

34TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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# Retreats and art can bridge divisions

By Mary Stamp

Holden Village resumes a full summer of education, interaction, art, dialogue and theological reflection, after a hiatus from on-site programs for remediation of mine waste since 2012 and surviving a wild fire in 2015.

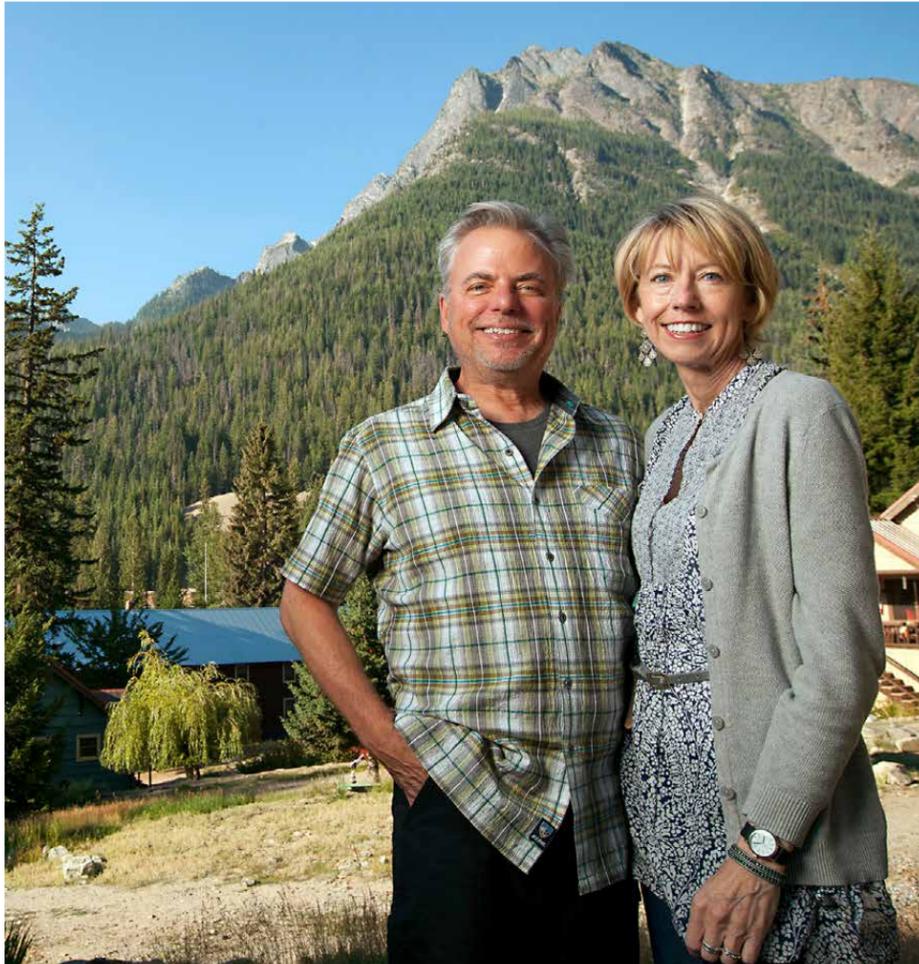
In the safe space of a wilderness landscape that is being reborn, guests will explore their faith and issues in today's societal landscape.

The 2017 theme for programs from June 12 through mid-August is "Beginning Together," based on Revelations 21:4-5. Guests will look at what "Behold I make all things new" means.

Artists, poets, musicians, theologians, writers, sociologists, environmental scientists, storytellers, interreligious leaders, pastors, peacemakers, authors and participants will engage in dialogue about walls and divisions, reconciliation and healing, social discourse and justice.

Holden's co-directors Chuck Hoffman and Peg Carlson Hoffman will incorporate their ministry of reconciliation, community building, group artwork and prophetic ministry.

"In our culture and world, we can't talk to each other on is-



Chuck Hoffman and Peg Carlson Hoffman share leadership at Holden Village.

...sues that polarize us. Many are entrenched in a black-and-white world," Chuck said. "How can we have dialogue unless we can see God in the other? We will only change when we are aware of the divine in each of us."

As the United States talks of building a wall on its border with Mexico, Chuck and Peg have invited peacemakers from Northern Ireland and South Africa to bring their wisdom to conversations on how they made progress amid walls and divisions.

"We can't come to any resolutions unless we can talk in the same room. We need new ideas, not repeating one side or the other, but completely different ideas we might agree to," said Peg, noting that there are diverse perspectives among Holden's guests.

"In the forest and wilderness, we can find a common language through art, music, poetry, science and theology to see what is important and gain understanding of the world," Chuck said.

Chuck and Peg believe art helps people bridge opinions and embrace people who are quite different.

"Everyone has something to  
*Continued on page 4*

## Benefit performances for World Relief depict aspects of refugees' experiences

Katy Shedlock, pastor of Rockford United Methodist Church, brings together her experiences in improv theatre, working with refugees in Cairo, learning Kazakh in the Peace Corps and hosting refugee families in Spokane, when she presents, "For I Was a Stranger: Biblical Stories of Refuge," an original monologue performance to benefit World Relief.

She gave her first performance on April 23 at Cheney United Methodist Church (UMC).

Three other 45-minute performances will be at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 17, at Manito UMC,

3220 S. Grand; Friday, May 19, at Covenant UMC, 15515 N. Gleneden Dr., and Sunday, June 4, at Audubon Park UMC, 3908 N. Driscoll Blvd. They will be followed by discussion.

Katy uses four scarves to depict women from Scriptures who represent aspects of refugees' stories: Miriam, *flight* across the Red Sea; Ruth, *arrival* in Bethlehem; the Queen Mother Nehushta, *re-settlement* in Babylon, and Mary, *returning* from Egypt.

"I use theatre because human beings are hard-wired for stories. It's the way to make sense of the

world," she said.

As executive orders on immigration unraveled, friends spoke of welcoming strangers as a matter of faith, she said.

"While many tune out when people use Scriptures to make a point in an argument," Katy said, "stories have the potential to move people past partisan divides. We can disagree on facts or proofs, but we can't disagree with someone's story. Scripture stories help us handle differences."

Global connections are important in Katy's life.

"When I interact with diverse people, I'm forced to grow, to rethink my assumptions about myself and others," she said.

The performance idea grew out of a project she did for an online preaching class with Iliff Theological Seminary in Denver, Colo., to create a first-person monologue telling the story of someone from Scriptures.

While serving the Rockford UMC part-time, she is completing seminary studies through Iliff's distance-learning master of divinity.

*Continued on page 5*

## Attorney believes children's literacy is a civil rights issue

By Kaye Hult

Coeur d'Alene attorney and civil rights activist Norm Gissel considers children's literacy a civil rights issue because it affects their ability to engage in the world.

To participate fully as citizens when they grow up, children need to be able to read and comprehend what they read, he said, explaining that literacy relates to the American value for everyone to have equal opportunities.

Studies show the importance of reading to enable people being engaged equally in society, Norm said. People need to be educated to find meaningful work.

"Literacy matters economically, politically and culturally," Norm said. "What could be more destructive than for children to attend public schools and then not be able to participate fully in society?"

Since the confrontation with the Nazis in this region reached a successful conclusion, he has turned his attention to children's literacy as a manifestation of civil rights.

Norm now puts his advocacy skills to work organizing teachers and parents to urge the Coeur d'Alene School Board to make reading a top priority with the goal of 100 percent literacy for students.

In addition, he helps put books into children's hands. In 2014, his daughter Greta and school board trustee Dave Eubanks created Jingle Books to collect reading books for K-3 children.

He also promotes sending children to Kids Camp, a summer program for struggling readers entering second and third grades, so they don't lose ground in reading over the summer.

*Continued on page 12*

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### Around the World

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#### Patriarch speaks on science, climate, children, trafficking

The Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, spoke on April 24 at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, on the role of science and technology in contemporary society, the theological imperative of tackling climate change, the plight and prospects of children today, the importance of countering human trafficking and modern slavery, and the need for all Christians to engage those issues in practical ways.

He was in Switzerland for the 25th anniversary of his enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch and the 50th anniversary of the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy.

"We must work together to promote a culture of solidarity, respect for others and dialogue. Together with sensitizing consciences, we must participate in concrete actions," he said.

Almost 100 years ago, he said, Ecumenical Patriarchate was instrumental in igniting the ecumenical movement and its quest for unity. Bartholomew cited milestones in the church's and his own engagement with the WCC. Since 1955, the patriarchate has had permanent representation to the WCC in Geneva. He maintains a strong, ongoing commitment of Orthodox churches to ecumenism.

"We strongly believe that the aim and the raison d'être of the Ecumenical Movement and the WCC is to fulfil the Lord's final prayer, that 'all may be one' (Jn. 17:21)," he said.

The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the WCC, called Bartholomew "one of the most respected church leaders of today" with a strong moral voice and prophetic witness in the international arena and to ordinary Christians everywhere.

For Olav, the patriarch inspires renewed reflection on the enduring quest for and changing character of Christian unity—especially in its work in the world. "Ecumenical solidarity is being mutually accountable in our commitment to dialogue and can lead us to liberation and finding sustainable new ways forward," he said.

#### WCC calls for global day of prayer for South Sudan

For most of the world's newest nation, wracked by conflict, joy seems far away, but for Christians, Easter is still a time of hope, said leaders of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). They said the Resurrection reminds that, even in this world, "goodness and light will triumph."

The WCC, the SSCC and the All Africa Conference of Churches are meeting May 14 to 17 in Nairobi, Kenya, with church leaders from East Africa on overcoming hunger and sustaining justice and peace in the Horn of Africa. Although the situation is most dire in South Sudan and Somalia, other countries in the region are also suffering food crises from both man-made and natural calamities.

The WCC invites member churches and partners to join in a global day of prayer on May 21.

When South Sudan became independent on July 9, 2011, after decades of brutal war, the world was filled with optimism, because churches had helped broker peace, but civil conflict began in 2013 and has worsened. Church leaders said, "Killing, looting, raping, arbitrary detention, torture, tribalism, terror, fear, anxiety, hate speech and lies, displacement, hunger, poverty, famine, corruption, and economic collapse continue." About 5.5 million people face severe food insecurity and about 7.5 million, almost two thirds of the population, need humanitarian assistance.

#### Churches can do more to protect children

As a step towards church involvement in children's wellbeing, the WCC recently published "Churches' Commitments to Children," an invitation for member churches and partners to address the needs of children as an integral part of the ecumenical commitment to the pilgrimage of justice and peace. The WCC general secretary encourages churches to be "at the forefront of offering care and protection for those who are most vulnerable among us."

The "Churches' Commitments to Children" supports engagement of churches in three areas: child protection, child participation and climate justice initiatives with children. It's implementation is supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Directory gathers numbers, seeks partners

As of late April, there were only three boxes left of the 2016-17 Resource Directory, because there have been so many requests for it this year.

Directory editor Malcolm Haworth said that The Fig Tree will increase publication to at least 13,000 and maybe more to meet demand with the 2017-18 edition.

Staff and volunteers are contacting community agencies, pre-schools and schools, health care

services, senior services, civic services, outreach ministries, government programs and others who are listed in and use the Resource Directory to confirm the number of copies they are distributing and would like to have available to clients and staff.

"Our hope is to have firm numbers by summer, so we can coordinate deliveries by truck with a local nonprofit. We are seeking partnerships with underwriters to

fund copies and transportation," said Malcolm.

"We are developing proposals for options for partnering and will be flexible so we can meet interests of different organizations and underwriters," he said.

The Fig Tree also seeks volunteers to help with research and editing in May and June.

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

### Runners raise funds to educate children

This year for the first time, Austin Zimmerman is running in Bloomsday on Sunday, May 7, as part of a "Run for Her Life" benefit to raise funds for children's education in Nepal.

About 25 runners who support the Conscious Connections Foundation (CCF)'s Power of 5 will run. Many are regular Bloomsday runners.

Each year, the Power of 5 raises \$25,000 to provide educational stipends to help more than 100 girls in Nepal stay in school. "Run for Her Life" is a new approach.

"To date, our small nonprofit has provided financial support to keep 590 children in school," said

Austin, explaining that 31 million primary-school-aged girls globally are unable to attend school.

"It takes \$10 to keep a girl in Nepal in school for a month, \$120 for a year. Even the smallest donation means a life of opportunity for these girls," Austin said.

CCF grew out of Ganesh Himal Trading Company, which has worked with crafts people in Nepal since 1984 to sell fair trade clothing, accessories and crafts.

Out of their relationships, Denise Attwood and Ric Conner, co-owners of Ganesh Himal Trading, became interested in supporting education for girls. The Power of 5 was started in 2012 and became

a nonprofit in 2014.

Partners in Nepal understand that the Power of 5 focuses on educating girls, but they have opened their program to educate boys in need, too, said Austin, a member of the CCF board and on the Ganesh Himal staff.

Her running team seeks to raise \$1,200, enough to educate 10 girls for a year. Other teams running are from Ganesh Himal, Whitman College and Whitworth University.

Those who wish to sponsor a team can pledge or donate online at the CCF website. For information, call 448-6561 or visit consciousconnectionsfoundation.org.

### Spring Summits develop plans for advocacy

The Faith Action Network (FAN) will hold Spring Summits in Spokane and Yakima.

The Spokane Spring Summit will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 21, at the West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean Ave.

The Yakima Spring Summit will be from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, May 7, at Englewood Christian Church, 511 N. 44th Ave.

FAN's advocating faith com-

munities across the state come together for annual Spring Summits to discuss issues participants care about and future advocacy plans.

This year, there will be opportunities to meet in issue work groups and connect with people in each district.

"Together, we look for new ways to be more effective at creating lasting change," said Paul Benz and Elise DeGooyer, co-directors of FAN.

"We will look at how FAN's legislative agenda fared in 2017 and craft next year's agenda with issues your faith community wants us to consider," they said.

There will also be discussion on FAN's new effort to establish work groups around specific issues—economic justice, criminal justice, the environment, health care and more.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or email fanwa@fanwa.org.

### Workshop addresses Doctrine of Discovery

A "Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery" workshop will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

David Hacker, priest at Christ Church in Zillah, Wash., and director of Between the Bridges, an ecumenical collaborative effort, is leading the workshop.

The program reviews the history and ongoing impact of the doctrine on indigenous communi-

ties. It has roots in 15th-century Papal Bulls and theological statements that justified the "Age of Discovery" and continues to "undergird systems of privilege and oppression," said David.

The workshop explores the dehumanization, exploitation and genocide of indigenous peoples globally.

Several denominations and the World Council of Churches Executive Committee have re-

pudiated the doctrine in recent years, he said. Faith leaders will tell of education efforts to develop a "post-colonial theology" and discover ways to act in solidarity with indigenous communities.

Between the Ridges teams offer the workshop to businesses, nonprofits, schools, community groups and congregations.

For information, call 509-961-4692 or email davidhacker916@gmail.com.

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**New Hope auction to raise funds for building**

New Hope Baptist Church is holding a Benefit Auction in Celebration of Pastor Happy Watkins from 4 to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Spokane Eagles Lodge, 6410 N. Lidgerwood.

The event is raising funds for the purchase of the new home for the church. The benefit features Northwest Entertainers, a fashion show, Gospel music, refreshments and a live auction.

For information, visit [newhopespokane.com](http://newhopespokane.com).

**Low-income housing is topic for TV panel**

The "Successful Aging in the Northwest" program on Community-Minded TV will present a panel discussion to assess housing availability for low-income seniors 55 and older from 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, at Community Minded Enterprises (CME), 104 W. 3rd Ave., Suite B.

CME is leading the assessment project and will provide a facilitator to complete the staff. The organization is seeking representatives from other organizations providing services for low-income seniors.

The meeting of representatives will be televised on CMTV 14. Ben Cabildo of CMTV 14 invites people to let him know by May 15 if they will participate. For information, call 960-7458 or email [benc@community-minded.org](mailto:benc@community-minded.org).

**Musicians give concert and workshops**

Musicians and teachers Devi and Allaudin Mathieu will present a concert and workshops Friday through Sunday, May 12 to 14, in Spokane. These music masters bring insight and spiritual energy to their teaching and music-making, said Quan Yin Lynne Williams of the Baraka Sufi Community, which is hosting the couple.

Allaudin, a pianist, composer, author and teacher, leads spiritual songs and rounds, demonstrating how music relates to daily life. She leads gatherings for singers of all levels to sing St. Hildegard of Bingen's music as contemplative practice.

Devi sings medieval, contemporary and traditional music of the U.S. and Europe, coaches singers, leads song circles and directs ensembles. In 1969, he founded the Sufi Choir, which he directed until 1982.

They will give a concert from 7 to 9 p.m., Friday, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., and will lead a workshop there from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday. Their choral workshop will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Greystone, 1122 E. 20th Ave. For information, call 710-0715 or 979-4288.

**Chaplains receive intensive training in Spokane**

Thirty-two chaplains from across the U.S. attended an intensive National Police and Fire Chaplain Academy (NPFCA) April 24 to 28 at Valley Bible Church, 3021 S. Sullivan Rd.

One of the only academies of its kind in the U.S., it trains police and fire chaplains through a 50-hour program that includes death notification, suicide, line of duty death, stress and burnout, forensics, fire operations, chaplain safety and the basics of radio and dispatch, funeral homes, medical examiners and coroners.

Most of the men and women attending volunteer as chaplains, said Chaplain Stuart Vogelmann, NPFCA executive director. They are from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Alaska, California, Tennessee and Texas.

Highlights included a tour of the Washington State Patrol forensics lab at Eastern Washington University, a police ride-along and safety demonstrations. For information, visit [npfca.org](http://npfca.org).

**CROP rep suggests ways to be involved**

Amber Blake, community engagement specialist for Church World Service in Portland, recently expressed appreciation for the Spokane CROP Hunger Walk, which over 38 years raised more than \$714,000 for hunger locally and around the world.

In Spokane, funds raised went to agencies like Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels, Second Harvest of the Inland Northwest, Mid-City Concerns Meals on Wheels and the Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise.

"This year, the Spokane CROP Hunger Walk organizers are taking a break for the first time in

nearly four decades," said Amber, who is recruiting people to help organize a CROP Hunger Walk in 2018. She invites individuals and groups to find ways to help in 2017. For example, a congregation can take a CROP offering and encourage members to walk on their own time.

Church World Service, she said, reports that "the need is greater than ever this year to stand together as we seek to preempt the extreme situations that create displacement and refugees."

"By bringing food to families in times of scarcity and by bringing water to communities in times of

drought, we help people reclaim their livelihoods so they aren't forced to look elsewhere," she said.

"Given the current climate, we may need to increase resources and services in refugee camps, so food, water and shelter can continue to be safely and sustainably provided," she said.

She said CROP walks are a meaningful way to provide resources, because "there is power in the symbolism of walking at a time when an unprecedented number of people have to walk for resources and safety."

For information, call 503-468-6220 or email [ablake@cwsglobal.org](mailto:ablake@cwsglobal.org).

**Institute will host hate studies conference**

Gonzaga University's Institute of Hate Studies will host the Fourth International Conference on Hate Studies, "Engaging with Communities of Justice," Oct. 19 to 21, said Kristine Hoover, the institute's director.

She is announcing it in May, because there is a May 31 deadline for presenters to submit proposals to lead academic forums on hate, related social problems, and ways to create socially just and inclusive communities.

Registrations are due Sept. 15.

The conference convenes leading academics, journalists, law enforcement personnel, educators, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights experts, community organizers, activists, students and others to discuss hatred and ways to engage communities with justice.

Conference presentations and topics will include research, education, practice and advocacy.

"If hate is understood better, the result can have real-world impact, including creating models for changes in society, government, culture and our individual and communal lives," said Kristine.

The conference is sponsored by the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations, and the Gonzaga Institute of Hate Studies.

For information, visit [against-hate@gonzaga.edu](http://against-hate@gonzaga.edu).

**Symphony plans concert series in churches**

The Spokane Symphony is adding two concert series to its 2017-2018 Season.

One, a two-concert Baroque Series created by Eckart Preu, music director, will be performed in area churches in December and March.

The second is The M Show: Music Mayhem and Mystery, a two-concert series created by Mateusz Wolski, concertmaster, for January and May.

The Baroque Series features a chamber orchestra performing works from the Baroque period in two churches. The Spokane Symphony Chorale joins the ensemble for the first concert, "A Festive Baroque Christmas," featuring music for Christmas and Handel's Royal Fireworks Music. The performances are Dec. 9 and 10.

The second concert, "Venice: The Magical City," features music

by Viennese composers on March 17 and 18, 2018.

The M-Show pairs classical virtuosity with humor and surprises. Wolski, a video-gamer and race-car driver, will integrate his thirst for adventure, intrigue and artistic collaborations. The concerts are Jan. 19 and 20, 2018. A second program is May 24 and 25, 2018.

For information, call 624-1200 or visit [spokanesymphony.org](http://spokanesymphony.org).

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# Holden co-directors use art to build relationships, stir people's creativity

*Continued from page 1*  
offer. We need a new way to communicate so rhetoric and buzz words about religion and race do not divide us," he said. "People need to see what they share in common so they can find community and common ground."

Dialogue can build relationships and understanding to help resolve divisions and isolation, Chuck said.

**Chuck and Peg started** at Holden June 27, 2015. On June 29, a wildfire started in the forest and surrounded the village. Peg and 20 staff evacuated down to Lake Chelan with the 300 mine remediation workers. Chuck and four staff stayed in the village with two hotshot fire crews.

"We did not lose any buildings. The hotshot teams prevented the fire from reaching the village and staff kept the buildings wet and moisture in the air for six weeks with a giant sprinkler system," Chuck said.

In 2016, staff had a "Forerunner Summer," as the Forest Service monitored the aftermath of the fire and remediation continued. Chuck said in 1961 a group, called the "forerunners," transformed buildings of the mining village

into a retreat center.

Last summer, about 50 people came each week for nine weeks, and volunteers worked another four weeks on landscaping. This summer, a small remediation team will conclude their work by planting 100,000 trees.

"We've learned patience from the fire and remediation," Chuck said. "We are discerning what the forest is saying. Beyond the drama of the fire, we watch the rebirth of the forest and the rebirth of Holden Village."

**The 2017 program reflects** gifts Chuck and Peg bring from years as design and creative directors in the corporate world, and years with their studio, Genesis + Art.

Lifelong Lutherans, they began to pursue peacemaking and dialogue through art and mural painting in short-term social justice projects in Northern Ireland, Israel-Palestine and India.

Chuck and Peg, who both grew up near Detroit, met at an art show in the large Kansas City church they attended. She was an illustration and hand lettering artist with Hallmark. He directed a design team creating TV ads.

Peg earned a bachelor's degree in art and elementary education

at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., in 1977. Chuck earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1979.

She worked with Hallmark eight years in Kansas City, seven years in Orlando, Fla., when Chuck was creative director for Walt Disney World, and eight more years in Kansas City.

"Hallmark's values were close to what I thought was important at the time—family, relationships, caring and celebrating moments," said Peg.

**With the United Methodist Church** they attended while they were in Orlando, they first went in 2001 to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to be present and learn about lives of Catholics and Protestants. They returned several times to engage people in creating art together as a means to develop reconciliation.

"Art is a language that connects people and builds communication for social change," Chuck said.

After leaving Disney, he earned a master's degree in art and theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 2011. A professor invited them to teach at Holden Village in 2012. They also taught 10 years at the Grunewald Guild in Leavenworth.

From 2012 to 2014, while teaching as an adjunct at the University of Kansas, he took seniors in spring semester art-for-social-change classes to Northern Belfast to design murals.

In 2012 and 2013, Chuck and Peg participated in two-week workshops at Dar Al Kalima, an art school in Bethlehem started by a Palestinian Lutheran pastor.

In 2014, with Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, they joined 80 people of different faiths from 20 countries to create a global prayer canvas at the Quo Vadis Interfaith Dialogue Center in Tiruvannamalai, India.

**"In Ireland and Palestine,** we learned that walls are not positive. Politicians may seek to mitigate violence with a big wall, but ultimately walls divide neighbors and make matters worse," said Peg.

"In Northern Ireland, walls dividing Catholics and Protestants isolated people from relationships needed for dialogue," Chuck said.

Jerry Adams—a terrorist to some and freedom fighter to others—once said walls will come down "when the communities are ready to come together and get to know each other."

Artists have painted murals on

the walls in Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine.

**"Art is a powerful voice** for social change," Chuck said. "Art helps build relationships, accesses our spirits, moves us in ways information cannot, brings us to tears and transforms us."

"Art brings the creative nature of God in all of us to the surface and connects us to the Divine," Chuck said. "Destruction happens when creativity is suppressed. Creativity connects us to beauty and gives us words and means to express what troubles us."

Chuck said that Holden's context in the wilderness off the grid, outside the conveniences of cities and civilizations, is important to facilitating dialogue.

In the midst of the wilderness, Rio Tinto mining company has built a water treatment plant that is a reminder of the damage to the environment from years of extracting minerals.

Chuck expects that reminder will bring into conversations the need to care for the earth and be stewards of creation.

For information, call 509-699-2405, email [register@holdenvillage.org](mailto:register@holdenvillage.org) or visit [holdenvillage.org](http://holdenvillage.org).

## World Relief and church educate on refugees

# St. Stephen's rector has hosted four refugee families since 2012

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and World Relief are hosting an informational educational presentation on refugees from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, May 20, at the church, 57th and Perry.

"We hope to dispel fears and myths about refugees," said the Rev. Bill Osborne, rector of St. Stephen's.

Bill and his family hosted four refugee families and followed up with them. After they welcomed refugees at the airport, they had the families stay in their home for one to six days before moving into an apartment. The congregation helped provide most of the

furnishings for their apartments.

The first refugee family came from Congo-Burundi with three children. The second family was a father from Pakistan and mother from Indonesia, who came from Malaysia with their three children. For 24 hours in November, they hosted a family of eight from Syria, before a Spokane Valley church took over. In December, they welcomed two Rohingya men from Burma.

Bill's father-in-law was a refugee after the end of World War II, an ethnic German who escaped from a death camp in Yugoslavia and fled to Vienna. A Methodist

church in Pasadena sponsored him, and he later became a Methodist pastor.

Bill met his wife, Margaret Drumm, during graduate school at Humboldt State University when they were attending her father's church. Her parents were hosting a refugee and his family from Eritrea for a year in their home. He later became a pharmacist.

In 2011, Bill and his family moved to Spokane.

Bill's daughter, Elisa, helped with a Ferris High School fund raiser for World Relief in 2012. She learned that WR needed host families and encouraged her par-

ents to volunteer.

"I've found it interesting attending meetings with World Relief, which was formed from the National Association of Evangelicals,

and I've found that dealing with issues around refugees is a good way to unite," he said.

For information, call 448-2255 or email [revbillo@gmail.com](mailto:revbillo@gmail.com).

## COR plans 2017 Summer Seminar Series

"When Rose-Colored Glasses Distort the Truth: The Wisdom of Multiple Perspectives," is the theme for the Summer Seminar Series 2017 of the Center for Organizational Reform (COR).

The 20 half-day workshops will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., June 12 to 16 and June 19 to 23 at COR, 222 W. Mission.

"COR assumes individuals, although sharing some universal characteristics, are always radically different from each other in ways that deserve respect," said Nancy Isaacson, director.

She said COR teaches how to see things in more ways than the default perspectives.

"At COR, we call this approach

'using the lenses,' she said, "and we've identified ways of defining the lenses. The more lenses people can use, the better they are at making their point, seeing others'

worldviews and generating more decision options," Nancy said.

For information, visit [corhome.org](http://corhome.org) or email [drcfreehan@gmail.com](mailto:drcfreehan@gmail.com).

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# Pastor's ministry brings insights from global connections to rural church

*Continued from page 1*  
ity program, The Journey. She graduates in June.

Katy, who grew up attending Manito UMC, earned a degree in theatre and anthropology from Drew University in Madison, N.J. In 2007, she and Ben, now her husband, were in a group of students spending three weeks in Cairo at an Anglican mission, Refuge Egypt, which provides education, health care, job training and language classes for Sudanese refugees. It was part of a class that introduced her to the history of refugee issues.

**"Before World War II** and the United Nations, there was no global system to help refugees," she said. "The first refugees were from post-war Europe, but the height of refugee resettlement was after the Vietnam War, resettling people from Southeast Asia and parts of the world experiencing conflict.

"In Egypt, I learned about refugee issues through the ethnic and religious conflicts between the North and South of Sudan," she said.

That experience led her to enter the Peace Corps after she graduated in 2008, so she could live in another culture and country. Katy taught English in a village school for two years in Kazakhstan. No one spoke English, so she learned Kazakh.

**When she returned** to the U.S., she and Ben, who graduated in 2009, settled in Allentown, Penna., where he worked for refugee resettlement with Catholic Charities.

There, Katy worked a year with Touchstone Theatre in nearby Bethlehem. The nonprofit theatre



**Katy Shedlock shows scarves she will wear for the monologue.**

company performs original work, developing performances out of improvisational exercises, movement and music.

She and Ben then moved to Pittsburg where he completed a master's degree in writing at Carnegie Mellon in 2013. She taught English at an Orthodox Jewish high school. While attending a United Methodist-Presbyterian church plant, Katy felt called to ministry.

**To pursue that call**, she reconnected with Manito UMC and studied a year at Duke Divinity School in North Carolina. Then she decided to work as a minister

while attending seminary.

They moved to Rockford in May 2015. Ben works as a proposal writer on Native American health issues.

**Rockford is a community** of 500 at the junction of Hwy. 27 south to Fairfield and Rte. 278 to Worley. Rockford supports three restaurants because of traffic to the Worley casino, where many in Rockford work. Others commute to work in Spokane.

About 30 attend worship at the church, which began in 1879. Previously, it served mostly farm families with many children. The former grocery and dry goods

store is now Hurd's Mercantile, which sells gifts and knickknacks. Many long-time families still live there, and many in town are related. Some still farm or lease their land for others to farm.

Katy connects with Rural Ministry Resources and is a chaplaincy intern at the nursing home in Fairfield.

**Preaching, leading worship**, teaching Bible studies, visiting people, conducting funerals and singing with the church's praise band, Katy finds it enriching to fit what she reads in theology books with people's lives.

"I ask, 'How will this sound to the real person I know and care about?' I might not do that if I was just in an academic setting," she said.

**When Katy and Ben moved** to Rockford, they contacted World Relief, which resettles refugees in the area.

They volunteered as a host family, welcoming six refugee families at the airport, and housing them for several days while apartments were arranged.

The refugees included a young woman from Congo, a Kurdish family from Syria, another family from Syria, an Iranian family and an Iraqi family, ranging from one person to a family of seven.

Two of the families are Christian and others were Muslim. They showed Muslim families where the Islamic Center and Arab grocery stores are. Ben knows some Arabic from studying six months in college in Egypt.

Ben and Katy have kept in contact with some of the families as they have studied English and found jobs.

**"I am amazed how resilient** the refugees are," she said. "I'm interested to learn their stories and

what brought them here."

"Hosting has been severely limited since the executive orders cut the number of refugees," said Katy, who has also helped World Relief with monthly simulations of refugee experiences for church groups.

"I taught Kazakh to help people understand refugees' experiences of learning a new language," she said.

With World Relief's funding based on the number of refugees who come, Katy decided to do performances to raise funds.

**She described the characters:**

- Miriam stands on the shore of the Red Sea, ready to start on the Exodus.

- Ruth comes to a new place, Bethlehem.

- Nehushta is the "queen mother" referred to in Jeremiah's letter telling exiles to build their homes, plant gardens and build new lives.

- Mary prepares to return from Egypt after Joseph dreams of the death of Herod, whose order for all baby boys to be killed led them to flee, so it was safe to return.

"Like Mary and Joseph, many refugees go home when it is safe. Only a small fraction resettles in other countries," Katy said.

She hopes the performances challenge people here to see how they can transform their corner of the world.

**Encountering stories** as pastor of a small, rural church, Katy encourages people to move beyond thinking life was better in the past.

"I ask what our story is now and how God is part of our lives and our community," she said. "The present has different challenges from the past, but is still part of God's story of grace."

For information, call 291-3444 or email [katy.e.fitz@gmail.com](mailto:katy.e.fitz@gmail.com).

## World Relief is Bloomsday's official nonprofit

World Relief is the official nonprofit Bloomsday is sponsoring this year.

As an expression of welcome and solidarity with refugees in the community, World Relief Spokane is selling "I Run with Refugees" T-shirts and encouraging people to wear these shirts during the annual Bloomsday events Saturday and Sunday, May 6 to 7 and beyond, said Nancy Goodwin, the church mobilizer for World Relief (WR).

Some T-shirts also say "Welcome Refugees" in 11 languages.

Proceeds from T-shirt sales will provide resettlement, employment and legal support to refugees and immigrants in the Spokane area.

T-shirts are available at the WR office, 1522 N. Washington Suite 200, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays to Wednesdays and Fridays and at the Bloomsday trade fair.

For information, call 484-9829, visit WR's Facebook page or email [ngoodwin@wr.org](mailto:ngoodwin@wr.org).

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# Whitworth University adds two new master's programs in theology

With growing interest from students, Whitworth University has gradually added classes in different aspects of theology.

In 2008, the university started a master of arts in theology program, designed for traditional students interested in the classical disciplines of biblical studies, church history, Christian theology and spirituality, and leadership in the Christian community.

New aspects of the program will address contemporary challenges for people in ministry in churches and nonprofits, and the mission-shaped church locally and globally, intersecting with today's cultures.

Students can study at their own pace, completing the program in two or three years by attending part time, or more quickly by attending full time.

Some of the work and communication with faculty and other students is by email and online.

**Once a month classes meet** on a Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday in the fall and spring. There is an elective course in January, and classes in the summer.

Jeremy Wynne, assistant professor of theology and director of the master of arts in theology programs, said Whitworth is offering flexible degrees to serve a variety of students, people in ministry and nonprofit leaders.

Half in the program are lay leaders with no intention of a career in ministry, just motivated to deepen their faith. Whitworth has been gradually adding courses to meet needs of students.

One track will focus on those interested in Christian ministry in churches and chaplaincy in hospitals, nursing homes and fire departments. It includes preaching, pastoral care and congregational leadership.

Another track is for non-traditional students who teach or work at nonprofits. Those studies will focus on the church and world, Jeremy said.

A student in the program who is a teacher believes a master's in theology will help in work with children who are created in God's image but broken by their families and other systems.

One nonprofit leader said he is learning that institutions serving people can be run well or run poorly, and how institutions can be life-giving as they serve the community, Jeremy said.

"One is on the staff of A Cup of Cool Water, where youth come from broken homes. Seeing the pain of their lives and struggles, he supports and cares for them," Jeremy said.

Another degree is a master's



Jeremy Wynne directs new theology programs at Whitworth.

in mission and culture, focusing on the mission-shaped church, churches and culture, and global mission.

"It prepares students to think more deeply about contextual engagement, cultures we live in and how they determine how we act, speak, think and participate in the global community of Christians," he said.

"Our catalogue of course offerings has expanded, and we are hiring new adjuncts and practitioners, bringing in people who do ministry," Jeremy said.

Most of the courses are taught by 12 full-time Whitworth theology department faculty and eight adjuncts.

The core curriculum for all three degree emphases looks at doctrine, history and biblical studies.

Jeremy describes himself as a "Spokane boy," who went to Whitworth to study theology and psychology, graduating in 1999.

He was away 12 years. One year he taught English in Japan, where he met his wife, Betsy.

He and Betsy studied at Princeton Seminary together, both earning master of divinity degrees. He also earned a master of theology degree in 2005.

Then they spent four years in Scotland, where Jeremy completed doctoral work at the University of Aberdeen in 2009, and she worked with the university as associate chaplain. Their two children were born there.

They returned to Spokane and feel "it's a gift of God" that both

have work here.

A few months after returning, Jeremy started at Whitworth as a lecturer in 2010, and by 2013, he had a faculty position.

After a few years at home with their children, Betsy became associate pastor of congregational care at First Presbyterian Church.

As a systematic theologian and teacher, Jeremy seeks to explore how Christians come to speak responsibly and joyfully about God's character, and seeks to explore how people move from hearing Scripture to speaking about God.

Jeremy pointed out that because Whitworth University is trusted and has good relations with many churches in Spokane, the program draws its 48 students from mainline, evangelical, Bible and Catholic churches.

"We offer a balanced program for students in their 20s looking for a first career and for students looking for a second career. The program is 50-50 men and women," he said.

The program is designed to foster community among students. They gather for Friday meals and worship, in addition to classes that give time for discussion.

With the variety of students, Jeremy sees good dialogue happening as students explore the history of the church, biblical exegesis and what it means to be a leader.

"There is debate and discussion of different understandings generated by tradition and scriptures,"

Jeremy said.

Students also engage in discussions outside classes.

"Dialogue is crucial. Today the church is not just one thing, but many different things and different traditions of understanding faith in a post Christendom context," Jeremy said.

"We can easily be divided over small, non-essential issues," he said. "Once we could preach Christ in relative comfort and unchallenged in the broader culture. Perhaps then churches focused on nonessential issues that divide Christians."

"In a post-Christendom era—when the Christian world view is no longer primary in the Global North as it once was—communities come around the table of Christ and are less inclined to set boundaries to keep people out and divided," he said.

"People are more likely to come together and focus on what unites us rather than what divides us," Jeremy added.

"The idea of 'unity in the essentials' describes our program well," he said.

Currently the theology program does not have a course on world religions, said Jeremy, but he teaches world religions on the undergraduate level.

Jeremy said there are two graduate assistant ministry interns serving in music ministry and small group fellowships at Whitworth.

The master's students can elect to do a thesis, which they present to the Whitworth University community.

Those who do not write a thesis take more elective classes.

"I look over the shoulders of students and see the impact the program is having in Spokane," said Jeremy. "Students are serving in more creative and effective ways."

Later in the spring Whitworth will break ground to expand the chapel into a new building that will include chapel staff, the ministry and theology department, and the Office for Church Engagement. It will be completed next spring.

For information, call 777-4277, email jwynne@whitworth.edu.

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# Rising Strong will heal families together in former Holy Names Convent

When Catholic Charities of Spokane purchased the property and Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names at 2911 W. Ft. Wright Dr. last September, they envisioned Rising Strong, a program to heal and reconcile families.

“Rising Strong seeks to change narratives of Spokane families who are at risk for separation because of child abuse or neglect stemming from parents’ struggles with substance abuse, mental illness or other abuse,” said Valerie Shaymans, the program’s director.

Catholic Charities is launching the pilot project this summer, bringing 20 families to live in the convent building.

**By sheltering families** together while helping them heal, Rising Strong seeks to reduce the number of children Child Protective Services removes from their homes.

Valerie said the program continues the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary to serve the poor and vulnerable. With one in 12 Americans over the age of 12 addicted, and children moved to three or four foster homes, the need is clear. She said children in foster care suffer PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) at twice the rate of Iraq veterans.

As the community hears about the program, people are helping. Volunteers painted walls and waxed floors. Groups are collecting funds, furniture, books, toys, hygiene items and kitchen equipment.

**After earning a degree** in broadcast journalism in 2008 at the University of Florida, Valerie’s plans were turned upside down during her studies for a master’s degree in higher education administration at Virginia Tech. She began the year after the 2007 campus shooting killed 32 people.

She spent her first semester



Valerie Shaymans sits by a 2007 photo after the Virginia Tech shooting, a reminder of her start in crisis

advising people on recovery, helping families who lost students and students who survived.

“It changed my direction to work in crisis management and recovery,” she said.

A photo on her office wall shows Virginia Tech the day after the shooting. It reminds her why she is doing crisis management.

After graduating in 2010, Valerie went to Birmingham Southern College to oversee university housing and crisis management. Then she worked with a suicide hotline there.

**“Many people are struggling** with their world crumbling around them. Through crisis management, we help people overcome obstacles and improve their lives,” said Valerie, who came to Gonzaga in January 2014 to work part-time with students in crisis, using the intervention team model developed at Virginia Tech.

In December, she started working with Rising Strong, while continuing studies for a doctoral degree in leadership studies.

Rising Strong appealed to her because it is family-centered treatment, sheltering children with their own families rather than

moving them to foster care.

“It’s about supporting individuals in crisis,” said Valerie. “The families come to live here and receive treatment together that includes mental health services, substance abuse, parenting classes, life skills classes—such as nutrition and budgeting—GED studies and job training.”

**The goal is for a family** to “graduate” from the program after 18 months with everyone healthy, and parents having housing, jobs and GEDs. Children from birth to five have play, recreation and art therapy on site. School-aged children attend school.

Children in Rising Strong are considered homeless, so they can receive financial assistance to participate in sports and field trips through the HEART (Homeless Education And Resource Team) program, and District #81 will bus them to their schools.

**As Rising Strong expands**, it will house more families on site in 75 units, which will open by July 2018. Catholic Charities is funding the units through tax-credit housing under the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, she said. The new building

will include a club house, treatment space and offices.

Representatives from Spokane agencies—Children’s Administration, Child Protective Services, the Office of Public Defense, Commissioners and the Attorney General—are on the Advisory Council to offer feedback as the program is developed.

Valerie is hiring staff with funding from Empire Health Foundation in collaboration with Catholic Charities, which will secure other grants from federal and private sources. In the current political climate, they will keep attuned to different funding options.

**When they open** in the former convent, families will live in two rooms and have kitchens in shared living space. They will cook and serve their own breakfasts and dinners to practice cooking skills.

The families will be there day and night with access to treatment, caseworkers, social workers and assistance with court processes. Staff will be on site 24 hours.

“Our program is based on two models in California and Oregon, which have 80 to 90 percent success rates. The Exodus program in Los Angeles has operated for

25 years,” said Valerie.

“I feel grateful to walk alongside families and give them hope so they can fight obstacles and change their family stories, reversing effects of traumatic childhoods and writing new chapters for their families,” she said. “The goal is to empower families to break out of multi-generational cycles of homelessness, poverty and foster care.”

**Rising Strong will use** a comprehensive approach to address addiction, working with families to develop treatment goals and incorporating what Catholic Charities has learned in other programs.

“The best way to serve families is to balance challenge and support,” Valerie said.

Families will be referred through shelter care hearings of the court that might otherwise remove the children.

An intake and referral process will decide who is eligible. Single men or women parents, and families with both parents will be included. They must be open to participate and must not have medical or safety concerns. Caseworkers evaluate a family’s strengths to determine if they are ready for change, Valerie said.

**Rising Strong now shares** use of the convent with Holy Names sisters who use offices for fund raising and administration.

In the east wing, the Excelsior drug and alcohol treatment program for youth will oversee the mental health and substance abuse programs, and the Volunteers of America program for supervised visits will address dynamics needed to reconcile the families.

Catholic Charities counselors will move there in the early summer, Valerie said.

For information, call 328-7470, email [vshayman@ccspokane.org](mailto:vshayman@ccspokane.org) or visit [catholiccharitiesspokane.org](http://catholiccharitiesspokane.org).

## County Conservation Futures buys Holy Names Sisters’ Spokane convent, campus

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), U.S.-Ontario Province, announced April 21 that the City of Spokane has acquired 31.14 acres of their former 65-acre Spokane campus at 2911 W. Fort George Wright Dr.

The city bought land along the Spokane River with \$2.65 million from the Spokane County Conservation Futures Program, which sought to permanently preserve the site for its ecological, recreational and environmental attributes. Holy Names Sister Kathleen Hilton, who led the property planning process, is grateful the land will be preserved.

“Proceeds from the sale will help fund long-term housing and care for our aging sisters. It will also enable us to continue our Spokane ministries of education, social services and financial assistance to organizations who serve the poor, especially marginalized women and children,” she said, adding that they also continue to be engaged with Holy Names Music Center and Transitions.

The Sisters of the Holy Names sold part of the land last year to Catholic Charities for the “Rising Strong” program.

Catholic Charities, in partnership with Spokane-based Inland Group, is also using part of the property to develop affordable housing for seniors and families. The city had previously zoned the property for high-density housing.

Since 1967, the Holy Names Sisters used the campus that includes two buildings with residential units, administrative offices, a chapel, common dining and recreation areas, an art studio, gathering spaces and retreat facilities.

Three years ago the sisters began a long-range planning

process. With many aging, they looked to others with expertise to manage long-term housing and health care needs. In 2013 and 2014, the Holy Names Province moved sisters from the convent to Brookdale at South Regal and nearby apartments.

Sr. Kathleen said Blessed Ma-

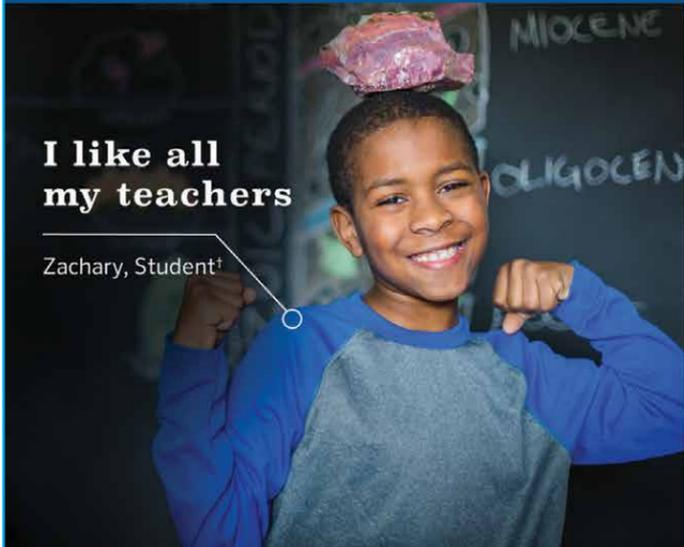
rie-Rose Durocher founded the religious community in 1843 in Quebec, Canada. Today, more than 800 sisters world-wide serve the underserved, especially in primary to higher education, plus in arts and music.

The sisters came to Spokane in 1888 before Washington state-

hood. They built Holy Names Academy, 1216 N. Superior, and Holy Names College, 1116 N. Superior. They later moved to Fort Wright College, serving thousands of students over the years.

For information, call 910-734-3761 or email [khilton@snjmuson.org](mailto:khilton@snjmuson.org).

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# Tribe honored for strides in managing the Coeur d'Alene watershed

Long before the Schitsu'Umsh people, now called the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, encountered European and American traders, trappers and settlers in the 1800s, they managed, cared for and lived in harmony with the sacred lands and waters of the Coeur d'Alene Lake and River Basin.

Particularly over the last 25 years, the tribe has sought to re-establish their ability to protect, restore and clean the waters and lands of their homeland that were polluted by a century of mining, logging, farming and construction.

From the 1880s to 1980s, mining and smelting in the Silver Valley dumped 100 million tons of waste—metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and zinc—into the watershed, contaminating sediments on the lake's bottom.

**In 1991, the Tribal Council** filed two lawsuits:

- One was against the State of Idaho to re-establish the tribe's sovereignty over the lake so it could address environmental problems the state had neglected.

- The other, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), sought \$3 billion for injury to natural resources from release of hazardous substances, to force restoration of the Coeur d'Alene watershed—the lake, the river, its tributaries, chain lakes and parts of the Spokane River.

The lawsuits began years of litigation, and eventually the Tribe prevailed in both. In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that the tribe has always been the owner of the lower third of the lake and related waters.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe worked with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and others to develop, implement and update a Lake Management Plan.

**At the "Winter Waters"** ceremony in March, the Upper Columbia Group of the Sierra Club and Center for Environmental Law and Policy recognized the tribe as "Watershed Heroes."

Several spoke of the tribe's efforts:

- Lutheran Bishop Martin Wells recognized their "prophetic environmental stewardship, persistence in this work and their promise to be invested in renewal of the land so long as the tribe exists."

- Glen Ford and Greg Abrahamson of the Spokane Tribal Council said the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has stricter water restrictions than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- Catholic Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad said the tribe is "a witness to our vision and hope



**Phillip Cernera, Marlene Sproul, Gina Baughn, Ernie Stensgar and Howard Funke receive the award for cleanup efforts.**

that as we strive to heal and make whole the wounds of the past, we strive for God's kingdom of justice, peace and sustainability."

- D.R. Michel, director of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), said, "Tribal issues are everyone's issues. Tribes are out front to bring back what they had for thousands of years." He is concerned the new U.S. Administration may make care of water, air, land and animals harder.

- Tom Soeldner, president of the Sierra Club Group said the tribe has done extraordinary work not just for themselves but for everyone.

- John Osborn, also of the Sierra Club, said, "There would be no cleanup or hope for protecting the watershed from mining pollution without the Coeur d'Alene Tribe."

**Martin, who is bishop** of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gave an overview of the Coeur d'Alene's experience, beginning with being renamed "Coeur d'Alenes" — rather than Schitsu'Umsh, their word for "the people who were found here"—and then being overrun by settlers.

Mining and logging used the watershed "as toilets to flush away the refuse of production," he said.

The most dramatic damage is still visible in the Silver Valley in the 21-square-mile Superfund site where clean-up has been under way since lawsuits and settlements against the mines and railroad in the mid-1980s and 1990s.

The waterborne heavy metals didn't stay in place, Martin said. The North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River runs fast in spring runoff or is flooded because of clear-cut forests to the north. It merges west of the mining valley with residue in the South Fork of the river. Together it overwhelms wetlands and flows south and west through the chain-lakes area of the lower 20 miles of the river and into one of the most pristine lakes

in the world, Lake Coeur d'Alene, at the heartland of the people, he described.

Now millions of tons of toxic mining waste coat the lake's bottom. Waste is also funneled down the river into smaller lakes, known as "the killing fields," where birds and wildlife die, smothered in lead waste or from eating fish, he said.

**"The beautiful recreation** land and lake are in travail, groaning as floods and fertilizers mobilize the bottom waste and send it down the Spokane River, down Lake Roosevelt, down the Columbia where it joins the toxic wasteland of the Hanford Reservation, sending its water down the Columbia Gorge and finally to join the great, growing stewpot of the Pacific Ocean where there is no deeper bottom to this bottom-of-the-barrel reality of human defilement," Martin said.

**In accepting the recognition** for the tribe, Ernie Stensgar, vice chair of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council, said lake cleanup is part of the legacy of elders.

"We have been water fighters for a long time," he said. "Water is life. UCUT is a major partner working with us to care for our families, children and the future. We work for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and future generations. In Indian country, we care for the seventh generation.

"The way for some funding opened," he said, "but there is need for more. Idaho dropped the ball in cleaning up the lake, so we picked it up."

**Ernie remembers listening** to the late Lawrence Aripa tell of fishing in the river as a boy and talking with his grandfather who lived beside the St. Joe River.

"He told us how pristine the water was. It was clean enough to drink from springs," said Ernie.

"Legends were passed on. We are put here to care for the land and to care for one another," he said. "We are to be the vision and

heart for the people."

"Seeing the swans die and the cancer on fish, we do not eat the fish," said Ernie, expressing the tribe's hope to again have the lake pristine so he may one day take his great grandson fishing and be able to eat the fish.

**Ernie is grateful to work** with scientists in the tribe's land and lake management departments.

He acknowledged the support of Phillip Cernera, director of the Tribes Lake Management Department, and Howard Funke, an attorney working on issues related to the Superfund, natural resource damage, the lake case and water rights adjudication.

As experts, they give advice and sit with them in Washington,

*Continued on page 9*



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(No Taizé prayer on May 18, 2017. Check for summer schedule.)

For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzaga.edu.

## Women recognized for clean-up advocacy

At Winter Waters, John Osborn of the Sierra Club Group presented a Water Warrior Award for persistent work to Barbara Miller, who grew up at Cataldo Mission and saw tundra swans dying as they migrated through wetlands near Harrison, Idaho. She and others learned the swans were dying because of the toxic materials—particularly the neurotoxin lead—in the water. The swans died after they ate contaminated plants and fish.

She helped start and is director of the Silver Valley Community Resource Center, which advocates for cleanup of the Silver Valley from the metals.

Barbara draws people together to protect children and the community. She and John Roskelley, Spokane mountain climber, met with Bishop Skylstad in 2001 and formed the Children Run Better



**Barbara Miller**

Unleaded campaign to monitor the pollution legacy from mining.

Barbara said there is considerable public health work ahead, so

she thinks about advocacy every day. She is the “Water Warrior” for 2017.

Rachael Osborn said the other Water Warrior is Julie Delsaso, recognized for her efforts to protect Blackwell Island where Coeur d’Alene Lake enters the Spokane River, an area with high concentrations of mining and smelting wastes. Plans for a development there will involve dredging which will re-suspend the wastes in the water and Spokane River.

She has been building citizen oversight to give the community voice in EPA decisions about cleanup of the 1,500-square-mile Superfund site. She also worked with the grassroots Friends of the Aquifer based in Rathdrum Prairie to stop BNSF when it began building its fuel depot over the aquifer.

For information, email john@waterplanet.ws.

## Online sources give overview of damage, progress

*Continued from page 8*  
D.C. as they meet with federal officials and in Boise as they meet with state leaders to continue the fight to clean the lake and river.

“Clean and clear water is the lifeblood of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, which educates people about the damage in the Silver Valley and the need to clean up,” Ernie said.

*Information on the Idaho DEQ and Coeur d’Alene Tribal websites, and in a report by Elan Ebling, outreach and development coordinator for CELP, give additional insights on the damage and progress.*

Mining, logging and farming practices brought wealth for a few, jobs for some and left a legacy of negative natural resource impacts for all, said Elan.

In 1929, the Coeur d’Alene River flowed milky-white with waste, according to the Idaho DEQ. Until 1968, tailings were deposited directly in the river and washed or blown over 150 miles.

The lake’s water quality improved after mining ended in the mid-1970s and the EPA began to remediate areas around the former smelter in the 1980s.

When the Silver Valley became the nation’s second largest Superfund site, cleanup was estimated at \$200 million just for the portion of the basin called the 21-mile “box.” The tribe, estimated that more than \$3 billion would be needed, and filed lawsuits in 1991.

The tribe initially became involved in cleanup, working in-

formally with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Wildlife Department, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Geological Survey and then working through formal agreements with the EPA.

**With the tribe’s “oversight and incessant urging of the EPA process,”** Elan said the cleanup plan was “greatly increased.” To date, the EPA has spent more than \$600 million and still has to clean up the lower 20 miles of the river, chain lakes, wetlands and lake.

In 1995, the tribe, Idaho DEQ and others developed the Lake Management Plan on water quality, management practices and educating people. The plan had support but lacked funding and enforcement.

EPA studies from 1998 to 2002 indicated the metal sediments could not be removed from the lake and had to be managed in

place by limiting nutrients entering the lake. Phosphorus and nitrogen runoff increase plant and algae growth, and decrease water clarity and dissolved oxygen levels.

The tribe and Idaho DEQ updated the Lake Management Plan in 2009 to limit nutrient inputs that affect the solubility of sediments.

**Elan listed other management programs:** fisheries, water rights, dam licensing, wildlife protection, air quality, water resources, hazardous-waste, shoreline protection, forestry and fire management, pesticide enforcement, residential/commercial development, storm-water runoff, wastewater treatment and recreation use, such as power boating.

For information, call Ernie Stensgar at 208-686-1800 or CELP at 206-829-8299, or visit [cdatribe-nsn.gov](http://cdatribe-nsn.gov) or [celp.org](http://celp.org).

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## Faith leaders back science, challenge climate change, heal local lands, waters

More than a thousand people filled nine blocks in Spokane's March for Science, one 600 held in conjunction with the April 22 national march in Washington, D.C. Then on April 29, Spokane joined the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C.

Scientists and science supporters joined the March for Science to say science plays a role in human freedom and prosperity for everyone. Scientists, who usually are not involved in politics, realize they need to speak out, because of threats to cut government funding that makes scientific research and discovery possible and because of increasing attention to those who would discredit science, particularly climate change.

Some may assume that faith traditions would want scientists silenced, but the head

of one of the oldest Christian churches, the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on April 24 in Geneva, Switzerland, praised the role of science and technology in contemporary society, and asserted that there is a theological imperative of tackling climate change as a common action by churches. Science and technology intersect with faith in efforts for climate justice, that secures clean air and water, grows and distributes food as human right.

Bartholomew said that "a sin against creation is a sin against God," and that sin includes the exploitation of natural resources of the planet, particularly because of greed. He called for changes in thinking and behavior to challenge consumerism.

"The environmental crisis calls for con-

crete actions from each one of us," he said. "The church cannot be solely interested in the salvation of the soul, but it is also deeply concerned with the transformation of God's entire creation." He calls for understanding that the ecological crisis grows out of greed, materialism and self-centeredness.

Those attitudes are leading some political leaders to deny the science of climate change in order to undo regulations that have helped us clean up the air, water and land. They side with those who want fewer regulations so they can more readily profit from exploiting resources. Bartholomew invites everyone to mobilize in the struggle to protect the environment.

Air, water and land are life-giving and do not belong to any individual or industry, and protecting them is a matter of human

rights and survival of everyone.

Nationally, the Creation Justice Ministries, an outgrowth of the National Council of Churches, and the Catholic Climate Movement joined in advocacy related to the People's Climate March.

In our region, we see praise for efforts of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and others to protect, clean up and manage the watershed. We see Holden Village transforming a mining town into a retreat center, and recently remediating damage from the mine. We see a call for children to read so they can learn about the world around them and engage in it as informed citizens. We see land along the Spokane River purchased by Spokane County Conservation Futures.

Theology, science and culture intersect.

**Mary Stamp - Editor**

Essay Excerpts

## Sounding Board

Letter to the Editor

## Students challenge people today to see attitudes that led to Holocaust

*Excerpts from the first, second and third place middle and high school winners of the Eva Lassman Memorial Writing Contest are shared here. Their prompt was: "Based on what you learn from resources provided and others, choose one country that failed to come to the aid of the millions of Jews in the Holocaust. Identify and discuss the social, economic and political forces existing in the country at the time that contributed to its inaction. How could that country have responded differently in order to change the course of history?" To read the full essays, visit [spokesman.com](http://spokesman.com).*

An Open Letter to America: You see, America, you and I are one and the same. I am part of you, and you are part of me. Yet, you have seen far more than I have. ... Oh America, how I wish you and I could go back and change the course of history. Unfortunately, we cannot. What is most important is that we must not forget what has happened. If we forget, history will repeat itself. In order to grow out of our mistakes, we must learn from them and strive to make the world a better place. To do this, we must take action.

In the words of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Courage must take precedence over fear. We can help victims of injustice. We can be a voice against genocide. We can fight human trafficking. We can end racism and sexism. But, we must speak out.

The power belongs to the individual. That is how legislation is moved. So I ask you, America, are you a nation who hides beneath the Stars and Stripes in hopes that you will not be forced to act? Or, are you a people who stand proudly waving your flag, supporting and helping the oppressed? We are a strong nation with a mighty voice. Most importantly, we are a free people. We must remember that while others' freedom is dependent on ours, the value of our freedom is dependent upon theirs.

**Caleb Marll - sophomore  
Mt. Spokane High School  
First place - high school**

"(The refugees) were welcomed nowhere and could be assimilated nowhere. Once they had left their homeland they remained homeless, once they had left their state they remained stateless; once they had been deprived of their human rights they were rightless, the scum of the earth," said Hannah Arendt, a Jewish-American political theorist, [who escaped Germany during the Holocaust and became] an American citizen in 1950. ...

The United States could have helped many more refugees from Europe, but it chose not to because of the negative general public and government attitudes. ... If Americans had been more open to immi-

**Annabel  
Christianson-Buck,  
Sophie Carter,  
Caleb Marll,  
Arihana Roos, Jesse  
Scholtz and Rosie  
Zhou**

gration and set their fears aside, we could have saved many more people from the atrocities happening in Nazi Germany.

After the Holocaust, many Americans felt that they should have helped more, but that was hindsight, and the Holocaust was already over. Eleven million people had already been killed.

Today, history seems to be repeating itself in America. Recent immigration policies have sent thousands of refugees back to where they tried to leave from. Many people's attitudes toward immigration are very similar to those during the Holocaust.

Have we learned too little from history? If we see people in need of sanctuary, we must help them and give them refuge. It is our responsibility to help our fellow human beings in need, no matter their religion, gender or ethnicity—for the sake of humanity.

**Rosie Zhou - eighth-grader  
Chase Middle School  
First place - middle school**

If the United States had pushed any of these solutions [increasing the immigrant quota, streamlining the refugee process, setting economic sanctions, bombing concentration camps, reporting more in newspapers], it is possible that many more people could have been saved.

We learned from the Holocaust, what people can do to each other. We found that there are people that follow orders without question; that ordinary people can do terrible things. We also learned that people are also capable of doing good things too. Inaction is what is the enemy of us all. Genocides have occurred since the Holocaust: Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, and Cambodia. We must not be silent.

**Jesse Scholtz - sixth-grader  
North Pines Middle School  
Second place - middle school**

Three generations of my family have walked beneath gates reading "Arbeit Macht Frei," each consciously grateful they were not among those imprisoned in the camps, and each heartbroken for those that were. I have seen the grounds on which their valuables were taken away, the buildings in which they were subjected to torture, and the crematories in which their bodies were burned.

I see the disrespectful acts of those who do not understand the immensity of the atrocities that occurred there. As Americans, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Spaniards, and many other nationalities of visitors to those camps, we cannot understand



the magnitude of the affront to human rights—to humanity itself—that occurred on the land beneath our feet...but we can sympathize. Often, however, our human aptitude for sympathy fails us, replaced by apathy, in the midst of politics and war.

...Too often, nationalism and utilitarianism cloud our ability to see beyond our own circumstances. We fail to see those who are unlike us as our equals, and to see the common good as our personal responsibility. Propaganda dehumanizes those who do not look, speak or pray like us, and it manipulates the minds of Americans in the same manner that it manipulated our enemies throughout World War II. Just like our human family in Europe and Asia, we are similarly susceptible to mistreating others in the name of our god, our politics, or our perceived superiority.

This discrimination has been a recurring motif throughout American history, and we have been committing these crimes of prejudice since the Second World War and long before it.

As [Martin Luther King Jr. said,] "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," so it is therefore our personal responsibility to consistently uphold the values that we claim to respect. In remembrance of our collective history, we cannot allow ignorance...or inaction.

**Sophie Carter - senior  
Lewis and Clark High School  
Second place - high school**

The Holocaust was a horrible time of anti-Semitism. It was the genocide of Jews, gypsies, the disabled, communists, Jehovah's witnesses and homosexuals. This all happened because of the National Socialist German workers party, later known as the Nazi's...Countries all over the world were asked for help against the Nazi's, but most refused, including Cuba and the U.S....

The facts of history could have been changed if countries like Cuba decided to help the immigrants and Jews....

Cuba could have shown people that anti-Semitism was wrong. If people believed that they needed to help, then that belief would continue to spread, and more countries would be led to help. If one country decided to help, many countries may have admitted Jewish people based on their political, social or economic reasons. No one knows what would have happened if more countries [had helped], but it is sure that the world would have been better because of it.

**Arihana Roos - eight-grader  
North Pines Middle School  
Third place - middle school**

"America the Beautiful, America the Complicit":

Desmond Tutu once said, "if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." The U.S. knew about the atrocities being committed in World War II, and still did nothing. America is complicit in the deaths of all those we turned away.

When the St. Louis brought us Germany's huddled masses yearning to breathe free, we turned away, dooming so many souls on that ship. But why? Are we not a nation created by immigrants fleeing persecution? The cold, hard truth of the matter is that the United States let six million people die because of institutionalized anti-Semitism, which impacted the economic crisis and isolationist policy within the government....

The United States, to its credit, did have some organizations working to smuggle refugees out of Germany and into safety... That work would have been unnecessary had our immigration policy not been racist and exclusionary.

Following the Holocaust, we said "never again." It happened again. In Cambodia, in Bangladesh, in Rwanda, Bosnia, the Sudan, the Congo, in Syria. Time and time again we turn our backs on those in need, time and time again we make excuses. The best way to honor those we failed in the Holocaust is to accept as many refugees as we can. "Never again" is now.

**Annabel Christianson-Buck - senior  
Gonzaga Preparatory School  
Third place - high school**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I just want to thank you so much for the service you provided me because of your Resource Directory. I was given a copy of it at the Women's March. It has been so helpful. I undertook a project the last three months to learn more about community services and religious organizations in Spokane so I can be more informed and be an advocate for them. I love how your directory is divided into categories so it is easy to find what I am looking for. I have used it often. Thank you for helping me to connect with the wonderful people in Spokane.

**Amy Walker - Spokane**

Thank you for caring about the people in your community. An article in the February 2016 issue told of my nursing school journey and a concert held by the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship to help me complete studies at Seattle University's College of Nursing. Not only did it draw the community to support the fund raiser, but an outside viewer saw the post and has been a key player in my nursing school finances this year. I could not have done it without you all. Thank you for your support. I will graduate in August.

**Bryn Martin - Seattle**

# Calendar of Events

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>May 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hispanic Graduate</b> and Recognition Ceremony, Spokane Community College Building 6, 1810 N. Greene St., 5 to 8:30 p.m., hbaspokane.net</li> <li>• <b>Wild and Scenic Film Festival</b>, Spokane Riverkeeper, Garland Theatre, 924 W. Garland, 6 to 9 p.m., 835-5211, cforjustice.org/riverkeeper/</li> <li>• <b>"Era of Megafires,"</b> multi-media presentation by Paul Hessburg, The Lands Council at The Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W. Sprague, 6:30 p.m., mpetersen@thelandsCouncil.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cinco de Mayo Celebration</b>, De Leon Foods, 102 E. Francis and 155530 E. Sprague Ave., 3 to 8 p.m., 483-3033 or 926-5009</li> </ul> <p><b>May 5-7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beginning Experience</b>, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 534-1797, beginningexperiencespokane.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Fun Fair</b> Coeur d'Alene, Silverlake Mall, 200 W. Hanley Ave., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 928-9664, thefamilyguide.org</li> <li>• <b>Benefit Auction Celebrating Happy Watkins</b>, raising funds for new home for New Hope Baptist Church, Spokane Eagles Lodge, 6410 N. Lidgerwood, 4 to 8 p.m., newhopespokane.com</li> </ul> <p><b>May 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lilac Bloomsday Run</b>, Downtown Spokane, 9 a.m., bloomsdayrun.org</li> <li>• <b>Run for Her Life</b>, Conscious Connections Foundation teams run in Bloomsday and raise funds for the Power of 5, 448-6561, consciousconnectionsfoundation.org</li> <li>• <b>Yakima Spring Summit</b>, Faith Action Network, Englewood Christian Church, 511 N. 44th Ave., 3 to 5 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 8-12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Eastern Washington University Diversity Week</b>, Cheney and Spokane Riverpoint Campus, ewu.edu &gt; diversity-inclusion week 2017</li> </ul> <p><b>May 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unity in the Community</b> Committee Meeting, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Birth Mother Luncheon</b>, Catholic Charities Family Services Center, 12 E. 5th Ave., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 455-4970</li> <li>• <b>Devi and Allaudin Mathieu Concert</b>, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 7 p.m., 710-0715</li> <li>• <b>Glow for Hunger Fun Run</b>, Northwest Harvest Benefit, Joe Albi Stadium, 7 p.m., nsplit.com/glow-for-hunger</li> <li>• <b>"A Quiet Light: The Middle East and the Fulfillment of the Gospel,"</b> Khalaf of the Raja Al Umam ministry, Partners International, North Church, 8303 N. Division, 7 p.m., info@partnersintl.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spokane Farmers' Market</b> opens, 20 W. Fifth, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.,</li> <li>• <b>Family Fun Fair</b>, Riverfront Park Clock Tower Meadow and River Park Square Mall, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 928-9664, thefamilyguide.org</li> <li>• <b>Devi and Alludin Workshop</b>, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright</li> </ul> | <p>Dr., 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 710-0715</p> <p><b>May 14</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Devi and Allaudin Mathieu</b> Choral Workshop, Greystone, 1122 E. 20th Ave., 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 710-0715</li> <li>• <b>Mother's Day Champagne Brunch</b>, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mass at 8 a.m., 448-1224 or ihrc.net</li> </ul> <p><b>May 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NAACP Membership Meeting</b>, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com</li> </ul> <p><b>May 17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silent Day of Prayer</b>, "100 Years: Mary and Her Fatima Message," Fr. Kenny St. Hilaire from Pasco, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</li> <li>• <b>KHQ/WorkSource Job Fair</b>, Spokane Convention Center (old), 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., admin@wcdspokane.com</li> </ul> <p><b>May 17, 19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"For I Was a Stranger,"</b> World Relief benefit, 7 p.m., Wednesday at Manito United Methodist (UMC), 3220 S. Grand, Friday at Covenant UMC, 15515 N. Gleneden Dr.,</li> </ul> <p><b>May 20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spokane Lilac and Armed Forces</b> Torchlight Parade, Downtown Spokane, 7:45 p.m., spokanelilacfestival.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spokane Spring Summit</b>, Faith Action Network, West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean Ave., 3 to 5 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women Helping Women Fund Benefit Luncheon</b>, author Glennon Doyle Melton, Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., whwfspokane.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Successful Aging in the Northwest,"</b> Community-Minded TV panel, 104 W. 3rd, 5 p.m., 960-7458, benc@community-minded.org</li> </ul> <p><b>May 31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fig Tree Distribution and Mailing</b>, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m., 535-1813</li> <li>• <b>"Head, Heart, Hands: Moving Forward Together</b>, Lisa Brown speaker, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Benefit Luncheon, Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Monroe, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 838-7870, pjals.org</li> </ul> <p><b>June 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fig Tree Annual Meeting</b>, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon, lunch, 1 p.m. board meeting, 535-1813</li> </ul> <p><b>June 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>South Asia Cultural Association</b> "Jugalbandhi" concert, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6 to 9 p.m., 467-5558, sacaspokane@gmail.com</li> </ul> <p><b>June 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"For I Was a Stranger,"</b> Audubon Park UMC, 3908 N. Driscoll, 7 p.m.</li> </ul> <p><b>June 2-4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ArtFest</b>, Coeur d'Alene Park in Browne's Addition, 456-3931, northwestmuseum.org</li> <li>• <b>"The Eucharist, A Mystery to Be Lived,"</b> Weekend Serenity Retreat, Fr. Emmerick Vogt, OP, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 448-1224 ihrc.net</li> </ul> <p><b>June 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silent Day of Prayer</b>, "You Are Enough: A Response to Jesus' Words on the Cross, 'It Is Finished!'" Fr. Paul Heric of St. Rose of Lima in Cheney, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</li> </ul> |
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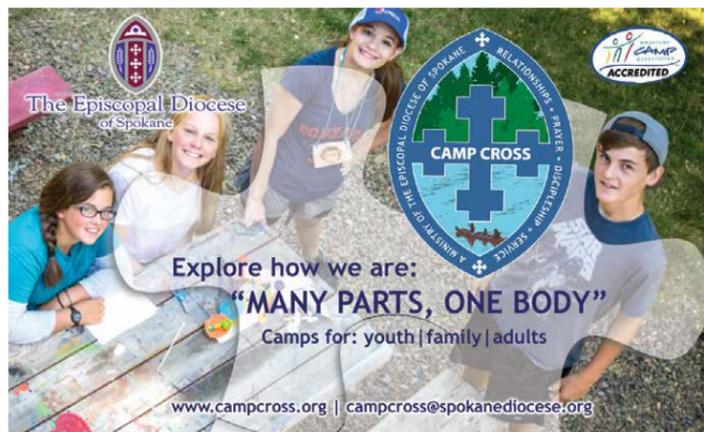
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## Media alliance sponsors "Media Salon" on Fake News

Gonzaga University faculty members Carolyn Cunningham of the communication and leadership studies program and Heather Cunningham of communication studies will lead a Media Literacy Salon on "Fake News" at 7 p.m.,

Wednesday, May 24, at a location to be announced.

The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media offers occasional media salons to build awareness of media literacy issues, the media environment and the impact

of media coverage. Carolyn and Heather will lead a discussion on fake news and solutions to the problems it creates.

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# Attorney's commitment to civil rights frames his life of advocacy

*Continued from page 1*

"Both these programs are measurably successful," Norm said.

"I've always been interested in reading," he said. "In whatever I've done or thought, reading has been central."

Norm's roots in advocacy began when, at 16, he and a friend put a resolution before Bonner County voters to add pennies to their taxes to purchase a county book mobile. It was defeated, but Norm learned about politics.

**His first success** in advocacy was at the University of Idaho in Moscow. Norm joined a fraternity to gain culture and polish, but knew that fraternities, with parent chapters in the South, were then racist institutions.

He joined one, became rush chair and invited a Chinese-American friend to rush. The fraternity invited him to join. The only choice to check for race on the pledge card was Caucasian. With his clearly Asian last name, they sent the card in. The local fraternity decided that if the national did not accept him, they would leave. The national never said a word.

"Now that fraternity is integrated," he said.

**Norm's conviction** about the equality of all people also started in his childhood. He was born in Weiser, Idaho, a farming community northwest of Boise. His father was a railroad switch master. In 1945, his family moved to Sandpoint.

Norm and neighborhood friends played pick-up football games. A boy who had cerebral palsy loved football. When they chose teams, one team had one less player, so the boy hiked the ball for them.

"He and other less skilled children also played in pick-up basketball games. If one side was clearly better, we'd stop in the middle of the game and redistribute players to make the play more equal," Norm said.

His father, while not philosophical or a church goer, would tell Norm, "Everything you see is part of God." Like many other white men at the time, he lampooned African Americans working on the railroad, but his father knew Norm saw things differently. Norm was in law school when Martin Luther King Jr. died, so his father drove from Sandpoint to Moscow to be with him in his grief. Norm's mother also respected his beliefs about civil rights.

**After graduating** from the University of Idaho in 1962 with a degree in history, Norm entered the Air Force as a lieutenant.

Traveling through the South on his way to basic training, he had two experiences that made an



Along with advocacy, Norm Gissel enjoys reading to children.

indelible impression.

- At a truck stop in Arkansas, he saw that blacks were forced to use an outhouse created out of oil drums two-high. On the outside in large letters was the "N" word, Norm considered it a monstrous but a cultural manifestation of the state of mind in Arkansas. He was outraged, but felt unable to do anything about it.

- When he stopped to eat in Oklahoma City, he saw vacancy

signs on motels across the street. When a black couple wearing better clothes and driving a finer car than his asked where they might stay, he didn't know what to tell them.

**"Whenever I was tired** while challenging the Nazis during the Aryan Nations era from the 1970s to 2000 in North Idaho," he said, "I remembered those images of white hatred toward black humanity and my feelings of impotence.

"Those experiences took me from a civil rights believer to a civil rights activist," he said.

After four years in the Air Force, Norm attended law school at the University of Idaho, graduating and starting a job with Legal Aid in Lewiston in 1970. In 1972, he moved to Coeur d'Alene as assistant attorney general for Region 1 Health and Welfare, expecting to be an environmental lawyer.

**"No sooner did I arrive** than the Nazis manifested themselves, so most of my civic work was around the Nazis," he said.

Norm did not join the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations when it started in 1981 in response to an attack on a Jewish-owned restaurant. He joined it in 1984.

In 1998, guards at the Aryan Nation compound shot at Victoria Keenan and her son after their car backfired near the compound, when they stopped to look for a wallet that fell out of the car. The guards held them at gunpoint.

Norm was instrumental in bringing Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center to represent them in a lawsuit seek-

ing justice for their trauma. The trial awarded them \$6.3 million, bankrupting the Aryan Nations, who turned their compound over to the Keenans. The property is now a peace park.

**In the 1980s, as chair** of the Coeur d'Alene Library trustees, he began to realize how civil rights relate to literacy. The library did not have a wheelchair ramp. When a wheel-chair bound man insisted on entering and was helped up the stairs, he found the aisles were too close together for him to browse the books.

That started an effort to make a handicap-accessible library. Norm led a campaign. In January 1986, they dedicated a new location for the library on Harrison Ave. It had a ramp from the main floor to the children's sections.

After a campaign that began in 1995, the new library was built in 2007 at 702 E. Front Ave.

**Whatever enhances freedom** and dignity for each person is ultimately, in Norm's mind, a civil rights concern.

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