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 businesses who work with their diverse faiths.”

The scholarship has allowed 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 give 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 Minor 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.

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. Second.

After the film, Denise Artwood, 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 poorest economies, 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 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.”

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Continued on page 4

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. From 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.

Continued on page 3

A window in Mary and John Frankhauser’s home depicts their commitment to peace.
Guatemala’s indigenous peoples seek their rights

Human rights of indigenous peoples in Guatemala are under threat from continuing encroachment on their lands. Their conflict with the state and the government has resulted in violence, displacement, and excessively harsh punishment of indigenous peoples. The government has enacted policies to make the country more attractive to foreign investors, creating a proliferation of resource exploitation and environmental degradation.

John XXIII in 1963, Olav invited the Roman Catholic Church as part of an event sponsored by the Pontifical Council to join in the “ecumenical pilgrimage for peace” for the 50th anniversary of the WCC. The ecumenical movement is an important part of the world’s understanding of peace and peace-making as an indispensable value of the world.

The Annual Benefit Luncheon for the Rev. Erland Lagerkrans, Jr. Family Outreach Center’s featured speaker is Major General John H. Shiever, retired U.S. Marine Corps. The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park, 363 W. North River Dr.

Outreach center luncheon features marine

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 the event of Nov. 1 to 3.

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 the event 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 misson fair with information booths about the 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.

For information, call 455-8722.

Salem Lutheran celebrates its 125th

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 connect. There will be a 2 p.m. 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 connect.

For information, call 534-1011.

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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 all 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 Council. 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 death-row inmates and advocating ending the death penalty.

The event included the one-act play, “Dead Man Walking,” performed by students from Gonzaga, Whitworth, Washington State College, 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 befriended 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 retribution,” Sr. Helen said.

“It is a broken, flawed system, that claims the government and courts are God’s agents, yet prosecutors are more likely to seek the death penalty in election years,” she has observed.

Sr. Helen told of her experience with Matthew Poncelet, portraying 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 of 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.

“This I accomplished 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. 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.

Dismantling the Culture of Violence
2014 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference
Saturday, Jan. 25
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
St Mark’s Lutheran Church
316 E. 24th Ave. • Spokane

Save the Date

For information, contact
Malcolm Hansbrough • The Fig Tree • (509) 515-1811
The Rev. Paul Benz • Faith Action Network (206) 625-9790

TO RSVP
Send suggested donation of $20 (scholarships available)
To The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane WA 99202
Or email info@thefigtree.org to RSVP

20th Annual Fig Tree Gala
The Fig Tree will run another event section in the Dec. issue
Cost: $14/col. inch

Thirteenth 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.
Sunday - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Lair – Spokane Community College
1810 N. Greene
Free Family Fun All Day!
Dance • Music • Workshops • Craft Sales • Children’s Activities
New England Ceilidh Dance 8-10 pm
Music: 60-70 performances
Folk, Bluegrass, Old time, Celtic, Banjo, Bass, Scottish, Irish, Cajun, Cajun, Meridian, African
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.spoafeastfolk.org

Lake City Assembly of God
7th Annual HollyFaire
Sat. Nov. 9 - 9 am-4 pm
240 E. Grace • Medical Lake
Crafts • Food • Collectibles • Party Line

Audubon Park United Methodist Church
Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 9 - 9 am-3 pm
1100 N. Division • Spokane
Wheelchair Friendly

Central United Methodist Church
5th & Wallace
Cost: $14/col. inch

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
5th & Wallace
Couer d’Alene
208-664-5533

Audubon Park United Methodist Women’s Annual Bazaar
Sat. Nov. 9 - 9 am-3 pm
1100 N. Division • Spokane
Wheelchair Friendly

St. Luke’s Snowflake Faire!
Saturday, Dec. 7
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
5th & Wallace
Couer d’Alene
208-664-5533
Supporting Local Charities
Gifts Funds Treasures Baked Goods Fun!

JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE
25 years of supporting faith communities
Join the celebration of fairly traded handicrafts from around the world
Friday, November 8 10 am - 7 pm & Saturday, November 9 9 am - 9 pm
First Presbyterian Church • 318 S. Cedar
Located at the Maple St exit from I-90, downtown Spokane
For more information, visit the subpage at www.spokanefig.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

Davenport United Methodist Church
Thursday, Nov. 7
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Downtown Spokane

Scandinavian Bazaar
Proceeds benefit the charities
Saturday, Nov. 9
Kaffet Stua • 9 am to 11 am
Bazaar 10 am to 1 pm
Central Lutheran Church
512 S. Bernard (9th & Bernard)
To PRE-ORDER
Lefse, Scandinavian Cookies & other goods
Call the church office at 824-0233

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Relationships and justice motivate fair trade marketplace vendors

Continued from page 1

Seminary and decided ministry was his calling.

When they moved to D.C., John sang for four years with the Air Force Singing Sergeants. He completed a master’s de-
gree 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 Minne-
apolis, when they moved there in 1976.

John sang with the Minneapolis Opera Company and was a solo-
ist 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 re-
gion 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 the open countryside with a fresh breeze that reminds them of North Da-

About 17 years ago, John built their energy-efficient home next door to their first home. In 2010, he installed solar panels that gen-
erate 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 groupmate 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 orga-
nizations.

“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 re-

sources so the planet will last longer is an outgrowth of their spiri-
tuality.

When their girls were growing, they talked with them about their decision to live simply, so they would be con-
escientious 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 Kresh-
a, and in 2001 with Mary, Kres-
sha and Katie.

“When I see people impover-
ished, 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 chal-

lenges of loving their brothers and sisters as they live 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 in-
tentional about selecting vendors.

“We’re not just a craft sale, we want the vendors’ purpose to be economic justice and follow the criteria used to determine if fairness 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 arti-
sans in developing coun-
tries, to share artisans’ stories and to offer fair trade education.

Some local charitable organizations also sell locally produced prod-
ucts.

There are also opportu-

nities 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.

“Mennonite means ven-
dors can spend more time with shoppers to tell stories of people who make the items they offer,” said Mary.

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 busi-

nesses are for-profit, but they balance what they need and what their producers need to benefit everyone,

Mary said.

“Jubilee gives us the oppor-
tunity 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 Interna-
tional 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 ex-
plained.

“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 system.

“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 set-
tings,” said Mary.

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

Power of 5 continues raising funds to educate Nepali girls

Continued from page 1

me to continue my studies in sci-
ence and English. Without it, my lives would have been harder.

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 oth-
ers at Ganesh HIMAL commit-
ted to raising money and aware-
ness 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.

“They want the vendors’ purpose to be economic justice and follow the criteria used to determine if fairness is fair trade,” she said.

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tings,” said Mary.

For information, call 448-0805 or email john@frankhauser.com.
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 churched 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 Leuschner 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 porous stones 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 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 church and give the Body of Christ unity.

Daniel, who grew up in California, came to Whitworth, graduated 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 music groups will lead worship.

Organizers received a $30,000 matching grant to help cover the $35,000 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.

The house is on wheels awaiting move to new location.

Second Harvest’s free food helps neighborhood food banks and meal programs feed more people.

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By Kaye Hult

For its human rights celebration programmed in high school 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 anything unkind.

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 cuts the lumber? Who creates electricity? Who grows our food? Who’s the lumber? Who creates electric? Who grows our food?”


“Who grows our food?” Devi asks. “Who’s the lumber?”

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“Awe of how big the issue of bullying has become, Devi brought the story out again, re-wrote parts of it and set it out to work on the book.

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 didn’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.

“Was it a life changer?” she reflected. “It was mean 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.

“When 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. She 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 lost his desk on fire.

Devi came to believe that children 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 want to 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.”

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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’s passion to help foster talents and passions of young people continued. She decided to publish a book to present when she applies to art institutes.

Trained in the realistic 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 kinder.

“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.

“Shhhh...” Devi whispered, “Let’s just do it. I’ve been working on the book for a year. The biography of the book is Ryan’s vision. I gave her a great deal of freedom, but certain words and phrases, such as ‘love’ and ‘kindness matters,’ to be incorporated in a few of our illustrations,” she said Devi.

It took about 10 months for the book to come together. The art was done on 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.

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

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Loving people is highlight of the Singleton’s 20 years at St. Matthew’s

Loving people has been the focus of the Rev. Eugene and Tina 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 likeCoulee 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 Mississippi. He worked as a janitor at Fairchild’s hospital.

He was ordained in 1988. After graduating from high school in 1961, 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.

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

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. For information, call 534-0811 or e-singleton391@m.com.

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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 discuss 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 Catholic Universalist Church of Spokane, is a campaign organizer for social, racial, and environmental justice.

Paige Stevens, a Guerilla computer and engineering student with a Jewish background.

Conner House, a computer science student and engineering student at 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 parent's 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 so much, but she believed, "I see many people of different backgrounds and faiths, conserva-

Conner believes that when his parents met, her father was Catholic, 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.

"Aparent's were not in an 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 giving hope, love and joy. I walked into Unity and stayed," she said.

Sam said, "when I 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 atheistic," he said. "I went to church classes, I realize there are ways to apply religion in my life. Jesus' 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 house hold," 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 faiths, worlds and faiths, conserva-tive to liberal. I'm more tolerant and humanistic."

"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 connections and communication develop the panelists' beliefs.

Jenna: Technology makes my faith better, opening me to possibilities I feared. Layne: I often send memes on Facebook with an inspirational Buddhist or Christian quote of the day. People open up to me. In my studies, I learn that "being there" spiritually is important in healing, but many in the program are not interested in spirituality. As I engage with my generation, I find people willing to talk openly about God.

Conner: Sometimes people who represent themselves as religious post things online that are contrary to their faith.

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 com-munity. I try to help people see the world through others' eyes. It's a forum for thoughtful discus-sion 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.
Panelists respect diverse people and see need to work for just society

Continued from page 8

Conner: Even though Gonzaga is Catholic, I learn about other religions, and how all things are connected. We can learn about the political arena. I learn about Islam. In an East Asia class, I learn about 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.

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: 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.

Layne: I try to live the way Jesus did. I’m not perfect. I pray and try to present comments in a respectful way. I encourage open discussion. Technology is a double-edged sword.

Mariah: My denomination has a free app called, “Illumina.” It’s a place to go for inspirational words and an assortment of animated flaming chalices around which to center reflection.

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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?
Some economists are beginning to sound like social justice advocates

Letter to the Editor

I just finished reading the article “The Fig Tree” about Etta Watkins, Happy and her family. It warmed my heart, brought tears to my soul, inspired me one more time to get involved personally with my neighbors and our common good to my whole being. The life and ministry that she and Happy and now also their family members, loss of all family photos, mater.

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 so many of us in the family, community and region. She was involved in Girl Scouts, United Way, The Links, Inc., and Calvary Baptist Church. She prayed every day for people that she took special responsibility for. She was always interested in human rights, social justice and civil rights. She was involved in the local NAACP. She was a witness to the power of human solidarity in times of struggle.

She was involved in the local NAACP. She was a witness to the power of human solidarity in times of struggle.

May God continue to bless Etta, Happy and their family. Some of us have not yet stopped learning.

Patrick Malone - Spokane

EXCERPT from comments given at the 2013 Take Action Against Hate Banquet organized by the Spokane’s 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 Kroe 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.

Participants will also learn to discuss ways parents can help teens build confidence and self-esteem through praise and responsibility.

Participants will also learn about developing good character as motivation to do right and build success in relationships.

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

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>Fig Tree distribution, St. Mark’s Lutheran, 318 E. 24th, 9 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, “Justice and Just Us,” Judge Joe Brown, Red Lion at the Park, 1:30 p.m., panel discussion, 6 p.m., social hour, 7-9 p.m., banquet, 325-3722, spokanearthap.org/contests.htm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>“Girl Rising” documentary of nine girls in nine countries, Global Green Washington, Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main, 5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>“A Фerce Fire: The Battle for a Living Planet,” film Gonzaga’s Environmental Studies Department, discussion with director Mark Kitchell, Wolf Audition at Jepson Center, 5:30 to 9 p.m., 313-0851, <a href="mailto:lsaco@gonzaga.edu">lsaco@gonzaga.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Chinese Film and Lecture, “China in Transition,” Room 111 Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth University, 6:30 p.m., 777-4874, <a href="mailto:jshanholtzer@whitworth.edu">jshanholtzer@whitworth.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>6th Annual Heritage Day Celebration, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St., Suite 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., bring food donation, 477-2770, <a href="mailto:ohp@spokanetribe.com">ohp@spokanetribe.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9-10</td>
<td>Fall Folk Festival, Spokane Community College Lake, 1810 N. Greene St., 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 524-8933, spokanefolk.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9-10</td>
<td>What Women Need to Know about Heart Disease, Providence Auditorium, 20 W. 9th Ave., 8 p.m., phc.org</td>
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<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Spokane Police Accountability &amp; Reform Coalition, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 11, 12</td>
<td>Inland NW Death Penalty Abolition Group, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Fig Tree Board, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., noon benefit planning, 1 p.m., board, 535-1813</td>
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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Life Center, Spokane Community College, Benefit Luncheon, Clifford Stanley Major General US Marine Corps, Red Lion Hotel on the Park, 303 W. North River Dr., 11 a.m., 455-8722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Annual International Day of Tolerance, Gonzaga University, Crosby Steps, noon to 1 p.m., <a href="mailto:Washington@gonzaga.edu">Washington@gonzaga.edu</a>, 313-6935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15-17</td>
<td>Sister Patricia Novak, OSF, retreat with women who have cancer, retreat, sharing, massage, reflexology and presentations, The Franciscan Place 1016 N. Superior St., 483-6456, sfco.online/women_retreats_for_cancer_survivors.html</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Catholic Charities Candlelight Vigil on Homelessness and Christmas Collection Kick-Off, House of Charity, 32 W. Pacific Ave, 5:30 p.m., 339-4250, <a href="mailto:jwy@outreachspokane.org">jwy@outreachspokane.org</a></td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Peace &amp; Justice Action Committee, Legislative presentation, Paul Dillon, legislative assistant to Sen. Andy Billig, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Whitworth International Festival, HUB, 5:15 p.m., dinner, 6:30 p.m., program, 208-966-7596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 22-Dec 12</td>
<td>Tree of Sharing, Riverpark Square, Valley Mall and Northtown, nearly 6,000 tags with gifts for purchase for families in need, 29th Annual Northstar Tree of Sharing Organization</td>
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<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Unity Spiritual Center, 200 W. Bernard, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Nov 28-Dec 1</td>
<td>Festival of Far Trade, Community Building, 35 W. Main.</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>“Half the Sky,” Magic Lantern, 25 W. Main St., 2 p.m., 448-6566</td>
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Mission Community Outreach Center’s

Children’s Christmas Joy – Give Children’s Clothing Drive

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

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.

He is a singer 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 leadership 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 their 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 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 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@deepprechasing.com or visit warriorsongsspokane.org.

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