

STORIES INSIDE

Remembering is part of prevention - p. 4

Sister church ties open eyes - p. 6

Presbytery exec notes churches' overload - p. 7

Maasai leader links cultures, faiths - p. 9



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

online in color at www.thefigtree.org

Even into their retirement

Couple will continue to nudge the world

By Mary Stamp

Through peace marches, war protests, civil disobedience, candlelight vigils, petition signing, educational workshops, peace songs, justice advocacy and public speaking, Rusty and Nancy Nelson have helped coordinate the peace movement in the Inland Northwest for more than 20 years.

Now they are retiring and turning over responsibilities to Liz Moore, who has begun as the new director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS).

The Nelsons have taught non-violence, planted seeds, written articles and worked to change minds, open eyes, call people to love enemies and change the world a little as co-directors of PJALS.

While some in the organization are driven by secular and humanitarian values, their motivation stems from their faith as Mennonites, one of the traditional peace churches. They are part of Shalom Church, United Church of Christ/Mennonite, that meets at the Community Building at 35 W. Main where the PJALS office is.

As they retire this spring after



Slogans and symbols on T-shirts, posters and bumper stickers surround Rusty and Nancy Nelson, offering food for thought about warfare and injustices.

mentoring and training Liz, they look forward to continuing to find ways to nudge the world a bit more into the ways of peace.

The Nelsons moved to Spokane in 1981 from Minneapolis, where their involvement in a Bible study at a Presbyterian church led them here hoping to form an intentional community with two other families.

The son of a Presbyterian pastor, Rusty lived in Georgia, Florida and Arkansas. His maternal grandfather was a Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice, and an uncle was Senator Richard Russell. Rusty's early aims were fame and fortune.

After graduation in English from Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., in 1966, he worked six months as an aide to his uncle in Washington, D.C., and then entered the Army with an ROTC commission. He served two years in Georgia and then in Vietnam.

In 1969, he began a career in radio broadcasting in Gainesville, Ga. Laid off in the recession of 1971, he visited his brother in France. They traveled by car in 15

Continued on page 5

Despite loss of thrift store and funds, VOA persists in serving vulnerable

The Volunteers of America Thrift Store at 1010 N. Atlantic has been homeless since its roof collapsed under the weight of snow from storms in December and January.

Despite the impact of loss of that program and its funds, VOA Spokane continues to serve.

The building has been destroyed and is now condemned. The 30 staff members have been unemployed since then.

The loss of sales may leave VOA short \$100,000 in funding in a tight time, because Thrift Store proceeds have financed its services of housing and support programs for homeless and

vulnerable people, including the Crosswalk teen shelter and Hope House women's shelter, according to Marilee Roloff, executive director of Volunteers of America Spokane.

Bill and Theresa Mitchell, who have managed the second-hand store since 1978, said the inventory was lost.

Marilee said VOA Spokane is seeking to find new retail space. VOA, which was leasing the space, awaits word on insurance coverage on the inventory.

"It's a big hit," she said. "VOA has been here and will still be here."

Meanwhile, VOA plans its

annual "I Remember Mama," a tribute luncheon for more than 100 elderly or disabled women who would otherwise be alone on Mother's Day. It is on Sunday, May 10, at the Red Lion Inn at the Park.

VOA collects donations of \$25 from people in honor of their mothers, grandmothers or special friends, and then sends Mother's Day cards for the donor.

The funds sponsor women for the event and to help other mothers through the year.

VOA serves 12,000 plates of food a year at the Crosswalk shelter and drop-in center, serving thousands of teens with the assistance of volunteer meal providers, most of whom prepare the meals on site at 525 W. Second. About 50 churches, sororities, families and businesses prepare lunches and dinners for 25 to 40 Crosswalk teens.

Although she has been concerned through the state legislative session about possible budget cuts, Marilee said "We continue to do what must be done, walk among the most vulnerable among us as they rebuild their lives."

Continued on page 8

Training sensitizes clergy and laity to veterans' needs

Considering spirituality and community support key to healing, Mike Ogle at the Spokane Vet Center is networking with Catholic Charities of Spokane and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to offer a Clergy Workshop.

The four-hour workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, at St. Anne's Children and Family Center, 25 W. 5th Ave. will train clergy and pastoral staff to offer understanding to returning service personnel and their families as they deal with Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) following service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Clergy and pastoral staff are in unique positions to assist returning service men and women and their families as they struggle to re-adjust to life at home," said Mike. "Churches can help people deal with internal wounds."

Often, he said, clergy are the only people veterans may trust to listen to their problems in confidentiality, because military chaplains are the only ones in the military who keep confidentiality.

The event will inform clergy and pastoral caregivers about the Vet Center, and help them recognize symptoms and know when it's appropriate for them to counsel and when it's appropriate to refer.

By educating pastors on post-war trauma and stress, Mike hopes to help families and vets with readjustment.

At home, some experience nightmares and withdraw, which Mike said is a normal result of combat exposure. They also have to change driving habits from how they learned to drive in combat zones.

"After going through the trauma of combat, people need support from their families and communities. They need to

Continued on page 8

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SPokane WA
Permit No. 1044

The Fig Tree
1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202-3571

Religion News Briefs Around the World

Ecumenical News International, PO Box 2100
CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland Tel: +41-22 791 6111
Fax: +41-22 788 7244 Email: eni@eni.ch

Caste-based discrimination changing in India By Maurice Malanes of the Philippines for ENI

Caste-based discrimination in India may be 3,500 years old, but something new is unfolding. An emerging liberation movement has consciously chosen not to focus on Dalits' victimhood, but on the latent strength of the Dalit people, drawn from their history and culture.

By switching the emphasis from victimhood to inner strength, the Dalit Panchayat Movement, in the southern Indian state of Karnataka, may change the course of India's history, as well as that of its neighbours. Dalit activist, educator and author Jyothi Raj, said Dalit people have been victims of history and historical victims, "but they have reached heights beyond victimhood. Insisting on victimhood to gain the sympathy of non-Dalit supporters may pierce through the psyche of the Dalit people."

Among churches in India, there is also an emerging Dalit theology, rooted in the understanding that God is struggling beside the Dalits for their liberation. To emphasize their inner strength and engage the church in this effort, a recent Global Ecumenical Conference on Justice for Dalits drew 95 church leaders to Bangkok, Thailand. It was organized by the World Council of Churches with the Lutheran World Federation and was hosted by the Christian Conference of Asia.

It sought to stimulate solidarity in the global ecumenical family for 260 million people affected by caste-based discrimination worldwide. Of those, about 200 million are in India, where they are treated as "untouchable" because of Brahmanic ritual traditions that considered them "polluted" or "polluting." Today, they call themselves Dalit, which means "oppressed" or "crushed."

Raj, director of the Rural Education for Development Society, spoke about the Dalit Panchayat Movement. She said the approach that first focuses "on victimhood and later tries to overcome it, does not work and may reinforce feelings of inferiority. The movement focuses on potentials hidden in the Dalit community."

At first, the strength of the Dalit community challenges the caste society that denies their rights, but later it becomes a basis for negotiations. For example, Dalits are refusing to bury dead animals of upper caste people. They negotiate, saying they will not dig a grave unless they are paid 2,000 rupees. Dalits are challenging the entrenched practice of unpaid, forced labor imposed on them for more than 3,000 years.

Self-affirmation, Raj said, entails recovering the history and culture of the Dalits, blotted out by official Indian history. In 2003, her organization published a book, Dalitology, describing the movement among councils of village elders, youth and women and its goal to win more seats in parliament. It is lobbying the government to give each Dalit family five acres, registered in the name of women.

Some seminaries teach Dalit theology "to help Dalits reclaim their lost dignity and rights," said Bishop Isaac Mar Philoxenos of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar in India. "Dalit theology seeks to help the people express their experiences through their symbols and language so they regain their self-esteem."

Global financial crisis caused by moneytheism

The global financial crisis, according to the World Council of Churches' Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, represents an opportunity to transform the international financial system for good. For Christians, there is a spiritual perspective on the crisis, calling on God's grace to help people overcome greed and "moneytheism." People need to rethink and change their lifestyles so everyone may have life with dignity within a context of respect for the creation.

The commission calls for a more democratic and participatory financial system under the United Nations, less dependent on one currency and finding new ways of solidarity among states and peoples. The commission sees the financial crisis as intertwined with the current energy, food and climate crises.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

World Fair Trade Day will be on May 9

The Northwest Fair Trade Resource Network and Kizuri are sponsoring World Fair Trade Day 2009, an international celebration of Fair Trade, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at the Community Building, 35 W. Main.

This year Spokane will be celebrating World Fair Trade Day along with people in more than 115 other U.S. communities and more than 80 countries.

The theme, "Everything Is Better When It's Fair," is a reminder that fair trade is more than coffee, chocolate and handcrafts," said one of the organizers, Denise Atwood of Ganesh Himal. "It is the livelihood of a fair and sustainable global economy.

"When consumers support Fair Trade with their purchases, there is support for people from developing countries who make items we consume and enjoy, support

for the environment, women's rights, children's rights, cultural dignity and peace building," she said.

The event will include activities for the whole family: fair trade coffee cupping, live music, international games, drumming, dancing, ethnic food, an array of products for purchase from local fair trade groups and more.

For information, call, 464-7677 or visit www.ftrn.org.

Center plans organizational health series

The Center for Organizational Reform's 2009 Leadership for Healthy Organizations Summer Seminar Series will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., July 20 to 24 and July 27 to 31, at the Clare Center, 4624 E. Jamieson Rd.

Program director Nancy Isaacson of Spokane is a nationally recognized expert on organizational health and healing.

"In turbulent times such as

these, every organization is coping with change and uncertainty," said Nancy.

"To survive and thrive, leaders and aspiring leaders must understand the impact of today's challenging climate and be equipped with the tools necessary to make his or her organization stronger and more resilient," she said.

The series features one-day workshops on 10 contemporary

topics, including "Building and Maintaining the Public's Trust in Your Organization," "Having Difficult Conversations that Produce Respect and Results," "Reducing Power Struggles in Organizations," "Working Productively with Difficult People" and "Leaders' Self-Care in a World of Overload."

For information, call 448-4887 or visit www.corhome.org.

Project Hope presents 'Seeds of Change' series

Project Hope Spokane, Riverfront Farm and Green Jobs Not Jails is sponsoring, "Seeds of Change: A Local Food Systems Educational Series" at 7 p.m., Thursdays, May 14, 21 and 28, and June 11, at The Porch Church, 1804 W. Broadway. Two sessions were held in April.

"Beyond Organic: Building Community" is the May 14 topic led by Michael Ableman of Fairview Farm on urban agriculture as a development issue.

The May 21 topic, "Food: A Global and Local Issue" will explore urban and rural food systems in the United States and Latin America.

"Cultivating Change and Food From the Hood" is the May 28 theme, focusing on urban and neighborhood-based food systems as catalysts for social change.

The final session on "Good Food and Seeds of Change: The Riverfront Farm Story" shares successful Pacific Northwest efforts to develop more sustainable local food systems.

Participants are asked to bring a can of food for the food bank.

Riverfront Farm hopes to have funds to train 10 youth—aged 11 to 15—to work on the farm's five lots. Five participated in 2008.

Applications are available through May 29 at The Book Parlor, 1414 W. Broadway, and the West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt.

Orientation and interviews will be on June 6 for the program that runs from June 19 to August 29.

For information, 328-6527.

CLARE HOUSE

Affordable Senior Housing complex at
4827 S. Palouse Hwy.
Studio & One-Bedroom
Laundry Facility
Swimming Pool
55 and older eligible to apply.
Rent based on income and as low as \$300 per month.
Call 509-252-6500



COME AWAY ...to a retreat

in beautiful Cottonwood, Idaho.

Introduction to
Centering Prayer
May 29 - 31, 2009
Presenter: Darlyne Pape

Come to the Quiet: a
Silent, Directed Retreat
Full Week: June 19 - 26, 2009
Weekend Only: June 19 - 21, 2009

Introduction to
Holistic Living
July 17 - 19, 2009
Presenters: Agnes Reichlin, OSB
and Carlotta Maria Fontes, OSB

Monastery of St. Gertrude
See our website for a
complete retreat schedule!
www.StGertrudes.org
"A tradition of welcoming people of ALL beliefs."
465 Keuterville Road * Cottonwood, ID 83522
208-962-2000 * retreat@stgertrudes.org

PJALS Auction
Friday, May 8
6 p.m. finger food potluck
7 p.m. auction
Mountain Gear • 6021 E. Mansfield • Spokane Valley
Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane 838-7870
www.pjals.net

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.
Deadlines:
COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Editorial Team
Editor/Publisher/Photos - Mary Stamp
Associate Editor - Yvonne Lopez-Morton
Mary Mackay, Nancy Minard, Sara Weaver

Coordinators & Contract
Malcolm Haworth - Directory Editor
Anna Martin - Outreach Coordinator
Lorna Kropp - Website Developer
Mark Westbrook - Directory Advertising
Kathy Olson - Directory Ad Design

Fig Tree Board
Steve Blewett, John Coleman Campbell,
Virginia de Leon, Bill Ellis, Deidre
Jacobson, Mary Mackay, Nancy Minard,
Joyce O'Connor Magee, Roger Ross, Mary
Stamp, Scott Starbuck, Marilyn Stedman,
Edie Volosing, Happy Watkins
Emeritus: Jo Hendricks, Carl Milton

© 2009 (509) 535-1813
Email: figtree@thefigtree.org

The Fig Tree is reader supported
Become a
25th Anniversary
Sponsor!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

\$2.50, \$25, \$250, \$2,500 or _____
 \$52 for bulk order of 15

SEND TO

JUBILATE!
An Ecumenical
Festival & Retreat
of Worship
& the Arts
July 20-25, 2009
at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane

More Information at
www.gbpm-umc.org/jubilate!/

OR CONTACT
Robert Wright
robertwright@healingwell.com

Passionate Worship -
30 Years of Joy!
Keynote: Rosalie Branigan
certified director of music, specializing in dance and
worship arts, liturgical choreography and dance choirs

Workshops include: Movement in Worship, Handbells, Creativity and the
Spiritual Journey, Scripture Interpretation, Worship Coordination
Jubilate! Choir directed by Tom Richardson

With help of other congregations, church repairs roof damaged by snow

Among the churches and other buildings affected by heavy snows this winter was Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, at 806 W. Indiana.

Leaks in its roof after a January storm damaged ceilings and carpet in its building.

The congregation, with the help of other churches in the community, raised funds to repair the roof, which was not covered by insurance.

Now they await a solution for re-carpeting the sanctuary. The damaged carpet was removed, and the pews have been pushed to the sides.

Elder Ezra Kinlow said contractors will need to figure out how to carpet the full sanctuary at one time with the pews there or find somewhere to move them.

They celebrated Easter, as they have been celebrating weekly services, in their fellowship hall, which can accommodate 200. For most Sundays, when an average



Elder Ezra Kinlow said they have to wait until the sanctuary is carpeted to worship there.

of 150 attend, that's fine, but on Easter people were standing in the back and some went home.

The sanctuary seats 500, so usually people have been spread out. In the fellowship hall, where they are seated in rows of chairs, several members have commented that it's more cozy.

"I realize that our accommodation in the fellowship hall is much nicer than many people have for their church setting," said Ezra, remembering the congregation's former church building on E. Third. It moved to W. Indiana five years ago. He has been pastor 28 years.

Attendance has increased since the move, and the congregation is becoming more multi-cultural.

"Some are discouraged because

progress is slow. Some of our ministries and programs have been curtailed, because we had to take down dividers on one side of the fellowship hall, affecting the youth and Sunday school programs," he said.

Choir rehearsal and the women's ministry are also more congested.

Ezra also mentioned that the church has a pipe organ it does not use, so he is offering to sell it or give it to someone, so it's removed before the carpet is installed.

"We have experienced a closeness and a family atmosphere, plus have had good cooperation from members moving furniture to set up for events—such as two recent breakfasts," he said. "Everyone has jumped in to help."

For information, call 624-0522.

Yvonne Lopez-Morton joins Fig Tree staff

Yvonne Lopez-Morton began as part-time associate editor of The Fig Tree with funding from a \$10,000 grant from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in 2008. The Fig Tree continues to seek matching grants.

She has volunteered with The Fig Tree's Benefit and Dialogue Planning Committee for many years, while working with the Museum of Arts and Culture and then with the school district.

With her assistance, The Fig Tree is looking forward to developing the position to be an ongoing, full-time position that will facilitate expansion of its outreach, coverage, online presence, circulation and advertising.

At its annual Deepening Our Roots Benefit Breakfast, The Fig Tree raised more than

\$10,700, an increase over \$8,631 in 2008. Donations are still coming in. The benefit drew about 190 guests. Because of interest among supporters, the committee is planning for 2010 to hold both a breakfast and a lunch, March 10 and 11, plus a dinner-auction at another time.

"The event is a time to tell our story," said editor Mary Stamp, noting that comments shared at the Benefit Breakfast recognize The Fig Tree's 25th anniversary. They are on page 10.

"Yvonne is an advocate for human rights, intercultural and interracial relationships, and brings communication skills to help us expand this media venture," she said. "She was featured in our January 2009 issue."

For information, call 535-1813.

Whitworth Institute features two speakers

The 34th annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry, July 13 to 17 at Whitworth University features Ross Wagner and Jim Miller.

Ross has taught New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary for 11 years and served on the pastoral team of a missional

church in Chicago.

Jim is pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Okla. He has also served congregations in Scotland and Indianapolis, Ind. He is a trustee at the University of Tulsa and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The week includes worship, instruction and fellowship for clergy, laity, spouses and children.

This year there will be special tracks on music ministry, preaching and spirituality.

For information, call 777-4345.

BILL'S PAINTING
REPAINTS A SPECIALTY
 • INTERIOR/EXTERIOR RESIDENTIAL
 • SOME COMMERCIAL
 • REASONABLE RATES
FREE ESTIMATES
 (509) 991-7908
 Bill Hagenbarth - BILLSSP*963BM

FRIENDSHIP GARDENS
 New Senior Housing complex for 62 years of age or older at 2201 E. 5th Ave.
 One-Bedroom Units
 Laundry Facility
 Community Room
 Rent based on 30% of occupant's income.
Call 509.536.1134



ST JOSEPH FAMILY CENTER
healing happens here

*Healing the Whole Person
 Body, Mind and Spirit*

- Mediation
- Counseling (Family, Children, Individual)
- Classes (Parenting, Anger Management)
- Body Therapy (Massage, Yoga, Reflexology)
- Spiritual Direction, Retreats and Programs
- Business Meetings and Retreats


1016 North Superior Street, Spokane, WA
Phone: (509) 483-6495
www.stjosephfamilycenter.org

CLERGY WORKSHOP
 on
Returning Service Personnel

Four-hour workshop for clergy and pastoral staff to give basic understanding of



- Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) among service persons
- effects on family members
- signs, symptoms, family dynamics and referrals

Offered by Catholic Charities Spokane and Lutheran Community Services with presenters from the Spokane Vets Center

Wednesday, May 20, 2009
 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - lunch included
 St. Anne's Children & Family Center, lower level
 25 W. 5th Ave. (corner of 5th & Division).

Clergy and pastoral staff are in a unique position to assist returning service men and women and their families as they re-adjust to life in the States and with PTS.

No charge - please RSVP to (509) 358-4273


25th anniversary book available now

Stories Give Life
 Selected Articles
 by Sister Bernadine Casey, SNJM
 Fig Tree co-founder and
 associate editor 1984 to 2006

AVAILABLE FOR DONATION
 Pick up at 709 E. Desmet or 1323 S. Perry St. or call 535-1813
 WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAUNCHING PARTY & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Update your listing • Advertise in the 2009-10

Directory of Congregations and Community Resources
 Preparing for publication in June
copy deadline May 8
 Published in collaboration with
 Community Colleges of Spokane Headstart ECEAP
VOLUNTEER to help edit or deliver 313-4037



Please Donate!
 \$25-\$250-\$2,500 for The Fig Tree's 25th Anniversary/Send to 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane 99202

Candles lit on Yom HaShoah are reminders to prevent future genocide

Because memories can fade, Temple Beth Shalom holds an annual observance to remember the Holocaust, which killed 6 million Jews plus millions of Catholics, activists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Romani, Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, homosexuals, disabled people and others deemed undesirable by the Nazi regime in Germany between 1933 and 1945.

Survivors need to share what they experienced to prevent future genocide, said Dale Severance, temple president, in opening comments.

On the essay contest for high school students, she added: "We need to hear stories, remember victims and educate students on the Holocaust."

The 2009 remembrance honored those who rescued Jews—hiding them, providing false papers, transporting them and giving them food.

Joe Shogun read Mayor Mary Verner's proclamation of the need to remember victims, survivors, rescuers and liberators. He added his concern that genocides have continued to happen—such as in Cambodia, Bosnia, Serbia, Rwanda and Sudan.

"Hatemongers are back in Coeur d'Alene," he said. "We cannot rest, saying what happened in the past will not happen again. We always need to remain vigilant and be ready to act."

Hershel Zellman of the organizing committee introduced Holocaust survivor Eva Lassman, who is committed to educate the community and spread tolerance.

Experiencing the prejudice of playmates' taunting and the horrors of Nazism, Eva said she could have been lost in hatred, but decided to promote understanding and respect for people regardless of religion, skin color or other factors.

Eva introduced 10th grader Camille Boyd, the 2009 essay contest winner.

After describing one rescuer, Nelly, taking in Jewish neighbors, Camille asked: "How many of us today could say we would be brave and put the lives of others before our own? How often do we stand aside and watch others be ridiculed, not contributing directly, but not speaking up against it? At school, work, home, and within the general public, we witness these situations more often than we think.

"When we see someone being harassed or abused, we have the tendency to walk away silently—setting aside justice and hoping



Fig Tree editor Mary Stamp lights fifth candle for the rescuers as Hershell Zellman reads.

Photo by Malcolm Haworth

another passerby will have the courage to save that person," she said. "We stand aside and listen, or even join in, as our friends or others mock those seemingly different.

"Finding the courage to fight for justice is difficult, but it is the ever-present challenge we must choose to either overcome or succumb to," Camille read.

"The everyday heroes of the Holocaust were those brave enough to defy Hitler's orders and save the lives of those being persecuted," she said. "They put aside their fears of persecution and sacrificed their comfort for the sake of justice. By hiding a family or child from Hitler's Nazis, ordinary citizens offered hope to others. Their courage will be remembered forever."

In presenting the award, Miriam Abramowitz-Ferszt, whose story was in the April Fig Tree, said, "Let us not forget the acts of bravery. May the world be filled with rescuers so the words of perpetrators of evil fall on deaf ears."

Introducing the candle-lighting ceremony, Hershel reminded people that two-thirds of European Jews were killed in the Holocaust, reducing the global Jewish population by a third.

"It could have been worse. Thanks to the humanity and bravery of some 22,000 non-Jews, thousands of Jews were saved from certain annihilation," he said. So the 2009 event recognized the "Righteous Among the Nations."

Local Holocaust survivors, Eva, Miriam, Carla Peperzak and Lilianna Stewart, some of whom owe their survival to non-Jewish rescu-

ers, lit a candle to remember those slaughtered by Nazis in ghettos, camps and death marches, and those who achieved "the ultimate victory through their survival, living to raise families, contribute to their communities and to inform us about the unspeakable things they endured and witnessed," Hershel said.

The second candle, lit by Armand Abramowitz, Gabriele McIntyre and Yvonne Peperzak-Blake whose parents are Holocaust survivors, "memorializes more than 5,000 Jewish communities destroyed by Nazi Germany and its collaborators," he said.

The lighting of the third candle by Emilie and Zachary Lowhurst, whose grandparents are Holocaust survivors, was a moment for people to remember that 1.5 million Jewish children never grew up.

The fourth candle, lit by Phil Weiner, a Jewish member of the American Armed Forces who served in the European theater during WWII, represents the Jewish ghetto fighters and partisans who challenged the Nazi machine. It also serves as a reminder of the Jewish members of Allied Forces who risked and sacrificed their lives to defeat the Nazis.

The fifth candle was lit by Mary Stamp, "whose ardent pursuit of honesty in the media and promotion of human rights led to the founding of The Fig Tree 25 years ago," said Hershel, adding that the interfaith monthly newspaper "gives voice to the voiceless, challenges racist and gender-biased groups, and tells stories of everyday people who use their faith to heal the world around them."

This candle commemorated

and honored the non-Jews who challenged the Nazi ideology and saved thousands of Jews from annihilation.

"Their actions were one of the few lights shining during that dark period," he said.

The sixth candle, lit by local Jewish youth who have participated in programs for young adults in the State of Israel, symbolizes "the beacon of hope, unity and pride the State of Israel embodies for Jews all over the world," he said.

The seventh candle for victims and survivors of contemporary genocides, was lit by Aloysie Mukankuri, who was 11 years old when the Rwandan genocide began.

"Early on her father was murdered and her home destroyed. By the time the killings ended three months later, she lost seven

of her nine siblings," he said. "She escaped harm by hiding in bush lands where she took care of herself until she was reunited with her mother when the genocide ended."

She recently earned a master's degree in business from Eastern Washington University.

"This candle reminds us of the tremendous task we face to eliminate the hatred and bigotry that continues to spawn vicious acts of genocide by one people against another in our world today," Hershel said.

For information, call 747-3304.

Mary & Pegs's Daughters
Housecleaning
Renee 863-5433
Barb 991-8573
Call us for a free estimate!

Counseling Services
Marian Beaumier MSW
483 0428
All Are Welcome

LORIEN HERBS & NATURAL FOODS
 Open Tuesday to Friday 10-6 • Saturday 10-5
 More than 400 organic and wild-crafted bulk herbs and natural foods, supplements, gifts, personal care products, essential oils and friendly service.
 1102 S. Perry Street Spokane WA 99202 Phone (509) 456-0702

Spokane Children's Theatre
COMING SOON

Sat May 16 - 1 pm
Sun May 17 - 1 & 4 pm
Sat May 23 - 1 pm
Sun May 24 - 1 pm
Sat May 30 - 10 am & 1 pm
Sun May 31 - 1 & 4 pm

\$8 children, \$10 adults
At 325-SEAT,
www.ticketwest.com
or at the door

Based on the beloved book by Johanna Spyri
 Music by Betty Utter Adapted by Ann Pugh
 Directed by Kathy Mola
 produced by special arrangement with
 I.E. Clark Publications of Schulenberg, Texas

Performances at Spokane Community College
Lair Auditorium - 1810 N. Greene St. at Mission Ave.

See our website www.spokanechildrenstheatre.org for more information

Good Samaritan Society
 SPOKANE VALLEY

You'll Always Feel Right At Home In Our Village

As your needs change, you remain in a familiar environment for your comfort and assurance. We offer a choice of options and progressive services for senior living, assisted care, or skilled care. Mother Nature offers a splendid view of the surrounding pine-draped hills.

GOOD SAMARITAN VILLAGE

Come Home To Exceptional Quality And Service

- Village Inn Assisted Living
- Samaritan Towers Senior Living Apartments
- Nursing Care Center
- Village Cottage Homes

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Groups up to 200
- Audio/Visual Equipment
- Reasonable rental rates
- Non-smoking
- Free Event Parking
- Warming Kitchen
- Tableware Available

Call (509) 924-6161 to schedule a personalized tour.
 17121 E. 8th Ave., Greenacres, WA • www.good-sam.com
 East of Sullivan on Sprague, turn right at Tschirley to the top of the hill.
 All faiths welcome without preference.

Celebrating 50 Years

Aunt Bea's Antiques

We specialize in Estate Sales

Always buying fine antiques

LOCATED AT
5005 N. Market
Spokane, WA 99207
(509) 487-9278

Find your "Point of Inspiration" at

N-SID-SEN
Camp & Conference Center

Year-round facility—270 acres & 4,800 feet of waterfront on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

- Open for non-profit groups from 16 to 160
- Two retreat lodges with all facilities
- Fourteen cabins with baths down the trail
- Lake-side chapel
- Open-air pavilion for worship, dance or programs
- Sheltered cove for swimming and boat moorage
- Excellent food service, served family style
- Canoes and sailboats available
- Hiking trails
- Adventure challenge course
- Volleyball, basketball and horseshoes

Call 1-800-448-3489 to reserve your date for retreats, seminars, workshops or fellowship!
 Come and catch the spirit!

Faith instigates and inspires the Nelson's commitment to peacemaking

Continued from page 1
countries, picking up three hitch hikers in Croatia.

One was Nancy. Adopted by a family in Minnesota after three years in an orphanage, she studied French at Mankato State University, graduated in 1967 and began a master's degree in French existentialist theatre. She graduated in 1972 after she and Rusty married.

Rusty worked with radio stations in Athens and then in Gainesville. Nancy taught in a newly integrated, rural middle school and high school, where students included children of professors and sharecroppers.

After moving to Minneapolis in 1975, she was an insurance agent and Rusty, a radio broadcaster.

After Nancy had a dramatic "born again" experience, she persuaded Rusty to join her in attending a Presbyterian church. They were drawn to a small group concerned about social justice in Central America when Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated.

Out of hope, Nancy's involvement in civil rights and Rusty's segregation background, they adopted two African-American children, Nate, in Minneapolis, and Lara, in Spokane in 1983. Nancy and Rusty know their children sometimes faced tension at school in Spokane because of their parents' witness—in addition to racial prejudice.

Traveling to Spokane with the Mennonite "Your Way Directory," they stayed in homes rather than hotels. Arriving in Spokane, they stayed at Nick and Barb Kassenbaum's home. Nick, a Mennonite pastor, was then Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) staff of the Peace and Justice Center that became PJALS.

The Kassenbaums went to a conference and left them to care for their home and prepare for Sunday evening worship there. The service there impressed on them that Jesus wanted his disciples to love their enemies and pray for those who persecuted them. They had found their church home.

Rusty worked at KXLY full time for six years until he began working half-time as associate director of PJALS in 1988. He

continued part time for KXLY and then worked part-time at KPBX until three years ago.

After a few years as a stay-at-home mother, Nancy began working part time at PJALS as the FOR staff. Later she worked with the Central America Solidarity Association, an organization in the same office.

Over the years, the office moved from the Glover Mansion in 1985 to the Cowley Building at Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ, to a house the church owned. When it burned, they were in the basement of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, then a storefront on S. Howard, before moving in January 2000 to the Community Building.

In 1990, when Kathleen Donohoe, the director, became too sick with cancer to work, Rusty became director and was soon joined by Nancy.

In 1994, she had cancer surgery and was told a year after that she might gain two years of life by having a bone marrow transplant. Since then, she and Rusty have continued to bear witness to non-violent activism.

Issues they have addressed have included ending apartheid in South Africa, racism here, oppression in Central America, the nuclear arms race, the death penalty and war after war, from the Gulf War to Kosovo to Afghanistan and Iraq. They have also advocated for women's rights, the living wage, fair trade and other forms of economic justice.

Being arrested for civil disobedience became part of their witness. Nancy was first arrested in 1985 for sitting with three others on the train tracks at 4 a.m. to block the "White Train" on its way with weapons for a nuclear submarine in Bangor, Wash.

"I moved from committed, to convinced, to called to participate in civil disobedience," she said.

Nancy has been arrested about 12 times, not because it's her job or because she wants to, but when she needs to make a witness to obey God's laws in face of unjust

human laws that contradict her understanding of the Bible. If there are other ways to persuade people, she and Rusty use them, too.

"Our goal is not to win, but to convert," Rusty said, who has seen "surprising changes" in people.

The first time Nancy was tried after being arrested, one of her attorneys was so moved that he became involved in the peace movement and is still involved.

Once after being arrested at a recruiting office for an action in solidarity with Central American people, Rusty explained to the jury why he did what he did. After the trial, in which 14 activists were convicted, some jurors and the bailiff said they were profoundly moved and educated by what he said.

The Nelsons have gone to Georgia several times to protest the School of the Americas, which trains Latin American police and military who have assassinated priests and others who promoted justice. Rusty first protested there with Paddy Inman, who served six months in prison. Rusty's mother, then 85, joined him and was also arrested.

"She kept up with what we were doing and became concerned about the atrocities committed by SOA graduates," said Rusty, noting that was quite a change for her, coming from a politically influential family.

He has also seen changed attitudes, like the decline in discrimination against gays and lesbians.

"Peace efforts wax and wane, strong until shooting starts and people back the President," he said, recalling a rally with 3,000 protesting going to war in Iraq.

"My journey has taken me from a radical awakening to a more mature faith and a recognition of what I can do and what I can't do," he said. "Nancy's father told me when we adopted Nate: 'You can't change the world.'"

"I said then, 'I can change the

A Passion for Peace Retirement Benefit Concert for the Nelsons
7 p.m.,
Thursday, April 30
Bing Crosby Theatre
901 W. Sprague
838-7870

Benefit Concert
for
Hope Chest Ministries
Sunday, May 17th • 3:00 p.m.
Bing Crosby Theatre
901 W. Sprague Ave.
Featuring • BethAnn Long and Guest Artist Eddie Ramirez
All Proceeds Benefit
Hope Chest Ministries
*Help for Today's Women & Children...
...You don't have to go through it alone!*
For Tickets Call 922-6767
or Dani at 998-5459
Tickets are \$10.00 each

FAIR TRADE
EARTH FRIENDLY
LOCAL


GLOBAL IMPORTS
WITH VISION
35 west main
www.kizurispokane.com

part I am in contact with," said Rusty, aware he needs "to see what I can do to change a little more of the world. So although I'm retiring, I'm not quitting. There's still more I can do."

Their salaries at PJALS assured a commitment to live simply with few possessions. As a parent, Rusty compromised some goals for time with his children, but did not give in to the materialistic culture as his children realized they had less than some friends.

"I have worked to make the world better for them. I didn't want them to grow up and find the world as I found it," he said. "When I think of my grandchildren, I still want to tilt at some windmills."

"Our role has been to be prophetic voices to power, voices for the voiceless," Nancy said.

"We believe the peace movement and efforts for nonviolent social change follow Jesus' commandments, especially the Sermon on the Mount," she said. "War has historically been shown to be an ineffective means to solve conflicts. We have not attained lasting peace through military means. Nor do we bring democracy by dropping bombs and killing hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians."

"Our faith makes it obvious that we need to end our involvement in war," Nancy said.

As a convert to a peace church, Rusty saw part of his calling as a missionary to churches, to spread awareness that militarism and materialism muddy Gospel values.

The priority for churches and peace activists is to plant seeds of change, he said. He has also seen a shift in attitudes about free trade as people realize they had turned the economy over to corporations that led to the economic disaster.

"Much of this economic crisis is because lower-income people are not paid enough to meet their basic needs, while we have over-compensated the executives," Nancy said. "If top dollar draws and keeps executives, assuring quality work, it would be true of work at all levels of a company."

What would they like to see?

- The Corrections Department could turn from punishing to rehabilitating people.

- Half of military resources could be converted from destructive to constructive ends, such as responding to natural disasters.



- Seeing and seeking God in every person and every part of creation would make it impossible to kill another person.

"Because we see only two options—fight or flight—too often people see peace as 'flight' or weakness. The idea of peace through strength—going to war for peace—twists our thinking," Nancy said. "The idea that violence, even war, is sometimes right or acceptable undermines progress in the human family."

"We still need to challenge people of faith to see forgiveness, loving enemies and active peacemaking as being in everyone's best interest, not just being platitudes from Jesus."

For information, call 838-7870.


Moonflower Enterprises
Fair Trade Textiles, Folk Art • Handcrafts
Organic Coffee from Guatemala
509-768-3193 • Toll free: 877-892-3193
info@moonflowerenterprises.com
www.moonflowerenterprises.com

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center
50th Anniversary

Annual Mother's Day Champagne Brunch
Sunday, May 10th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
* *All you can eat Buffet*
* *Children's Activities*
* *Entertainment*
* *Silent Auction*

Opening Mother's Day
ABBA's Catholic Bookstore
Second Location
Adults \$25
Children \$6
(Ages 2-12)
Reservations Requested
(509)448-1224
6910 S. Ben Burr Road

Sister church ties connect people with stories of suffering, faithfulness

By Virginia de Leon

During her first trip to El Salvador in 2005, Rita Amberg Waldref said, a young man greeted her at an outdoor market and asked her to visit his family's shop nearby.

There she met his mother and other family members. The mother gave her a simple white cloth with "El Salvador" embroidered at the center.

"No money," she said, when Rita offered to pay for the gift. "We are so happy you are in our country. When you go home, please share what you've learned about El Salvador."

"Please tell our stories."

That moment changed Rita's life.

Struck by the family's generosity and their desire to have others learn about El Salvador, she made a commitment to go home and spread the word, to tell their stories.

Today, members of St. Aloysius Catholic Church's delegations to visit El Salvador share stories regularly at the church, where Rita has worked in social ministry for the last decade. Photos from Salvadoran families and delegation members grace a bulletin board in the parish office.

In solidarity with Salvadorans, the parish remembers the anniversary of the late Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spoke out on behalf of the poor and was assassinated in 1980. They pray for the people, learn about El Salvador and support fair trade.

Now St. Aloysius is in a sister parish relationship with Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, a parish with dozens of Christian base communities in the Bajo Lempa region of El Salvador.

"We are brothers and sisters in solidarity," Rita said.

While her experience in the family's shop reinforced her commitment to El Salvador, the idea of establishing a sister parish started several years before with St. Aloysius' first JustFaith group.

JustFaith is a process to expand people's commitment to social ministry in light of the scriptures and Catholic social teaching. Participants meet for 30 weeks for prayer, discussion, videos and speakers. They read books on social justice, learn about poverty and participate in four immersion experiences with the poor and marginalized. The experience transforms their lives, Rita said.

The 2003 JustFaith group wanted to establish a relationship with another parish in another country to live out their faith and deepen their understanding of the world.

Several graduates were inter-



Rita Waldref, center, with Mino and Transito from Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe

ested in seeking a connection with the people of El Salvador, an impoverished Central American country that continues to suffer after a 12-year civil war that killed more than 75,000 people.

In addition, since the 1992 signing of the Peace Accords, parts of the country have been ravaged by hurricanes, earthquakes and droughts that resulted in famine.

Members of St. Aloysius, a Jesuit parish, also were drawn to El Salvador because of Archbishop Romero. Other Catholics—including four U.S. church women in 1981, and six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter—were killed in 1989 during El Salvador's violent history.

Rita started communicating with Sister Fran Stacey, a member of the Sisters of Providence who had served in the Spokane diocese before moving to El Salvador in 1995 to minister to the poor.

In 2005, when George Waldref, Rita's husband and a nurse at Holy Family Hospital, joined the annual group of Providence Health doctors and medical personnel on a trip to El Salvador, Rita asked to go along.

The visit was eye-opening. She had never traveled to a developing nation. She was shocked by the lack of clean water, health care and other resources. Despite their poverty, the people were generous with the little they had and welcomed Rita with open arms.

"I fell in love with the people and the country," she said. "I was amazed by their warmth and hospitality."

When she returned to Spokane, she asked the St. Aloysius pastoral council to consider the possibility of a sister parish in El Salvador.

In October 2006, she and nine other parishioners traveled to El Salvador to meet with people of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe,

two hours from the capital of San Salvador. In the spring of 2007, the parishes made their sister parish relationship official with a vision statement detailing what it means to be in solidarity.

"The relationship is rooted in the gospel and the mandate to love one another," says the vision statement. "We recognize and appreciate that, with both our similarities and our differences, we are all members of the Body of Christ. We believe that this relationship will enrich our faith communities as we share our Christian walk. In the spirit of solidarity, we commit ourselves to work for the common good of each community."

To be in solidarity, members of St. Aloysius listen with humility to the Salvadoran's stories, share their stories with others in the United States, and are a "voice for the voiceless" by advocating on behalf of Salvadorans on issues that affect them.

Besides praying for them and celebrating their holy days, St. Aloysius also provides school supplies and books, and sends a small delegation from Spokane each year for a week with the base communities of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.

In the same spirit, members of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe have promised to pray for members of St. Aloysius and are committed to sharing their perspectives of church and community by engaging the North Americans in conversations about injustice and poverty in the developing world.

In their parish center in Tierra Blanca, parishioners have created a small space that includes pictures of St. Aloysius Church and people who have visited, and a banner from St. Aloysius Catholic School.

"It's about being, not about doing," Rita explained. "It's about

building friendships."

Since her first trip, she has returned to El Salvador three times with members of St. Aloysius and a few students from Gonzaga Preparatory School.

Before each trip, delegations watch several movies, including "Romero" and "Enemies of War," and read books about El Salvador. They meet five times for orientation and community building.

Church life at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe revolves around the dozens of Christian base communities, groups that are similar to gatherings of the apostles in the early church, Rita said.

Parishioners meet at people's homes to study Scripture and discuss how it applies to their life in the developing world. Most do not have access to a car or cannot afford the bus fare to attend Sunday services.

"The church is the people," she said.

Accompanied by an interpreter as well as Sister Elena Jaramillo, pastoral staff member, and Sister

Fran, members of St. Aloysius travel throughout the parish and participate in discussions and Scripture studies.

They join about 24 members of each base community, studying Scripture and Salvadoran life.

They also immerse themselves in the people's daily lives.

Delegation members spend time at the parish's farm and with shrimp cooperative members.

They make tortillas and tamales from freshly ground corn.

They visit primary schools and spend time with families in their homes.

On her third trip, Rita and others were invited to La Quesera, the site of a 1981 civil war massacre of about 700 women, children and elderly people—part of the government's Scorched Earth policy. Survivors told of their experiences as part of healing and remembering in order to prevent future massacres.

They first spoke about it publicly for a 2006 radio broadcast, she said. Again, she heard the same plea that the mother of the young man at the market asked of her: "Please tell our stories."

When they finished, family members of those who had died in the massacre gave Rita and others small bags with soil from La Quesera. The soil is a symbol of the holy ground, where the blood of martyrs had been mixed with the earth.

"The injustice is so great there. The only way for the injustice to be known outside their country is for us to tell the story," Rita said.

After learning about the plight of Salvadorans from delegation members, St. Aloysius parishioners have shared their resources with the people of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.

Continued on page 8



Hillyard Florist
FULL SERVICE FLOWER SHOP
4915 N. MARKET - Spokane
www.hillyardflorist.com
489-5001

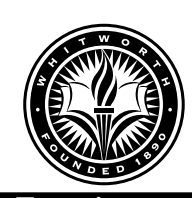
Certificate in Lay Ministry

Begins September 12, 2009

This year-long program is designed to help train, equip and support lay men and women to serve more effectively in paid and unpaid leadership positions in the church. Topics include

- Biblical Foundations for Ministry
- The Bible and Ministry
- Theology and Ministry
- Christian Leadership and Ministry
- Spirituality and Ministry
- Church History and Ministry
- Management and Administration of Ministry
- Effective Communication in Ministry
- Pastoral Care and Ministry
- Discipleship and Ministry

One Saturday a month for 10 months
September - June



WHITWORTH

To register or to request additional information, please contact Michelle Pace at (509) 777-3275 or mpace@whitworth.edu www.whitworth.edu/faithcenter

CANTERBURY COURT

Affordable Senior Housing complex at
1010 S. Rockwood Blvd.
One-Bedroom, Utilities, Laundry Facility & Community Room
55-61 years of age eligible for non-subsidized units (income limits apply) for a minimum rent (depending on income) of \$395.
Rent subsidized units available for 62 and older.
Rent based on 30% of occupant's income.
Call 509.624.5678





Mind if we have a look at your paper?

Oh, and your magazines and catalogs, too.



Newspaper, magazines, catalogs & phone books
Bundle or bag.

The cycle starts with you.

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

recycling hotline: 625.6800
www.solidwaste.org



Presbytery executive recognizes that technology changes overwhelm

As he anticipates retiring in June after 10 years as executive presbyter of the Inland Northwest Presbytery and 24 years as a pastor, the Rev. Rick Melin reflects on the impact of changing technology on the lives of clergy and congregations.

Early in his ministry, he was excited to shift from using a Royal standard typewriter with a carriage return to an IBM Selectric typewriter with interchangeable balls to change fonts.

Now society is shifting from desktop computers to PDAs—personal digital assistants—through cell phone connections that give mobile access to emails, websites, data, videos and games.

Most churches have computers and are online now, he said.

What a contrast today is, however, from promises a few decades ago that technology would mean 30-hour work weeks.

Today fewer people work longer hours, and everyone is overwhelmed.

"It's like drinking from a fire hose," Rick said. "The quantity of information coming in is not healthy—physically or spiritually."

Because the change came gradually, he said it's hard for people to notice.

When he was pastor in Brookings, S.D., he remembers how threatened the church secretary was when the church first brought in a computer.

"We sat and waited, watching things pop up on the screen. Now information is there in two seconds," he said.

Soon after the secretary learned the computer, she was excited and bought one for her house. She began to type papers for students—no longer having to use white-out or correction tapes to make corrections. She could make corrections on the screen before printing a paper. She said it added years to her working life.

The amount of information that can be shared today can be as overwhelming to clergy and laity as it is to everyone else in the society. That pressure changes the shape of ministry, he said.

It has changed Rick's role as minister to ministers and congregations as executive presbyter of the Inland Northwest Presbytery.

Recently, he has focused on three priorities: new church development, congregational transformation and revitalizing clergy.

With more resources available, more demands on clergy and more papers piling up on the desks of clergy, he likens the demands to lepers portrayed in Jesus Christ Superstar trying to touch Jesus to be healed and exhausting him.



The Rev. Rick Melin retires this summer from his work as presbytery executive.

As a pastor, Rick served churches in Brookings, S.D., Ellsworth, Minn., Kimble, Neb., and Clarkston before beginning at the governing level as executive presbyter in South Dakota.

He will continue as stated clerk of the Alaska Northwest Synod of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to complete his five-year term as record keeper and parliamentarian. He plans to live in Spokane as he stretches into ventures of environmental action, woodworking and visiting grandchildren. His wife, Carol, a nurse educator with the State of Washington, will also retire.

Growing up in Los Angeles, he graduated in 1967 in English at California State University in Northridge, attended San Francisco Theological Seminary and completed seminary studies in 1970 at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa, where he met Carol.

They stayed in the Midwest for a while before coming to Clarkston, where he served eight years. When he felt called to enter governing-body work, he first was executive presbyter in South Dakota.

Along with changes in technology, he has seen social and cultural changes as the church has become less influential in communities and the lives of people. Rick, however, believes there are positive aspects to churches' no longer having a role of assured influence and prominence.

The church's status up to the 1960s meant stores were closed on Sundays, and schools left Wednesday afternoons or evenings open for church activities. By the 1970s, movie theatres were open Sunday evenings and youth sometimes showed up at youth group and left early to go to a movie.

That was a step in the change. "Now soccer fields are full on Wednesday evenings and space for faith no longer has a protected status. Adherents of churches have to make choices," he said.

Similarly, the increase in technology giving access to entertainment and relationships adds a further layer of choice for people in faith communities.

"In the 1970s, churches just went along doing what they had always been doing," he said. "Today, the church needs to show it is faithful to God, and that its faithfulness touches the lives of God's people and God's creation."

Rick has seen that the avenues members once had for involvement in ministry through congregations and denominations are declining. People finding their own ministries challenges what it means to be connected in ministry through a presbytery, synod or national denomination.

"That has impact on how we do church, mission and ministry," he said. "For several decades, people just put money in the offering plate and expected the congregation, presbytery and denomination to do ministry."

Whatever the timeline, Rick believes as others do that "we are in a changing time and our denominations are scrambling about how to do things as they face significant reductions in contributions and giving for mission."

Groups in each denomination form and challenge their denominations on issues, particularly related to the movement to be open and affirming of gays and lesbians, he said.

Rick has seen other shifts in mindsets for congregations. Now many seek to make good uses of earth's resources. Once some church people dismissed environmentalists as "tree huggers,"

he said that now most, especially the older generation, ask how to conserve resources and consume less. They hear the message that resources are finite and people need to stop overusing them.

"Today, they see care of creation as a faith issue," said Rick, who has been serving on the Steering Committee for Presbyterians for Restoring Creation.

What has he liked most about being executive presbyter?

"Every day in ministry is different. Every day people come with different needs," he said.

For Presbyterians, authority rests with groups, not individuals such as bishops. A presbytery is a group of churches in a geographic region, giving oversight to mission and ministry for congregations and clergy in a given area, he explained.

"As executive presbyter, I'm not a CEO, any more than Jesus was CEO of the 12 disciples," Rick said. "My role is to be helpful and supportive to ministers and congregations in the presbytery."

Most often he has ministered to churches in transition—losing or calling a minister—and to clergy serving congregations.

He sits on all presbytery committees—Christian Education, Certified Lay Pastor Training, Trustees, Mission and more.

Rick described efforts on the presbytery's priorities:

First, in church development, he

has assisted with a new church in the Latah Valley and is exploring one in the Rathdrum Prairie. He attends the Latah Valley church.

Second, to promote congregational transformation, he has helped congregations to ask themselves what God is calling them to do and be. Then he helps them structure their staff and programs to move in that direction.

The Inland Northwest Presbytery has offered "Journey to Discovery" training programs since 2005 in conjunction with churches in the Central Washington, Glacier, Yellowstone and Inland Northwest presbyteries and the Northwest Region of the Disciples of Christ.

The program from the Center for Parish Development in Chicago involves participants in celebrating where they have been, where they are and where, based on their gifts and contexts, they are called to move.

Third, with a Healthy Leaders grant to revitalize pastors, help them develop their spiritual lives and encourage them to take care of their health, he is helping strengthen church leadership.

"All three are long, challenging processes," Rick said.

Given the speed of change in technology, many people expect changes to happen overnight, but most require hard work, he said.

Presbytery congregations in the process include churches in Post Falls, Sandpoint, Hayden, Coeur d'Alene, Reardan and four in Spokane—Bethany, Lidgerwood, Emmanuel and Westminster.

He finds the Healthy Leaders program useful, as the current economic stress adds to congregations' and pastors' feeling overwhelmed. Piles of unused resources on the desks of clergy leave many feeling guilty.

"How do we change our style to respond to some of the many needs?" he asked.

Rick is hopeful and positive about the future for the church, because he considers the challenges clergy and church members face are challenges to be faithful.

"We have to grow, mindful of our spiritual roots and that our work is about spiritual work," he said.

For information, call 924-4148.

PaperPlus

125 S. Arthur
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 535-0229
(800) 753-0229

- Paper by the ream
- Largest selection of colors, designs & weights in the area
- Case discounts
- Wedding invitations & bulletins
- Preprinted papers including all holiday papers
- Envelopes in a large variety of sizes
- **Mention this ad and receive 10% off on Mondays**

Choose dignity

Helping the terminally ill and their families fulfill their lives with dignity.

Medical care • Counseling • Spiritual support

How you live is a choice. Choose Hospice of Spokane.

Hand in hand, we'll walk with you.

509.456.0438
hospiceofspokane.org
A community-based not-for-profit since 1976

Sorrento Centre
...is so much more!

COME AND DISCOVER THE "SORRENTO EXPERIENCE"!

Visit us on-line at: www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca

Sorrento Centre P.O. Box 99, Sorrento, BC, V0E 2W0
Phone: (250)675-2421 e-mail: info@sorrento-centre.bc.ca

Join us at Sorrento Centre for another adventurous summer at our Spirit-filled centre located on Shuswap Lake! Each week from June 7 - Aug 1, we offer Christian courses in biblical studies, theology, art, music and wilderness. The 2009 speakers include: **Herbert O'Driscoll, John Shelby Spong, Dan Meakes, Common Cup, Jay Koyle, Ann Tottenham, Br. James Koester** and many others.

Post traumatic stress requires sensitivity

Continued from page 1
 know people understand what they have gone through. They need relationships with people who will encourage them to seek help when they cannot sleep at night, lose interest in hobbies or become irritable," he said. "Those suffering from post-traumatic stress often isolate themselves, as many Vietnam vets did when they settled in the hills of Northeast Washington."

Mike said friends, family and people in the faith community need to be aware, so they don't say things that further isolate people.

"You don't ask vets, 'Did you kill anyone?' because that may make them feel judged and put them back in their trauma," he said. "Many suffer survival guilt, because they lived and friends died. That guilt makes them think they can't go back to church."

"Their emotions can be debilitating, interfering with their ability to keep jobs and building irritability that breaks down marital and family relationships," he said. "If they are irritable, spouses feel uncomfortable inviting friends to visit, so they, too, become isolated. Sometimes the irritability leads to verbal abuse."

"PTS does not go away. A vet is often in survival mode the rest

of his or her life. We offer skills to help them cope," he said. "They are normal people, put in abnormal situations, suffering, and coming back changed."

"They react to normal circumstances in different ways—fearing death is imminent, fearing being in crowds, or drinking energy drinks that put them into hypervigilance. They have difficulty sleeping, but 70 percent of their problems go away if they have help going to sleep," Mike said.

Social workers at the Vets Center use therapy tailored to the individual, because each reacts differently. Some—men as well as women—were raped or harassed and return with PTS from the sexual trauma, he said.

For families, Mike said the center offers three-day classes to help people process their grief. It also offers family therapy to help marital relations and help spouses and children understand.

Mike served in the Air Force for 25 years, retiring four years ago.



Mike Ogle

He served eight years in war areas, ranging from Grenada to Iraq. He has worked at the Spokane Vet Center, at 100 N. Mullan Rd., for three years.

Mike, who grew up in Colville and Spokane, is a benefit expert and educator. In addition to educating vets and their families, he seeks to educate the community through organizing events

Now attending St. Joseph's Catholic Church, he knows how faith has made a difference for him as he has readjusted. The church provides a support network. He has found faith to enhance his healing, especially through understanding forgiveness.

Vets need to know that even though they may have killed, they are forgiven, Mike said. Guilt can keep them away from churches, which can be resources for them.

Disabled from injuries to his back from years of hard landings in aircraft, he earns enough that he does not have to work, but he does this work because he has a passion to help other vets.

The Spokane Vets Center, formerly the Vietnam Veterans Center, began in 1979 for peer mentors to help Vietnam vets not helped by the Veterans' Administration.

For information, call 444-8387 or email michael.ogle@va.gov.

Salvadorans know hope despite suffering

Continued from page 6
 One year, they collected 300 pairs of black shoes so children in the parish could attend school. Earlier this year, members of the parish collected \$7,050 for an emergency medical fund that gives families access to health care.

Since she first visited El Salvador, Rita has grown close to many families, especially Mino and

Transito, a middle-aged couple who are the leaders of a base community.

"They have challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and to work for justice and peace," said Rita, who conversed with the couple through an interpreter.

Mino and Transito told her of their tradition of making bread with their children on Christmas Eve and distributing it to the poor

before going to Mass.

Rita was humbled by their graciousness and generosity, given that their family earns less than \$4 a day.

"I go to El Salvador to deepen my faith," she said. "The people there have so much faith and so much hope despite their suffering. They are crucified people, but they also know resurrection."

For information, call 313-7003.

VOA opens new veterans housing project

Continued from page 1
 She knows they will "weather the storm" to serve street youth, homeless women, disabled vets, mentally-ill adults and needy families.

On Tuesday, May 5, VOA opens Eagles Nest, a new six-bed transitional home for homeless veterans. Twelve AmeriCorps volunteers from the ESD101 Spokane Service Team have been renovating the 1970s house. The first group of homeless vets move in this summer.

Vets can stay up to two years while a case manager connects them to benefits, health care, job training, employment, counseling, mental health and substance abuse treatment and other services.

About 65 percent of renovation funds came from the Veterans Administration; the rest are from local Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and from downtown Spokane's Rotary Club 21.

Expansion is also in the works for Maud's House, a prisoner

re-entry program started in June 2008 to provide wraparound support for individuals released from jail. It's a collaboration of VOA, Goodwill Industries, Transitions and Spokane County.

For information, call 624-2378 or visit voaspokane.org.

International Student Homestay Program Spokane Falls Community College/Spokane Community College

Globalize your life...from your own home!

An exciting opportunity for Spokane and Spokane Valley residents to share their home, life and community with a college age SFCC/SCC international student while they share their life and culture with you!

- Families receive \$550/month for room and board, \$350 for room only.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation.
- College-, career- or retirement-age couples or singles with or without children.
- Homestay can last 1 quarter or longer.
- Receive \$100 for each qualified homestay family you refer.
- Placements are monitored and supported by CCS International Programs staff.
- Quarterly family training meetings.



Join our network of welcoming Homestay families and begin a cross cultural adventure of a lifetime!

To receive more information or apply:
 Contact Teresa Gay at teresag@spokanefalls.edu
 SFCC 509 533 4131 or SCC 509 533 8201

Find a Homestay Family Application Form under Foundation Forms at <http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/Forms/default.aspx>

Community Colleges of Spokane provides equal opportunity in education & employment

Action Recycling

911 E. Marietta

TOP PRICES

HONEST WEIGHT

- aluminum
- brass
- copper
- stainless
- newspapers

483-4094



The Center for Organizational Reform presents Leadership for Healthy Organizations: 2009 Summer Seminar Series July 20-24, 27-31

For details visit www.corhome.org

BIZ Recycling!



Paper, Metal, Cardboard, Old Computers

www.EarthworksRecycling.com

(509) 534-1638

ASK ABOUT OUR PICKUP SERVICE

1904 E Broadway-Spokane

2 blks N of Trent/Napa

Together we can...

Washington State Prescription Drug Watch

May 28, 2009 - 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Mukogawa Fort Wright

RSVP to:

www.gssacpreventioncenter.com



Come to the Water

The Ministry Institute

at Mater Dei - Gonzaga University - Spokane WA

Is God calling you to LAY or ORDAINED MINISTRY?
 Come - Learn and Discern with us

Is God calling you to REST from your ministry?
 Come - Refresh and Renew your spirit

For more information: Call (800) 986-9585 x 6012

Email: bartletts@gonzaga.edu

www.gonzaga.edu/ministryinstitute

Is it time to move your congregation?

aprx 43 acres FOR SALE

in a BEAUTIFUL LOCATION with zoning* for a

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

and plenty of room left over for
 BALLFIELDS • PARKING • COMMUNITY GARDENS
 GROW YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREES • OTHER OPTIONS

Call Paul Wilkening

509-499-1111



Windermere REAL ESTATE

many other allowable uses: * buyer to verify

Build Community at the 2009 Blitz Build!

June 1-12

(4502 E Mt Baldy Ln, East of Hillyard)

Join Habitat for Humanity for an exciting, fast-paced community build experience:

- Organize your business, civic or faith group
- Gather your friends and family
- No experience needed—we'll train!
- Blitz volunteers receive lunch, snacks & t-shirt
- Must be 16 or older

For group sign up, call Andrea at 509-534-2552, ext. 21
 Individuals sign up online at ww.habitat-spokane.org



Habitat for Humanity®
 Spokane

www.habitat-spokane.org

Maasai theology professor bridges American, African cultures

By Virginia de Leon

Moses Pulei serves as a bridge between cultures.

As a Whitworth University theology professor and member of the Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania, Moses has been instrumental in building relationships between people in the United States and his community in East Africa.

He is involved with several organizations with links to Africa, including Blood: Water Mission, an international grassroots organization that brings communities together to find solutions and hope amid the HIV/AIDS and water crises in Africa.

He is also part of Whitworth's Africa Initiative, a program that seeks to help students become "global Christians" by immersing them in the culture of the Maasai and other African communities through cross-cultural visits, home stays and exchanges that involve study, travel and dialogue.

"We want to help students engage and interact with African culture," said Moses, one of eight faculty involved in the initiative.

Earlier this year, Moses took 22 Whitworth students to Tanzania during Jan Term, an academic session that enables students to travel and spend several weeks abroad under the direction of a Whitworth professor.

Although they met once a week in the fall to prepare for the trip and learn more about Tanzania, many of the students still experienced culture shock, he said.

"Sitting in Weyerhaeuser Hall and talking about Africa is one thing," Moses said. "Actually being there is a completely different experience."

Students were surprised on several levels, he said. They not only had to adjust to the culture—the language, food and customs—but also had to confront their own misconceptions about Africa.

For instance, in the tourist town of Arusha in northern Tanzania, the students stayed with well-to-do families who lived in opulent homes with servants.

Some students weren't accustomed to a life of luxury and were surprised to find that it existed in Africa, a continent often portrayed by mainstream media as plagued with famine, poverty and strife.

"They expected Africa to be poor," Moses said.

They were especially astonished that "people with that kind of wealth didn't want to engage with those who were poor," he said.

In the rural community of Himo near Mount Kilimanjaro, students experienced a different challenge. Because many of the villagers



Moses Pulei promotes Whitworth's Africa Initiative.

in this small town lack modern conveniences, students had to use pit latrines and walk as far as three miles just to access water for bathing or washing clothes.

They also experienced communication issues because of language and cultural differences.

People in Africa have a different sense of time, Moses explained, so on many occasions they had to adjust to last-minute changes or a lack of planning by their African hosts.

One example of misunderstanding happened during their first few days with host families. When students asked the families what time they were to wake up, the response was "three." In the Swahili language, however, "three" translates to "9 a.m." Because this wasn't clear to students, some set their alarms for 3 a.m. and discovered they were the only ones awake in the house, Moses said. Although it was sometimes difficult for students to communicate with the families in Himo who spoke only Swahili, they still became friends and learned about each other's way of life, he said.

As someone who regularly travels back and forth from Africa to the United States, Moses knows about culture shock and can relate to the experiences of his students.

Sixteen years ago, Moses left the arid lands of East Africa's Rift Valley for the pine-covered campus of Whitworth to pursue a bachelor's degree. It was his first time away from home and the Maasai culture.

Moses was born in a mud-and-stick hut in Namanga, a Kenyan village near Amboseli National Park at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. As a boy, he spent his days tending his family's sheep.

Like others from Namanga, he attended a school operated by the Roman Catholic Church and later became a Christian after meeting

Americans from Young Life and World Vision, a Christian relief and development agency. They told him about Whitworth and Spokane.

He received a scholarship from the private liberal arts school and sponsorship from Christian missionaries in Florida.

As a student at Whitworth, Moses became so popular on campus that he was elected student body president and chosen to be the school's homecoming king.

After graduation, he worked as a safari guide for the Kenyan government and also worked with Young Life.

He continued to travel to the United States, where he earned a master of divinity degree and a doctorate in intercultural studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. His dissertation was titled, "Preachers of a Different Gospel: The Emergence of the Word-Faith Movement in Kenya and a Trans-National Religious Culture."

Moses spends about four months a year in Africa. In addition to bringing students to Tanzania for Jan Term, he also goes to Kenya to serve the Maasai and work with churches throughout Africa.

During the summer, he brings his wife and two children—ages 7 years and 9 months—to his hometown of Namanga, where he trains pastors.

He also travels to Africa throughout the year to build relationships with religious congregations and to work on community development projects. During his visits, Moses brings medicine, vaccines, supplies and colleagues from the United States who wish to learn more about Maasai and African culture.

In addition to being a board member of Blood: Water Mission, he advises World Vision on some projects in East Africa. In recent years, he has worked with LifeWater International to provide

clean water. He also helped establish the Makobe Children's Home that serves AIDS orphans in the Shimba Hills in Kenya's coastal province and helps develop small businesses among the Maasai.

People in Africa have much to learn from Americans, particularly from students and faculty at Whitworth, he believes.

"We assume this culture of serving each other is what's happening all over the world, but it's an American way of doing things," Moses said. "Servant leadership is a foreign concept for Africans."

While people in the villages of Tanzania and Kenya certainly help each other, they often stick to "their own kind" and rarely reach out to people from other tribes and communities, Moses said.

In the urban centers, people often are oblivious to the plight of the poor and others in need. In Arusha, students were disappointed that some of the wealthier families they stayed with didn't want to hear or learn about the orphanages and other places they visited as part of their Jan Term trip.

"They didn't want to feel responsible for children in the orphanages," Moses explained. "So many people in the cities don't feel compelled to help others or even interact with them. They want to work in their own cultural settings."

"That's why service learning is important. It's something Americans can export to the rest of the world," he said.

At the same time, Americans

have much to gain by immersing themselves in African culture, said Moses.

Many African cultures value family above everything else, so they do all they can to take care of their children, their relatives and their elders.

As people who have herded cattle freely in the highlands and who lead simple, nomadic lives, the Maasai also can teach Americans and the world about sustainability, he said.

"We live in harmony with nature and the environment," he explained. "We believe the Earth is a gift from God so we must try our best to care for this gift."

As someone who speaks nine African languages and must constantly transition from one culture to another, Moses often experiences a "homelessness of the mind."

"You're always on your toes when you walk in all these cultures," he said. "At the same time, I'm at home wherever I am, in Africa and in America."

As a result of his efforts and those of local churches, individuals and African refugees who make the Inland Northwest their home, Spokane has evolved into a community that cares deeply for the people of Africa and strives to build connections, he said.

"Every time I speak at a public event in Spokane, I meet people who have traveled to Africa and engaged in the culture," Moses said. "Spokane has a heart for Africa."

For information, call 777-3385.

Donate!
 \$2.50-\$25-\$250-\$2,500 for The Fig Tree's 25th Anniversary
 Send to The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane, WA 99202



Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington
 1222 N Post www.altcew.org

Promoting wellbeing, independence, dignity & choice for Seniors and others needing long-term care
For information, assistance & case management, call

Spokane - Elder Services	458-7450
Stevens/Pend Oreille - Rural Resources Community Action	(800) 873-5889
Whitman - Council on Aging & Human Services	(800) 809-3351
Northern Ferry - Ferry County Community Services	(509) 755-0912

Just Trade

fairly traded
crafts from
around
the world

inside
Brused Books
235 E. Main
Pullman, WA
509-334-7898

Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm
Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPOKANE

Now serving the interment and memorialization needs of our Catholic /Christian community in three locations




HOLY CROSS † **QUEEN OF PEACE** † **ST. JOSEPH**
 7200 N. Wall † 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd † 17825 E. Trent

Pre-arrangement plans available for all interment and memorialization needs — including ground burial space, garden crypts, lawn crypts, cremation niches, monuments and memorials.

467-5496

Jim Falkner, Executive Director
Ken McCarthy, Manager Family Services
www.cathcem.org

Rolling Admissions, Flexible Scheduling and Online Availability.
www.gonzaga.edu/com1
 (509) 313-3684

 Dr. John Caputo Communication and community connect. Communication builds community to unite citizens towards a common good.	 Dr. Heather Crandall Effective communication practices are essential. They form the foundation for all else: personal, cultural, vocational and global.	 Dr. Mike Hazel In an increasingly interconnected world, knowing and applying the art of communication is a key ingredient of the 21st century.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Explore - Examine - Pursue
Gonzaga's Master's in Communication and Leadership Studies

Are you ready to influence positive social change? Influence takes place through communication and collaboration. Our degree will give you tools to lead. Gonzaga is part of a 400 year-old Jesuit tradition known for its ability to develop men and women for others.

Information Night
 Tuesday, March 31, 5:30-7:00 pm
 Gonzaga University
 Tilford Center, 111 E Desmet

Fig Tree's 25 years are about people, stories, hope and faith-in-action

In reviewing 25 years of Fig Trees, I saw the pictures of many people, reminding me that The Fig Tree is more than paper or digital images.

It's the people we have interviewed, people whose stories we have shared, people who read or view them, people who connect with other people to do something to make a difference, inspired and empowered by the stories.

We seek to offer responsible media, modeling what is now called in academic circles "peace journalism," communicating credibly with diverse people about diverse people.

In the fall of 1983, the former Spokane Christian Coalition decided to publish a newspaper to cover religion news. In March, I moved to Spokane to help start it. With modest funding from a few denominations, donors and advertisers, we published the early issues, keeping in mind then and through the years that our readers are busy and value that we offer just "enough" stories to inform, inspire and engage them, so they know they are not alone.

We share stories of everyday folks who

in everyday ways care about people, justice, relationships, reconciliation, faith, creation and making peace.

Lack of awareness keeps people apart, fearful and subject to stereotypes, rather than relishing the joy and richness of differences and conflicts as gifts given by God to open us to new ways to see life and to learn to love our enemies.

We present a variety of perspectives along the continuum between the over-covered extremes. Our media engage us with diverse cultures, races, religions, ages, genders, approaches and solutions. Our stories help us see each person as an asset or gift, honoring what each has to offer.

Communication historically empowers social movements to overcome injustice, and empowers survivors of genocide, violence, abuse, poverty and war to be resilient and to act. What a different society and world we would have if more media found nuances of peace and justice as compelling and exciting as war and violence.

We tell of people who visit global partners, build Habitat houses, house people in their churches, challenge poverty, farm

sustainably and are moved to life-giving generosity. Our sense of community extends locally to globally as we hear personal and communal stories of suffering and overcoming, forgiveness and healing, and people intervening to reconcile conflicts and resolve problems.

We have helped nurture various ministries, following them through the years to keep people informed.

With few grants, we build sustainable support with ads, bulk orders, donors and a benefit. In faith, we have added new freelance writers, editors, a website coordinator, a directory editor and a community outreach coordinator. We rely on their dedication and that of many volunteers assisting on the board, and with delivery, displays and office work.

On the web, we continue to add features and now have a page ready for content from Western Washington.

Since 2007, we have been publishing the Directory of Congregations and Community Resources, an example of how simple communication among people transforms. The directory began 37 years ago to en-

courage churches to work together. It has grown more inclusive, listing all faiths and mirroring our diversity. Under "B" there are Baha'i, Baptist, Buddhist, Bible, Byzantine and Brethren.

In 2009, we will print 10,000 copies, as we integrate the Community Colleges of Spokane Head Start/ECEAP directory.

Peace journalism connects people, builds understanding, fosters dialogue, gives voice to the oppressed, and stirs awareness of avenues for common action.

Yes, some people fail to live their faiths, but in the midst of those who fall short, we tell of people who care and act because of their faith and values.

In the midst of institutions that oppress, countries at war and systems that fail us, we tell of institutions, governments and faith groups working for justice, healing and reconciliation.

Despite differences, we know people of faith are working together in the region and world. Their stories of hope empower us to envision everyone living under their own vines and fig trees in peace and unafraid.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Stories Empower

Sounding Board

Peace Journalism

In honor of The Fig Tree's 25th anniversary marked at the 2009 Benefit Breakfast in March at Gonzaga University, we share in this Sounding Board reflections on the impact of The Fig Tree on lives, communities and the world.

When I was 16 in Iran, the revolution started. My parents wanted to send me somewhere safe. They sent me to Texas. In the early 1980s when U.S. hostages were taken in Iran, I was at Gonzaga University. About 20 people threw food at me because I was Iranian.



I learned from that horrible experience that when we create awareness and understanding, hate and fear go away. After Sept. 11 there was also much demonizing of Middle Easterners, so I started the Persian Hour on KYRS radio to share Persian stories, songs, culture, recipes and guests.

I love how The Fig Tree takes a proactive role trying to create awareness and understanding. Nazi Germany used media to create fear and violence, but media can be used for good things. It's our choice.

Shahrokh Nikfar - Fair Housing Alliance and the Persian Hour

The Fig Tree's impact on the community and on me has been both constant and changing. It's constant in its commitment to tell stories of ordinary people who, out of their faith, do extraordinary things to create a more holy and just world for all.

Recent articles highlighted a human rights activist, a youth mentor, a rural pastor-mayor, a young architect committed to green building, a woman who went to Romania on a mission trip. The diversity of people and issues represent the local and global involvement of these people.

I have seen The Fig Tree grow from a strong ecumenical voice highlighting Christian denominations to embracing an interfaith mission, sharing news and stories from all faith traditions and promoting understanding and dialogue among them.

"Peace Journalism," speaks to the heart of what the Fig Tree does and is. It means raising one's voice for justice, for those who are most vulnerable. Frequently articles in-

form us of legislative issues, speakers and events that address justice concerns. Peace journalism helps us find what we have in common, what unites us rather than divides us. It means we are in dialogue over our differences and come to common understanding.



The stories remind me of the strong community we have in Spokane, of the many people involved in worthwhile projects at the local and global levels. The Fig Tree connects us. It gives me a sense that none of us is alone. The work we are about is bigger than any one of us can do, but together we can be about changing our world. I'm thankful for The Fig Tree calling us to be people of peace.

Mary Rathert - director of Transitions and Women's Hearth

I became associated with The Fig Tree when I began teaching and was looking for places for students to do internships and for resources to tell how journalism is done. When we think of journalism and news we think of major media, but in the history of our country, the alternative press has been an essential, vibrant part of the media mix, an important part of informing us of who we are.

When we look at the evolution of journalism, the advocacy journalism The Fig Tree does is perhaps the most authentic type of journalism, because it gets to the heart of who we are as a people and a culture, to the heart of what news is and what reality is. When we think of the most vilified journalists who engaged in yellow journalism, most started as sincere honest crusading journalists trying to protect the masses, but somehow lost their way.

That has not happened with The Fig Tree these 25 years. It has been an advocate for peace and justice, and it has not lost its way. It has found the way for many people. As we move into a new world of cyber



journalism and virtual reality, we see major media stressed to the point that daily newspapers are on the verge of disappearing. TV news is becoming a carnival.

As we negotiate this new reality of what is news, publications such as The Fig Tree will be absolutely essential to maintaining our sense of who we are. It comes down to the stories we tell about each other. A survey of Christians on why they came to the faith and why they fell away revealed in each case it was the people they knew, the stories they told and the example they gave about their faith.

This is what The Fig Tree is about. It's not just the Christian faith, but the sense that God's work is in the world and is empowering and informing each of us—whatever faith we are.

That is the work of The Fig Tree and why it is so essential in this day. We need that authentic journalism to inform us about what is going on in our community and no one does it better than The Fig Tree.

Steve Blewett - former director of the Eastern Washington University Journalism Department

Fifteen years ago a group of visionaries in Spokane started a fair trade store to offer an exchange with artisans so they could be assured a fair wage and desirable working conditions where they could work in respect and preserve their cultures. Global Folk Art started and was volunteer run. When they decided to close, I decided to start a for-profit store, Kizuri.

As my plans progressed over the summer, the economy was progressively tanking. That's when Mary called to do a story about the store. She published a story several weeks before the store opened.

I was in a grocery store parking lot one day, and a woman walking out with her cart said, "I can't wait to come to the store!" I didn't know who it was. I asked how she heard about it. She said she read about it in The Fig Tree.

Two weeks after the store opened, a woman called. She had read about candles made by Palestinian and Israeli women to create a peaceful relationship. She called to see if I had any. The next day she drove

from Coeur d'Alene to buy these candles as an expression of her solidarity with women in the Middle East, something she could do to promote peaceful reconciliation there.

About 10 weeks after the store opened a woman walked in. She opened her purse and pulled out the neatly folded page from The Fig Tree with the article. She had been saving it to give it to me.

These may seem like trivial encounters, but they are significant. Stories in The Fig Tree inspire us to reach out to each other and connect. They inspire us to be proactive and intentional, and to live the peace and justice ideals we have in our daily lives. I thank The Fig Tree for all the stories of hope and action that you bring to us.

Kim Harmson - owner of Kizuri, Spokane's fair trade store

We are growing. We have more readers, more writers, more staff and more volunteers. The vision behind the Fig Tree is coming to fruition. The Fig Tree has been about peace journalism long before the term existed. Since its small beginning, the dream of opening doors, windows and tiny spaces, allowing communication, understanding and compassion has been The Fig Tree's business.

The term 'peace journalism' was coined in 1997 when Norwegian sociologist and peace studies founder, Johan Galtung, gave a series of lectures at the "Conflict and Peace Journalism" summer school in the United Kingdom.

He described mainstream, dominant journalism as war-and-violence journalism. He said it increases tensions among the many sides of a conflict.

Peace journalism is truth oriented, people oriented and solution oriented. It strives to open discourse to a more inclusive range of people, ideas and visions that includes space for voices of peace. It seeks a common ground that unifies.

The truth is that the Fig Tree is about the reader and the person whose story is printed. It is about the quiet ways people serve, teach, listen and inspire.

Deidre Jacobson - Fig Tree Board co-chair and counselor at Miryam's House



Cathedral concert benefits military families

The Cathedral of St. John is sponsoring "Swing in the Cathedral for Military Families," featuring the 18-piece Tuxedo Junction Big Band at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 14, at the cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave.

The concert will honor military personnel and their families, and will raise funds to help military families facing financial hardships.

The music of Tuxedo Junction ranges from the golden era of the big bands to waltzes, Latin music and contemporary music.

Net proceeds from the ben-

Leadership Prayer Breakfast features Fr. Robert Spitzer

Father Robert Spitzer, who completes his tenure as president of Gonzaga University in July, will be the featured speaker for the 48th Annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m., Friday, May 29, at the Doubletree Hotel.

He will speak on "Legacy of Hope," telling how his five missions at the university—faith, leadership, service, ethics and justice—inspire.

For information, call 953-8003.

SCAN continues parent classes

The Spokane Child Abuse Network (SCAN) continues with its two-hour parent education classes on "The Magic of Getting Kids to Listen" with sessions at 4 p.m., Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 and 28, at the East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone.

Classes are part of SCAN's mission to strengthen family relationships to reduce child abuse and neglect.

For information, call 458-7445.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is May 2-3

DeLeon's Mexican Grocery and Deli is planning to host Spokane's 2009 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 2, and from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 3, at its location, 102 E. Francis.

The event will include entertainment and resource booths.

For information, call 483-3033.

efit will be donated to Operation Spokane Heroes for distribution to Eastern Washington and North Idaho military families who are facing financial struggles because

family members are on active duty or deployed abroad. The goal is to care for the loved ones of men and women serving the country.

For information, call 838-4277.

Calendar of Events

- Now-June 30 • Human Rights Education Institute**, "Political Power Exhibit," part of "Fast Forward: Globalization and Human Rights" programs, 414 S. Mullan, Coeur d'Alene, 208-292-2359
- Apr 30** • **"Rusty and Nancy Nelson: A Passion for Peace,"** Retirement Benefit Concert, Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W. Sprague, 7 p.m., 838-7870
- May 2** • **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**, DeLeon Foods, 102 E. Francis Ave., 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 483-3033
- May 7** • **"Human Rights and Realpolitik: The Enduring Tensions,"** Robert Schrire, political studies professor University of Cape Town, South Africa, World Affairs Council, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 7:30 p.m., 448-8412
- May 8** • **Catholic Charities Spokane Gala**, "A Show of Support," Davenport Hotel, 10 S. Post, 6 p.m., 358-4254
- **Mass to Honor Birth Mothers**, St. Joseph's Church, 1503 W. Dean, noon, 747-4174
- **Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane 2009 Auction Fund Raiser**, Mountain Gear, 6021 E. Mansfield, 6 p.m., 838-7870
- May 8, 9** • **"Thrivent Builds,"** St. Mark's Lutheran, Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity, 443-9170 or 534-2552 ext. 16.
- May 8-9** • **The Green Way Program Plant Sale**, Valley YMCA
- 15-16, 22-23** • **Greenhouse**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturdays, 777-9622, ext 206
- May 9** • **World Fair Trade Day**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 464-7677
- **"The Call to Transform Our Hearts and the World,"** JustFaith Workshop, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic, 919 E. Indiana Ave., Coeur d'Alene, Dan Driscoll, former national JustFaith board member, 208-350-7486
- **"Spirit of the Eagle Pow Wow: Keeping Education Alive through Indigenous Knowledge,"** Eastern Washington University, Reese Court Pavilion, Cheney, grand entry 1 and 7 p.m., dinner 5 p.m., 359-6660
- May 10** • **Annual Mother's Day Brunch**, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 448-1224
- May 11** • **"International Criminal Court: Its Relevance and Legitimacy,"** Upendra Acharya, Gonzaga law professor, United Nations Association, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4300 W. Fort Wright, 7 p.m., 456-2382
- May 14** • **"Swing in the Cathedral,"** Benefit Concert, Tuxedo Junction for Military Families through Operation Spokane Heroes, Cathedral of St. John, 127 E. 12th Ave., 7 p.m., 838-4277, 325-SEAT
- **"Beyond Organic: Building Community,"** Seeds of Change Series, Project Hope, The Porch Church, 1804 W. Broadway, 7 p.m., 328-6527
- May 15, 16** • **Spokane Falls Community College Pow Wow**, SFCC Red Nations Student Association, Gymnasium, 533-4331
- May 16** • **Spokane Tribe Cultural Day!** Mobius Children's Museum, River Park Square, 808 W. Main Ave., 1 to 3 p.m., 624-5437
- May 17** • **Benefit Concert for Hope Chest Ministries**, Bing Crosby Theatre, 901 W. Sprague, 3 p.m., 922-6767
- May 18** • **Women Helping Women Luncheon**, Jean Chatzky, financial editor of NBC's Today, Spokane Convention Center, noon, 328-8285
- May 20** • **Taking a Bite Out of Hunger Auction for Second Harvest**, Spokane Arena, 252-6260
- **Clergy Workshop on Returning Service Personnel**, St. Anne's Home, 25 E. Fifth, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 358-4273
- May 21** • **"Food: A Global and Local Issue,"** Seeds of Change, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway, 7 p.m., 328-6527
- May 26** • **Unity in the Community Committee**, 25 W. Main, Suite 310, 5:30 p.m.
- May 27** • **"Equity and What's Right: Fair Pay Act,"** Lilly Ledbetter, EWU PUB, 1 p.m., 359-2898
- May 28** • **"Cultivating Change and Food from the Hood,"** Seeds of Change, The Porch, 1804 W. Broadway, 7 p.m., 328-6527
- **Washington State Prescription Drug Watch**, Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council, Mukogawa Fort Wright, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 922-8383
- May 29** • **48th Annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast**, Doubletree Hotel Ballroom, 7 a.m., 953-8003
- May 29-30** • **Women of Faith**, Infinite Faith Conference, Spokane Arena, 720 W. Mallon, 325-SEAT
- May 30** • **"Sampler of Spiritual Exercises,"** Gonzaga Prep, 9 a.m., 483-8511
- June 3** • **Fig Tree Distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- June 4** • **Fig Tree Annual Meeting**, Manito United Methodist, 3220 S. Grand, 1 p.m.

C & H Foreign Auto Repair

E. 620 North Foothills Dr. Spokane, WA 99207
EDWARD W. CUSHMAN 487-9683 OR 484-5221

Wellness...
is Our Passion
Life Enrichment...
is Our Goal



Long Term Nursing
Short Term Rehabilitation

10410 E Ninth Ave
Spokane Valley
509-926-3541
sunshinehealthfacilities.com

Family Owned &
Operated Since 1949

Little moments . . .
big magic!

Answer the call to serve
Call today and mentor a child!
Choose from two programs
to fit your needs!
Call today: (509) 328-8310



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Inland Northwest

222 W. Mission #210
Spokane WA 99201

Computer Support Services

"Providing nonprofit organizations an affordable alternative to market-rate IT services."

Community-Minded Enterprises

25 W. Main Avenue, Suite 310, Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 209-2610 - computersupport@community-minded.org

The Book Parlor



A Full-Service Bookstore - Supporting
Neighbors & Neighborhood Ministries

Mon - Fri
10 am - 5:30 pm
Sat 10 am - 2 pm

1414 W. Broadway Ave.
Spokane WA 99201
509-328-6527
lutheranbooks@msn.com
www.TheBookParlor.com

- Books new/used
- Fair Trade gifts
- Coffee, Tea and Chocolate!
- Hood Gear

Caregivers Wanted

'Non Medical in Home Eldercare'

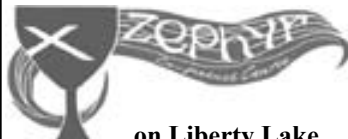
- Full Time, Part Time Positions
- Training Provided
- Flexible Hours
- Paid Time Off Available

Call for an interview appointment

535-1546



Located on 52 acres
of wildlife - with lake access



on Liberty Lake
Come and enjoy a retreat
or camping with your
family and friends.
Church & youth groups welcome.
For a brochure or info, call

255-6122

or email: zephyrlodge@live.com
www.zephyrlodge.org

RETREATS • CAMPS • SEMINARS
HOLIDAY PARTIES • FAMILY CAMPING
REUNIONS AND MORE!
CLASS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR YOGA
AND STUDY GROUPS

Rockwood Retirement Communities are dedicated to the lifelong vitality and well-being of the whole person.

Enhance your Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Intellectual Life in a comfortable custom home or apartment, with assisted living and skilled nursing available.

Rockwood South Hill 2903 E. 25th Avenue
Rockwood at Hawthorne 101 E. Hawthorne Rd.

536-6650



Rockwood
Retirement
Communities

Rockwood South Hill • Rockwood at Hawthorne

Tune in: KPBX 91.1FM
Log on: kpbx.org

Tune in: KSFC 91.9FM
Log on: ksfc.org

One World.
Two Connections.



Listening Suggestion:

THIS AMERICAN LIFE with Ira Glass
Mostly true stories, about everyday people.

Mondays on KPBX 91.1 at 9pm &
Saturdays on KSFC 91.9fm at 9pm

This American Life is a one hour
program with essays and stories
revolving around a common
theme. Visit the website at:
www.thislife.org.



Second Harvest donors rise to meet more than 20 percent increase in need

Anticipating that 2009 and 2010 will be challenging economic years for individuals and organizations, Jason Clark expects generous people will try to meet the more than 20-percent increase in food bank clients.

"The food bank system will be put to the test. We will do what we can to be sure it has the resources and infrastructure to meet the needs," he said from his more than six years experience as executive director of Second Harvest Inland Northwest.

Second Harvest's primary hunger-relief program in Spokane County is the Outlet System, a network of 20 food banks serving families in the county. They define service areas by zip codes and streets. Centralized generation of resources means they receive food from Second Harvest based on the number of clients served.

Washington Emergency Food Assistance Program, which welcomes such networking, distributes up to \$8 million per biennium across the state.

"We use the state grant to leverage other resources," Jason said.

Food banks, which vote on how to use the grant, have chosen for more than 20 years to have Second Harvest use the grant to provide food for each outlet.

Donations from corporations—such as the food industry giving unmarketable products—and from individuals, who drop food items in collection barrels, support events like Tom's Turkey Drive or give money, supplement the grant.

In 2009, Jason expects Second Harvest will distribute 4 million pounds of food to the outlets—that's 16 pounds of food for every \$1 of the state grant.

"We provide an efficient way to move food in the community," he said. "Next year we will work to provide more resources to meet the growing demand. We are bringing as many resources as possible into the community. It takes coordination and partner-



Jason Clark expects to weather the economic downturn.

ships to pool resources and share costs."

Second Harvest grew from roots as the Spokane Food Bank, which had a early distribution center on W. Maxwell. Now Second Harvest has a warehouse at 1234 E. Front.

"We are grateful to have the network in this time of increased need and shrinking resources," he said. "Working together, we can weather the storm, supplying more food to food banks."

Jason, who began food bank work as a volunteer out of college 15 years ago, said Second Harvest will learn more through its annual client survey in August.

Eleven of the 20 food banks are in churches or with programs sponsored or started by churches working together.

The largest provider, the Salvation Army, serves as a county-wide food bank. It and other food banks serve people who come and then refer them to the neighborhood food banks.

"We have the network so no one agency is overwhelmed and to assure that we serve the most people possible," Jason said.

"**The goal in 2010** is to generate at least 10 percent or 400,000 pounds more food. It may not meet the full need," he recog-

nized, "but it's a challenge in an environment of uncertainty about grants and corporate donations.

"Spokane is always a generous community. We will reach the goal, especially with the help of churches doing food drives and raising cash contributions."

One partner, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, has made possible the Mobile Food Bank program, now in its third year. They purchased a 26-foot refrigerated truck to transport perishable foods to neighborhoods for immediate distribution. The food is lowered on the liftgate and set on tables outdoors for distribution.

A church that requests the mobile food bank recruits 20 volunteers and pays \$500 to transport the food. If there's a food bank at the site, the church partners with it to hold a two-hour outdoor food distribution of about 10,000 pounds of produce and perishables donated by wholesalers, packing houses or farmers.

The Mobile Food Banks usually serve 200 to 300 families.

Second Harvest arranged 60 distributions this year—giving out 500,000 pounds of food.

Thrivent has mobilized Lutheran churches to sponsor outdoor food banks at their churches or in high-need areas.

"Local food banks generally do not have the ability to store perishable food," Jason said. "Right now, farmers have donated many apples because over-production led to a drop in prices."

Churches also have helped recruit many of the 2,200 volunteers who gave 50,000 hours in 2008. Volunteers make food collections and distribution possible. For example, volunteers have recently sorted donated apples, taking out damaged and bruised ones, and packing the good ones in boxes.

"The faith community is generous with its time, interest and involvement," Jason said.

Another new program is Kids' Café, part of a national program through Feeding America, which sponsors 2,000 sites across the United States. Second Harvest applied for a grant to start one through the Northeast Youth Center at Hillyard Baptist Church for students in K-8 after school every day until 6 p.m.

About 150 children came during the school year and 300 in the summer. The Northeast Youth Center collaborates with other nonprofits to provide child care, tutoring, sports and activities for low-income children in high-needs areas.

Second Harvest plans to launch two more Kids' Cafés in 2009—one in West Central Spokane and one in Cheney.

"**We are open to partnerships** with churches and other organizations to start more programs," he said.

The Kids' Café partners with the Washington State University Extension Service to provide education on nutrition both through the nutritional content of food provided and by teaching children

to make good food choices.

Second Harvest purchased a double-door refrigerator to store the food, prepared ahead and shipped to the site each week. While meals now are sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt, Jason hopes to provide hot meals.

Other Second Harvest programs include the following:

- Food Sense, started in 2004 with federal funds, is a collaboration between Second Harvest and Washington State University Extension in Spokane County. Through 17 partner agencies, it offers classes to teach low-income families and seniors how to eat healthy meals on a shoestring budget to make the most of emergency food supplies.

- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides additional nutrition to ensure the healthy growth and development of young children and to protect elderly people from the health risks associated with malnutrition. Second Harvest is the largest CSFP provider in the state with a caseload of 1,350.

- Plant A Row for the Hungry encourages people with gardens to dedicate a row of fruit or vegetables to help feed people in need. It works with local farmers' markets, farms and orchards to collect unsold, wholesome produce for local hunger-relief efforts. Gardeners donate their surplus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays at Second Harvest or other local hunger-relief organizations.

- The Food Bank University provides partner agencies with classes to help them modernize emergency and supplemental food distribution practices to serve their neighborhoods.

Second Harvest's service area spans more than 51,000 square miles in 26 counties.

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