Hunger today arises from chronic poverty

By Mary Stamp
As president and CEO of Second Harvest and now 25 years in food bank and feeding-the-hungry services, Jason Clark expected there should have been a major drop in the numbers of people they serve, given the improvement in the economy in recent years.

“Instead, there is a shift in who comes to neighborhood food pantries,” he said. “Ten years ago, it was families in short-term economic crises, running out of reserve funds because their car broke down or they had another unexpected emergency.

“Now we serve families who are chronically in poverty, coming 10 to 12 times a year,” he said.

In some cases, they receive public benefits, but many do not.

Jason said the majority of those coming to food pantries and meal programs are younger and poorer.

Second Harvest distributes 30 million pounds of foods to pantries and meal programs—about 90 percent of its distribution. Now about 10 percent goes out in its Mobile Food Bank program on two trucks going to high-needs areas.

Second Harvest’s programs also include nutrition education and cooking to help hungry people be more self-sufficient and use the food products more effectively.

With the Farm Bill pending in Congress, Jason said there could be “massive changes” to hunger programs—afflicting food stamps and USDA commodities. There are different bills in the House and Senate, leaving those who feed hungry people uncertain about what the reconciliation bill will include.

Other factors affecting service are a 30 percent increase in transportation costs, a driver shortage and new federal regulations on tracking.

Tariiffs will also affect farmers, even with talk of using USDA buying farm products to reduce the impact of tariffs.

Changes in tax laws bring uncertainty about how much donors will give. Private donors provide the majority of support. Jason expects most will donate as they have done because they are engaged, but some may make different decisions because the tax deduction is one—but not the only—consideration in what they give.

He expects to see effects of the tax laws in the next two years. Some tax advisors suggest people “bunch” giving in one year so they

Continued on page 4

Preparing directory involves many people

Volunteers and staff help with details of research and editing that make it possible to publish the updated Resource Directory each year.

This year volunteers Johnny Fulfer and Marian Beaumier joined staff editors Sara Weaver, Lorna Kropp and Mary Stamp to help with editing and proofreading.

Suzanne Lester volunteered late in the process to help directory editor Malcolm Haworth, who appreciated the skill she brought from work experience in social services.

“She offered helped us with last-minute research needs in areas of support groups, ministries, government agencies and other listings,” Malcolm said.

Not only does the directory inform people of where to find food, housing, shelter,renters advocacy, veterans services, health care options, family respite, senior programs, spiritual food, housing, shelter, renters advocacy, veterans services,” he said.

“I am learning to do ministry through technology and video conferencing, after establishing relationships face-to-face.”

In 1985, she earned a bachelor’s in communication at San Diego State University—where she grew up—and went to Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, graduating in 1990.

She met her husband, Tom, there. After they served four United Methodist Churches one year in Central Illinois, Tom entered business. Sandy served churches in Southern Indiana, North Carolina where Tom grew up, and Pennsylvania. He began working with Premera/Blue Cross, which brought him to Spokane in 2000.

Sandy did pulpit-supply preach.

Continued on page 6

Northwest and Montana Disciples regions combine, explore new options

The Northwest Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted in May to create a new region combining with the Montana Region by January 2020.

That is just one of many ways the Disciples on the local, regional and national levels are re-evaluating their structures and ministries to create "new possibilities" for the churches.

Sandy Messick, the regional minister and president, said the regional change will involve legal decisions, but more important, finding how 48 congregations in Alaska, Washington and North Idaho will partner with 11 congregations in Montana.

"As we merge regions, we will evaluate what a region is, eliminate duplicate structures and find how congregations can resource each other and build relationships," said Sandy, who has been Northwest Regional minister for nine years.

After 16 years as the Montana Region executive minister, Ruth Fletcher retired in August.

"We are writing plans in pencil, so we can be ready to change," said Sandy, noting natural ties among congregations sheltering families through Family Promise.

Sandy, who spends up to half a month away from home, sees her role as facilitating connections rather than being the one to bring wisdom to congregations.

"The challenge is not to increase time away as we cover additional territory," she said. "I am learning to do ministry through technology and video conferencing, after establishing relationships face-to-face."

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Sandy did pulpit-supply preach.
Youth celebrate World Council of Churches’ 70th
Local and international youth gathered in late August in the Netherlands for the 70th anniversary of the WCC. Meeting under the theme of “On the Move,” a group of about 24 youth from the Netherlands and across the globe spent three days together as part of a series of celebratory events in Amsterdam, organizing themselves in a prayer service on August 23 at the place where the WCC was founded 70 years ago. An integral part of the event is the importance of youth contributions to the ecumenical movement, in the past, the present and in the future. Shai Obadiah, young delegate from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, which was one of the founding members of the WCC in 1948, said that to him, the cumulative knowledge of the many youth currently gathered in the Netherlands is a key to strengthening the church.

Mgrdich Amroian, who has lived in the Netherlands since 2015, arriving as a Syrian refugee from Aleppo, continues, “What is interesting to me being here with other Christian youth is to find out how they are living as Christian communities in their lands, and I would like to hear their experiences, to take it to the church and help other youth members of our community to see their struggles.”

Reflecting on the WCC’s 70th anniversary, Amroian adds, “the WCC is a community of churches around the world. If we can be one body in Christ, then I believe we have a brighter future together, and also with our youth. Without this community, it will be difficult to see a bright future together.”

Through pilgrim walks, prayers, song, dance and bibliodrama, the youth explored what it means to be young pilgrims in the ecumenical movement today, particularly in view of the WCC’s Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, as their work zeroes in on three sub-themes: “moving away,” “dreaming” and “moving on.”

“I think we need to look back on our history and our inheritance too,” says Euna Cho, a student at the Busan Wesleyan Seminary in South Korea. “We cannot always judge our ancestors’ work. If we study our heritage, we can become proud of our country, and start to dream. Then we can start to do practical things, even if they are just small things.”

WCC’s First Assembly drew 351 delegates
Odair Pedroso Mateus, director of the WCC’s Faith and Order Commission, gave a flavor of the First Assembly of the WCC. A crowd gathered outside the New Church in Amsterdam, which was announced at the 1st WCC assembly in 1949. A procession moved slowly through the church. Clergy wore official garments. Black prevailed but many from the East added color. Many lay people wore national costumes. Professors wore academic gowns and hoods in different colors. The 351 representatives elected 145 churches in 44 countries on all continents.

The congregation, gathering what a WCC text of 1948 described as “the faces of all the races of mankind,” sang in French “All People That on Earth Do Dwell,” to a well-known tune.

In its music, the service expressed a diversity founded on the experience of oneness in Christ and the resolve to covenant in reconciliation, and for renewal and visibility.

Prayer framed Amsterdam 1948. Opening and closing services pointed to a real though imperfect fellowship in Christ, despite church divisions. Common to the spiritual life of the WCC is the foundation of a moral and Christian character, one that reaches to all humanity in 1409. An encouraging painting with hot wax incorporating a photo of indigenous children from Guatemala.

The art exhibit opens with a prayer for the children at 5 p.m., and then moves to the altar. It went from there. I wanted such art to be seen so that the needs of children are respected,” said Mary Ann Sinclair, director of the WCC’s Center for Civil and Human Rights, plus munities and create a more just society.” She said.

Panelists will include Gonzaga faculty member Joanne Braum in philosophy, Tracy Simmons in communication studies and Nicole Herren with Center for Civil and Human Rights, plus members about the pieces, plus information on where people can donate to help the children.

If you show something, you need to offer an avenue for people to respond. Art is a medium for ‘messages,’’ said Mary Ann, who did commercial art but now focuses on fine art. A five-member art committee was formed to provide inspiration and support.

For information, call 951-5217 or 466-3100 or email sinclairswildroseranch@gmail.com.

Panel discusses hate groups, bias and action
The art committee of St. Da- vi’s Episcopal Church in Sno- kane is presenting “Blessing the Children,” a thought-provoking collection of 13 art works by five church members, some of whom—so far this year—have commited to $8,000 in support. This year, the Arc of Spokane and Second Harvest provided vehicles and volunteer drivers to deliver bulk quantities of directories to about 40 outlets each. The Arc delivered 1,650 copies and Second Harvest, 1,100. In addition to copies that were not sent out by mail, there are still about 5,000 copies to go out, about 600 in Fig Tree bulk delivery.

Community partners expand directory reach
The directory connects people with resource agencies that will help move them from poverty to improve their lives, so eventually they can be part of our service to all communities.

The directory is funded by its 104 advertisers, covering about $29,000 in expenses. It is also funded by the arc and Second Harvest who—so far this year—have comitted to $8,000 in support.

This year, the Arc of Spokane and Second Harvest provided vehicles and volunteer drivers to deliver bulk quantities of directories to about 40 outlets each. The Arc delivered 1,650 copies and Second Harvest, 1,100. In addition to copies that were not sent out by mail, there are still about 5,000 copies to go out, about 600 in Fig Tree bulk delivery.

Community Partners for 2018 so far are Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington, Banner Bank, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, the Community Building Foundation, the Department of Social and Health Services, Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center, Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Thrifty and Urnify Health clinics. More agencies and businesses can join these partners to help undertake 2018 costs.

Community Partners for 2018 published 16,000 copies, up from 14,500 in 2017 and 12,000 in 2016, increasing costs of printing and distributing the copies. Malcolm is now updating listings for the online version.

For information, call 535-1813 or email corrections and new listings for resourcedirectory@ thefigtree.org.
Spokane Valley organizes a “Connect” event

The First Annual Spokane Valley Connect will be held from 2 to 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14, at Opportunity Presbyterian Church, 202 N Pines Rd.

Modelled after the successful annual Spokane Homeless Connect, this event will offer an afternoon of one-stop shopping to meet the needs of the community.

The goal of the Connect is to empower attendees to easily access community resources, said Aileen Luppert, chair of the Spokane Homeless Connect Organizing Committee.

Thirty participating agencies will offer youth sports physicals with CHAS, a free meal, DSHS services, health and wellness services, financial services, family and youth services, veteran services, employment services, medicaid, mental health and dental screenings, personal care items, clothing, housing and energy assistance and more.

Statistic indicating the need for improved resources in the greater Spokane Valley prompted the 957 students in Spokane Valley and its school districts in 2016, 9,366—42 percent—received free or reduced lunches. More than 800 were experiencing hunger and homelessness, which makes it hard to learn.

Veterans and elderly people are also struggling. Spokane County’s 2017 Point in Time count showed a 13 percent increase from 2016 in unsheltered veterans. In addition, 8.9 percent of the area’s elderly live below state and federal poverty guidelines.

The Spokane Valley Connect is jointly sponsored by the Greater Valley Support Network (GVSN) and Spokane Valley Partners (SVP).

SVP’s GSBN is a coalition of school districts, nonprofits, churches, faith-based organizations and social service agencies seeking to help reframe the use of hunger and homelessness. SVP is a comprehensive source of social services, serving more than 70,000 people.

For information, call 893-8416 or email aluppert@scld.org.
Religion professor speaks for WSU symposium

Religion professor, author and scholar-activist Miguel De La Torre is the speaker for the 2018 Rogere Williams Symposium of the Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman.

He will speak on “The Death of U.S. Christianity” at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13, in the Ewers Commons, 455 Lincoln Dr. He will preach on “Was Jesus a Racist?” at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, in the Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus St. He will lead a workshop on immigration and show his film, “Traíl of Hope and Terror” at 2 p.m., Sunday at St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium. He will also lead a discussion on immigration sponsored by the Thomas Foley Institute at WSU, at noon, Monday, Oct. 15, in Bryan Hall. Miguel, who is a professor of social ethics and Latinx studies at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, is an ordained Southern Baptist minister. He is active in social justice issues especially immigration and Hispanic issues. In 2012, he was president of the Society of Christian Ethics and Religion. In addition to teaching in Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, Germany and Costa Rica, he has taken students on immersion classes to Cuba and to walk migrant trails on the Mexican U.S. border. His books include Embracing Hopelessness and Faith and Resistance in the Age of Trump. Miguel is an anti-racist who chairs of the Common Ministry at WSU. He is also the author of the book, “Theology and the Common Good.”

New taxes, tariffs, transportation laws affect food donations, delivery

Continued from page 1

have enough for a deduction.

“We don’t know what will affect donors’ behavior,” he said.

“Many nonprofits are discussing that. Will it make five percent less? Will it unlock more giving?”

Jason said the fiscal year ending in June was a “roller coaster,” making it hard to plan, but Second Harvest “stays message focused and keeps going,” because “hunger is unacceptable.”

He said the faith community, which hosts many food pantries and programs, have struggled as members and volunteers face struggles, but “the faith is the reason many keep going,” he said.

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“I am grateful to be involved in something that has an amazing message, serves people every day and makes a difference right away,” he said. “It’s common sense that if you feed children, seniors or anyone, they will do better.”

Commenting on his Lutheran roots, he said, “that DNA is built in, giving me a sense of service, participation and caring about community.”

Jason said about 80 percent of food bank work is supported by private funding from individuals, businesses, faith communities and community organizations.

“The average donation that keeps us running is $98,” he said. “The instability is in larger gifts that have an outsized impact if they do not come in. We are an immediate-needs organization. We do not sit on a $20 million endowment.”

In June, a matching grant totaling $140,000 from CenturyLink was met, said Jason, adding those larger funding opportunities are critical to allow Second Harvest to get food where it’s most needed.

“The throttle on our system is our ability to move and transport food from area growers that we then must have the capacity to package and distribute to neighborhood outlets,” he said.

Jason said Second Harvest also seeks donations of packaging—cardboard boxes and plastic bags—to repackaged donations. For example, a 2,000-pound load of potatoes is packaged into three or five pound bags that a family can use. With more packaging, Second Harvest could distribute more food in the 26 counties it serves.

In the volunteer sort room, 40,000 pounds of potatoes await a shift with some of the 8,000 volunteers a year that help Sec- ond Harvest in both its Spokane and Pasco distribution centers.

“Volunteers are excited to be able to give to someone and to the community,” said Julie Humphreys, community relations manager. “We have no shortage of volunteers. People want to engage themselves, their groups and their companies.”

September is Hunger Action Month in the national Feeding America network that includes Second Harvest.

“There is hunger in every community, and volunteers can help by donating their time,” she said.

During part of the month, Second Harvest retrofitted the bus and turned it into a portable grocery store with refrigeration and shelving.

“We will soon take it into neighbor- hoods with specific needs,” he said.

While the Mobile Markets have gone to schools and church parking lots, the retrofitted bus will go to targeted areas like Hillyard and Northeast Spokane.

People will experience the Mobile Market bus like making choices in grocery shopping. Nutrition ambassadors will offer samples and demonstrate how to prepare the foods.

“Many people face barriers to going to food pantries, one being transportation,” Julie said. “We hope to do 90 visits with the bus the first year.”

Second Harvest has done Mobile Markets since 2006 with two semi-trucks bringing 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of food to schools, community centers and church parking lots.

Mobile Markets provide fresh food to feed 250 to 300 families each time, said Julie. Several go out each week—about 200 a year.

Mobile Markets require no proof of residency or income, in contrast with food banks that may set standards to serve a particu- lar neighborhood, have income requirements and may limit the number of times people can come.

Mobile Markets only ask for a phone number to track food in case of a recall.

“Because our the Mobile Mar- ket on the bus is set up so people can choose what they want to take, rather than picking up a prepared box of food at a food pantry, they are more likely to cook and eat the foods they receive,” Julie said.

According to recent studies, about 30 to 40 percent of food is wasted. Feeding America rescues food from farmers, manufacturers and businesses.

Hunger Action Month in September highlights the need and asks people to be part of the solution to hunger by being aware, donating, volunteering or advocating, Julie said.

Second Harvest, which began in Spokane in 1971, also offers Bite2GO, weekend food packs in area schools; a School Pantry program for students and families, and The Kitchen, which teaches scratch cooking and nutrition.

Second Harvest supplies 2 mil- lion pounds of food each month to 250 food banks and meal centers, the Mobile Markets and other programs, feeding 55,000 people a week.

For information, call 534-6678 or visit 2harvest.org.

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Tuesday & Wednesday
October 24 & 25, 2018
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Spokane County Fair & Expo Center*
4034 N. Havana St., Spokane Valley, WA 99020

Kay, parking in the lot southeast of the fieldhouse

Wednesday
October 24, 2018
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
West Central Community Center
1603 N. Belt St., Spokane, WA 99205

Sip & Paint with renowned Spokane Artist Stian Miller

October 24
6:30 pm
At the Commons
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Bi-cultural identity at core of Ingrid Sub Cuc’s work in Spokane

By Kimberly Meinecke

Ingrid Sub Cuc knows and understands that, though it is a hard job, she is the one who travels between two worlds. She has to “put on the different hats” without betraying the community or herself, and what she stands for, as she stands on the bridge between cultures, in her dual identity as an indigenous Maya woman who lives in Spokane.

In doing so, she will be using the gift of her identity to help others to connect well and build community for a stronger, more just world. Ingrid knows she belongs in community. More specifically, she forges a way to create networks and belonging wherever she lives and works, not just for herself but for others also seeking connection.

The question of identity is central for most humans: “Who are we? From where do we come? What is important to us? How do we connect with those around us who are similar to us or different from us?”

For Ingrid, these questions came to the forefront when she moved to Spokane as a pre-teen with her family. She came to the United States from her village and region in central Guatemala, speaking both Spanish and Kaqchikel, but not English.

As an indigenous person from Guatemala, she discovered that she could identify as either Latin or Native American. Ingrid had to learn how to fit in and who she was in this new place with a new language, customs, school system and clothing.

Because she had come “from a place where I was deeply rooted in my identity as an indigenous person through traditions and language,” she was prepared for the transition. In that region, at least 90 percent of the population is indigenous.

Teaching, other students and her family helped her and her sister to learn English, and navigate other cultural and geographic situations.

For example, in her Guatemalan village, she never needed winter clothing for the cold and snow. Plus, she and her sister visited the Spokane Public Library to learn and to read so often, it was like they lived there. Through this major transition in her teen years, Ingrid learned to live, function and do well in the United States.

Even though she was connected to school, to churches and with family members, she had lingering concerns.

“Because I had to adapt so much, I really wasn’t sure how my indigenous identity fit into all of this new life forged in Spokane,” Ingrid said. “I had to figure out what it meant to be an indigenous Maya woman, living in this world, speaking three languages and doing all these different things.”

This question led her to explore her indigenous identity and community more fully as a young adult.

Ingrid graduated from Whitworth University, where she learned about servant leadership and worked with many international students. She studied biology for pre-med.

From 2014 to 2016 after graduating, she moved to Guatemala where she continued to learn about what made up her personal history and identity. She appreciated being back in the place of her childhood, with the people, land, language and identity that she had known so well. She intentionally learned more about the history of Guatemala, the civil wars, dictatorships, indigenous movement and colonization so she could better understand her own history.

After living, working and learning in Guatemala for two years, Ingrid reflected, “I realized that I could only achieve this depth of understanding because I left my community. You don’t understand who you are until you leave your community, cement your knowledge about it and then have to defend it.”

She discovered that in either place she had lived, Guatemala or Spokane, people around her didn’t understand what the other part of her was about. She had expected that by going back to Guatemala as a young adult, she would “be my full self again.”

However, she found that she couldn’t fully adapt either here or there because she was truly a combination of two cultures that no one else could fully understand.

In Spokane, Ingrid wasn’t really a part of the Latinx community nor of the Native American. Although she explored both possibilities, she concluded with the rhetorical question, “How many indigenous Maya women are there in the United States? Are they working to reconcile their various identities as I do?”

In Guatemala, where she connected with indigenous Maya women who were steeped in their traditions, practices and customs, Ingrid concluded that these women “were strong, very strong, but they have a limited perception of the outside world that so often interrupted their way of life.”

Reconciling these two sets of roots and backgrounds has become Ingrid’s life’s work. Speaking about these two cultures, how they can intersect and learn from each other has become her work, as she can speak about these cultures, be heard and respected.

Ingrid is still learning how this will unfold for her in whatever task, job or context she may be.

However, she knows that she is an interpreter, a cultural translator. Her sense of identity is now centered in the roles as community, bridge builder and ambassador to help people understand one another.

Back in Spokane now, Ingrid has worked with local organizations as a community advocate to improve health care access for the Native American and Latinx communities in the Spokane area.

Next for her is to continue, through work on a doctoral degree in public health, and to focus her service with indigenous health systems.

Ingrid’s goal is to help indigenous communities take ownership of their identity, traditions and direction in health care. She will use her own experience in navigating and drawing upon multiple sources of identity to assist others to find their own voice and to stand up for what is important and valued, even if that seems counterintuitive to larger systems.

Because of her development and learning about herself and her communities, Ingrid firmly believes that there is a path for speaking up and being heard.

“Our story has always been told by a colonizing point of view. It hasn’t been told by people like us,” Ingrid pointed out.

“This is a time in history where we, as indigenous women, have achieved by Western standards the education and credibility to take ownership of our identity and our culture,” she said. “We are the ones who can speak about our cultures and identities in a way that is respectful and honors our ancestors.”

For information, email subcuc14@gmail.com.
Sandy Messick helps guide two regions to become one.

"Out there, children are starving." That turned the conversation. "We need prophetic voices to turn conversations on organizational bureaucracy to conversations on what church is to be about," Sandy said.

"It’s a time in the wilderness. It can be scary. We need to walk in faith, not sight. We need to keep moving and trust good will will emerge," she said.

For information, call 206-817-7163 or email smessick@disciple snw.org.

Two regions held retreat "Becoming One" is the theme of the 2018 Common Table Retreat for the Northern and Montana Regions of the Disciples of Christ on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7 to 8, at Twelve Oaks Retreat Center in Rathdrum.

Members from both regions will gather as they form the new regional body, meeting each other and thinking about the structure, staffing and naming the new body.

For information, visit https://discipl
eneswn.org/2018commontable.
One Peace, Many Paths is planning ways for people in Spokane to join in the 2018 Global Unity Compassion Service Project from Sept. 9 to 23. Events, service projects and individual actions will encourage people to remain hopeful knowing kindness and compassion are contagious, ourselves, others, animals and earth, said Joan Broeckling, coordinator.

An Earth and Spirit Festival will be held Sept. 21 and 22. Co-sponsored by One Peace, Gonzaga University, Unity Spiritual Center and Sisters of the Holy Names—the festival opens at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, at Gonzaga’s Hemmingson Center with the World Peace Flag ceremony that blesses each nation. From 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at Unity, 2900 S. Bernard, there will be panel discussions and presentations on sustainability, children’s activities, art, music, a resource fair and an Autumn Equinox celebration.

A panel of civic leaders on “Building a Sustainable Spokane” will explore implementing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals as “a catalyst to create a more sustainable, healthy city and region,” said Holy Names associate Sally Duffy. Panelists are Ryan Oelrich of Priority Spokane; Patrick Jones of Eastern Washington University’s Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis and Spokane Community Indicators; Kitty Kitzke of Futurewise, and Ben Stuckart of the Spokane City Council. Other workshops are “Tapping the Well Within,” “Local Sustainability,” “Fractal Science,” “Outdoor Education,” “Salish and Spokane Solid Waste Recycling,” “Native American Spirituality” and “Healing with Horses Healing Demonstration.”

An interfaith panel on “Stewarding the Earth” will include representatives of the Sikh Community; Seven Day Adventists; Soka Gakkai International (Buddhists) and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Other events include local sustainability projects, faith communities’ environmental actions, panelists on native American spirituality and other healing processes.

One Peace, Many Paths has teamed with community agencies to offer service projects: 1) Fall Cleanup at Drumheller Springs Park, a Native American site; 2) food sorting at Northwest Harvest Distribution Center from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, or noon to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, and 3) joining the Riverkeepers Spokane River Cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 15.

For information, call 536-2811; email onepacemanypaths@gmail.com or RSVP for an event or service project at the Compassion Games Spokane Facebook page.

Compassion Games offer time to remember, reflect

One Peace, Many Paths is planning ways for people in Spokane to join in the 2018 Global Unity Compassion Service Project from Sept. 9 to 23. Events, service projects and individual actions will encourage people to remain hopeful knowing kindness and compassion are contagious, ourselves, others, animals and earth, said Joan Broeckling, coordinator.

An Earth and Spirit Festival will be held Sept. 21 and 22. Co-sponsored by One Peace, Gonzaga University, Unity Spiritual Center and Sisters of the Holy Names—the festival opens at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, at Gonzaga’s Hemmingson Center with the World Peace Flag ceremony that blesses each nation. From 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at Unity, 2900 S. Bernard, there will be panel discussions and presentations on sustainability, children’s activities, art, music, a resource fair and an Autumn Equinox celebration.

A panel of civic leaders on “Building a Sustainable Spokane” will explore implementing the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals as “a catalyst to create a more sustainable, healthy city and region,” said Holy Names associate Sally Duffy. Panelists are Ryan Oelrich of Priority Spokane; Patrick Jones of Eastern Washington University’s Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis and Spokane Community Indicators; Kitty Kitzke of Futurewise, and Ben Stuckart of the Spokane City Council. Other workshops are “Tapping the Well Within,” “Local Sustainability,” “Fractal Science,” “Outdoor Education,” “Salish and Spokane Solid Waste Recycling,” “Native American Spirituality” and “Healing with Horses Healing Demonstration.”

An interfaith panel on “Stewarding the Earth” will include representatives of the Sikh Community; Seven Day Adventists; Soka Gakkai International (Buddhists) and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

Other events include local sustainability projects, faith communities’ environmental actions, panelists on native American spirituality and other healing processes.

One Peace, Many Paths has teamed with community agencies to offer service projects: 1) Fall Cleanup at Drumheller Springs Park, a Native American site; 2) food sorting at Northwest Harvest Distribution Center from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 12, or noon to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 18, and 3) joining the Riverkeepers Spokane River Cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 15.

For information, call 536-2811; email onepacemanypaths@gmail.com or RSVP for an event or service project at the Compassion Games Spokane Facebook page.

UN Sustainable Development Goals are the world’s ‘to do’ list

An associate with the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Sally Duffy shares the sisters’ long-standing commitment to the environment and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Holy Names sisters are among 21 religions’ organizations in UNANIMA, a UN non-governmental organization representing women in 80 countries. As a global thinker following the threads of history, Sally sees this as a time of fast changes. For example, when horses first connected people, there was also a new weapon and security threat.

“What is happening today is happening in our home as well as happening to all of us,” she said. “Environmentally we must be ready for more heat, fires and weather events from climate change. We need to work together among ourselves locally and with others globally,” said Sally.

She pointed to the city council recently passing a resolution for Spokane to become a center for renewable energy resources as an example of acting globally. She sees this as the tradition of Spokane coming together to lead the world on the environment with Expo ‘74 not quite 50 years ago.

As to acting locally, she draws inspiration from her childhood. Growing up in the Shadle Park and Gonzaga neighborhood, one of six children, she said family and friends being neighbors were not affluent, but no one “wanted” because neighbors helped each other.

“I think that’s what’s ahead for us,” she said, observing that the goals are about the “vital balance” her mother talked about.

Sally, who was educated by Holy Names sisters at St. Aloysius School, earned bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and was certified to be a college instructor. She reconnects with the sisters when she was teaching English in 1985 at Gonzaga University, but left teaching and spent many years working in banking and community relations. She is now a chaplain with Hospice of Spokane, where she has volunteered for nearly 18 years.

“It takes several leaders working quietly to point the world to the future and prepare for it,” she said. “But we can’t get away from the social teaching fits the SDGs. Both require continued effort.

The UN’s Millennium Development Goals established in 2000, brought many changes in 15 years: the number of people living in extreme poverty and those without access to clean water was cut in half, and diseases such as AIDS, have been drastically reduced, she said.

“When people get together to do something, the money appears,” she referred, saying to fund raising by Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and others who care.

The global SDGs are the “best news on the planet,” Sally said. “They draw funds around innovative projects. We have the ingenuity to make things happen.

The global goals are comprehensive, but simple. They are about all people on the planet living in prosperity,” she said. “They are about economic development and social progress, the right relationship between people, species, water, air and land.

With people aware everything is interconnected, Sally said, “it’s a magnificent time to be alive.” Goals of being implemented in such places as New York, San Jose, Tampa and Baltimore by city governments and other players, and gaining access to resources through the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Network.

A panel of Spokane civic leaders will discuss the nexus between Spokane’s regional goals and the global goals at a day of celebration and education from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22, at Unity Spiritual Center.

Sally is dismayed by policies “vital to the nation being pulled back,” but she is not discouraged because she knows that around the world countries are moving together on Paris Climate Accords and working on the SDGs.

“Given the world is ‘interconnected and fragile,’” she said. “She is pleased that Pope Francis’ encyclical on ecology recognizes the economic, social, environmental and technological connections.

“In the next 12 years, our children,” as well as the world they will inherit, will change dramatically. Who and what will shape that change?” she asked. “Our world reactors on the brink of multiple epidemics, violence, environmental, economic and technological. The severity of the crises motivated the UN to develop Sustainable Development Crises. Crises can spark conflict, but this time the world miraculously opted instead for cooperation,” she said.

“History has taught us that when people work together across borders, marvons can happen. The viability and quality of our future depend on the work and combined choices of each person, each community, each country, and each business and organization. Each of us influences the choices of others,” she said.

“This is a time for unity in diversity, for thinking globally while acting locally, for using our fear to motivate us to action, and for realizing the undeniable connectedness of all people around the globe along with every form of life on earth,” she said.

The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by 193 nations, plus cities and agencies around the world.

They were formulated through a transparent, inclusive, consultative process, involving civic organizations, governments, faith groups, scientists, specialists, businesses—more than 7 million citizens, including many in Spokane.

“The goals have been called the world’s ‘to do list’ from new until 2030, and they are designed to ensure safety, justice and peace, without weapons,” Sally said.

“The area around Spokane has been working on sustainability issues for many years. The goals help amplify and augment a positive movement in the Greater Spokane area, creating synergy, efficiency, funding potential and growth,” she said.

In a recent report ranking 100 large U.S. cities in the SDGs, Spokane ranked 26th.

For information, call 951-8551 or email sallyduffy@gmail.com.
Workshop on violence geared for Latinx

Hanncel Sanchez recently formed the nonprofit Mujeres en Acción (Mujeres en Acción) — Women in Action — to educate and advocate for the Latinx — a gender inclusive term for Latina and Latinx — community about violence against women and children in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way.

She is partnering with Lutheran Community Services (LCS) and the YWCA on a presentation, “Breaking the Silence: Violence in the Family” — “Rompe el Silencio: Violencia en la Familia” — from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 26 at the Philanthropy Center, 1020 W. Riverside Ave. It is co-sponsored by the Hispanic Business and Professional Association.

The keynote speaker is Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, director of multicultural affairs for the City of Spokane.

Workshop leaders are an immigration attorney at the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, an LCS representative at the YWCA’s domestic violence advocate and a survivor. Hanncel was 13 when she came with her parents from Venezuela in 2002, first living with family in New York City and then moving to Sanford, Fla. Her father was a roofer, and her mother cleaned vacation villas.

For Christmas 2013, she and her husband participated when their church, Iglesia el Calvario, gathered gifts for children and women at women’s shelters. “I was amazed that such a small gesture would bring such joy to children and mothers,” said Hanncel.

After graduating from high school in 2007, she received funding for a year-and-a-half of tuition at Seminole State College in Sanford, Fla.

Colin Powell is Leadership Forum speaker

Retired U.S. Army General and former Secretary of State Colin Powell will be Whitworth University President’s Fall Leadership Forum and lunch speaker from noon to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

The Whitworth Forum series brings speakers to Spokane who represent a range of voices, perspectives and ideas to help the community engage in critical thinking, civil discourse and effective action.

For more than 50 years, Powell has been devoted to public service in senior military and diplomatic positions over four presidential administrations. The son of Jamaican immigrants, he grew up in New York City and earned a bachelor’s degree in geology at City College of New York. He served in the Army for 35 years, becoming a four-star general.

He served as secretary of state under President George W. Bush, seeking to transform unstable regions and advance economic and social development. He is chair of the board of visitors of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at City College of New York.

He is also founder and chair emeritus of America’s Promise Alliance which seeks to see that children have basic resources to succeed.

For information, call 777-3449 or email laeventa@whitworth.edu.

Realizing she and her siblings had no future in Florida, she sold her cleaning business, her husband sold his landscaping business, and they moved in 2014 with her family to Seattle, where the Latino Educational Achievement Project (LEAP) helped her sister and brother qualify for college tuition.

In 2015, also through LEAP, she received funding for tuition at Eastern Washington University. Her parents and siblings stayed in Seattle. She started in February 2016 at Eastern Washington University’s Women and Gender Studies program.

Hanncel did a research project on sexual assault. In 2017, she gave a presentation at a conference in Utah and began volunteering with LCS on victim sexual assault and domestic violence as a crime victim advocate.

“Sexual assault is about power, not about how someone dresses,” she said.

Learning that few Latinx victims came to LCS or the YWCA, Hanncel, who graduates next spring, began a research project on what keeps people from seeking help.

“There is a taboo to talk about gender violence and sexual assault,” she said, adding that immigration status and lack of Spanish resources are other factors.

“God put people in my path,” she said, of LCS, the YWCA and the Comunidad Cristiana de Spokane in Spokane Valley.

In January, she and her husband began attending the church and connecting with more than 200 others in the Latinx community. Hanncel, who works part-time as a caregiver, is also active in and organizing annual events for immigrant rights.

“I feel called by God to be a voice for the voiceless,” she said.

For information, or email mis-spokane@gmail.com.
Fred Dent

Time served, retirement, he was in court for something he felt he did not do. Fearing additional charges and the possibility of a long sentence, Fred made a plea deal to avoid jail or prison, but the judge threw it out and sent him to prison. During 29 months in prison at Airway Heights Corrections Center, he noticed that people were released and came back on new charges. "Folks would transform their lives, accept Jesus and leave prison with the hope and sincere desire not to return," he said. "With no resources, no way to connect to a healthy community of friends and no experience living the life they wanted to live, they were doomed to failure." Fred believed God put him in prison to help those who were unable to make a successful transition from prison into society.

He learned that years earlier Chuck Colson, a former White House counselor, had a similar revelation when he went to Alabama's Maxwell prison in 1974. He spent seven months there for involvement in the 1972 Watergate scandal. In 1973, he became a Christian. After his release, Chuck felt led by God to honor his promise to remember prisoners and their families. In 1976, he founded Prison Fellowship. Now in 120 countries, it is called Prison Fellowship International.

After his release, Fred joined Prison Fellowship. He agrees with the ministry’s belief that all prisoners, former prisoners and their families are equally loved by God. "Both joined the church. I’m sure a welcoming community is part of the reason they come to church, where their love for God and each other grows," Fred said.

Prison Fellowship also includes the Bridge Church ministry, in which a church member mentors an individual for a year in prison, focusing on life skills and development of a personal plan. When someone is released, a Bridge Church mentor meets him/her at the re-entry point. Fred says they do this in a very organic way, by stepping into a plan. The goal is for the person released to be accountable to himself/herself and establish healthy relationships within a Christian community, said Fred, who also helps with this ministry.

He completed training as a re-entry mentor in July 2017. Fred’s journey with prison ministry began by God leading him to Spokane. Fred had a similar background. "Through approved prison correspondence, we assessed his life skills, developed a re-entry plan and built a relationship," Fred said.

"In the meantime, I received a referral for a woman who needed a place to stay in Spokane to visit her husband at Airway Height Correction Center," Fred said. "The Prison Fellowship support team found temporary housing. She moved into an apartment owned by Household of Faith. Fred recruited her for the Bridge Church program, helps another prison ministry at Victory Faith.

Fred met her when she became an Angel Tree volunteer at the church in October 2017. Her three children were nominated by their father to be in the Angel Tree program in Yakima County. Fred arranged for them to be served by Victory Faith. Learning that one child had the same first and last name as the man he was mentoring, Fred realized the man was the woman’s husband. When he was transferred to Brownstone work release for the last six months of his sentence, he began coming to Victory Faith.

"They were happy to be together. Going slow and spending quality time in the church, their relationship grew," Fred said. “The children became acquainted with their father. With support and prayers, the parents worked out struggles, and are becoming a healthy family," he said. "Both joined the church. I’m sure a welcoming community is part of the reason they come to church, where their love for God and each other grows."

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Everyone has a role in protecting the flow of information for democracy.

During late August about 350 U.S. newspapers—there were 1,286 daily papers in 2016, down from 1,748 in 1970 according to Bank of America—were called to consider the role of the press as crucial to American democracy and defending journalists. The wave of attacks on the press and journalism has risen with political charges that the mainstream press are “the enemy of the people,” because they purportedly present “fake news” and “alternative facts.” The editorials on Thursday, Aug. 16, were in response to a call by The Boston Globe to support freedom of the press in light of frequent attacks on media.

The newspapers ranged from large metropolitan dailies to small town weekly newspapers that have lost their own editorials, offering varied reflections. Independent media has a critical role in the Fourth Estate, recognized as the fourth estate in a democracy. Not a fourth branch of government, the “fourth estate” refers to the watchdog role of the press in maintaining a democracy and guarding against tyranny.

Autocratic governments seek to shut down news that challenges what a dictator wants people to believe, think and do. The question is not just what influence will these media manipulators have on the media and the public by reminding us of the necessity of the press and its role in maintaining democracy.

Faith communities must speak out at Spokane Valley rally

The rally was co-led by Leilani DeLong and Joan Braune of Families Against Bigotry (FAB). Leilani also participates in Spokane Valley Indivisible Progressives and Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR). The rally was part of the Poor People’s Campaign, led by the Rev. Jim Castro Lang, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Colville. He is also a member of the local Faith and Action of the League of Conservation Voters (FLC), which formed to support the Poor People’s Campaign and “moments that matter.”

Rick called for articulating the true American Dream “of liberty and justice for all, respect and dignity for all, inclusion, democracy, Democratic, Republican, Progressive and those who choose not to vote at all need to make clear our American values.”

“The issue stemmed from a meeting in July of Northwest Grassroots, which invited a known white nationalist to speak. Both Spokane Valley Mayor Rod Higgins and Spokane County treasurer Rob Chase attended. Some Spokane Valley citizens feared this signaled their approval of the racist groups and to raise their voices against hate speech.”

“Their question is, beyond claiming ‘we are the enemy that allows white supremacists to succeed in their agenda of hate and exclusion,’ he said. He asked for politicians to repudiate hate groups and to raise their voices against hate speech.”

“Do we support all of the citizens of our nation and bigotry.”

“Do media encourage us to dig our trenches in the ‘old wars’ ever deeper or do they offer the vision to help us see beyond entrenched divisions that play into the ‘divide and conquer’ designs of authoritarian power seekers?”

“We call on politicians of all stripes to take actions that protect and welcome all members of society. Indeed, we call on all members of society to speak out, as we are speaking up, for an inclusive, friendly and just society,” he said.

Rick concluded by thanking Spokane Valley City officials for choosing to place two statues of Native Americans in front of the city hall, honoring them for their care of this land “for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. We ask them to continue in this tradition.”

Joan then said, “Bold action is needed to correct the perception of Spokane Valley as a center of ignorance and racial discrimination and bigotry.”

She called for mayor and council to sign the resolution. Joan, who organized the event with Leilani and FAB, thanked the city council for choosing to place two statues of Native Americans in front of the city hall, honoring them for their care of this land “for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. We ask them to continue in this tradition.”

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Activities:
- **Sept 6 • Inland NW Wildlife Club program**
- **Sept 7 • Inland Northwest Ministry Fair, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
- **Sept 8 • Baha'i Fireside Discussions, Spokane**
- **Sept 13 • Eastern Washington Legislative**
- **Sept 14 • Spokane Valley Connect**
- **Sept 19 • Silent Day of Prayer**
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- **Sept 22 • Compassion Games Horse Massacre**
- **Sept 24-26 • Liturgy of the Hours Retreat, Fr. Rory**
- **Sept 29 • Spokane Global Unity**
- **Sept 30 • Spokane Global Unity**
- **Oct 1 • Spokane Global Unity**
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For more information, please visit: [www.spokanefarmersmarket.org](http://www.spokanefarmersmarket.org)
By Mark Kinney

As a young man, Cal Coblenz knew he wanted to serve others somehow. Growing up in a Mennonite family in Columbus, Ohio, grandson of an Amish bishop, he foresaw a career in some type of ministry.

Now, in a life that has included a 28-year military career, years in lay and vocational ministry, and five years as a senior center director, Cal serves others as CEO of Spokane Valley Partners (SVP).

“At 18, I felt there was a call on my life but I had no idea how to follow it,” said Cal, who entered the Mennonite Voluntary Service that “takes young people who aren’t locked into a path but want to serve others.”

In Hutchison, Kans., he and several young people worked with underprivileged children. It was an opportunity to experience ministry for one or two years and be in community with others. After a year, even though the Mennonite Church discouraged military service, Cal was compelled to join the military.

He entered Air Force basic training on his 22nd birthday and was selected for the Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion (SERE) program, which teaches survival skills including escape and evasion tactics.

“I chose a non-combative field that would support and help others,” he said. “I prepared people to survive. I could serve and add value.”

Cal served at Fairchild and at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. He and his wife, Teri, who have been married 31 years, served in lay ministry while in the military.

“God put us in ministry throughout our lives, so full-time ministry was always in the back of our minds,” he said.

His last five years in the military, Cal was a lay minister, counseling, teaching and leading ministry at the North Pole Worship Center. After retiring, he became an associate pastor there. While serving the church for five years, it grew six-fold. Cal and Teri then moved to Houston, where he studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

After that, they decided to do charitable work and return to Teri’s hometown, Spokane, on faith and without jobs.

Cal was hired as CEO at Sinto Senior Activity Center. In July 1997, he became CEO at SVP. In 1951, 10 Protestant churches founded Spokane Valley Partners to serve the poor. The churches divided responsibilities. One housed the food bank. Another housed the clothing bank. In the late 1980s, the churches formed a nonprofit to bring services under one roof. They bought the current facility at 108 E. Broadway Ave. and were chartered in July 1990.

“We are not a typical nonprofit with a founder who created a nonprofit to address a need. We were founded by the community and evolved into a stand-alone nonprofit. Over 28 years, it has grown to become the social services hub for the Spokane Valley,” Cal said.

SVP’s services include a food bank, clothing bank, payee services and an emergency assistance program. They recently took on responsibility for the regional diaper bank after Inland NW Baby Bank closed last fall.

“Their board asked us to do the program. We knew there was a need, and the community would support it,” he said.

They inherited enough diapers for two months of supply by enrolling agencies, so they began to raise funds. They received two grants in the first month for $8,000, and $10,000 the next month from the National Diaper Bank Network, so they bought 30,000 diapers. They now have about 70,000 diapers but continually seek donations to maintain stock. A recent “Stuff the Bus” drive netted 15,000 diapers and about $3,000.

As a regional diaper bank, Spokane Valley Partners also has bulk purchasing power to buy at affordable prices.

SVP’s clothing bank serves about 600 families monthly. It also maintains a store with professional clothing for job seekers. It is sponsored by the staffing agency, Humanitix. They share clothing with other agencies when they have an abundance of donations.

The food bank serves about 50 families monthly with a average of 70 pounds of food. In 15-minute appointments, volunteers help clients make choices as they go through the food bank.

Spokane Valley Partners receives about $50,000 pounds of food annually from Second Harvest and 150,000 pounds from Northwest Harvest, Cal said. Another 85,000 pounds of food comes from food rescue at grocery stores and restaurants, and from local food drives at schools, churches and businesses. The food bank warehouse, remodeled about 10 years ago, operates at capacity.

“The food bank also supports Spokane Valley Schools through its Food4Thought program, which provides weekend meals to children who might otherwise go without food. Cal said they provide 50 tons of food annually to Valley students for six weekend meals.

“School counselors tell us that if children don’t eat enough nutritious food on weekends, it can take a couple of days before they eat enough to focus to learn,” he said.

“Education helps break the curse of poverty,” Cal said. “We partner with schools to feed children.”

SVP has 13 paid staff and 250 volunteers. It houses several tenant agencies—Valley Fest, SNAP and the Ignite! Theater group.

Cal, who is beginning a doctoral program with George Fox University, and his wife have three married daughters and a son living in the area.

He replaced long-time SVP director, Ken Briggs, who had a vision for Spokane Valley Partners and “established the effective programming we have today,” said Cal, who spent several months learning the operation and the community.

By fall, he started “casting his own vision.” He consulted with community members, leaders and the city council to assess community needs, identify growth opportunities and develop a five-year strategy.

“We’ve been around long enough that we have a community leadership role,” Cal said. “I hope our philosophy of working together as a team of agencies serves the Spokane Valley well in the future.”

For information, call 928-1153 or visit svpart.org.