Shoppers intersect with world

By Mary Stamp

Customers stepping into the Kizuri fair trade shop in the Community Building at 35 W. Main step out of downtown Spokane and into the world of fair trade products from Nigeria to Nepal, Pakistan to Peru, Guatemala to Ghana.

Colorful recycled sari throws hanging over a bar were once worn by women in India. A terracotta good luck pig from Pomaire, Chile, is on one shelf. A tablecloth from West Pakistan is on another. There are Phoenician glass candlesticks, a recycled metal Mama statue from Kenya with long arms for hanging jewelry and a handcarved Adinkra king’s stool from Ghana. African drums and other musical instruments surround a post.

There are candles, trivets, soap, cards, books, CDs, jewelry, baskets, knickknacks, wall hangings, bowls, cups, clothing and nearly 2,000 items from more than 40 countries.

Tags on the items that tell stories about the lives of artisans and their traditional crafts often start conversations, eliciting customers’ experiences in other countries.

Kizuri, which has been there for 11 years, now has a new owner. It changed hands on May 1.

Jillian Joseph is the new owner of Kizuri fair trade shop in Community Building.

Hutton Settlement helps to move children from surviving to thriving

Campus director David Millichen has been with Hutton Settlement 22 of its 100 years. Carol Wendle, whose board has been on its board for 39 of the 100 years, has served as an honorary member for 39 of the 100 years.

David grew up five miles from the settlement in Central Valley and served in the army three years after graduating from high school. He worked with Carol to start forms, “he said.

After completing a master’s in organizational leadership at Gonzaga University in 2003, David became director of education, supporting the children’s studies in West Valley schools and their preparation for college and careers.

He began Hutton’s resiliency program in 2007, when he became campus director.

To expand the depth of care, he implemented attachment-based parenting under the Circle of Security International, developed by Kent Hoffman, Glen Cooper and Bert Powell, who shared a clinical practice in Spokane in the 1980s.

They began the Circle of Security in 1998, applying attachment theory to a Early Head Start home visiting program.

Hutton trained staff and adjusted policies and practices to focus less on compliance and more on connection.

“Most residential care programs, focus on helping children get along, get to school and get chores

Fig Tree launches ‘Branching Out’ campaign Oct. 24

For the first time, The Fig Tree is able to offer donors a chance to double their gifts during its “Branching Out: Beyond 35 Years” campaign for 35 days, running from Oct. 24 to Nov. 27.

As The Fig Tree goes from its 35th year into the future, an anonymous donor has given $17,000 as a matching gift to help The Fig Tree raise $35,000 as a boost beyond regular giving of sponsors and benefit donors.

“Our goal is to build our capacity to ‘branch out’ into a thriving future,” said Mary Stamp, editor.

“We seek to launch the next chapter for The Fig Tree, continuing our monthly newspaper, annual resource directory and educational events, but branching out to expand our staff, financial and online resources,” she said.

The Fig Tree also seeks to expand its support by reaching a wider audience with its appeal through using online fundraising tools like Facebook, text giving and emails, along with fliers and personal contacts.

With increased demand for more stories, more directories to reach more people, The Fig Tree will launch a 35-day campaign starting Oct. 24.

For more information, visit www.thefigtree.org.
Millions join in Climate Strike around world
From New York City to Hamburg, from Oslo to Melbourne, from Nairobi to Tokyo, millions of young people peacefully protested the climate change on Sept. 20, and the World Council of Churches (WCC) walked alongside them. During the “Season of Creation,” the WCC and the Lutheran World Federation joined in prayerful solidarity and determined actions to address the climate change emergency.

On the streets of New York, some 60,000 young people called government officials, churches and adults to begin a transformation in their lives.

Refraims of “We are marching for planet earth” rang out to the tune of the South African freedom song “Siyahamba.”

For representatives from the WCC, the Lutheran World Federation, ACT Alliance and other faith-based groups, the march was an affirmation of ongoing work toward climate justice.

WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit said, “Climate action is urgent and we are encouraged to see people around the world standing together and taking part in this global action.”

FAN sets Pullman, Yakima cluster gatherings
Fall is the season for the Faith Action Network’s Cluster Gatherings and Candidate Forums. The forums are designed to provide local, community relationships as local advocates collaborate on issues.

LCSNW Luncheon addresses trafficking
Lutheran Ministry Resources invites rural and urban, large and small congregations on the ecumenical cluster meeting will in circle to encourage conversation.

Rural Ministry Resources partners and festival organizers donate items to support the festival. Donations can be made by mail or through the Fig Tree’s donate page.

“Online, people can create Facebook fundraisers for the Fig Tree ‘Branching Out’ campaign. Congregations may request ‘mission moments’ speakers to share The Fig Tree story. They may invite special offerings or budget support.”

We seek more volunteers to help us make this campaign a success, to reach new people and interests. See in and help build coming regular readers of The Fig Tree in print or online,” said Mary. “Activities and need volunteers to (1) boost Facebook donation posts, (2) share articles they like, (3) create promotional messages, (4) e-mail friends, and (5) ask their congregations to promote the campaign,” she said.

FAN is also offering Candidate Forums in Seattle, Snohomish County and King County. For information, call 206-625-9790 or visit fanwa.org.

For more information, contact 343-5022 or email emckee@lcsnw.org.

Fall Festival will be Nov. 9 and 10
The 24th Annual Spokane Folklore Society Fall Folk Festival will feature eight stages with performances of traditional and ethnic dance, music, workshops, special entertainment, crafts for children, plus music and crafts Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 9 and 10. In previous years, about 5,000 people have attended the annual festival at the Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene.

Falls for the Faith Action Network’s Cluster Gatherings and Candidate Forums. The forums are designed to provide local, community relationships as local advocates collaborate on issues.

Fall is for the Faith Action Network’s Cluster Gatherings and Candidate Forums. The forums are designed to provide local, community relationships as local advocates collaborate on issues.

“Thinking Back and Looking Forward” is the theme for a workshop, past, said co-organizers Mary Sullivan and Marcus McKee of LCSNW.

For information, call 981-9562 or 284-6107, or email knmkdl@juno.com.
Many books, including *Grant Us Peace*.

127 E. 12th Ave. Soloists include Amy Porter (soprano) and Max Allmen.

3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane, Wash.

River, with authors Jack Nisbet, Ben Goldfarb and Ellen Welcker.

"Spoken River," an evening of readings celebrating the Spokane

For information, call 313-3819 or email cunninghamc@gonzaga.edu.

Buddhist nun speaks on ‘Connecting with Integrity’

American Buddhist nun Venerable Thubten Palmo will tell us how to connect in kind, meaningful, authentic ways in “Connecting with Integrity,” at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Edmiston Student Union Building at North Idaho College in Coeur d’Alene.

She speaks regularly at NC, offering insight into contemporary issues from her perspective as a student of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and is known for her practical and humorous discussions on wisdom and compassion.

NWM hosts media salon on ‘Civil Discourse’

For Media Literacy Week Oct. 21 to 25, the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NWM) is hosting a series of media salons to discuss “Civil Discourse 2.0: Where is the Middle?” It will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Spokane

FAX interfaith community center at 5511 S. Freya.

Leading up to the election Nov. 3, NWM invites participants to explore democratic discourse in an era of political parity.

“We can’t have democracy without civil discourse,” commented Carolyn Cunningham, associate professor of communication and leadership studies at Gonzaga.

She is coordinating arrangements for the salon on behalf of the NWM Board.

For information, call 208-660-5477 or visit sravastiabbey.org.

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Highland Park

United Methodist Church

611 S. Garfield

For information call 535-2687

Local speakers will share ways their programs address the challenges of homelessness at a World Homeless Day Summit from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 322 N. Spokane St., Spokane, Wash.

Union Gospel Mission, Family Promise and Adult and Teen Challenge are sponsoring the event to explore necessities of homeless and solutions.

Speakers are Tyson West, Mark Jefferson Baird, Ed and Gail Stevenson, Joe Ader, John Reisfeld and Phil Altemeyer.

Tyson, a native of eastern Washington, experienced chronic homelessness because of drug addiction and found help at Adult & Teen Challenge in Spokane, where he now is the executive director.

Mark, who specializes in clinical psychology, has more than 13 years of experience in treating trauma.
Continued from page 1

A French-speaking West African consultant hired for the program was a woman named Jillian. She was an intern with RADHDO (Rencontre Africaine des Droits de l’Homme), an international human rights organization working in Dakar, Senegal, with migrants from Central and West Africa.

After graduating, this consultant needed to build international skills, Jillian worked with an American tourism company for three years in Paris.

“It felt like a bit of a detour. I learned a lot, but I didn’t feel I was having the type of impact on the world I wanted. I wanted to contribute to intercultural experiences, so I moved to Nairobi rather than connecting western cultures to western cultures,” she said.

Nevertheless, Paris is not the only city, the home for African diaspora and people from all over the world.

Jillian moved to New York City to work in recruitment and human resources with One Acre Fund, an international microfinance NGO working in East Africa. She helped it grow from 180,000 farmers to 800,000 four years later in 2018. That job involved travel to East Africa one to three times a year, and worked with NGOs in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

“We provided finances for people, and saw how agriculture is self-sufficient. We gave microfinance loans in the form of seeds and fertilizer inputs. Our seeds were better, and the farmers previously had access to. We trained them on organic methods, and helped them save time and money for fertilizing,” she said.

“We had flexible repayments at the end of the season, not in planting season when they are cash poor. They couldn’t go to the big city to pick up seeds and fertilizer, so One Acre Fund brought the materials within five kilometers of their homes,” Jillian said.

In Kenya, she said, they increased their yields 50 to 100 percent, so they earned enough to feed their families for a year, pay school fees, buy clothing and replace thatched roofs with tin, improving their homes and quality of life.

“We connect people in Spokane with basket weavers in Africa,” she said.

Kizuri focuses on stories so people value the lives and contributions of vendors. Customers see the difference it makes for artisans to have economic opportunities, so they can educate and care for their families, and have the dignity of running their own business and of creating items that are meaningful to their culture.

“It’s not that a customer will save a life by buying a bracelet, but that they will realize they have a connection to the person who made it,” Jillian said.

When Jillian’s daughter, Kendra, was expecting her first baby in Seattle, Jillian asked Jillian if she would be interested in taking over Kizuri. Jillian initially said no, but thought for two days and called her back to say, “Let’s talk.”

“I was always interested in fair trade and loved Kizuri,” she said.

Four months later, she moved from New York City to Spokane. Since then, Kendra has taken time to introduce Jillian to customers, vendors and the community.

“Kim created an amazing community of people. I’m committed to carrying it on and building on its foundation,” she said. “That foundation includes bringing in new merchandise every two months as Kim did. People come that often to see what’s new.

“We come, not just to buy but also to experience the warmth of the shop,” she said. “Here they know who makes the clothing and the conditions under which it is made. That’s not possible in most clothing stores.

“We also discover unexpected items—like a children’s book with a story they never knew before,” Jillian said. “It’s important to have a range of prices, so someone might walk in and spend less than $5 or spend $500 to buy something meaningful.”

Jillian hopes to expand the customer base, aware that people today are more conscious consumers and care where things are from. They want to pay to support a woman tailor, rather than a corporation that abuses textile workers in Bangladesh.

In the few months she has owned the shop, Jillian is optimistic about Kizuri, because the more she talks to people about fair trade, where things are from and the importance of things being made ethically, the more success she builds.

Owned this shop in Kigali in 2013.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, Jillian will hold an anniversary party to celebrate Kizuri’s 11 years and the change in ownership. She will be at the Jubilee Sale at First Presbyterian Nov. 8 to 9 and will sponsor the Festival of Fair Trade Thanksgiving Weekend at the Community Building.

Each week the shop is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays with extended hours around the holidays. For information, call 464-7677 or visit shopkizuri.com.

‘Purchase choices have a profound impact on people and the planet’

Continued from page 1

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February 2019 | 8:30am
330 E. Boone
(Basement of St. Aloysius Church)
Contact Cyndie Lapke for more information
(509) 459-6172
cyndie.lapke@cc easternwa.org
Hutton Settlement is Spokane's largest family, sees goodness in children

Continued from page 1 done," David said. “The shift was to connect at the core with each child and address the wounded-ness from which each comes.” It was a shift for the children. The staff also needed to understand their triggers and defen-

siveness.

“In 2014, we dove into the model, seeing that every child at the core is shining goodness and that we need to treat them as such to understand their survival behaviors of lying, stealing, bed-wetting, food hoarding and emo-
tional outbursts,” David said.

“We moved from managing behaviors to a system that was transformative, understanding that every child here experiences three things: 1) the world is threat-
ening, hostile and unkindly, 2) I’m bad and 3) I’m alone, he said.

“That’s tragic for anyone.”

Attachment-based care honors the goodness of the children and their parents, he said. It recognizes that transformation comes from focusing on healing over behavior.

“Over the years, children shift to see that 1) the world has good-
ness, 2) they are good and 3) they belong somewhere as part of Spokane’s largest family, Hutton Settlement,” he said.

Jessica Laughery, director of communications, said they work with parents to “teach them into the circle of compassion around their children. Regardless of the situation, children want a relation-
ship with their biological families. We believe in developing perma-
nence, so we partner with families to raise their children.”

Many grandparents are raising children because parents are in jail, so grandparents continue to visit their grandchildren.

The Hutton family is more than the children living there. Children come and go at 18, but can receive care through their 28s and older. Many of the hundreds of alumni come back with their children.

“We focus on lifespan care. If a 50-year-old former resident expe-
riences depression, we care. This is his or her home,” David said.

Thirty-two boys and girls live on campus in four gender-based cottages. Four couples are house parents. They have three days off every eight days. There are also two social workers and a therapist on site.

Many children have siblings there too, in contrast to foster care, which may separate siblings, David said.

When families or teachers call, an intake case worker does an interview to decide if Hutton is appropriate. Half the children are placed by the state and have been referred by a state case worker. Half are private placements, re-
fected by school teachers, church leaders, mental health providers or families.

Hutton receives children needing long-term care—from one year through high school. Most are teens. Many are there eight to 11 years.

The 21 board members and the Millwood community are also part of the Hutton family.

Carol, who was born in Seattle, moved to Spokane when she was nine to live with her elderly grandparents after her father died of a stroke. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1964 in sociology and guidance. She earned a teaching certificate at Eastern Washington University and taught in Seattle, moving back to Spokane to marry. She taught at Franklin Elementary School until her two children were born.

One day in a class on Spokane, she toured Hutton. “I was overwhelmed by Hutton Settlement and its mission,” she said. “The tour guide picked up on my interest and enthusiasm. I was later invited to serve on the board.

The lifetime board members are all women, bringing different talents—homemakers, teachers, bankers and business leaders. Jessica said Hutton Settlement receives no government funding. It was endowed by a portfolio of commercial properties of the founder, Levi Hutton. That port-
folio has grown to more than 20 properties and continues to fund 90 percent of Hutton’s operations.

Levi, who grew up in Iowa, was orphaned at the age of six. He moved in with an aunt and uncle who had other children. Not treated well, he quit school in third grade to earn his keep by helping on the farm.

At 18, he moved West as a firefighter and locomotive engi-
neer with the Northern Pacific Railroad, assigned to Wardner Junction. When he worked in Walla Walla, Idaho, he met his wife, May Arkwright, who ran a board-
ing house and was an advocate for women and children.

They invested savings in the Hercules Silver Mine, working it on days off. On Friday, June 13, 1901, they struck it rich. As the mine continued to produce, they gave to charities. Eventually, they moved to Spokane to pursue real estate and philanthropy. They built and lived in the Hutton Building downtown and later in a home on the South Hill.

After May died in 1915 of Bright’s disease, Levi decided to build a home for disadvantaged children. He knew it was impor-
tant for children to have a home where they belong.

“He set the cornerstone for Hutton Settlement in June 1918. It opened in November 1919,” said Jessica.

To help celebrate the 100 years, Spokane Civic Theatre is present-
ing a play by Tim Rarick on Hut-
ton Settlement, “A Place to Call Home.” Performances are Fridays to Sundays, Oct. 25 to 27, and Nov. 1 to 3, at the theatre, 1020 N. Howard.

Carol’s son Chad is executive director, responsible for the ad-
ministration of Hutton Settlement and managing the commercial real estate that supports it.

On the board, Carol served on the Children’s Committee, the Cottage Committee and others, interacting with the children and communicating with schools.

Jessica grew up in Clarkson, where her parents did foster care. She came to Spokane to study public relations at Gonzaga, grad-
suating in 2014. She is now work-
ing on a master’s at Whitworth. The Millwood community also connects with Hutton.

Millwood Community Presby-
terian Church involves children in its youth group and has friendship families to build bonds with them.

Children come from different faith backgrounds, so Hutton staff and volunteers take them to the churches of their choice.

Millwood Presbyterian’s youth program channels youth with cu-
inary and gardening interest into addressing food insecurity in the neighborhood. Youth have helped prepare and serve a monthly meal for 60 at Millwood Community Center.

“It gives the children, who are receivers of services, a chance to be givers of services,” Jessica said.

Carol, who was active at First Presbyterian prior to a stroke, said faith has significantly impacted her volunteer endeavors.

Faith also motivates David, who attends West Central Episco-
pal Mission and is in spiritual for-
mation with the Franciscan Third Order of the Episcopal Church. With the order, he commits to live a life of simplicity, give to the poor, serve those on the margins and participate in spiritual direc-
tion. He will make lifetime vows in August 2021.

David’s wife Tamara, the lead house parent at Hutton, is a com-
partner of the Franciscan Third Order.

They live on the Hutton cam-
pus, but own a home in Millwood, where they are developing a Franciscan HERMITAGE with three one-room hermitages, a labyrinth and garden with native plants in his quarter-acre yard.

For information, call 828-2789, email jessicalaughery@huttonsettlement.org or visit huttonsettlement.org.

Photo of Levi Hutton is behind David Milliken and Carol Wendle.
Lisa Green, director of Catholic Charities' Childbirth and Parenting Assistance (CAPA)/PREPARES since 2016, is thankful to be part of the stories of transformation she encounters in efforts to offer stabilizing and advocacy services to expecting and parenting individuals and families with children under five.

Those services range from providing diapers and clothing to parenting classes and mentoring. “It humbles me to watch families with so little have so much hope. When I have a bad day and drive by a mother at a bus stop, I remember how blessed I am. Sharing in the parenting journeys of families brings me joy,” Lisa said.

Parents may stop by when their children are graduating from high school to let us know they are succeeding because of the help they received. “They are thankful for the opportunity to be what they hoped to be personally and to learn to be the parents they want to be,” she said. “I see parents come from abuse and neglect who complete the Circle of Security classes and do not want to yell at or hit their children. “It’s human to slip up, but I see parents persevere so they move out of the generational cycle of abuse, poverty and neglect,” she said. “We help parents move forward, stay positive and break cycles.”

Lisa, who earned a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in 1993 at Eastern Washington University, taught preschool before she started to volunteer with CAPA 23 years ago. She came on staff in 2001. In 2015, she earned a bachelor’s in interdisciplinary studies.

“CAPA supports families who have chosen life and have chosen to parent,” she said. “Women faced with a choice about parenting know there is a program that will care for and support them. We empower families to know there is support.”

Lisa listed CAPA/PREPARES’ services for families with children under five:

• The Circle of Security is a 10-week course for breaking the cycles of abuse and neglect by helping families identify unhealthy patterns and build attachment to create healthy children.
• The Fatherhood Project mentors fathers to build bonds with their children.
• Family Companions mentors parents to build bonds with their children, with mentors meeting with parents two hours a week for a year.
• Individual and family therapy programs serve pregnant women and parents.

In the process of families receiving diapers and clothing, staff help connect them with housing and other Catholic Charities programs like Rising Strong, St. Margaret’s Shelter, Food for All and supportive housing.

The Caring for Kids 2019 benefit from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10, at the Historic Davenport Hotel is a chance to talk about the connection of all Catholic Charities services and Morning Star Boys’ Ranch, Lisa said.

The event raises funds to support more than 1,850 children in the community: 37 through Rising Strong; 805 through Catholic Charities Housing; 268 through CAPA/PREPARES, 17 at St. Margaret’s Shelter, and 725 through Homeless Resources, plus those in Morning Star residential, foster care and at-home programs.

“There are so many negative things for parents to worry about,” she said. “CAPA/PREPARES and Morning Star Boys’ Ranch are two organizations that have served families collaboratively for 23 years, giving children a shot at being successful.

“We help with stressors of life in raising children,” Lisa said.

The CAPA/PREPARES program’s office is in the basement of St. Anne’s Child Care, which she said also helps enrich lives of families.

“Good child care is a way to care for families,” Lisa said.

Catholic Charities pulls together programs, collaborating and sharing resources.

CAPA can serve more than 4,500 families a year through diapers, clothing, classes and mentoring.

Catholic Charities serves more than 30,000 individuals in all its programs.

“Many families have urgent needs,” she said. “About 500 participate in classes we offer to improve their lives.”

There are weekly groups: Mondays for the Fatherhood Program, Secure Beginnings on Tuesdays, Music Together on Wednesdays and Prepared Moms on Thursdays.

Needs differ depending on where families are on their parenting journeys.

Catholic Charities grew out of the Catholic Social Betterment League which began in 1912. It reorganized as Catholic Charities in 1940. CAPA formed in 1985 to provide wraparound support services to low-income single pregnant women and low-income single parents with small children.

For information, call 455-4970 or email lisa.green@ccceasternwa.org.

Senior citizens and people with disabilities may qualify for discounts on their energy bill.

Avista is offering a rate discount program for electric and natural gas customers in Washington. To be eligible, customers must be senior citizens age 60+ or individuals living with a disability. The program is administered by SNAP for our customers residing in Spokane County.

To find out if you’re income-eligible and learn more about the program, please contact SNAP at (509) 319-3020, email ratesdiscount@snapwa.org, or visit www.snapwa.org.
Ranch supports boys as they grow from struggles to be responsible men

Morning Star Boys Ranch opened in 1957 as a foster care facility to care for boys who were experiencing trauma and struggles to grow up to become responsible men.

Now it also includes foster care, wraparound and case aide services, plus a community services office for outpatient counseling. Morning Star seeks to meet the mental, educational, emotional and physical needs of the boys, aged six to 12 years, who attend Spokane District #81 schools. The ranch teaches boys life skills, such as emotional and behavioral self-regulation, lessons to follow them throughout their lives.

In the residential care and treatment program at Murphy House, staff help boys set goals for behavioral improvement, and develop social skills and emotional control. The goal is for them either to be reunified with their parents/families or be placed in a foster home where they continue to have services.

Audrea, whose faith is to answer God’s call to love and serve those in need to build responsible adults, is working at the ranch in the capacity of executive director, which fit her goal of working with at-risk youth in a family setting. Audrea, who has been director of Morning Star Boys Ranch since January, now says she has 25 boys, 23 at work and two at home. This year, her husband is helping their eight- and 12-year-old sons adjust to the move by being a stay-at-home dad.

“Since accepting the position, she has been rebuilding the program. Last year, Morning Star was certified for 18 boys. This year it increased to 23 boys, and the ranch gained national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation in July. Morning Star Boys Ranch employs 90 staff for all its programs and administration. Currently there are four case managers to support the residents. Two of the 23 beds are reserved for youth who have graduated from the residential program. Those beds are respite beds to provide some breathing room for families and boys. The 64-acre ranch includes both rolling hills and swaths of forest where the boys can hike.

Audrea Marshall said program helps boys find purpose beyond their childhood traumas.

Andrea said she follows the philosophy includes several basic needs children require to be met. They include the need for a child to have one adult who believes in him/her, the need to experience joy every day, the need to live in the present and the need to believe he/she can make a difference. “I hear the boys’ horrific stories and want to turn them into their strengths, not stories they repeat forever,” she said. “God takes bad things and makes them better. They are not limited to who their parents are and what they have to work through. “We are constantly assessing our program and now envision a $10 million expansion of facilities,” she said.

Construction is currently underway to add eight more beds so the program can grow to serve 32 boys.

For more information, call 448-1202, email amarshall@msbranch.org or visit morningstarboysranch.org.

CALL TODAY: 509-928-4738
As Baha’i celebrate bicentenary, member shares about the faith and her journey

Drawn by the Baha’i belief in the unity of God, the unity of religion and the unity of humankind, Deborah Bisenius said it matched her childhood vision and experience of living in unity and peace in the inner city of Cleveland, Ohio.

Her parents were working with the American Baptist Home Mission using “a collective, ecumenical approach” to ministry in an inter-cultural, inter-racial area. They invited neighborhood children for activities in their home.

“In the post-World War II era, there was a worldwide sentiment to repair the world,” she said. “My parents raised my three sisters and me to love the world.”

Deborah continues that commitment, living in Spokane’s inter-cultural, inter-racial East Central neighborhood.

“In the U.S., we have different cultures living together, so we can show the world that it’s possible to live together in unity and peace,” she said. “The Baha’i community in Spokane is like my family.”

This fall, Baha’i is worldwide celebrate the founders of their monistic faith that now has five million believers in nearly every country and in thousands of U.S. communities.

In Spokane, two community celebrations are planned. One is at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28, at the Unity Center of Divine Love and Light, 4123 E. Lincoln Rd.

The other is a 6 p.m. dinner and movie on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Fireplace Room of Center Place, 2426 N. Discovery Place in Spokane Valley.

Deborah is working with David Gregory, the Spokane Baha’i public information officer, and Spokane Valley community member Joe Urlacher to promote the October events.

Deborah explained that in October 1819 in Shiraz, Persia, Siyyid Ali-Muhammad was born. He later took the title “the Báb,” herald who prepared the way for Baha’u’llah.

Siyyid Ali-Muhammad was born in October 1819 in Shiraz, Persia, and he later took the title “the Báb.”

Deborah was working on “A Baha’i Life Story,” which was published in 2000. She and a friend have a neighborhood group to gather people to discuss Baha’i. Their son was born. She raised her husband graduated in 1989, she in 1988 in chemistry. She married her second husband in 1990.

Deborah worked in industry and then for 27 years at the City of Spokane. She started a lab technician, and progressed to working as a chemist in the pre-treatment program to keep industrial chemicals out of the wastewater plant. In 2008, she began working on environmental programs at City Hall until she retired in 2018.

Deborah explained that in October 1819 in Shiraz, Persia, Siyyid Ali-Muhammad was born. He later took the title “the Báb,” founder of the Baha’i Faith. The Báb called people to purify themselves for the coming Day of God.

Baha’u’llah, whose name means the “Glory of God,” announced in 1863 that he was God’s messenger for this age. His teachings and sacred writings are the basis of the Baha’i Faith, she said.

Baha’u’llah proclaimed that God, as loving creator, sends divine messengers or manifestations of God with teachings that enable humanity to know and worship God. These manifestations have appeared throughout history every 500 to 1,000 years, bringing human civilization to ever higher levels of spiritual and material advancement, David explained.

He said Baha’u’llah is the latest in this long line of divine messengers, which has included Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster and the Báb.

Baha’u’llah lived from 1819 to 1892, was in prison from 1844 until he was martyred and killed there. The Báb was in prison for saying there was need for reforming the prevalent faith, and for establishing a new religion, code of conduct and an end to sharia law.

There is an account that he was put before a firing squad of 750 men. After they shot, he disappeared and was found in his cell. It was hard to find a second firing squad, but he was martyred July 9, 1850.

“As a teen, I heard his story. Having studied the Bible, I saw parallels with Christ,” Deborah said. “We are to take to heart what we are to do, not spend time bickering about faith. The commandments are to show mercy, love God, listen to guidance, be kind and ‘play well’ together. It’s good for our health and our environment,” she said.

Deborah was 15 when her father was killed in a car accident. When she was 17, she became Baha’i. Her life from there has been a journey.

“Baha’i faith for me has been like yeast in bread, a catalyst,” she said.

Deborah began junior college and transferred to but dropped out of Beloit College in Wisconsin, married and living in many locations around the country before settling in Coeur d’Alene. In 1983, she divorced and in 1984 started to study chemistry at North Idaho College.

She married her second husband at a wedding chapel in Coeur d’Alene. Both completed degrees at Eastern Washington University. She was in 1988 in chemistry. After her husband graduated in 1989, their son was born. She raised him Catholic and volunteered at Catholic schools to support his education.

Deborah worked in industry and then for 27 years at the City of Spokane. She started a lab technician, and progressed to working as a chemist in the pre-treatment program to keep industrial chemicals out of the wastewater plant. In 2008, she began working on environmental programs at City Hall until she retired in 2018.

She and a friend have a neighborhood group to gather people to learn about Baha’i. For her, that means being in constant search to understand the human spirit through study and service.

Deborah said the worldwide Baha’i calendar has 19 months each with 19 days. Each month they gather for prayer in homes or public places.

She added that every day Baha’i is to pray, interact with the word of God and contemplate long-term effects of their spiritual habits so they transform themselves and work for “the betterment of the world through pure and godly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct,” she quoted Baha’u’llah.

Baha’i believe that “the benevolent Divine Being’s guidance continues to unfold, but erodes in the hands of human beings, so it periodically needs to be renewed and updated,” she said.

David pointed out that the Golden Rule of treating others as they would want to be treated has been revealed each time—in the revelations that came to Jews, Christians, Moslems, Zoroastrians, Hindus and Buddhists.

Baha’i is believe that “the twin Revelators”—the Báb and Baha’u’llah—signal the end of the prophetic cycle and the beginning of the cycle of fulfillment, guideline humans to build an advancing civilization, he said.

“We believe the world will eliminate the barriers created by our troubled history,” he said.

“All religions are related, independent and from the same Source. All of humanity are the fruits of one tree, the leaves of one branch. All forms of prejudice are immoral. Men and women are equal in the eyes of God. Universal unity is necessary, but must be preceded by universal justice,” David summarized.

Baha’i anticipate an end to “futile strife and ruinous wars” and believe “the Most Great Peace shall come.”

For information, call 526-0125, email dbngregory@comcast.net or visit bahai.us.

For Deborah Bisenius, Baha’i faith is like yeast, a catalyst.
ArtShare program connects junior high students in Calgary and on a Reserve

Pamela Dos Ramos, who has taught multicultural counseling for 10 years at Gonzaga’s Calgary Centre, recently told how a project connecting seventh to ninth graders in a junior high school in Calgary and an indigenous school on the Kainai Reserve in Southern Alberta built relationships and respect.

She does the ArtShare project through her role as a human rights educator with the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre (ACLRC), where she links social justice, human rights and equality. Pamela, who was in Spokane for Gonzaga University’s Ethnicity Race and Indigenous People’s (ERIP) Conference in September, said students learned to trust themselves, their intuition and ancestral knowledge.

“Recovery of indigenous knowledge is about reconnecting with ancestors and their stories and voices as guides,” she said. “Colonization led to a belief by white settlers that they were helping indigenous people. Now the Calgary Board of Education is working to incorporate Aboriginal knowledge into the curriculum.”

Growing up in Georgetown, (Belize) Guyana, in South America, Pamela said her family did not tolerate discrimination, but welcomed everyone. Her own ancestry is multiracial with East Indian and African ancestors, a maternal grandfather from Wales and an African great-grandfather from Scotland. After a Guyanese elder asked what her indigenous heritage was, she learned from an older cousin that she also has Aravak ancestry on her mothers’ side.

Moving to Calgary in 1980 was a change from living in a multicultural, multiracial society. In Calgary, about 67 percent of people are white, 29 percent are people of color—primarily South- east Asian and East Asian—and four percent are Aboriginal. The Alberta population is approximately 80 percent white, 14 percent people of color and 6 percent Aboriginal.

The Alberta population is approximately 80 percent white, 14 percent people of color and 6 percent Aboriginal. In 1979, Pamela studied library science in London, so her first 10 years in Canada she worked in information management with an oil company.

From 1989 to 1991, wanting to work in the nonprofit sector, she studied for a master’s degree in counseling at the Gonzaga Centre in Calgary.

Twenty years ago, she began working at the Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre and she found her niche. She also teaches culture and diversity for master’s candidates in education leadership at Gonzaga’s Calgary Centre and several other Gonzaga centers in Western Canada.

Pamela’s primary work with the ACLRC is human rights education, and creating anti-racism and anti-discrimination programs. She presents workshops at schools and helps young people understand their human rights and their responsibilities. Alberta schools have a curriculum to teach students about human rights.

With the ACLRC, she does workshops in an area from Red Deer to the U.S. Canadian border. A colleague does workshops north of Red Deer, another does workshops in Calgary only, and a fourth works with her on anti-racism and anti-discrimination training.

“As someone who is multiracial and someone who is privileged because of her education and employment, Pamela believes that she is able to bridge diverse communities.”

“Children of color are willing to talk with me about their experiences. I’m also able to talk with white youth,” she said. “Seeing me, white students realize stereotypes they have of people of color are not true. Doing the anti-racism workshops with my white colleague, people see that we work together, talking freely about issues. It gives them a new perspective.”

Through the ACLRC, the ArtShare project has been one means to connect white, multicultural and indigenous students to help them overcome racism and learn from each other.

The ArtShare Program began as the Students for Change Program in 2007 at Dr. Gladys Egbert Junior High School in Calgary. Students learned skills to address racial discrimination and racism in productive, respectful, safe and non-aggressive ways.

The program continued several years there and in other schools in Calgary, adapting to needs of each school.

In June 2016, Pamela and a colleague did presentations on “Understanding and Dealing with Racism” for seventh grade students at the Kainai Middle School on the Kainai Reserve. The art teacher there told of a project her students just completed with art students at Sir John Franklin Junior High School in Calgary.

“Students at one school began a piece of art and students at the other school finished it,” she said. “It involved trust, because the students did not know each other. They only met after the art was completed. The exchange was amazing for both groups.”

Pamela and her colleague suggested that the Students for Change group at Bob Edwards Junior High in Calgary do a similar project with students at the Kainai Middle School, who were children from Aboriginal backgrounds.

In September 2018, about 30 Bob Edwards students went on a trip to the Reserve in Southern Alberta with an Aboriginal elder. They took them to the land for two days to observe the weather, wind, trees, grass, flora and fauna.

“Without Western scientific knowledge, Aboriginal people knew not to go near the mountain or river, because they had their own knowledge,” Pamela said.

In September 2017, Bob Edwards Junior High School started an indigenous studies class, and the focus of the ArtShare Program became “Truth and Reconciliation.”

“The ArtShare Program focuses on creating inclusive school communities that value, respect and celebrate differences. It fosters awareness, understanding and commitment to work with indigenous communities to ensure that truth is told, heard and understood, and that reconciliation ensues,” Pamela explained.

The program continued in 2017-18 and 2018-19, working in 2017-18 with a school in Lethbridge with a group of indigenous youth.

“When many people in Canada think racism is just a problem in the U.S., that is not the case,” Pamela said. “Many companies create anti-discrimination, anti-racism and anti-harassment policies to keep their employees safe.”

Pamela observed that children who grow up with many differences around them value differences as they grow older. They are likely to have friends from different communities as adults, people who understand them without needing to adopt their beliefs.

“In Canada, we respect multiculturalism. Policies allow people to keep their language and cultural practices,” Pamela said. “Rather than being assimilated, programs help them and continue to create a beautiful mosaic.”

For information, visit aclrc.org.

Questions? Contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or bartletts@gonzagaedu.co.
Sounding Board
Youth Speak Out

Sounding Board

**Youth Speak Out**

the highest bidder by people who will not
because he sees that “the future is sold to
cause of your age?” she asked. “Adults in
Climate Strike Spokane on Sept. 20, chal-
ter and to work for racial and social justice.

She will be 85 soon. She grew up in seg-
issues like the climate crisis.

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

While she usually speaks in rooms full

“Who of you has been dismissed be-
cases; yesterday’s headlines in my school said climate change is contro-
discuss controversial topics, analyze issues and

“Do you have the power to make change
“Your health to get you where you are,” said Sandy, quiting her great-grandmother.

“I decided that I would not be my legacy for my mom,” Sandy said. “Because of my mom and daughter, I continue to fight this war.”

The strategies of those promoting racism

include building fear of a perceived or real
tension in the voice, reminding them that
when there is a scarcity of resources, when
and trainings with diverse groups. I commit
to make a commitment to change.”

She cited a 1712 letter by white slave

I'm the only person of color. It's a constant

Hoping to be a symbol of the next moon stop. I act so you look back

2) I walk down the street. Then I fall in hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I'm lost and help-

Laidia Farrell, of the Hunkpapa Lakota

It's not an accident to use those tactics

“Second, and to work for racial and social justice.

“It's a wealth; assassinating the character of

She will be 85 soon. She grew up in seg-

“I’ll go to betterworldshopper.org and download

The strategies of those promoting racism

“I'm doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

She will be 85 soon. She grew up in seg-

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

Sandy advocates to make the point that racism is

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

Sandy and her team decided to

“I’m doing this because of my mom. Sandy was angered when

She’s willing to be visible and speak out to

Sandy says, “You can’t just be ignorant of color and to work over-

Although her recognition by the Spokes-

While she usually speaks in rooms full

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Oct 11 • YWCA Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon, Judge Roosevelt Aquilla, who sentenced Larry Nassar, USA Gymnastics doctor, Century Ballroom, 33 W. Hamilton, 5:30 p.m., ywcaeasternwa.org/calendar

Oct 12 • “Refocused Spokane,” The Lands Council, downtown Spokane, lands council.org/events/refocused-spokeanday

Oct 13 • “Energy Saving Tips with the Pres.” Allen Gates of Synergy Green Home Perfection, Shadle Library, 1 p.m.

Oct 14 • Indigenous Peoples’ Day Celebration, The Warehouse, 600 N. Hamilton, 5 p.m., potluck, 6:30 p.m. grand entry, 911-8643


Oct 16 • NAACP General Membership Meeting, 25 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spokaneacac@gmail.com

Oct 17 • “Our He: The Story of Emmett H.” Mike Wiley Production, Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, Cauffman Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Oct 18-20 • One Heart Native Arts & Film Festival, “Indigenous Rising” with Buffy Sainte Marie Live in Concert, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Yesler, Spokane, Friday at 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m., oneheartfestival.com

Oct 19 • “Thinking Back and Looking Forward,” Northwest Intermountain Synod of the ELCA Rural Ministry Roundtable, Zion Lutheran, 8303 E. Buckley, Millwood, 891-5622 or 284-6100

Oct 21 • “Earth Ministry,” Jessica Zimmerle, Office of Church Engagement, Hixson Union Building Cow’s Nest, 6 to 8 p.m., 777-3275, mathway@whitworth.edu

Oct 22 • Women’s Evening of Prayer, Laura Koike and Alicia Koilack, Co-hosting the Better Part, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., irrc.net

Oct 23 • “Civil Discourse 2.0: Where Is the Debate?” Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, Media Salon, Spokane Falls Church, 5011 S. Freya, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Oct 24-Nov 27 • “The Fig Tree Beyond 35 years: Branching into the Future,” campaign to raise $35,000 in 35 days, thefigtree.com/donate.html

Oct 25 • Fall Compost Fair and Leaf Festival, John Pinkston Farm, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 629-6500

Oct 26 • “Free 55+ Sunday Lunch, World Relief program, Spokane Valley United Methodist, 115 N. Raymond, 12:30 p.m., 924-7262

Oct 27 • “Reduce Your Carbon Footprint through Zero Waste Living,” South Hill Library, 2 p.m.

Oct 28 • “Bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab,” Unity Center of Divine Love and Light, 4123 E. Lincoln, 7 a.m., 326-0123

Oct 29 • “Birth of the Bab, dinner and movie,” Fireplace Room, Center Plaza, 2424 N. Dayspring Pl., Spokane Valley, 6:30 p.m.

Oct 30 • “The Fig Tree mosaic and dedication, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9:15 a.m. 530-1813


Nov 5 • “Partnering for Progress’ work in Kenya,” SQA Spokane Market, 6 p.m.

Nov 6 • “Partnering for Progress” Auction and Dinner, “You Can Make a World of Difference a World Away,” Mirabeau Park Hotel, Proceeds benefit Partnering for Progress’ work in Kenya. Tickets $575/person • $550/table of 8

Purchase tickets at 509-720-8408 or online http://partneringforprogress.org/into-africa-auction

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Joe Ader expects lives will be transformed inside a historic grocery store that has been leased and will be transformed into the Family Promise of Spokane Center.

The building at 2002 E. Mission is now the site for Family Promise's four programs: the Open Doors 24/7 emergency shelter, the Bridges church rotating shelter, the Neighbors prevention and rental assistance program, and the Village after care programs to stabilize people.

It’s still a work in progress, but the Open Doors Emergency Shelter is already in, and a ribbon cutting will be at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Family Promise is holding a Civic Theater fundraiser this Friday and a performance of “Matilda” at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 1020 N. Howard

Open Doors—previously at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Cl—moved Sept. 5. Administrative office follows at the end of the year, and the Bridges Day Shelter—both at 904 E. Hurstel Rd. will be there by 2020.

The day and night shelters for families on the main level include a nursery room for sleeping babies and breastfeeding mothers, a wellness room for people who need privacy and separation when they are sick, an intake office, three kitchenettes where families can prepare food, a dining area, a play area, a meeting space, a commercial kitchen, a classroom, a laundry and a shower.

The Open Doors facility, which was built in 1949, was the first free span construction building west of the Mississippi. That allows us flexibility to add and remove walls to change the layout without disturbing the structural integrity of the building,” Joe said.

“For the last 10 years, it housed Cassanelos of grocery and deli, which closed last December. We purchased it in March.”

The main level was originally a pharmacy and soda fountain. The basement housed a cleaners beauty salon, jeweler and auto parts supplier. In the late 1950s 1960s, the basement closed and was used for storage for 60 years. Joe said the basement will be renovated for more offices, meeting rooms for case managers and agency representatives, a locker room, laundry, play area and night shelter.

“When we fully renovate the building, we will accommodate up to 120 children and parents, double the number at Emmanuel Family Life Center,” he said.

Motioning to a little girl in the next room, Joe said: “We want to create a future for her.”

A $950,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City of Spokane plus $120,000 in donations and a line of credit made it possible for Family Promise to purchase the building. So far, they have spent $47,000 on renovations and need another $400,000 to complete construction.

Emma Harms and Joe Ader show off their new space.

On the third floor, there are eight permanent units that will lease five. Three are vacant. The apartments will provide a mix of permanent rentals and transitional rentals for families.

“We have programs in all building. Families experiencing homelessness can find shelter and help to find housing, jobs, treatment and stability,” Joe said.

While other shelters focus on youth or single adults, Family Promise focuses on families, which it defines as anyone caring for a child or who is pregnant. Downtown shelters serve single homeless people.

“Families are the hidden homeless. They are sleeping in their cars, coach surfing or staying in motels,” he said. “They aren’t on downtown streets so people often overlook how many children in Spokane are homeless.”

The Open Doors shelter saw 400 of the 3,108 homeless children in Spokane County school districts last year.

Emma Harms, outreach and recruitment manager, said: “While we have services to prevent homelessness, shelter people who are homeless and help families stabilize after leaving homelessness. Our center is a one-stop shop for homeless families,” he said.

Joe said that many organizations are collaborating to address the issues created by a lack of affordable housing, a vacancy rate under 2 percent for three years and the cost of rentals rising 13 percent a year in the last two years.

“These factors force people out of housing even if they have jobs,” he said. “Most here take their children to school and go to work. About half of the adults work, but do not earn enough. Working part time or full time at minimum wage, people cannot keep up with the cost of living. Wages are up because the state minimum wage is $12.50 an hour, but the cost of living is $17.50 an hour.”

Joe pointed to two other factors: 1) The common denominator is the lack of community. People have no one to lean on because of broken relationships. 2) Some struggle with childhood trauma from abuse, neglect, a parent in prison or aging out of foster care.

“It’s not one thing, but many things over a long period, so solutions do not come in a few months. Solutions include shelter, case managers, mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment and support,” he said.

If a loss of community is one cause, Joe believes churches need to be engaged because their mission is to create community.

“Churches need to engage beyond drives for coats or food. Those help, and can be a springboard into the deeper relationships people need to move ahead,” he said. “The Bridges shelter that houses families in churches on a rotating basis is an easy way for churches to serve those in need and to build relationships by opening their building one week a quarter for up to three homeless families.”

“We see fruit from two to three people from a church committing to be here regularly. More churches are partnering with our programs,” he said.

Emma, who attends Summit South Church, said many church councils encourage members to help outside their walls—to model hospitality and generosity.

“They can volunteer and be transformed to understand the Gospel in a new way,” she said.

“In this community,” Joe said, “children are born to teen mothers, a refugee and walked with a gang of disciples,” he said. “Serving the least is the literal way for Christians to live their faith and serve a person like Jesus in tangible ways.

“Faith is significant for families. While we are not faith-based we operate in more than 30 churches in the rotating program,” he said.

Emma said faith can be an anchor when guests feel everything is out of control. Some come to faith.

Joe said many wonder why God let this happen: “We are a safe space for people in distress to wrestle with these questions.”

After graduating from Whitworth in 2018 as a major in psychology, Emma started volunteering at Family Promise as an intern in children’s programming. After six months, she became a supervisor before beginning her present role.

Joe moved to Spokane in 2016 to help friends start Pinnacle Church and Rock Church.

“I fell into the role with Family Promise because I speak nationally about understanding pov- ourty,” said Joe who is publishing a book, The Ghetto, the Garden and the Gospel: What Every Christian Needs to Understand About Poverty in America.

He finds poverty in Spokane unique:

1) There are more intact families in Spokane shelters—70 percent have a father figure, while in other places there are more single mothers.

2) There is more substance abuse with marijuana in Spokane than Dallas. Addiction is more common with singles experiencing homelessness.

3) There is more collaboration. In Texas, one big church would fund a whole organization that could work along. Here partnership is required.

Emma added that if someone does not qualify for services in one program that refers the person to another program.

The Homeless Coalition, which Joe chairs, agencies meets first Thursdays, so those working with the homeless can get information.

Despite media and politicians playing on different approaches to housing, the collaboration of housing agencies means there is respect for the different approaches of housing first, treatment first or love first.

“We agree we do not want people of any age on the street,” Joe said. “Each viewpoint is valid. It’s not about only one way being valid. That would leave many more people on the streets.

“It’s a ‘yes, and’ approach. There needs to be accountability and substance abuse recovery, and there needs to be low barriers to shelters and housing, and there needs to be better economic system services. We need each,” Joe said.

Emma said different people are healthier in different systems, because each has different needs.

For information, call 509-547-5878 or visit familypromisepospkane.org.

On the horizon at Family Promise of Spokane

Oct 9 Matilda: A Civic Theater Fundraiser $40 tickets - 7:30p.m. Curtain Call at Crosi Cafe

Oct 10 World Homeless Day Summit Lecture $15 tickets - 4pm-6:30pm at Doubletree Downtown

Oct 22 Ribbon Cutting at Family Promise Center 1:30pm at Mission Avenue

To register for any of these events, check out Family Promise of Spokane on Facebook!