundtable session. For information, call 284-7100 or email at dbiene@greatnothermu.org.

## International Women’s Day CELEBRATION

Celebrating Women’s Day will be an opportunity to uplift the gifts and skills of women and draw attention to their concerns.

For information, call 509-326-3242 or festivalrmc@yahoo.com.
**Film Festival is March 1-3**

For the first time, the Social Justice Film Festival (SJFF) will bring 12 “Best of the Fest” films from 30 shown at its October 2018 festival in Stoughton, to Spokane starting Sunday, March 10, at the Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main. The theme is “Hope and Democracy.” Gonzaga, Whitworth and Eastern Washington universities, Gonzaga’s Law School and the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane will be collaborating with the festival to show films and host post-film discussions on six of the films.

Hannah Martin, program manager of the SJFF, said the organization has been planning the festival for 18 months, except for last year, when it was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- **At 7 p.m. Friday** is “The Providers,” a documentary on rural health care access. Faculty from the University of Washington Medical School and Electric Is the Answer Foundation will lead a discussion. With showing it is “Mexico: Looking for Lost Migrants.”
- **At 4 p.m. Saturday**, “Go Penguins!” a documentary on the author’s troupe of youth with developmental disabilities producing a Broadway-style musical, shows with “Take Good Care of My Baby.”
- **At 7 p.m. Saturday**, the film, wałšiʔaƛin (Coming Home), explores the survival of the Juu-ay-aht First Nations on Vancouver Island. With it is “Reclamation: The Rise at Standing Rock.”
- **At 3 p.m. Sunday**, “The Guardians,” which exposes the corrupt system of state-appointed guardians, screens with “Dignity of Risk.”
- **At 6 p.m. Sunday**, “Sincerely, the Black Kids” follows stories of black student leaders from U.S. colleges. Showing with it is “Side of State.”
- **At 3 p.m. Monday**, “Mexico in Transition” and “Disappearing Bodies” also have direct-to-DVD sequel parts. They screen with “Justice in Time.”
- **At 7 a.m. Tuesday**, “Future of Our Children” has a discussion with the National Runaway Switchboard. With it is “In Defense of the Child.”
- **At 7 p.m. Tuesday**, “The Guardians” and “Disappearing Bodies” also screen with “Justice in Time.”
- **At 7 p.m. Wednesday**, the film, “From Here I Saw What Happened and I Told It,” is in conversation with the Southern Poverty Law Center. It is an inter-disciplinary aca-demically archived forum on hate crimes and social problems, and ways to create socially just, inclusive commu-nities, said Kristine Hooper, director of the GHBS. Lessons will help partners analyze and combat hatred, and build commitment to peace, humanity rights and justice.

Researchers, academics, hu-man rights experts, community orga-nizers and social justice activists will be among the participants in the 5th International Conference on Hate Studies April 2 to 4 at Gonzaga University’s Hemmingson Center. As it marks its 20th anniversary in 2019, Gonzaga’s Institute for Hate Studies (GHIS) is sponsoring the event on “Building Peace through Dialogue, Kindness and Forgiveness” in conjunction with the Kootenai County Task Force for Human Relations, Spokane County Human Rights Task Force and Gonzaga Student Chapter of the Southern Poverty Law Center. It is an interdisciplinary aca-demically archived forum on hate crimes and social problems, and ways to create socially just, inclusive communities, said Kristine Hooper, director of the GHBS. Lessons will help partners analyze and combat hatred, and build commitment to peace, humanity rights and justice.

The conference features tracks on research, community building, education and development.

In a pre-conference event, Greater Spokane Progress and Empire Health Foundation are offering a “Why Race Matters” workshop from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 2, at the Hemmings- son Center at Gonzaga.

“This year the conference includes an afternoon session Wednesday, April 3, for community dialogue on a range of views on human rights,” said Kristine. On April 4, those interested in researching how to counter hate can participate in “Design Char-acters” for a library resource.

The arts presentations include performances of a play about Ruby Bridges—the first African American child to integrate a white school in the South—written by a Gonzaga student, a per-formance and workshop by local artists from Power 2 The Poetry, and a student choral, theatre and dance performance. “A New Season: A Celebration of Artistry, Place and Potential.”

The conference seeks to pro-vide participants with skills to:
- Foster conversations on building community in hate studies;
- Share knowledge, practices and perspectives from academics, activists and professionals;
- Generate interdisciplinary re-search projects and new theories, strategies for social justice.

“If we understand hate better, we can improve approaches to combat it,” Kristine said. “We can have real-world impact, including creating models for changing society, government and lives.”

For information, call 313-3665, email ghis@gsu.edu or visit gonzaga.edu/hatestudies. To reg-ister, visit https://bit.ly/2CgH0t.
Volunteers teach English, job skills, helping immigrants be independent

Continued from page 1

Shelter for women, or Transitions, was one of the first volunteer efforts. Sarah Amsel served as director from 1968 to 1979 and Mildred since 1980. Both have seen volunteers. Seven members responded. In January 1969, the students began meeting regularly with the volunteer teachers. In 1971, the program was named Barton School after Amsel. In the 1970s, it offered morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Day programs have been Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and evening sessions were Tuesdays and Thursdays. The night school continued until after school hours when there were 110 in the day and night schools.

Now 35 teachers tutor 20 students. There are fewer students today because the community colleges offer ESL classes.

Amsel served as director from 1968 to 1972, but deferred to teach. So Betty Morse became director of the day school from 1972 to 1977. After that, Barton School had long waiting lists. Students could stay only five years. Many come to learn English. Some work on citizenship. Some move on quickly. Now there are less clear objectives, wanting to learn as much as possible.

The school offers English, job skills, helping immigrants be independent.

“Even in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the needs of our community did change,” Mildred said. “We re-use workbooks. Students don’t write the words in them, but on a separate piece of paper. They write the whole sentence, which adds an extra layer of learning.”

Different materials meet needs of different students, and each teacher has different ideas.

“We are sensitive in matching students and teachers because of cultural dynamics,” she said.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the school reached into people’s lives, so to be able to offer

“Each first five students don’t write the words in their books,” Mildred said.

“I have learned that each student is different, so we don’t make judgments or assumptions,” Mildred said. “The first five students from one country may have different characteristics, but the sixth may be different. Some differences are cultural, and some are individual.”

“We have teachers when they do or say something, they may reach a cultural impasse,” she added.

“I remember a woman whose son was not allowed to leave her. When she first came, she would tell of her son and her chin quivered. She was matched with a teacher who had just lost her husband.

“They needed each other,” Mildred said. The student learned Americans were not scary, and the teacher learned Russians were not scary. The student was a devout Christian who survived in an underground church. She overcame her fear of Americans, realizing that people are not the government.

“Students and teachers see through stereotypes, realize how stereotypes were created and learn to look beyond them to see individuals,” Mildred said.

For information, call 919-4329 or email barton@spokanefccp.org.

‘Mardi Bras’ parties collect underwear and hygiene items for women

Because new underwear is one of the most needed and least donated clothing item for home- less women, Transitions and Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and North Idaho (VOA) team up for a third year to invite people to bring “Mardi Bras” parties four weeks before, four weeks after or on Fat Tues- day, with the 12th Feb. 5 this year. On Fridays from Feb. 15 to March 15, those who hold parties in church basements, homes, book clubs or businesses drop off dona- tions at VOA, 525 W. 2nd Ave. There is 10-minute parking outside and staff will help carry items.

In 2018, there were 32 Mardi Bras parties. Those parties raised $3,740, 17,868 tampons, 1,350 bras and 1,776 pairs of underwear.

“It is a way for people to engage their friends in learning about how homelessness affects local women,” said Jon Carollo, development director at VOA.

Organizers invite staff from VOA, which runs the Hope House shelter for domestic violence, to lead a talk about the work Transitions does. The shelter has a 10% Fair Trade sale. A Mantle of Hope benefits the Women’s Hearth day programs for women.

The Women’s Hearth is a community center that offers re- sponsible renter classes to help Transitions and Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and North Idaho (VOA) team up for a third year to invite people to bring “Mardi Bras” parties four weeks before, four weeks after or on Fat Tues- day, with the 12th Feb. 5 this year. On Fridays from Feb. 15 to March 15, those who hold parties in church basements, homes, book clubs or businesses drop off dona- tions at VOA, 525 W. 2nd Ave. There is 10-minute parking outside and staff will help carry items.

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““The gifts promote dignity for women through the year,” he said.

Donations also include hats, coats, mittens and reading glasses.

Jon said both Hope House and Transitions are expanding and need more help.

At the Women’s Hearth on W. 2nd downtown, we could not consistently meet some of their needs,” she said.

“Some women come, find housing and we don’t see them again. Others come back and volunteer to give back,” Sarah said.

For information, call 688-1104 (Jon) or 326-6710 (Sarah), or email jcarollo@voospokane.org.

Spokane Area Jewish Family Services offering family-oriented programs promotes understanding Jewish values, ethics, culture and the tradition of helping people help themselves.

1323 E. 30th Ave. - Spokane (509) 747-7394

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
of Learning and Friendship
BARTON SCHOOL
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
318 S. Cedar, Spokane WA 99201
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

9:30 Coffee, viewing displays, meeting students
10:00 Program with brief talks by current and former students and teachers
11:30 International Tasting Buffet
Birthday Cake
Guests may attend any or all of the festivities.

For more information, call 747-1058

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Faith teachings bridge political divides, stir awareness of connection

Bishop William Skylstad, Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, DR Michel, Walter Kendricks

DART asserted that “tribal issues are issues for everyone. They are the ecosystem, care for the environment and restoring fish passage. It takes collaborative effort to benefit all.”

“The tribes have experienced a rebirth of values related to land, water and fish. Love gives us strength to bridge political differences,” he said.

Gretchen described people’s innate connection.

She was raised to understand that “if you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything.” Also raised to value education, she thought that if “you did not know the truth, you should be silent.” She also believed if she could explain something slowly and simply, the world would work.

Gretchen began in the worlds of both chemistry and the church. In post-doctoral studies in Switzerland on why DNA is the way it is, she learned life exists because of hydrogen bonding.

“Without connection, there is no life,” she said.

Gretchen touts that scientific understanding with the Apostolic Paul saying, “We are members of one body.” For her, electrons connect people on the cellular level.

“God created all and called it good. We are connected,” Gretchen said. “We are also differently sentient beings. White blood cells know what is them and not them, but if they are not connected to other cells, it may lead to an autoimmune disease. I am aware, because I take medicine for an autoimmune disease, so my cells don’t fight each other.”

“Fear teaches us we are deeply connected, but we resist deep connections. It’s easier to walk away than to respect and learn from each other,” Gretchen said. “If I think others’ beliefs are wrong, I need to follow a conversation with respect and humility, aware that every student in our class draws different conclusions.”

Gretchen believes it’s important to stay in conversation and turn to community, because “someone else may be able to do what I can’t, and I may be able to do what they can’t.”

Bill called for challenging the political divide.

“Pope Francis in ‘The Joy of the Gospel’ speaks of community, ‘we are bucking up against the headwinds of individualism, narcissism, me- mismus, rathen than we-ism. Isolation is the residue of control and fear,’” he said. “He said Pope Francis speaks about anti-immigration sentiments and building walls. “Fear makes us do crazy things,” Bill said. “We need to be open. Humility is an antidote. We need to go back to loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves.”

“We are not close to measuring up to demands of changing, as Ezekiel talked of turning hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. God’s Word is like a two-edged sword, ‘a sharer of God’s Word, we should soften, not harden our hearts,” he said.

Bill said it’s easy to give “lip service” to the call to love God and neighbor, but the microcosm of family, friends and church can be the start of the beloved community.

“Let’s give witness. On the macro level, we are in so- cial relationships with everyone. Everyone is our brother or sister,” he said.

Bill said there’s a political role in a community that treats people, who are poor or homeless. “The political situation has dis- integrated from a lofty position of seeking the common good, with drawing into the present power struggle,” he said.

“You should not push their beliefs on us. Be conservative, liberal or moderate is fine, but they should not talk against others,” DR said.

“Elected representatives often forget their job is to represent us. They should not push their beliefs on us. Being conservative, lib- eral or moderate is fine, but they should not talk against others,” DR said.

“We are all different and need to be able to express ourselves without ridicule,” Fascinates by Gretchen’s bi- ology lesson on being connected, Walter said, “We forget that, but as a child of the 1960s, I remember the Three Dog Night song, ‘The Family of Man’ that referred to ‘seeing us through’ that we not see each other as black or white, straight or gay, male or female, but see them as interconnected. So if we attack someone, we attack ourselves.”

“The Word of God is true or God is not God. From one man, God made all nations, appointed boundaries and set all in place, but it’s terrible now. If we look back to 1990, where were we then economically and racially, it’s clear that progress is slow. I’m impatient, but God exists through time,” Walter affirmed.

For information, call 535-4112.
Two nonprofits work to keep people in the housing they have

Terri Anderson of the Washington State Tenants Union in Spokane and Kay Murano of the Spokane Low Income Housing Coalition said they work to help keep people in housing.

“We are nervous with half-to-one person per bedroom ratio in Spokane where half the residents—11,500 people—are renters,” said Terri.

She said the Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act from the 1970s still defines the tenant-landlord relationship. Under it, landlords can terminate rental agreements in 20 to 30 days, just after collecting rent, so the renter has no funds to find a new rental.

“We are focusing on local ordinances that establishes safe-notice causes. Just-cause agreements require landlords to have a cause for terminating a rental agreement—such as failure to pay rent or breaking the agreement,” said Terri. “Seattle recognizes 16 ‘just causes’.”

“A tenant who asks a landlord to fix the stove may be given a notice. Then a new tenant moves in with appliances that don’t work,” she said.

Terri suggested that the city publishes a pre-paid relocation fund for tenants when a landlord’s property is condemned. The city pays the tenant and collects from the landlord. She helps tenants organize.

Kay said there are eight bills to increase the 20-to-30-day notice to 120 days for changing rents, for changes from apartments to condos, or demolishing to do rehabilitation.

“Bills for a renter to find a place in 20 days, so tenants feel insecure. The goal is to reduce homelessness by reducing the number of evictions,” said Kay.

She also said there is need to build more affordable homes.

“We have a housing crisis when there is stock less concern about homelessness,” she said, urging people to advocate for the legislature to increase the Trust Fund and the Housing and Essential Needs funding.

“With this increase, call Terri at 464-7620 or Kay 325-3235.

“Any building that needs money is about money, he urges see advocacy based on faith, we represent a constituency group. It’s not to say all our faith community believes as we do, but to say I’m active in a particular faith community that shares common values. This helps them see numbers behind us, especially because people of faith vote.”

Earth Ministry partners with scientists, policy experts, economists and impacted people through the 16-year-old Environmental Priorities Coalition. Through it several groups come together each year to work on four to five bills.

The 2019 bills Earth Ministry WPI supports are: 1) a 100 percent clean electrical grid by 2045 without any new hydro power; 2) a clean fuel standard to increase fuel efficiency by 2035 to decrease emissions 20 percent by integrating hydrogen vehicles for green operation of vehicles; 3) three bills addressing threats to transportation.

Earth Ministry guides people to advocate for stewardship of creation

Jim Dawson says state budget affects all of life

Jim Dawson, program director of Fuese Washington in Spokane, believes “the upside-down tax code” in Washington “holds us back on everything—expanding the basic health plan to everyone for environmental and social justice.”

“Anything that needs money is hard to pass in the Legislature,” he said, even though this is one of the best-off U.S. states economically.

“Instead of having a plan for the budget, we have a deficit,” Jim said. “It affects us from the time we are born to child care, education, student debt, nursing care and death.”

“While some see the budget as being about money, argues seeing it as being about people having education, fighting wildfires, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, child care, pre-schools, local-care, state parks, a healthy environment, housing, national justice, health care and more.

“Because the state budget impacts every part of life,” Jim said, “it should reflect our values, what it means to be good neighbors.”

He added the state budget has passed 26 years, so the legislature is writing the 2019 to 2021 budget that begins in July.

Jim Dawson said there are three budgets: a capital budget for building, a transportation budget for infrastructure, and the operating budget with half for education and half for everything else—including social services, healthcare, corrections, government and natural resources.

“By neglecting the budget designated, if there is a gap, it comes from the remaining one-third, he said.

“Washington has the 50th most regressive tax code. That means that those least able to pay, are paying the most, and those most able to pay, pay the least,” he said.

“If we had taxes like Oregon or Idaho, we would have $10 to $12 billion more in our budget.

“The biggest revenue source is in sales taxes on goods and services, which were once 60 percent of the economy, but are now 30 percent with more economic activity online,” Jim added.

“Economic growth has come to the top one percent, whom we tax at the lowest rates, increasing income inequality,” he said.

This session is considering some ways to raise revenue: close the capital gains tax loophole, and fund a working family’s tax credit, he said, adding that there is no active campaign for a state income tax.

For information, call 206-420-0133 or visit fusewashington.org.

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Despite division over guns, common ground is faith’s teaching not to kill

Jessica Galvez gives tips for effective ways to influence legislators

Jessica Galvez, Washington State mobilization manager with Save the Children Action Network, offered workshop participants an opportunity to do mock presentations of an “elevator pitch” on their concern about immigration and family separation.

In a plenary session, Jessica reviewed how bills become laws and effective means for bringing voices to legislators.

“Personal meetings are most important,” she said. “That involves calling for an appointment and preparing for the meeting.”

She referred people to actionnetwork.org.

Judy Byron, OP, of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, said people died, and mass shootings have grown worse since 1991, to the point that school shootings have become “routine,” said Judy, who taught school until 1990 and “never worried about guns.”

Judy then described efforts to challenge guns through the Northwestern Coalition for Responsible Investment. Using shareholder advocacy, the alliance brought shareholder resolutions to gun manufacturers Sturm, Ruger & Co. and American Outdoor Brands, and to a gun retailer, Dick’s Sporting Goods.

“We wrote asking how they monitor violent events when their weapons are used, how to make safer weapons and how such events risk their reputation,” Judy said.

Receiving no response to letters, they filed shareholder resolutions. After the shooting Feb. 14, 2018, that killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., the CEO of Dicks said he was struggling with how guns they sold were used. They had not sold the weapon the shooter used, but had sold him another gun.

“Even though they followed the law, they had sold a gun to someone who should not have had one,” Judy said.

Dick’s stopped selling assault weapons, raised the age for gun purchasers to 21, hired a lobbyist and committed to sell safe guns. They took a hit. Their stocks and revenue went down, but the CEO said he would do the same again.

The other companies did not respond, but 69 percent supported a resolution for Sturm to do something and 52 percent for Outdoor Brands to act. Even large investors voted for the resolution, she said.

Judy imagines that it may be possible to develop safer guns.

“IPJC’s goal is to promote gun safety,” said Judy. “There is also interest in the possibility of developing undetectable plastic guns printed on 3-D printers, high capacity magazines, removal of firearms when there is domestic violence and concealed pistol training.”

At recent hearings on the bills, she observed fear: People who want to own guns for protection and sport fear they are losing the right to own guns. Others fear the loss of lives from violence.

Judy summarized the Jesuit world view, “God exists in all, the person who thinks like me and the person who doesn’t. Meaningful dialogue takes a long time and recognition that we all have shortcomings. Fear is the opposite of love.”

She urges people to have conversations about gun safety wherever they live, including in their faith communities.

For information, call 206-223-1138, email ipjc@ipjc.org or visit ipjc.org.

Jessica Galvez talks about "The Fig Tree" program.
Faith community lobbyists present overview of bills in current session

The Faith Action Network’s 2019 legislative agenda includes advocating for a biennial budget that “protects the poor and vulnerable, restores justice in the criminal justice system, funds housing for all, protects environmental justice, protects immigrant families and civil rights, ensures health care and mental health care for all,” said Paul Benz, co-director of the Faith Action Network of Washington, during the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

At the conference, he discussed several issues. A full list of bills that the Network supports and the status of bills are available online at www.fawana.org, to help people more effectively advocate with legislators.

Most issues have a price tag,” said Paul, speaking to the importance of the 2019 to 2021 budget. “To influence legislation, he suggested using the legislative hotline, 800-562-6600.

By calling it, citizens can be connected with their representatives, senators and the governor to have messages sent on their support for particular legislation.

Donna Christensen, a lobbyist for the Washington State Catholic Conference, said that housing and homelessness are “the biggest issues in the state.”

“They are homeless in every corner of the state,” she said. “It’s a complex problem that needs attention at every level—from people who go to jails and prisons so they come out equipped to adjust to society and unlikely to return to jail.

“Donna Christensen and Paul Benz present a briefing on legislation.”

“For certain low-level offenses, once a person has done time and been supervised, that act vacates the criminal record to eliminate a barrier to housing and employment,” Paul said.

“H1282 or SB5325 would punish people for failing to appear for an infraction when their license is suspended, which Paul likened to ‘driving while poor.’”

“Given that the State Supreme Court ruled in the fall that the death penalty as applied in Washington is unconstitutional because it is based on racial and other biases, SB 5339 would repeal the death penalty.”

In a workshop, Paul gave an overview of health care and nutrition legislation FAN supports.

“The Washington Health Security Trust Fund would make affordable, quality long-term health care accessible to all residents, financed with a payroll tax.”

“The Public Option/Cascade Care bill would move the state closer to a single payer health care system, ensuring no one pays more than 10 percent of their income on premiums.”

“Budget increases for mental health funding would facilitate the slow transition from institutional care in hospitals to community care in clinics, group homes, and apartment living with support services.”

“Another priority is protecting immigrants and their rights in the Keep Washington Working bill.”

“The goal is to keep families together, to keep people working, to reduce the fear within immigrant communities and to make clear the roles of federal immigration officers and police,” Paul said.

“The state legislative website is an invaluable resource for citizen advocates at leg.wa.gov,” he added. For information, call 206-625-9790.

In concluding the conference, the Rev. Mike Benton, conference minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, pointed out that “with out connections there is no life. Where connection is, there is life.”

“We are intentionally focusing on deepening relationships along with emphasizing that people of faith are called to ‘do justice, love kindness and walk humbly’ (Micah 6:8),” he said. “This scripture puts the words ‘require’ and ‘justice’ together. This part of my Bible is well worn.”

“To ‘require’ means more than ‘have to do’ something. It’s like a flower requires sun, and a baby requires love. These are the things that give life, Mike added.

“Do justice means to make things right or do things right. Justice is worked out in community by listening to each other, being with each other,” he added.

“A year-round retreat center for your youth group, church gathering, workshop or meeting space. With 200+ acres and 1/4 mile of beachfront, we welcome you to the eastern shores of Lake Coeur d’Alene.”

“The Fig Tree
Rick Matters walks alongside impacted people, raises voice.

“Most important is listening to and learning from impacted people,” Rick said.

For many people that step means making friends with people they may see as “other.” For him, the job of the church is to follow Jesus’ footsteps into unchartered waters.

“If you require looking at assumptions and values with new eyes,” he said.

“You deeper I am involved, the closer I feel to Christ and the deeper my sense of fulfilling God’s calling is,” he said. “The deeper my awareness of the humanity of the oppressed but also the humanity of those who oppress or permit it.

“Working to liberate the oppressed but also the humanity of those who oppress or permit it."

As vicar of St. Paul’s, Rick appreciates serving in a diverse parish with long-time Anglo members, South American refugees and Mexican farm workers. He sees God bringing parishioners together.

“You lean into our diversity, learning to love as Jesus loves, respecting and delighting in our diversity,” he said.

Instead of just one church choir, St. Paul’s also has the Mexican Singers, African Singers and Contemporary Singers.

During the Eucharistic Prayer before Holy Communion, a Spanish-speaking member stands beside Rick at the altar. When he says the words of institution over the bread and cup, he speaks in English, then stops. While he holds the bread and cup, another person tells the next part of the story in another language. People receive the Body of Christ with words in their own language.

“I give the concluding blessing in English, and a member repeats short sections in Spanish, while I sign the words in American Sign Language,” he said.

St. Paul’s has completed a four-month process to develop a vision statement for its future. The vision of St. Paul’s for 2050 is “To be a center of our lives in Jesus Christ, who illumines St. Paul’s, a community of faith who present the truth boldly and clearly at the cost of making people angry.

“Doing so expressed agape love.”

“Have you ever heard of Spokane racism?” Rick asked. “It means not saying anything that might make someone upset. Jesus spake the truth boldly and clearly at the cost of making people angry.

“Do ing so expressed agape love.”

When a beloved Mexican immigrant died recently, the parish raised money to pay for funeral expenses and to transport her body to Mexico to be buried by her son. They participated in Mexican traditions of viewing the body at the funeral home and held a requiem celebrating her life at the church.

St. Paul’s annual liturgical calendar incorporates traditions from the three ethnic groups. The baptismary contains a shrine for Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Paul’s is paying for a Latino funeral home and held a requiem for her life at the church.

Rick believes that since the Declaration of Independence said that “all men are created equal,” the nation has made progress in expanding the word “all.” At the same time, it meant only white men who owned property.

“My life goal is to continue to stretch that word until we truly provide justice and liberty to all,” he said. “As we stretch our collective arms to include others, we emulate Jesus who stretched his arms on the cross.”

For information, call 209-327-1134 or email rickmatters@gmail.com.
As we prepare to celebrate The Fig Tree’s 35th anniversary, we rejoice in the enthusiastic response. We had 38 people volunteer to host tables for the Benefit Luncheon, but only have space for 30 tables, so some are hosting half tables. We recommend that hosts/guests RSVP early to assure seating.

We need to consider bringing a different perspective of news and to raise some voices not present in other media does mean we need to consider the voices not present in other media which dominate discussions, but in opportunities for encounter, we acknowledge our agnosticism, our ‘I don’t know.’ We need to be allies to those who are religious, many who are atheists, Buddhists, mainline and evangelical Christians, Bahá’ís, Muslims and Jews among a sea of agnostics.

Naghmana Sherazi, a FA Vs columnist. Liz Schindler a FA Vs organizer of Faith Leaders and Leaders of Conscience (FLLC); Gen Heywood, pastor of the Origin Church building, which in May opened as an interfaith center for The Fig Tree community and the annual Resource Directory possible.

Panelists discussed ‘Future of Interfaith’ at a Spokane FA Vs gathering

Four panels discussed “The Future of Interfaith” at a Spokane FA Vs (Faith and Values) Coffee Talk for the first time in the Origin Church building, which in May will be turned over to Spokane FAVs as an interfaith center

Tracy Simmons, editor and executive director of Spokane FAVs, recognized the panelists: Scott, on behalf of the Steering Committee, said the panelists: Scott, on behalf of the Steering Committee, said that he had moved from Houston to work at Cy Center in Spokane seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center seven years ago when she was recruited from Houston to work at Cy Center.

“Breaking bread is the best way to know someone. Hospitality means inviting people to our homes and places of worship, and accepting hospitality. Interfaith work is crucial if there is to be a future for humanity and peace.”

“We need to be allies to those who are religious, many who are atheists, Buddhists, mainline and evangelical Christians, Bahá’ís, Muslims and Jews among a sea of agnostics.”

Liz is Christian and her husband, Neel, is Jewish. They are raising their son with an understanding of both. She observes that often in interfaith relations, despite the human tendency to hate and judge, understanding neighbors and extending compassion are expressed.

“Interfaith dialogue is fascinating,” Scott said.

Panelists discuss ‘Future of Interfaith’ at Spokane FAVs gathering

40 people gathered for the first time in the Origin Church building, which in May opened as an interfaith center for The Fig Tree community and the annual Resource Directory possible.

Concerned that people often “judge a book by the cover,” she encourages people not to judge who others are. “I’m a Muslim single mother, brown and old. Until I was just laid off, I worked as a cleaner, educated and raised my children. I am a different color, faith and background from most who are part of the panel, but I believe in the golden rule of loving our neighbor, listening and being open to change and action—hence our call, ‘The future of interfaith is to live the golden rule of loving your neighbor, listen and being open to change and action.’

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Naghmana Sherazi, Scott Kinder-Pyle, Liz Schindler and Gen Heywood

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Naghmana Sherazi, Scott Kinder-Pyle, Liz Schindler and Gen Heywood
The tradition of Fat Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) is to feast on fat things before the lean weeks of Lent.

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**Event Calendar**

**March 2019**

**28-Mar** - Washington State University University Global Impact Initiative, Diversity and Equity Conference: "Healing the Mind, Body, Soul Community, Activism and Justice in Education." Northern Quest Casino and Resort, 100 N. Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, education.wsu.edu/giballstation

**Mar 1** - Community Colleges of Spokane Got Talent International, Spokane Falls Community College, 1410 W. F. Wright Dr., 5:00-7:30 p.m.

**Winter Waters** honoring Kalskap Tribe as Watershed Heroes, Fatsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave., 6:30 p.m, 720-9699, wabtec@gmail.com

**1-3** - The Best of Fest Social Justice Film Festival, Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 8:00 p.m., Friday, 2 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 7 to 7 p.m., Sunday, socialjusticefilmfestival.org

**Mar 3** - Jam for Bread Benefit for Crosswalk, Don Maher singer and guitarist, Spokane Area Youth Choirs, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, 411 S. Washington, 3 p.m., 624-1366

**Mar 5** - National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Mann-Grandstaff Spokane VA Medical Center, GCL Dining Room, 2 p.m., 4:30-7:00

**Mar 7** - "From Stones to Living Bread," A Day of Reflection and Prayer, Marian Benevolent, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burn, 747-0706

**Jazz Mass** St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 7 p.m., 747-8677, stmarks-spokane.org

**Mar 8** - Controlling Fear of Spokane Gymnastics, David Deine, Great Northern University, 611 E. Indiana, 6 p.m., gymnastics@gnumuniversity.org

**Mar 9** - Peace & Justice Action Committee 5:30pm Community Building, 35 W. Main

**Mar 10, 21** - Divers Voice Writing Group, Spark Central, 1214 W. Summit Pkwy., 5:30 p.m., 279-0298

**Mar 21** - Spokane Dances of Universal Peace, Unity Spiritual Center Spokane, 2860 S. Bernard, 6:30 p.m., 534-4950, bkfergin@msn.com

**Mar 2** - "35 Years of Informing, Inspiring, Involveing," The Fig Tree Benefit Lunch, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga, buffet starts at 11:15 a.m., program from noon to 1 p.m., RSVP 530-1813 or event@thefigtree.org

**International Women’s Day Celebration featuring** Pastor Marie Mwange, originally from The Congo, Fowler United Methodist Church, 3086 N. 5th, 7 p.m., 325-3242, selahcentered@hotmail.com

**Mar 8** - “Almost, Maine,” Spokane Falls Community College, 1410 W. F. Wright Dr., 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., $10, spfcccシアター.com

**Mar 9** - "Attaining Interior Freedom towards her Son," Rukavina Lecture, Spiritual Center Spokane, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com

**Mar 13** - "The Art of Improv,"” by Dan Keberle - Jazz Orchestra and St. Mark’s Choir, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John The Evangelist, Northwest Plaza Apartments, 1110 W Riverside Ave, Spokane, 7:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 893-8350

**Mar 14** - "The Great Folk Scare: American Folk Music Radio," North Spokane Library, 44 E. Hawthorne Rd., 2 p.m., 893-0300

**Mar 16** - "The Evangelical Road to Donald Trump," Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7 p.m., 777-3270, antonella@whitworth.edu

**Mar 19** - "O’Leary Lecture, Organic Electronics: How to Conserve Energy and Produce Electricity the Organic Way," Jean Luc Martin, Institute of Technology and biochemistry professor, Georgia Institute of Technology, W. Auditorium in Japson at Gonzaga, 7:30 p.m., 328-4220

**Mar 23** - "Walking with Mary toward her Son," Weekend Retreat, Fr. Michael Maher, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burn, 448-1224, franciscanwomen.org

**Mar 24** - "Speed Dating Dialogue," One Peace Many Paths, Soka Gakai Center, 1711 W. 6th, 6 to 8:30 p.m., selahcentered@hotmail.com

**Mar 25** - "A Midsummer Night’s Dream," 350 Spokane, The Garland Theatre, 502 W. Garfield St., 6:30 to 9 p.m., tjohnsgardner@hotmail.com

**Mar 27** - "Paris to Pittsburgh," 350 Spokane, The Garland Theatre, 526 W. Garfield St., 6:30 to 9 p.m., eyh2006@gmail.com

**Mar 28** - "War & Peace More! Peace and Justice Action League Panel on History and costs of U.S. militarism," Marian Benevolent, Immaculate Union Universalist Church, 4330 W. George Image Dr., 6:30 p.m., tjohnsgardner@hotmail.com

**Mar 29** - "Walking with Mary toward her Son," Weekend Retreat, Fr. Michael Maher, SJ, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burn, 448-1224, franciscanwomen.org

**Mar 30** - "Rukavina Lecture, ‘Who’s Your Mama?’ Aspirated Reproductive Technology and the Decline of Motherhood," Jennifer Parks of UC-Chicago, Hemmingson Auditorium, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

**Mar 31** - "A Panel of Experts will Join Host Steve Jackson for an in-Depth Discussion.

**Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Spokane City Hall**

**SPR Forum: Confronting Homelessness**

A panel of experts will host Steve Jackson for an in-depth discussion on the complex topic of homelessness. Bring your questions to join the discussion.

March Membership Drawing: Dine, Drink & Snack Everyone making a pledge of support by March 29 will receive a donation certificate to Rain City Blues & Chops, a $50 Gift Card to Rocket Bakery, and a $10 gift card to Bardstown Road at The Fig Tree in Coeur d’Alene. Drawing rules at SpokanePublicRadio.org.

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**Celebrating Fat Tuesday**

**Jazz Mass** by Dan Keberle - Jazz Orchestra and St. Mark’s Choir

**March 5, 6 - Brother Jude Center, 3" Vienna Vienna" Concert, Trinity Lutheran, 812 N. 5th, Coeur d’Alene, 7:30 p.m., 208-566-2399, stmarkslutheran.org

**Spring Break 2019**

**Spring Break**

**April**

**4** - "Cherish Our Earth," "Sing Our Earth" Concert, Trinity Lutheran, 812 N. 5th, Coeur d’Alene, 7:30 p.m., 208-566-2399, stmarkslutheran.org

**March 2019 - The Fig Tree - Page 11**
Andi Chatburn stands before tapestry from Zambia.

Andi Chatburn, medical director of ethics for Providence Health Care, is organizing monthly discussions on ethics with community leaders and health care providers.

“Seek to bring diverse insights into ethics,” she said. “Because we need to be constantly curious about the many ways people think about health, disease and family.”

For example, Andi learned from reading The Spirit Catches You When You Fall Down that in Hmong culture, a seizure may be a spiritual gift. The book describes the dilemma of parents of a girl with seizures. They don’t want her to turn blue or die, but taking anti-seizure medicine would take away the seizures, which for them was not a good outcome.

“We need to understand what is a good outcome for each person or culture, avoiding preventable death while honoring diverse beliefs,” she said.

“Ethics discussions have blossomed and expanded, opening us to robust conversations with people who are involved in health care,” she said. “Health care can be a sub-culture in ways of being and thinking. We need to learn more about how the community experiences us and illuminate biases of the culture of medicine.”

“If we are more aware of our biases, they lose their power so we can focus on what matters in the lives of people who seek healing,” Andi said. “Best practices may not fit everyone. Most come to the ER scared, needing people to listen and find what response fits.”

Growing up in Michigan, Andi wanted to be a doctor, so she studied biology, pre-medicine, Christian leadership and philosphy at Graceland University in Ramona, Iowa, a Community of Christ university.

“At Graceland, we explored what it is to bring meaning in the midst of suffering,” she said. After graduating in 2006, she went to medical school at the University of Kansas City, focusing on ethics and palliative care. As a child, Andi spent summers with her grandparents on their farm. Her grandmother was the quintessential volunteer, campaigning for the governor, bathing patients in the hospital and building Habitat houses, so Andi went with her.

She also helped care for her great grandparents, so talk of death was a normal part of life. In addition, three weeks volunteering in 2002 in Nicaragua with Participate in Mission. Development and a summer in 2003 doing HIV education and community development through her church in Livingston, Zambia, helped hone Andi’s ministry in ethics.

In Nicaragua, volunteers hiked to villages and asked what help the people wanted, rather than offering to meet a pre-determined need—‘toxic charity’ from a colonial approach. In Zambia, Andi SASP (surgical adolescent support program)’ed volunteers. She did wound care in the ER and gave free anti-retrovirals to breastfeeding mothers with HIV, so they would not pass HIV through cracks in their nipples.

Insights from those experiences opened doors for her to explore the mysteries of human beings and health care outcomes.

Andi and her husband came to Spokane in 2010, when he became Community of Christ bishop for Washington, Oregon and Montana. He now works with Community Frameworks.

Her residency in family medicine in Spokane was followed by a year fellowship with hospice and palliative medicine at the University of Kansas in Kansas City. When she returned to Spokane, Providence ethicist Jim Shaw retired. In 2014, she began working half time in palliative care and ethics, building the ethics curriculum.

Andi urges the palliative care team—social workers, chaplains, nurses, doctors and nurse practitioners—to consult as they walk alongside people hospitalized with serious illnesses, communicating so they not only manage symptoms but also respond to patients’ personhood and existential questions.

Sacred Heart has 20 employed chaplains who rotate with the team, plus six chaplain residents in the one-to-two year clinical pastoral education (CPE) program.

“Chaplains and chaplain residents are of many faiths. Because it’s a Catholic health care facility, many expect that chaplains are Catholic, but chaplains are members of many faiths,” she said. “The chaplains engage in inter-faith dialogue to build bridges.”

“Chaplains accompany patients through spiritual dimensions of their health care,” she said. Along with classes, Andi travels to Mt. Carmel and St. Joseph hospitals in Stevens County, St. Mary’s Hospital in Walla Walla, Kadlec Medical Center in Rich-l-land, and to Missoula to support ethics programs and learn about experiences of people with serious illnesses living in rural communities and isolated as family members move.

“What are ethics issues for people in rural communities, for people living in poverty, for people at the end of life? Who can access heart medicine? How do those living alone arrange to have an IV infusion or travel to chemotherapy in urban areas?

For people who do not have immediate family members, the Washington State Medical Association is promoting HB 1175 to set up a surrogate decision-making hierarchy for people without a durable power of attorney and with no spouse, adult children or adult siblings. The bill would recognize the voice of grandparents, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles without going to court to gain consent for surgery or placement in adult family homes.

“Some have been stuck in hospitals 500 days with no one legally authorized to make decisions for them,” she said. “The County Superior Court does not have enough certified professional guardians.”

Andi also asks about care for the few patients with rare diseases requiring expensive treatment. For example, for children with a rare genetic spinal muscular atrophy, there is a medication which includes five shots the first year, costing $1 million. The shots mean the child who starts to walk does not regress and die, she said.

“It’s a life-saving miracle drug, but how does that cost relate to care for whole communities?” she asked.

“What is justice in health care? Insurance coverage is case by case. Do medical centers and families bear the burden for uncovered costs? The question is why should any medicine cost $1 million, not if it should be prescribed.”

Andi said the cost of rare medical care is a medical ethics dilemma as new discoveries are made. As an ordained lay minister in the Community of Christ, she affirms that the “enduring principle is the worth of all people and the pursuit of justice and peace—shalom.”

“In a Catholic health care center we ask: Who is the most vulnerable? How do we honor the dignity of all? How do we fall short? How do we create space for reconciliation?” she said.

As Andi sees God expressed in different ways in different faiths and cultures, she sees that the healing ministry mission is to restore people to community, which includes having housing when they are released from a hospital. For information, call 474-3097 or email andi.chatburn@providence.org.