

34TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FEATURES 30+ EVENTS



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Micah 4:4

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(509) 535-1813 • 535-4112

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

# Tribes seek to restore salmon runs

By Mary Stamp

To educate people on their goals to preserve resources—land, water, fish, wildlife and culture—for future generations, the Upper Columbia United Tribes has produced a documentary, “United by Water,” said UCUT executive director D.R. Michel.

The film follows UCUT’s five tribes—the Spokane, Coeur d’Alene, Kalispel, Kootenai and Colville Confederated—as they received logs in 2015, carved canoes, learned to paddle and journeyed through lakes, eddies and rapids from their communities to Kettle Falls for the annual Salmon Celebration in June 2016.

“It helps us understand and celebrate who we are,” D.R. said, “and invites others to learn how the system can operate without winners and losers, but to benefit all.”

The tribes used to fish at Kettle Falls each year before the dam there covered the falls in a reservoir and other dams blocked salmon.

At Kettle Falls, the Salmon Chief made sure all who came left with enough fish to feed their families for a year. Then he said to stop fishing so enough fish would go up the river to spawn to assure there



Through Upper Columbia United Tribes, D.R. Michel coordinates education and events geared to restore salmon and protect resources for future generations.

would be salmon in the future.

“One day, salmon will come home,” said D.R., who helped carve and paddle to learn about his heritage.

UCUT, he said, seeks to preserve healthy ecosystems as the U.S.-Canada Columbia River Treaty is renegotiated.

The film’s trailer on Facebook shares a Sherman Alexie poem, promising that the tribes and salmon will forgive the damage done to the ecosystem and the loss of culture, when salmon again swim to Kettle Falls to spawn.

It intersperses photos of the 1940 Ceremony of Tears at Kettle Falls before dams, and the 2016 journey.

“United by Water” records carving canoes from logs UCUT purchased from the Quinault Reservation and delivered in spring 2015 to the five tribes at six sites—two on the Colville Reservation at Inchelium and Nespelem.

The logs were old-growth cedar, 500 to 800 years old, 30- to 40-foot long, weighing 12,000 to 25,000 pounds. Out of the logs, each tribe made a 600- to 700-pound canoe.

John Zinser, a canoe carver and consultant from New York, helped

*Continued on page 4*

Christ Kitchen caters many events, like Jubilee

## Packaging beans changes lives

Kim Kelly understands the struggles of many women who come through the doors of Christ Kitchen seeking to find new paths for their lives.

Her early years were a struggle, growing up as the child of a teen mother living in an abandoned house in North Central Spokane.

“I have a passion to help women,” said Kim, executive director of the program that offers Bible study, job skills, a restaurant, packaged food and catering for events such as the Jubilee Sale at First Presbyterian Church, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 to 4.

It caters that event each year,

and also has a booth where it sells some of its 46 packaged products—dry mixes for desserts, soups, sides, snacks and holiday treats. The labels on each have Bible verses.

Christ Kitchen caters other events for churches and for non-profits.

“My mother was a great mother, because great saints came alongside her,” Kim said.

“Christ Kitchen is a community of women who come alongside women in need and give them godly guidance. The women may be down on their luck, may be experiencing abuse, addiction or

mental breakdowns, or may be just out of jail,” said Kim.

Jan Martinez founded Christ Kitchen 20 years ago out of her work with Christ Clinic, which was originally in Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Central Spokane.

Christ Kitchen moved to 2410 N. Monroe, and then Christ Clinic, which closed in February, moved next door.

Jan was director until recently, when she wanted to cut back hours so she could promote her book, *Christ Kitchen*, telling her journey and the program’s business plan.

Now she travels to speak and has started a foundation, By the Well, to support women who want to start an organization like Christ Kitchen.

Kim came to Christ Kitchen six years ago to do sales and marketing. She became the director when Jan cut back. Jan now comes Tuesdays and Thursdays as a volunteer.

Kim, who married her high school sweetheart, Ed, believes God created the skill set she

*Continued on page 9*

## UI historian tells how sport can foster development

Bill Smith, historian and faculty advisor for Model United Nations at the University of Idaho in Moscow, recently spoke at the Spokane United Nations Day dinner on the role of sport in global relations and six UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As director of the UI’s Martin Institute and Program in International Studies, he sees that sport influences international relations: a Dutch soccer player boycotted the 1978 World Cup in Argentina because of human rights abuses. South African teams were left out of world competitions because of apartheid. In the 1970s, there was “ping pong diplomacy” with China. The Olympics often has political ramifications.

Aid workers often bring sports equipment. People appreciate being treated as human beings. Because sports and play touch lives, they draw people, Bill said, noting they may draw youth and all ages to education, health care, HIV/AIDS education and even opportunities to learn about micro-credit.

Six of the 17 SDGs relate to sport: good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, and peace, justice and strong institutions, he said.

Exercise contributes to health. Sport can motivate children to go to school and start life-long learning. Girls can be empowered by participating in sports. Sport motivates people to clear land mines for fields or introduces amputee soccer for those injured by land mines.

Bill believes sports, with the global interconnections they foster, can create social change. They shape how trillions of dollars are invested.

For information, call 208-883-6527 or email [bills@uidaho.edu](mailto:bills@uidaho.edu).



Bill Smith

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## Religion News Briefs

### Around the World

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

#### WCC, UN gather Burundi religious leaders

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect gathered Burundian religious leaders.

Representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, National Council of Churches of Burundi, Council of Union of Christian Churches, Islamic Community of Burundi, Confederation of Church and Revival of Burundi, and Seventh Day Adventist Church issued a communique, "Sustainable Peace in Burundi."

**They examined their role in bringing peace, security and reconciliation in the country.**

They called for the international community and Burundi government to re-establish diplomatic relationships, and proposed an interreligious workshop in Bujumbura in early 2018.

The leaders urged the Burundian political leaders to prevent the dissemination of divisive speech and narratives, and incitement to violence. It urges Burundi's people to discard rumors and lies, and remain peaceful and united.

#### Leader asks what Reformation means in Africa

Speaking to scholars, religious leaders and lay people at an Oct. 12 Reformation conference at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, WCC deputy general secretary Isabel Apawo Phiri explored 500 years of Reformation, arguing that the WCC's Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace can provide a framework that helps articulate what the Reformation has meant and continues to mean for churches and their theology in Africa today.

**"The Reformation is a reminder that the basis of the salvation and the unity of Christians is not because of who Christians are but who God is and what God has done for humanity,"** Isabel reflected.

"In the African context, we celebrate how bringing the Bible into believers' lives has promoted the growth of the church in Africa," she added. "We see every day the Holy Spirit transforms lives of people who read it, hear God's voice afresh and act on it."

**She said diakonia is an understanding not only of what churches do, but of who they are.**

"As we reflect on today's wounds in the church and society in Africa in the spirit of the Reformation," she said, "the church learns first and foremost to be self-critical. Christians should visit together the wounds of inequality and poverty, of the rise in internally displaced people, of the shortage of food and medicine, and of gender-based violence."

"A key element coming from the 2017 commemoration of 500 years of the Reformation is working together to heal the world by emphasizing peace-building, economic justice, climate justice and human dignity based on the biblical mandate to all Christians," Isabel observed.

"The WCC's Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace reflects an understanding of a servant church," she concluded, "and a commitment to the social reality of vulnerable, marginalized communities."

**"In the context of the international community's work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, we hear clearly the call for 'no one left behind.' Through ecumenical diakonia, we call for justice for all. Being transformed ourselves, the pilgrimage may lead us to concrete actions of transformation. We may grow in courage to live in true compassion with one another and with nature."**

#### Dialogue Center in Tehran sends students to Bossey

Relations between the WCC and the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue in Tehran go back more than 20 years. One recent fruit of this relationship has been developing links between the WCC and the University of Religions and Denominations (URD) in the Iranian holy city of Qom.

The URD, founded about 20 years ago, focuses on teaching students about non-Muslim religions, including Christianity, and non-Shia forms of Islam.

In the last four years the URD has sent some students to participate in the Bossey Summer Interreligious Course.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Fig Tree needs funds to print more directories

In 2017, The Fig Tree published 14,500 copies of the annual comprehensive Resource Directory. There are only about 200 copies remaining, not enough to meet needs through the coming year.

"We are contacting agencies to confirm interest in more copies, so we know how many to reprint," said directory editor Malcolm Haworth.

Pledges for the Community

Partner Project are at \$11,360 with \$7,400 received. About \$4,500 is needed to cover costs for printing and distributing more copies.

**"Framing Faithful Discourse for the Common Good"** is the theme for the 2018 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference on Saturday, Jan. 27, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

**"Including Everyone: We Need Each Other"** is the theme

for the 2018 benefits. The Benefit Lunch buffet is Friday, March 9, and the Benefit Breakfast buffet is Wednesday, March 14. Both are at in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

**The Fig Tree is recruiting** hosts to invite benefit guests, and volunteers to help with deliveries, mailings, displays and at events.

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

### Faith Action Network announces awardees

The Faith Action Network has announced recipients of awards it will present at its Annual Dinner, at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Renton Pavilion, 233 Burnett Ave. S. in Renton, Wa.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu will speak on "What Justice Looks Like."

The event marks the 30th anniversary of the Apology Letter to the Northwest Tribes, acknowledging the healing and rebuilding that still needs to be done.

The Legacy Award goes to the

Rev. Rich Gamble, pastor of Keystone United Church of Christ in Seattle who is stepping down after being co-chair of the FAN Governing Board since its inception.

FAN's Justice Leadership Award goes to JoDe Goudy, chair of the Yakama Nation, for work in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery. FAN is honoring Yakama elder Patsy Whitefoot for work on the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

The Advocating Faith Leader and Faith Community Award

goes to Michael Ramos, executive director of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, for his work on immigrant rights, sanctuary and rapid response.

The Interfaith Leadership Award goes to the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) for their leadership in the region as the largest mosque in Washington, serving more than 5,000 families. MAPS, which has joined FAN, welcomes people to the mosque to learn.

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

### Spokane Valley Partners' logo reflects programs

Spokane Valley Partners (SVP) re-branded and updated its logo to reflect that its program is more than a food bank.

"We support families struggling to make it just day-to-day," said executive director Cal Coblentz.

With its Clothing Bank, Emergency Assistance Program, Payee Program, Food for Thought Program, Career Clothing Bank and more, it is the largest support system in Greater Spokane Valley for families in challenging times.

The new logo stylizes its name to communicate its commitment

to collaboration, compassion, and helping with basic needs, he said.

For 30 years, SVP has connected with valley companies, congregations, civic groups, neighborhood businesses, local industries, schools and government to serve families.

After four years with SVP, Jennifer Schlenkse resigned as executive director in July to move to Seattle.

Cal has been with SVP two months. Before joining SVP, he was executive director for Sinto Senior Activity Center for four

years. In 2006, he retired from the Air Force after 23 years of service. He has a bachelor of science in psychology and a master of divinity, both from Liberty University.

"SVP represents the goodwill of a community to meet economic challenges facing families," said Cal. "It's encouraging to see hundreds of families, businesses, and organizations donate their time and money to help elevate them."

Cal said it has office space available for lease.

For information, call 927-1153 or visit svpart.org.

### Knox celebrates 100th in present building

Knox Presbyterian Church celebrates the centennial of its building at 806 W. Knox at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 12. Knox member Tom Tiffany will preach on "God's Love, God's Grace, 100 Years at Knox."

It will be 130 years in October 2018 since the first sermon was preached in 1888 at Centenary Presbyterian Church, an offshoot of First Presbyterian.

After a total loss in a fire in 1917, the church was renamed

after the 16th century Scottish Protestant Reformation leader John Knox and moved from the former Centenary site at Sinto and Wall to Knox and Post.

Tom has a 10-minute slide show on Knox's past from 1888 to 2001.

The show and other historical reports are at spokaneknoxpc.org.

Knox is the birthplace of international Father's Day in 1910 because of the advocacy of member Sonora Smart Dodd.

For information, call 328-7540.

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We are pleased to announce that we have named our newest housing community in honor of former Catholic Charities Executive Director Donna Hanson. This new 50 unit housing complex will serve formerly, chronically homeless individuals.



## GRAND OPENING

and Blessing  
**Donna Hanson Haven**

24 W 2nd Avenue Spokane Washington

Friday, November 17

11:00 - 1:00 pm

special guest

Sr. Donna Markham, OP, PhD  
PRESIDENT & CEO OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

**'Empty Bowls' raises funds to fill plates**

The Cathedral of St. John is hosting, "Empty Bowls," a benefit for the Diocese's West Central Episcopal Mission meals at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 4, at the cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The event's speaker is Kent Hoffman, who earned his doctorate in 1975 at Claremont Graduate School of Theology on the interface between psychological crisis and struggles in personal relationships. He has worked with psychiatric patients in prison, people with terminal cancer, survivors of sexual abuse and homeless people in Los Angeles.

The originator of the Circle of Security Project, which is research based intervention for parents and young children, now used throughout the world, Kent has been a clinical consultant for attachment-related interventions with universities in Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana and Queensland. He also teaches psychology at Gonzaga University. He practices both Christian contemplative prayer and Buddhist mindfulness meditation.

For information, call 944-8938 or 443-6395.

**Abess leads retreat on her book on Buddhism**

Ven. Thubten Chodron, abess and founder of Sravasti Abbey, the Buddhist monastery near Newport, will offer a retreat from Nov. 6 to 16, on her book, co-written with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, *Buddhism: One Teacher, Many Traditions*.

Daily activities include two teaching sessions, group discussions and study time. The book and course offer an opportunity to delve into Buddhism by studying the commonalities and differences in the various Buddhist traditions, said the abess.

The retreat for Buddhists and people of other faiths begins at 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 6 and ends after lunch on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Sravasti Abbey is a Buddhist monastery in the Tibetan tradition. Ordained nuns and monks as well as lay people live there, devoting their lives to studying and practicing Buddhist teachings and sharing them with others.

Programs at Sravasti Abbey are offered on a donation basis.

For information, call 509-447-5549 or email office.sravasti@gmail.com.

**Habitat dedicates house Hamblen helped build**

A Habitat for Humanity-Spokane house, sponsored by Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church, was dedicated on Oct. 26, providing affordable housing for another low-income family in need.

The house is at 1607 E. Boone Ave.

"Owning a home means a lot to us. It means to settle. It means to have a future for our family and to finally have a place to call our own and be stable," said Regina and Ivan.

The family completed their required 500 hours of sweat equity at the Habitat Store and saved \$3,000 for closing costs.

"Partnership with Habitat's homeownership program is more than building homes, it's about building confidence, empowerment and an asset," said Michelle Girardot, Habitat-Spokane director.

This home is one of many Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church has sponsored over 30 years. The church has contributed more than \$65,000 and countless helping hands to the mission of building hope and homes, said Michelle.

For information, call 534-2552 or visit habitat-spokane.org.

**Festival of Fair Trade celebrates many cultures**

The 33rd annual Festival of Fair Trade will celebrate artisans from around the world, including Nepal, Mexico, Chile and Guatemala.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 24 to 26, vendors in this world marketplace will fill the main floor and mezzanine of the Community Building at 35 W. Main in Spokane.

This annual tradition over the Thanksgiving weekend is an opportunity for shoppers to support local importers who pay artisans fair wages and enjoy the chance to purchase gifts while making a positive difference in the world, said Sarah Calvin of Ganesh Himal Trading Company, a fair trade wholesaler with Nepal since 1984.

Vendors will offer a unique assortment of handmade jewelry, clothing, handbags, carpets, scarves and gifts.

For information, call 499-3320 or email info@ganeshhimaltrading.com.

**Group distributes resources to immigrants**

Given the current political climate, many who know immigrant families sense a significant increase in the level of fear, said Alex Schmidt, who helped start North Central Washington United (NCWU).

The 200-member group, which meets monthly, updates people on news and plans actions related to justice and equity.

The NCWU's Immigration/Race and Justice group recently distributed resources to immigrants, schools, nonprofits and businesses to address fears.

The documents, in Spanish and English, are electronically available at the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America, ewaid.org, Alex said.

The packet includes five items:

1. The Family Safety Plan helps families prepare for mass raids or individual apprehensions.

2. Power of Attorney is a legal document about giving power to a trusted person for custody of children, property assets, finances, medical and more.

3. Know Your Rights informs families of their rights if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) comes to their home or work.

4. What to Do in Case of a Raid/Apprehension gives instructions on finding a detainee, documentation, legal help and more.

5. Employer's Rights, in English only, discusses rights of employers in an ICE visit.

6. Washington Immigration Activity Hotline 844-RAID-REP (844-724-3737) receives reports of ICE activity. The hotline has teams of volunteers and legal advocates to support and protect immigrants in a timely fashion in Spanish and English.

In addition to the documents, the group provides education, direct support and advocacy for legislation in Olympia and Washington, D.C.

For information, call 509-548-7012 or email lxhappns@nwi.net or visit <https://sites.google.com/view/ncwunited/home>.

**Fall Folk Fest is Nov. 11-12**

The Spokane Folklore Society's 22nd Annual Fall Folk Festival celebrates cultural diversity from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11 to 12, at Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene.

It features seven stages and more than 100 performances of traditional and ethnic dance, music, workshops, special entertainment, crafts for children and jamming.

About 5,000 attend each year.

The Folk Festival presents local and regional folk musicians and artists. Performers represent Celtic, bluegrass, blues, African, Asian, Middle Eastern traditions, Kelzmer, Hawaiian and more.

A New England Contra dance is held Saturday and Sunday evenings.

The event is free but collects donations to cover \$20,000 in expenses.

For information, call 448-0659 or email dnnburt1@gmail.com.

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Collection boxes for new and gently used K-3 books are in area libraries, bookstores & businesses through Dec. 8. Books will be given free at Kootenai County Elementary Schools and local food banks - 84,000 distributed over three years.

For information, call Norm Gissel at 208-964-4823 or email [heartofcda@gmail.com](mailto:heartofcda@gmail.com)

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**Save the date for the 2018**

**Eastern Washington Legislative Conference**

'Framing Faithful Discourse for the Common Good'

Saturday, Jan. 27

9 a.m.-3 p.m. St Mark's Lutheran Church

316 E. 24th Ave. - Spokane

For information, contact

Malcolm Haworth - The Fig Tree - (509) 535-1813

Scott Cooper - Catholic Charities - (509) 358-4273

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127 E. 12th Ave.  
Free admission  
Champagne mustard, jam & cookies, ornaments gifts for everyone.  
Vintage treasures  
Lunch: soup, sandwich, pie  
**Visit with St. Nicholas**  
**Child care & crafts**

**A Completely Bazaar Day in Cheney**  
**Saturday, Nov. 4**  
Loads of craft and baked goods  
Come for breakfast, stay for lunch  
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Visit all four churches!!!

**Come Visit Our Christmas Bazaar!!**  
Cheney United Methodist Church  
crafts, baked goods and a gift shop designed for children  
**Saturday, Nov. 4 • 9 am-3 pm**  
4th & G St. - Cheney WA

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar**  
Sat. Nov. 4 - 9 am-3 pm  
2733 W Northwest Blvd  
Country Store with baked goods, lots of unique and handcrafted items, and Peanut Butter Peanut Brittle

**Redemption Church Medical Lake**  
**11th Annual Hollyfaire**  
**Sat. Nov. 11 - 9 am-4 pm**  
400 E. Grace - Medical Lake  
Crafts • Food • Collectibles • Party Lines

**SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR**  
Proceeds benefit local charities  
**SATURDAY, Nov. 4**  
Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am  
Bazaar 9:30 am - 1 pm  
**Central Lutheran Church**  
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**Bazaar & Bake Sale**  
**St. Mark's Lutheran**  
316 E. 24th Ave.  
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# Canoe journey reconnects tribes to their culture related to salmon, water

Continued from page 1

four years ago when tribes carved canoes at the mouth of the Columbia and paddled 1,243 miles to the source. UCUT helped produce a film, "Journey up the Columbia River for People and Salmon," on that experience.

John taught children to elders how to strip bark, use hand tools, slowly remove thin strips of wood, keep the wood moist, and shape the sides and a shovel-nose end. Each canoe included unique symbols carved onto the sides.

**"It was emotional** and life-changing. As we connected to the canoe and river, it awakened part of who we are," D.R. said. "It reminded us what we lost with the dams."

He helped carve the Inchelium canoe, which was launched at Scotty's Marina near Arrow Lake Dam in B.C., the territory of his tribe, the Arrow Lakes Sinixt.

The Nespelem canoe left from Spring Canyon, the Coeur d'Alene from Benewah Lake, the Spokane from Wynecoops Landing, the Kalispel from Pend Oreille and the Kootenai from Black Sand Beach above Northport.

Each group traveled by water where possible and transported their canoes by trailer around blockages, rough water and hard-to-navigate areas.

"The paddlers—eight to 10 in a canoe—learned how to turn by leaning their heads and working as a team," said D.R. "I paddled from Trail, B.C., through some wild water. Even though we wore life jackets, I was afraid, because I don't swim and the canoe was tippy."

The tribes met enroute and set up camps several nights.

Hundreds of people were involved.

**D.R. said the Arrow Lakes** are one of the 12 Colville Confederated Tribes. In 1956, the Canadian government declared them extinct, paving the way for development in Canada related to the Columbia River Treaty.

D.R. grew up in Inchelium, a mile from the Lake Roosevelt Reservoir on the Columbia River. He, his brother, two sisters and friends played and camped by the shore. He felt close to the water as a child.

"We didn't understand about drawdowns or know what we lost. It wasn't a river or a lake, but a reservoir behind a dam that has negative impact on water quality, resident fish, safety and access," he said.

D.R.'s parents grew up in Inchelium. He, his wife, who also grew up there, and their four children have a home within 10 miles of the shore.



Inter-generational teams carved five canoes in 2015-16 and paddled them to Kettle Falls.

Photo courtesy of Upper Columbia United Tribes

Even though he has lived in Spokane 10 years for his work with UCUT, he goes back as often as he can to teach his children respect for land, water, plants, wildlife and family.

After high school, D.R. went to work in 1977 as a forestry fire guard with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). For 17 years, he was a forestry technician, marking timber and arranging sales. He learned the importance of managing timber and other resources for future generations.

He learned more about protecting resources in the eight years he served on the Colville Business Council. He was the council's delegate to UCUT.

**At UCUT, his work is to assure** that future generations survive.

"Our values are from thousands of years of applied science about how to co-exist with Mother Earth and the Creator," he said. "We do things to respect and share with others. Salmon give up their bodies to feed us. In turn, we take care of them."

UCUT seeks to have the new Columbia River Treaty include sustainable management of the eco-system to benefit needs of people, timber, fish, wildlife, land, recreation, irrigation, flood control and power.

**One goal is fish passage.**

"People ask, if we restore fish above the dams, will they know where to go. Every year, salmon swim to the base of Chief Joseph Dam and look for a way around. Some go up the fish ladder, not knowing it leads to a hatchery."

Some circle in front of the dam and spawn below the dam. Others

go up the Okanogan River. The tribes have a fishery at the base of Chief Joseph Dam. In recent years, they have done a selective harvest, catching fish in nets, giving sockeye to tribal members and releasing Chinook to spawn in the wild.

There are new ways to bring the fish home. Dams may not go soon, but the treaty can include fish passage, he said.

Nine U.S. dams fragment the river, each run by a different entity, like the Bureau of Reclamation, which runs Grand Coulee, and the Army Corps of Engineers, which runs Chief Joseph.

**Because some decision-makers** consider only development, profit and short-term benefits, he said, "resources are disappearing, wildlife is becoming extinct, we are experiencing natural disasters because of climate change.

"We need to manage resources for long-term benefits. It doesn't have to be either/or. We can have salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, and have inexpensive power and flood control," he said.

UCUT, Earth Economics, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Pacific Rivers, Save Our Wild Salmon and Water-Watch Oregon did an economic study that shows "natural capital" could be worth more than \$200 billion to regional economy with a modernized treaty.

"Modernizing" it means managing dams to increase water flows in low-water years to keep the ecosystem of trees and forests, soil and slopes, flows and wetlands healthy so they gener-

ate "ecological goods and services"—water, wildlife, timber, vegetation, salmon, recreation and less flooding.

**Without sustainable** management, there is economic loss. With such management, the basin can enhance natural wealth for present and future generations. Clean, abundant water means "breathable air, drinkable water, nourishing food and stable atmospheric conditions."

Those "services" have economic value, protecting jobs, infrastructure, restoration and property.

At Brewster, where tribes have worked with ranchers and farm-

ers to balance irrigation needs and sockeye runs, the runs grew from 2,500 in about 2000 to about 400,000 in 2014. Sockeye runs add \$1.5 million to Brewster's economy, drawing people to fish, eat at restaurants, use the RV park and shop, D.R. said.

**UCUT showed** "United by Water" in October at the Garland Theater in Spokane and will schedule more shows in theaters, and for tribal events, film festivals and community groups.

For information, call 954-7631 or email [dr@ucut-nsn.org](mailto:dr@ucut-nsn.org).

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# Catholic and Lutheran leaders continue post-Reformation dialogue

From years as bishops in the Inland Northwest, working on ecumenical dialogue and sustaining the Columbia River Basin, Catholic Bishop Emeritus William (Bill) Skylstad and former Lutheran bishop, now Pastor Martin Wells, have a relationship that exemplifies what they teach churches about the need for ongoing dialogue and church unity.

Martin just completed 18 years as bishop of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bill returned to the Catholic Diocese of Spokane in 1989 and was apostolic administrator for a year. He was appointed bishop in 1990 and retired in 2010.

**Both continue to work** with the encouragement and permission of their sitting bishops to promote use of the resource, "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017."

In addition, Lutherans recommended at their 2016 Churchwide Assembly that congregations study and receive "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist," a summary of 50 years of Catholic-Lutheran conversations, dialogue and consensus.

"We come to the Reformation's 500th commemoration with these documents," said Martin. "The word 'commemoration' is used because the divisions are not something to celebrate."

"From Conflict to Communion," developed by the Vatican and Lutheran World Federation since Vatican II, includes a study guide and common prayer.

The prayer was used for an October 2016 ecumenical service in Lund, Sweden, led by Pope Francis and Lutheran Bishop Antje Jackelintje of Stockholm.

The Tri-Parish in Spokane Valley—Advent Lutheran, St. Mary's Catholic and the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection—also used it in their joint 2016 Thanksgiving Worship Service.

Martin urges Lutheran pastors and members to read both documents. Both invite Lutheran and Catholic congregations and others to pair up for prayer and study.

**"From Conflict to Communion"** has five ecumenical imperatives:

- Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in



Catholic Bishop William Skylstad and former bishop Martin Wells.

order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

- Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.

- Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps and to strive repeatedly toward this goal.

- Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for this time.

- Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

**"Ecumenical dialogue**, like any negotiation is nuanced but states goals clearly," said Martin.

"It's more than sitting around a table and talking. It's about seeking, pushing forward, not staying in a maintenance mode," said Bill.

"The documents focus on our agreements, not differences. This is a shift in focus from previous commemorations without ignoring substance," said Martin. "They look to the future based on where we are today."

"Both view history honestly and realistically rather than through a lens of hostility or division," said Bill. "The Reformation was in a time of turmoil. It was a difficult time for the Catholic Church, which needed re-evangelism. Martin Luther did not intend to leave the church, but the sides hardened and it evolved into that."

Martin said actions spun out of control in a time of cultural shifts in a world on the verge of changes with the printing press and Columbus' voyage to America.

"Luther is said to be the in-



At the installation of ELCA Bishop Kristen Kuempel.

spiration for the Western notion of individual conscience. That thinking has had good and bad consequences," he said.

Bill and Martin emphasize the imperatives in presentations.

**"Wonderful relationships** and dialogues continue on the local, regional, national and international levels," they said. "We are a hopeful people."

In 1995, before Bill was elected Bishop of Spokane, Pope John Paul published *Ut Unum Sint*. (That they may be one). Bill said it "was a radical document, acknowledging that the office of Pope is a point of division on ministry, authority and sacraments."

There was an ecumenical freeze after the World Council of Churches' convergence on "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" was not "received" (adopted) by its members, Martin said.

He said Lutherans did not accept a three-fold order of ministry

with deacons, presbyters (priests) and bishops. New documents reflect two orders, lay and ordained. Martin was installed bishop, not ordained as Catholic bishops are.

"The seed of *Ut Unum Sint* now flowers," said Bill. "Pope John Paul called leaders to keep working on unity, letting the Lord do the Lord's work."

Martin said Jesus' prayer "That they may be one" (John 17) is a persistent challenge.

"When we formed the ELCA in 1988, our statement on ecumenism recognized Jesus' prayer, giving our churches wings and voices," he said.

"Some Lutherans say Jesus' words in John's Gospel are romanticized words," he said. "I believe they are a prayer and a call."

"In diplomacy, we set agreements in words, discuss where we differ and sort out issues in patient dialogue. Jesus did not use those words as a romantic call to something unrealistic," Martin said.

**"These documents celebrate** years of patient, responsible, theological, credible, sophisticated, intellectually defensible dialogue, not papering over differences," he said. "They outline places dialogue needs to go, such as questions of authority, ministry and sacraments."

Along with disagreements on the orders, Bill said Catholics need continued discussion on ordaining women as deacons and on the Lutheran emphasis on the priesthood of all believers, which Vatican II accepted.

The question is what is possible on the grassroots level with food banks, with pastors meeting for text study to prepare sermons and with relationships over meals.

**Martin and Bill gather** the Octet to build relationships. The Octet began as a group of eight bishops and executives—Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, United Methodist, Pres-

byterian, United Church of Christ (UCC), and American Baptist. The UCC and Baptists no longer have Spokane offices. Four of the six leaders are now women.

"We can look at commonalities and differences if we have trusting relationships," Martin said.

Bill said they attend each other's ordinations and installations.

"Much happens on the practical pastoral level," Bill said.

**Seeking to sustain** the region's natural resources, both have stood in solidarity with the region's Native American Tribes to renegotiate the Columbia River Treaty and on the apology of Northwest religious leaders to Northwest tribes.

**"Part of our heritage,"** Martin added, is Luther's "eighth commandment that we are to fear and love God so we do not lie about our neighbors, betray or slander them or destroy their reputation. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

Both are dismayed how public discourse today is suffering.

**"There is more that unites** us than divides us when we look at life through the lens of faith," said Bill. "The bottom line is we are brothers and sisters in God, united in Christ. Too often, politics, not faith, steers people."

"Immigrants are our brothers and sisters in Christ," Martin said, noting the Christian call to welcome strangers and feed the poor.

**"Renewal,** re-evangelization and conversion need to be ongoing. Change is exhausting. We want to settle down, but are called to be followers on the way," Bill said. "A journey is a path, not a settled way. An image of the disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus is on the cover of 'Declaration on the Way.'"

For information, email [mismwells@aol.com](mailto:mismwells@aol.com) or [skylstad7@comcast.net](mailto:skylstad7@comcast.net).

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# Christ Kitchen is a ministry that does a business that supports its work

*Continued from page 1*  
needed to lead Christ Kitchen.

She and her husband came to know the Lord when she was 38 and in the ninth month of her pregnancy with the third of her four children. They began attending Calvary Chapel. For 15 years, they have been active in Timberview Christian Fellowship, a Free Methodist Church in Mead.

Kim studied business and marketing at Trend Business College and Kinman, finishing in 1988. She then worked in restaurant and hotel management, where she saw the brokenness of people in that field.

Seeking to make an impact through a nonprofit, she began working as development director at Olive Crest, an agency helping abused and neglected children.

"I was broken. You can't see the abuse without having a broken heart or you would be numb," she said.

Learning of Christ Kitchen, she believes God brought her there to love women.

Packaging beans and other products is an avenue for God to change lives, Kim said.

"When God changes women's lives, it changes their children's lives and the lives of future generations. The impact on God's Kingdom is incredible," she said. "I have seen women change even though the world has told them they are worthless. Then they learn they are children of God."

From 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Thursdays, women come and start the day with Bible study. Then some work in the kitchen filling packages and others work in the restaurant area sealing them. They are on payroll.

At noon, church women bring lunch. They break bread together and share prayer requests until 1 p.m.

Some stay to clean up.

The program has a 1969 food truck for catering.

In addition to Kim, there are two part-time production supervisors, Linda in the kitchen and Amy in the front sealing packages. Kari Kelli is development manager.

Over the years, Christ Kitchen has served thousands of women, Kim said. The number each week varies. There are now 17 on the payroll. There have been up to 40.

The women who work have to be clean and sober—confirmed by random drug tests—and they have to get along with the other women.

Women come from many backgrounds. Some have untreated mental health issues. Some are drug addicted. Some are prostitutes. Some are homeless. Some have stories that are hard to



Kim Kelley coordinates work at Christ Kitchen.

fathom, said Kim.

Women hear about Christ Kitchen in prison, on the street or from friends.

Kim said that nationally, 43 million women live in poverty and 28 million children are affected by poverty. In Spokane, 21,000 women are poor.

"I can't imagine having to choose between paying rent or putting food on the table in the richest nation in the world!" she said.

"We can make a difference," Kim said. "I see it every day."

How long women come varies.

"Our job is to love a woman well, to teach the truth of God's Word, to give life skills so she is self-sufficient and Christ dependent," said Kim, who has also been women's ministry director for 13 years at Timberview and is studying online and evenings at Whitworth University to be ordained in the Free Methodist Church.

Christ Kitchen offers women skills in customer service, marketing, cooking, baking, catering and ministry.

In the intake process, a staff member learns their backgrounds and helps them set goals to participate in Bible study consistently and discover their passion.

One woman wanted to be a food sampler at Costco, gained skills to do that and now works at the school bus company.

Another wanted to go back to school to train as an x-ray technician.

In the summer, Laura came, "a beautiful woman who did not see her beauty," Kim said. "She has been clean and sober 20 days

and is open to the Lord's love and people who love the Lord.

"When women with no faith background come and learn what Jesus says about them, job skills come. The truth of Jesus changes their hearts so they hope. With great hope there is great transfor-

mation," Kim said.

Beyond Thursdays, six are paid to run the restaurant, cater meals and serve food out of the food truck.

The women learn to do inventory, forecast, marketing, sales and customer service.

In their catering business, they deliver a sandwich, salad, fruit, dessert, water and utensils in a white box tied with a red ribbon, she said.

Christ Kitchen has no government funding. It is funded by sales and by "the saints," individuals who donate, she said.

"We are a ministry that does a business that helps support the work," Kim said.

Many of the women who come would not walk through the doors of a church, but as they learn of God's love, they become comfortable going to church, Kim said.

Christ Kitchen plans its annual Gingerbread House Build-off benefit from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, at the historic Davenport Hotel.

For information, call 325-4343 or email [sales@christkitchen.org](mailto:sales@christkitchen.org) or visit [christkitchen.org](http://christkitchen.org).

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# Retired nurse promotes social justice through NAACP and other groups

At its 2017 Freedom Fund Banquet, Spokane's NAACP Chapter presented Leadership Awards to four members, Fay Baptiste, Fran Hammond, Jeanne Baynes and the Rev. C. W. Andrews.

The stories of Fay and Fran are shared in this issue.

Fay Baptiste's commitment to social justice has expression in her involvement with Greater Spokane Progress, the new Spokane Coalition of Color and the Spokane NAACP Branch, which recently recognized her with one of their annual leadership awards.

It's important to be involved in social justice issues, especially those affecting the local African-American community, she said.

As a child living outside Philadelphia, Pa., in the 1960s, she encountered racial discrimination. In school, she gained a strong sense of civic duty and awareness of how government works.

"Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, I have seen all my life the struggle of African Americans for social justice," she said. "We still have to struggle. It's a constant battle, sometimes subtle and now more open."

Her father had an influence on her when he attended the March



Fay Baptiste

on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. When she and her sister were older, he took them to the 1968 Poor People's March on Washington, which further sparked her interest in civil rights and social activism.

Fay graduated in 1973 from the former Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing and worked two years there as a registered nurse.

During a conference with a large non-denominational church she attended, Fay learned about and soon began to work with the

Nicky Cruz Outreach Girls Home in Raleigh, N.C., a program that helped young women transition from incarceration and deal with substance abuse. When the home relocated to Colorado Springs in 1978, she moved with them.

After five years with the outreach program, she returned to her nursing career.

In Colorado, she met and married David, who was in the U.S. Air Force. Moving with him, she practiced nursing in several hospitals in Virginia and Germany. They moved to Spokane in the early 1990s. He retired in 1995.

Fay worked at Deaconess Medical Center for 23 years in various areas, including critical care, medical, surgical, pediatrics and mother-baby units.

Since retiring in 2013 after 35 years in nursing, she became more involved with Spokane NAACP.

"From nursing, I know that under our skin, we are all the same. People discriminate against our 'packaging' but our contents are the same," she said. "We are all living beings. Why can't we just respect each other!"

Currently, she serves on the Executive Committee, Political Action Committee, Freedom

Fund Banquet Committee and as assistant secretary.

She has helped plan candidate forums, assisted with voter registrations and supported many local justice forums and marches.

In August, the NAACP Spokane, Asian Pacific Islanders and Hispanic Business/Professional Association formed the Spokane Coalition of Color. They have held candidate forums for the Spokane and Spokane Valley city councils, school board and judges.

Previously, Fay served on the board of Community Frameworks, which creates affordable housing, and she was a founder and treasurer of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Spokane Chapter, until it closed.

With Greater Spokane Progress, a collaborative network united to

build political strength and equity in the community, she has another outlet for promoting social justice.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," she quoted the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor," she quoted from South African Bishop Desmond Tutu.

The NAACP was founded by different faiths from their calling to social justice, she said. For Fay, social issues include a range of issues—criminal justice, women's issues, housing—anywhere people face discrimination.

"As a Christian, I believe social justice is the work of the church and my avenue for ministry," she said.

## Jobs and education are key concerns

Jobs and education are key concerns of Fran Hammond, who started her journey in community service 43 years ago in Port Chester, N.Y. She worked on the city's Anti-Poverty Program Board of Directors fighting child poverty.

After high school, she attended New York University and earned an associate degree in business from Long Beach Junior College.

Fran worked for 38 years with Pitney Bowes, Inc., beginning in New York, then in California and in Spokane from 1992 to 2003, when she retired in Spokane as the western region customer accounts manager.

Today, Fran is concerned that young people can't find good paying jobs in Spokane.

Fran said working for Pitney Bowes gave her the change to learn and advance upward in her career so she could assist and guide younger associates to better positions in the company, which has now closed in Spokane.

Education is a second concern she addresses with involvement in the NAACP—both the Beverly Hills Hollywood Chapter after she moved to Long Beach in 1976 and then the Spokane Chapter.

In California, she helped start the ACT-SO Program and the NAACP Image Award Program,



Fran Hammond

Courtesy of Fran Hammond

recognizing individuals who projected positive images in the Black community. She was working with that chapter when the first Image Award show was televised in 1994.

Because many of her friends were social workers, Fran joined the National Association of Black Social Workers' International Education Committee. That involvement led to international travel, visiting schools and orphanages and meeting people in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Peru, the Panama Canal, Bahamas, Argentina and United Kingdom.

Her group was the first to visit South Africa after apartheid.

"We took school supplies and

donated money to support teachers' salaries for a year. We wanted children to have a good start," said Fran, who attended Calvary Baptist and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal churches in Spokane.

In Spokane, she and six women organized a chapter for The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., which gave many students scholarships and the opportunity to attend college.

In the Spokane NAACP, she was secretary for many years.

With The Spokane Links, Inc., she was treasurer, recording secretary and chair of their Annual White Rose Scholarship Award Brunch.

In 2005, Fran organized the Spokane community to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. They sent a truck of supplies and clothing to Gulf Port and school supplies to St. Bernard Parish, La., and they assisted families who relocated to the Spokane area.

She and her late husband Robert have a daughter, Debra Reed, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Her husband died in 2009. Four years ago, she moved with Debra and a granddaughter to Lynnwood, north of Seattle, but continues ties with the Spokane NAACP and The Links.

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# Playright-director gives girls platform to use voices as tool for change

By Kaye Hult

Coeur d'Alene playwright and director Brook Bassett's play, "Girl, Awake!" exemplifies her desire to use her voice in writing as a tool for change.

In this year's version of the production, six girls ages 11 to 16 use monologues and vignettes to highlight global and local issues that affect girls and others.

"Girl, Awake!" is the main project of the Luminary Initiative Project, one of two theater companies she runs. "It educates the public and gives girls a platform to express their global awareness and strong voices," she said.

"When I write, I try to convey a sense of humanity and humanism, and not be overtly religious," Brook said, "so what I write is open to all people.

"Sometimes people fret because a play has a political agenda," she said. "Politics is about everyday life. In the play, we present facts. This is how it is, where it's happening. People can decide how to respond and be involved."

**Girl, Awake! offers ideas** for change. Brook said it celebrates girls and their accomplishments.

"Those who see the show can see themselves in the scenes," said Brook, who updates the production each year. "I update statistics. I change four or five scenes to focus on current issues. I want the girls to reflect both globally and locally."

This year, she said, one issue is food insecurity, an issue in South Sudan and Nigeria. As the girls talk about the global problem, they discuss how some here don't have enough money for lunch.

"Someone we know may be in need," Brook said.

Other themes this year are child imprisonment and child justice.

When North Idaho College hosted the "Vagina Monologues," Brook was intrigued. It was her first experience of activism theater.

"It changed my life," she said.

**Reflecting on her passion** for children and youth, she decided to write an activism show for young girls. She found a unifying theme in flowers, using them as props and for the girls' names.

She thought of her grandmother, a hippie, sticking flowers in gun barrels, and the popular phrase "the seeds of revolution."

Flowers reflect the girls' feminine side, and how they grow and bloom, she said.



Brook Bassett produces activism theater performances.

"I wanted a way for the girls to connect with the audience in the middle of the show," she said.

The girls go out into the audience and hand out flowers. Audience members go home with the flowers. The cast hopes the flowers remind them to think more about the issues in the play.

"We're constantly learning and changing," Brook said.

Girl, Awake! is in its third year of the five-year Luminary Initiative Project.

The first year's production was an experiment. She used 10 girls and realized that 10 was too many.

The second year, she cut the cast to six. She added the flowers and the idea that, "as scattering seeds makes many flowers, scattering small acts of goodness can lead to larger change."

This year, Brook strengthened the ending with an anthem by local composer Presley Dupuis.

**Brook said Girl, Awake! is** a quality production, but not a theater show. It is an activism show, inviting the audience to recognize "they can affect change."

"Our girls are not actors, at least not all of them," she said. "I don't cast them to be characters. They bring their personalities to the words I wrote. The cast is diverse in beliefs. It's a testament that we can all work together.

"People may think it's a show by and for children, but it's about empowering girls. It's about rising up for social justice," she said.

The show played at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ in Spokane, as well as in Coeur d'Alene. The girls will also perform at the Rathdrum Library, the Hayden Library and the Boys and Girls Club in Coeur d'Alene this year. They will also appear at some

churches in Seattle.

**Sixty percent of ticket sales** go to charity. Brook offers choices, and the girls choose one each year.

They chose UNICEF Children's Fund the first year because it works with refugee relief.

Last year, they raised about \$1,700 for the Malala Fund, with its focus on education.

"Education is one of the most important steps to just about everything," Brook said.

This year, their charity of choice is Direct Relief, which sends medical relief boxes to global and local charities in areas of crisis.

The hundreds of dollars they raise from raffle tickets go to local charities, such as World Relief and Crosswalk.

Brook is exploring making Girl, Awake! a for-profit or nonprofit business, going national, offering classes and doing a summer camp.

**While she began life** in Cortez, Colo., in the Four Corners area, her father started to work on natural gas pipelines, so after she was nine her family moved often.

Brook attended junior high and high school at Falls Christian Academy in Post Falls, where she was grounded in theater by her high school drama teacher.

She had found Lake City Playhouse a place for young people to learn about theater. She sees it trying to go back to that.

After graduating in 2000, she taught tap dancing in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Colorado. She also attended a conservative university in California.

She did not attend church as a child. Her mother had been Seventh Day Adventist and her father, Mormon. An uncle was a pastor.

"Religion was in the background while I was growing up," she said.

Brook studied philosophy at Whitworth University, graduating in 2007 with a bachelor in liberal studies. She said Whitworth encouraged self reflection.

"**Spirituality is a big thing** in my life. What do I believe in, and why? What do others believe?" she said.

Brook often attends St. Luke's Episcopal in Coeur d'Alene, which discusses issues and expects members to be active regarding them, in tune with her

valuing social outreach.

Her other involvements include co-founding Coeur d'Alene Murder Mystery Theatre with Tracy Vaughan, owning Verve Studio 8, where she teaches tap dancing and clogging.

**Brook also teaches** technology at Skyway Elementary School in Coeur d'Alene, emphasizing internet safety and digital citizenship.

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## Small Episcopal worshipping community in Methow relies on members

Since moving three years ago with her husband Peter and sons Sam and Jude to 20 acres near Winthrop, speaker, author and veteran Shannon Polson has helped start a small worshipping community, Methow Episcopal.

She and Peter, both cradle Episcopalians, found no nearby progressive, liturgical church when they settled in the Methow Valley, adding to the 6,000 residents.

Like other professionals settling in the Methow to be close to nature and outdoor activities, the Polsons are interested in social services, and love arts and athletics. For 10 years, the Polsons came to the Methow Valley from Seattle to hike, backcountry ski and cross-country ski.

**For Ash Wednesday 2015**, they put an ad in the Methow Valley News announcing a 5 p.m. service at the Mazama Community Center, an old school house at the head of Methow Trails.

They took ashes from the fire pit at the Mazama Nordic Ski Trainhead. No one came, so they and their sons, then two and five, held a service following the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

They continued to meet and list services in the paper. Two or three new people came every Sunday. Six months later, to accommodate others living further down the valley, they began renting space at the Friendship Alliance Church, 809 Highway 20 in Winthrop, for \$7.50 an evening.

**Now 45 people** from Mazama, Winthrop, Twisp, Carlton and the Methow Valley gather there or in homes at 5 p.m., Sundays—with an average of 15 to 25 on a Sunday. Methow Episcopal is a Bishop's Chapel with the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane.

As a volunteer group, all help make the fellowship work.

For their liturgy, they use the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, a resource called "Enriching Our Liturgy" and the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.

Their music is a mix of traditional and contemporary music. One music leader, a former Catholic, incorporates music from a Catholic hymnal and a pianist plays from the Episcopal hymnal.

Each service includes a simple agape meal, and when a priest comes—retired Bishop Cabbell Tennis, Stanalee Wright from St. Ann's in Omak, Marilyn Wilder from Oroville or recently Bishop Gretchen Rehberg—they celebrate the Eucharist.

Using Google Docs, which Peter manages, participants sign up to read, give the message or take on other fellowship tasks.

A steering committee—rather than a vestry—meets quarterly to



Shannon Polson sings during a service. Courtesy of the Polsons

make decisions about worship, fellowship, education and mission. Still, overseeing the work of the fellowship is more than they initially expected.

"I had asked Peter, what's so different about sitting around and reading from the prayer book and inviting a few friends to do that with us?" Shannon remembered, laughing. "We've taken on a much bigger commitment, but it's also an incredible gift to our family and, I hope, the community."

**Shannon, who grew up** in St. Mary's Episcopal in Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated in 1993 from Duke University in English, art history and ROTC, served eight years in the Army in Alabama, North Carolina, Bosnia, Arizona, Korea, Kuwait and Texas. She met Peter at Tuck Business School at Dartmouth. They earned master's degrees in business in 2003.

For a few years after graduate school, she left the Episcopal church, but "I never doubted the existence of God. I only doubted the definition some people seemed to have of God," she said.

Peter, who grew up in Seattle, graduated in environmental studies in 1995 from Middlebury College in Vermont. He worked with technology in investment banking in New York City for several years before joining a startup business in Seattle before going to Tuck.

After marrying, they lived 10 years in Seattle, where Shannon worked with Guidant Corporation and Microsoft. Peter started Tiller Money. Shannon left Microsoft to do a master's in fine arts (MFA) at Seattle Pacific University.

**Before earning her degree** in 2012, Shannon published a memoir, *North of Hope*. It's the story of her trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Northeast Alaska following in the footsteps of her father and stepmother, who were killed by a grizzly bear while kayaking there in 2005.

Shannon and her father loved the wilderness and classical music, so she weaves Mozart's Requiem into the book, in an

intricate tapestry as a requiem for those who have gone before.

"There is beauty in music and in the wilderness of the remote place they were killed," she said.

She doesn't believe in resolution, but recalls reading that "loss and pain stretch the heart so we can hold more beauty and love. It's never okay."

**Shannon is now working** on a memoir of her time in the military and a book on leadership of women in the military. She also writes essays, poetry and short stories. To earn a living, she travels two to three times a month to speak on leadership for corporations, associations and organizations.

"I urge storytelling and connecting to a core purpose before leading others. A leader needs not only to listen first but also to cut out extraneous noise," she said. "A leader needs courage to own a team's successes and failures."

Eventually, she plans to write more about the natural world.

She and Peter coordinate their times away so one is in the Methow Valley with the boys. Peter goes two to three days a month to the Tiller Money headquarters in Seattle and works mostly virtually to help individuals and small businesses track spending.

**The Methow Valley drew** the Polsons because "it's a quiet, beautiful place to be active outdoors—hiking, backpacking, back-country and Nordic skiing.

Ideologically/politically, Shannon said the mix between liberal and conservative folks reminds her of her upbringing in Alaska.

"In a small community, we need to accommodate all ideas," she said. "Groups like the Methow Conservancy work to protect lands, taking into consideration both ranchers/agriculture and environmental concerns," she said.

Bishop Rehberg recently told her a church can talk of staying out of politics, but "politics happens when people live in community."

"When I was young, I thought the church should not be involved in politics, but the Gospel is clear that we are to care for the poor, the

outsiders and those who are less advantaged," she said. "We have neighbors all around us. We need to be involved as stewards of what we are given in creation, and to reach out to those in need. If that takes on a political tone, then it is part of living the Gospel."

**The chapel tithes its offerings** to Room One and bought winter coats for high school students. They hope to adopt a family to help with resume writing, job training and other needs. Individuals are involved with the food bank and school.

"Faith is important to me in difficult times and joyful times. I feel God's presence and guidance and seek to follow Jesus' example," Shannon said.

The Polsons wanted a local faith community to give their sons Sam, 7, and Jude, 4, a foundation to experience faith in a commu-

nity with worship and fellowship.

"We also work to live our faith, not just pray and talk about it at home," she said. "We call ourselves desert seekers. We want children and all people who are seeking to feel welcome."

**Shannon gives the message** about twice a month, and a priest does it once a month. Others give it once or twice a year.

At one point, Shannon began a master's of divinity degree part-time at Seattle University, but decided to pursue the MFA instead.

When asked about any plans or calling, she said, "I believe God uses all of us regardless of pedigrees. We are all leaders, called to be in fellowship. I'm open to how that call may evolve," she said.

For information, email [info@methowepiscopal.com](mailto:info@methowepiscopal.com), see [facebook.com/methowepiscopal](https://facebook.com/methowepiscopal) or visit [methowepiscopal.com](http://methowepiscopal.com).



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Singer-songwriter Joe Jencks leads the vets in a song they wrote together during the retreat.

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## We can find our niche for action when we know what others are doing

When we feel overwhelmed, we need to be aware that many people are creating solutions, healing and reconciliation.

Sometimes our use of media contributes to our feeling hopeless, saturated with too many news stories, too many connections on Facebook, too many emails, too many events competing for our time and too many cell phone calls.

We can make decisions about our use of smart phones, which frequently are the avenue through which “too much” reaches us, because they are at our side all the time. We can choose when and how to use them.

It was reassuring to learn some new ideas that deal with concerns about reducing hate.

At the Institute for Hate Studies “Engaging Communities for Justice” Conference at

Gonzaga in October, there were three ideas.

- In February, Irfran Chaudhry, a criminology and sociology instructor at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, realized there was need to collect and tract hate-related incidents. Most go undocumented because they do not qualify as a hate crime for police to investigate.

He started the #StopHateAB website to create a space to record hate incidents to document them and address victims’ needs. Data collected helps track if the hate, prejudice or bias is based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, color religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or other factors.

Victims and witnesses can fill out a form on the website that tracks where the inci-

dent happened, if it was it a threat, hateful material or slur, and then a description. They have built in means to validate the information.

Tracking can help with intervention, funding, awareness, partnerships and action, such as removing graffiti.

- Carolyn Cunningham of Gonzaga’s Communication Studies has been doing research on how video games might shift perspectives about human rights, poverty, migrants and other issues. As an alternative to graphic, violent, hype-sexualized, competitive games, some games at the “Games for Change” website help players look for solutions to poverty or war, help promote active citizenship, stir awareness of social issues and lead people to engage

in activism for social change.

- Jerri Shepard, who has worked in human services, as a school psychologist, and teaching counseling and leadership at Gonzaga in British Columbia and Canada, shared about connecting women through gathering to share food. A Spokane group meets monthly to share food from their cultures and share about their lives, creating a climate for dialogue.

In this issue, we offer other ways to overcome the noise that produces fear and hate in stories of canoe journeys, job training, ecumenical dialogue, justice action, worship communities and educational events.

May we faithfully find our niche for engaging in action that makes a difference.

**Mary Stamp - Editor**

## Seasonal wisdom suggests letting anger go makes space for what we value

Seasonal wisdom seems to suggest that autumn is a time to be reminded of, maybe even to practice, the art of “letting go,” but to do so in a blaze of glory! Some years that just seems like a recurring theme, but this year feels different to me.

I think of “letting go” as appropriate in terms of spiritual growth, of simplifying my life—you know, getting rid of the skirt or sweater I just love but haven’t worn for two years, of using my feet or the bus instead of my car whenever I can, of making more space in my life to think, pray, be, just be!

I also think of “letting go” as a part of the process of grieving, of holding and remembering at the same time as living in today, ready to take the next step in the belief that life awaits.

This year, I see “letting go” with different eyes.

I see so much that we seem to be letting go in our country, traditions and values that we have held as characteristic of being Americans.

I don’t want to let go of welcoming strangers, knowing that their stories will make my story richer and deeper.

I don’t want to let go of respect for the opinions of others, honestly and respectfully offered and respectfully received, not contingent on agreement, not misjudging or maligning motives.

I don’t want to trade the common good for wealth, job security or fear.

I see these values being challenged. It would be easy for me to say that I am not making those decisions, someone else is, but our country is like other communities in that the work of some becomes the responsibility of all, so we cannot disassociate

from what is happening.

We cannot not be “we.”

So I have to look for and appreciate the blaze of glory that autumn suggests.

I have to give my being to making the colors of our values as bright as anyone would dare to hope.

I have to be the welcome, the listener, the worker for the common good.

I have to find the stories of others doing that, too, like the first responders who risk their lives to save all, persons open to real conversations about important issues, people in positions of power who use their influence on behalf of all, particularly the most vulnerable among us. There!

That is the blaze of glory toward life, not death, like the lovely leaves falling to the ground. Even they are hope for the rich soil of spring!

I am one of those who tends to say each year that the autumn colors are more beautiful than ever before.

I am making a commitment to make this season of “letting go” the most beautiful colors ever in my life by making space to befriend strangers, by taking the time to make all those phone calls that inform our senators and representatives, and to introduce meaningful conversations more often.

That will help me to let go of some unproductive frustration, even anger, in times when it looks as though we are headed into winter bleakness with no sign of spring.

To persist, we need to remember in the blaze of glory as trees let go of their leaves, that the springtime blooming will follow the bleak midwinter.

**Mary Ann Farley, SNJM  
Fig Tree Board**

### Conference Excerpts

## Sounding Board

### Letter to Editor

**Speaking on** “With Liberty and Justice for All,” at the Friday banquet for the Gonzaga University Institute of Hate Studies International Conference on “Engaging Communities for Justice” Oct. 19 to 21, **jazz singer, businesswoman and state legislator Cherie Buckner-Webb** helped



**Cherie Buckner-Webb**

folks reclaim those words in the Pledge of Allegiance and connected them with Emma Lazarus’ 1883 sonnet, “New Colossus” in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, which the Gonzaga Women’s Chorus sang.

She is the fifth generation of a seven-generation African-American family in Boise. Cherie is also Idaho’s first African-American woman and first African-American to serve as a state legislator. She was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 2010 and the Idaho Senate in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Her passion is to challenge injustice.

Cherie worked 20 years at Boise Cascade Corp, and six at Hewlett-Packard Corp, traveling as HP’s culture and diversity global program manager.

She said HP found treating people with dignity and respect and paying them equally was a good business practice.

“I say I live in Boise, Idaho, and I don’t know who’s more alarmed—black folks or white folks,” said the senator. “It’s my goal to change that.”

Her great grandfather founded and built St. Paul Baptist Church, which now houses the Idaho Black History Museum.

Cherie believes in possibilities. She told of her growth into activism.

During dinner in her family, no one was allowed to leave the table. One evening,

her family was sitting at the dinner table at a home where they had lived about a year.

Suddenly her mother stood up, thinking she was seeing a neighbor’s house on fire. Her father got up and saw the neighbor’s window was reflecting a cross burning in their front yard.

“D@&!,” her mother said, “We have been here a year. They are late!”

Her mother had her father wrap the cross in burlap bags and put it on the front porch so people would see it and know that “we would remain where we are,” Cherie said.

Her mother was an early activist who broke down barriers for civil rights.

Cherie said her mother’s credo was, “Disturb the peace! See where there is inequity and disturb the peace.”

She quoted Thurgood Marshall who said, “To protest against injustice is the foundation of all our American democracy.”

Inspired by her parents and other role models, she knew she was to be an activist, to march and to speak out.

She offered some advice:

- Today, I call for civility. We should not tolerate dehumanization. It’s used in every genocide.

- Know that a simple act of caring has a ripple effect.

- We must stop either-or thinking about race and gender, and recognize we are on a continuum.

- We need to be champions for compassion, ambassadors for humanity and warriors for justice.

- What we do sets the foundation for the fight for liberty and justice.

Cherie’s rules of engagement are:

- 1) Stand up and commit to act.

- 2) Show up.

- 3) Speak up, find a voice and talk to people.

- 4) Shut up and know when to be still and listen.

- 5) Make up and demonstrate compassion.

- 6) Re-up and seek counsel.

- 7) Look up to find the Power greater than yourself and stay connected.

- Hold the courage of your conviction to do the right thing for the right reason at the right time.

- When we disagree, work for reconciliation.

At the close, the chorus sang Emma Lazarus’ poem about the Statue of Liberty as the “mighty woman with a torch, “the Mother of Exiles” who cries, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

**It’s hard to deny** there is a surge in hate in the world and a surge in populisms that target and denigrate a perceived out-group to solidify the group’s identity and immunize it from the perceived dangers of social change.

With the increase in immigrants, there are more nativist expressions and more anti-Muslim tropes as a result of propaganda by Hindi nationalists in India, white nationalists in the U.S. and Europe, and propagandists affiliated with ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

While mainstream Muslims reject violent political extremism as un-Islamic, it has little effect on the anti-Muslim sentiment, which is the product of propaganda.

ISIS is about psychological warfare as much as it is at war. Its goal is to provoke a radical, reactionary response.

Terrorism functions to instill fear and to prey on our better nature.

Media exaggerate and over estimate the likelihood of rare events. Vivid images of death shown by media create an impulse to protective action.

We have turned from valuing globalism and integrating immigrants to looking at our own vulnerability.

Hate studies shows that an “in group” tries to secure its position by projecting on an “out-group.”

Nativist rhetoric about the purity of a nation, race, culture or religion is the intended

outcome of terrorism.

It is irrational, deeply held, non-dialogical and immune to counter examples, so it is hard to deconstruct by social psychology, Islamic studies or engaging with mainstream Muslims.

**John Sheveland - Gonzaga University  
Workshop Excerpts: “Religious Hate  
and Religious Liberty” at the  
Engaging Communities  
for Justice Conference**

**The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** is taking steps to collect social media information from immigrants, including naturalized U.S. citizens? The digital surveillance could spread even further—to you, your family, friends, co-workers and church members connected to immigrants on social media?

On Sept. 18, 2017, the DHS quietly published a Notice of Modified Privacy Act of System of Records in the Federal Register.

The current DHS system of records being modified is titled: “Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection-001 Alien File, Index, and National Tracking System of Records.” Docket Number is DHS-2017-0038.

The focus will be immigrants, including those who have become naturalized citizens.

This proposed modification would update “record source categories to include publicly available information obtained from the Internet (especially social media and other files), public records, commercial data providers” and more.

This is much more than border protection against possible terrorists.

This is a massive invasion of privacy for U.S. citizens. Ask: What is the REAL reason for this action?

**Jo Ann Showalter, SP  
Provincial Councillor  
Sisters of Providence,  
Mother Joseph Province**

# Calendar of Events

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| <p><b>Nov 2</b> • <b>Eastern Washington Legislative Conference</b> Planning, Catholic Charities, 12 E. 5th Ave., 3:30 p.m., 535-1813</p> <p>• <b>“Passing Over: Migration, Theology and the Eucharist, Flannery Lecture</b> with Fr. Daniel Groody, professor of theology and global affairs at the University of Notre Dame, Hemmingson Center, 6 p.m., 313-6782</p> <p><b>Nov 2, 16</b> • <b>Peace and Justice Action Committee</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nov 2-17</b> • <b>“Water, Wind and Fire Tour,”</b> in 12 Inland Northwest communities, steven.ghan@gmail.com - see below</p> <p><b>Nov 3-4</b> • <b>Jubilee International Marketplace</b>, First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, spokanefpc.org</p> <p><b>Nov 4</b> • <b>Smart Justice Spokane</b> Community Voting Party and Potluck, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 1 to 3 p.m., pjals.org</p> <p>• <b>Empty Bowls Event</b>, Benefit for West Central Episcopal Mission, conversation with Kent Hoffman, co-author of <i>Raising a Secure Child</i>, and the Rev. Canon Karen Schomburg, St. John’s Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave., 6 p.m., 994-8938</p> <p>• <b>Catholic Charities’ Leaf Raking Blitz</b>, for senior and disabled neighbors, 8:30 a.m., 459-6172</p> <p><b>Nov 6-16</b> • <b>Retreat on Buddhism: One Teacher, Many Traditions</b>, a book Ven. Thubten Chodron has written with the Dalai Lama, Sravasti Abbey, Newport, 447-5549, office.sravasti@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Nov 7-10</b> • <b>American Indian Culture Week</b></p> <p><b>Nov 7</b> • <b>Dan Nanamkin, Colville</b>, “Sacred Circle,” American Indian Community Center, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway, 6 to 7:15 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nov 7, 21</b> • <b>Showing Up for Racial Justice</b>, 35 W. Main, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nov 8</b> • <b>Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:50 p.m.</p> <p>• <b>“Discussion on American Indian Culture,”</b> Francis Cullooyah, Kalispel, American Indian Community Center, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway, 6 to 7:15 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nov 9</b> • <b>“Drums of Water,”</b> 1989 Documentary, Yup’ik Eskimo, American Indian Community Center, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., 535-0886, aiccinc.org</p> | <p><b>Nov 10</b> • <b>Crafts Fair</b>, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Indian Community Center, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway</p> <p><b>Nov 11</b> • <b>Why Race Matters Workshop</b>, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., pjals.org</p> <p><b>Nov 11-12</b> • <b>Spokane Fall Folk Festival</b>, Celebration of Cultural Diversity, Spokane Community College, 1810 N. Greene, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 448-0659, spokanefolkfestival.org</p> <p><b>Nov 12</b> • <b>Knox Presbyterian Church</b>, Centennial Celebration of Knox Presbyterian Building, 806 W. Knox, 10:30 a.m., rsvp for meal 328-7540</p> <p><b>Nov 15</b> • <b>First Aid Drive and Open House</b>, Women’s Hearth, 920 W. 2nd Ave., 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., 328-6702</p> <p><b>Nov 16</b> • <b>Spokane Interfaith Council’s Meet the Neighbors</b> in the Jewish Community, Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave. 6:30 to 8 p.m., spokaneifc@gmail.com, www.spokaneifc.org</p> <p><b>Nov 17</b> • <b>International Festival 2017</b>, Hixson Union Building, Whitworth University, 5 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m., entertainment, 777-3796</p> <p>• <b>Grand Opening and Blessing</b> of Donna Hanson Haven, 24 W. 2nd, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Nov 17-18</b> • <b>Books not Bombs Book Sale</b>, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, 35 W. Main Suite 120M, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., pjals.org</p> <p><b>Nov 19</b> • <b>Faith Action Network Annual Dinner</b>, Renton Pavilion, 233 Burnett Ave. S., Renton, 4:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org</p> <p><b>Nov 22</b> • <b>Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870</p> <p><b>Nov 24-26</b> • <b>Festival of Fair Trade</b>, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 499-3320, info@ganeshhimaltrading.com</p> <p><b>Nov 29</b> • <b>Fig Tree mailing and distribution</b>, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</p> <p><b>Dec 2</b> • <b>Public Listening: Veterans’ Stories</b>, Songs, Poetry and Paintings, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr., 7 p.m., warriorshearttoart.org</p> <p><b>Dec 3</b> • <b>Veteran Art Display</b>: PTSD Transformed into Art, Unitarian Church, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Dec 7</b> • <b>Fig Tree Benefit/Development Planning and Board</b>, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., planning at noon, board at 1 p.m., 535-1813, mary@thefigtree.org</p> |
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## ‘Water, Wind and Fire Tour’ visits 11 communities

In November, the Citizens’ Climate Lobby and the Audubon Society plan 12 presentations in the “Water, Wind and Fire Tour,” a community discussion to strengthen the region’s economy and sustain its farms, forests and fish amid a changing climate.

Local groups are hosting 90-minute presentations to stimulate discussions on climate science, human and economic consequences of global warming, mitigation alternatives and benefits of a clean energy economy.

Steve Ghan, climate scientist from Richland, will speak at each event on “Saving our Farms, Forests & Fish While Strengthening the Economy.”

**The dates and locations are:**

- At noon, Thursday, Nov. 2, at Eagle Seelatssee Auditorium, 281-417 Fort Rd., in Toppenish;
- At 6:30 p.m., also Nov. 2, at Yakima Area Arboretum, 1701 Arboretum Dr.;
- At 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3, at Benton PUD Auditorium, 2721 W. 10th Ave., in Kennewick;
- At 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5, at Ellensburg Public Library;
- At 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 6, at Grove Recital Hall, Wenatchee Valley College, 1300 5th St., in Wenatchee;
- At 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the 12 Tribes Casino, 28968 US 97 in Omak;
- At 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Merc Playhouse, 101 S. Glover St., in Twisp;
- At 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Moses Lake Public Library, 418 E. 5th Ave.;
- At 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 13, at Foundry Vinyards, 1111 Abadie St., in Walla Walla;
- At noon, Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Palouse Community Center, 230 E. Main St., Palouse;
- At 6 p.m., that day at the Whitman County Library, 102 S. Main St., in Colfax;
- At 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 1242 Highland Ave., in Clarkston;
- At 4 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 16, at Washington State University, 600 N. Riverpoint Blvd, Room 20, in Spokane, Sara Cate, a physician working with underserved populations in Yakima, will speak on “Health and Climate,” and at 7 p.m., Steve will speak there.
- At 5:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17, at Sandpoint Community Hall, 204 S. 1st Ave., in Sandpoint.

For information, call 509-308-9023 or email steven.ghan@gmail.com.

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# Churches learn about agencies serving homeless people downtown

To learn how to help downtown neighbors experiencing homelessness, Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ's education and outreach committees invited people who serve them to speak.

"We knew we needed to do better," said Westminster's pastor Andrea (Andy) CastroLang.

They held a panel discussion in October and invited downtown congregations. One member brought 30 nursing/medical students from the Riverpoint campus.

"We care, but often just give money and hope someone else will do something," Andy said. "What can we do? Often we feel we can do nothing, because homelessness seems too big for us. Just praying is not enough."

Andy learned to refer to people as "currently homeless," because most homelessness is temporary, not a lifestyle or choice. It's usually the result of a catastrophe. Few want to stay homeless.

She was heartened to learn of City of Spokane efforts to change policies that made it hard for homeless people to find housing.

"The panel shared real stories of real people and offered real solutions," Andy said. "Those who attended learned, and were empowered to be helpful and hopeful so they can make a difference."

As a congregation open and affirming of the LGBTQ community, members learned agencies "welcome everyone," whatever their gender identity. Most now have private gender-neutral restrooms and showers at their shelters.

The panelists were Jon Carollo, development director for Volunteers of America (VOA) Vet Housing and Hope House; Lynn Smestad at VOA's Crosswalk; Susan Tyler Babkirk program director of The Hearth; Sam Dompier, director of House of Charity, and Bob Peeler of Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP).

"Poverty and homelessness can happen to anybody who has no functional address, a 24-year-old



Lynn Smestad, Susan Tyler Babkirk, Sam Dompier, Jon Carollo and Bob Peeler suggest ways to help homeless people.

or 90-year-old," said Jon.

Panelists told of their services.

**Hope House has 36 shelter beds** each night for women, who do not have to be sober, said Lynn. In a year, they serve about 100 unduplicated women but have to turn away more than 300.

Founded in 1997 as the Downtown Women's Shelter, it has been run by VOA since 2001. VOA says there are 1,800 homeless single women in Spokane, many with mental health and chemical dependency issues.

Hope House also has 25 apartments for low-income women who are ready to leave the streets for safe, affordable apartments, and are committed to work on causes of their homelessness.

**House of Charity, a shelter of Catholic Charities at 32 W. Pacific, welcomes single people.**

With city funding, it is now open 24 hours a day seven days a week, said Sam, but more housing and shelter beds are needed.

Once a men's shelter, it shelters both men and women. Its capacity is 215 a night. In the six months as a 24/7 shelter, it has served 2,200 men and more than 500 women.

Case management addresses mental health and substance abuse, so the shelter can be a pipeline to housing.

It serves breakfast and lunch every day and dinners two days a week. It has showers, restrooms and a laundry. About 1,200 peo-

ple use it as their mailing address to receive documents they need.

There are a few beds for people just released from a hospital.

**The Hearth is Transitions'** downtown day-time women's drop-in center at 920 W. Second.

"We are a community center where women come for case management, community and peer support," said Susan. "It's a low-key place to connect through activities, groups and classes, or form community as they crochet or knit. Many of the 1,400 women we serve each year have experienced trauma and find it hard to trust."

When they are ready, women ask for help to fill out forms for housing or services they need.

The Hearth has showers; a respite room with three cots for women out of the hospital; a hygiene closet with pads, deodorant and soap; a food bank on Thursdays, and emergency clothes and underwear.

**Crosswalk helps youth ages seven to 17** with case management, a clothing bank, a 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. drop-in center and a 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. shelter with showers. Its GED program educates some.

Staff urge teens to go to school. "We offer kids hope," Lynn said. "We are a place of infinite

chances with safety guidelines."

Its program includes expecting youth to do chores—clean windows, wipe tables, plan meals, shop, cook and do dishes.

Some teens are homeless because they came out to their families, or because adoptions or foster care did not work, she said.

Staff help teens build resumes.

**SNAP is the lead entry agency** for homeless singles, assessing individuals experiencing homelessness and connecting them with housing resources. It provides transitional housing and rapid re-housing for young adults—18 to 24—and individuals without dependent children.

Bob does homeless outreach and talks with people on the streets. He is aware it takes time to earn trust and respects their resourcefulness and survival skills.

He said safety, cleanliness and health are issues at camps under the freeway. When he comes on Mondays, he often learns who was beaten up over the weekend.

Other SNAP services include low-income households energy assistance, home weatherization, home ownership programs, small business loans and development, and 377 affordable housing units.

**VOA and Catholic Charities** have each built 50 housing first units downtown. More are planned. VOA rents apartments for homeless people as the official tenant, so it is responsible for damage, said Jon. Then VOA writes recommendations for them.

He said landlords who want to be part of solutions can contact SNAP, Transitions or VOA.

Jon, who has worked with VOA's veterans' housing, said, "Vets may not want to be in a program with a caseworker telling them how or where to live. Many do better in rapid rehousing."

**Jon told of health care options.**

- Providence has a free, volunteer-run clinic two days a week at House of Charity.

- The Hearth brings Gonzaga/WSU health care students to do foot care while giving pedicures.

**Asked about people** with signs on street corners, Bob said, "Some are not homeless. In Spokane, if people ask for help, food, shelter and resources, they are available."

"We are concerned that panhandlers may hurt the perception of homeless people," Sam said.

**The service providers** suggested some ways to help.

- Susan invited people to share resources—a bar of soap, deodorant, food or funds to pay for case managers and housing projects.

- Hope House needs coats, hats and boots.

- With private and government funding down, financial gifts help.

- People can be "homeless champions," inviting friends to cook and eat meals with youth at Crosswalk, join Mardi Gras with the Hearth and VOA, and tour shelters.

- Sam urged people to advocate for policies locally to nationally.

**Aware they cannot help** everyone, they collaborate, which includes referring people to colleague agencies that can help.

"The social service community in Spokane knows and likes each other," Susan said, "We cooperate because we want to make the world a better place."

"If we compete," Sam said, "the losers are the people we serve."

About 30 meet with the Spokane Homeless Coalition at 9 a.m., first Thursdays at 733 W. Garland to discuss programs, clients, policies and resources.

For information, call 624-1366, 624-2378 for VOA, 624-7821 for House of Charity, 455-4299 the Hearth, or 456-7111 for SNAP.

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