

**CELEBRATING
OUR 30TH YEAR**

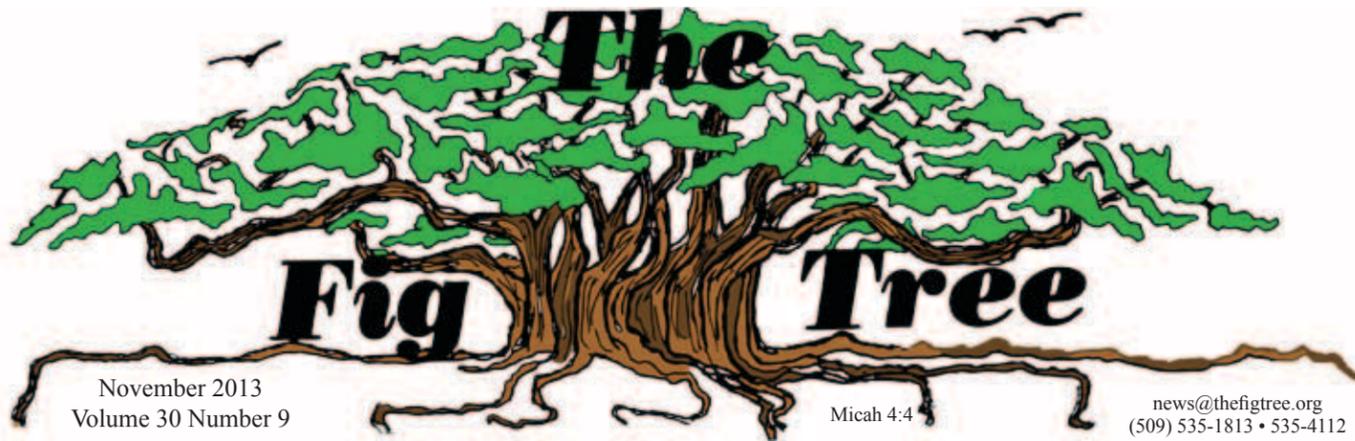
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**Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest
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Jubilee is about fair trade, living simply

By Mary Stamp

Over 25 years, the Jubilee International Marketplace at First Presbyterian Church in Spokane has grown to be much more than the Alternative Christmas Sale a team of volunteers started in 1988.

Volunteers are still at the heart of its success as it draws thousands of shoppers and more than 30 vendors.

The first year, they sold products from only Self Help Crafts, which is now Ten Thousand Villages.

Vendors fill the church's gym and fellowship hall with African baskets, Guatemalan scarves and weaving, Nepali sweaters, Chilean art and carvings, Hmong needlepoint, Kashmiri boxes, Thai artwork and much more.

The 2013 Jubilee sale is 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at the church, 318 S. Cedar.

For two of the founding volunteers, Mary and John Frankhauser, the Jubilee International Marketplace is part of their commitment to the biblical understanding of jubilee in their daily lives.

"It has grown to be the largest fair trade sale in the region," Mary said, "because we are blessed in Spokane to have several small busi-



A window in Mary and John Frankhauser's home depicts their commitment to peace.

ness owners whose lives revolve around fair trade.

"Scriptures command us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and call us to empower people to move out of poverty," she added.

"The biblical concept of jubilee is foundational for us. God's intention is that abundance is for everyone," John said. "Because imbalances are inevitable in an economy, Jubilee was a time to rebalance resources by forgiving debts and, every 49—seven times seven—years, to return the land to the original owners."

Seeking to live according to the Scriptures, which speak so often of economic and social justice, Mary said, they choose to live simply.

John said they grew into their commitment to live simply because each learned to live frugally from growing up on their families' small-grain and cattle farms—both about 470-acres—in North Dakota.

They met at Minot State College, where John studied voice, graduating in 1971. Mary, who studied education, completed her degree after they married and moved to Washington, D.C. From Minot, they moved to Chicago, where John spent a semester at Trinity

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Ganesh Himal and Kizuri organize Festival of Fair Trade, Nov. 29-Dec. 1

Spokane's 29th annual Festival of Fair Trade, planned from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday, Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, at 35 W. Main, will include showing the film, "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," at 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main.

After the film, Denise Attwood, co-owner of Ganesh Himal Trading, a local fair trade business, will discuss "Moving beyond Paralysis: Steps for Making Positive Change."

Local people who work with

producers in Nepal, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile will sell handcrafts, clothing, jewelry, pottery and sweatshop-free items in the festival.

Purchases of fairly traded products support artisan cooperatives, small farmers and sustainable economic development in some of the world's lowest income regions, said Denise.

Ganesh Himal Trading began importing fairly traded handcrafts from Nepal in 1984, and started the festival in 1985. They created a wholesale business in Spokane to market products they purchase

from Tibetan refugees, women's development projects and cottage industries. They now sell to more than 250 retail stores in North America.

"We started the festival to promote the idea of fair trade and give Spokane-area shoppers the choice to shop consciously," said Denise. "The festival has grown to include other local fair trade businesses that import products from other countries."

This year is the first anniversary of Ganesh Himal's Power of 5 Campaign, which raises money to help girls stay in school in Nepal, a country where a girl's education is often a low priority because of poverty and cultural expectations.

"Since last November, we raised more than \$18,000 to send 180 impoverished girls to school for 12 months," said Denise. "Fair trade stores across the U.S. have participated."

One scholarship recipient, Heema Maharjan, 16, said, "My goal is to become a doctor and help others, especially poor people. The scholarship has allowed

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Goodwill serves vets and opens As-Is Outlet

Beginning Nov. 1, Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest begins two efforts.

First, it will serve Spokane County's homeless veterans in a program to help Veterans find employment and a stable setting for themselves and their families.

Second, Goodwill will have the grand opening of its new As-Is Outlet Store, at 1406 E. Front St. The venture will help increase re-use, reduce waste in local landfills and increase funding for Goodwill's employment programs in Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Michele Harris, director of Workforce and Family Services for Goodwill, announced that the Veterans Administration Supportive Services for Families program has awarded Goodwill \$1.3 million as one of 319 community agencies to receive a portion of the \$300 million across the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"Homelessness is a major obstacle for veterans," she explained. "The grant will help us bridge that gap for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families."

Volunteers of America and Transitions will partner with Goodwill to provide housing and services to veterans.

The funds arrive as the coldest weather begins in the region. Spokane County Veteran Services reports that there were 1,400 unduplicated service requests by homeless veterans in Spokane County in the year 2012, she said.

Leaders and partners supporting Goodwill's request include Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Senator Patty Murray, the Spokane Housing Authority, Spokane Housing Ventures, Salvation Army and Family Promise.

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Around the World

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WCC leader visits with Pope Francis on peace

During a visit to Rome the World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary, the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, called churches to be peacemakers. He also met with Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church as part of an event sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

In October, at a 50th anniversary celebration of the encyclical letter *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth), issued by the late Pope John XXIII in 1963, Olav invited the Roman Catholic Church and the Pontifical Council to join in the "ecumenical pilgrimage for justice and peace." The encyclical was issued as a reaction to the political situation during the Cold War, urging that conflicts be resolved by negotiations, not arms.

Olav said the consequences of *Pacem in Terris* can be discerned when "His Holiness Pope Francis calls for a peaceful solution in Syria and condemns the proliferation of wars." Pope Francis' call corresponds with the outcome of a September WCC consultation on Syria, in Geneva.

"Churches worldwide have spoken out against the war in Syria [and] must continue to raise their voices in their congregations and with their governments. We must strengthen the public outcry so that those in power will protect the common interest of humanity," reads a joint communiqué from the WCC consultation.

Pope Francis shared reflections: "I wonder if we have learned the lessons of 'Pacem in Terris.' I ask myself whether the words 'justice' and 'solidarity' exist only in our dictionary, or if we indeed all work towards making them a reality.

"On political, economic and social matters there is no dogma to indicate practical solutions, but rather to favor dialogue, listening, patience, respect for others, sincerity and also willingness to revise one's opinion," added Pope Francis.

Olav also introduced the theme of the WCC 10th Assembly, "God of life, lead us to justice and peace," saying the concept of just peace "runs in the bloodstream of this assembly."

Given that the assembly is Oct. 30 to Nov. 8 in Busan, South Korea, he added, "the context of the divided Korean Peninsula compels us to intensify our commitment to the reconciliation of deep divisions, to a world free of nuclear weapons and to peace."

Olav shared a message from the WCC's 2011 International Ecumenical Peace Convocation, in Jamaica, saying, "Christians are to understand peace and peace-making as an indispensable part of the common faith. Peace constitutes a pattern of life that reflects human participation in God's love for the world."

Guatemala's indigenous peoples seek their rights

Human rights of indigenous peoples in Guatemala are under threat from a large-scale extraction of natural resources and ongoing encroachment on their lands. Their conflict with the state over these issues is impacting their security, said Pablo Ceto, an indigenous community leader and human rights activist from Ixil, Guatemala, at an October visit to WCC offices in Geneva.

Pablo, who is director of the Fundamaya, an organization working for the rights of indigenous peoples in Guatemala, met with the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA), which will highlight how Guatemalans are affected by transnational corporations and businesses at the Second United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights Dec. 2 to 4 in Geneva.

Despite strong opposition to land grabbing and exploitation of natural resources, state and the multinational corporations operating in mining and extraction violate the rights of indigenous peoples, he said.

The conflict between indigenous communities and the government continues the country's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996. It claimed more than 200,000 people, 80 percent of whom were indigenous civilians of Mayan descent. In the post-war period, the government has enacted policies to make the country more attractive to foreign investors, creating a proliferation of resource

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

NAACP banquet features Judge Joe Brown

Judge Joe Brown, the non-traditional judge of the reality courtroom show, "Judge Joe Brown," will speak on "Justice or Just Us: A Call to Action to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline," for the 2013 NAACP Spokane Branch Freedom Fund Banquet at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Red Lion at the Park.

There will be a panel discussion from 1 to 3 p.m., and a social hour at 6 p.m.

Judge Joe is committed to making a difference in people's lives. From 1990 to 2000, he was judge of the Shelby County Criminal Courts in Memphis, Tenn., where he introduced tough-love to the sentencing of first-time, non-violent offenders.

As a boy living in a tough, inner-city neighborhood of Los Angeles, he saw his parents make a difference for others. His family moved to Crenshaw, where he graduated top of his high school class and then majored in political science at the University of California in Los Angeles, paying tuition by loading trucks and digging ditches. He earned a law degree at UCLA in 1973 and moved to Tennessee to work with Legal Services, then the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In five years, he was Memphis' first African-American prosecutor, then director in the public defenders office. After 12 years in private practice, he became a judge.

Now he spends weekends in

tough areas of Memphis, following up on cases to help youth stay out of trouble.

His alternative sentencing drew national attention. Impressed with his charisma and courtroom style, Big Ticket Television president Lawrence Lyttle invited him to do the show. Judge Joe sees TV as a way to spread word for people to make a difference.

He believes people should be "kind, caring and humane," and when they are not, his job is to turn them around.

Proceeds benefit the Michael P. Anderson and NAACP Scholarship Fund.

For information, call 325-3772 or visit naacp.ticketbud.com/freedom-fund.

Outreach center luncheon features marine

The Annual Benefit Luncheon for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center's featured speaker is Major General Clifford Stanley, retired U.S. Marine Corps.

The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, at

the Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr.

Clifford has a bachelor's degree in psychology from South Carolina State University, a master's in counseling from Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate in education from the University of

Pennsylvania.

His 33 years in uniform as an infantry officer included serving under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, appointed by President Barack Obama. He retired in 2011.

For information, call 455-8722.

Salem Lutheran celebrates its 125th

Salem Lutheran Church will celebrate what God has done on the corner of Broadway and Walnut for 125 years and look to the future at events the weekend of Nov. 1 to 3.

At 6 p.m., Friday, there will be a Soup-Off with people bringing crock pots of soup to be tasted and judged. There will also be a

dessert contest and games.

At 9 a.m., Saturday, there will be an opportunity to learn to cook some traditional foods from Salem's heritage, including Lefse and Kringla.

At 1 p.m., there will be a mission fair with information booths about ministries of Salem and West Central neighbors, as an

opportunity to find new ways to connect. There will be a 2 p.m. Celebration Meal and dancing.

The 10:15 a.m. All Saints Sunday worship will be a time of praise for ministries of the past and future.

For information, call 328-6280 or visit salemcongregation@gmail.com.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is Nov. 28

"Generations of Gratitude" is the theme for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 10 a.m., Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28, at Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard St.

Meredith Hartley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Shawn Biggs of Meals on Wheels and the featured speakers.

People from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, New Thought, Native American and other faith traditions will reflect on the theme as they share stories, songs, prayers and chants.

"With all the divisions in the world, it's important that we understand we are to love our neighbors," said the Rev. Joe Niemiec, pastor of the Center for Spiritual Living and member of the Spokane InterFaith Council, which is sponsoring the event.

A freewill offering will be shared by Mid-City Concerns/Meals on Wheels and the Spokane InterFaith and Council.

For information, call 534-1011.

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INTERFAITH

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

10 A.M. THURSDAY, NOV. 28

UNITY SPIRITUAL CENTER

2900 S. BERNARD ST.

Generations of Gratitude

Speakers: Meredith Hartley

of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Shawn Biggs - Meals on Wheels

Celebration in stories, song and chant
 from different religious traditions.

A freewill offering will be shared by the sponsors:
 the Interfaith Council and Meals on Wheels Spokane

For information, call 534-1011

Death penalty abolition advocate shares her story to inspire action

Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, was recently in Spokane, telling of her ministry with six death-row inmates and advocating ending the death penalty.



Sr. Helen Prejean

The event included the one-act play, "Dead Man Walking," performed by students from Gonzaga, Whitworth, Washington State Universities and Rogers High School.

For 20 years, Sr. Helen has offered the opportunity as part of her journey to educate people on the death penalty.

"I befriend people who are sent to death and hold them in unconditional love," she said.

"Society justifies killing those who have killed as retribution for families of victims, but Jesus' message is that love is stronger than hate, and compassion is

stronger than retribution," Sr. Helen said.

"It is a broken, flawed system, that claims the government and courts are God's agents, yet pros-

ecutors are more likely to seek the death penalty in election years," she has observed.

Sr. Helen told of her experience with Matthew Ponselet, portrayed in the play. He was the first person she accompanied. She had never been involved in anything like it. She was terrified.

"I went into the restroom in the death house to pray," she said. "I knew if he fell apart, I'd fall apart, too, as I walked with him to his death."

She said two she accompanied to their deaths were innocent.

Sr. Helen said that over time, Pope John Paul and Catholic teachings proclaimed opposition to the death penalty. Even the catechism has changed.

"It's ethical to be outraged over killing innocent people," she said.

"Those I accompanied to their deaths were not heroes, but they were human beings."

She has been involved with guards and executioners, too.

Hollywood at first turned down the screenplay for "Dead Man Walking," because there was a nun in it, she said. Susan Sarandon won an Oscar for playing her.

"We each must do our bit to transform people," said Sr. Helen.

"Some do not even know that we still have the death penalty," she said. "We have a job to do, because we are a democracy. If we are not working to change the law, we are complicit. I invite people to deeper reflection and to work with people to end the death penalty and make Washington a "life" state."

For those concerned about

safety, she said people who kill can be sentenced to life without parole.

Local groups working to end the death penalty, including Safe and Just Alternatives/Washington, Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the Fellowship of Peace, organized the event.

For information, call 230-3017.

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Goodwill seeks to reduce waste

Continued from page 1

Heather Alexander, development director at Goodwill, said the As-Is Outlet Store will help deal with waste.

"Each year Americans throw away 250 million tons of waste, including 13 million tons of clothing, shoes and textiles—70 pounds per person," she said. "Goodwill wants to keep 85 percent of those out of landfills, as well as household items, furniture, electronics, craft supplies, sporting equipment and other items."

Goodwill also expects the outlet to help fund its employment programs in the region.

In 2012, Goodwill received 20 million pounds of donations, of which it salvaged or sold 14 million pounds at its 11 area stores, and through shopgoodwill.com and ebay site. Proceeds also support its social services to help men and women regain their independence through work. About 5 million pounds went to the landfill.

Goodwill bought and remodeled a 64,000-square-foot former warehouse for the As-Is Outlet Store and salvage operations.

Items not sold in Goodwill stores or online will go to the Outlet Store, where they will be displayed on rolling tables and sold in bulk. Items not sold there will be sold to salvage vendors.

Clark Brekke, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest, said the initial goal is to reduce refuse to less than 10 percent of donations, compared with 27 percent now.

The ultimate goal is to move to a zero-waste process, eliminating the volume and toxicity of waste and materials by recovering resources, not burning or burying them," he said.

Of every dollar from sales, 85 cents fund Goodwill's job training, employment placement and other programs for people who face employment challenges.

For information, call 444-4383.

Whitworth University International Club

Third Annual International Festival 2013

Friday, Nov. 22

5:15 p.m. - Dinner
 6:30 p.m. - Entertainment

Hixson Union Building
 Call **777-3796**

Celebrating our area's cultural diversity

Nov. 9 to 10

Saturday - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
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The Fall Folk Festival is sponsored by the Spokane Folklore Society a non-profit organization serving Spokane since 1977.
 For information call (509) 747-2640 or visit www.spokanefolklore.org

Bazaars

Bake, Craft and Book Sales, Fair Trade Sale, Auctions & Meals

The Fig Tree will run another event section in the Dec. issue
 Cost: \$14/col. inch

Dinner & Silent Auction
 Central United Methodist Church
 580 W. Third - Spokane
5-7:30 pm, Saturday, Nov. 2
 \$8 adults, \$5 children • 838-1431

SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR

Proceeds benefit local charities

SATURDAY, Nov. 9

Kaffe Stua 9 - 11 am
 Bazaar 10 am - 1 pm

Central Lutheran Church
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Sat. Nov. 9 - 9 am-3 pm
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Davenport United Methodist Church

BAZAAR
 11 am - 2 pm

Friday, Nov 15
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Homemade soups, biscuits & pie
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Supporting Local Charities

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 Fun!

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9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Save the Date

For information, contact
 Malcolm Haworth - The Fig Tree - (509) 535-1813
 The Rev. Paul Benz - Faith Action Network (206) 625-9790

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 Or email info@thefigtree.org to RSVP

JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

Celebrating 25 years of supporting fair trade

Join the celebration of **Fairly Traded Handcrafts** from around the world

Friday, November 8 10am - 7pm
& **Saturday, November 9** 9am - 4pm

First Presbyterian Church | 318 S. Cedar
 (located at the Maple St. exit from 1-90, downtown Spokane)

For more information, visit the Jubilee page at www.spokaneipc.org

St. John's Cathedral Home-Spun HOLIDAY BAZAAR

at 12th & Grand

9:30 am - 3 pm
Saturday, Nov. 9

Lunch Available
 11:30 am to 1 pm

Raffles
Food & Crafts

Relationships and justice motivate fair trade marketplace vendors

Continued from page 1
Seminary and decided ministry was not for him.

When they moved to D.C., John sang for four years with the Air Force Singing Sergeants.

He completed a master's degree in voice in 1975 at Catholic University in D.C. She earned a degree in education in 1974 at the University of Maryland and started teaching.

Reformed theology fit their thinking, so they joined Knox Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, when they moved there in 1976.

John sang with the Minneapolis Opera Company and was a soloist at a large Lutheran church. Mary taught part time while their daughters, Kresha and Katie, were babies.

A group in Knox heightened their call to "radical discipleship," to apply their faith to every part of their lives.

They and two other couples decided to move to the Inland Northwest and form an intentional Christian community.

While they moved to the region and have remained friends, the community took a different direction.

The Frankhausers came to Spokane in 1981 with no jobs and settled in a home on Paradise Prairie south of Spokane, in open countryside with a fresh breeze that reminds them of North Dakota.

About 17 years ago, John built their energy-efficient home next door to their first home. In 2010, he installed solar panels that generate most of the electricity for their home.

In 1984, Mary began a 26-year career of teaching special education at Holmes, Finch and Jefferson schools. She retired in June 2012.

Their first Sunday at First Presbyterian, John mentioned to a greater that he was a professional singer. A position happened to be open for a soloist/bass section

leader. He continues in that role, and as a soloist with the Spokane Symphony and other area organizations.

"Living simply, we stretched our income a long way," said Mary.

"We also choose to be frugal because of the world's needs," John said.

Their desire to use fewer resources so the planet will last longer is an outgrowth of their spirituality.

When their girls were growing, they talked with them about their decision to live simply, so they would be conscientious in their lifestyles, too. They buy used clothing as a way to use fewer resources. They seek to make purchases that help rather than hurt.

"We appreciate the Presbyterian Church because diverse views and understanding of Scriptures are okay and we can talk about our differences," said Mary.

At the 1,200-member First Presbyterian Church, they have been involved with a sister church in Salvador, Brazil.

John has visited that church twice, once in 1992 with a team that included their daughter Kresha, and in 2001 with Mary, Kresha and Katie.

"When I see people impoverished, I want to know what we can do to make the world a better place," Mary said.

In Brazil, they learned how Christians in other parts of the world experience God in their settings as they face the challenges of loving their brothers and sisters, and living their faith in their cultures.

John and Mary also took Kresha and Katie with a church team in 1994 to Mexico to help work on a church building.

The Alternative Christmas Sale that became Jubilee fit their interest in people around the world.

As concepts of fair trade de-

veloped, Jubilee has become intentional about selecting vendors.

"So we're not just a craft sale, we want the vendors' purpose to be economic justice and follow the criteria used to determine if a venture is fair trade," she said.

"We want to see the relationship that goes with fair trade," she said.

The vendor's goals are to sell fairly traded products from artisans in developing countries, to share artisans' stories and to offer fair trade education.

Some local charitable organizations also sell locally produced products.

There are also opportunities for "alternative giving," such as giving a gift to a ministry in honor of someone.

Church volunteers run a booth for Ten Thousand Villages crafts.

Jubilee has central cashiering, which John coordinates. He has developed a computer program, tweaking it each year.

Central cashiering means vendors can spend more time with shoppers to tell stories of people who make the items they offer.

Last year, Jubilee purchases were the most ever, \$72,000.

That covers costs for First Presbyterian Church hosting, promotion and startup expenses for the next year. The rest goes to the vendors for their labor and business development, and then to the producers.

Some of the fair trade businesses are for-profit, but they balance what they need and what their producers need so everyone benefits, Mary said.

"Jubilee gives us the opportunity to continue conversations about social and economic justice in the world," she said. "It's a hard topic for any American, even within a church."

John said the Jubilee International Marketplace is a concrete demonstration of an alternative to putting profit first.

It puts people and relationships

first, de-emphasizing making money off transactions, he explained.

"Vendors' relationships with crafts persons are the priority. They work with people they know, people whose lives they want to make better," said Mary. "If producers have a living wage, it results in education, health care and meeting basic needs of their families."

Each year at orientations for Jubilee volunteers, Mary educates them on key elements of fair trade to promote conversation about fair trade all year and encourage reflection about how they live every day.

"We need to each be aware of how our decisions every day affect other people," she said. "When we as Christians realize God loves every person on earth with the same love, it compels us to move to principles fair trade represents, to care about others as much as ourselves."

John and Mary are pleased with the volunteers who make the Jubilee International Marketplace

possible. They hope more will come alongside them to learn the systems.

"People are eager to volunteer to help a cause that does good," said John. "It has broadened my appreciation for people who want to be engaged."

"It gives the church family an opportunity to do something meaningful together," said Mary.

Along with Jubilee and mission trips in the 1990s, John was part of the group that established Habitat for Humanity-Spokane in 1987 and another group that started Westminster House in 1992.

In the spring, the Frankhausers visited their daughter Katie and her husband in Spain, where they have an import/export business.

Then they traveled for three weeks in Europe, staying with Mennonite families, because "we want to feel connected with people around the world and see how Christians are working for God's kingdom in different settings," said Mary.

For information, call 448-0805 or email john@frankhauser.com.

Fair trade vendors care about the lives of producers



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Power of 5 continues raising funds to educate Nepali girls

Continued from page 1
me to continue my studies in science and English. Without it, my parents, who are poor, would not be able to afford my education."

The Power of 5 continues to raise money to help girls stay in school. Denise was inspired to start the project after watching the documentary, "Half the Sky."

Overwhelmed by difficulties women and girls face, she and others at Ganesh Himal committed to raising money and awareness for poor Nepali girls, who want to be educated and move

beyond desperation.

"People coming to the festival want to create a better world," said Denise. "We want to give girls access to learning to help them understand that they can have power to make change. Fair trade and educating girls go hand in hand. Our customers want to help make it happen.

"The Power of 5 works like a ripple, reaching an expanding body of people through a small amount of money and effort," she said. "Five friends finding five friends generates enough money to send two girls to school through the Association of Craft Producers in Kathmandu, Nepal."

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My Father's House of Prayer project will renovate a Victorian home

My Father's House of Prayer takes root in a Victorian house built in 1889 in Ross Park that organizers hope to relocate in early November to 3111 E. Marshall. Organizers and builders anticipate spiritual transformation in the community and world as people come there to pray.

"American churches have more people with gray and white hair. Many are losing youth—especially in the area from California to British Columbia and west of the Rockies, which is one of the least churching areas," said the Rev. Daniel Grether, the founder and executive director of Free Indeed Ministries International.

He is working with Scott McConnell and the Rev. Jim Leuschen of New Covenant Fellowship. Having a House of Prayer in Spokane has long been Jim's vision. Scott, a home renovation contractor and member of that church, shares that vision.

Recently, young people with sledgehammers broke porches from the house at its original site at 1603 E. North Crescent on Avista property. Avista sold the house to the group for \$1 with the understanding it would be moved.

The house sits on steel beams and 48 wheels across the street, waiting for improvements to the Greene Street Bridge, which had an 80,000-pound capacity, so it can accommodate the 155,000-pound house and moving gear. A Tacoma firm is repairing the bridge by covering it with a material to make it impervious to water, said Daniel.

The house will be moved about two miles up the Spokane River across the bridge and onto the site across from Spokane Community College.

The vision for the project has grown for 20 years at New Covenant Fellowship.

Jim, a graduate of Whitworth University, started the church 35 years ago from a Bible study group. They first met at the Red Cross, then in other churches, at the Healing Rooms Center and now at Immanuel Baptist Church. About 100 are involved.

The House of Prayer will draw people from the "whole Body of Christ—people of all ages, genders, skin colors and nations," Daniel said. "We have allowed divisions of the past to divide us. Soon we will have people from different languages and cultures praying shoulder to shoulder."

"Moving the house is small," said Daniel, who wants the house of prayer to "open our eyes and connect us over bridges to create good relationships among Christians and bring the church together."



Scott McConnell and Daniel Grether inside the house.

Worldwide, Houses of Prayer bring individuals and worship teams together to pray 24/7 and worship in their different ways.

During the 13 years Daniel was pastor at the Community Presbyterian Church in Wilbur, he started praying an hour a day. Then a Presbyterian minister who promotes prayer for revival came to town and started men's and women's groups who met to pray two hours a day.

Jim joined that minister in Spokane in the 1980s to plant an earlier House of Prayer.

Scott, who grew up in Spokane and has attended New Covenant for 30 years, has remodeled old homes for 35 years. His commitment started when he went to a House of Prayer in Kansas City three times for two-week stays.

"A House of Prayer can have impact on individuals, communities and the world," said Scott, project manager. "As I spend time in a prayer room, I experience the Lord working in my heart."

He has seen that young people at a House of Prayer "gain a fire for the Lord, because they come to know that people of all churches and nations can join in unified celebration and prayer." He believes God will revive the participation of youth as the Body of Christ unifies.

Daniel, who grew up in California, came to Whitworth, gradu-

ated in 1966, was a salesman and then a social worker for 12 years before going back to California to Fuller Seminary, graduating in 1981. After serving in Wilbur, he came to Spokane in 1995 to start prayer ministries, eventually starting Free Indeed Ministries, a nonprofit that seeks to "transform communities, starting in Spokane and going to all the nations."

He prays for God to awaken people so they connect to God in tangible, dramatic ways.

"God does more than we can do." He's pleased people are connecting in physical acts of moving and remodeling the house.

Scott, who came to Spokane in 1962, attended Northwest Nazarene College. He earned an associate degree in graphic design in 1991 at Spokane Falls Community College. He completed an associate degree at Spokane Community College in 2001. He also has experience working in a home restoration with his father.

Scott is impressed that people have given financially and provided physical labor. Much of the work on the house will be done by volunteer builders, painters, carpenters, electricians, heat system installers, plumbers and others who donate their time. He expects in-kind donations for materials.

The house will be restored to its original state on top of a high-ceilinged full basement, where



The house is on wheels awaiting move to new location.

music groups will lead worship.

Organizers received a \$30,000 matching grant to help cover the \$50,000 relocation and other costs.

For information, call 951-1308 for Daniel or 218-3996 for Scott, visit myfathershousespokane.org, or email dgrether@gmail.com or lscottmcconnell@hotmail.com.

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Two collaborate in book to educate children on respect and kindness

By Kaye Hult

For its human rights celebration program in elementary schools in January, the Human Rights Education Institute (HREI) in Coeur d'Alene will use *Peace Polly from Pluto*, a book published this summer, written by Devi Fournier and illustrated by Ryan Hamm, both of Coeur d'Alene.

Devi, who is involved with the HREI and a member of the Anti-Bullying Task Force for the Coeur d'Alene School District, has also been making presentations about *Peace Polly* at several local elementary schools as a vehicle for talking about the need for acceptance of differences and kindness.

Peace Polly tells how Penelope befriended a girl, Polly, from another planet. Polly was unique in many ways. She was pink, with cotton-candy-like hair and four arms. Most important was that her teeth were mirrors, so people could see their own reflections, motivating them not to say or do unkind things.

Bullies, Devi believes, are unhappy people who, out of their pain, want to hurt others.

To make the point about the importance of human connections and the need for young people to identify with each other, she said, "There is nothing we can do in this world without each other. Who builds the roads? Who cuts the lumber? Who creates electricity? Who grows our food?"

"We all want to be happy. No one wants to suffer. As humans, we all deserve to be treated with kindness," said Devi.

She believes that children, because they are so impressionable, need to receive the message over and over that kindness to fellow humans is crucial.

Not only does the book uplift young people by encouraging them to treat each other with kindness and respect, but also it uplifted one young person, Ryan, who illustrated the book when she was in the eighth grade.

"I enjoy trying to help people," Ryan said. "I was in school, so I had to squeeze in time to work on the book and still keep my grades up."

Devi believes Ryan's illustrating *Peace Polly* shows other young people what they can accomplish if they work hard with their gifts and passions.

Devi first developed the story when her daughter was five and asked her what people are like on Pluto. Often making up stories on the spot, she answered, "They probably have feelings, like to be happy and don't like to feel sad."

She wrote the story and had it professionally edited several years ago, but then put it aside.



Devi Fournier and Ryan Hamm show off the book Devi wrote and Ryan illustrated.

Aware of how big the issue of bullying has become, Devi brought the story out again, re-wrote parts of it and set out to publish it.

Devi's life-long interest is to encourage people, especially the young, to see the good in others.

When Devi was a high school sophomore in Twin Falls, Idaho, senior girls circulated a list of the 10 most hated girls in the sophomore class. She topped the list. They taunted her for months.

"I couldn't figure it out. I didn't know these girls. I'd done nothing to them," she said.

Eventually, she stood up to the girls and the taunting ceased.

"That was a life changer," she reflected. "It was meant for them to hurt someone they didn't even know. It made me stronger."

In her junior year, her family moved to Utah, where her father worked for the Forest Service.

Devi became aware of her love of the English language as a means to express herself. At Utah State University, she wrote for the community newspaper.

"While I was learning to be a reporter in college, I always would seek out the positive in the story. I wanted to make people aware and think about things," said Devi, who graduated in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

She went to work for Fox News in Salt Lake City for five years, but became uncomfortable telling negative, hopeless stories.

One experience changed her path. While covering a drive-by shooting in downtown Salt Lake City, she saw a group of teens milling around and went to talk with them. One red-headed, freckled, blue-eyed youth bragged that he was expelled from school because he had set his desk on fire.

Devi came to believe that chil-

dren learn many negative things from the media because of the glorification and attention people who make poor choices often receive.

She wanted to help change the direction of these young people and wanted the youth to be a part of it. She believed teens would listen more closely to things presented by their peers.

She left Fox to work three years for a publishing company in Salt Lake City. While there, she created a publication for teens, *eXceed Magazine*, geared toward "Generation X."

The art director, Eric Richards, did all the magazine's graphic work. Half of *eXceed's* content was produced by teens. She sought to help them foster their talent and passions.

Devi and her husband moved to Coeur d'Alene. They had two children. She wrote a novel, *The Gift Exchange*. She became involved in the community, serving on the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theater board and working for human rights through the Human Rights Education Institute.

Devi had known Ryan, now a freshman at Lake City High, since she had moved to Coeur d'Alene from the Los Angeles area when she was four. She and Ryan's mother Natalie were friends.

Natalie said when Ryan was two, she would ask her to color with her. Natalie would hand her a crayon and tell her it was orange. Ryan would reply, "No. It's not orange. It's light peach."

Natalie decided to put Ryan in some fun art classes when she was about four. In Coeur d'Alene, there were no art classes, but Ryan continued to doodle.

When she was seven, she enrolled in classes taught by a mother and daughter, who have

taught her since then. She entered several art competitions through them and has been first in her age group many times. Two years ago, she won first in the state.

Ryan has a passion for art and hopes art will be part "of what I do for a living." She's building a portfolio to present when she applies to art institutes.

Trained in the realist field of art—still life and landscapes—she notices details about nature and people.

She finds doodling in class helps her concentrate.

Like Devi, Ryan wants to help people become more kind.

"High school can be tough. Lake City High is full of great people. If you look past flaws and find ways to bring out the good in a person, there's less drama and sadness, less fear of judgment," she said.

"Maybe if I try to look past all

the negativity, others will begin to do the same. Everyone is much nicer than we may think," she added.

Ryan was in third grade when Devi first shared *Peace Polly* with her. She responded by drawing a picture of Polly standing on a world holding hands with people all around the globe. She gave it to Devi as a gift.

About three years ago, Devi created gift cards on domestic violence for the Women's Center in Coeur d'Alene. She had Ryan illustrate them.

With Devi's passion to help foster talents and passions of young people, she said, "it was natural to have Ryan work on *Peace Polly* with me."

Three adult illustrators had expressed interest in working on the book. However, Devi had worked with Ryan before, "and I liked the idea of championing her work. I knew she could do it. I liked having a local illustrator."

Devi said that when they began working on the book, they sat down and storyboarded it for several hours.

"She's so visionary. So much of the book is Ryan's vision. I gave her a great deal of freedom, but wanted certain words and phrases, such as 'love' and 'kindness matters,' to be incorporated in a few of the illustrations," said Devi.

It took about 10 months for the book to come together. The art was done on art paper until Eric, who had helped Devi with graphics for *eXceed Magazine*, took over and computerized it.

She self-published the book with Crown Media in Liberty Lake.

For information, call 208-755-7855 or email devifournier@gmail.com.

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Loving people is highlight of the Singletons' 20 years at St. Matthew's

Loving people has been the focus of the Rev. Eugene Singleton's ministry in Spokane since his ordination in 1988 at New Hope Baptist Church, where he served several years.

In September, he retired as pastor of St. Matthew's Institutional Baptist Church, after completing 20 years there. This December, he and his wife, Tina, will celebrate 51 years of marriage.

Recently Eugene and Tina reflected on their lives, offering insights into their backgrounds and Spokane's history over the years.

Tina said her family moved to Spokane from Arkansas in 1949, when she was nine years old. Her uncle was the first in the area to come to work with Work Projects Administration (WPA) projects that employed millions of unemployed people to do public works projects like Coulee Dam and Hanford. Once he was established, he brought more family.

"We were third in the wave of the family to come," said Tina of her parents, Charles and Gladys McNeary.

Tina attended Lincoln Grade School in a neighborhood with Asian-American families and five other African-American children.

In her experiences at school and at work, she felt accepted. She recalled only one experience of being "ignored," waiting a long time to be served at a hot dog stand downtown.

Eugene grew up with his mother in a small farm town in Alabama and lived in Mobile and Mississippi. He drove a school bus in order to earn money for tuition to attend a private high school in Chocktaw and Millers Ferry, Ala. His mother, who earned \$12 a week, could not afford to pay for the tuition, but "was able to provide the necessities," he said.

After graduating from high school in 1959, he joined the Army and then the Air Force, coming to Fairchild in 1961, and serving tours to Vietnam in 1966 and 1967.

Tina's uncle worked evenings as a janitor at Fairchild's hospital. Her cousin, who often helped him, met Eugene, a medic, and thought Tina should meet him. Tina, who had been married before and had two sons, worked days with her aunt at the Sacred Heart kitchen.

"So I went out one evening to help clean," Tina said. "In those days, you did not just meet and date. He first had to come to my house to meet my parents. We met in June 1962 and married in December 1962."

Eugene had no thought of going into ministry then. In fact, he wasn't even attending church, but Tina sang in the choir at New



Tina and Eugene Singleton at their home on E. 21st Ave. look forward to retirement.

Hope Baptist Church.

Soon after they married, Eugene brought his mother to live with them.

"She was a diehard churchgoer, so every Sunday, she made sure I got up and went to church," said Eugene.

After leaving the military in 1969, he worked 18 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture until the Spokane office closed.

Tina left her work at Sacred Heart after they married. She cleaned homes and cared for children of some affluent women, then worked at Bernard's Women's Apparel from 1968 to 1973.

Then she worked as a lab technician at Hollister-Stier Laboratories, which supplies allergy products. She stayed with Hollister Stier as it was bought out by three companies, but continued in business. In 1999, she retired.

Now she's a full-time grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother.

As Eugene began experiencing problems with his eyesight, hearing, kidneys, heart and diabetes, he went on disability because the problems were related to his exposure to Agent Orange, he said.

"The disabilities made me closer to the Lord," Eugene said of his move to study for the ministry.

In 1983, he began training to be a deacon with the Rev. Jim Sims Sr. and the Rev. J.W. Echols Jr.

After two years of study with them, he became a deacon. He was licensed as a minister in 1987, the same year he graduated from Eastern Washington University. He was ordained in 1988.

Although Tina had thought pas-

tors' wives should act a certain way, she didn't feel different when she became a minister's wife.

"I felt uncomfortable that the pastor's wife is called the First Lady, but I don't think I changed. I was who I was," she said.

For many years, she was active in church mission work, making bandages or gathering school supplies to send overseas.

In 1993, Eugene began in ministry at St. Matthew's, when it was at the corner of S. Arthur and E. Hartson in a deteriorating 1918 former Presbyterian church.

In 2006, Pastor Dale Jenkins of the former Sunset Heights Baptist Church offered Eugene his church. St. Matthew's moved to 2815 W. Sunset Blvd., in West Spokane, its present location.

"I said, 'Our income is skimpy. It's hard for us to pay our utilities.'"

"He said he wasn't asking us

for money. He wanted to give us the church," said Eugene, overwhelmed at the offer.

They met at the church, and Eugene saw it was in good condition. "We just had to move our congregation in," he said.

They didn't even have to pay to transfer the title. The only stipulation was if the church decided to dissolve or sell, it would give Pastor Jenkins first option to buy it.

Eugene found the location is not conducive to church growth.

"Many people come in and out of the church. It's a transient neighborhood. Participation rises and falls. About 20 to 30 are in the congregation. Many are still

the old members," he said.

When Whitworth University offered classes to African-American pastors in Spokane, he participated. At Whitworth, he met the Rev. James Singleton, a former pastor at Whitworth Presbyterian Church. Eugene's father's name was James, so they talked of being brothers. That was the first white church where Eugene preached.

Over the years, he did pulpit exchanges with many other churches to build relationships among the clergy and congregations across racial differences.

As Eugene retires, the church has found a new pastor. The Rev. André Dove has moved to the area from Indiana.

"Spokane has been a beautiful place to raise a family," Eugene and Tina agreed.

In the 1960s, it was safe for them to walk, even at night, to Natatorium Park, an amusement park that operated along the Spokane River in West Central Spokane for 78 years until 1967. Now it would not be safe, he said.

In retirement, Eugene and Tina will visit different churches and use their free time to visit nearby lakes in their RV so he can fish.

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Young adults discuss impact of parents and social media on their faith

The InterFaith Council of Spokane recently gathered six young adults to share their faith experiences in a panel discussion at Gonzaga University.

Facilitators were Emily Geddes, a blogger with the Spokane FAV's religion news website and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Joy Milos of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

The panelists were:

Mariah McKay, who grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, is a campaign organizer for social, racial and environmental justice.

Paige Holy from Calgary is a law student at Gonzaga and lifelong Catholic.

Sam Cutler is a GU computer and engineering student with a Jewish background.

Conner House, in international studies and political science, started Young Life on Gonzaga University's campus and attends New Community Church.

Layne Pavey, who is at Eastern Washington University studying social work and community mental health, attends Unity Spiritual Center.

Jenna Hatem, a senior, studying biology and fisheries at Eastern Washington University, is Muslim.

Joy asked: How does your parents' spiritual journey differ from yours?

Paige's mother, a Lutheran, converted to Catholicism, when she married Paige's father, who was Catholic. Her mother attends Mass every day. They pray at home. Her father would challenge her, saying that the Catholic Church teaches X, but he believed Y.

"We had to wrestle with our faith. That helped me make the Catholic faith my own. My brother, 22, is studying to be a priest," said Paige. "My parents are in a Catholic bubble. I'm not. In law school, most are not Catholic or of any belief. I'm in the world."

Conner's maternal grandfather was Presbyterian and went to church every Sunday. His parents let him know that Jesus loves him but, while their faith is important, they like to sleep in on weekends.

He appreciates that Gonzaga's Jesuit heritage invites him into a relationship with God and Jesus.

"I don't have it all together, but



Sam Cutler, Conner House, Layne Pavey, Jenna Hatem and Emily Geddes

my purpose is to love people," he said. "I try to go to church every Sunday and I'm in church groups. I'm in the world and out."

Mariah's great-grandfather was Irish-Scottish Catholic and logger. Disgusted by corruption and hypocrisy he found in the Catholic Church, he became a secular humanist. He went on to become an organizer with the Industrial Workers of the World. Her grandfather and father were also atheist-leaning, she said.

When her parents met, her mother was in the Unitarian Universalist Church, but had grown up Presbyterian in a tiny town in Northeast Montana.

"Because she learned shame and guilt, it took years of therapy for her to sort out her faith and gain self-esteem," said Mariah. "I benefited from her experience."

While she has many friends who were born into a faith and have rejected it, she remains involved in her church because it encourages her to question. She believes in community and the dignity of all human beings. As a community organizer, she promotes the democratic process.

Layne's parents were not in organized religion because of a "bitter taste" from their experiences. Her mother believed Jesus would let anyone in heaven. Her father focused on intellectual pursuits and "the church of baseball."

"Then suffering hit us and led us to wonder about the 'God thing'," she said. "My family came full circle back to values we find in Unity Church. We are in agreement in our spiritual quest."

Layne started going to church as an intellectual, religious and political journey, but then connected with "the divine." She sees similarities in religions reinforcing God's loves and forgiveness.

"Unity values all faiths for giv-

ing hope, love and joy. I walked into Unity and stayed," she said.

Sam, whose parents converted him to Judaism when he was five and attends Temple Beth Shalom, said his mother, who is Catholic, connects faith to life. His father's side is Jewish. They went through the motions of Jewish celebrations to keep tradition alive.

"When I was younger, I was more atheist," he said. "From classes, I realize there are ways to apply religion in my life. Jesuits educate the whole person. Classes on Christian Scripture push me to understand my background and develop my own spirituality."

Jenna is a second generation American. Her Lebanese parents divorced when she was young. Jenna grew up in North Spokane with her mother. Most of her friends were Christian.

"We were a religious household," she said. "My mother taught me morals.

"I wear a head scarf, but am still struggling with my religious obligations," said Jenna, who meets people of other faiths in Eastern Washington University's Compassionate Interfaith Society. "I see many people of different backgrounds and faiths, conservative to liberal. I'm more tolerant and humanitarian.

"My mother believes Muslims are closer to God and have the book that teaches the truth," she said. "I believe other religions are as valid as mine."

Emily asked how social media and the environment of connection and communication develop the panelists' beliefs.

Jenna: Technology makes my faith better, opening me to possibilities I feared before.

Layne: I often send memes on Facebook with an inspirational

Mariah: In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, what I do matters, not just what I believe. For me, it's about making change.

Digital media are a way to make people aware. For three years, I wrote a civics and culture blog, The Spovangelist, to help people understand the power of our community. I try to help people to see the world through others' eyes. It's a forum for thoughtful discussion with diverse perspectives.

As an organizer, I'm on the internet every day and use social media to network for my cause."

Paige: Technology is power-
Continued on page 9

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Panelists respect diverse people and see need to work for just society

Continued from page 8
ful. We can cause good and bad. I try to present comments in a respectful way. I encourage open discussion. Technology is a double-edged sword.

Sam: Internet is a huge part of my life. It's hard to separate my spiritual activity from technology.

When I see power in someone else's words, I share quotes. It's great to have technology so we can have access to a broad spectrum of information.

Mariah: My denomination has a free app called, "Illuminations," a place to go for inspirational words and an assortment of animated flaming chalices around which to center reflection.

Joy asked how the panelists see differences work together to make a better world. How does interacting with people of different religions affect the world?

Conner: Even though Gonzaga is Catholic, I learn about other religions, too. In a class on comparative politics of the Middle East, I learn about Islam. In an East Asia class, I learn about Taoism and Buddhism. In an interreligious dialogue class, I learn about different faiths. We learn there is fundamentalism in all religions. Our generation's mindset is that we are all in it together.

Layne: If we do not know anything but the religion we grow up in, we are limited, but we experience different cultures and religions. We have things in common as human beings dealing with life, issues, sorrow and social justice. I become a humanitarian, entering the mix, meeting people and seeing the person.

Paige: The more we learn about each other, we find there is little friction, and this is good. It sharpens us to understand the world. I'm strong in my beliefs, and others are strong in theirs. We should work for peace and understanding, approaching each other through the eyes of love. When religion causes conflict, we need to open our eyes and keep talking.

Jenna: Fearing differences and fearing someone may harm us keep us from getting to know each other. Being outwardly Muslim, I meet fear with a smile. Someone said he would rethink his ideas of Muslims. One percent of Islam are extremists, but it's presented



Sr. Joy Milos, Mariah McKay and Paige Holy

as the religion.

When I act like a human being, people ask if I'm Muslim. "Yes," I say. "You're different," they say. "I was born and raised here," I say. "You believe in Mohammed?" "Yes, he is a prophet like Jesus," I say.

It's interesting growing up knowing we are similar in beliefs and feeling the same, but being looked at as different. We are the same, each on our own journey.

Sam: I see change happening in this time and in the church. In World War II, when my grandfather was in the army, people thought he had horns under his helmet. We have come a long way.

In school, people are of many backgrounds. A friend from the Midwest said I was the first Jew she had met. She said it was cool. There is still conflict from things rooted back a thousand years. People here are the same, but different.

Mariah: My church welcomes questions. It seems easy to recognize our commonality as people of faith. In politics, people take their gloves off and are less than civil to people on the other side of the spectrum. How do we resolve faith with politics?

Layne: In political science studies, I saw people tired of arguing. We need acceptance when people do not agree. It refines us when things go against our beliefs. Unity believes in the oneness of all. There would not be light without dark.

Conner: In politics, I look at who loves people best. It's not Republican or Democrats. In a summer leadership program in Zambia, I learned about empowering people. Africa hurts because of handouts that made people dependent. We donate clothes

to Africa. They are air dropped. Africans who make clothes are out of jobs. Tough love empowers people to stand on their own feet. Fiscally, I'm Republican, but socially, I'm Democrat.

Paige: I grew up in Canada, but I'm American by birth and I can vote here. I consider myself politically moderate. Sometimes Catholic bishops advise how we should vote. Should I vote based on my religious beliefs, my education or my legal understanding? It's messy, because a vote is more than a legal or religious opinion.

Sam: My beliefs and opinions are formed from the values I grew up with, not by my religious tradition. My beliefs are pushed by spiritual development in studies.

Emily: What are dilemmas between your faith and lifestyles of partying? How do your beliefs challenge your choices/actions?

Mariah: I do not have a conflict. I am challenged to integrate my spiritual beliefs into how I live in this world full of suffering.

Paige: The Catholic Church has many admonitions. It's hard to live my faith and adhere to teachings. I'm not perfect. I pray for help to follow the teachings.

Conner: I try to live the way of biblical perfection, but we are broken people. I came to college to dive into faith and found God, but I've messed up, too. I know I've been forgiven, because God knows I'm broken."

Layne: One meaning of 'sin' is from an archery term for miss-

ing the mark. I believe we are separate from God in thoughts and desires of the flesh. We forget how blissful a relationship with God is.

Jenna: This is my second attempt at wearing a head scarf. I seek to be pious. I still make daily choices and ask forgiveness.

Sam: The last three meals, I ate bacon. Such rules may not be based on tradition, culture or religion.

Joy: How does your community of faith or philosophy help you on your journey?

Conner: I picture being in the room with Jesus, and we figure it out together, rather than him preaching at me. At a Young Life retreat, we shared stories. It was

a place to be honest and pushed me to be accountable.

Mariah: I would like more young people in church, no one homeless, income equality, more childcare, no borders, energy independence, affordable college education, and food security, to name a few things.

Paige: My ideal community is to live with people of similar faith, because, as an attorney, I'll be out there, pulled and pushed.

Layne: I envision we are all together creating social justice, in which everyone is heard, accepted and loved—people of different colors and backgrounds. I see all as the beloved creatures of God.

Sam: We need to get rid of pre-conceptions of people of certain traditions, values and agendas.

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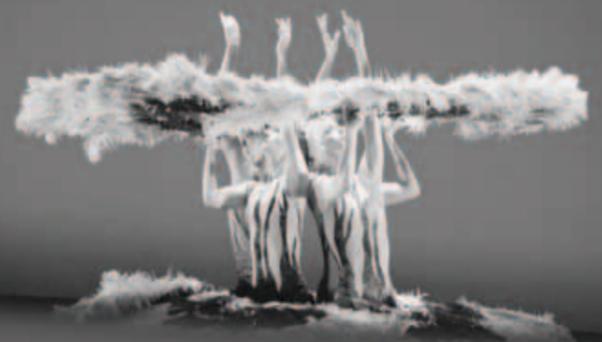
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Editor inspired by stories from around the world and right here

Why would The Fig Tree editor go to the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Oct. 26 to Nov. 9 in Busan, South Korea? In attending the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th assemblies in Vancouver, B.C., Canberra in Australia, Harare in Zimbabwe and Porto Alegre in Brazil, I have found I heard stories, learned about people's struggles and risk-taking for justice, peace and sustainable living, stories I did not encounter in U.S. media.

I met Darlene Keiju, a Marshallese woman who had tumors and wondered if she should have a baby because of U.S. testing of nuclear bombs in the islands that once were her home increased birth defects.

I met world leaders like retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu who worked with many others to speak out against and eventually end apartheid in South Africa.

I met Pauline Webb, British Broadcasting Corporation journalist, who said, "every encounter with another human being is an encounter with the Source of all being."

I met again a friend I knew before from a semester study with the WCC Ecumenical Institute at Bossey near Switzerland. In Vancouver, she told me how she had edited a human rights newspaper, been put on a

death list and spent years in exile.

I met a Filipino woman who led chi bashi exercises for the gathering of women before the Assembly, exercises I still use.

I go to meet people, to intersect with their lives, to learn who they are through their stories, to see how their lives intersect with the issues being discussed. I go to listen, as I do here. Then I pass on their stories in hope that understanding how policies and practices of governments, businesses and people affect the lives of people will lead people to think.

I believe that as we are informed, we can be inspired to be involved, caring about our neighbors and acting in solidarity with neighbors here and far away.

As I came away from Gonzaga University's Take Action Against Hate Banquet, I realized as I looked around the room of about 200 people, how many people right here work for justice, peace, equality and human rights.

Again we were reminded of the life of Eva Lassman, who out of her loss of all her family members, loss of all family photos and loss of freedom during the Holocaust, rose above the suffering to have children and to teach others never again to engage

in genocide.

We learned the story of human rights activist and community leader Linda Pall leaving a mark on art, libraries, parks, recreation, farmers markets, land use and media. Despite a pulmonary illness, she's introducing junior and senior high school students of color, disabilities and low income to the possibility of a career in law.

We learned from Carl Wilkens of the World Outside My Shoes return trips to Rwanda, now working with young adults who were among orphans he helped feed and care for during and after the 1994 genocide. They are planning a 20-year memorial, sharing how they now live with people who took their family, teachers and friends from them, not looking at what was taken from them or what evil was done to them, but defining themselves by what they do with what they have.

Last week, I went to a memorial service for one of Spokane's great community activists and civil rights leaders who died Sept. 30. V. Anne Smith, who was president of the Spokane Chapter of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), promoted racial equality, economic parity and quality of life for all.

She was involved in Girl Scouts, United Way, The Links, Inc., and Calvary Baptist Church. She prayed every day for people she took spiritual responsibility for. As she advocated for civil rights, police accountability, women's rights and community improvements, she did not let the struggles diminish her cheerfulness.

Having learned through World Council of Churches gatherings to listen to and hear stories behind stories, stories missed by most media, stories articulating faith, stories of hope, I now regularly find I'm in the midst of empowering stories here.

I will share some of those stories at the assembly—in one-to-one encounters, small groups and among the other accredited press—as a witness to the power of media. I will share insights, news and stories through Facebook—"like" The Fig Tree Page to follow reports—upcoming issues of The Fig Tree and a special feature in The Spokesman-Review.

I'll be glad to speak at congregations and groups, and will share at 30th anniversary Fig Tree events—the Benefit Breakfast on March 12, Benefit Lunch, March 14 and Anniversary Dinner, April 30.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Some economists are beginning to sound like social justice advocates

Some of our economists are sounding like social justice advocates as they point out the consequences to society of national and international fiscal policies, and explain the short-sightedness of cutting funds for such budget items as food stamps and unemployment compensation.

After all, they point out, these funds move quickly into circulation, contributing to our economic recovery.

They are also focusing on the unfairness of such behavior and its contribution to the growing inequality between the now-proverbial 99 percent and the 1 percent.

A political cartoon from four or five years ago described the division as the 9 percent who were then unemployed plus the 90 percent who feared they could become unemployed versus the seriously rich 1 percent who were confident of their security and oblivious to any consequences of the laws and conditions that favored them.

Not too long ago, it seemed that most of the economics commentary printed on the business pages of the newspaper gave the impression that economics has to do only with financial matters. As long as the stock

market was going up and the numbers associated with the Gross Domestic Product were showing growth in employment, manufacturing, exports and productivity, we were doing fine economically.

There is a growing body of research, in which economics and sociology intertwine, and it is demonstrating dramatically how the inequality wracking our world is not healthy for the economy, social structure, human beings of all ages, or small puppies and kittens.

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett are active in this area of research. In their book *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, they have gathered data on 23 of the richest countries in the world, eliminating those that are primarily tax havens.

In addition to gathering data on the United States as a whole they also looked at the states individually.

Incidentally, equality here does not mean identical. It refers to an absence of the huge gaps in resources that limit access to the benefits of our society.

Their international index of health and

social problems covers 10 areas: life expectancy, teenage births, obesity, mental illness, homicides, imprisonment rates, mistrust, social mobility, education and infant mortality rate.

Their index for the 50 states of the United States included all of above except social mobility. Income inequality data was also gathered. The appendix to the book gives data sources, statistical methods and an extensive reference list.

We have a gigantic trust—or mistrust—problem.

The percentage of people agreeing that "most people can be trusted" is higher in more equal countries and states. A "Hmmm"-evoking footnote is that Wyoming has data on trust but not on homicides.

According to the study, changes in inequality and trust go together. With greater inequality, "people are less caring of one another, there is less mutuality in relationships, people have to fend for themselves and get what they can—so, inevitably there is less trust. Mistrust and inequality enforce each other. As de Tocqueville pointed out, we are less likely to empathize with those

not seen as equals. Material differences serve to divide us socially."

Here are some other observations that illustrate again that everything is connected.

In more unequal countries and states, the following dynamics exist: Women's status is significantly worse. There is less social mobility. Homicides and other violent crimes are more common. More people are imprisoned. Infant mortality is higher. More people suffer from mental illness. Teenage pregnancy rates are higher. Life expectancy is lower. Aspirations of young people are lower. The use of illegal drugs is more common.

More equal countries recycle a higher proportion of their waste, and their business leaders are more strongly in favor of their governments' complying with international environmental agreements.

We have strayed far from the New Commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, when we lose sight of the widest meaning of love and the consequences of our individual and collective behavior.

**Nancy Minard
Contributing editor**

Letter to the Editor

Sounding Board

Newsletter Excerpts

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I just finished reading the article in the Fig Tree about Etta Watkins, Happy and her family. It warmed my heart, brought tears to my soul, inspired me once again and brought much gratitude to my whole being. The life and ministry that she and Happy and now also their sons have brought to Spokane, the Inland Northwest and God's Kingdom is a complete blessing.

I may have only met her on one or two occasions and perhaps only once formally. When in college in the early 1970's, I would often shop at the Wonder Bread thrift store as it was near my work at Lawton Printing/File EzFolder and my daily commute to Spokane Falls Community College. I'm now remembering that warm smile that made the baked goods extra tasty. Many years later, after returning to Spokane in 1994, I would travel to Seattle with the New Hope congregation to celebrate the life and ministry of Jim Sims, a coworker in Olympia for several

years and a mentor to this day. On that trip, I met Percy (Happy) and we would later develop a great friendship and ministry interests with youth.

Happy, of course, has been a source of inspiration, challenge, comfort and the embodiment of Christ during these many years that we have been back in Spokane. As a native son, I know only too well the painful depth of racism in our community and region. As a family and certainly as a mother, Etta has also guided and nurtured "adopted" children like myself to see firsthand our prejudices and misconceptions, finding strength to be transformed and then—at least—attempting to stand strong in opposing "high profile" people like Richard Butler and movements like the Aryan Nations, but most importantly within our own families, with neighbors and co-workers.

I love Mary and the staff and volunteers at The Fig Tree, and Etta's story, words and reflection on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream and her dream in this 50th Anniver-

sary Year may be the most heartwarming and inspiring article I've read in a good many years. May God continue to bless Etta, Happy and their family. Some of us have not yet stopped learning.

Patrick Malone - Spokane

EXERPT from comments given at the 2013 Take Action Against Hate Banquet of Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies:

"Human security" is an established international human rights concept that spans many sectors and focuses on addressing the conditions of vulnerability, inequality and other threats to human flourishing as threats occur at the individual, group, and societal levels.

In short, the possibility of human security depends upon freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom from indignity in the daily lives of all.

Hatred impedes human security because it denies human dignity, destroys social peace and deprives us of a just,

inclusive public life.

Hope for human security is directly connected to the hope of human solidarity, which is about valuing and respecting our fellow human beings by standing with them, standing up for justice and peace, and standing together in the human family.

The hope of human solidarity and security turns on the tireless leadership, courageous service and visionary insight supplied by people in our community and region.

This year we honored this year with the Eva Lassman Take Action against Hate Award, Linda Pall, a human rights activist in Moscow, Idaho, and Carl and Teresa Wilkens' organization, the World Outside My Shoes.

The award was inspired by the work of Holocaust survivor and educator, the late Eva Lassman, our own Elie Wiesel.

**John Shuford, director,
Gonzaga University's
Institute for Hate Studies**

Coalition offers workshop on surviving adolescence

The Community Christian Coalition in Coeur d'Alene is offering a workshop, "Surviving Adolescence," from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Kroc Center, 1765 W. Golf Course Rd.

The event will provide parents with tools to manage behavior of pre-teens and teens to foster healthy communication and listening skills to enhance bonding and harmony in families as they pass through "landmines of adolescence."

Its four segments are on social media, peer pressure and bullying, building faith and character and healthy communication.

Participants will discuss digital overload related to how pre-teens, teens and some parents are hooked on Facebook, Twitter, texting, sexting and more, and the addictive nature of technology.

They will learn to recognize signs and questions to discern when cyber bullying is taking place, and strategies to teach consequences for poor choices.

In addition, they will discuss ways parents can help teens build confidence and self-esteem through praise and responsibility.

Participants will also learn

Unity House hosts Day of Tolerance

Gonzaga's Unity Multicultural Education Center is planning an event to educate, celebrate and demonstrate on the International Day of Tolerance at noon, Friday, Nov. 15, on the steps of Crosby Center.

For information, call 313-5836 or email unityhouse@gonzaga.edu.

EWU seeks sites for volunteers on Jan. 20

Eastern Washington University is partnering with Spokane's Martin Luther King Jr. Day planning committee to organize service projects throughout the region on that day.

Molly Ayers, director of the Office of Community Engagement at EWU, seeks for sites across the community to host 20 to 25 volunteers from 1 to 3 p.m., Monday, Jan. 20. The goal is for more than 250 volunteers to celebrate King's legacy with a "Day On." Organizations interested in participating may contact Molly by Nov. 15.

For information, call 359-2792 or email mayers1@ewu.edu.

about developing good character as motivation to do right and build success in relationships.

For information, call 208-966-4078 or visit www.kootenaiccc.com.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 30** • Fig Tree distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Nov 2** • NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, "Justice or Just Us," Judge Joe Brown, Red Lion at the Park, 1-3:30 p.m., panel discussion, 6 p.m., social hour, 7-9, banquet, 325-3722, spokanenaacp.org/joomla/index.php
- Nov 3** • "Girl Rising" documentary of nine girls in nine countries, Global Washington, Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main, 5 p.m., magiclanternspokane.com
- Nov 4** • "A Fierce Green Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet," film Gonzaga's Environmental Studies Department, discussion with director Mark Kitchell, Wolff Auditorium at Jepson Center, 5:30 to 8 p.m., 313-5951, Isacoff@gonzaga.edu
- Nov 6** • Chinese Film and Lecture, "China in Transition," Room 111 Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 6:30 p.m., 777-4874, jshanholtzer@whitworth.edu
- Nov 7** • 4th Annual Heritage Day Celebration, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St., Suite 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., bring food donation, 477-2770, johnm@spokanetribe.com
- Nov 7** • Peace and Justice Action Committee, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 8-9** • Jubilee International Marketplace, First Presbyterian Church, 318 S. Cedar, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 448-0208, spokaneipc.org
- Nov 9** • "Surviving Adolescence," Community Christian Coalition workshop, Kroc Center, 1765 W. Golf Course Rd, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 208-966-4078, kootenaiccc.com
- Nov 9-10** • Fall Folk Festival, Spokane Community College Lair, 1810 N. Greene St., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 624-5693, spokanefolklore.org
- Nov 12** • "What Women Need to Know about Heart Disease," Providence Auditorium, 20 W. 9th Ave., 6 p.m., phc.org
- Nov 13** • Spokane Police Accountability & Reform Coalition, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 13, 27** • Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 14** • Fig Tree Board, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon benefit planning, 1 p.m. board, 535-1813
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center's Annual Benefit Luncheon, Clifford Stanley Major General US Marine Corps, Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 303 W. North River Dr., 11:30 a.m., 455-8722
- "Change Begins with Me: One Person Can Make a Difference," Jeannie Opdyke Smith telling of her Polish mother, Irene Gut Opdyke, saving Jews during the Holocaust, Auntie's Bookstore, 402 W. Main, 6:30 p.m., auntiesbooks.com
- Nov 14, 28** • Palestine Israel Human Rights Committee, 35 W Main, 3 p.m.
- Nov 15** • Annual International Day of Tolerance, Gonzaga University, Crosby Steps, noon to 1 p.m., Washington@gonzaga.edu, 313-5835
- Nov 15-17** • Sister Patricia Novak, OSF, retreat with women who have cancer: rest, reflection, sharing, massage, reflexology and presentations, The Franciscan Place 1016 N. Superior St., 483-6495, sjfconline.org/womens_retreats_for_cancer_survivors.html
- Nov 18** • Catholic Charities Candlelight Vigil on Homelessness and Christmas Collection Kick-Off, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific Ave., 5:30 p.m., 358-4254, jlee@ccspokane.org
- Nov 21** • Peace & Justice Action Committee, Legislative 101 presentation, Paul Dillon, legislative assistant to Sen. Andy Billig, 5:30pm.
- Nov 22** • Whitworth International Festival, HUB, 5:15 p.m., dinner, 6:30 p.m., program, 777-3796
- Nov 22-Dec 12** • Tree of Sharing, Riverpark Square, Valley Mall and Northtown, nearly 6,000 tags with gifts to purchase for families in need, 290-0002, treeofsharing.org
- Nov 28** • Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 W. Bernard, 10 a.m.,
- Nov 29-Dec 1** • Festival of Fair Trade, Community Building, 35 W. Main,
- Nov 30** • "Half the Sky," Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main St, 2 p.m., 448-6566
- Dec 4** • Fig Tree Distribution, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m.
- Dec 5** • Fig Tree Board, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon benefit planning, 1 p.m. board, 535-1813

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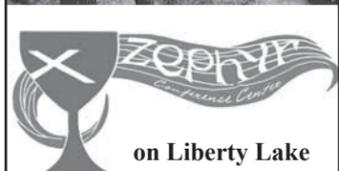
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Addressing injury to the soul can help veterans heal from trauma, stress

During a time of consulting work with nonprofits that work with homeless people, John Hancock also learned more about his friend, Larry, a Vietnam vet friend who had experienced a debilitating post traumatic stress episode last year and experienced a turn around during a four-day Warrior Songs healing retreat.

"The change was possible because, for the first time, he felt embraced by people who heard his story and understood," said John, who also coordinates Friends of Compassion. "I'm an activist, exploring morality and the philosophy of compassion in different faiths."

John was disheartened to learn there are 22 suicides a day among vets, 70 percent of whom are Vietnam vets.

"Something is wrong with the system on which they depend. It's easy to think of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, but we need to get a grip to understand those who returned," he said.

Iraq veteran and folk/rock musician Jason Moon is alive because he found a way to tell his story. He could sing about what he could not talk about. So he started Warrior Songs to offer retreats to help veterans heal through creative arts.

Larry said identifying with others drew him out of loneliness. He wanted to bring Warrior Songs to Spokane and asked John to help.

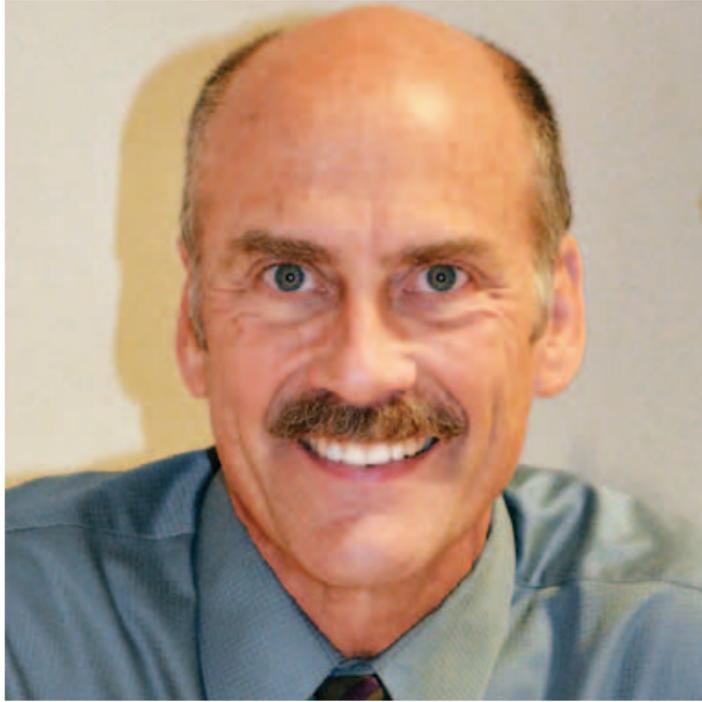
They began plans to bring the national leaders and use the film, "Welcome Home," which Bill McMillan made in 2008 during a healing retreat and welcome-home, when vets connect with people willing to listen and learn.

"A retreat doesn't just help the 15 vets who come. It also helps a few hundred people who hear the stories," John said. "The vets cannot do the healing alone. The sympathetic base of people hearing their stories is key."

He is recruiting people to be listeners for a November retreat, hearing and learning from songs, stories, poetry and paintings veterans create. "The Welcome" will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

He is not a vet, but understands vets' experience is universal, called by different names for hundreds of years: "battle fatigue," "combat stress," "war weariness," "shell shock," "soldiers' heart" or the "1,000-yard stare."

"We still have the issues because science has not discovered what is wrong, so medical treatment is not effective. Many are misdiagnosed," he said, proposing that the issue may be "injury to the soul," or, instead of Post



John Hancock helps coordinate Warrior Songs Spokane.

Traumatic Stress, Military Sexual Trauma or Traumatic Brain Injury, vets may be experiencing "Traumatic Soul Injury."

"Horrible things that happen in war do not go away," John said. "My compassion for the sufferers links me to them."

He believes each person knows a vet among friends, family and associates whose suffering may be expressed in domestic violence, sexual abuse, unemployment, mental illness or school dropouts.

"For some vets with troubles they can't solve, suicide seems to be a way out," John said.

At the House of Charities, which he has helped with fund raising, veterans fill one-fourth of the 40,000 bed nights a year. About 10 percent of Spokane's population are veterans.

"Veterans are more than twice as likely to be on the street," he said. "It seems wrong."

The Volunteers of America also has a building offering apartments to vets and services to help them gain self-sufficiency.

Few services, however, address the soul or moral injury, John said.

"Some part of a person's body, brain, heart or existence is damaged by what vets saw or did in war," he explained. "Something is injured about a person's beliefs, self image, and understanding of right and wrong. Some feel guilt because buddies died and they

didn't. The answer may be in the world of belief.

"That's the link to religious people," he said. "It's beyond our ability to answer why bad things happen to good people. Discussion of moral issues helps. Warriors cry out: Is there a God? If there is, why did God let it happen? Am I being punished for what I did?"

John cited a Nez Perce elder who, in describing being a warrior in 1878, described PTSD. He said he knew a warrior's "spirit would be wounded, cut off from beauty and pain, searching but unable to find connection to creation, in need of cleansing and healing."

"How have warriors in other civilizations been cared for?" asked John, who believes the American Legion and Memorial Day help vets and the public recognize the sacrifice paid.

"There's more work because vets who suffer may not go for help," he said, citing a report from Dawn Gray, head of counseling at the VA Hospital, which helped 1,200 vets last year. She has no estimate of how many vets with PTSD are untreated.

Warrior Songs has discovered that high functioning individuals who have dealt well enough—have families and jobs—may

also experience moral injury that needs healing. The condition is a larger part of society than those with obvious troubles, John said.

The program helps veterans reveal their personal stories and what it means to them.

"It's not a prescription or one-size-fits-all solution. It's an invitation to explore," he said.

"I hope the 10 local veterans at the retreat will stay in touch and those who welcome them will continue to reach out to them. We hope this will be a permanent project in Spokane," he said.

Warrior Songs retreats in the past have been attended by people all over the U.S. who go back home without a community organization forming around them.

Having a locally sponsored event is possible in Spokane because of the large number of vets, the VA Medical Center and "a spiritually charged community," John said.

So vets can attend free, Warrior Songs Spokane seeks to raise \$15,000 for 15 vets to cover retreat costs. Warrior Songs Spokane currently has 40 donors and 25 volunteers.

For information, call 244-8559, email john@deepcreekconsulting.com or visit warriorsongsspokane.org.

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