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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest

online in color at www.thefigtree.org

Storytelling, service counter genocide

By Mary Stamp

For many nights in 1994, Carl Wilkens slept on the floor in the hall of his home in Kigali, Rwanda, as genocide swept away lives outside. He wondered if the rest of the world knew or cared.

After returning to the United States in 1996 to be chaplain at Milo Adventist Academy and pastor of a church in Days Creek, Ore., he realized that he was now the rest of the world.

"I began asking what was I doing to care about ending the genocide in Darfur," he said.

In 2004, after an interview on a PBS Frontline documentary, "Ghosts of Rwanda," teachers contacted him to speak to their classes on genocide and human rights. For four years, he traveled around the country, speaking two to three days a month.

Carl, who began his career as a vocational education teacher and as an aid worker in Africa, decided on another career change in 2008.

In 2009, he and his wife, Teresa, created the nonprofit, World Outside My Shoes, to address us-vs.-them thinking and equip people to enter the world of "the other" at home or around the world. Now he travels to schools to tell stories to



Carl Wilkens travels to share insights about genocide from his experience in Rwanda.

teach how to address genocide and understand how it relates to hatred, intolerance and prejudice.

He has spoken only a few times in the Spokane area. In the 2009-2010 school year, he and Teresa bicycled from Spokane via Seattle to Los Angeles, speaking at schools enroute. They started at Freeman High in Rockford and spoke in Reardan, Davenport and small towns in Eastern Washington.

Carl will be keynote speaker for the 2011 Yom Hashoah commemoration at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 28, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., in Spokane.

"In presentations, I talk about the commonalities of genocide and bullying. I help students understand what it means to use derogatory slang expressions," Carl said. "Words have power and shape thinking, feelings and actions. We talk, and there is a consequence."

He sees storytelling and service as key to breaking down barriers between "us" and "them" to re-humanize people who have been dehumanized.

"Storytelling helps us see ourselves in the other and see what we share in common," he said.

When people are involved in
Continued on page 4

Bishops and regional executives lead ecumenical Good Friday Tenebrae

The Most Revered Blase Cupich of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane will lead an Ecumenical Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m., Good Friday, April 22, 2011, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1115 W. Riverside Ave. in Spokane.

Bishop Cupich will be joined by five Christian leaders of Spokane:

- Bishop James Waggoner, Jr., of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane;
- The Rev. Sheryl Kinder Pyle, transitional executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Inland

Northwest;

- Bishop Martin Wells of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

- The Rev. Dale Cockrum, Inland District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, and

- Bishop Walton Mize, Sr., of the Northwest Diocese of Christ Holy Sanctified Church of America.

Aware that in Spokane, as elsewhere in the country, there are many families whose members belong to different Christian churches, Bishop Cupich suggest-

ed that these leaders provide an occasion where such families—and all Christians—could come together in worship.

Christians of different churches celebrate a prayer service, called Tenebrae, which has origins in the early church. The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin word for "darkness."

The evening service at the cathedral will use hymns and readings from the Catholic Office of Readings for Good Friday.

"Good Friday provides an opportunity for such a service," the bishop said. "Together we confess the Paschal Mystery as the center and essence of our Christian faith. On Holy Thursday evening at the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for the unity of all those followers who were to come."

By gathering on Good Friday, the Christian leaders bear witness to their common faith and gather to pray for a fuller Christian unity in that spirit, Bishop Cupich said.

In 1971 after the Catholic Church revised its official prayers,
Continued on page 7

Easter Sunrise preacher attended service as teen

Since going with his youth group in a van caravan to 1970s Spokane's Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Services, the Rev. Alan Eschenbacher has attended most years.

"I never thought I'd preach at one," he said.

He is the preacher for the 2011 service at 6:30 a.m., Sunday, April 24, at the Lofty Cross of Inspiration overlooking Spokane from Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 N. Government Way.

The theme, "At One with God and with Each Other through the Power of the Resurrection," he said, fits with his ministry at All Saints Lutheran Church, serving people in West Central, downtown and Browne's Addition in Spokane.

As part of his outreach to people struggling to find jobs and struggling with cuts to General Assistance to Unemployable, he has helped organize Companionship Training that has drawn Lutheran, Episcopal, United Methodist and Covenant clergy and laity to develop a mental health chaplaincy and outreach.

"We need to be there with and for people in our neighborhoods and community," said Alan, who has been at All Saints Lutheran since 2002.

When he was in the ninth grade, he moved to Spokane with his family from Froid in eastern Montana, where his father worked a family farm with his uncle. His father came to Spokane to work in construction.

Alan worked for 22 years in the insurance and investment profession, with "God pestering me" since he graduated in 1982 from Gonzaga University with a degree in business. He

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Religion News Briefs Around the World

Catholic Charities Spokane (CCS) is accepting donations from individuals, groups, parishes and corporations wishing to assist those affected by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan. Financial donations will be delivered by Catholic Relief Services and other Catholic aid efforts, said Scott Cooper, director of Parish Social Ministries with CCS.

"Our faith calls for us to live our life in solidarity with the victims of this catastrophic disaster and we ask for prayers and support for the Japanese people at this most difficult time," said Scott, adding that Catholic Charities Spokane is exploring the possibility of organizing a service trip to Japan in the coming months.

For information, call 358-4273.

As news from earthquake-stricken, tsunami-devastated and nuclear disaster areas in Japan continue, U.S. churches and religious groups are assessing how they can help. Church World Service and National Council of Churches member communions responded within minutes after the 8.9 magnitude earthquake struck Japan on March 11.

"It's natural to feel helpless in situations as overwhelming as this, but prayer is an important first step, prayer that asks God to be with the families of the dead, the injured, the homeless, and the responders at every level," said the Rev. Michael Kinnamon, NCC general secretary, calling for financial support through relief organizations that are supplying food, water, shelter and comfort.

"**Spiritual support and healing ministry** will be required long after the initial impact of the disaster," he said, citing Haiti as another area where U.S. churches will have a role for years to come. "Along with everything else, we pray for the faith and patience to remain committed for as long as it takes."

Several NCC member communions announced responses. Their websites are listed to facilitate contact.

American Baptist Churches USA will send a \$20,000 grant from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), to its mission partner, the Japan Baptist Union, for relief efforts—abc-usa.org.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will respond to needs through its Week of Compassion—disciples.org.

The combined world mission of the United Church of Christ and Disciples through Global Ministries told mission partners in Japan that churches "will continue praying for you and will seek ways to accompany you in the path that lies ahead"—ucc.org.

The Church of the Brethren's Mission and Ministry Board was meeting in Elgin, Ill., when word of the earthquake and tsunami came. It immediately issued a call to prayer and announced that Brethren Disaster Ministries will support its partners in relief efforts in Japan—brethren.org.

Anglican Communion churches and agencies are planning their response—ecusa.anglican.org.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has 22 missionaries in Japan with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. Many reported they are safe—elca.org.

The Orthodox Church in America said its hierarchs, clergy and faithful are remembering in prayer all those affected by the disaster and will support efforts through International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), which has assembled its emergency response team to assess needs and responses"—oca.org.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has 10 mission co-workers in cities across Japan. None is close to the northern coastal city of Sendai, which has taken the brunt of the impact—pcusa.org.

Reformed Church in America missionaries' reports are at rca.org.

United Methodists expressed concern and offered prayers for the people of Japan. The United Methodist Committee on Relief and Church World Service were consulting with partners in the region on emergency-relief needs—umc.org.

World Vision is distributing relief items - worldvision.org - and **World Relief** is empowering local churches - worldrelief.org.

Groups of Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and other faiths are also joining in the global response for aid.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

Fig Tree benefits near the budget goals

The Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast and Benefit Lunch in March raised \$16,680 in donations and pledges toward its 2011 goal of \$17,500 for those events. With a few more gifts, the goal will be met. The events also brought sign-ups for volunteers.

Of the budgeted goal for sponsors—\$15,500 for 2011—\$3,500 has been donated, leaving \$12,000 more to raise from sponsors during the rest of the year.

"We are grateful to all who value the ministry and voice of

The Fig Tree as a unique journalistic endeavor in this region," said editor Mary Stamp.

Support by businesses, nonprofits, churches and other organizations through advertising is the other major source of income for The Fig Tree and its Resource Directory: Guide to Congregations and Community Resources.

"We regular volunteer workers contribute about \$20,000 a year with in-kind services in planning events, as well as with production tasks," Mary said.

This spring, The Fig Tree has the help of Jami Gonzalez, a marketing intern who is completing studies at Gonzaga University; Care Pantojan, an intern in film and graphics from Eastern Washington University who recently graduated; Jacquie Echelberger through AARP and Brenda Waga through Career Path Services.

"We continually need new volunteers to fill the roles they have as they move on to new opportunities," Mary added.

For information, call 535-1813.

Easter Sunrise offering will be shared

Continued from page 1

said he tried to run away from his call to ministry, but finally began seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological School in Berkeley in 2002, continuing to live and work in Spokane, and commuting to seminary until he completed studies in 2004. He was ordained in January 2005. He served All Saints while studying.

The Rev. Paul Rodkey, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church and campus minister with Cooperating

Ministries in Higher Education at Eastern Washington University, will lead and accompany music for the sunrise service.

Organizers of the 2011 Easter Sunrise Service include pastors on The Fig Tree Board of Directors, in cooperation with Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane.

In 2010, The Fig Tree assumed responsibility for planning the service from the Interfaith Council, the successor to the Spokane Council of Ecumenical Ministries,

the Spokane Christian Coalition—the Fig Tree's founder in 1984—and the Greater Spokane Council of Churches, which started the service in the 1950s.

A freewill offering will be shared by The Fig Tree and Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane, a response by the faith community to serve homeless families by providing shelter and support to help families sustain their independence.

For information, call 535-4112.

Jewish Film Festival runs April 9 to 11

The Spokane Jewish Cultural Film Festival 2011 will be held Saturday through Monday, April 9 to 11, at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, 2316 W. First.

"Saviors in the Night," which will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, is based on Marga Spiegel's memories of Catholic farmers in southern Muensterland hiding her, her husband and her daughter from 1943 to 1945. After the film, Miriam Abramowitz-Ferszt, a Holocaust survivor whose story

is echoed in the film, will lead a discussion.

Two films will be shown at 2 p.m., Sunday. "Black over White" is a documentary on the Israeli music group, the Idan Raichel Project, as it tours Ethiopia and deals with Ethiopians' identity, heritage and displacement. In "These Are My Names," young Ethiopian Israelis share their journeys toward their multiple names, stories of love and connection, survival and loss, anger

and pride.

"Seven Minutes in Eden," shown at 7:30 p.m., Monday, tells of Galila, a young woman from Jerusalem, and her boyfriend, Oren, who board a local bus that explodes, leaving Oren in a coma, and Galila with burns and loss of memory of the day of the attack. In therapy, she attempts to stitch together the shattered fragments of her life and soul.

For information, visit www.sajfs.org.

John Philip Newell leads Spokane events

Poet, scholar and teacher John Philip Newell from Scotland, will lead presentations on "A New Harmony: the Spirit, the Earth and the Human Soul" Friday to Sunday, May 6 to 8.

The event brings insights of Celtic spirituality to the discussion of peacemaking today.

He will speak at 7 p.m., Friday, at the Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave. The Saturday workshop is from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He will also speak at 10 a.m., Sunday,

and preach at the 11 a.m. worship at the cathedral.

John has just released a book, *Praying with the Earth: A Prayer Book for Peace*, and a CD, "Chanting for Peace." These are drawn from the Quran, Hebrew Scriptures and Jesus' teachings to pray for peace and evoke the qualities of heart and head that humans need for peacemaking.

A Scot-Canadian by birth, he did his seminary and doctoral studies in Scotland. He served as

warden of the Iona Community in the western isles of Scotland and worked as an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and as director of spirituality for dioceses of the Church of England.

He lectures in the United States and holds seminars at Ghost Ranch, N.M.

Spiritus at the Cathedral of St. John is sponsoring the weekend.

For information, visit www.spokanedioocese.org or www.stjohns-cathedral.org.

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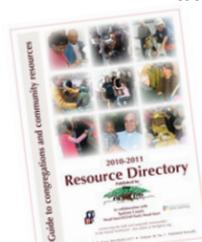
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National NAACP leader joins call to action at Spokane rally and march

National and Northwest leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were in Spokane to speak for an April 3 rally at the Spokane Arena and a march to Riverfront Park, commemorating the 43rd anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, assassination on April 4, 1968.

Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the national NAACP, Oscar Eason, Jr., president of the NAACP Alaska, Oregon and Washington Statewide Area Conference, spoke on the event's theme, "Demand Justice and Promote Peace."

The Spokane NAACP asked Benjamin to lead the rally and march because of the attempted bombing during the Jan. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day March in Spokane.

After the attempt, several community organizations held forums on violence, but the African-American community was not included. Concerned about not having enough representation at those forums, the Spokane NAACP held a Feb. 21 "Let's Talk" forum that drew 100 people to the East Central Community Center. The issues that forum raised related to racism were injustice, police, education and jobs.

"For us, the attempted bombing brought racism to the forefront," said V. Anne Smith, president of the Spokane chapter. "We experience racism on a daily basis, even if it's subtle."

"We decided we needed to come together as a community, so we organized the rally and march," she said. "The bomber showed that we have a problem in our community, so we decided to have a call to action. The NAACP will continue to address injustice to eradicate racial distress in our community."

For information, call 467-9793.

International conference on hate studies explores prevention, curriculum ideas

Because hatred causes so many deaths, John Shuford, director of Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies, said there is need to understand how to prevent it.

In exploring "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Understanding the Nature of Hate, Crafting Models for Combating Hatred, and Implications for Practice," the institute's Second International Conference on Hate Studies April 6 to 9 at Northern Quest Resort and Casino in Airway Heights, seeks to shape an academic curriculum on hate studies.

Participation of more than 70 speakers from about 25 countries signifies that the world believes the time has come for a hate studies curriculum, John said.

Academics from universities around the world, a representative of the U.S. State Department, international experts on hate crimes, as well as journalists, law enforcement personnel, educators, human rights experts, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, community leaders, clergy and others are gathering to share.

Izzeldin Abuelaish, the Nobel Peace Prize-nominated author of *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, is the conference's keynote speaker.

The Palestinian physician has become an international voice on issues of peace and development in the Middle East. He lost three daughters in January 2009 when

Israeli tanks shelled his home, but he brings a message of nonviolence and hope for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

A session, "Combating Hatred: Community Impacts & Best Practices," engages international hate crimes experts Barbara Perry and Michael Whine, and King County, Washington Superior Court Judge Steven Gonzales.

Among the panel presentations is one from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Saturday, April 9, led by the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NWRM) on "Reading Hate: Images and Discourse in the Media." Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp, who is on the NWRM Board, will be one of five panelists, with John Caputo, Heather Crandall and Alexa Dare of Gonzaga University, and Jim McPherson of Whitworth University.

They will explore how corporate media maintain the ideology of those in power, using images of hate to titillate, frighten and influence popular opinion.

"As in other human concerns, we recognize the value of bringing people together to address the complexity, wisdom, and tools of multiple disciplines," John said. "Given the kinds of problems we face, it's time to bring together our best thinking, practices and questions on tackling hate to promote peace."

For information, call 313-3665 or email hatestudies@gonzaga.edu.

Spokane's Earth Day promotes stewardship of earth

Serving as 2011 coordinator for Earth Day in Spokane is a natural outgrowth of Jessica Anundson's commitment to preserving the environment and the stewardship of the earth emphasis at her church, Unity Church of Spokane.

Earth Day activities run from 11 a.m. to midnight, Saturday, April 23—the day after the official Earth Day, April 22. Main St. in downtown Spokane will be closed between Browne and Division.

There will be music, plus booths set up in pods on five themes: 1) alternative transportation, 2) energy and conservation, 3) sustainable communities, 4) local foods and 5) active stewardship.

"Sustainable Communities" will include booths by nonprofits, the holistic and faith communities, and "Local Foods" will include a farmers' market near the parking

lot of Main Market Co-op.

"Active Stewardship" will offer children's activities—the Procession of the Species, drumming and making backpack buttons to help children remember that Earth Day is every day. From 8 to 11 p.m., there will be live music for dancing in the street.

Jessica helped with Earth Day 2010, creating costumes for children in the Procession of the Species and educating the community about energy efficiency with Sustainable Works.

After graduating in 2006 from Evergreen State College in Olympia with a concentration in public policy and sustainability, she worked for several environmental nonprofits in Western Washington before returning to Spokane in 2009 to organize with the Spokane Alliance's Sustainable

Works program. Impressed with its model of bringing together churches, nonprofits and unions, Jessica is using a similar model with a diverse group of community members to plan the Earth Day event to help make Spokane a sustainable, earth-friendly city.

Running and rock climbing at Dishman Hills Natural Area during her childhood in Spokane Valley, she has dedicated her life to preserving the Earth for future generations to enjoy.

"We need to care for the planet for the next generations," she said, frustrated that "people destroy the earth" not thinking of the next generation. She is grateful to work with people who are investing their time and energy for Earth Day.

For information, call 847-9503 or visit www.earthdayspokane.org.

Inland NW communities plan Earth Day events

Other Earth Day events in the Inland Northwest include:

- **Spokane Valley's** Spring Celebration begins at 3 p.m., Friday, April 15, at Discovery Playground, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., with a tree planting ceremony.

- **The Lands Council's** 16th Annual Dinner Auction is at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at the Double Tree Hotel - 838-4912.

- **The Inland Northwest Land Trust** will show the film, "Vanishing of the Bees," is 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 19, at the Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main.

- **Eastern Washington University's** Earth Day Fair is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, April 22 at 526 Fifth St. in Cheney - 359-2245.

- **Lewiston's** 6th Annual Earth Day Celebration is 10 a.m. to 2

p.m., Thursday, April 21, in downtown Lewiston - 208-746-1187.

- **The Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI)** will hold its Silver Anniversary Celebration Dinner Auction from 6 to 10 p.m., Friday, April 22, at the Eastside Marketplace Event Center in **Moscow** - 208-882-1444.

- **The PCEI's** Paradise Creek Stream Clean-Up is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 23, at 1040 Rodeo Dr. Its Paradise Creek Project is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday at the **University of Idaho in Moscow**.

- **The third annual LIFE 2 Earth Day Community Fair**, "Think Local First," is noon to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 23, at the Lions' Club Park on Highway 2 in **Leavenworth** - varnbeachreserve.org.

- **The Idaho Conservation League** has planned "Earth Day Every Day" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 22 at the **Coeur d'Alene Library** - 208-869-1730.

- **Sandpoint's** celebration is 4 to 8 p.m., Friday April 22, at the Sandpoint Events Center at Pine and Euclid. There will be information on the environmental movement from Earth Day founder and author Doug Scott, booths by conservation groups, an opportunity to donate to the food bank, arts and crafts, and demonstrations - 208-265-9565.

- **The Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce** has organized its 2nd Earth Day Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 23, at Memorial Hall at the Boundary County Fairgrounds - 208-290-2720.

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

Planned by The Fig Tree & Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane

6:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
April 24, 2011



At One with God & Each Other
through the Power of the Resurrection

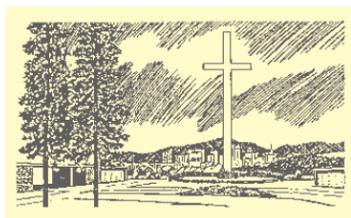
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Please join in the
Spokane Community Observance
of the Holocaust
Yom HaShoah
'And You Shall Tell Your Children'

Keynote speaker Carl Wilkens
responsible for saving lives during the Rwanda genocide
Reading of the winning entry
in the Eva Lassman Memorial Creative Writing Contest
Children's Candle Processional
Candle Lighting Ceremony
Music by the Spokane Youth Symphony and Kinderchor of Spokane
7 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2011
Temple Beth Shalom • 1322 East 30th Ave. • Spokane

Stories help break through political efforts to dehumanize and divide

Continued from page 1
service, they see the person, not preconceived ideas about an ethnic group, he added. Doing something physical together—moving a table, digging with a shovel—builds bonds.

“Stories and service are the best ways we have to build peace around the world,” he said. “We can’t say we are against genocide and have intolerances. It’s not just about ending genocide, but about building peace and community.”

Carl moved to Spokane for his senior year of high school at Upper Columbia Academy, where he met his wife, Teresa. He earned a degree in industrial education in 1981 at Walla Walla College.

A one-year college experience with Student Missions in South Africa instilled a love of Africa. Six weeks after he and Teresa married, they moved to Zimbabwe to lead a vocational education program. After four years there, where their two daughters were born, they served two years at a mission hospital in Zambia.

After he earned a master’s in business in 1989 at the University of Baltimore, where their son was born, they went to Rwanda with the Seventh-Day Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

They studied French for six months in France, arriving in Rwanda in spring 1990. Carl built primary schools and operated clinics.

Six months after they arrived, war started when the Tutsi minority returned by force 30 years after fleeing violence in Rwanda just before its independence. For three years of war, Carl worked in displaced persons camps.

About 900,000 people were displaced, one-seventh of Rwanda’s 7 million people, living in an area the size of Northeastern Washington from Spokane to Coulee Dam north to Canada.

He generated projects, bringing in bamboo for people in camps to make privacy mats as temporary walls for latrines and clinics. He brought truckloads of car springs and taught blacksmithing, so people could make garden hoes.

After three years of war, the international community pressured Rwanda to establish a multi-party transitional government, including a small group of Hutu extremists, the Coalition for the Defense of Rwanda. They were determined never to share power with the Tutsi or moderate Hutu.

“They designed and implemented the genocide. It wasn’t a matter of friction between groups of people who did not get along. Genocide was not the result of prejudice, division or people not getting along. It was a clear, organized strategy, using radio to construct the enemy persona.

“The strategy was to break the bonds between the Hutu and Tutsi. There was more love than hatred between them. Thousands intermarried. They had the same language, religions, marriage customs, food, music, culture and history. We can’t say one hated the other so much they decided to exterminate the other. Marrying the other was more prevalent than killing the other,” he explained.

Carl said “the other” is a construct of politicians to manipulate people in order to stay in power. Men and women who studied around the world developed a problem-solving strategy based on exclusion.

“Genocide stems from thinking my world would be better without you in it. Exclusivist problem solving is temporary at best and genocide at worst. The lessons apply to any society,” he said.

“Look at how we often think we might solve problems by getting rid of someone in our office or congregation,” Carl said. “We also see problem solving by exclusion in U.S. attitudes toward immigrants and refugees.”

While some Americans offer a generous welcome to newcomers, others focus on differences, problems and complaints, he said.

Carl and Teresa now live in Spokane, where his parents, John and Edith Wilkens, have lived many years since the 1970s.

In 1994, his parents were visiting them in Kigali, Rwanda, and heard the explosion when

the President’s plane was shot down on Wednesday, April 6. The American embassy evacuated Americans on Saturday and Sunday.

His wife, children and parents were part of a vehicle convoy to Burundi. His parents returned to Spokane, and his family stayed in Burundi and then went to Nairobi for three months of the genocide.

Not knowing if he would survive, Carl made tapes to his wife and children during the genocide, telling them stories of what was happening. He has written a book based on those tapes. Pre-publication copies of *I’m Not Leaving* will be available online April 9 at imnotleavingrwanda.com.

Carl stayed to protect their two Tutsi workers. He expected it would be over in two weeks, but it was three weeks before he could leave his house because of a 24/7 curfew.

Of 5,700 foreigners who lived among 300,000 in Kigali, he knew 10 who stayed—five Catholic sisters from Spain, two Catholic fathers, a Frenchman who stayed with orphans, a Swiss man with the Red Cross and him.

During the genocide, people in Kigali lived off food stocks that the international community had in place for the displaced people.

To help supply three orphanages with food, water and medicine, Carl formed a relationship with Col. Renzaho, the man in charge of Kigali who has since been convicted of genocide and crimes against humanity.

He negotiated with thieves and people in the market for powdered milk, bags of beans, barrels to haul water and diesel for his truck. He negotiated to go through roadblocks. He found cooking oil through the UN. When he took wounded people to a Red Cross field hospital, he was given medicines for the orphans.

“Serving meant building relationships with people in the killing squads,” he said.

“Prisoners collected bodies to bury in mass graves or throw in rivers. Shores of Lake Victoria in

Tanzania were covered with people murdered in Rwanda,” he said. “The rivers that flowed through the beautiful mountainous country into the Nile carried grandmothers, grandfathers, parents, teens, children and babies.

“In Rwanda, no denomination distinguished itself in standing up against genocide, despite mandates to love neighbors and enemies,” he said.

Carl, who attends South Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church when he is in Spokane, said his faith journey continues.

He believes in God and that God has personal interest in his life and in the planet, as he lives his life around principles of Jesus.

Concerned about divisions denominations can create, he disagrees with practices that separate denominations from each other.

In his travels, Carl has become ecumenical, visiting Jewish synagogues, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and many other congregations.

For information, call 844-5294, email carl.wilkens@yahoo.com or visit worldoutsidemyshoes.org.

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Kenyan nurse will speak at two Spokane events

Partners for Progress is presenting two programs featuring Alice Otieno Wasilwa, the founder of the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Kopanga, Kenya.

Alice will speak at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, in Jepson Center at Gonzaga University, and at a 7 a.m. breakfast on Thursday, April 14, at the Masonic Temple, 1108 W. Riverside.

Ten years ago, Alice, a nurse and the wife of a United Method-

ist pastor, opened a health clinic to serve marginalized people of Kopanga. With no funds and a limited supply of medicines donated by local United Methodist women, she rented a small room in a house and began providing services without pay or assistance.

As word spread about the medical care, the clinic outgrew its space. In 2007, a group of doctors and nurses from Washington

built a dispensary with a maternity ward and bed space for long-term care.

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Encounter local art and the artist within with Fr. Eamonn McNerney.

Women’s Stories, May 13 – 15
Share your stories and explore those of New Testament women.

Centering Prayer Intensive, May 20 – 26
A 7-day retreat based on *The Spiritual Journey* series by Fr. Keating.

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Dutch woman taught her children lessons so the Holocaust would not be repeated

As Carla Peperzak helped review 54 essays from high school students on "And You Shall Tell the Children," she reflected on what she told her children as they grew up and as adults about her experience of the Holocaust during World War II in Amsterdam.

The 2011 essay theme for the observance of Yom Hashoah on Thursday, April 28, at Temple Beth Shalom, is based on the Passover tradition of telling children of the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom.

Until her children were adults and she was ready, Carla said little about her teen years helping hide her Jewish family and friends in rural homes outside Amsterdam to protect them from being sent to concentration camps.

Because her mother grew up Catholic, Carla and her sister were granted identity cards without a "J" for "Jew" on them, so they were not required to wear a yellow star to mark them as Jews.

"In Holland, many Jewish people felt more Dutch than Jewish, so there were many intermarriages," Carla said.

"My father's foresight at the beginning of the war saved me. He arranged with an attorney for the ID cards," she said.

Because her family was active in the temple and her whole life until she was 16 had been around Jewish friends and family, all her friends and relatives had to wear yellow stars.

After the rabbi was taken, Jews were afraid to associate. Her parents and sister survived, but most of her aunts, uncles and cousins were taken and did not survive.

Because Carla could move freely, she felt she had an obligation to help take friends and family into hiding and make sure they had food. Through friends of friends, she learned of houses in nearby villages with attics or basements where Jews could hide.

She helped hide 17 people and made new ID cards and extra ration cards for them, using forms printed in England and dropped by plane.

"Every day I was scared to death I would be caught. Every time the doorbell rang, especially at night, I was scared who was there," she said of the war years. "In a store or on the street, I was scared that what I might say would be overheard."

After the war, Carla's residual fear meant she did not attend a temple. In 1947, she married Paul Peperzak, a Catholic who grew up in Indonesia. They had four children. Now she has 11 grandchildren and soon six great-grandchildren. One daughter is Catholic, one is Methodist, one is



Carla Peperzak

interested in Judaism and her son has no faith involvement.

Two weeks after they married, Paul left to study in the United States. Carla followed in 1948. For years, they moved every few years around the world with his studies and work in Liberia, Iowa, Hawaii—where they became U.S. citizens—Bangkok, Rome, Alabama, California—while he developed irrigation in Iran—and Kenya before they settled for 20 years in Washington, D.C. He worked primarily with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Bank.

When he retired in 1988, they settled in Colorado Springs, midway between their children—in New Mexico, Kansas, Spokane and Idaho. After Paul died in 2004, she moved to Spokane to a house in the Rockwood Retirement Community.

Through years of moving, Carla did volunteer work—with the Red Cross, the American Women's Society and Hadassah.

Moving every few years, neither she nor Paul was involved in a faith community, but she began to attend a Reform temple in Washington, D.C., and became active in Colorado.

"I always believed in God," she said. "The Jewish way is the way for me. I feel at home."

Carla joined Beth Haverim, a Reform congregation in Spokane and helped it merge with Ner Tamid as Congregation Emanuel, which meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Because of the distance there and having many friends at Temple Beth Shalom, she is also a member at the temple. Since 2005, she has helped Temple Beth Shalom plan the annual Yom Hashoah commemoration of the Holocaust.

In the 1960s in Honolulu, Carla left part-way through a performance of the play, "The Diary of Anne Frank." It was too close.

Anne Frank's family had lived a block away from her family in Amsterdam. Anne was three years younger. Carla didn't know her, but played with her sister, Margot. The building where the Franks hid was behind her father's clothing factory.

One day Carla talked to some-

one, and the next day, the person was gone. She didn't know until after the war if the person was picked up or went into hiding. When she left Holland, she put her memories aside to live each day.

"I can read about the Holocaust, because I can put a book aside, but seeing a movie or play is too emotional," she said.

She had hated Germans, until a German woman in Washington, D.C., became her friend and helped her realize she could see Germans in a different way.

"The Holocaust is part of my life. I'm formed by it. I like most people and try to see the best in people," Carla said, turning to what she wants her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to know.

For a long time, she never talked about her experiences, only telling her children that her relatives had died in the Holocaust.

She taught them never to throw food away; be good people and good neighbors; be open minded; do not hate; respect other people's viewpoints, and accept others for who they are.

"If we can respect each other, our points of view and our religions, what a wonderful world it would be. Respect is the most important word in the vocabulary," she said.

After her children became adults, she began telling them more. When her granddaughters were eight and 10, Carla went to their class with her daughter. It was the first time they heard her talk about her experiences.

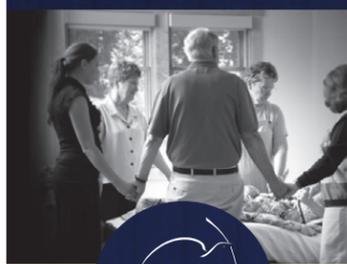
She has only gone a few times to schools to tell her story. Once, she spoke to the cast of "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Central Valley High school. She has also talked at Temple Beth Shalom and at her Rockwood community.

"I wish I had raised my children Jewish, but after the war I didn't want anything to do with Judaism because of my fear and my desire to stay alive," Carla said.

"Yom Hashoah is not just for the Jewish community but for the whole community. We need to care so it won't happen again," she said.

For information, email carlapeperzak@msn.com.

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Hospice of North Idaho is promoting comprehensive end-of-life care for people

By Kaye Hult

To promote comprehensive end-of-life care, Hospice of North Idaho in Hayden, is a local site for Hospice Foundation of America's 18th annual Living with Grief educational program, "Spirituality and End-of-Life Care."

The conference is part of efforts by the Rev. Grant MacLean, spiritual care coordinator for Hospice of North Idaho, to engage the health care, faith and counseling communities in conversation on end-of-life care.

It will be held from 1 to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, at First Baptist Church at Wallace and Fifth Streets in Coeur d'Alene.

Presenters on the DVD will discuss such issues as the differences between and the relationship of spirituality and religion; spirituality during illness, death and grief; spiritual assessment and empowerment, and life review. National panelists include a gerontologist, hospice chaplain, a social work professor, an end-of-life consultant and a director of clinical pastoral education.

After the DVD, a local panel will discuss issues in this area.

Those panelists include:

- Fr. Tom Connolly, SJ, retired priest for Desmet, Worley, and Plummer, who also worked with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Tensed. Now in residence at Gonzaga University, he will speak to both Roman Catholic and the Native American points of view.

- Jennifer James, senior chaplain at Kootenai Medical Center, will discuss end-of-life issues from medical and faith perspectives.

- Susan Melchiorre, geriatrician,

is medical director and founder of On-Site for Seniors, which makes house calls to clients who live at home or in elder care facilities. She is also medical director for North Idaho Memory Clinic.

Participants will gain insights on how to walk with someone who is facing death.

The program is for health care professionals, facility staff, faith-based communities, students and the general public. Professionals may earn continuing education credit.

At a recent planning meeting, Grant and the Rev. Bill Peterson of First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mark Arbic of First Baptist Church, and bereavement counselor Sue Denton of Hospice of North Idaho said there is need to open conversation on matters of life and death.

Dame Cicely Saunders, who inaugurated the hospice movement about 40 years ago, taught that spiritual care is part of holistic care for people at the end of their lives.

Believing that people's last stories have significance, the organizers seek to encourage people to share those stories to find meaning in how they have lived out their lives.

"Hospice provides spiritual care through the work of our whole staff," said Grant. "All clinicians who see patients connect with the patient on a spiritual level. An example is a home health aide who is often called on to provide daily personal care for grumpy old men."

Grant hopes Hospice of North Idaho can help broaden the network of people who incorporate

the spiritual into their work with individuals at the end of life.

He would also like to offer programs about legacies, on end-of-life spiritual distress, on connecting clients and loved ones to bring a sense of completion, reconciliation and forgiveness, and on inviting a sense of hopeful anticipation.

"Our culture tends to sweep death and end-of-life issues under the rug. Those undertaking the care of people near death can find it uncomfortable to address issues of meaning and letting go, and of grief," he said.

Because most people no longer die at home, many families opt not to plan for wakes or funerals, he said. For those who are dying and those who remain behind and grieve, many loose ends may be left hanging.

Throughout society, according to Grant, "there is still this presumption that death is a failure. Sometimes it is, but sometimes it's not."

By widening the base of people who team up in their care for a patient, that individual and those close to her or him can come to their final parting feeling more of a sense of rightness and completion, he said.

For information, call 208-772-7994.

Teleconference also

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Relief groups mobilize runners for Bloomsday

World Relief Spokane is planning a "Race 2 End Slavery" fund raiser in conjunction with the Lilac Bloomsday Run on Sunday, May 1, in downtown Spokane.

This year, hundreds of Bloomsday runners and walkers will also help combat human trafficking in Spokane.

World Relief, in partnership with Union Gospel Mission, Lutheran Community Services Northwest and local universities, hopes to raise funds to start a program that will provide relief to people who are victims of labor and sex trafficking. They will also raise community awareness.

After signing up to run Bloomsday, runners and walkers will make pledges or find sponsors to support their participation.

For information, call 484-9829 or visit worldrelief.org/race2end-slavery.

Partners International, a Spokane-based missions partnership organization, is also mobilizing runners and walkers as Team Running Water to help raise money for clean water projects in three African countries and Indonesia.

The hope is that this project will be fun and will help build community in churches or organizations while helping fund ministry partners' clean water projects.

Along with team members

providing clean water for people in need, those who raise the most money will be eligible to win prizes that have been donated, said Charlie Nelson of Partners International.

For information, call 343-4072, email charlesn@partnersintl.org or visit teamrunningwater.com.

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Ecumenical officer says it's time for churches to emerge from internal focus

The Catholic Diocese of Spokane's new ecumenical officer, Father Patrick Hartin, has been stepping slowly into his new part-time role, as successor to Father Tom Caswell, who served for 25 years.

His ecumenical background ranges from social action under apartheid in his homeland of South Africa to Anglican-Catholic dialogue, as well as teaching the students of diverse faiths at Gonzaga University.

"I am learning what has been done and finding how I can contribute here," he said.

Because he considers it central to Christian faith to witness to and strive toward unity, Fr. Pat is helping plan the 2011 ecumenical Good Friday Tenebrae Service.

"Every church since the 1980s and 1990s has been undergoing internal struggles. The danger is that we focus on ourselves rather than reaching out to help each other," he said.

In South Africa, Fr. Pat was secretary of the Catholic Bishop's Commission on Ecumenical Affairs for seven years and was involved with the South African Council of Churches.

He knows the vital role it played in ending apartheid and continues to play in the ongoing work to overcome the crime and corruption, which continues to divide the haves and have nots.

He was also involved in a commission formed in South Africa to discuss the documents of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

"South African ecumenism focused on social action of people united—Catholics to Muslims joined their voices against the oppressive government. People transcended religion and dogma.

"Ecumenism is not just doctrinal statements. There is so much work we can do together," said Fr. Pat, who has taught New Testament, Christian spirituality



Father Patrick Hartin

and classics as a professor in the Religious Studies Department at Gonzaga University for 16 years. He served at St. Paschal parish several years and now helps with Sunday Mass at Mary Queen.

Fr. Pat was educated in South Africa under apartheid. In 1967, he began study for the priesthood and went to Rome for further study in 1971, just after Vatican II, which he feels helped the church "come alive."

He returned to South Africa to teach high school for 10 years and then taught at state universities.

South Africans lived and were educated separately by their races, but Catholic schools and English-speaking universities were open to all races.

From his office at the university in Johannesburg, he observed tear gas being used against students protesting apartheid.

Having experienced the influence of Calvinism as a state religion, he supports the separation of church and state.

"While children studied religion in public schools, religion

became hijacked by the state," Fr. Pat said.

In 1994, he came on a sabbatical to study at Claremont Theological School and after 18 months was invited to be New Testament scholar at Gonzaga University.

"I wanted to be in a religious college where I could speak in ways I was unable to speak at the secular schools," he said.

Fr. Pat goes back to South Africa once a year to visit his 93-year-old mother, two brothers and sister.

"They are now enthusiastic about the future of the country. There has been remarkable change from the white rule to universal suffrage," he said, impressed at how Nelson Mandela was able to promote reconciliation.

Ecumenism is part of Fr. Pat's classroom experiences at Gonzaga. While the university was more predominantly Catholic 30 years ago, now students are diverse, with Protestants and many other faiths.

In his introductory class, he gives insights into skills for reading the Bible today.

"Until Vatican II, Catholics were not encouraged to read the Scriptures. That was once a defining difference between Catholics and Protestants. Now Scriptures are also a Catholic interest," said Fr. Pat, who also teaches adult Bible classes in parishes.

"Today fundamentalism and religious talk radio define for many

the way churches are perceived as reading the Bible," he said.

So Fr. Pat helps students intimidated about the Bible think about how to read it and engage in logical discussions on Scriptures.

"I start with students as readers today. What does each bring? What are their different backgrounds—Catholic, Baptist or no faith? I seek to empower readers by respecting where they are, rather than trying to convert them to a point of view," he said. "I want to engage them in dialogue."

Fr. Pat also said students need to know the Bible because there are so many biblical images in literature: "You can't understand poetry without understanding the biblical images used," he said.

In his book, *The Spirituality of the Gospels*, which will be published in May by Liturgical Press, he said that different spiritual visions are appropriate in different times—from those who founded the monastic movement to those engaged in the world today.

He has also written several

books about James, one of the earliest New Testament writings—*James of Jerusalem* and *James and the Q Sayings of Jesus*.

"James defines religion as concern for the widow and orphan—the outcasts of the world—and keeping oneself unstained from the world. He sets the context for social action, contrasting the values of God's kingdom with the values of the world, encouraging people to take on the values of God's kingdom," Fr. Pat said.

"Students resonate with James' spirituality and see it as relevant today," he said, telling of students involved in Gonzaga's Mission Possible during spring break.

Students passing an elderly man loaded with sacks walking upstairs in an apartment building went back, helped him carry the sacks, had breakfast with him and learned his story. They became concerned about the other.

"James is about faith in action," Fr. Pat said.

For information, call 313-6789 or email hartin@gonzaga.edu.

Tenebrae unites Christians in worship

Continued from page 1
new instructions for the Liturgy of the Hours" called for readings and prayers on both Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Father Steve Dublinski, the vicar general of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane and rector

of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, has been celebrating a Tenebrae service at the cathedral on Good Friday evening.

This year the Christian leaders of Spokane decided to celebrate the service together.

For information, call 313-6789.



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Scarves stir awareness on sexual violence

By Deidre Jacobson

Corazon Scarves and Guatemalan weavers are partnering with Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW), weaving scarves to raise awareness and funds during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April.

Part of the month's focus on awareness about sexual violence is to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it.

The Inland Northwest branch of Lutheran Community Services provides a spectrum of programs including therapeutic response for victims of sexual assault and trauma, sexual assault advocacy, prevention and education.

Corazon Scarves empowers Guatemalan women to live free of violence and oppression by providing a market for their products, said Debbie DuPey, its director.

Two women with the Guatemalan Cooperative, Corazon de Mujer, which means "heart of women," began designing scarves after Debbie returned from a November-to-January visit in Spokane.

Teal is the color for sexual awareness month but the weavers could find no teal-colored thread in Guatemala.

"The women did not let that deter them," said Debbie. "They quickly started pulling different thread colors out to see how they could create the right shade."

Within 15 minutes, they had the shade by combining green and blue threads. They began creat-



Debbie DuPey, right, works with members of Corazon Scarves.

ing scarf options. The awareness ribbon was a new experience for them. They have a strong embroidering tradition but it focuses on creating representations about their life and surroundings in Guatemala—volcanoes, rivers, animals and foods.

Each scarf takes nearly eight hours to weave.

Debbie hopes to involve more sexual assault programs in the future, giving a donation from sales to their services. She plans to develop another scarf design for domestic violence awareness month in October and another for breast cancer awareness month, also in October.

People who purchase scarves on the website can enter the promotion code, LSCApril, when they

check out and \$5 of their purchase will be donated to sexual-assault programs.

Debbie plans to travel from her part-time home in Guatemala to Spokane in May to promote the scarves and will be available to speak to groups about the fair-trade program that provides a livable wage for women selling their traditional products.

"There are many benefits for the weavers," she said. "The provision of a living wage empowers women in so many ways."

They are not forced to work in unsafe environments. Their children can have enough food and school supplies.

For information, visit www.corazonscarves.com or email at debbiedupey@aol.com.

YWCA draws community together to join national day to Take a Stand against Racism

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

To bring people together to eliminate racism, Spokane's YWCA will host a community gathering for Take a Stand against Racism Day from noon to 1 p.m., Friday, April 29, in the Y atrium at 930 N. Monroe St.

In addition, a story time for children and parents is set at 10:30 a.m.

The day is part of a movement of YWCA's across the nation.

Coordinated locally by Grant Stancliff, the Y's outreach and education associate director, and by the Y's Racial and Social Justice Committee, this event will involve people from more than 24 churches, schools, universities, businesses and other organizations to celebrate diversity in the community and engage participants in acknowledging and discussing racism.

The discovery of an explosive device along the route of Spo-

kane's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March last January reinforced the Spokane YWCA's desire to bring people from many walks of life together to address racism.

"It's an opportunity for community organizations to bring their staff together and converse about racism and the recent bomb incident," said Grant.

"This incident, and its unmistakable connection to race and racism, makes the event even more important," he said. "We saw racism in our community and want to speak up. This day will give people a vehicle to do that."

Many businesses that have not traditionally taken a role in dismantling racism have signed up, he said.

"Usually the same individuals and groups address these issues in Spokane. We value them," he said, "but it is encouraging to see new people talking about this for the first time."

Grant hopes the day after Take a Stand against Racism Day, people will move from reaction to the backpack bomb to issues like neighborhood structure, slurs, hiring practices and lack of job opportunities for youth of color.

"Maybe we still have an open wound, but at least we are taking a step to start the healing," Grant said.

For information, call 326-1190, visit www.standagainstracism.org.

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18th Annual Living With Grief Teleconference
Spirituality & End-of-Life Care

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9:30 am - 2:00 pm

The Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St, Spokane
Register today for only \$25!

The program will discuss differences between spirituality and religion, while also addressing spirituality during illness, death and grief, spiritual assessment and empowerment, and life review. Discussion will also include approaches to meaning-making at the end of life, dignity enhancement, helping patients utilize and enhance spiritual coping at end of life, and spiritual transference.

For more information: (509) 456-0438,
hospiceofspokane.org, or email
aflanigan@hospiceofspokane.org

Continuing Education Available!



SPRING COMPOST FAIR AND ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, April 30, 2011
11 AM - 2 PM
John A. Finch Arboretum

Spokane County residents who complete the activities may take home a free compost bin. (Limit one per household.) Bins provided by the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System and the Washington Dept. of Ecology. Please arrive by 1:30 p.m. and bring proof of residency.

For more information:
Call the Recycling Hot Line, 625-6800, or go to www.solidwaste.org



Partial funding provided by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Occupational therapist advises churches on accessibility and inclusion

Lynn Swedberg is moving beyond applying her 32 years of experience as an occupational therapist to make her church, Manito United Methodist Church inclusive.

She now shares ideas nationally as quarter-time disability consultant for the national United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and chair of its Task Force on Disability Ministries.

Manito has large-print bulletins, a chair lift Lynn used when she broke her ankle, a remodeled bathroom, a signing choir, an assistive listening system and signs to clip on potluck dishes to note dietary issues and more.

There are more plans in the works locally through Manito's Inclusivity Committee. Lynn has picked up ideas from her years working with Home Health doing geriatric occupational therapy, until Medicare changes recently reduced the in-home programs.

As a consultant, she first learns about a church's needs, priorities and financial restrictions, rather than starting with a checklist of ideas. Usually interest in improving accessibility is sparked by limits of a beloved church member after an accident or illness.

"The percent of people with disabilities in churches is less than the percent in the population," she said. "Some question if God is punishing them, so psychological issues are a place to start."

Ramps may be needed in the sanctuary as well as outside if people are to be lay readers or preach, Lynn noted.

"Disability ministry is about hospitality and intentional welcome," she said.

Lynn, who lived in Walla Walla and in Milwaukie, Ore., studied occupational therapy at the University of Puget Sound, and came to Spokane in 1978 to be near her grandmother who had moved to Spokane from Creston. After her grandmother died in 1997, Lynn went on several trips to Romania with Wheels for the World, a program of Joni and Friends, an international disability ministry.

While contemplating submitting a workshop proposal for a national occupational therapy conference in 2000 in Seattle, she heard the words "disability ministries" as a calling.

"I prefer 'accessibility ministry' or 'inclusion ministries,' because the point is to include people not label them," said Lynn, whose focus is full participation in the faith community.

In fall 2010, she decided it was time to use her occupational therapy experience for churches as her primary ministry.

After nine years on the United



Lynn Swedberg shows the potluck alert system she developed.

Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries, she said her consulting includes church consulting; resource sharing with a website, facebook and a newsletter, and setting up displays and leading-workshops at United Methodist Annual Conference Meetings.

Doing full audits for churches or camps, her goal is to open the eyes of pastors, managers and leaders to see how people with different abilities might experience the building or grounds.

Manito's Inclusivity Committee has a comprehensive overview, but takes one step at a time. It is working on constructing a ramp and may some day have an elevator to improve access for people in wheel chairs, using walkers or with a temporary injury that limits access to the multi-split level building. The ground-level fellowship hall is accessible.

With several deaf or hard-of-hearing members at Manito, Lynn and 11 other members have learned to communicate sign language over 12 years. The church employs an interpreter for all events, not just Sunday worship, so deaf members can serve on committees and participate in district events.

Bryan Branson, who is deaf, teaches a signed adult Sunday school class. The church plans to add a portable microphone system so members can join in committee meetings and small groups.

Lynn encourages the regional

conference to buy videos with captions, and the national church to make videos with captions.

The church's signing choir enhances the worship, Lynn said, because signing flows like sacred dance. When she had laryngitis this winter and couldn't sing, she signed with the songs.

Another option some churches use is Computer Assisted Real-time Translation, which uses a court reporting system to project captions, not only for the hard-of-hearing but also helpful if a speaker has an accent or someone is not fluent in English.

"Audio and visual communication technologies help more people participate," she said.

Consulting with a Georgia church about building ramps to the door and fellowship hall, she learned its two members in wheel chairs have to sit up front. She suggested cutting three feet off ends of two pews so they can sit by family and friends.

Lynn has also developed an accessibility checklist to help United Methodist Annual Conference annual meeting planners incorporate accommodations at campuses, convention centers or churches—such as ramps to speaker platforms, street-level entry, vans or golf carts. Another tool advises speakers, for example, not to talk while writing on a board, so lip readers can follow. Churches began holding conferences at hotels and conference

centers to be accessible.

At a National Camp and Retreat Leaders Gathering, she helped outdoor ministries leaders learn to expand inclusion at camps.

While there are many accessibility audits, Lynn said there are few resources for faith-based camps. She will put some energy there, taking some ideas for the outdoor setting from national parks: Do camps have level, designated parking spaces for people in wheel chairs? Do they have tactile maps with raised letters?

Lynn has walked around Lazy F Camp in Ellensburg and Twinlow in Idaho, helping the managers begin to see with different eyes.

She said camps may be a setting to include children who are separated in school and want to be with typical peers at camp. Children living with a common illness may benefit from a special camp with others facing the same struggles. For example, a muscular dystrophy camp uses Twinlow.

"Inclusion exposes us to people who are struggling," she said.

Lynn, who also connects with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network and with the National Council of Churches Committee on Disabilities, said language is important in helping congregations understand without differentiating to the point of exclusion.

Inclusion takes a deliberate decision, case by case, church by church, she said. There are also sensitivities based on traditions, such as providing gluten-free bread or wafers for communion.

For Manito potlucks, Lynn developed potluck alert markers with color-coded laminated cards on clothes pins clipped to dishes to alert people to ingredients. Different colors alert

people about meat, allergy, diet and other concerns. Those who bring dishes use dry-erase pens to mark dietary considerations. The meat alert card has boxes to check for vegetarian, vegan, pork, chicken or beef. Allergy alerts are peanuts, tree nuts, soy, dairy, milk, shellfish, fish, eggs, wheat or chocolate. Diet alerts are gluten free, dairy free, low sodium, low fat, low sugar or low carb. After a meal, the committee wipe the laminated surfaces clean.

Lynn said more might attend church if there is a section for those with sensitivity to fragrances.

"We need to make a safe environment for people with chemical sensitivities," she said.

Lynn recently purchased an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility compliance kit. It includes light and sound meters, and a rolling stick to measure a ramp's slope; heights of toilets, sinks, the undersides of a table; how far a mantle sticks out; doorway width; maximum reach, and mirror height. The tools help her identify easy fixes—adding two mirror tiles at the base of a mirror or putting a cup dispenser beside a high water fountain.

"I have a comprehensive approach to working with needs of a variety of people," she said.

She has evaluated church school curricula and prepared a vertical bulletin for a friend with hemianopsia, which cuts horizontal vision.

"The ADA helps but focuses on accessible bathrooms and spaces, not on making the chancel and programs accessible," she said. "We need to move beyond ADA requirements for new buildings."

Lynn hopes her consulting business will expand beyond the United Methodist Church.

For information, call 456-7196 or email lynnswedberg@comcast.net.



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Call 467-8702 • Email info@partnersforprogress.org

The Fig Tree continues to lift up voices to inform, inspire and involve

Our time of earthquakes, tsunamis, hunger, incredible poverty, incredible profits and draconian budget cuts is also a time of abundance, generosity and gratitude.

In the midst of the grim realities, people care about each other and challenge injustices behind the suffering of brothers, sisters and neighbors.

The Fig Tree each month covers those stories to lift voices of hope; to lift voices to inform people; to lift voices to inspire people, and to connect and involve people to lift more voices.

Giving generously and gratefully to The Fig Tree and other faith and nonprofit organizations multiplies voices and their impact.

Justice and charity are the foundations

of our commitment as people of faith to improve lives for others.

Readers are The Fig Tree stories, sponsors, advertisers, volunteers, board, volunteers and multipliers of circulation and support.

Our stories are intended help people think, reflect and connect, so they are effective voices of hope in their own settings.

As everyone rides the "cut-the-deficit" bandwagon, it's hard to remember that, in fact, most businesses, farms and families operate on debt to do business. Our editorials stir thinking about the economy.

We trust there is enough!

Voices of hope echo through Fig Tree stories. We multiply voices, spreading their messages so they enter more lives to instill

action-inspiring hope.

People risk to share, to lift their voices as Holocaust survivor and educator Eva Lassman did for years. As she persisted in speaking, she informed many students, community people and national leaders. Like her, people interviewed for stories this year—shown in the slide show—are just examples of many who speak, teach, care, advocate, feed, shelter, build and respond to neighbors' needs.

Folks we interview are grateful for the abundance of God's gifts, undeterred by efforts to make them feel vulnerable and to divide those with common concerns. Contrary to popular wisdom, the weak are strong as they become voices challenging injustices.

God's economy calls us to circulate what wealth we have among those with the least and those serving through the faith and nonprofit communities. Keeping funds circulating locally as long as possible produces small-town prosperity. As faith and nonprofit communities circulate our wealth, it enriches each group and those they serve.

The Fig Tree grows on people power: Volunteers help two hours a month with delivery and mailings, 10 minutes a month handing out newspapers at their congregations, two-hour shifts at displays, 20-minute talks, or writing and editing articles. Our goal is to involve more people to spread our approach of solutions-oriented/peace journalism.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Disaster recovery is a long-term process requiring more than money

The scope of the recent three-pronged disaster in Japan makes it more difficult than usual to see how one person's efforts can make a difference. It's a complex of problems that seems impossible to solve and could result in much needless dithering.

Japan, like Indonesia, is an island nation. Before needed food, water, warm clothing and shelter can be trucked to devastated areas, both the trucks and the supplies are being delivered to ports on battleships.

This is a better-than-average use for battleships, but it does also point up the fact that disaster relief is rarely efficient, and it has many complications. No matter how primitive the roads, it's still more efficient to transport goods from one part of a mainland to another.

Writing a check often seems perfunctory.

We like food drives and assembling hygiene kits. They help to involve us, make the need real, and they give children a direct

lesson about what we mean by caring for others. Is there anyone who can resist the sight of a two-year-old trying to manage a can of vegetables in each hand as he brings them to the collections site?

These activities should continue. They serve useful purposes. However, sometimes there is only one logical reaction to an emergency: Send money.

We always need to be cautious about our disaster relief gifts, because when there is a large number of people donating money to something, it is irresistible to the amoral who see financial opportunities for themselves. Those who receive telephone calls from people encouraging them to send money to them in order to speed things up, need to remember that the people who do the real work in disaster relief are not operating phone banks.

It's important to stick with established organizations that operate around the world and have warehouses for supplies. These groups are the first on the scene.

Websites of denominations and faith groups are good sources of information, and they often have links to organizations such as the ACT for Churches Together, Church World Service or the Red Cross.

It may seem satisfying to earmark a contribution for a specific use, but it can add another complication. The warehouses need re-stocking, and if a check says it must be spent in Japan, legal requirements keep it from being used to re-stock the agency's warehouse outside Japan.

The same organizations are also still working on long-term recovery for all the disasters that continue to have needs but lack coverage by the major media.

Disaster relief may not always be highly efficient. It's complicated, messy, and frequently heart-breaking for those on the scene. However, as many of them tell us, it is also deeply rewarding. We must take their word, pray for all involved in the process and continue to make the work possible.

The fact that Japan is a highly developed country could require new thinking.

Normally, Japan takes care of its own emergencies. It has the resources, organization and people trained to take care of anything short of what has just happened. Having trained people to work with is a plus for relief workers, but a new kind of coordination is required to deliver basic services while avoiding trampling on sensibilities of those who know the country best but have been traumatized by the disaster.

Experts in the field of nuclear power are already consulting with the government and colleagues in Japan.

Other parts of the high tech economy of Japan could also find themselves in need of similar help. There may come a time soon when high-tech companies around the world will find themselves going beyond donating for immediate disaster relief to contributing their expertise for the long-term economic recovery of Japan.

Nancy Minard - Editorial Team

Excerpts from Presenters

Sounding Board

at March Fig Tree benefits

Lifting voices of hope, the Fig Tree is that inspirational voice that brings the drumbeat of hope, health, healing, inspira-



tion, celebration, commitment, education, challenge, action and change. It advocates, and brings the chance of new beginnings to our communities. An article on "Christ Clinic and Christ Kitchen tells of turn-

ing around the culture of poverty." Imagine changing a community from poverty.

Will you be that voice that is captured, to connect people, explore issues, build understanding and stir up passions? Will you volunteer or donate to lend a voice? For such a time as this, we need to extend our sincere gratitude, resources, trust and love to the Fig Tree that has informed, inspired, and involved us.

The Fig Tree lifts up voices of hope to all who have an ear to hear the stories of faith, commitment, outreach and dedication.

Betsy Williams - Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Newspapers, obviously tell stories about individuals and our communities. Each newspaper, from the New York Times to your company newsletter, makes editorial decisions about what stories to tell.

Big newspapers tell big stories, and if all we had were big newspapers, many small stories would not be told. The Fig Tree tells stories that need to be told but are not in larger publications.

It tells stories of good works, people making a difference in the world, and blessings in our communities.

One of the most important stories pub-

lished in the Fig Tree last year was not a happy story, but was one that needed to be told.

It was a story told in other publications in this state, yet but for the Fig Tree, and the Catholic Inland Register, it would not have been told here: An Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) I-9 audit threw 550 workers, one-fourth of Brewster in Okanogan County out of work.

An audit arises when workers' names do not match social security numbers and ICE tells a company it can rectify that situation, let the people go or be fined for each incidence.



What do we value when such a story goes untold? By telling this story, The Fig Tree gave meaning to this tragedy, which was one small salvo in the ongoing immigration debate, but to the 550 people who lost

their jobs, it was huge, and it happened in our backyard.

The story needed to be told, and if it wasn't for the Fig Tree it would not have been. There are countless stories that need to be told and thanks to The Fig Tree more are being told.

Greg Cunningham - Immigration and Refugee Resettlement - Catholic Charities

The Fig Tree is a source of news and information that connects people from various backgrounds. When we read about churches, nonprofits, and universities striving to make an impact on this community, it gives a sense of hope and inspiration.

What touches my heart the most are the personal stories shared by individuals

in the community. Their stories take us

on a journey through their lives and tell us how their faith helped them deal with life's struggles and challenges, and how they overcame them.

We also learn about their passions, their dreams, their hopes to improve life and

relationships. So let's continue to go on these journeys and be inspired by real life stories that touch us.

Let's stay connected to people and let's do whatever we can to support The Fig Tree and it's mission.

Frieda Gandy - Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center

The thing I love about The Fig Tree is that it goes out and seeks positive stories. You can't look at a newspaper or any media without getting depressed. That's when to look at the Fig Tree. I've worked for the Institute for Action Against Hate for 10 years and The Fig Tree has done just an amazing job of covering our work.

Jerri Shepard - Institute for Hate Studies at Gonzaga University

Teaching an inter-Christian dialogue

class, brought me to Mary Stamp. Since Vatican II, the Catholic Church has seen the urgent need for ecumenical and inter-faith relationships—that we all be one as Jesus prayed.

The Christian

churches and religion in general is in a crisis of credibility because we do not have unity. We are strengthened in our Catholic and other identities to see unity in our diversity.

Mary has spoken to my classes on how her life and her family's lives have intersected with the ecumenical movement, and how that brings us in this region the unique publication of The Fig Tree.

Anastasia Wendlinder - Gonzaga University Religious Studies

I have been grateful for years that the Fig Tree is a model for students to aspire to rather than mainstream media. There are other venues for their talents and skills.

Our students come from a faith background and seek ways to blend their faith and journalism talents.

The Fig Tree is committed to justice. We want students to think beyond their own needs and think of the big picture.

There's a tie to St. George who slew dragons. As The Fig Tree "slays dragons," it forces us to consider the past and the days ahead.

Gordon Jackson - professor of journalism at Whitworth University

The Fig Tree helps frame the way we think of life, ourselves and our perspectives. Our donations are making the witness and ministry we share possible. They are continuing a voice of hope in a time that feels hopeless.

The Very Rev. Bill Ellis - dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John



Our Kids: Our Business continues to educate the area

To celebrate the fifth Our Kids: Our Business, organizers reduced the number of pinwheels, which are not recyclable and bought 25 reusable street banners and yard signs to spark awareness of the event during National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Marilee Roloff, director of Volunteers of America Spokane, said the event has adopted the five America's Promise goals: healthy start, caring adults, safe places, effective education and opportunities to serve.

The SPO-CAN Conference on people's responses when they are under pressure, a celebration of Spokane as one of 100 Best Communities for Young People, and a luncheon speaker on brain development are among the events planned to support successful childhood.

Mary Ann Murphy of Partners with Families and Children, one of the coordinators with Amy Swanson of Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery and Marilee, said the effort to protect and nurture children is addressing the high dropout rate, along with educating about child abuse and neglect.

Gina Lebedeva of the Institute of Learning and Brain Science (I-LABS) at the University of Washington is the featured speaker at the Capstone Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21, at the Spokane Convention Center.

Speaking on "Minds in the Making: Our Future Workforce," she will discuss evidence the impact of brain and social environments on later skills. She says being bilingual and bicultural "gives the brain plasticity."

Gina also emphasizes the importance of play in early childhood development, said Mary Ann, noting that 30,000 schools across the nation have canceled recess, despite the importance of play in developing the brain.

At 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, at Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., there will be a community forum on the child welfare system.

On April 15, Theresa Fears, the Partnership Program coordinator for the ARC of Spokane, has organized a Partnership for Safety rally for Sexual Assault Awareness Week from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the STA Atrium downtown.

For information on other events, visit ourkidsspokane.org.

Calendar of Events

- Through April 15 • **50th anniversary of the Peace Corps Exhibit.** Express Employment Professionals, 331 W. Main St., weekdays 8 to 5, 868-0302
- Through April 29 • **"Telling the American Story: History, Memory, Place, Story, Picture & Space."** Chase Gallery, Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 625-6079
- April 6-9 • **Second International Conference on Hate Studies,** Gonzaga Institute for Hate Studies, 313-3665
- April 7 • **Growing Healthy Communities,** Second Harvest, CenterPlace Regional Event Center, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 534-6678
- April 7, 14, 21 & 28 • **Free computer training for seniors,** Tincan computer lab, 1317 W. Second Ave., 10 to 11 a.m., 744-0972
- April 8 • **NAACP Spaghetti Feed,** East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone 5 to 9 p.m., 483-8644
- April 9 • **"Women at the Well," Lenten Retreat,** The Ministry Institute, 405 E. Sinto, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 313-5765
- **"Come Out to Play,"** Shriners Hospital open house, 911 W. 5th Ave., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 623-0424
- **KPBX Kids' Concert,** "Celebrating Django Reinhardt," 1 to 2 p.m., Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague Ave., 328-5729
- April 10 • **Spokane Choral Artists "Sacred Space, Sacred Songs,"** Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 4 p.m., spokanechoralartists@gmail.com
- April 11 • **Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations Annual Banquet,** "Lessons Learned from My Grandfather: Nonviolence in a Violent World," Arun Gandhi, Best Western Inn, 506 W. Appleway Ave, Coeur d'Alene, 5:30 p.m., 208-765-3932
- April 11-13 • **Losses of Our Lives,** Nancy Copeland-Payton, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000
- April 14 • **Great Decisions Lecture,** "From Narvik to Spokane, with a Stop in Vegas: Aboard the Financial Crisis Express," Whitworth University Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7:30 p.m., 777-3270
- **Hispanic Business Professional Association,** Agave Bistro, 830 W. Sprague Ave., 11:30 a.m., 358-2234
- April 15 • **The Book Parlor's Celebration of 10 Years of Ministry,** 1425 W. Broadway Ave., 5:30 p.m., 328-6527
- **Partnership for Safety Community Rally,** STA Bus Plaza Atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 16 • **"Behold Jesus, The Drama,"** INB Performing Arts Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 1 and 6:30 p.m., 924-2630
- **"Vanishing of the Bees,"** Ethical Eating food film series, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. George Wright Dr., 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 325-6383
- **100 Best Communities for Young People Celebration,** Riverfront Park, 1 to 3 p.m., 625-6440
- April 19 • **"Heart of Spirituality,"** South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 444-5385
- April 20 • **Spokane City Forum, "Our Kids, Our Business,"** First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., 777-1555
- **Center for Justice Legal Clinic,** East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 5 to 8 p.m., 625-6699
- **Lindaman Chair Lecture,** "Not Your Father's Oldsmobile: Today's Behavioral Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder," 7:30 to 9 p.m., Whitworth University Weyerhaeuser Hall, 7:30 p.m., 777-4263
- April 21 • **Our Kids Our Business Capstone Luncheon,** Spokane Convention Center, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 473-4827
- April 22 • **Chase Youth Foundation's Breakfast of Champions,** Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., 7:30 a.m., 625-6440
- **Good Friday Ecumenical Tenebrae Service,** Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1115 W. Riverside, 7 p.m., 313-6789
- April 22 • **Earth Day** see events page 3
- April 23 • **Earth Day Celebration Spokane,** Main Street between Browne and Division, 10 a.m. to midnight
- April 24 • **Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service,** Lofty Cross of Inspiration at Greenwood Memorial Terrace, 211 N. Government Way, 6:30 a.m.
- April 27 • **Martin Luther King, Jr., Family Outreach Center Anniversary Breakfast,** The Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., 7 p.m., 455-8722
- April 28 • **Yom Hashoah,** Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave., 7 p.m.
- April 29 • **"Take a Stand against Racism Day,"** Spokane YWCA, 930 N. Monroe, 11 a.m., grant@ywcaspokane.org
- April 30 • **City of Spokane Parks & Recreation's Compost Fair,** Finch Arboretum, 3404 W. Woodard Blvd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 624-4832
- May 4 • **Fig Tree distribution,** St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- May 5 • **Fig Tree Board meeting,** Emmanuel Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., 535-1813
- May 6-8 • **"A New Harmony: The Spirit, the Earth and the Human Soul,"** John Philip Newell, Spiritus, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 7 p.m., Friday and 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday.

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Collaboration increases the number of affordable houses

By Yvonne Lopez-Morton

Once unaware that many people could not afford to rent a home, Cindy Algeo now fosters collaboration among nonprofits and housing developers to increase the number of affordable homes for renters and homeowners.

As director of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC) for six of its 20 years, she believes "communities are stronger and healthier when everyone has a place to call home."

Since it started in 1990, the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium's member agencies have developed more than 3,200 affordable rental homes and more than 2,000 home-ownership opportunities for low-income individuals and families.

"In today's economic environment, the need for affordable housing is as great as ever," said Cindy. "We are also working together to build our efforts to provide affordable low-income housing by contacting state legislators to re-capitalize the Housing Trust Fund, a major source of funding for affordable housing."

She believes the strength needed to face funding gaps comes through member organizations sharing resources.

To reduce homelessness, the SLIHC seeks to identify additional resources, including partnerships with congregations and foundations. It is also reviewing housing funding options, developing a housing leadership curriculum and suggesting efficiency options to members.

In 1989, a Greater Spokane Coalition Against Poverty (GSCAP) report supported the need "to increase availability and accessibility to appropriate and affordable housing for low-income residents."

In March 1990, GSCAP's Housing Task Force initiated a plan to formalize inter-agency collaboration on low-income housing development and advocacy by forming the nonprofit consortium with 10 members.

Today it has 29 full members—nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities involved in developing low-income housing—plus 14 associate members and 13 supportive members.

Full members have a representative on the SLIHC board.

Associate members are nonprofits involved in any aspect of low-income housing—development, ownership, management or support. They provide input to the board and serve on committees.

Supportive members are individuals and organizations that support the consortium's mission, projects and activities—offering



Cindy Algeo

input to the board and serving on committees. They include banks, lenders, contractors, attorneys and others who promote their services to consortium members.

The consortium offers such technical services for members as a revolving loan fund, the Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF), for land acquisition and infrastructure. It has monthly meetings on housing, does surveys, and offers trainings and seminars. It has bought land and paid for infrastructure costs for 12 home-ownership units. In 2010, it supported developing 33 low-rent apartments at Market Street Station in Hillyard.

SLIHC's OneStopHousing.org, is a web-based housing locator resource that connects people with affordable-housing listings.

Online since 2006, the website has more than 4,000 visits monthly. It is free for rental seekers, service agencies and landlords. Many access it through computers at agencies and libraries.

The SLIHC also has a three-year project to implement new ways to reduce homelessness, working with 12 community partners—including the City of Spokane and Spokane County—to implement "centralized intake" and "rapid re-housing."

"Early on, the partners concluded that our regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), administered by the city, had the capability to be our centralized database/intake tool," Cindy said.

To ensure high use of the system, the city convened an HMIS Users Group and increased training. Now 12 agencies that operate more than 60 programs to reduce homelessness participate in it.

As the quality of data has improved, the region has become more competitive in securing funds to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Cindy said a pilot program that moves people into permanent housing, the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), began in Spokane with funds from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Lessons from this program will help the region implement a long-term rapid re-housing program tailored to Spokane, Cindy said.

Along with it, government funding for shelters and transitional housing programs must continue, because rapid re-housing does not work for everyone. Many options are needed.

The consortium educates people on housing issues through its monthly newsletter and events for low-income housing residents, organizations, interested people and public officials. It is also on local and state committees on affordable housing to share awareness of common concerns.

For example, when Spokane had to find homes for 200 downtown residents displaced in 2007, the SLIHC served on an ad hoc Affordable Housing Task Force with the nonprofit, public and for-profit communities to help every person secure a new home.

Cindy grew up on a family farm near Cottonwood, Idaho, and was in St. Gertrude Academy's last graduating class in 1970. She moved to Spokane in the early 1970s to attend Gonzaga University and stayed after graduating.

She married, became a stay-at-home mother and did some volunteering, including delivering

food for Meals on Wheels.

"I was somewhat isolated from social challenges," Cindy said.

Her awareness of barriers that low-income people face in accessing affordable housing came when she entered Eastern Washington University in the early 1990s to study public administration.

Following a class presentation on the Spokane Housing Authority, she began an internship with the authority that became her master's degree project. After graduating, Cindy joined the Spokane Housing Authority's staff, where she worked 10 years before starting at the consortium.

Cindy said SLIHC members are mission-driven to provide homes and services for low-income residents, and that low-income people are courageous and grateful.

"My father taught me through word and action that it is important to share our wealth with others," Cindy said. "By serving others we serve the Lord."

For information, call 325-3235 or visit slihc.org.

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