

36TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Stories inside

Professor committed to media responsibility - p. 5

Spokane's oldest church marks 140 years - p. 7

ALTCEW evaluates resources for elders - p. 9

Hadda Estrada draws international students - p. 12

CALENDAR ON PAGE 11
FEATURES 60+ EVENTS



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

Center offers multiple resources

By Mary Stamp

Instead of needing multiple bus passes to go to several agencies for employment, health care, food, housing and other services, people can now go to one place to meet with representatives of those agencies.

The Spokane Resource Center, a one-stop location for people to access multiple services in a single visit, opened April 15 in the 20,000-square-foot second floor of WorkSource at 130 S. Arthur.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

It is one of 17 HUD EnVision Center Demonstration sites in the nation. The four emphases of EnVision Centers are economic empowerment, character and leadership, educational advancement and health/wellness.

Tim Sigler, senior manager of the city's Community Housing and Human Services (CHHS) Department, said the idea has been around for many years with several systems that include criminal justice, homeless services and other social services agencies that work with underserved populations.

The center brings together local social services in a shared office to enable collaboration to assist



Tim Sigler stands beside some of the art on the walls of the Spokane Resource Center.

people in stepping out of crises and to prevent them from falling into struggles with unemployment, hunger, mental health, addiction, homelessness or crime.

"The Spokane Resource Center provides diversion before people enter the criminal justice system or are homeless," Tim said. "They need intervention before they are in a crisis, need to go to the emergency room for issues that are not best resolved in an ER, or are arrested. Many people face a vast number of barriers to reaching their personal and professional potential.

"Looking at dynamics in the criminal justice system, the Spokane Regional Criminal Justice Commission created a 'Blueprint for Reform' to look at deficiencies and identify people involved with the criminal justice system," he said. "The report recommends offering better access to social services by co-locating agencies. The Spokane Resource Center does just that."

A pilot project was proposed two years ago, but there was no money or space, said Tim, who has been with the city for five years.

Previously he was a county probation officer for four years, a city probation officer for four years,

Continued on page 4

NAACP Spokane celebrates 100 years of challenging injustice, inequity, bias

Through its 100 years of fighting for racial equity and justice in economic opportunities, fair housing, criminal justice, educational challenges and environmental justice, the Spokane NAACP has a legacy of leaders whose persistence inspires members today to carry on despite challenges that remain in the systems of power.

The centennial launched in January with a program on the Bail Project, presented with a town hall with community partners, including Gonzaga's Black Student Union and its Institute for Hate Studies.

The Spokane's Mayor and City Council proclaimed April as the NAACP Spokane Centennial Month. A centennial celebration at their monthly membership meeting on Monday, April 15, filled Calvary Baptist Church, where the chapter first met.

The centennial celebration will culminate with hosting the NAACP State Area Conference from Sept. 13 to 15 at Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Airway Heights. There will be speakers, a lunch, banquet, the Michael P. Anderson scholarship awards and workshops on criminal jus-

tice, education, political action, health care and climate change.

The national NAACP approved Spokane's charter on April 14, 1919. The charter says the goal is "to uplift colored men and women of this country by securing to them the full enjoyment of their rights as citizens, justice in all courts and equality of opportunity everywhere."

Its founders and early leaders included the Rev. Emmett Reed, who was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church from 1919 until his death in 1961; the Rev. T.F. Jones, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church who was the first (temporary) president, and Frank Stokes, a businessman and member of Bethel AME, who for 30 years was president or other executive officer.

At the April 15 meeting, Gloria Ochoa-Brook presented the city's proclamation. Then Kiantha Duncan, the newest board member and former chair of the Seattle Tacoma Branch, recognized elders, men, women, millennials, faith leaders, educators and children present for

Continued on page 6

Poor People's Campaign recruits

Leaders of the state Poor People's Campaign (PPC) visited Spokane recently for a Truth and Poverty Tour to learn about local social justice issues and help develop a local chapter.

Jonathan Hemphill of Tacoma and Bianca Davis-Lovelace of Seattle are two tri-chairs on the Washington State Coordinating Committee for the PPC. In January, Liz Moore, director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, had stepped down as the third tri-chair.

Jonathan is legislative and administrative advocate for Mockingbird Society to transform foster care related to homeless teens. Bianca is executive director of the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches REACH and a member of Bethany UCC. Devon Wilson of the NAACP Spokane helped schedule their tour in Spokane. They seek to build a chapter of the Poor People's Campaign in Spokane to do direct action.

"Through chapters in 40 states, we seek to highlight poverty across the nation to change the narrative that limits the face of poverty to the homeless man on the street," said Jonathan. "We want people to see children and families, too."

On April 6 at the WSU campus in Spokane they introduced the Poor People's Campaign through a panel on student-led movements in sync with values of the PPC. Social justice, racial justice, religious leaders and environmental activists are involved.

They are also recruiting people to go to a national Poor People's Moral Action Congress June 17 to 19 in Washington, D.C. The goal is to have 20 representatives from each state, including people impacted by poverty, clergy and advocates to decide where to go as a campaign, said Jonathan.

"Racism, poverty, ecological devastation and militarism are interconnected," Bianca said. "The main issue is that many who are poor are working two to three jobs."

For information, call 708-937-5711 or email bdavislovelace@gmail.com.

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPokane WA
Permit No. 1044

The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

Religion News Briefs

Around the World

World Council of Churches News, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 www.oikoumene.org

WCC expresses solidarity with Sri Lankans

On this Easter Sunday, the World Council of Churches (WCC) expressed its solidarity with the churches and people of Sri Lanka after news of bombings of churches and hotels, which have claimed about 250 lives and injured 500 more.

WCC general secretary Olav Fykse Tveit condemned the attacks on people gathered at worship and on tourists visiting Sri Lanka. He offered condolences to all those who have lost loved ones in these appalling acts of violence.

“Targeting churches attacks the religious peace and harmony, and the social and cultural fabric of the nation, which has long struggled to uphold principles of religious harmony and diversity.

“Such acts of violence undermine the sanctity of life and constitute a sacrilege in many senses. Even as we cry out against this sacrilege, we resolutely affirm that violence must not beget violence. In the spirit of the love of Christ, we hold fast to the belief that violence, hatred and death will not have the last word,” he said.

As is fitting to the memories of those who lost their lives in sacred spaces, Olav called for people to live out the difficult task of demonstrating that the power of peace and love are far greater than the power of violence.

WCC reflects on fire damage at Notre Dame

After a fire on April 15 damaged Notre Dame cathedral, the WCC general secretary expressed shock over the damage to one of the most famous landmarks in Paris and the seat of the archbishop of Paris. He recognizes the incalculable loss of Notre Dame as a spiritual home for many and for its significant role in art and history. On Dec. 4, 2015, he had participated in an ecumenical service at Notre Dame cathedral with hundreds of people from many nations and confessions for God’s Creation during the United Nations climate conference held then in the city.

“As we prayed for our common home, the beautiful setting of the cathedral drew us even closer together,” Olav said. “As decisions are made about repairing the structure, we pray for the firefighters who preserved what they could, for craftspeople who will do the repairs, and for millions of people for whom the cathedral holds so much meaning.”

Pope Francis also expressed solidarity and said he was praying for the Catholics of France, as well as for all the people of Paris.

The Notre Dame Cathedral is considered by many as the most religiously and architecturally significant cathedral on earth, drawing 13 million visitors a year, even more than the Eiffel Tower.

WCC gathers people to prioritize racial justice

“Think about your policies, practices and actions, not to just look back at the past, but to ask what can we do today,” said Judith Roberts, director for Racial Justice Ministries for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. She joined religious leaders from across the globe for a recent training on “Achieving Racial Justice Through UN Human Rights Mechanisms,” organized by the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. It was a follow-up to the 2016 WCC Racial Justice Solidarity visit to the USA. That gathering committed to make racial justice a priority.

The training was parallel to the 24th session of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

Judith said the training offered her the opportunity to hear stories of what’s happening globally on racism and gender-based violence and other forms of oppression, and realize “we are all connected to something bigger,” she said.

Demaine Solomons, who teaches theology and ethics at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, valued the time talking about how human rights relate to theology and the church.

Sunila Ammar, executive for Ecumenical Formation, Gender Justice and Youth Empowerment for the Christian Conference of Asia, found tools and facets of conversation to take back home to Pakistan to connect with the civil city and the church.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Resource Directory will publish in July

May and June are the final months for gathering updated information for listings, recruiting advertising support and inviting businesses/agencies to be community partners for the 2019-20 Resource Directory.

The directory is published in July, mailed in July and distributed in July, August and September to those who request bulk orders.

Circulation has risen from 12,000 in 2016 to 16,000 in 2018 because, in addition to being used by service providers and faith leaders to connect people with

resources to help them move from crises, it is being used by people who need assistance. They find it a valuable guide to help them move from homelessness, hunger, unemployment, health struggles and the criminal justice system to transition into housing, employment and healthy lives.

As their lives improve, the Resource Directory also guides them to participate in recreation, cultural, civic and faith groups to enrich their lives, and to organizations where they can volunteer, give back and advocate for others,

said Malcolm Haworth, directory editor.

It’s still possible to send in updates for organizational listings. It’s still possible to join the advertisers who make the publication possible. It’s still possible to become a community partner who helps underwrite the costs of increasing distribution to reach more people, he said.

For information, call 535-4112, email resource_directory@thefigtree.org, or visit www.thefigtree.org and click on directory to access the online version.

Caritas hosts Health and Resource Fair

Caritas Outreach Ministries, a food bank, energy and utilities assistance program and necessities bank at 1612 W. Dalke in North Spokane, will hold a Health and Resource Fair to celebrate its 27th anniversary and to offer people solutions on various issues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, May 13.

More than 20 federal, state and local agencies will set up tables in the parking lot of Spokane Friends Church, which houses Caritas.

At the fair, “A Key to Solutions,” they will help people address domestic matters, nutrition, health care, veterans’ services and elder services.

“Caritas has a long history of helping folks put food on their tables,” said volunteer Chuck Hooker.

“We’re convinced many of our clients need services beyond food and necessities, ones readily available through various agencies with Spokane offices, but many

of these people just know too little about how their other needs could be addressed,” he said.

Caritas serves the community north of Montgomery, west of Division, south of Hawthorne and in the Nine Mile Falls zip code.

It is a collaborative effort of 14 Northwest Spokane churches, sharing resources and information.

For information, call 326-2249 or visit caritasoutreachministries.org.

Salem Lutheran raises funds for its roof

Salem Lutheran Church opened its doors this winter as a warming center, putting a roof over the heads of 60 to 80 homeless people a night.

Needing to do something about that roof, Salem is holding a benefit, “Our Roof as Mission” from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday, June 8.

For 131 years, the church has been doing mission and ministry at the corner of Broadway and Walnut. Its prayer is to continue for many more years.

This year, Salem has been challenged to do some expensive maintenance to put a new roof on the building, said Carolyn Payne, the music director.

Kevin and Caleb Brown will provide live music. There will be an auction—including a Guatemalan breakfast for eight, a walking tour of Spokane, handmade quilts, gift baskets and more. The \$30 ticket includes a commemorative glass filled at the no-host bar.

The campus of the welcoming,

diverse congregation is busy every week, used by the community for nonprofit offices, AA, Taiko drumming, New Horizons Orchestra, Zumba, music workshops and carpentry classes for inmates from Geiger Correctional Facility, she said. Salem also shares meals with neighbors, collects school supplies and sponsors a Hoopfest team with the neighbor kids.

For information, call 328-6280 or email salemcongregation@gmail.com.

Mandy Manning speaks for PJALS benefit

“Rise Up Strong: A Culture of Love and Belonging” is the theme for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane’s 2019 Luncheon Benefit, featuring Mandy Manning, state and national teacher of the year for 2018. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 8, at the Spokane Valley Event Center, 10514 E. Sprague.

Mandy is an English language learning educator for refugee and immigrant students at Ferris High

School’s Newcomer Center.

Her career includes teaching in the Peace Corps in Armenia, in schools in Japan and in schools across the U.S. In 2008, she moved to Spokane to work at Lewis and Clark High School, and transferred to Ferris in 2011.

She has used the opportunity as national teacher of the year to promote justice for all children, particularly immigrants and refugees. When she received the award May 2, 2018, from President Donald Trump, she presented him a letter signed by 33 of her students saying they are committed to be productive members of the community.

Her year has included traveling around the country, including being at an October event near Tornillo, Texas, where thousands of detained children were in a camp in the desert. In February, she organized teachers around the U.S.

to conduct a teach-in at the Mexico border to raise awareness and call for action to protect children.

For information, call 838-8780 or visit pjals.org.

**The Fig Tree is reader supported
BECOME A SPONSOR!**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

\$20-50 Sponsor \$56-125 Friend
 \$300-\$1,000 Underwriter
 \$42 for bulk order of 10
 \$300/year pledge for five years

**SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202**

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editorial Team
Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Directory Editor - Malcolm Haworth
Website Developer - Lorna Kropp
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult
Editing - Carol Bellinger, Catherine Ferguson SNJM, Kaye Hult, Inga Jablonsky, Mary Mackay, Dru Powers, Sara Weaver

Fig Tree Board
Barb Borgens, Tom Fallquist, Mary Ann Farley SNJM, Malcolm Haworth, Kaye Hult, Kimmy Meineke, Kathy Sandusky, Wade Schwartz, Mary Stamp, Lauri Clark-Strait, John Wang, James Watkins, Anastasia Wendlinger

Copyright © 2019
(509) 535-1813 or 535-4112
Email: news@thefigtree.org

Spokane Symphony Chorale
in Concert
‘Love and Understanding’
Sunday, May 19
4 p.m. at
Westminster UCC
411 S. Washington
\$15/person • \$5 ages 5-17
TICKETS AT DOOR
or from any Chorale member
cantabile-ssa.corlinc.com/store

World Refugee Day
Honoring Refugee Women
Saturday, June 15

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nevada Park - 800 E. Joseph
Naturalization Ceremony • Children’s Activities
Live Entertainment • Cultural Marketplace
International Food • Resource Fair
Refugee Connections Spokane
209-2384 • rcs@refugeeconnectionsspokane.org

Jewish Family Services hold benefit lunch

The Spokane Area Jewish Family Services (SAJFS) will hold a benefit luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 15, at Gonzaga’s Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet. Seattle educator Beth Huppin will speak on “A Welcoming Table,” about the power of Spokane tables as places for connections and for supporting a healthy and vibrant community.

Jewish Family Services will present Shirley Grossman with the SAJFS Outstanding Service Award for her longtime service to the Jewish community, especially seniors.

Beth, who grew up in Spokane’s Jewish community, teaches children and adults in formal and informal Jewish educational settings. She now works at JFS in Seattle and as director of Project Kavod, a Jewish educational program that focuses on values that inspire and guide the work of JFS.

She teaches at Congregation Beth Shalom in Seattle, and received a 2010 Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education. For information, call 747-7394 or email director@sajfs.org.

Young organists give recital, play in MusicFest

The Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) recital by its 2019 Organ Academy students will be held at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 5, at Central Lutheran Church, 512 S. Bernard St. The AGO said the 2019 Musicfest Northwest Organ adjudicator Andrew Lloyd will perform a concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 12, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave. The organ adjudication will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 14, at the cathedral.

Last year, the Organ Academy began to introduce young pianists to the organ with a short course of organ lessons at a reduced cost. The goal was for students to learn about the organ and to master a piece to enter in Musicfest Northwest, said AGO member Janet Ahrend, who helped organize the Organ Academy.

Of eight students, three continued with private lessons and two took the course again this year. The third is a university student. This year the academy has 11 students, with six from Post Falls and Coeur d’Alene.

The students practiced Saturdays at different churches, so they experienced different organs. With half from North Idaho, there were simultaneous practice sessions in Spokane and Coeur d’Alene, saving parents travel time and distance, she said.

Highlights of their 2019 recital include three of Bach’s “Eight Little Preludes and Fugues,” three contemporary pieces and Leon Boellmann’s “Prayer to Our Lady” and his “Toccatto,” from his Suite Gothique.

Andrew, a Spokane native, chairs the organ program and teaches composition as assistant professor at the University of Texas in San Antonio. He earned a doctor of musical arts degree in organ performance in 2014 from the University of North Texas, and completed his other degrees at the University of Kansas and Brigham Young University. He has performed on the organs at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, the Cathédrale de Notre Dame in Paris, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and in Russia and South Africa.

He has composed for organ, piano, voice, choir, orchestra and chamber ensembles, including a recent composition, “Christus,” a nine-movement art mass for choir, organ, violin and cello that premiered in April 2017 in Fort Worth and Dallas. His works have been featured at the 2016 and 2018 National AGO Conventions.

Andrew’s program here will include music by Bach, de Grigny, Tournemire, Widor and several of his own compositions, including the world premiere of “and on the third day,” as well as the 10-year anniversary performance of “The Three Gardens.” He first performed at St. John’s in 1997 and 1998.

For information, call 624-2980, email frostbeige2@gmail.com, or visit spokaneago.org.

Symphony Chorale performs on May 14

The Cantabile Chapter of the Spokane Symphony Associates presents a concert with the 80+ voice Spokane Symphony Chorale at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 14, at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ. Directed by Kristina Ploeger, the program, “Love and Understanding,” will demonstrate the range and versatility of this all-volunteer chorus, performing music by Michael John Trotta, Stephen Foster, Ysaye Barnwell, Gustav Holst, James Syler, Maurice Durufle and more.

Kristina is a professor and director of choral activities at Eastern Washington University. The pianist is Carolyn Jess. Proceeds support the Spokane Symphony.

For information, call 991-0921 or email brentwilcox@yahoo.com, or visit cantabile-ssa.corlinc.com/store.

Artist-in-residence program at monastery lends young woman opportunity to compose music

By Theresa Henson

Spokane composer Xanthe Kraft spent most of March in the Monastery of St. Gertrude’s artist-in-residence program.

Inspired by the monastic day arranged around morning and evening prayer, and midday Mass or prayer, Xanthe created a schedule that included time to write in the morning and time to compose music in the afternoon.

“An artistic journey is also a spiritual journey and moral journey,” she said. “The Holy Spirit that inspires goodness and truth also inspires beauty.”

As part of her time at St. Gertrude’s, Xanthe composed a Mass used for the liturgy of the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25. Her goal was to create music to complement the congregation’s voice.

“What’s going on in Mass is incredible. Music should not detract from that,” said Xanthe, who cites influences in Celtic melody and Gregorian chant.

“I tried to make a simple song,” she explained, also referring to Hildegard of Bingen’s compositions and aesthetic philosophy. “God, who at once is the simplest and most all-encompassing, delights in a simple song.”

Xanthe, who is 24 years old, recently graduated with a master’s in music composition from Dartmouth College.

She describes her spiritual journey as questioning herself as a creative being, finding God’s imprint—and through grace having revelations about God through contemplation that inspires works of beauty—or, as Xanthe says, “to react to beauty with meaning.”

“I have wanted to write this Mass for a while, and I wouldn’t have without this artist’s residency,” she said.

Initially the residency was challenging as she was confronted with a lack of her usual distractions.

“I tried to go through this residency as a spiritual journey,” she said.

Xanthe has composed music since she was five years old. She was raised Catholic and describes coming into her faith while at college at Dartmouth.

She found the party culture bleak and she found a crisis of purpose among her peers.

Through participation in campus ministry and a music ensemble, she developed a prayer life that also inspired her music. Her compositions became a response of gratitude and celebration to God rather than an endeavor of isolated artistic achievement.



Xanthe Kraft, a composer, recently completed an artist’s residency at the Monastery of St. Gertrude.

Photo courtesy of Theresa Henson

“The result is always better when you do it for God rather than people,” she said. “As with many of our journeys of finding Jesus, we don’t discover him there, we

discover that he has always been there.”

For information, call 208-962-5065, email creative@stgertrudes.org or visit stgertrudes.org.

The Arc of Spokane

- Advocacy
- Family Support
- Individual Advocacy
- Community Center
- Home Ownership
- Partnership 4 Safety
- Supported Employment
- Financial Management
- Community Access
- Supported Living

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

The Arc believes having a disability should not prevent someone from enjoying a rich, meaningful life.

Call 328-6326 • www.arc-spokane.org

Mission... Possible

Help us care for our building, so we can continue to care for our customers

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 so we can update the inside of our building. We are looking for monetary donors as well as volunteers to help with some of the projects.

Mission Community Outreach Center 509-536-1084
www.4mission.org | 1906 E. Mission, Spokane, WA 99202

BUILD • INVESTIGATE • CREATE

Computer Programming, Robotics, Cosplay, Manga & Anime, Video Construction, Engineering, and Biomedical

2019 Summer STEM & Arts Camps

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

Locations:
 Chase Middle School – 4747 E 37th Ave.
 Salk Middle School – 6411 N Alberta St.

K-8th grade • \$100 per camp

Make your summer count!

register online @ www.spokaneschools.org/summerstemcamps
 If you have any questions call 509-354-4648

Organic Methods
 No Herbicides
 No Pesticides

Urban Eden Farm Stand
 In Vinegar Flats!
Saturdays
 9 to Noon

Grown & Sold In Season
 2201 S. Inland Empire Way
 Spokane
 About 20 blocks south of Browne’s Addition Neighborhood

UrbanEdenFarm.com
 or Facebook

Sunshine for...

- Skilled nursing & rehab
- Home health care
- Adult family homes
- Memory care
- Behavioral health

sunshine HEALTH FACILITIES

(509) 926-3547 | shfi.com

People in need can avoid struggles with accessing services at new center

Continued from page 1

then city probation supervisor.

In 2007 and 2011, Tim earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at Eastern Washington University. He volunteered with Spokane County Veterans' Court, where he was eventually employed. With a team, he developed a model for offering community services in one place, which is nationally recognized and is now the Spokane Veterans Forum.

The city is leasing the space at WorkSource for two years. It has \$150,000 in Community Development block grants to operate it, and for equipment and supplies.

At first, they looked just at the large open room, but then decided to lease the full second floor. The open space is furnished with office equipment donated by Northwest Farm Credit Services and other local businesses.

Tim said the main room has "neighborhoods"—areas for different types of agencies. Signs hanging from the ceiling say: housing, pre-employment, health and wellness, peer support, education and workshops, benefits/basic needs and justice.

- Housing includes housing assessments, energy assistance, rental help, dispute resolution and tenant education.
- Pre-employment includes



Spokane Resource Center offers different areas to meet needs.

training, job readiness and social skill-building.

- Under health and wellness, CHAS and other health care agencies will schedule appointments, help people apply for insurance, offer health care assistance, counseling, crisis intervention, behavioral and mental health screenings and refer people for treatment.

- Peer support includes certified peer counselors, mentoring, sober coaching, advocacy and networking.

- Education includes parenting classes, financial and credit counseling, computer skills and tenant education.

- Benefits/basic needs addresses reinstating or increasing veterans' benefits, support access for and recovery of SSI/SSDI support.

- Justice includes legal assistance for tenants; clinics on rental, housing and employment rights;

post-conviction matters; reentry services, and legal advocacy.

Agencies will sign up to send representatives at certain times and days, on schedules based on client needs and appointments.

"Over the year, we will see if we need all partners here all the time," Tim said. "We will review what services are being used most and what services we lack. Then we will reach out to other providers to partner with us."

The Spokane Workforce Council secured funding to support site management and operations, and contracted with Career Path Services to hire Jen Morris to connect service providers, arrange the schedule and plan training.

Jen, who has worked as site manager with Career Path Services for 10 years, came to Spokane three years ago. She has run Resources to Initiate Successful Employment

under DSHS through the Department of Agriculture in Spokane, King and Pierce counties.

In 2001, she earned a bachelor's in sociology and social services from Central Washington University and a 2009 master's in education from Northern Arizona University.

"I love the collaboration here. When I was a case manager, I dreamed of everyone coming to one place and having multiple programs meet all their needs," she said. "It's important to bridge programs, rather than have them work in silos. Being together here they collaborate to help people."

"There are so many resources and there is so much knowledge. If one agency does not have an idea or answer, another will," Jen said.

"While providers often compete for funds, at the Spokane Resource Center they will learn what each does and be able to make referrals," said Tim, who expects barriers will break down. "Providers will train each other, learn the same lingo and be a team."

The Spokane Resource Center plans to add a clothing closet, a food closet and hygiene cabinet.

There is also a plan to have a room for supervised play, which the center hopes will be run by volunteers so children are occupied when parents discuss needs and barriers to supporting their success that they might not share if their child is sitting next to them.

The Spokane Arts Commission has filled the walls with local artists' works to add color and

introduce the artists.

There is also a Multicultural Center to focus on race, gender, ethnicity and interfaith issues.

One of two classrooms is for the center's use and one for community use to host events, discussions and workshops. WorkSource will teach classes on job readiness. Agencies may teach classes or have events there.

In the Financial Stability Center, people can learn about budgeting, credit, home ownership or even just how to open a bank account.

In an employee break room, agency staff can converse and have monthly training sessions. For example, Kurtis Robinson, NAACP Spokane president, and Carmen Pacheco-Jones, chair of the SR-LJC's Racial Equity Committee, will offer implicit bias training.

"Our goal is to serve the community by supporting innovative projects like this," Tim said. "CHHS invests nearly \$15 million for support services and capital investments each year."

Among the partners along with the Spokane Workforce Council and the city are Spokane Housing Authority, Career Path Services, SNAP, The Arc of Spokane, Goodwill, Catholic Charities, Compass Career Solutions, Center for Justice, Frontier Behavioral Health, CHAS, Pioneer Human Services, Revive Reentry Services, Partners with Families and Children, World Relief and the Tenants Union.

For information, call 867-8189.

Eva Lassman awards presented at conference

Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies recently continued Holocaust survivor and educator Eva Lassman's legacy through presenting awards in her name to individuals and the Spokesman-Review for their efforts to promote peace and ensure that the stories of hate are never forgotten.

In presenting the awards at its recent conference banquet, Kristine Hoover said Eva educated people about the genocide of 6 million Jews and 5 million people of other nationalities, religions and viewpoints under Nazi Germany during World War II.

"Her inspirational story continues in many ways in our community, including art work of Spokane middle and high school students on display at the Gonzaga Law School as part of the annual Holocaust Remembrance.

The 2019 Eva Lassman Memorial Student Research Award went to the Rev. Terri Stewart, a United Methodist pastor and second year

student in Gonzaga's doctoral program of Leadership Studies. Her research is on "Stages of Faith, Images of God, and Othering of the LGBTQ Community: An Exploratory Case Study of United Methodist Leaders."

A second 2019 Take Action Against Hate Award was presented to Jordan Tyrus Reidt, who grew up in a small town on the Chinook and Chehalis Nations' lands in what is now Raymond, Wash. A senior at Western Washington University, he works to alleviate hate and white supremacy.

The Take Action Against Hate award for an organization went to The Spokesman-Review. Rob Curley, editor, and Stacey Cowles, publisher, received the award.

Kristine said The Spokesman-Review was chosen for its commitment "to shine a light on the dark corners of our community so that we might find deeper understanding of how to address significant concerns to create a more peaceful, inclusive community."

Since 1994, a key word search indicates the newspaper published 1,685 articles on racism, 1,190 on bias, 540 on bigotry, 207 on sexism, 49 on xenophobia and 24 on religious intolerance. Based on their subject index article count, they have published 587 articles on immigration policy, 519 on gay or lesbian experiences, and 132 on transgender experiences.

"The Spokesman-Review has helped inform us not only of the work we need to continue to do, but also affirms our spirits with articles that celebrate themes of the conference," she said, with 9,415 articles on peace, 2,411 on dialogue, 1,446 on kindness and 919 on forgiveness.

"Eva knew constant vigilance is needed to overcome racism and anti-Semitism. We must learn from mistakes made before us and do all we can to prevent it from happening again," Kristine said. "We recognize the role of the Spokesman-Review to show who we are and who we aspire to be."



Rockwood South Hill:
2903 E. 25th Ave.
509-536-6650

Rockwood Hawthorne:
101 E. Hawthorne Rd.
509-466-0411

www.rockwoodretirement.org

independent • assisted • skilled nursing • memory care



Rockwood
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Conducting caring finales for Spokane families for over 100 years



John Lackie, Paula Davis, Sue Belote, Dennis Murphy

Much like the Symphony, Hennessey Funeral Home has a long legacy of professionalism in Spokane. Over the years our mission has not changed. We have always intended to provide the finest, most professional, caring services for Spokane families of all faiths.

Today Hennessey remains current with all the major changes in funeral services trends and innovations. You will appreciate the thoughtful, compassionate service we offer families like yours in time of need.



HENNESSEY
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

2203 N. Division St. Spokane, WA
(509) 328-2600

hennesseyfuneralhomes.com

Your support of
Catholic Charities' mission means you
care about life and dignity.

You want to help families take the
first and lasting step out of poverty.

You can take a simple step to
support this work into the future.

Please consider working with your financial advisor
to make a gift to Catholic Charities or to the
Catholic Charities Foundation that best
fits your financial situation.



For more information please contact
Ann Marie Byrd | (509) 358-4266
Director of Development

Professor will continue teaching intercultural awareness, media responsibility

John Caputo's belief in the power of stories of everyday people, in fostering intercultural and international awareness, and in the need for media responsibility has permeated his teaching undergraduate and graduate students for careers in media and communication.

As a professor in Gonzaga University's master's program in Communication and Leadership Studies and summer programs for communications students in Florence and Cagli, Italy, and in Derry, Northern Ireland, he has introduced students to the skills of journalism, photography and digital, interpersonal and intercultural communication.

John has helped students understand peace is possible despite ways media may exacerbate divisions, covering political leaders rather than citizens.

Although retiring as professor at Gonzaga in May, he will continue his 50-year passion for teaching by fostering Cagli-Spokane Sister City ties with high school summer exchanges, promoting media responsibility and writing articles.

From 2012 to 2016, he took student groups for 17 days to Derry, Ireland, where they met former combatants who now see how they were programmed and understand that their divisions were not Protestant vs. Catholic as media had people believe.

Through the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NW-ARM), he has helped people raise questions about images of women and men in media, promoted teen health and media consumption, explored ways media can create a culture of peace, and taught teens and adults about media literacy and digital citizenship.

He said media is one of the most powerful influences shaping attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors of children, families and communities.

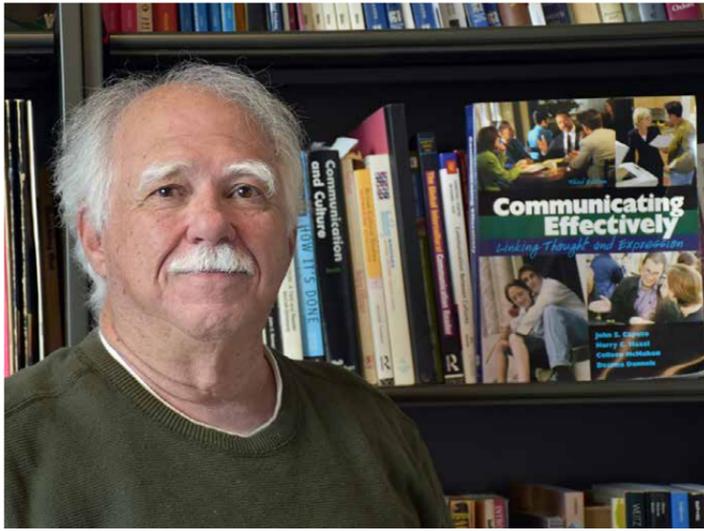
John, who has taught since he was 22, will have emeritus status.

"It's a calling," he said. "I teach communication because of its centrality in people's lives."

"In recent years, communication has revolved around a radically altered society," John said. "What communications technologies will keep us informed? If a print newspaper has a form with a cultural value, what happens to it online?"

John said media studies are now less about practical skills of journalism and more theoretical, about interpersonal and intercultural communication.

"What are multi-media ways we tell stories?" John asked. "As digitalization increases, what are



John Caputo retires after nearly 30 years at Gonzaga University.

the stories that can be told? Human community is about storytelling—oral to written to image."

Being of Italian heritage and in Spokane's Italian American Club, and from having traveled in Italy in the 1970s, John wanted to teach in the GU program in Florence when he started teaching at Gonzaga in 1990, coming as chair of the undergraduate communication arts department.

In 1998, eight years after John came, the Florence program director invited him to teach for a spring semester.

Since then, he has taken graduate students to the Florence program and supervised their travel in Italy for 17 years.

Through a colleague in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, he was invited to visit Cagli, an ancient town of 15,000 in the Apennine Mountains in Central Italy, out of the tourist zone.

For 17 summers, he took 30 master's students to Cagli, visiting Florence on the way. John said Cagli offers an opportunity to explore authentic Italian life. Students gained practical language skills, learned about culture by living in homes and developed dialogue skills.

Since 2010, students have done multimedia storytelling projects, interviewing everyday people about their lives, and using photography, writing and layout skills to produce "Faces of Cagli" books.

Four years ago, Spokane's sister

city grew out of those relationships. This year, 10 high school students from Spokane go to Cagli June 30 to July 15 and 10 from Cagli come to Spokane July 20 to Aug. 5 and stay in homes. He is currently seeking volunteers as homestay families in Spokane.

"It's citizen diplomacy, welcoming strangers and learning about people," said John. "Classrooms are never big enough to hold students' dreams."

For four years John also led graduate student Peacebuilding Trips to Derry, Northern Ireland. Students learned about dialogue, communication and sharing stories of the people they met.

Like many, John had thought from media reports that the fight in Northern Ireland was between Catholics and Protestants. Students met with former combatants who said the fight was about civil rights and having a piece of the pie, not about religion.

The Peace Initiative, which was developed by leaders, is fragile because it did not involve dialogue among grassroots people, he said.

"We start with a dialogue of storytelling, so we can see ourselves in their stories," John said. "If we can bring everyday people into discussions, they can break down false assumptions. Then we find similarities. It takes foresight to develop skills of empathy."

John said conflict arose as communication broke down. In 2011, a Peace Bridge was built in Derry across the River Foyle, connecting

former strongholds of the sides of political divisions. The symbolic nature of the Peace Bridge is connecting through dialogue and building empathy for others, John said.

Peace has been a theme through John's life. His family moved from Ohio to California, where he graduated from high school. He graduated from college in 1964 from California State at Long Beach at the height of the Vietnam period.

Although the youngest of seven in a working class family, he was able to afford college because tuition for a semester at Long Beach State was \$49.

He was deferred from the draft while teaching high school in a low-income, racially diverse neighborhood. When he began graduate studies in communication and culture, he applied as a conscientious objector. Turned down because he was Catholic, he became involved in the peace movement.

"I wanted to teach to influence society," he said. "People need to be informed about diversity, culture, poverty and racism. Northern Ireland had similar questions and had turned to Martin Luther King, Jr., and other U.S. civil rights activists."

In 1971, he started teaching communication at California State in San Bernadino, while in graduate studies. In 1976, he earned a master's and in 1977, a doctoral degree from Claremont Graduate School. He helped develop the field of intercultural communication while teaching 15 years at Claremont.

Media studies is a meeting place for teaching peace, intercultural communication and diversity, he said.

John came to Gonzaga looking for a faith-based liberal arts school and a place less expensive to live than the Bay Area, where he taught as a visiting professor at St. Mary's College.

As the field of media literacy began to grow, he began to teach it. Some wondered how it would affect students entering media.

"I said it created thoughtful people in mass media," John said.

With Don Higgins, director of the West Central Community

Center (WCCC), he helped with a series on the influence of TV on families as part of looking at causes of poverty and social problems in that neighborhood.

"We realized people were getting messages from media more than from churches or schools," he said.

From that, they developed the Spokane Academy of Family TV, which grew into the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media in partnership with the University of Washington and the Spokane Regional Health Department. It found a home at Gonzaga University.

Its role is to monitor the influence of media on society, to educate the community on that influence and to influence media to act responsibly to create a healthy society.

One member, Bill Niggemeyer, a retired junior high teacher active in peace education, called for "taking back the culture." He and Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp helped guide the alliance to invite media to create a culture of peace.

Through forums, films and a Media Fest for high school students at KSPS, NW-ARM invited people to understand the impact of media messages and images.

John's commitment to make a difference in students' lives through media literacy and experiential learning overseas has been influenced by his faith as a Catholic.

Owning property in Cagli, he expects to spend several weeks a year there. He started Mercurio, LLC, named after the Greek God of communication, and will do a summer school on media for 12 to 20 American students in Rome and Cagli with Sapienza University in Rome.

For information, call 220-5582 or email jcaputo1@mac.com.




Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
7 days a week!
[facebook/colesbakeryandcafe](https://www.facebook.com/colesbakeryandcafe)
521 E. Holland #20 - 509-413-1739

Earth. Humankind. Balance.

At Holden Village, we live at the boundary of chaos and order.
Join us and discover ways of finding unity
with the world, with each other, with the divine.



HOLDEN VILLAGE
A center for renewal, for faith & for the earth.

holdenvillage.org

The American Red Cross depends on volunteers like you to help carry out our humanitarian mission.

Learn about volunteering. Visit
redcross.org/volunteer



American Red Cross

redcross.org/local/washington

NAACP Spokane may be small, but it's a 'mighty community of color'

Continued from page 1

what they have done and will do.

She invited people to join the NAACP and the "new Spokane," which she called Wakanda—a fictional African country—where "we understand we need each other and are each unique," she said. "We need to build the community to be what we want it to be, an oasis where neighbors love and care about each other.

"Amazing things have happened because of the NAACP," she said. "We are a small but mighty community of color."

James Wilburn, NAACP Spokane president from 2013 to 2014 and consultant/trainer with Wilburn & Associates, gave a brief history: In 1619 a cargo ship brought to Virginia 20 "scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians" who were off loaded. They and their descendants were enslaved for 250 years until 1865. After the Emancipation Proclamation, former slaves gained rights. From 1885 to 1890, there were 17 African Americans in Congress and one in the Senate, but by 1909, Jim Crow, the KKK and lynchings slowed progress.

In 1909, the Niagara Movement, a civil rights group led by W.E.B. DuBois, founded the biracial NAACP.

"Ten years later, the NAACP formed Spokane chapter 1137. Our people still are fighting. In Spokane, the scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians produced astronaut Michael P. Anderson," Jim said, inviting people to donate to the scholarship fund named for him.

The NAACP Spokane's current president, Kurtis Robinson, then asked, "What kind of Spokane do we want? Do we want children of color to struggle for resources to learn successfully?"

In an interview before the meeting, Kurtis reviewed the chapter's



Kurtis Robinson and Devon Wilson with charter in office in Spokane.

legacy and leaders, looked at present leadership and action, and offered challenges for the future.

Kurtis, a wildlands firefighter, began as chair of the Criminal Justice Committee in 2016 and became president in May 2017. He is adjusting his work so he has flexibility to lead efforts challenging the number of people of color incarcerated, the eight deaths in 14 months in Spokane's jail and the talk of a new jail.

The NAACP works with the Spokane Community Against Racism, which is leading a collaborative "No New Jail" effort with Smart Justice, the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Greater Spokane Progress and I Did the Time.

"We are building on the backs of great national and local legends, from our founders to civil rights attorney Carl Maxey, to Spokane's first African-American Mayor Jim Chase to long-time civil rights activist V. Ann Smith," he said.

Presidents over the years have been T.A. Jones, 1919; Frank Stokes, 1919-22, 1928, 1931-44; Emmet Reed, 1923-24, 1945; John Thompson, 1925, 1930; Emmett Holmes, 1929; Rev. J.T. Morton, 1946; James Chase, 1947-48, 1950, 1952-57, 1959-68; Vernon Scott, 1949; Carl

Maxey, 1951; James Sims, 1958; Joe Trim, 1969-76; Lydia Sims, 1977-80; C.T. Wright, 1981; Carl Boston, 1981-82, 1987-90; Samuel Baynes, 1983-86; Billy Monis, 1990-97; Percy (Happy) Watkins, 1998; Richard Williams, 1998-99; Eileen Thomas, 1999-2003; V. Anne Smith, 2003-2012; James Wilburn, 2013; Roberta Wilburn, 2014; Rachel Dolezal, 2015; Naima Quarles Burnley, 2015-16; Phil Tyler, 2016-17, and Kurtis Robinson, 2017-2019.

"They are among the powerful, prominent leaders who helped keep the wheel for equality and justice moving in a system set against us," said Kurtis. "We are building on what they did."

He said "justice cries out in the midst of disparities in the criminal justice system, exclusionary discipline in the school systems, the high number of police contacts with people of color, the use of force by police, bail inequities, and housing discrimination in rentals and home ownership.

"That list tells our chapter not to let past efforts be in vain," he said. "We need to move forward, so our children will not face what we face. Without advocacy and accountability, injustice will continue to thrive."

Kurtis said embedded in the

systems are mindsets, policies and practices that undermine equality, so he and Carmen Pacheco-Jones, chair of the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council's (SR-LJC) Racial Equity Committee and Spokane NAACP second vice president, are doing "Implicit Bias" trainings.

"Given the propensity for protectionism when a structure is challenged, it pushes back instead of doing honest evaluation for meaningful change," said Kurtis. "I hope this training leads people to take personal responsibility and engage in practical applications."

Implicit Bias Training, developed at Harvard University, is based on "understanding how the human mind absorbs 11 million bits of unconscious information and 40 bits that are conscious, like the thickness of a sheet of paper," he said. "Implicit internalized understandings lead to unconscious judgments and responses."

Kurtis believes awareness helps people deconstruct some influences embedded in individuals for generations and programmed into societal structure as racism, criminalization and dehumanizing otherisms. He seeks to help people understand where "we are at" as a society and culture, and "how we can intentionally replace those understandings with healthier, restorative perspectives of self and our human family," he said.

Kurtis and Carmen, as part of a

Just Lead Washington team, have done several Implicit Bias trainings since January for Leadership Spokane, the NAACP, Gonzaga and the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, and co-facilitated "Why Race Matters" workshops with Greater Spokane Progress.

Along with those efforts, Devon Wilson, who has been on the NAACP board since October 2017 and chairs the Criminal Justice Committee, is building relationships with Black Student Unions at Eastern Washington, Gonzaga and Whitworth universities and high schools to rebuild the NAACP's internship program. The 2018-19 interns are Hawa Elias and Gabriel Fuller.

A 2015 graduate of the University of Kentucky in psychology and political science, Devon came to Spokane in 2016 and is now CHAS health public policy manager.

The NAACP Spokane Board also includes Deborah Cano, secretary; Dorothy Webster, treasurer; Sharon Randall, first vice president; and Wesley Gardner, third vice president. Committee chairs are Alin Zander, health care; Stacey Wells, political action, and Jim Mohr, centennial celebration. Members at large are Ike Okoli, Janet Pinkey Colbertson and Kiantha Duncan.

For information, call 209-2425 or 631-2009 or kurtisrobinson@live.com Devon 270-933-2780 or devonwilsonuky@gmail.com.

Fig Tree is source of stories on NAACP

The Fig Tree online has many stories on the NAACP Spokane. While a Google search of Spokane NAACP presidents draws nearly 10 pages about media coverage of former NAACP president Rachel Dolezal, a white woman who represented herself as black, a search on thefigtree.org brings names of many of the NAACP Spokane leaders, profiles on past

presidents and reports on actions over 35 years.

Jim Sims and Happy Watkins were among those on the Spokane Christian Coalition Board when it voted to establish The Fig Tree.

NAACP Spokane and Fig Tree collaborate on the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

For information, visit www.thefigtree.org.

Dwayne Mack book includes stories on leaders

More history is in Dwayne Mack in his book, *Black Spokane: The Civil Rights Struggle in the Inland Northwest*, and other sources:

• **In 1900, there were** 360 black people in a population of 65,000; in the 1950s, 1,300 in a community of 160,000 with black soldiers at Geiger Field; in 1965, 2,600 out of about 180,000. The 2010 census shows about 2 percent or 7,800 African-Americans in Spokane's population of 390,000.

• **In the 1950s and 1960s**, James Chase, who was NAACP president several times, brought civil rights leader Rosa Parks to Spokane in 1956. He served on the Spokane City Council and in 1981 was elected mayor, winning 60 percent

of the vote in the city that was just 1.5 percent African American.

• **After serving** in the military, James Sims, who had a bachelor's degree from Lincoln University and a master's in history from Gonzaga University, applied for a position with the Washington State Office of Community Development. Although he excelled in the civil service exam, the state denied him the job. With the help of civil rights attorney Carl Maxey, he sued the state, won and was employed as a state social worker.

In the 1950s, he was a minister at the Calvary Baptist Church, and in the mid-1960s, became pastor of New Hope Baptist.

• **Lydia Sims' political activ-**

ism began in the 1960s in the Spokane NAACP. As a student at EWU, she participated in a successful movement to desegregate Cheney public schools.

In 1975, she became Spokane's affirmative action specialist and was later appointed the city's human resources director, the first African-American department manager in the city's history. She helped other African Americans, women and marginalized people find jobs.

In 1977, she was elected the first African-American woman president of the 113-member NAACP branch and established its annual job fair in 1978.

More at thefigtree.org.

WOMEN & CHILDREN'S
FREE RESTAURANT COMMUNITY KITCHEN

NOURISH

TEACH

FLOURISH

Learn more about how you can become involved!
Visit www.wcferspokane.org or call 509-324-1995

N-SID-SEN-Camp & Retreat Center

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

www.n-sid-sen.org • 208-689-3489
36395 S Highway 97, Harrison, Idaho 83833

Just Trade

fairly traded
crafts from
around
the world

inside
Brused Books
235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898

Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

EXTENDED CARE ... WHAT'S YOUR STRATEGY?

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

You may think you'll never need extended care. But what would happen if you did—and didn't have a plan to pay for it?

Extended care may affect your family members:

- Emotionally, as they juggle time between you and their families.
- Physically, especially if they're your caregivers.
- Financially, by potentially depleting your savings and their inheritance.

A strategy for your care could be the best gift you've ever given your family. Contact me today to learn more.

Mark J Kinney • Financial Associate
534 E Spokane Falls Blvd, Suite 301 • Spokane, WA 99202
509-924-6065
mark.kinney@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/mark-kinney

Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Thrivent Financial representatives are licensed insurance agents/producers of Thrivent. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures. This is a solicitation for insurance. A Thrivent Financial representative may contact you.
Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota
Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

ICC15 28943 N1-16

Celebration of 140th is time for Spokane's oldest church to look to future

As Spokane's oldest church, Westminster Congregational UCC, celebrates its 140th anniversary, at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 26. Its celebration is lifting up not only its history but also its present and future.

Westminster has invited Spokane's Mayor and City Council members, other congregations, colleagues in town, as well as members of the Pacific NW UCC Conference to join in the celebration. Former and current choir members will sing music commissioned for the event.

There will also be an exhibition of local artists with work on "How our Spiritual Journeys Inform Our Art."

When it was chartered as First Congregational Church on May 22, 1879, in the home of Henry and Lucy Cowley, it was the first church in Spokane. It changed its name both in 1893 when it merged with an early Westminster Presbyterian Church and in 1961 when it voted to become part of the United Church of Christ.

The Cowleys were missionaries from New York State, serving among the Nez Perce Indians in Lapwai. They moved to Spokane in 1874 to work with the Spokane Indians and set up a school for Indian and settler children. Two members of the Spokane Tribe were among the first members.

The church first met in the school and then built a church at the corner of Sprague and Bernard. From 1890 to 1893, they built the gray stone structure on the present site at the corner of 4th and Washington.

One of seven plaques set in the pavement at Inspiration Point in Riverfront Park in 1974 to commemorate local Christian pioneers records that this was the first church organized in Spokane.

Other early congregations in Spokane include Central United Methodist, November 1879; Our Lady of Lourdes, 1881; First Presbyterian, 1883; Salem, Emmanuel and Our Savior Lutheran churches, 1888; Holy Trinity and St. David's Episcopal, 1890, Grace (formerly North Side) Baptist, 1890.

From 1920 to 1946, the church grew to 2,000 members. They built the Cowley Memorial Youth Building on Fourth and Bernard in 1958 to accommodate programs for the "baby boom" generation.

As the number of children and youth declined, the building housed the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Pacific Northwest UCC Conference offices, the Spokane Guilds'



Andy CastroLang circulates in congregation before worship.

School, Emmanuel Metropolitan Community Church, a food bank, a clothing bank and Discovery School. It was sold in 2005 and has been torn down.

In 1963, Westminster voted to join the United Church of Christ denomination, a merger of the Congregational Christian, and Evangelical and Reformed denominations nationally. About 500 members voted "no." Some of them formed Plymouth Congregational Church in Spokane.

The church's past, present and future show its commitment to be involved with the community and world.

"As a downtown church, we are committed to the city," said Andrea (Andy) CastroLang, who has been pastor since 2002. "In recent years we researched leaving that corner, including looking at a site on the east end of Spokane Valley, but the congregation voted to stay downtown.

"A downtown church is who we are in our outreach, mission and ministry," she said. "It's our identity. While some traditional, mainline Protestant churches have left downtown, we are letting the city know we are here. We're a progressive church that ministers ecumenically at the city's core. We are activist both in terms of doing charity and advocating systemic change."

It is not only LGBTQ inclusive, but also involves people of all ages who seek an inclusive church. It recently welcomed eight new members.

"With UCC churches scattered on the West Coast, we work ecumenically and interfaith with other congregations, organizations and people," said Andy.

It helped found the Mid-City Concerns Meals on Wheels and recruited volunteers for many years.

With the Spokane Alliance, it engages in community organizing with education institutions, unions

and other faith groups.

Each month, members cook meals when the Spokane Friends Church hosts homeless families in its building through the Family Promise Bridges program.

Members support homeless women at Hope House and homeless youth through Crosswalk, two programs of Volunteers of America of the Inland Northwest. Its annual Jam for Bread concert has raised funds for Crosswalk.

Recently the church opened as a neighbor to people living in an apartment building next door after a fire. The Red Cross worked in the church to find housing for people."

It also opened this winter as a warming shelter for about 20 homeless young adult men and women each night through April in conjunction with the City of Spokane.

It helps organize the annual community Tree of Sharing at three malls to provide gifts to about 8,000 needy people.

For years, women met regularly with sewing machines and knitting needles to make layettes for babies.

Many members have been among those in the community involved with editing, mailing, delivering and producing the 35-year-old The Fig Tree ecumenical/interfaith newspaper.

Westminster members carry a banner every year in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day March, the Women's March, the Pride Parade and other marches for social justice and human rights.

The church also partners with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane in a sister church relationship in Felsorakos, Romania, and is hosting the new pastor and his wife soon.

Recently five members joined 20 others from the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Northwest Region Disciples for a Peace Mission and Pilgrimage to Puerto



Church members carry its banner in marches for social justice.



Church's MardiBras gathers items for Transitions and Hope House.

Rico to help people there with rebuilding after Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

While the church has the budget challenges with upkeep on a large building, Andy said that the dedicated, passionate, but small congregation is using legacy fund-

ing for ministry.

Westminster, which has a pipe organ and a strong music program, rents space to the Spokane Children's Choir, Spokane Youth Symphony and others.

For information, call 624-1366 or visit westminsterucc.org.



Moving?
WE ARE ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

- Full-time trained movers
- Trucks & all equipment provided
- No move too small. • No move too big.

Free written estimates!
Senior discounts Licensed & Insured

CALL TODAY: 509-928-4738

Make The Fig Tree Possible!

Join our advertisers to promote your work with our targeted audience and connect your good name with ours!

535-1813

Career, Education and Health Fair

Cultural Village

Activities for All Ages

Join us for the 25th Annual

UNITY

in the

COMMUNITY

Region's Largest Multi-Cultural Celebration

Live Entertainment

Free K-8 School Supplies

Free Kids Helmets (while supplies last)

Senior Resource Area

Saturday, August 17th · 10am to 4pm · Riverfront Park

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



nwunity.org

Making a Positive Difference in the Lives of Seniors





312 W. Hastings Road
(West off Hwy. 395)
North Spokane
www.fairwoodretirement.com

Post Falls church creates Pregnancy Support Center to assist mothers

By Kaye Hult

The Pregnancy Support Center is one of several outreach ministries St. George's Catholic Church in Post Falls has created, because Fr. Timothy Ritchey encourages parishioners to open their hearts to God and follow through to create a ministry when they feel called.

Joan and Tom Neary started the Pregnancy Support Center because they felt called to work with pregnant women.

"Each North Idaho and Eastern Washington mother who comes to us has a different story," said Joan, who has a nursing background. "When they come, they usually have done pregnancy tests and seen a doctor.

"Our mission is to offer assistance," she continued, "such as mentoring, spiritual support, material assistance, referrals to other helping agencies and ongoing support. We offer free pregnancy tests and referrals for sonograms, if needed."

Pregnancy can create emergent situations for some people, Joan explained. It affects an expectant mother's ability to work. If she loses hours, she earns less to pay her bills.

The center's clients include women who are pregnant or have children under two years old. If the women begin when they are pregnant, and are committed to bettering their situation, the center works with them even after their children are older than two.

The center refers the mothers to Early Head Start to give their children a strong beginning to their education.

They also refer women to places that teach them skills, such as North Idaho College's Qualified Worker Retraining Program," Joan said. "They can move ahead and earn a higher income.

"While we do not give money



Joan Neary finds fulfillment in caring for mothers and children. Photo by Kaye Hult

to clients outright, we pledge funds for electric bills, heat, rent, car bills and such. When they come back with proof they have raised enough from us and other sources to pay what they owe, we give the amount we pledged to the utility, landlord or car company," she said.

The Pregnancy Support Center tried referring clients to local parenting programs, but the women did not attend, so they created their own parenting program.

"We show about 15 to 20 videos that go with a curriculum," she said. "We offer the incentive of 'Mommy Dollars,' which can go towards free gas or food. We have an agreement with a nearby gas station and grocery store."

Joan sees generational poverty, where agencies, including their own, try repeatedly to help, but clients dig themselves deeper into trouble.

Many clients succeed, such as the family that drove to see them last October. In their small car were four children. One was a new baby. They had left Arizona

with all their possessions.

"The family had nowhere to stay," Joan said. "We gave them three nights in a motel until the weekend. Another program of St. George's, the Mission of Charity, gave them another two nights to cover the weekend."

The family ate home cooked meals Thursday evenings at the Friendship Kitchen, another outreach program at St. George's. The kitchen serves about 200 meals Thursdays, beginning at 4 p.m. The church has run it for more than 20 years in conjunction with other congregations in the community.

"**We then referred them** to Family Promise in Coeur d'Alene," she continued. "They stayed in that program while they sought jobs."

The center continued to assist by providing baby supplies and a deposit on an apartment, because the parents had a plan to pay the rent and utilities.

By Christmas, the family moved into a place in Hayden, and both parents were working. The

children settled into school there. "Everyone reached out to the family at Christmas," she said. "They called in January to tell the center they were doing okay."

The Pregnancy Support Center is open on Tuesday mornings at 2004 N. Lucas St. in Post Falls. Usually six volunteers, out of a pool of 12 women, are available to serve women who come. They also have a hotline women can call to make an appointment to meet with someone on another day.

"We have six active mothers," Joan said. "We offer free diapers and other material assistance. We aren't counselors, but we listen to them as women who have been mothers."

Volunteers also organize baby clothes, work on a Facebook page and facilitate the parenting videos. Rosemary McDougall, St. George's Parish visiting nurse, is on the support center board.

Joan, who was the oldest of seven children, grew up in St. Mary's Parish in Moscow. After high school, she graduated from Sacred Heart School of Nursing in 1967.

After she married Tom in 1968, they moved about in the Air Force for 30 years. He retired when they were in Cheyenne, Wyo., where Joan was a hospice nurse. They moved to Virginia for Tom to work with a Pentagon contractor, and Joan continued in hospice nursing.

They led Bible studies through those years. Joan said studying

Scripture is an anchor for her.

While she and Tom were in transition, a friend invited Joan to volunteer at a pregnancy support center, introducing her to a program like the one she now manages.

In 2006, they moved to Liberty Lake because their children live in the area. They began attending St. George's.

"**Faith is my foundation**," Joan said. "It allows me to deal with crisis experiences, such as Tom developing ALS. Because of ups and downs in my life experiences, I drew closer to God.

"Throughout Tom's illness, I had peace beyond the circumstances. God provided for and transformed us. Tom died in 2007," she said.

When Joan was a teenager, getting pregnant out of wedlock was seen as a crisis. In contrast, the women and girls she meets now through the Pregnancy Support Center "offer no apologies," she reflected. "It is what it is. God uses those experiences in them. God calls us in different ways. I've learned not to be judgmental. They are on their own journey dealing with many different struggles. Our support and care for them is fulfilling.

"We never know what part of our ministry will touch someone," Joan said. "It's in the surprises that we see how God makes things happen."

For information, call 208-449-8512 or email northidahohopsc@gmail.com.

Whitworth Ministry Summit will be June 24-27

Whitworth's 45th annual Ministry Summit, formerly the Whitworth Institute of Ministry (WIM) will be held from June 24 to 27, earlier and one day less than the WIM, said Mindy Smith, associate director of Whitworth's Office for Church Engagement.

Another difference is that WIM was geared for clergy and families, and the summit is for anyone interested in ministry.

Eight themes or tracks will follow the eight focuses of calling communities of the OCE that are meeting each month for book studies, meals and resource sharing as part of a \$1.5 million Lilly Endowment grant.

Those tracks are formational worship, faithful preaching, creation care, youth ministry, church planting, reconciliation, immigrants and refugees, and "called to the city."

Before the summit, there will

be a time of spiritual renewal and quiet.

The pre-conference retreat will begin at 11 a.m., Monday, June 24, at Colbert Presbyterian Church for a spiritual retreat, Taize worship, prayer and silence.

The Rev. Luke Powery, dean of Duke University Chapel and associate professor of homiletics at Duke Divinity School, will be evening speaker for the summit.

The morning plenary speaker is David Swanson, the founding pastor of New Community Covenant Church, an intentionally multiracial congregation in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. He is also CEO of New Community Outreach, a nonprofit that works collaboratively to reduce causes of trauma in the city.

Speakers are Mary Hulst, chaplain at Calvin College since 2009, on faithful preaching; David McDonald, teaching pastor at

Westwinds Community Church in Jackson, Mich., on innovative churches; Leah Kostamo, author of *Planted: a Story of Creation, Calling and Community*, on creation care; Greg Scheer, music associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, on formational worship; Matt Overton, Presbyterian youth pastor, on youth ministry; Michael Carrion, director of City to City, on church planting; Inés Velásquez-McBrydeis, an ordained pastor, preacher, reconciler, on reconciliation, and David Hillis, an urban trainer in Tacoma, on being called to the city.

For information, call 777-4341 or email mindysmith@whitworth.edu.

Sometimes the soul needs space.

Take the journey within.
Retreats at Spirit Center
www.Spirit-Center.org
208-962-2000

MONASTERY OF ST. GERTRUDE + COTTONWOOD, IDAHO

Celebrating
10 years
of Fair Trade at

• Fair Trade •
Earth Friendly • Local
35 W. Main

509-458-2509 • www.altcew.org

Our Caregiver Support Programs are available to
unpaid caregivers helping loved ones aged 55+

- Individual counseling/support groups
- Respite, if you need a break
- Medical equipment, supplies & services

Call FBH-Elder Services 509-458-7450

Aging & Long Term Care - ADVOCACY . ACTION . ANSWERS

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Sunday, May 12
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All-you-can-eat buffet...
carving station...
omelet bar...
decadent desserts...
and a special gift for mom.

Adults \$35 Children \$15 (ages 6-12)
All Proceeds Support IHRC's Ministry
For Reservations: (509)448-1224 or www.ihrc.net

Join us for the crowning of the Blessed Mother before 8 a.m. Mass

Sign up today for our daily reflections www.ihrc.net

ALTCEW Planning and Management Council recruiting volunteers

As the “graying of America” shifts to the “aging of America” in the next few years, Jean Kindem, a volunteer on the Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington (ALTCEW) Planning and Management Council, expects a “monsoon” of issues will arise related to affordable housing, dementia care, health care and home care.

The percentage of people 60+ living in Spokane County has increased dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years—from 16 percent in 2000 to nearly 19 percent in 2010, she said. It is projected to increase to about 28 percent in 20 years as people live longer because of better medical care.

“Children of elders may be surprised when their parents become ill or handicapped,” Jean said. “They need to know if bills are paid and how to access bank accounts to pay for electricity, phone and taxes.”

Lynn Kimball, executive director of ALTCEW for four years, said Americans are so youth focused few think that they will age or need long-term care or support at home, and few plan ahead for parents.

“Everyone needs to be proactive and make plans,” said Jean, “about housing, nursing, home care and family support.”

She returned to Spokane after raising her family in Minnesota to care for her mother in the 1980s. She worked more than 23 years with Group Health as an administrator for Medicaid patients, retiring in 2004.

Jean knows about issues not only from listening to others, but also from her own experiences caring for her mother and her sister who moved from Seattle into Jean’s home five years ago. Her sister now lives at an Able Adult Family Home and goes to Spokane Valley Providence Adult Daycare. Jean appreciates that she could move her sister into a facility with more care.

In addition, her son cared for her husband, who had Alzheimer’s, before he died in Minnesota.



Jean Kindem works with Lynn Kimball on program evaluation.

Six years ago, she began volunteering as one of 35 serving on the council. Since January the council has had 17 focus groups listening in the five counties ALTCEW serves—Spokane, Whitman, Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille—to discover issues for different populations, from individuals with memory loss to older LGBT adults.

“We need more volunteers to be the eyes and ears to evaluate ALTCEW services and contractors,” said Jean, who recently gave a recruiting presentation at her church, Central Lutheran in Spokane. She said it was a natural place for her to reach out, because it has offered her support during the caregiving she has done.

The Planning and Management Council meets 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., last Fridays, 10 months a year to help ALTCEW plan and evaluate its programs.

Completing two three-year terms, she is starting a term as the Spokane Valley representative.

From volunteering and caregiving, Jean is aware of issues:

- Service providers need to have someone answer the phone, not

an answering machine, because someone may be making a first call for help.

- Everyone is experiencing or will experience issues with elderly parents, spouses or children with disabilities.

- With the tight housing market, more elderly people are struggling with the lack of affordable housing.

“We need to identify for ALTCEW what services are working and what are not working,” she said. “If a service is not being used, we can advertise its availability or move funds to other areas where the Planning and Management Council sees needs.”

The Planning and Management Council was set up in 1978 to assist the agency in making sure its services met needs of older adults.

Jean discussed the work of several committees.

The Advocacy Committee advocates for older adults in the state legislature as it develops its budget and bills. It also tracks federal bills and informs constituents, who then can make phone calls and write letters.

Currently, there is need for advocacy related to the lack of

housing access, safety and affordability for people on a fixed income, she said.

“If a landlord raises the rent, older people on social security and retirement incomes often cannot find another job to pay for the increase,” said Lynn.

“As Spokane has blossomed,” Jean said, “there is not enough housing.”

Both told of limited opportunities for housing for elderly people.

“There is a limited amount of housing available at a rate people on social security and retirement incomes can afford,” Jean said.

Lynn finds much emphasis on and advocacy for people who are homeless, but not for housing for older adults.

“As people develop affordable housing, we will be partners,” Lynn said, noting participation in Spokane’s Consolidated Plan for Housing.

Jean said ALTCEW needs to be proactive on housing so funds go to help older adults find affordable housing, as well as homelessness.

“Seniors should not need to become homeless to find housing,” said Lynn.

“Housing insecurity is a threat,” she said. “For older adults, homelessness may be disguised as living with a son, daughter or other family member.”

A second committee works on planning, which includes planning for the increase in dementia, with the need for a system of care from the diagnosis, to early- and medium-state treatment, to support for families, and to addressing behaviors, violence and

mental health.

Lynn said a person on Medicaid has mental health treatment, but when they transition to Medicare, they may lose mental health services.

“There are always gaps,” she said, “so the council helps identify issues and alert us to resources. As there are new programs and services, we may partner with new agencies.”

Jean said partnerships may include working with insurance companies.

“Many people can be cared for in their homes,” Lynn said. “If they are stabilized in the community, we don’t need to talk of facilities and bed counts.”

Jean wants to help keep people in their own homes rather than building facilities that institutionalize people.

Lynn spoke of the need to support families who give home care, but having facilities when people need more care.

A third committee addresses quality assurance, especially for 51 percent of services ALTCEW contracts to other agencies. It monitors how they spend the money and builds relationships with different organizations.

“Our volunteer council can dive deeply into issues,” Jean said. “We have time to meet with people and evaluate services.”

“Volunteers don’t need to be experts, just be interested in the services that are being provided,” she said.

For information, call 458-2509, email jeankindem@gmail.com or visit altcew.org.

Human Rights Education Institute starts program

The Human Rights Education Institute (HREI) in Coeur d’Alene will present a program on the global Human Library project, from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 8, its second of three events for 2019.

It is designed to build a framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue and provide an opportunity to open individuals’ minds in a positive way and help them better understand the misunderstandings they may have of others, said Jeanette Laster, executive directory.

“The Human Library is a place where real people are on loan, a

place where difficult questions are expected and appreciated, and a lifetime of questions can be answered,” she said.

It’s based on the idea that ordinary people have extraordinary stories to tell.

This program helps people make sense of another individual’s life story, understanding uncertainties they may have developed over a lifetime and asking questions about their journeys.

“This helped me better understand myself. ‘Human Library’ sounded kind of square to me, so I had never expected it to be such a powerful and moving experience,” said a student from the Academy

of Untamed Creativity in Copenhagen, Denmark.

“I learned about the struggle/pressure to conform to an unhealthy societal role and the courage it takes to liberate oneself, as well as the healing that comes from the journey,” said a reader at the Human Library in Coeur d’Alene.

The HREI will feature a range of stories including those of someone who is an atheist, someone living with low vision/blindness, a recovering addict, and a peace officer.

For information, call 208-292-2359, email jlaster@hrei.org or visit hrei.org/newsandevents/upcoming-events/.



NO Taizé prayer service during the summer
We will NOT have Taizé prayer in May, June and July 2019.
May you have a most blessed summer.
We hope to see you in August!

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



Helping area non-profits grow & prosper

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

HOLY CROSS
 FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

Compassionate pricing with superior service.

(509)467-5496
holycrossofspokane.org

7200 N. Wall, Spokane, WA 99208

A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPOKANE

HOLY CROSS ST. JOSEPH QUEEN OF PEACE
 MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FAITHFUL: FUNERAL | CREMATION | CEMETERY | FAMILY ESTATES

Earth Day Vigil is a wake-up call to care for and heal Planet Earth

The Earth Day Vigil drew about 100 participants who sang, read reflections, shared resources, offered prayers and challenged each other to help heal the earth.

One felt sad that few people gathered on Earth Day. It was a 5:15 p.m., Monday event, not something traditional.

We forget the power generated when two or three gather. We forget the power of prayer. We forget the need to renew our commitment. We forget the power of encounters that happened at The Gathering Place beside the Spokane River. We forget the power of all that the people gathered there are doing day-to-day.

Carol Evans, the first woman chair of the Spokane Tribe, reminded that the environment, land, air and water are gifts given to us, not ours to own and destroy, but to take care of for future generations.

Deb Abrahamson, a witness to perseverance, told of returning from retirement when the Newmont Mine decided to step back from cleanup promises. She and her nine siblings used to swim in the lakes and creeks that are now polluted with radiation.

Barbara Miller of the Silver Valley Resource Center reminds us we are at the epicenter of the nation's largest Superfund site and are called to be stewards of the earth. She has worked for cleanup for three decades, fighting for quality of life for the children.

Phyllis Kardos said that at 77 she stepped out of retirement for her children, grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren to be an activist in opposing what is proposed to be the largest silicon smelter in North America in her back yard at Newport. For 22 years in Alaska, she saw areas that were clean and pristine,

but now the areas are being over-fished and over-hunted. We need to fight corporations and governments that do not protect the environment, she said.

Hana Reinhardt, a leader with the Spokane Youth Strike for the Environment, said the Earth is sick because of human ignorance, arrogance and greed. She called for everyone to work together to heal the planet—young and old, poor and rich, all languages and all colors, adding: "No one can do this alone." Youth are striking for the Green New Deal, a halt to fossil fuel infrastructure, government decisions to be tied to research and 100 percent renewable energy.

Several groups shared what they do:

- **Faith Leaders** and Leaders of Conscience of Eastern Washington and North Idaho works to overcome racism, militarism, poverty and ecological devastation. Last June they began working on the vigil to draw attention to the fact that we live on the largest Superfund site in the nation.

- **Responsible Growth Northeast** Washington works to stop the proposed silicon smelter in Newport and develop the economy in responsible ways that protect forests, agriculture and open spaces.

- **The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane**, with Spokane Ponderosa and the Lands Council, will water 5,000 newly planted seedlings on the North-South Corridor. They have adopted a tract of 200 trees, as part of the national church's Creation Care



Challenge. In April, 20 from the cathedral and Temple Beth Shalom partnered with the Spokane Soil Conservation District to plant 200 birch, red osier dogwoods, grand fir, elderberry and aspen trees at 8th and Havana, a former gravel quarry in the early stages of restoration to its natural state.

- **One Peace** Many Paths promotes diversity, compassion, understanding, cooperation and peace to benefit all, including Mother Earth. It sponsors the Spokane Compassion Games three to four times a year to engage participants in acts of kindness.

- **Since 1892, the Sierra Club** has helped people enjoy, explore and protect the planet's resources, promoting equity and justice in securing a healthy world. The Upper Columbia River Group has worked since 1968 for clean, naturally flowing rivers and aquifers, water conservation, cross-border collaboration on dams, preserving wilderness, cleaning up toxic mining wastes, and conducting outings and hikes for education and enjoyment.

- **In 2017, the Sisters of St. Francis** of Philadelphia proclaimed their corporate national stand on environment with

commitment to ecological education and challenge to space junk, air pollution, commercialization of and toxic waste in water, greed and addictive attitudes. They call for treating all creation as brother and sister, exercising responsible stewardship, and sheltering those affected by global warming.

- **The Silver Valley Community Resource Center** has worked 30 years to restore the environment in the U.S.'s largest Superfund site, educating families on lead exposure, creating the Children Run Better Unleaded project, securing cleanup jobs, establishing the Community Lead Health Clinic/Center, and gathering signatures opposing storing toxic waste at the Cataldo Mission.

- **For 35 years, The Fig Tree** and its Resource Directory have connected people, shared stories of people making a difference in addressing justice and ethics issues, and offered dialogue to foster understanding, networking groups and individuals to share resources and join in action to heal the earth. Environment is consistently a workshop topic at the Eastern Washington Legislative Conference.

The 2019 Earth Day Vigil, "Heal the Earth," was an opportunity for awakening, for pledging to do action, for signing up with groups that came, and for sharing with others to help wake them up, to keep vigilant. Next fall there will be a second vigil from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Cataldo Mission in Idaho. The plan is to hold an event for healing the Earth every six months.

Mary Stamp - Editor

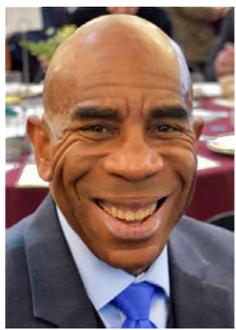
EDITORS NOTE: *Instead of an doing*



Benefit Breakfast speakers share what they value about The Fig Tree

Gary Stokes - general manager KSPS

We know the purpose and power of The Fig Tree, 35 years of stories of faith



in action. As one who knows a few things about storytelling, other than KSPS, few do it better than The Fig Tree. For 35 years, Mary and her team have been telling the stories of people who let their faith

guide them in ways that make our community better. It shares stories that inspire as much as inform, stories that feed the soul and the spirit, and stories that show good people doing good things, good work right in this place we call home.

As you think about how to support The Fig Tree and all it does in the community, from one media institution to another, remember what you give is important, but making sure you support The Fig Tree is most important.

Scott Cooper - director of Parish Social Ministries at Catholic Charities

Tell me your story and I will tell you mine. My family story isn't just about our origins in different parts of Europe, immigration, marriages, education, relocation, vocations, generations. My family's story is also about our faith journeys. How did I learn to understand our connection to a loving God? What stories did I grow up hearing?

In the musical "Into the Woods," Stephen Sondheim gives us some insightful lyrics. Every parent should relate: "Careful the things you say, children will listen. Careful the things you do, children will see and

learn. Careful the things you wish. Wishes are children. Careful the tale you tell. That is the spell."

How did I get to work with Catholic Charities where we encounter every day the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the person suffering with mental illness, the victim of domestic violence, the ex-offender, the working poor or the immigrant?

My family's faith journey, how they modeled living out faith values, encouraging questions and sharing stories, in no small way led me to my life's work. It is the tale my family told both explicitly and by example. I learned my life is not about me.

I support The Fig Tree because it tells us stories that are not about me. It tells us stories we desperately need to hear, stories we likely won't hear anywhere else, stories about people living out their faith values, community values and relational



values—people who understand their lives are not about them. I learn about others, their journeys, work, missions and contributions to communities through these pages.

When we feel we're in a clown car on our way to a circus, take a wrong turn to find they moved the circus to the middle of a prison riot, my reaction, in the midst of that hectic energy, when I pick up The Fig Tree, is one of slowing down, taking a deep breath, focusing my attention, opening my perspective to read about real people doing real work in real communities, stories I won't find anywhere else—real news.

We may sometimes feel community is coming apart, but when we think times

are bad, remember our lives are not about us and reach for The Fig Tree. Read good news that happens every day in our own neighborhoods. Those tales won't tell themselves, so support The Fig Tree.

James Watkins, board member and pastor at New Hope Baptist Church

I thank Mary and her wonderful staff for 35 years of wonderful work. As I took over as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church from my father, I came to know Mary and the paper more, seeing the hard work, long hours, compassion and patience she shows. She and her team have done awesome work, putting together so many wonderful stories.

As I meditated on what to say, I thought: What if Mary had never started the paper. What if the 35 years never happened. Think of all the stories that would not have had attention. Look at all the people who would not have had the spotlight and been helped.

What can I do? I hope to bridge the gap. I know I have gray in my beard, but I hope to be a bridge to the next generation. This work has to move forward. I think how hard Mary works. How much longer can she do this? She answered the question. This is her passion, her love and, even though she's retirement age, this is what she wants to do, but I also hope we can bridge the gap and move a younger generation to love the paper, like we love it, and that we can bring a younger generation into the fold of faith, good news and the stories she has given us for so many years.



I hope we can bridge the gap with young people, so we can have young readers the age of my kids who have come with my father to the benefit breakfast for years. I hope this paper will move forward with that generation.

Denise Attwood, co-owner of Ganesh Himal Trading Company

I have a fair trade business called Ganesh Himal and a nonprofit organization, Conscious Connections Foundation, which promotes girls' education in Nepal. The Fig Tree has for years brought the international to the local. I am so grateful for that, because the things we struggle for in our own communities, people are struggling with all over the world. Mary has been able to tell our story many times, through many avenues to give people a chance to look at how we connect heart-to-heart around the globe.

The Fig Tree is an avenue for social justice stories. Mary followed Global Folk Art, Ganesh Himal, Kizuri, fair trade festivals and Conscious Connections' work with girls in rural Nepal.

Without The Fig Tree, people in Spokane would not understand the depth and value of fair trade. I hope you will all support the work of The Fig Tree because it's vital to the work we all do together. When I open The Fig Tree, I find things I never knew about Spokane and I grew up here. The Fig Tree stories give me the opportunity to know and learn about many people. I hope young people who are journalists will come and work with this amazing woman.



Calendar of Events

Spokane Library locations • 444-5311
 Downtown, 906 W. Main • South Hill, 3324 S. Perry
 Shadle, 2111 W. Wellesley • North Spokane, 44 E. Hawthorne

- May 1** • **May Day March**, Spokane Immigrant Rights Coalition, Riverfront Park, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
- May 2** • **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**, screening of films on environmental issues to benefit Spokane Riverkeeper, Garland Theatre, 924 W Garland, 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. films, 327-1050, spokaneriverkeeper.org/calendar
- May 2, 9, 16** • **"Love Is Not Enough: Growing Up Black While Living with a White Family,"** EWU Africana Studies Community Connections Series, South Hill Library, 6 p.m.
- May 2, 16** • **Peace & Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
 • **Spokane Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- May 2, 9, 15, 23, 30** • **Diverse Voices Writing Group**, Spark Central, 1214 W. Summit, 279-0299
- May 3-5** • **Alternatives to Violence Workshop**, Spokane Friends Church, 1612 W. Dalke, Friday 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 12:30 to 6:30 p.m., spokanefriends@gmail.com, 327-7852
- May 4** • **Japanese Children's Day Celebration**, Shadle Library, 10:30 a.m.
 • **Courageous Conversations: The School to Prison Pipeline and Mass Incarceration**, Roberta Wilburn, Wilburn & Associates, West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt St., 3 p.m.
 • **Traditional Chinese Folk Dancing**, Shadle Library, 3:30 p.m.
- May 4, 5** • **Eckart Preu's Farewell Concert**, "Classics 10," with Nebojsa Zikovic, percussionist, Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, 1001 W. Sprague, 624-1000 or TicketsWest.com
- May 5** • **Lilac Bloomsday Run**, downtown Spokane, 9 a.m., bloomsdayrun.org
 • **"Run for Her Life,"** Conscious Connection Foundations teams raise funds for the Power of 5 to educate Nepali girls, 499-3320, consciousconnectionsfoundation.org
 • **Advocacy in Asian-American Pacific Islander Communities**, Hargreaves 201, EWU Cheney, noon, 359-7933
 • **High Tea for Human Rights**, Human Rights Education Institute Benefit, Hagadone Event Center, Coeur d'Alene, 1 p.m., hrei.org
 • **Organ Academy Student Recital**, Central Lutheran Church, 512 S. Bernard St., 3 p.m.
 • **A Chinese-American's Perspectives on Running Home**, South Hill Library, 6:30 p.m.
- May 7** • **Unity in the Community Committee**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org
 • **Census 2020 Workshop**, Marandos Bar & Restaurant, 11420 E. Sprague, 6 p.m.
- May 7, 14** • **SFC International Film Festival**, Garland Theater, 924 W. Garland Ave., 7:15 p.m.,
- May 8** • **Day of Reflection**, "Miriam of Nazareth: Homemaker, Disciple, Apostle," Fr. Mike Savelesky, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224
 • **"Rising Up Strong: A Culture of Love and Belonging,"** Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane Lunch, Spokane Valley Event Center, 10514 E. Sprague, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 838-7870
 • **"Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers,"** Documentary, Spokane Downtown Library, 6 p.m.
- May 9** • **Understanding the Speech Gap: Saying Hello to Ebonics**, EWU Africana Series, South Hill Library, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
 • **Coeur d'Alene Dances of Universal Peace**, Unity Spiritual Center of North Idaho, 4465 N 15th St., CdA, 6:30 p.m., 534-4650, bkfergin@msn.com
- May 9, 14, 15** • **"The Great Folk Scare: American Folk Music Revival,"** 9th - Airway Heights Library, 1213 S. Lundstrom St; 14th - Deer Park Library, 208 S. Forest; 15th - Moran Prairie Library, 6004 S. Regal, all 6:30 p.m., 893-8250
- May 9, 23** • **Showing Up for Racial Justice**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- May 10** • **Catholic Charities Gala**, Davenport Grand, 5:30

Thanks to Yvonne Montoya Zamora for assisting with compiling the calendar.

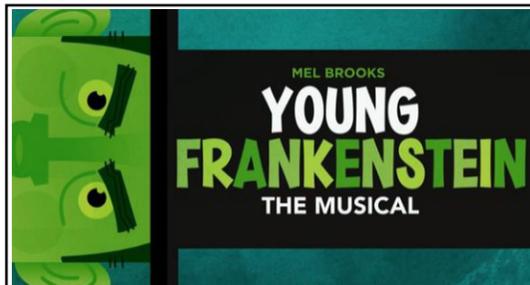
- p.m., cceasternwa.org
- May 10-24** • **"A Walk Through Poverty"** exhibit, artist Cameron Day explores poverty in Inland Northwest, North Spokane Library, library hours, film May 23, 7 p.m., 893-8350
- May 11** • **Spokane Farmers' Market** opens, Fifth & Browne, 8 a.m., to 1 p.m.
 • **3,000 Years of Tunesian Culture**, South Hill Library, 1 p.m.
 • **Chinese Inclusion in Telling Western Stories**, South Hill Library, 3:30 p.m.
 • **Junior Lilac Parade**, Downtown Spokane, 10:30 a.m., spokanelilacfestival.org
 • **Family Fun Fair Spokane**, Riverfront Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and River Park Square Mall, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., thefamilyguide.org, 928-9664
 • **"Aretha Franklin: Amazing Grace,"** The Black Lens Movie Screening/Benefit, Magic Lantern Theatre, 25 W. Main, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 795-1964
 • **Sock Hop for Socks for Transitions**, Unitarian Universalist, 4340 W. Fort Wright Dr., 4 to 6 p.m.
- May 12** • **Mother's Day Champagne Brunch and Fundraiser**, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net
 • **2019 Musicfest Northwest Organ Adjudication**, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 4 p.m.
- May 13** • **Caritas Health and Resource Fair**, 1612 W. Dalke, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 326-2249, caritasoutreachministries.org
 • **Understanding Omotenashi: Japanese Hospitality**, Shadle Library, 6:30 p.m.
- May 14** • **Japanese Cultural Activities**, Shadle Library, 10:30 a.m.
 • **Spokane Symphony Chorale Concert**, Westminster UCC, 411 S. Washington, 4 p.m.
- May 15** • **Spokane Area Jewish Family Services Benefit Luncheon: "A Welcoming Table,"** Hemmingson Center, 702 E. Desmet, noon to 1:30 p.m.
- May 16** • **"The Struggle Is Real: Challenges Faced by African American Athletes,"** EWU Africana Series, South Hill Library, 6 p.m.
 • **MOWTown Downtown 2019**, Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad Ave., 6:30 to 10 p.m., www.mowspokane.org
- May 17-19** • **Women's Cancer Survivor Retreat**, Patricia Novak, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 7 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Sunday, 241-3180, pnovak.sjfc@gmail.com
- May 18** • **Salute to Service Resource Fair**, Riverpark Square, 1 to 6:30 p.m., thefamilyguide.org
 • **"The Story of Silk,"** Shadle Library, 3:30 p.m.
 • **Annual Hui 'O Hawai'i Club Luau**, location TBA, 5:30 p.m., 359-7933, plam@ewu.edu
 • **Spokane Lilac and Armed Forces Torchlight Parade**, Downtown Spokane, 7:45 p.m., spokanelilacfestival.org
- May 20** • **NAACP Spokane General Membership Meeting**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., spokanenaacp@gmail.com
- May 21** • **Women Helping Women Benefit Luncheon**, Spokane Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., shsfspokane.org
- May 22** • **"Rise for Justice,"** Center for Justice Fundraiser Breakfast, Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center, 7:30 to 8:50 a.m., 835-5211, latisha@cfjustice.org
- May 23** • **Annual KHQ/WorkSource Job Fair**, Spokane Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 31-June 1** • **Mega Garage Sale**, Southside Community Center, 3151 E. 27th, 535-0803
- May 31-June 2** • **35th Annual ArtFest**, Coeur d'Alene Park in Brown's Addition, times at northwestmuseum.org
 • **Weekend Recovery Retreat**, "One Day at a Time," Fr. Tom Weston, SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- June 4** • **Silent Day of Prayer on Following Jesus**, "Discipleship in the Bible and in Life," Fr. C Hightower, SJ, IHRC, 448-1224, ihrc.net
- June 5** • **The Fig Tree Mailing and Delivery**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th and Grand, 9:15 a.m., 535-1813
- June 6** • **The Fig Tree Annual Meeting**, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon to 3 p.m., 535-1813

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
 EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221



MAYA EARTH COFFEE
 Earth friendly gourmet blend
 Shade Grown Indigenous Coffee
 Purchase by text, email or online
 coffee@mayaeearthcoffee.com
 www.mayaeearthcoffee.com • 509-768-3193



Partnering for Progress Civic Theatre Benefit
 Wednesday, June 5 - 6:15 p.m.

Benefit price \$35 • Student price \$30
 For tickets call 720-8408 or visit partneringforprogress.org



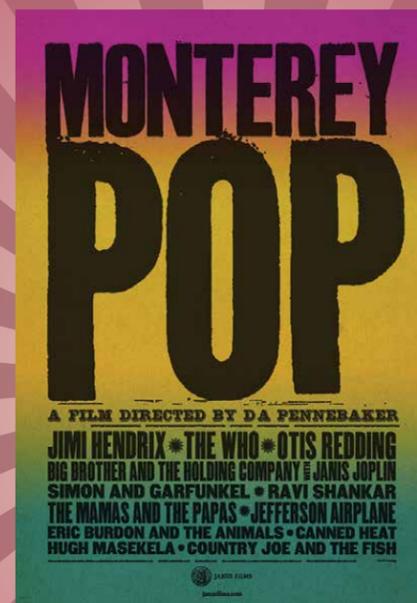
OPENING DATES
Saturday, May 11 & Wednesday, June 12
 Wednesdays & Saturdays – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Natural and organic fruit, vegetables, meats, eggs, bread, honey, garlic, flowers, nuts and more from local family farms.
 Food Stamps/EBT, Visa/MC, WIC & Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Coupons
 20 W. 5th Ave. between Division & Brown - Downtown
 995-0812 • www.spokanefarmersmarket.org

Personal or legal problems? DUI?
 In need of alcohol and drug treatment?



SPARC has highly trained qualified staff to assist you.
 For more information and to schedule an appointment, call:
624-5228
 or visit us at 1508 W. 6th Ave.
8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday
 Confidential, discreet services. Public funding available through Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization

SPR Goes to the Movies!



Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m., Bing Crosby Theater

Join us for a live taping of *Movies 101* before the film
 Tickets at all TicketsWest Outlets
 Details at SpokanePublicRadio.org



Event Donors: The Cleaning Authority, Strong Solutions & Vino! A Wine Shop



Hadda Estrada understands experiences of international students

By Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

In February, Hadda Estrada left for Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Lebanon to recruit international students for the Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS).

As dean for global education and strategic partnerships at the CCS since 2016, she previously has traveled in China, Mexico, Colombia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain and Lebanon to interest students in studying in Spokane.

Speaking French, Berber, Arabic, Italian, English, Latin and Spanish fluently eases her communication to recruit international students.

So does her own experience coming to the United States as an international student.

“Education is the most powerful weapon. You can use it to change the world,” she said.

Motivated by that belief, she enjoys not only recruiting international students and supporting them while they are here, but also helping the community colleges integrate the global into their planning.

She is also on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for Multicultural Affairs.

“The campus and the Spokane community have worked together to make Spokane ‘the city of choice’ for international students,” Hadda said.

Much of what she does in her present position arose out of a previous position at Spokane Falls Community College, where she helped to start its Gateway to College program.

“At first, we had no structure. We strived to build on diversity and enhance equity among students. In the program, students earned their high school diplomas and college credits at the same time,” she said. “We worked with students between the ages of 16 and 20 who had left high school or were struggling to finish school.”

Hadda affirms that helping students on the margins learn to succeed depends more than anything on a human connection.

She needs to understand the students’ living situations to know how to support them and encourage them to pursue their college education.

In the process, she learned she has a gift in communicating with students who felt they didn’t have a chance. She taught them to develop persistence and resilience to figure things out and to believe things would get better.

“I lived similar experiences and could draw parallels on what it meant not to belong in certain spaces,” she said. “Students connected with me and believed if I made it so could they.”

At both Spokane Falls Community College with students on the margin and with international students, Hadda delivers a similar message to students:



Hadda Estrada often travels to recruit new students to CCS.

Photo by Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

“I see you. I hear you. I understand you. Here is a welcoming space. You don’t have to change,” she said.

How did Hadda gain these skills and this wisdom?

Each step in her journey seemed to develop a set of skills leading her to Spokane and her present position.

Hadda comes from a family of immigrants. Her father lived in the Middle Atlas Region of Morocco, speaking Berber, a language that didn’t gain official status until 2011. From him, she learned a Muslim world view and to speak Berber and Arabic.

Her mother’s family emigrated from Italy to North Africa after World War II. From her, she learned a Christian world view and Italian.

Her parents met in the Middle Atlas region, but because of conflict left Morocco in the 1970s for France and started over from scratch.

Hadda was born and grew up in Paris. Even as a child, she spoke several languages, one of them Berber.

“If you talk to people in a language they understand, that goes to the head. If you talk in their language, that goes to the heart,” she quotes a proverb from Nelson Mandela to explain how her language competency gave her the compassion that makes her effective.

“In our household, we spoke easily in multiple languages, moving from one to the other. So when I went to school, I sometimes didn’t even know what language I was speaking. I just spoke the way we did at home. When someone said they didn’t understand what I had just said,

I wasn’t aware that I hadn’t been speaking French.”

Growing up in such diversity—multiple cultures, multiple languages—Hadda sometimes experienced the trauma of not knowing where she fit in society, where she belonged.

When she was young, Hadda shared her feelings about this with her mother who told her, “With languages and a pen, you will conquer the world.”

She said South African comedian Trevor Noah expressed the same idea:

“Language brings with it an identity and a culture, or at least the perception of it. A shared language says, ‘We’re the same.’ A language barrier says, ‘We’re different.’ My color didn’t change, but I could change your perception of my color. If you spoke Zulu, I replied in Zulu. If you spoke to me in Tswana, I replied in Tswana. Maybe I didn’t look

like you, but if I spoke like you, I was like you.”

She also quoted Brené Brown, a professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, on the power of vulnerability: “Courage gives us a voice and compassion gives us an ear. Without both, there is no empathy, no connection.”

Hadda came to the U.S. to pursue a master’s degree in business at a historic time, arriving in 2001 from the University of Paris-Est just after 9/11.

She came to the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) because her school had an exchange program with it. She did not know English, so she spent many hours at the Bibliothèque Georges Pompidou in Paris, learning English well enough to pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and GMAT exams, ensuring her acceptance at ULM.

Until she arrived, Hadda didn’t realize how many variations English had. In her first days in Louisiana, she discovered people in Louisiana spoke a completely different English. After consulting with her advisor, she took six months off to learn Louisiana English and connect with the people.

After completing her degree, a master’s in mass communication, she sold her car, turned in her keys and prepared to return home.

However, because of her success in her studies and as a graduate assistant, the university called to offer her a job and to sponsor her to stay in the U.S.

Just after 9/11, she saw fights in the cafeteria between international students and U.S. students over their world views. She felt ULM was not prepared to support diverse students.

“I was grateful for the experience but soon realized that no matter where I was, I was compet-

ing for an education and against stereotypes. It was a revealing moment for me,” Hadda said.

Nonetheless, her mother persuaded her to stay and take advantage of the opportunity. Eventually, she married Jaime Estrada, also a grad student. After they had their first child, Noah, their first priority was raising him.

They decided they needed to move and decided they wanted to go to a mid-sized city with good educational opportunities, and access to nature and outdoor activities like hiking, biking and skiing, a place where they could both pursue their careers. Spokane fit the profile.

Soon after they moved here in 2010, they had their second child, Kamil. Before moving, they decided that the person who didn’t have a job would stay home at least a year and learn about the new environment. Jaime secured a job in blood banking, so Hadda set about learning about Spokane and its people.

After a year, Hadda began working as a completion coach and teaching communication studies at Spokane Falls Community College.

In her class on intercultural communications, U.S. students came to realize they, too, had a culture. At first, they had difficulty responding to questions about elements of the U.S. culture: What are typical foods? When someone is invited to a party at 8 p.m., when should they arrive to be “on time”? To what does the U.S. culture give more value: the family someone comes from or their accomplishments?

“What does the fish know of water in which it swims in all its life?” Hadda quoted to explain the lack of awareness.

For information, call 724-1645 or email hadda.estrada@ccs.spokane.edu.



We’re with you every step of the way.



Our community’s only nonprofit hospice, serving patients and their families since 1977.

Dignity. Trust. Compassion.

509.456.0438 hospiceofspokane.org

MEGA GARAGE SALE



Fri. May 31 & Sat. June 1 - 9 am

- Furniture
- Collectibles & Jewelry
- Books, Clothing, Household
- And lots of everything else

Southside Community Center

3151 E. 27th - Spokane
509-535-0803 • www.southsidescc.org



125 S. Arthur
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-0229
(800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**