

33ND YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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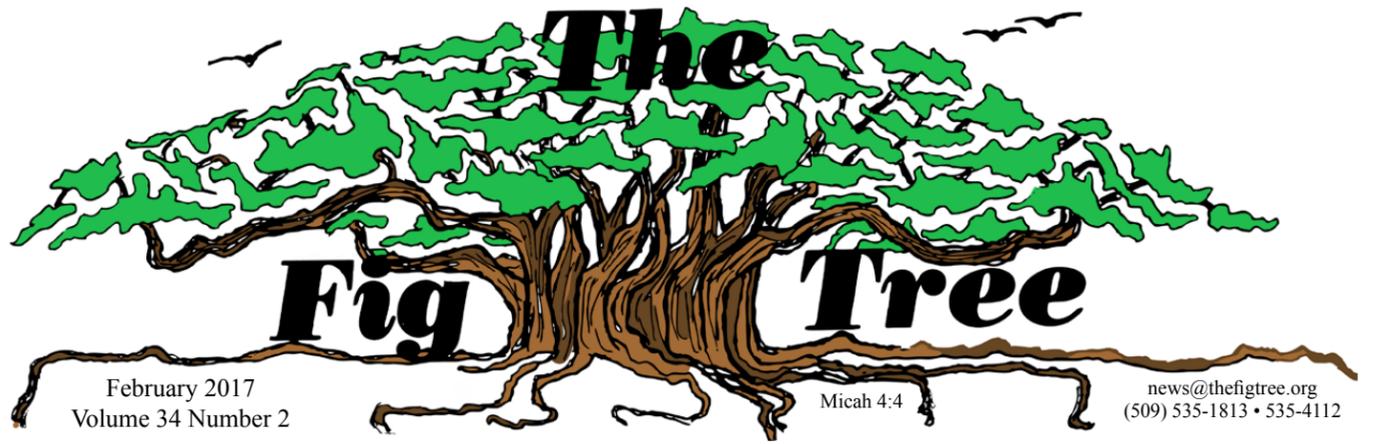
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Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at www.thefigtree.org • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

# Marchers express their hopes, dreams

By Mary Stamp

More than 4,000 people of all ages participated in the 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Rally and March honoring the work in the past and today for civil rights and for ending discrimination.

NAACP Spokane president Phil Tyler, Whitworth University president Beck Taylor, The Black Lens editor Sandy Williams, Spokane Mayor David Condon and U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rogers were among the speakers for the Jan. 16 rally in Spokane.

Unity means “coming together as a community and striving to set a good example,” Phil said. “Unity is needed as a bridge when leadership divides.”

He said the election cycle showed what Americans do not want their future to look like.

“We must include marginalized voices as we come together to make change. We must be part of change,” he said.

Phil referred to a photo of Martin Luther King Jr., the father of the civil rights movement with the number 7089 below it. The photo was taken when he was booked into the Birmingham, Ala., jail.

“He was not silent about issues that had impact on him and other



Talina Moore, Jirodan Lyn Gillon, Kamari Thurman and Keelayna Ballard from Calvary Baptist express hope for black and white people to unite.

people,” Phil said. “He spoke for marginalized Americans who were unable or feared to speak up. Our lives begin to end the day we are silent about things that matter.”

While people come together the second week of January each year to proclaim their desire to do better, be better and live better, he said that too often after the march they take a mental vacation to go to a tropical place, “Sometime Isle.”

“That’s sometime I’ll do something to end hate and discrimination,” Phil said. “This thinking may relieve some, but it does nothing to end prejudice.”

He reminded people of Dr. King’s words, “Silence is betrayal.”

Phil called people to do something to solve the problems.

“If there is a human problem, there is a human solution,” he said. “We can no longer be silent. Our future is at stake. Let 2017 be the year of accountability for ourselves and our community leaders.”

He called for action on criminal justice, education, health care, civic engagement and public discourse.

“When we talk, we want people to listen with compassion and empathy, to hear the message and understand why it is important. We

Continued on page 5

# Pastor’s roots coming as refugee now inspire his efforts to overcome bigotry

Concerned by images of refugees fleeing war and trauma in their Middle Eastern homelands, and risking perilous journeys to seek safety and new lives in Europe, members of several Leavenworth churches formed Leavenworth ReSettles to find how they could respond to the humanitarian crisis.

Alex Schmidt, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church there, helped the group organize. His affinity for immigrants and refugees stems in part from his roots, coming as a five-year-old with his family to Peshastin, Wash., in 1952.

An orchardist sponsored them to come as refugees from being displaced persons in Germany.

His involvement deepened as he worked to improve lives for Hispanic immigrants in Central Washington and led “Building Bridges of Understanding” workshops to develop cultural self-awareness and awareness of intolerance and racism.

In November 2015, Claudia Elliot from the United Methodist Church came to Alex, wanting to resettle one or two families in the community. Aware it was a major task, they gathered interested

people from the local Catholic, Lutheran and United Methodist churches and the community.

In December 2015, a small group met to explore if their rural area would have resources and be welcoming to “strangers” who might be Muslim. What security would be needed? What tensions might there be? What agency might help them?

In January, 20 people came to hear John Forseth, resettlement director for Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) in Tacoma, and his assistant, Saleem Khan, an AmeriCorps worker who was an interpreter for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan and came as a refugee. LCSNW is affiliated with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), one of nine federally approved agencies for resettling refugees.

Participants heard a LIRS quote, “As people of faith, we do not welcome on the condition that refugees are Christian. We welcome them because we are Christian.”

The presentation convinced the

Continued on page 7

# Fig Tree planning annual Benefit Breakfast, Lunch

“Beyond the News: Creating Community” is the theme for The Fig Tree’s 2017 Benefit Lunch on Friday, March 10, and Benefit Breakfast on Wednesday, March 15, in Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University.

The Fig Tree marks 34 years of publishing this year, sharing news of people who are making a difference because of their faith and values, and connecting people in the caring community through the annual Resource Directory.

Lunch speakers will be Mable Dunbar, director of the Women’s Healing and Empowerment Network; Scott Cooper, director of Parish Social Ministries with Catholic Charities of Spokane; Anne Salisbury, a long-time Fig Tree volunteer in Coeur d’Alene, and Pat Millen OSF, former director of St. Joseph Family Center and a Fig Tree Board member.

Breakfast speakers will include Dia Maurer, who has associated with The Fig Tree over the years in leadership roles with Partnering 4 Progress, Transitions and Habitat for Humanity; Rusty Nelson, retired director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane; Dean Lynch, the president of the new Spokane County Human Rights Task Force, and Freda Gandy, executive director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center.

The speakers will share their insights on the value of The Fig Tree in their varied roles in the community.

The planning committee is still recruiting people to host tables of eight guests. Hosts donate \$100 to cover the cost of the meals for their guests, who are invited to come and hear The Fig Tree story and donate to help cover the costs

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## Religion News Briefs Around the World

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### WCC calls for tackling global economy

If the worsening global inequality highlighted recently is to be tackled, world leadership must act "now," in tangible ways, said World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, who participated in the recent 2017 World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, addressing "Responsive and Responsible Leadership."

As a faith leader, he said he plans to carry the message that, "If global leadership is to be responsive and responsible, it must put inequality at the top of its agenda, it must tackle inequality in tangible ways, and it must do so now."

"The problem of inequality is related to deep structures of difference and division related to class, race, gender and more," Olav said. "What we know is that not all children are born with the same possibilities, and particularly not in a country like the United States, where this has been a slogan so often."

Olav said that with the inauguration of the 45th U.S. President, "elected by the strong support of those who are afraid of losing their white superiority and privilege," many wonder what the new administration will do.

"This is the time to give a clear message from all sectors of U.S. society and in the whole world that neither the USA nor the world at large need more separation, more gaps, more people left behind or excluded from the economic development. It will increase the risks for all," he said.

In reaction to a new report from Oxfam, Olav noted it referencing a "widening socio-economic chasm between the rich and the poor" that is a continuing indictment of the global economic system. Oxfam's analysis, "An Economy for the 99 Percent," said eight billionaires account for more than half the world's wealth.

"Clearly an economic system that rewards those who practice exploitation, corruption and tax evasion, that generates ever-increasing returns for billionaires and millionaires—even as it fails to feed, shelter and clothe nearly a billion people—is dysfunctional" said Olav. "More than this, it is immoral. Inequality fuels poverty, and poverty kills."

"Now, more than ever, churches and people of faith must join the pilgrimage of justice and peace to call for an economy of life that embraces and cares for all human beings, especially those who have been pushed aside: the impoverished, women, children and migrants" he added. "In scriptures, God expresses a preferential option for the poor, over and over again." This means churches should advocate effectively and unceasingly for financial regulation, just trade, decent livelihoods, fair taxation, social protection for the vulnerable and alternative measures of socio-economic progress.

"New expressions of polarizing populism are leading to greater division in our world and societies," said Olav. "We see more tribalism, nationalism, racism and violence. The root these trends is in negative effects of economic globalization—or its radical opposite, economic protectionism, inequality and exclusion—with more people marginalized and left behind, and greater gaps between the rich and the poor."

"Appeasing the fear of one group by increasing the fear of another is not the solution," Olav said. "These challenges require leadership accountable to everyone. Accountable relationships—not only to owners but also to employees—are a condition for healthy business. Responsible leadership is especially critical now."

"All leaders need to define and embody leadership based on mutual accountability to address today's and tomorrow's challenges. Accountable leadership cannot be built on half-truths or a post-truth approach," he said. "Accountability to God means accountability to all those created in God's image."

As the world faces dire problems related to climate change, violence against children and acts of terrorism, true leaders need each other's wisdom, gained through open, critical dialogue across interests and borders. "To commit to a vision of inclusivity and mutual accountability is a challenge for everyone," he said, "but this is what it is required of global leadership in our time. We need to promote hope for all, not only for our own interests or those of companies, specific groups, or nations," Olav said.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Benefits seek table hosts, set higher goal

Continued from page 1  
of publishing the newspaper and directory.

Organizers are still recruiting hosts with the goal of having more than 30 tables at each event.

"Last year we raised \$30,400 through these benefits. This year we seek to reach a goal of \$50,000 to help us build our capacity and involve additional writers, editors and online media communicators," said editor Mary Stamp.

This year, we have the services of Austriauna Brooks as an intern

from Whitworth University. She will help with the promotional video, writing articles and assisting with online presence through social media.

"We continue to offer training for writers and editors as a way to involve new people," said Mary.

The Fig Tree began publication in 1984 to cover religion in the region. It's mission includes connecting diverse people, sharing their stories to build understanding and see how lives intersect with justice and ethics issues, she

added.

Being published monthly gives writers and editors time to offer reflection and encourage dialogue, she said. The goal is also to help individuals and groups network, pool ideas and resources, and join in common action locally and globally.

The Resource Directory connects people and builds awareness many ways the faith, nonprofit and civic communities serve.

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

### Advent Lutheran distributes 11 grants

Advent Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley recently distributed \$9,332. Half went to outreach programs and half to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations and programs.

The Fig Tree and annual Resource Directory were among 11 2016 recipients. The distribution to The Fig Tree was \$1,000.

The church has given grants from its endowment fund in all but one year since Advent Lutheran

formed from a merger of Christ Lutheran and Good Shepard Lutheran five and a half years ago.

"The amount we distribute depends on how well the fund does on the market," said Matt Larson, pastor.

This year, their investments earned enough so they could distribute 5 percent, he said.

In addition to The Fig Tree, other recipients were the Washington State University and Eastern

Washington University Lutheran campus ministries, Wilbur Lutheran for youth music ministry, Celebration Lutheran in East Wenatchee for youth ministry, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for student scholarships, Widows Might in Spokane Valley, ALC Child Center for the playground, Lutheran Community Services for the refugee program and Advent Lutheran Youth.

For information, call 928-7733.

### Crisis Nursery celebrates its 30th year

The Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, a local nonprofit dedicated to shaping the future of Spokane by keeping children safe and strengthening families, celebrated their 30th anniversary in January.

It is also marking a record-breaking year in 2016.

In 1987, when the nursery opened its doors, 427 children were served. In 2016, the

center cared for 5,214 children.

The program evolved from the story of Vanessa Kay Behan, a Spokane girl who died from child abuse injuries at the age of two.

The news of her death outraged the greater Spokane community, including the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery founder Bill Bialkowski and a group of business people who

resolved to provide intervention for children who were at risk of abuse or neglect.

After five years of research and raising funds, the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery opened on Jan. 9, 1987. Since then nearly 92,000 children have found refuge there.

For information, call 535-3155 or visit vanessabehan.org.

### Spokane River Forum plans H2O Breakfast

The Spokane River Forum is planning its annual H2O Breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m., Friday March 17, meeting at the Lincoln Center, 1316 N. Lincoln St., to hear H2O keynote speaker Craig Mackey.

Craig is co-director of Protect the Flows, the Business Voice

for the Colorado River. He will discuss goals of managing water resources affecting the Spokane River and the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

He will discuss how a community can embrace growth while accommodating future water resource needs. His efforts

cut across public, private and nonprofit sectors with innovative partnerships and solution-oriented approaches.

The forum presents the Spokane River Cleanup, Upriver Scrub and volunteer opportunities.

For information, call 535-7084 or email info@spokaneriver.net.

### Peace and Justice Conference is Feb. 24 to 25

"Rise Up and Resist" is the theme for the 8th annual Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference, Friday and Saturday,

Feb. 24 and 25, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

There will be a Friday evening social time and the conference Saturday will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with three education action workshop sessions with a choice of seven workshops each time and

a keynote speaker at lunch.

It's an opportunity to connect with people who are working on the various issues related to peace and justice. It is planned by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane.

For information, call 838-7870 or visit pjals.org.

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Editorial Team  
Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp  
Directory Editor - Malcolm Haworth  
Website Developer - Lorna Kropp  
Volunteer Coordinator - Kaye Hult  
Editing - Carol Bellinger, Mary Ann Farley  
SNJM, Kaye Hult, Inga Jablonsky, Mary Mackay, Kimmy Meineke, Dru Powers, Sara Weaver and Pava Young

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More events TBA on March 3rd & 8th  
(509) 359-2898 facebook.com/IWDSpokane

## Faith Partners offer trafficking workshop

Faith Partners is offering a multi-faith workshop on "Faith Communities Respond to Human Trafficking" in the Spokane Region, with an emphasis addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of adults and youth.

It will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday, March 6, at Providence Health Care at Providence Holy Family Hospital's Health Education Center, 5633 N. Lidgerwood St.

Many faith-based projects on human trafficking arise where religious communities seek to assist victims of this human rights violation.

The mission of Faith Partners, a Spokane-based collaborative between social service agencies and faith representatives, is to support the faith community in responding to domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking.

Project partners include YWCA Spokane, Women's Healing and Empowerment Network and Lutheran Community Services Northwest.

The workshop will increase awareness and understanding of human trafficking in the region and explore strategies to address the needs of the victim/survivors.

Participants will receive current information on research and best practices, and will share ideas on how faith communities can respond in an effective, compassionate and informed manner.

"The faith community has a profound impact on its members, therefore it is imperative that we work together to respond to the issue of human trafficking in Spokane County in order to

improve the quality of life for all citizens," said Mable Dunbar of Faith Partners and director of the Women's Healing and Empowerment Network.

Debbie DuPey, state certified victim advocate and educator with Lutheran Community Services, will give an overview of human trafficking in the region, basic advocacy for survivors and local resources.

Marian Beaumier, who has been involved in education and social work in the Spokane area for 30 years, will lead an interactive experience and give a keynote address to help participants understand the impact of trauma on victims and explore the concept of trauma in informed care.

Marian has taught at Gonzaga University, coordinated adult faith formation in Catholic parishes, offered clinical social work in a community mental health agency and served as clinical director for a nonprofit agency. She believes that respect for each person's right to dignity and self-determination is paramount.

Competent service coupled with respect leads to healthy progress, she pointed out.

The workshop will end with a multi-faith panel including representatives from Christian, Buddhist, Islam and Jewish traditions who will offer participants information about how their own communities are responding. Mable will facilitate the panel discussion.

For information, call 323-2123 or email FaithPartnersAdvocacy@gmail.com or visit the Faith Partners Facebook Page.



March crowds for MLK Day (top) Jan. 16 were 4,000 to 5,000 people. The Women's March (below) Jan. 21 was estimated at 8,000 to 10,000. Speakers at rallies for both events urged people to keep on speaking, educating and acting in the pursuit of equality, respect, justice, human dignity and human rights.



## Shalom Ministries continues to serve meals to homeless

Shalom Ministries continues to serve breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Mondays to Thursdays, and dinners at 4:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays, in the Central United Methodist building at 518 W. Howard. A sale is pending to a church that plans to continue it at least two years.

The Shalom Pathways program offers case management and benefits for the core team of homeless volunteers who are clean and sober. They can stay in the lounge during the day and access services.

For information, call 455-9019 or visit shalommeals.org.

## Habitat recruits churches for Building on Faith in February

Part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s (MLK) dream was for people to move from rat-infested slums and to open doors of opportunity through home ownership.

Habitat for Humanity-Spokane will offer opportunities to volunteers to help build homes on Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Volunteers from area congregations will partner with Habitat-Spokane in "Building on Faith."

That program is an opportunity to work with people in other congregations in shifts from 8:30 a.m. to noon or 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. to help build a Habitat house.

Fund development and marketing manager Angie Funnel said that the Building on Faith work days "provide a tangible opportunity to act on faith."

As people engage in helping build a house, they gain a new understanding of poverty housing. Working side-by-side with the future homeowners, they see them as real people and partners, she said.

"Getting to know people in need of housing creates an urgency to respond," said Angie.

As with all its projects, volunteers also help eliminate poverty housing in other countries, because Habitat-Spokane sets aside 10 percent of the money it raises locally to cover the cost of building houses in other countries, where construction costs are lower.

Angie said a sense of community develops as people work together to build houses. Friendships grow in congregations and the community.

"Many congregations experience spiritual renewal when they build a house. Lives are changed. Often new families join a church and the congregation sees new purpose," she said.

The commitment to sponsor a house includes praying about the project, raising money and recruiting volunteers.

As a partner with a congregation, Habitat-Spokane provides a lot, screens the family, gives construction supervision and direction, does legal work for closing and processing a mortgage, and offers guidance and resources

to help the church organize and promote the project.

On MLK Day, Habitat-Spokane dedicated a home for Lanny, Bill and Christopher Anderson because decent, affordable housing is part of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for justice.

The Andersons lived in a lower South Hill home with ventilation and infestation problems, because it was what they could afford.

Habitat-Spokane is an ecumenical ministry collaborating with 30 Spokane County churches.

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

SAVE THE DATES • HOST A TABLE



2017 Deepening Our Roots

Benefit Lunch

Friday, March 10

Buffet begins 11:45 a.m. • Program 12-1 p.m.

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# Community Living Connections helps keep seniors, disabled in homes

Ray White likes to tell people what they can do, rather than what they can't do.

He is director of aging and disabilities services with Community-Minded Enterprises (CME) in Spokane, which recently began the work of helping people stay in their homes by informing them of services through Community Living Connections (CLC).

CLC is a subcontractor of a federal program that drives funding through Aging and Long Term Care networks. Recently bids opened to run the program, and CME was awarded the contract with Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington.

The addition of this program is one of a number of changes at CME, which recently moved Ray's programs from the Community Building at 35 W. Main to 222 W. Mission.

**Community Living Connections** offers information and makes referrals to services, such as in-home care and personal assistants, for seniors and people with disabilities in Spokane County to help them live independently and stay in their own homes if they want.

Much of the work for the three staff members is done over the phone and with home visits with family and clients to review goals, Ray said.

Other services to which they connect people are transportation, housing options, caregiver support or relief, assisted living, prepared meals, health insurance, mental health, long-term care, assistive devices, legal support/advocacy or counseling.

"We look at clients' situations and let them know for what benefits they are eligible," he said.

He and the staff also serve as navigators of state benefit programs, helping people sign up for different public programs.

**Ray, who is responsible** for other programs with Community Minded Enterprises, works part time with the CLC program.

"We have several hundred calls a month from people who need assistance for a family member or friend," he said. "The staff has databases of local resources and is developing new ways to help people."

Recently staff became proficient in helping seniors and disabled people find volunteers to shovel sidewalks. In the first two weeks of January, they had 100 calls.

To recruit those volunteers, staff reached out to companies that offer employees time to do two-to-nine hours of volunteer work each week. Some are also from churches, which have a mis-



Ray White coordinates Community Living Connections.

sion to provide volunteers.

"Washington state is progressive on providing services. In 2010, CME was part of the development of a local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and in 2012, CME also subcontracted as a partner to develop the local advisory group for that program," Ray said.

CME also partners with Meals on Wheels providers. They also refer people to mental health care, assistive resources, legal services and options counseling.

**Ray has been with CME** since 2008. From 1988 until then, he worked with SL Start as director of employment services for people with disabilities and low-income people. He learned about CME because of contracts that went back and forth with SL Start. From 1984 to 1988, he worked in Lewiston, Idaho, with people with disabilities seeking supportive employment and working with those with disabilities to find competitive jobs.

Ray grew up in the Napa Valley in California and graduated with a degree in American history in 1976 from California State University. He taught a year and worked from 1977 to 1984 with Pacific Gas and Electric. A relative from Idaho invited him to work in "the disability world." Growing up, he volunteered at a state hospital.

**Ray has found it a fruitful time** to be part of the disability world.

During the years he has worked in that field, "society began realizing that people who had disabilities also had many abilities," he said "New accessibility and employment laws opened doors for many people to become contributing members of their communities and to live independently."

He married a nurse in Lewiston who found a job at Sacred Heart Hospital, bringing them to

Spokane, where he began working with SL Start, a for-profit company, serving Washington and Idaho.

"There has been much funding put into community living options for people with disabilities," said Ray.

He appreciates being back in the nonprofit world with CME, which he said is family- and community-oriented.

Five years ago, he had orthopedic problems with his back and two hip replacements, and CME let him work from home.

**He oversees several other** state programs under CME:

- The Plan to Work Program, funded by Social Security to help people with disabilities on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance make responsible decisions about work. Some previously had resigned themselves to live in poverty, afraid they would lose benefits. This program encourages them to take a look at incentives that will allow them to work and not lose any safety net programs they currently have.

- The Exceptional Family Member Program works with Fairchild Air Force families offering respite care for families who have a child with disabilities. The providers are put through a government process of background checks and training before they assist families. Families receive a certain number of hours of respite each month. The program signs up families and maintains a pool of providers from which families interested can choose.

CME started in 1998 as Health Improvement Partnership (HIP) of Spokane County. On behalf of SL Start, Ray served on its disability advisory committee.

Ray said CME now has 50 employees serving in its programs that currently also include an

ECEAP School in Browne's Addition, Early Achievers to assist and support licensed child care providers, the Access to Recovery drug and alcohol recovery program and Community-Minded TV (CM-TV).

**HIP was in the Paulson Building** from 1988 to 2007, when it became Community-Minded Enterprises and moved to the Community Building.

In 2016, CME programs moved to other locations. The CM-TV offices and studio moved to Third and Browne. Access to Recovery moved to the former Peaceful Valley Community Center.

"We outgrew the space as we expanded programs," Ray said.

**Ray, who was raised Catholic** and attended Catholic schools, taught in the Christian Brothers School for a year. He has attended different churches over the years.

"My faith plays a role in my commitment. I believe we need to treat everyone equally and include everyone," he said.

When he started in the aging and disabilities work, many people were segregated and put in nursing homes or institutionalized because of a disabling condition.

Spokane's Aging and Disabilities Helpline at 960-7281 and its

website at spokanehelpline.org receive calls from clients, guardians, advocates, care givers, family, neighbors, friends, health care providers, law enforcement and community partners in Spokane County.

**Calls are answered** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Home visits are available.

For information, call 444-3088 or email [clcinformation@community-minded.org](mailto:clcinformation@community-minded.org).

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For location and more information, visit [www.compassiongames.org](http://www.compassiongames.org)  
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# Beck Taylor expresses his solidarity to show up, speak out for justice

Seeing himself as an ally fighting for racial justice and reconciliation in the community, Whitworth University President Beck Taylor expressed his solidarity and willingness to “show up, speak out and be counted when the trumpets for justice sound.”

As leader of an institution of higher learning, he believes he needs to equip the community to lift up those who are marginalized and discriminated against, and to tear down walls of hatred and fear.

Beck told of his personal journey to discovering his role in the “cosmic journey toward justice.” He realizes that being an ally in the cause of justice doesn’t look the same for everyone.

He sees common threads in stories of people who give their lives to serve, who struggle for justice and who oppose those who “demean the humanity of others and oppress the causes of freedom and equality.”

**Beck’s journey began** with the “sobering reality that I personally benefit from privileges and power that are a function of my skin color, gender, citizenship, health and other characteristics that are unmerited and should not correlate with my position in society or opportunities I’ve been given.”

He was not speaking out of guilt but recognizing he, as others, is the product of his circumstances.

“We cannot claim credit for many things that cause us to climb higher or hold us back, but recognizing where we stand in the



**Beck Taylor walked in the Martin Luther King Jr. March with his daughter, Chloe, 9.**

spectrum of power and privilege is an important first step in being allies,” he said.

**From the Gospel of Luke**, he quoted Jesus: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Having been given much in life compels him to do much to serve.

**Another step in his journey** is to admit that social, economic and educational systems, as well as prejudices and stereotypes

have led, in part, to his position of power and are “the same flawed systems that serve as a yoke of oppression, cruelty, disadvantage and inhumanity for many of my neighbors,” Beck said.

**“Racism and discrimination** are sins—not just my sins, your sins or the other person’s sins, but our sins,” he said.

The sum of “the scourge of racism” is greater than its parts, he said, noting that structural forms of oppression are everywhere.

“It takes courage to chip away

at the stepping stones of power that elevated many of us to the top of the pyramid, in order to level the playing field and create opportunities for others,” he said. “That’s what real allies do.”

**In addition to owning** his own power and privilege, recognizing he has been given much and understanding systems that help sustain cultures and outcomes of discrimination, he said there’s another step to being a friend and ally.

**“That is to show up** and be counted among those who devote their lives to ensuring that chains of oppression and discrimination are broken,” he said.

While he can admit his own privileges, and studies historical and structural sources of bias and racism from the safety of his world, “the ivory tower of education,” he said that, until he and others step out of their worlds and into the worlds occupied by the tired, downtrodden, oppressed, and other agents of justice and mercy, “we cannot count ourselves among the allies serving this righteous cause,” he said.

**To be counted**, he said, people need to step out of their comfort zones and risk linking arms with people who are different but share in this fight for freedom.

Dr. King risked everything. He gave everything, even his life: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for his friends,” Beck said. “Dr. King wasn’t always understood. Drum

majors for justice rarely are.”

In April 1963, Dr. King went to Birmingham, Ala., against the advice of many fellow clergy. In his letter from the Birmingham jail, he told critics, “I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.”

**Beck lived in Birmingham** when he was dean and professor of economics at the Brock School of Business at Samford University. He also taught business at Baylor University in Waco, Tex., where he earned his undergraduate degrees in economics and finance. He earned master’s and doctoral degrees in economics at Purdue University.

At Whitworth, he has emphasized community involvement.

**“We are here today** because injustice is here, in our community and nation,” he said. “Whenever and wherever injustice rears its evil head, we will show up and be counted.

**“Today isn’t a check-the-box** day. After this rally, we won’t simply go back to our homes, work and worship to waste the next 364 days,” Beck said.

“No, we will use this day to commence our year of steadfast, inspired work to bring justice, equality, fairness, love and shalom to our communities, and to work to tear down walls of hostility and hatred in our midst,” he said.

“Today, and every day, we need to be allies in this cause,” Beck challenged.

For information, call 777-4665 or visit whitworth.edu.

# MLK Rally speakers call crowd to ‘stick to love,’ seek justice, peace

*Continued from page 1*  
need to resolve to be resolute to be the resolution in this new year and new world,” Phil said, challenging people not to turn away when they see injustice.

“We have two eyes and need to use them. We have a heart we need to use to love our neighbors equally,” he said. “Then and only then will we realize MLK’s words: ‘I decided to stick to love.’ Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

**Sandy Williams, editor** of Spokane’s two-year-old Black Lens newspaper, said an example of her effort to give different perspectives was publishing a speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., that few hear. It was a sermon he gave at Riverside Church in New York City on how the Vietnam War ravaged the economy and impoverished African Americans.

He was vilified for the sermon by the government and many in the African-American community, but as a Christian minister he was committed to speak out for peace and justice.

“The Good News is meant for all,” he said, “for communists and capitalists, their churches and ours, black and white, conservatives and revolutionaries.” Dr. King also pointed out, “Nonviolence helps us see our enemy’s point of view.”

**Spokane Mayor David Condon** said he believes Dr. King’s spirit and persistence as a champion for civil rights, equality and justice can be found in Spokane.

“Spokane is not immune to racism or hatred. We must continue to stress that our community will not tolerate racism or hatred,” he said, calling the community to unite to support victims of hate.

“Victims of hate do not walk alone. They need to report incidents to local law enforcement. They are here to help us,” he said, affirming that the community will not tolerate mistreatment of anyone. “We strive to create a city where people from all walks of life and backgrounds can feel safe and included.”

**Rep. Cathy McMorris Rogers** spoke about MLK changing the course of history, teaching people to dream for a better tomorrow.

She called for post-election unity: “We must see how divided we are and find how we can heal. We need to embrace today and give everyone the benefit of the

doubt. Everyone matters.

“Changing the culture is up to us, our neighbors and communities. We should treat all people with dignity. We need to do more to address racism. We may not always agree, but we can come together to build community,” she said.

Some chanted, “Save our health care.” A few booed.

**Freda Gandy, executive director** of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center and emcee, called for the audience to remember children were watching. Then Freda called for coming together, transitioning to say, “Who is better at unifying us than Pastor Happy Watkins.”

**As he has done for decades**, the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church gave MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech, inserting a few additions for these times.

“Though we face the difficulties of today and the next four years, I still have a dream....a dream that President Obama and his family will be judged by the content of their character, not the color of

their skin.”

In repeating “let freedom ring from...” he added, “Let freedom ring from Trump Tower in Manhattan,” and then, “when we allow freedom to ring” from “every city and hamlet, state and city,” then “we will speed up that day when all God’s children, black men and

white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics” will join hands and sing the words, “Free at last, free at last, Great God Almighty, we are free at last.”

The MLK Center raised more than \$10,000 at the rally.

For information, call 455-8722 or visit mlkspokane.org.

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# Speakers value the influence of Spokane's MLK Center in their lives

Two Pride Prep students, Jada Richardson and Amari Troutt, and digital ad executive David Osei recently told how the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Family Outreach Center and Dr. King have influenced their lives.

They spoke at the Spokane Ministers' Fellowship Jan. 9 benefit breakfast for the center.

**Jada found 2016 an emotional, hectic year** with the election, shootings and police brutality shaking U.S. history.

She attributes this country's disunity to people who face the same struggles competing with each other. Instead, she believes people need to stand united, speak out and be people others can lean on during their trials and tribulations.

"We can't just stick up for our own cultural groups. We have to stick up for all who experience discrimination and mistreatment. We become part of the problem the day we let those with power bully those without power," Jada continued.

**When MLK had a dream,** it was not just for black Americans. It was for anyone who was not being treated like a human being, she said.

Her hope for 2017 is that people unite to lift their voices and fight for the changes they would like to see in the community and country. She concluded, quoting Psalms 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

**Amari has gone** to the MLK Center since she was three years old, participating in ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program), the FAME (Fulfillment Achievement Maturity Enrichment) after-school program, the summer program and now the teen program.

Raised in Calvary Baptist Church and involved with choir, dance and reading prayers, she said, "if I hadn't been raised in that environment, I don't know where I'd be, because God has always been an arrow pointing towards the right decision. Giving back to those in need has always been a passion for me."

**When Amari was six years old,** she began volunteering at the church's soup kitchen that her grandmother, Peggie Troutt, started.

"I have been volunteering eight years and I just can't get enough," she said.

**By her example, Freda Gandy,** executive director of the MLK Center, has also inspired her to give to people in need.

"I love helping someone in need," she said. "When I volunteer, I do it because I love seeing someone smile."

Amari thinks volunteering is something that should come naturally, because everyone needs help.

"We should all be able to help others," she said, quoting Proverbs 28:27: "Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses."

**David's volunteering as a teen counselor** at the MLK Center, beginning at the age of 13, introduced him to the working world.

He said it has had impact on his success not only in advertising, but also as a songwriter and recording artist now living in Los Angeles.

David, 26, who graduated in



Amari Troutt and Jada Richardson

sociology in 2013 from Washington State University, said that few knew how long it would take to bring about Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of freedom, equality and peace.

**"This dream requires work** from each and every one of us with each day, week, month and year," he said.

As he sought to bring the civil rights leader's message to life, he looked at his summer of volunteering.

"It was one of the many things in my childhood that my mother (Denise Osei) plotted for me to do, for which I am now grateful," he said, glad he worked with childhood friends and had "a bit of authority over younger counterparts."

He arrived early to set up for breakfast and stayed to clean up. "We did what we were told and felt honored to work with people we looked up to," David said.

**"Today, people are often** disconnected from the work done for us to have basic liberties and the pain those before us went through just to get a job," he said. "People often saw African Americans as less, because they have never been privy to the rich history of our people from the scholars of Africa to the black history of this country."

David feels lucky to have been raised in an era of respect for elders, community and the reality that it takes a village to raise a child. Those who have succeeded have been an example for each other.

**When he moved to Los Angeles** a few years ago, he was afraid, but knew he was destined for more.

David said it has been tough there. He has run into people who do a double take when they meet him. It didn't matter whether he wore a suit or jeans and a hoody, he said people seemed afraid because of his height, size and race.

"When I walked into a board room with co-workers in the not-so-diverse TV advertising industry, some had big eyes and

gaped. I could tell they were nervous," David said.

**After conversing, they realize** he is a knowledgeable young professional, from humble, hard-working beginnings. He has gained their trust.

Now, David said, they "judge me by the content of my character, not the color of my skin."

Despite that, he finds his answers to questions are often taken as a generalization about all African Americans.

"Each day, we are trusted with a sacred mission," he said, commenting on the role of the MLK Center.

**To a few of the children** and youth who frequent the MLK Center, it may just be day care, but for parents it's a safe place for their children where they have care and the fun that help shape their futures, David said.

"While there are children of all races and this is a place where all are accepted, for the African-American youth of our community, this is a chance to be in a group setting where we aren't the only ones," he said.

Not until high school did he have a teacher who looked like him.

**"It's important to see** people like yourself in positions of authority, to have role models in whom we see ourselves," he said.

David said he came to speak to thank people who had an impact of his success.

The recent vandalism at the outreach center disturbed him, making him realize that "after so long, our work has not neared its halfway point," he said.



David Osei

His mother told of growing up in the civil rights era, marching with MLK, challenging segregation and Jim Crow laws.

**"So what do we do** when we have come so far, yet still are belittled? We must lead by example," he said.

He cited Gal. 5:13's call for people to use their freedom to love and serve one another.

He quoted Gal. 6:9, 10: "Love

your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return."

"Expecting nothing in return is the key," David said. "We are not to look for admiration or thanks, but simply give out of the goodness of our hearts, knowing we may have had a positive impact on the future."

**For youth to be uplifted** and have the foundation to become examples to lead the change for the future, he said places like the MLK center are important.

"A few moments and few words of encouragement can change lives," David said, noting that young men he worked with as a teen still reach out to him and come to him for advice.

"This life is a gift," David said. "The purpose of life is to learn from as many people as we can, to give to as many as we can and to lay a foundation for those to follow so that this place is better off than when we started."

**"We need to be beacons** of light, act as brothers and sisters, as children of God chosen to make our mark on this world by leading by example," David said.

For information, call 455-8722 or visit mlkspokane.org.

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## Leavenworth learns from refugees, Muslims

Continued from page 1  
group their community would benefit from cross-cultural connections and relationships of resettling families, so 10 teams formed to plan housing, jobs, food, clothing, education, medical care, transportation and furnishings.

To help families assimilate, they have offered education so the community would be welcoming.

A representative of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound came to speak about Islam and terrorism. They showed the documentary, "Salaam Neighbor," on life in a refugee camp in Jordan and the vetting process. They also offer books like *My Neighbor Is Muslim*, and other resources on Islam.

There was a backlash of fear and anger from a few, Alex said.

Faith Lutheran held a craft fair with congregational artists, raising \$1,200 to sponsor refugees.

"A Kurdish family almost moved here in April 2016, but the week before they were to move, the mother felt she needed to be near other Kurdish women because of the shared trauma they have experienced," said Alex.

That family visited several weekends. One time in the summer they prepared a Kurdish feast for more than 30 Leavenworth ReSettles members, who raised \$1,300 to assist that family.

Another day, an AmeriCorps member brought a Kurdish woman with three of her six children for a day of respite that included lunch, an outing in the snow and dinner.

By December, they realized it would take longer than they hoped to resettle families, so they agreed to support refugee families in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties, while continuing to make preparations in "faithful waiting."

Leavenworth ReSettles recently invited area congregations and community members to provide practical support. They assembled 24 refugee kitchen starter kits (\$100 value), which they will take to LCSNW in Tacoma.

Now more than 60 area people are interested, said Alex, who retired at the end of 2016 after 17 years as pastor of Faith Lutheran. He continues with this project.

Over the years, Faith Lutheran Church has reached out to Hispanic neighbors—about 30 percent of the population. Whether they are documented or undocumented, Hispanics contribute to the local economy, he said. They work in



Alex Schmidt

orchards, agriculture and tourism business and own small businesses. While there are few Hispanic teachers and none on city council, there is little hostility to Hispanics because they help sustain the local economy, Alex said.

So he was surprised by the resistance to refugees from the Middle East.

Faith Lutheran members have offered ESL courses, citizenship classes and a free clinic, now a weekly part of Leavenworth's Cascade Medical Center. Alex, who learned Spanish before doing missionary work in Bolivia, is one of several interpreters.

For nearly four years, a Faith Lutheran Immigrant Justice Group has offered public forums, engaging local agencies on immigrants and helping families. They link with state and national organizations for direct services and education.

Alex said his roots and faith play into his involvement.

His father was a German Russian in the Soviet army until Stalin purged German Russians. His father later defected to the German army. After the war, his parents and two sisters fled to Germany. They were in a displaced persons camp and then lived with a family in Bayreuth.

Alex's father worked two years to pay off the Peshashtin orchardist's sponsorship and then worked in a sawmill and studied electrical engineering. Much later, he was hired at Boeing in Seattle, where Alex went to high school and completed a degree in oceanography in 1970 at the University of Washington.

Alex's interest in immigrants and refugees came later in his life.

While in the Army from 1970 to 1973, he had a conversion experience, so he returned to Seattle

to complete a degree in biblical studies in 1975 at Lutheran Bible Institute.

He, his first wife and two young children then spent three-and-a-half years with the Lutheran Church in Bolivia through World Mission Prayer League, bringing seminary classes to remote mountain villagers.

On returning, he studied at Fuller Seminary and completed a master of divinity in 1984 at Lutheran Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Alex served from then until 1999 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spokane. His sisters encouraged their mother to write about her experiences in the war.

When he came to Faith Lutheran, the congregation introduced him to social justice.

In the last 10 years, Alex began to connect his roots with racism and bias in the region. He realized his father came home from the sawmill with injuries to his arms and ribs because anti-German co-workers intentionally mishandled the lumber.

Alex started giving interactive workshops on "Building Bridges of Understanding" to help dismantle racism through personal cultural self-awareness, and understanding the historical context and dynamics of intolerance and racism. Each year, he leads three to five eight-hour workshops for school boards, high school classes, secular nonprofits, congregations, the Wenatchee Diversity Council, and staff of a drug and alcohol center and juvenile detention center.

In retirement, he hopes to offer more workshops, especially to churches, addressing theological perspectives and biblical mandates, the prophets' call for justice, and Jesus' work to break the yoke of oppression and work for mercy.

Along with educating, Alex believes work for justice involves affecting decisions in Olympia and Washington, D.C.

"Beyond helping at a community cupboard, we are called to love our neighbors by looking at what it means in terms of working for justice in the legal and political systems," he said.

Recently he and other community leaders began the North Central Washington United Group, incorporating secular and faith communities for education and action "to wake others up to work towards justice and equity."

For information, call 548-7012 or email lxhappns@nwi.net.

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# Twenty percent of Saint George's 8th to 12th graders are Chinese

At Saint George's School in North Spokane, 40 of the 377 students in K-12 are Chinese. They are 20 percent of eighth through 12th students, which are the grades they attend.

They add to the school's diversity and opportunities for cultural awareness.

Chinese have been the largest group of international students in recent years.

The school has also had Korean, Taiwanese and Russian students. A few students from countries such as France and Germany come for two-month exchanges.

**The Chinese students live with 24 host families in Spokane.** Many, but not all, are Saint George's families.

"We try to find the right fit and continually are looking for new families," said Elizabeth Tender, the international student coordinator.

The first student she and her husband Jamie hosted was a Russian boy who was the same age as their son. The other students have been Chinese.

"Our children have learned to be more accepting and more tolerant of people," said Elizabeth.

**Many of the Chinese students** are recruited by word of mouth, as well as by three agencies. They come from various parts of China. Most are from Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou, but they did not know each other before coming.

Elizabeth has traveled to China to recruit the students, arranges visas and paperwork, advises them and has hosted four students over five years.

The students come to learn English, learn about American culture and attend U.S. colleges.

**Saint George's School**, a small college-prep school at 2929 W. Waikiki Rd., wants to expose its local students to other cultures and languages to broaden their world views.

Because Spokane seems to be a homogeneous culture, Elizabeth said that having the Chinese students adds to the school's diversity, along with local students of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

"It makes the world smaller," she said. "We want students to experience more than their own culture and know there is a big world out there. We want it to be a norm to accept that there are different cultures and ideas."

Saint George's School teaches Chinese, too.

**"Our mission is to inspire** scholars, athletes and artists to lead and serve others," she said, "so we want the school to be internationally minded."



Elizabeth Tender with Wendy Chen from Beijing, Thomas Xu from Qingdao and Mary Xu from Chengdu.

The school recently became an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, graduating the first IB class in 2016. International Baccalaureate is an internationally recognized standard of education.

Saint George's offers IB classes, not Advanced Placement (AP), but assists students who choose to do AP classes.

Elizabeth said AP classes in math want students to remember formulas and answer multiple choice questions, while IB math is about understanding why and how to find answers, so students learn to think. In the school, 35 students have chosen to go for a full IB diploma, both international and local students.

"IB students integrate into the school population and are as involved as others in sports, robotics, choir, and other activities," said Elizabeth.

The Chinese students bring cultural awareness. For example, the last Friday in January, Saint George's celebrated Chinese New Year, bringing in food and red lanterns.

**Elizabeth grew up** in Georgia and met her husband, Jamie, while studying psychology at Denison University. In 1992, she graduated from the University of Georgia in Atlanta and they married.

Jamie earned a master's at Georgia State University. They taught at Galloway School, a private school, for 10 years before looking for a school in a less urban area.

In 2003, they moved to Spokane for Jamie to be development director and middle school principal at Saint George's School. In 2016, he became head of the school.

Elizabeth began as assistant to the head of the school, and then became international student coordinator, IB coordinator and summer school coordinator.

**While Saint George's started** in 1955 as an Episcopal school, it is now non-religious. Parents started it to create an educational option in Spokane to prepare students to succeed at the best colleges and universities.

The school is on the site of

River, a setting conducive for outdoor educational experiences.

The school has a staff of 65, so teachers and staff know the students on a personal level, because classes are small, averaging 10 to 15 students.

**Students are self-motivated**, said Elizabeth, telling of filling in for a math teacher recently and finding that the students were given four problems to solve. They worked together and focused on it for an hour and a half without needing help.

Elizabeth grew up Episcopal and her husband Catholic. While not in a faith community now, she

said they are at Saint George's because the "school is about the whole student, not just academics, but emotions, psychology and all aspects of a student's life."

**"Teachers know and care** about the students," she said.

The school has six buses to transport students from around Spokane. About half come by bus and half are driven.

As a private school, it's supported by tuition. International students pay tuition and pay host families for monthly costs.

For information, call 464-8815 or email [elizabeth.tender@sgs.org](mailto:elizabeth.tender@sgs.org).

*Celebrate Fat Tuesday*



## Jazz Mass

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Preacher: The Rev. Matthew Larson  
Advent Lutheran Church

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For more information, contact Shonna Bartlett at 313-5765 or [bartletts@gonzaga.edu](mailto:bartletts@gonzaga.edu).

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# Food bank in Post Falls operates like a supermarket for its clients

By Kaye Hult

Guest intake and resource specialist Lori Freeman Weaver warmly greets guests who enter the Post Falls Food Bank.

"I try to make our guests feel welcome," she said, describing the dread some people feel when they enter for the first time. She wants them to feel at ease.

Leslie Orth, executive director, calls Lori "the face of the food bank." She began working at the food bank in November 2014. At that time, registered guests received a small shopping cart of food that was pre-packed. Guests had little say about what they received each visit.

In March 2016, Leslie put into motion a dream set forth by Sherry Wallis, former executive director, and the Board of Directors.

The Post Falls Food Bank did a major remodel of their facility and became a "Choice Market."

"Most food banks don't run like a market," Lori said.

Once the guests have signed in, they take a shopping cart and go into the market, where they are able to go up and down the aisles and choose what they want. They are assigned points the first day of each month that they use like cash. They are responsible for budgeting their points throughout the month, Lori said.

Guests must submit paperwork corresponding with criteria set



Lori Freeman Weaver greets guests at the Post Falls Food Bank.

forth by the food bank and its grantors to qualify for services. Some information can be printed during the intake or recertification, so guests don't have to leave and come back.

"For some, the work of qualifying for resources they need is too much work. I want to make it easier for them," Lori said. "I'm trying to empower them."

Leslie encouraged Lori to help guests with resourcing and created office space for her when they changed to the market concept.

The food bank serves from 85 to 100 families every day, Monday through Friday. In addition to signing in, guests sign out when they are finished shopping.

"We track points and weights to help with grant reports," said Lori.

She described the market as sensible in the way it uses the points. Produce and vegetables have zero points. People can take as much as they want.

"I love the people we serve and have gotten to know many of them well. It's a little village in here," she said.

Camaraderie is a lifestyle at this food bank, she added. Friendships are formed among all involved. Volunteers help volunteers. Clients help clients.

"We have put up a swap board, the 'Food Bank Craigslist,' where people can post goods and services for our 'village' to share," Lori said.

Leslie allows flexibility in the way staff members work with guests, because the food bank is

not government funded.

"My boss trusts my judgment," Lori said. "The gray area is what makes us stand out."

She believes that is why the Post Falls Food Bank is so successful. The food bank follows strict food safety guidelines.

"We do not serve out-of-date food or expired produce. Any spoilage goes to area pig farmers who have contracted with the food bank. They, in turn, donate a locally grown and processed pig to the food bank.

"It's a win-win," she said.

The food bank also partners with other agencies that offer food, such as Real Life Ministries and other area soup kitchens.

"They'll be able to feed their clients. We make good use of our food excess," she said.

Lori believes that her life experiences have given her the drive to offer compassionate care to those at the food bank.

She remembers being amazed at how hard her single-parent

mother worked and wondering why no one helped her.

"My mom raised us to try hard, to do what's right and to be kind," she said. "Realizing that not everybody is in the same place at the same time has been a lesson for me."

While remodeling the food bank building, when the floors were resurfaced, Lori requested that the words, "Food for the Soul," be painted into the finish.

"That's who we are," she said.

In coming to know the guests well over time, she has not only encouraged banter, but also encouraged people to care for one another as she and others help people find the resources they need. Lori feels passionate about her work.

"Out of the crises I went through, being part of this organization is a mutual benefit for me and our guests," she said.

For information, call 208-773-0139 or email [lori@postfallsfoodbank.org](mailto:lori@postfallsfoodbank.org).

## Journalist's books offer insights for these times

Gordon Jackson, a retired Whitworth University professor of journalism, recently published two books, one in print and one online.

One book, titled *Be Thou My Vision: Light, Sight and the Christian Faith*, examines the many references to light and sight in the Bible. It offers 32 explorations of ideas of light and sight, and related concepts of darkness and blindness, drawing from scientific, theological and popular sources. Published by Crosslink Publishing, it is due for release in late February.

"The Bible begins with God creating light in Genesis, and ends with light in Revelation," he said. "Light and sight are frequently referred to throughout the Old and New Testaments."

One factor leading Gordon to write the book is his own experience with glaucoma, making him especially sensitive to vision and sight issues.

"Because the physiology of how our eyes work, when we look at an image, what we each see may be different," he said.

"We also need to learn to see. Only when we are teens does our sight develop fully," he said.

"Likewise, spiritually we often do not see as well as we think we do. It takes time for our vision to mature.

"We see badly if we just see things but don't really notice them. That has obvious spiritual implications," Gordon said. "There is so much God is doing that we do not see."

While this book is for an individual's journey, there are broader applications about seeing.

From growing up in South Africa and from living many years in the United States, Gordon knows that when he goes abroad for volunteer work—to the Middle East, Nigeria and recently to Mexico and Kenya—and "when I experience a setting outside my normal path, I find that people in different cultures see in different ways—not better or worse, just differently."

So when he goes to a new place, he is attentive to tread carefully to respect the norms and expectations in those settings.

His online book is written in response to a young African-American woman who was outside the U.S. during the recent

election. She is so traumatized she doesn't want to come back.

The book is *Assuring Alexis: 306 Quotes of Encouragement and Hope for Withstanding the Trump Era*. The number 306 refers to the number of electoral college votes Trump received.

"I say don't panic or despair, there is work to be done," he said.

The quotes range from the classical era to Barack Obama's farewell, and includes verses from the Bible, Koran and Talmud.

Gordon sees parallels today between the United States and South Africa under apartheid when the government was hostile to and tried to marginalize the press, sought to control information and had a farcical relationship with truth.

South Africa's current president is beleaguered by criticism, even from his own party, because of his incompetence and the rampant corruption he has allowed, Gordon said, adding that a South African friend found *Assuring Alexis* applicable to that situation.

For information, email [gjackson@whitworth.edu](mailto:gjackson@whitworth.edu).

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## Trust is essential to our living together as a society and nation

There is nothing more important or needed between human beings living together under a social contract than trust. As a spiritual master once said, "Let your nay be nay, and your yay be yay."

As a nation, we suffer from many injustices perpetrated by racism, extreme, progressive and conservative ideologies, hypocrisy and greed, all born out of fear, all eroding our ability to trust each other.

Somewhere in the midst of this chaos there existed, for a while, a few sources of actual and reliable information as concerns the operations and findings of our most valuable, life-supporting institutions.

We now have fake news.

We had a touchstone, of sorts, from which all social factions and ideologues could gather facts worthy of making decisions for our country. We trusted them. They are still present, but have had doubt cast upon them.

We have discovered the value of critical thinking, but many of us, in our search for the facts in practical matters, have opted to give in to reports from any source of information that agrees with our own biased and uninformed opinions.

These sources are many and appear to be revealers of fact until we find the researchers have been paid millions to support marginal, if not absolutely wrong, information on such things as the environment and political thinking. We then use these sources, which we neglect to research, as verification and proof of our biased opinion. We substitute this one-sided process for critical thinking and use the findings as fact.

In this kind of world, it seems few want to take real responsibility for fact-finding and truthful knowing. When we gather information from sources that reflect only our own fears, the only possibility for us to function together socially is from a point of

suspicion and mistrust.

There are many news and scientific sources, a plethora of religious and supposed spiritual agencies, all claiming to be "The Source" of all things real and sacred that we all take our cues from as we march chaotically towards a fall similar to the Tower of Babel depicted in Genesis when language was confused.

As can be predicted in a situation of non-trust, everyone blames everyone else and every other social agency and politician for telling lies and manipulating the facts to promote themselves and their opinions. No one wants to take the blame for being misled while we fall farther into our own guarded neighborhoods, relying on misinformation for our protection.

Too many have adopted the idea that, "We might as well do it. Everyone suspects us of it anyway." "They spy on us so we have to spy on them." "What's in it for us?"

C. S. Lewis said it succinctly in the *Screwtape Letters*, "For suspicion often creates what it suspects!"

Now suspicion has damaged our great society by creating hate and enmity between ethnic groups and established traditions of all stripes. Those who would like to destroy what we have and what we might be as a democratic people are feeding the fires of suspicion everywhere.

We, the people, however, have the power to turn this story around. We must, no matter how we view the world, work together for our visions with honesty, integrity and by not manipulating the facts, but by building our future out of them.

We must always check what we believe against what is real because we deserve to know the truth.

**Bob Evans – Contributing Editor  
Emerge 'n See United Church of  
Christ - Sandpoint**

## Spending time with elders we can find their wisdom 'wisdoms' us

Our elders are so full of wisdom, wit and vitality that these life-giving qualities pour out of them, even when they are not looking. This is evident to those of us blessed to live among them.

Wisdom shows itself in many ways, some obvious, some more subtle. Sometimes, we may not be aware that we have been touched by Wisdom until long after that gift has borne fruit.

The wisdom of listening is a most appreciated gift, particularly to those who have many stories to tell or thoughts that need airing. Listening and hearing and telling are a piece. Reciprocity turns an encounter into a wisdom experience. To a good listener, one is more ready to tell stories,

revisit important, formative life experiences. This sharing may be a reminder of strengths used on previous occasions and therefore accessible again. When someone really listens, the speaker feels valued, respected, important, connected. God bless those whose gift is the wisdom of listening!

Some people are blessed with the wisdom of seeing into the whole of another person, seeing what is really there, the goodness, truth, beauty that has grown throughout a lifetime of experiences.

The wisdom seer often senses where hurt, loneliness or worry could be diminished by the offer of some "face-time," an experience of seeing and being seen eye-to-eye, in recognition of worth. Blessed are those

who use their inner and outer sight!

We do not always think of wit as a wisdom gift, but I believe it is. Connecting ideas that do not normally go together surprises, delights, lightens our spirits.

A sense of humor interrupts our daily ruts and frees us of the "expected," opens us to something new. We don't always want the answer to "Why did the chicken cross the road?" to be "To get to the other side!" I wouldn't expect "Because the light turned green." Blessed are those who share the funny things of life because they help us to laugh at ourselves, and just maybe, keep us young at heart!

The Spirit of Wisdom  
You risk guessing

what I really want from you

...and you offer it.

You remember who I am,

even if neither of us

remembers what I say.

You offer me the safety to be me.

When we spend time with elders, when our hearts are open to receive and possibly be changed in the encounter, the richness of their wisdom "wisdoms" us and increases vitality in everyone.

Let's remember, we are all on our way to being elders. Some people just have a head start.

**Mary Ann Farley, SNJM  
Contributing Editor  
Fig Tree Board Member**

Quotes & Summaries

## Sounding Board

Women's March

## Excerpts and summaries of stories, comments from Spokane's Women's March

**Heather Rhoades**, who helped coordinate the Women's March in Spokane, called the women and men of many races, ages, religions, abilities and gender identities to "be involved, get involved and stay involved."

Spokane's march, which drew more than 8,000 people—10,000 by some estimates—was one of 673 marches on Jan. 21 in communities across the United States and around the world. Global estimates range from 3 to 5 million marchers.

**Spokane emcee Dannetta Garcia** worked for women's, human and voter rights in Sacramento and recently moved to Spokane. She said: "We march as those before us, because we believe we can make a difference. The Declaration of Independence grants the inalienable right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Happiness gives us purpose, but is not guaranteed. We must pursue it with all we have in us. As we unify, our voices are amplified.

She calls for changing the landscape and removing stigmas that hold many hostage.

"We need to come together, not in despair, but in solidarity. We are marching as those who have gone before. We must believe we can make a difference," she said, heartened to see so many men. "We will weave our energy across all countries to draw new women. We will not stop."

**Cindy Shaw**, manager of Hope House, said serial murders of women on the street led to starting the women's shelter in 1997. Women who enter Hope House have a bed, shower, meals and safety for 15 hours. Those turned out may face freezing weather, being mugged, raped or robbed.

"Even working here, I'm guilty of looking and not seeing, hearing and not listening. We may lose women who do not get in," she said.

Homeless women are called bum, prostitute, alcoholic, addict, but each has a story. They were productive women, some with master's and doctoral degrees, doctors, lawyers, teachers and wives. They lost a job or spouse, or made wrong choices, said Cindy.

Hope House seeks to give women incentive to pick up and helps women find housing,

jobs, health and counseling.

**Adella King** of the Women's Warbonnet Society, said the society seeks to protect the human race and love everyone.

**Deborah** from North Dakota called people to support Standing Rock efforts to protect drinking water and sacred sites.

**Angela Jones**, chief of staff at EWU, said, "Rebellions are built on hope." Coming from slave owners in Tennessee, she said that if someone had given up on the fight to abolish slavery, "I would not be standing here." "We need to stop freaking out. Yesterday was not Day One of resistance. We have been doing this for a long time. We need to work together, stay informed, be involved and be active in order to bring change."

Eastern Washington University has its first woman president in its 135-year history. There are now four women executives.

"Be active, build capacity, run for government, join nonprofits, end discrimination and be resistant," Angela said.

**Councilwoman Candace Mumm** read a letter from Maria Cantwell, saying that women Senators are in solidarity with women and "will carry your message to the halls of power until there is justice."

"Women's rights are human rights. We need to build successes to carry the torch of justice forward," Maria said. "Women have the potential to lift up the least and topple the powerful. We need determination to face threats."

**Karl Easlan**, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho, said women losing access to health care is a threat to women's lives: After Planned Parenthood closed in Texas, there were more unintentional pregnancies and more maternal deaths. After Indiana closed it, there was a rise in HIV because there was no place to test for it. He urged people to march "every day for the rest of your lives" and to engage with those in power.

**Meena and Savanna**, high school seniors

in running start at Spokane Falls Community College, organized a candlelight vigil in the fall at the Spokane County Courthouse. They named women who have fought for women's rights, saying: "We need to use our voices and not back down." They challenged that a fraternity boy who raped an unconscious woman was given a light sentence out of worry about his career, but no one cared about the impact of the rape on the woman.

**A teacher in Pasco**, grew up in a migrant family in California. "Esperanza" or "hope" in a time like this is in honoring migrants' sacrifices by empowering them. Her father sacrificed, working three jobs so she could go to a university. "I want students to value education and fulfill their dreams," she said. "Nine-year-olds in my class worry if their parents will be picked up while they are at school.... We need to recognize the contribution of immigrants to society and allow them to live in peace not fear."

**Sally Jackson**, a former Spokane Democratic Party leader who has long advocated for women's rights and the Equal Rights Amendment, said: "I have worried for 20 years we would lose civil rights for women. Our rights hang by a slender thread. Women's rights are not in the Constitution because a handful of states blocked the Equal Rights Amendment."

Remembering when sexual harassment was a condition of employment, she said: "Today is my 85th birthday, and I'm as full of fire as I was 50 years ago. I am still working for women's rights.... We will not let them take our rights away. Go get 'em!"

**Liz Rognes**, a performer, musician, writer, teacher was told when she was 29 and applied for graduate school that she couldn't be an academic and mother. She is both.

**Alma, who came** to the U.S. when she was 11 months old, has a degree in sociology at Whitworth. She said: "I am marching because there is so much work to do." She called for making allies, community organizing and political involvement.

**Jan Shannon**, associate pastor at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, introduced herself as "a unicorn, a thing that does not exist," a gay and Christian. "I'm Christian because I believe women's rights, women's right to choose, black lives and LGBTQ lives matter to God. I also believe in climate change."

**Sorayya**, who has been here two years, was born in Afghanistan and fled the Taliban when she was 16. She spent three years in Turkey and 10 years in Iran as a refugee.

"I have been a refugee most of my life. I didn't go to school, so I tried to educate myself on my own," said Sorayya, who is now a college student and has her children in school. "I hope my children will never be refugees."

**Linda Hunt** of the Krista Foundation told of her grief after her daughter, who was serving in Bolivia, was killed in a car accident. Linda turned her grief into helping others who serve internationally.

"Many feel grief about what is happening in our nation after the degrading talk in the campaign. The soul of the nation is at stake," she said.

"We are in the liminal state of grief, not knowing where we are headed or what will happen. It can be a time of strength and creativity to access the wellspring of love within us.... Righteous anger comes from caring," she said.

Linda plans to invite women to tea to hear of the hope they feel and to start conversations with people who think differently from her about what is happening.

**Amanda Mansfield**, president of National Organization for Women (NOW) Spokane, said the election has "energized our membership as never before, and fueled an exponential surge in support and participation."

She said the Women's March on Washington has posted online "10 Actions for the First 100 Days."

For information, email womenmarchspokane@gmail.com or follow on Facebook.

# Calendar of Events

- Feb 2** • **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, 35 W. Main, 5:30, 838-7870
- Feb 3-Mar 31** • **"Salish Stories,"** Images inspired by Salish folktales by Ric Gendron, Spokane Art School Gallery, 811 W. Garland, 5 to 9 p.m., 325-3001, spokaneartschool@gmail.com
- Feb 4** • **"Ties to the Land: Your Family Forest Heritage,"** University of Idaho and Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, Bayview Community Center, 20298 E. Perimeter Rd., Bayview, Idaho, 208-446-1680, uidaho.edu/extension/forestry
- Feb 6-Mar 24** • **Art Exhibit:** 2017 Faculty Biennial Art Exhibit, Lied Art Center at Whitworth University and Panel Discussion, Bryan Oliver Gallery, 5 to 6 p.m., 777-3258
- Feb 7** • **"Memory Work and African Descendants,"** Okera Nsombi, assistant professor of Africana Studies, Eastern Washington University (EWU), 207 Monroe Hall, noon to 12:50 p.m., 339-2898, llogan83@ewu.edu
- Feb 8** • **Order Cinn-A-Grams**, Meals on Wheels Spokane Benefit, mowspokane.org  
 • **Inland Northwest Death Penalty Abolition Group**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.org  
 • **Veterans for Peace**, 35 W. Main, 6:45 p.m., 838-7870  
 • **"Cards against Humanity Tournament – The Game for Horrible People,"** OutSpokane benefit, nYne Bar & Bistro, 232 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., info@outspokane.org
- Feb 9-12** • **Leonard Oakland Film Festival**, Alexandra Hidalgo, a World War II film, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m. Thursday, "Vanishing Borders" on Friday, and "Inherent Vice" on Saturday; "Son of Soul" 3 p.m., Sunday, 777-4605, kbumgarner@whitworth.edu.
- Feb 10** • **Native Project Healthy Heart Pow Wow**, free blood pressure and blood sugar screening, dancing and drumming, Rogers High School, 1622 E. Wellesley Ave., 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. Grand Entry, 325-5502, nativeproject.org  
 • **Gospel Explosion**, local praise teams celebrate Black History Month, Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4568, sbeans@whitworth.edu
- Feb 10-18** • **Troilus & Cressida**, Magnuson Theatre, 502 E. Boone, 313-6553
- Feb 12** • **Baby Fair**, Spokane Convention Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 242-2516
- Feb 13** • **Evening Prayer of Lourdes:** Story and Journey of Fr. Jeff Lewis, pastor at Chewelah, Springdale and Valley, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5 p.m., 448-1224
- Feb 13-17** • **The Sacred Art of Iconography**, Spirit Center at Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, Idaho, 208-962-2000, spirit-center.org
- Feb 14** • **On Mission Discussion**, "India: Building Effective Cross-Cultural Partnerships," Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-3275, mpace@whitworth.edu
- Feb 15** • **"A Little Night Music,"** benefit for Lutheran Community Services Northwest and Lutheran Campus Ministry at EWU, Spokane Civic Theater, 6:30 p.m., 343-5020, cmckee@lcsnw.org  
 • **Stephen Davis Lecture**, "Happiness in Life: Epictetus and Christianity," Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4452, jwarfield@whitworth.edu
- Feb 15-17** • **International Globalization**, Diversity and Education Conference, "Living With(in) Borders: Immigration, Indigeneity and EWU College of Education, at Northern Quest Casino & Resort, 100 N. Hayford Rd., Airway Heights, 335-6393, khammer@wsu.edu, education.wsu.edu/globalization
- Feb 16** • **Larycia Hawkins Lecture**, "The Re-Birth of a Nation: The Racial and Religious Politics of the 2016 Presidential Election," Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4511, klee@whitworth.edu, Hawkins, The Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
- Feb 17-19** • **Weekend Retreat** for Men and Women, "The Holy Spirit in Scripture and in Our Lives," Fr. Mitch Pacwa SJ, IHRC, ihrc.net
- Feb 20** • **NAACP Spokane**, 35 W. Main, 7 p.m., 209-2425
- Feb 21-Mar 5** • **Northwest Bach Festival and Series**, nwBachfest.com
- Feb 22** • **Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870  
 • **Go for the Red Women Luncheon**, Joey Traywick, educator, nurse and exercise physiologist, Spokane Convention Center, 7 to 9 p.m., 818-3200, spokaneforredluncheon.heart.org  
 • **"Re-Thinking Your Story and the Way You Tell It,"** with Jeremy Sampson and Kevin Benson, Washington Nonprofits, 304 W. Pacific, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., washingtonnonprofits.org
- Feb 23** • **Dialogues on Diversity**, "The Movement: 50 Years of Love and Struggle," one actor, 10 characters, 50 years of race relations, WSUS/EWUS Center, Room 122, Riverpoint Blvd., dion.crommarty@wsu.edu
- **Student Symposium Lectures**, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-1000, kdickerson17@my.whitworth.edu
- Feb 24** • **"Weaving Our Sisters' Voices,"** Seeley Mudd Chapel, Whitworth, 7 p.m.,
- Feb 24-25** • **Annual Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference and Opening Reception**
- Feb 25** • **St. Lucy's Breakfast**, Shalom Ministries Benefit, Rockwood Event Center in The Summit, 2903 E. 25th Ave., 9 a.m., 710-0204  
 • **Mind Body Spirit Holistic Fair**, "Attracting Wellness," Unity Spiritual Center, 29th and Bernard, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 496-8138, lindachristine@lindachristinestudios.com
- Feb 28** • **"Women's Ways of Leading in Global Contexts,"** Heidi Connole, 207 Monroe Hall, EWU, Cheney, noon to 12:50 p.m., 359-2898, llogan83@ewu.edu.  
 • **Dinner Series Historical Connections**, "The Middle Eastern Conflict and Its Effects Today," Whitworth professor Raja Tanas, IHRC, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 448-1224  
 • **Peace and Justice Action League** of Spokane Steering Committee, 35 W. Main, 6 p.m., 838-7870  
 • **Black History Month**, "Beyond the Color of Fear," Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4572, dgarcia@whitworth.edu  
 • **Jazz Mass**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 24th and Grand, 7 p.m.
- Mar 1** • **March for Meals**, Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels, Spokane Valley Mall and Northtown Mall, 8 to 10 a.m., 924-6976  
 • **The Fig Tree** distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th Ave., 9 a.m.
- Mar 2** • **Fig Tree Benefit Planning** noon and Board 1 p.m., Emmanuel Family Live Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 535-1813
- Mar 4** • **Hispanic Business and Professional Association** benefit for HBPA scholarships, Shriners Event Center, 7217 W. Westbow Blvd, 6 p.m., hbaspokane@gmail.com
- Mar 10** • **Fig Tree Benefit Lunch**, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 535-1813
- Mar 15** • **Fig Tree Benefit Breakfast**, Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga, 7:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., 535-1813

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# American Guild of Organists connects 42 organists in the region

Of nearly 60 pipe organs in the Spokane area, about 35 are in churches. Others are in private homes, a funeral home, a high school, theaters and universities.

The local chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is a way for local musicians, clergy, worship leaders, technicians and organ lovers to meet, promote organ and choral music, connect organists, encourage young people to study organ and present several concerts each year.

“Organists often practice alone in a cold church, and then come Sundays to lead music and song,” said Carolyn Payne, an AGO member and organist at Salem Lutheran Church for 20 years.

“The AGO is a place to connect with other people who do what we do, to support each other and to share ideas,” she said.

The guild also helps organists find substitutes when they may miss a Sunday for vacation or illness. Sometimes organists do exchanges. In addition, they often share with each other from their own music libraries. Some organists play digital and electric organs.

Carolyn said 42 organists—from Coeur d’Alene and Hayden, as well as Spokane—are members. About half attend meetings. Most are in more liturgical Protestant and Catholic churches.

Fewer Evangelical churches have organs, she said, because many do praise music, using pianos, electronic instruments and praise bands, popular since the 1990s, Carolyn said.

Some Evangelical churches that bought church buildings with organs still use the organs. Others sold the organs or organ parts.

**An organ produces the sounds** of many instruments by using different registrations on combinations of stops to produce sounds like strings, flutes, clarinets, French horns, oboes and other instruments, she said.

Stops vary from organ to organ. One organ may have an oboe. Another may not. In addition to having one to four manuals (keyboards), organs have a pedal board. Some have chimes.

The same music played on different organs sounds different, she said.

When the AGO invites organists to come to Spokane to give concerts, they come several days ahead to practice and register their music for the particular organ.

Air passing through metal or wood pipes produces the sound for a pipe organ. Electronic instruments try to duplicate the sound



Carolyn Payne practices the organ at Salem Lutheran.

electronically, she said.

**Every organ is a work of art** in how it puts sounds together.

Carolyn likens playing an organ with the different sounds at her disposal to being a creative cook with different ingredients to choose to include in a dish.

Playing the organ requires a different technique from playing the piano, because it involves coordinating more keyboards and playing with the feet.

“It makes your thinking different and requires additional skills to play the organ,” she said.

**She considers the organ** the most effective instrument for accompanying hymns and traditional church music from before Johann Sebastian Bach and even new music today that is important to the worship life of congregations.

Some say they would not go to church if it wasn’t for the opportunity to hear organ music, she said.

“I use the organ as much as I can, because people love it,” she said, but because some of the new Lutheran music lends better to piano, Carolyn also accompanies it on the piano.

**The fast pace of life today** and electronic music have shoved aside traditional music for new sounds, but classical music, like classical books, always has a value, she said.

“Often what is new in music is based on what is old,” Carolyn said. “It’s valued by many church people, and it’s important to expose young people to the inspiring, beautiful music. It’s like a painting that inspires people.”

**Carolyn grew up** in Caldwell, Idaho, and trained in organ at the College of Idaho at Caldwell, a Presbyterian liberal arts college. She began playing the electric organ at Grace Lutheran Church in Caldwell nearly 60 years ago

when she was 14.

“No one knew how to play the organ, so one summer I walked across town to practice. By fall, I could play simple hymns. I kept studying and working at it,” she said.

Her husband, Frank, also grew up there. When they were 14 and 17, they decided they wanted to grow old together. They eventually married. Frank’s construction company in Boise bid to build the Hewlett Packard plant in Liberty Lake in 1981. They thought they would come for a year and return, but decided to stay.

**Frank and Carolyn established** Ernst and Payne, Inc., in Spokane.

They parented seven children of whom four were in elementary school and junior high at that time. Spokane provided medical services their older daughter Ellie needed for dialysis and a second kidney transplant.

Carolyn was involved in school activities, helped at Frank’s construction office and volunteered with various groups, including the National Kidney Foundation of Washington and the Spokane Youth Symphony.

She also served often as substitute organist at many churches, so she knows the churches and organists in the community.

**In the early 1990s**, she began as organist, playing the 1912 Hilgren Green organ at Salem Lutheran. She continues to work as part-time organist and choir director.

“There are only a few full-time organist positions,” Carolyn said. “Most organists work 10 to 15 hours a week practicing, rehearsing the choir, going to meetings and playing Sunday morning. Most hold down full-time jobs in teaching and other areas, because we can’t make a living on what a small church can pay. It’s hard for any musician to make a living. “My time at the organ gave me

time to myself, grounding, sanity and much joy in the midst of all I did,” she said. “It gave me something to work for.”

The AGO connects to Music Fest Northwest, which draws hundreds of young musicians for a week in the spring to play and be judged. It also helps young organists with scholarships.

The national AGO develops interest in children and youth with Pipe Organ Encounters. The Spokane chapter hosted one about 15 years ago, bringing children for a week to teach them organ, let them practice at different churches and provide recreational opportunities.

The AGO recently hosted concerts by three world-class organists: Andrew Unsworth in October 2015, Christopher Houlihan in February 2016 and Todd Wilson in October 2016.

To build relationships among members, it also offers recitals, hymn festivals, movies, picnics and a Christmas carol concert.

**In 2013, Jim Wallrabenstein**, an AGO member, compiled a list of 59 area organs. He detailed their history and included organs that were moved or taken apart.

The list includes the brand, number of manuals and number of ranks. The 40 churches with pipe organs include Catholic, Slavic Baptist, Episcopal, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Seventh-day Adventist, United Church of Christ and United Methodist.

They are Beautiful Savior, Central, Hope, Salem, St. John’s and

St. Mark’s Lutheran; Bethlehem and Pilgrim Slavic Baptist; Holy Trinity, St. John’s Cathedral and St. Stephen’s Episcopal, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sacred Heart, St. Aloysius, St. Augustine, St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph’s, St. Thomas More Catholic; Spokane First Church of the Nazarene; First, Knox, Manito, Millwood and Whitworth Presbyterian; Central Seventh-Day Adventist; First Church of Christ, Scientist; Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ; Central and Manito United Methodist.

**Some churches inherited** pipe organs when they bought buildings: Christ our Hope Bible, Christ the Redeemer, All Nations Christian Center, Holy Temple Church of God in Christ and Plymouth Congregational.

For information, call 535-7145 or visit spokaneago.org.

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