

32ND YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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Micah 4:4

news@thefigtree.org
(509) 535-1813 • 535-4112

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

Project Hope involves urban youth

By Mary Stamp

Project Hope involved 50 West Central Spokane youth, ages 11 to 18, in the summer of 2016—in contrast to 72 in 2015—because of increased costs.

Youth 14 to 18 earned minimum wage, plus benefits and Social Security. They filled out W-4 and I-9 forms, which they would do for other employment, said James Kashork, executive director since January 2014, when he started part-time. He has been full time director since January 2015.

The 11- to 13-year-old youth volunteer for a stipend of \$250.

Project Hope grew out of conversations of West Central residents, forming in 2007 to offer green collar jobs, environmentally friendly, restorative entrepreneurial opportunities for youth at risk of gang involvement in West Central Spokane.

By involving youth in an urban farm project and lawn care, the program engages youth in the summer when there are few activities, providing job skills and pride in the community.

Project Hope now includes several farm lots scattered in the neighborhood, where produce is grown without pesticides.



James Kashork beside painting designed for Project Hope.

In the early years, youth cleared overgrown plots of rocks, broken glass and weeds.

They learn to test and amend the soil, construct and irrigate beds and rows, plant seeds, tend the plants and harvest thriving gardens.

“The goal is to create opportunities for young people in the neighborhood, where about 95 percent of them live in poverty in families where parents work two to three jobs or are on disability.

“There is no single story of what poverty is like or what people in poverty are like. For every 100 families there are 100 stories of how they came into their situation, and what their hopes and dreams are,” James said.

In the neighborhood, 16- to 24-year-old young people have about a 30 percent unemployment rate. With only a handful of restaurants and no grocery store, there are limited places to seek jobs.

“Cash is a motivation,” he said. Most use the money to help their families with rent, utilities, food or school supplies, so our program is an investment in families,” James said.

He finds it hard to meet an 11-year-old who has no hope for

Continued on page 4

Hate studies is complex field, requiring inclusive learning, research, conversations

Kristine Feeman Hoover, the new director of Gonzaga University’s Institute of Hate Studies, said the program seeks ways to support practitioners and academics who are doing work in the field of hate studies in the community and internationally.

Hate studies, she said, is a multidisciplinary field that has impact on and is impacted by disciplines including business and leadership, communication, criminal justice, law, political science, religious studies, and women and gender studies.

As a complex field requiring

inclusive learning and research, it takes many conversations to help people understand each other.

“Sometimes when we are surrounded by people who are similar to ourselves, it can be easy to make assumptions about who is like me and who is an ‘other.’ It’s important to recognize people in their diverse and multiple contexts, understanding where they are in their journeys by engaging in difficult conversations in order to grow and keep learning in every stage of life,” she said.

“Difficult conversations are beyond differences of opinion.

They require truly listening,” Kristine said. “Differences of opinions are healthy, so we need to listen with respect—to both hear and be heard. Difficult conversations challenge us to understand ourselves and others.

Kristine believes it is important to create safe spaces for conversations, because discomfort may be where the greatest learning happens.

For the master’s degree in organizational leadership and its new global concentration, she teaches a course in leadership and imagination, organizational ethics, organizational development, organizational change and transformation, and management.

Kristine brings a research background in raising questions about how words and images that organizations use shape the inclusion and dignity of people, a dynamic that can create hate or respect through the power of self-worth, social identity and economic opportunity.

After earning a degree in architecture from the University

Continued on page 12

Musician-educator gives program on interfaith roots

The Spokane Area Jewish Family Services and Humanities Washington are partnering to bring Antonio Davidson-Gómez, a musician, educator, facilitator and Jubilation Foundation Fellow for music in education, to Spokane for an interfaith dialogue on Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain.

The program, “Saffron and Honey: Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain,” is at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 8, at Temple Beth Shalom, 1322 E. 30th Ave. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation at 7:15 p.m.

Antonia, a member of the 2015-2016 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, will look at the commonalities, connections, tensions and conflicts between Jews, Muslims and Christians today and the historical threads of connection and collaboration that defy the headlines, said Neal Schindler, director of the Spokane Area Jewish Family Services, which is organizing the event.

Drawing from a story of personal discovery, he leads a discussion that reveals medieval Spain as a crossroads connecting the Golden Age of Islam, Sephardic Judaism, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance. Antonio is an educator and percussionist who fosters musical dialogue between cultures. He has studied, performed and recorded in various genres with emphases on Mediterranean and Afro-Latin music.

Formerly a K-12 teacher, Tony, who lives in Puyallup, has developed curricula for PBS and the Experience Music Project Museum/Smithsonian.

Spokane Area Jewish Family Services programs help strengthen families, children and individuals, while incorporating Jewish principles, culture and values.

For information, call 747-7394 or email director@saajfs.org.

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Religion News Briefs

Around the World

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By Jonathan Frerichs - WCC disarmament consultant

Key points in a much-disputed, ground-breaking report adopted in August by a United Nations working group of more than 100 countries meeting in Geneva were: "Negotiate a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons." "Do it "in 2017." "Make sure the negotiations are open to all states and include civil society."

It was adopted by a three-to-one margin with broad inter-regional support despite a boycott by the nuclear powers and strong resistance from their allies. The report, adopted Aug. 19, will go to the UN General Assembly in October. A majority-led resolution to start negotiating a nuclear weapon ban treaty is likely to emerge there.

"This development marks the highest point so far in a growing wave of support for outlawing nuclear weapons on humanitarian grounds," said Peter Prove, international affairs director of the World Council of Churches (WCC). "Faith-based advocacy has contributed to this effort, and will be greatly needed to help bring the will of the majority, the rule of law, and the welfare of all people and of the whole creation to bear on nuclear-armed countries, which are modernizing their arsenals instead of eliminating them."

During the working group meeting, networks of the WCC and Pax Christi International contacted 24 governments to advocate for a ban. They worked as part of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to stress the need to start negotiations in 2017 and for such negotiations to be open to all states, blockable by none and to include civil society.

The final draft was carefully revised to achieve consensus and be adopted without a vote, but at the last minute Australia called for a vote. Ultimately 68 states voted to adopt the report, 21 states joined Australia voting against adoption and 13 states abstained.

Ecumenical advocates are in contact with governments on all sides of the issue. Advocates in Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Egypt, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Switzerland and New Zealand encouraged their governments, part of the nuclear-free majority, to press for a nuclear weapons ban. All their governments were among the 68 countries in favor of the report with its ban recommendation.

Churches and related organizations also engaged with governments that rely on nuclear weapons. These are mostly NATO members. The bishop of the Evangelical Church in the German state of Baden called government attention to the renewed importance being given to nuclear arms, the long-term modernization of nuclear arsenals and the "catastrophic consequences" nuclear weapons cause. The church asked the government to help strengthen legal norms against nuclear weapons.

A ban on nuclear weapons would be similar to the existing prohibitions against chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, the church noted.

The Canadian Council of Churches wrote Canada's foreign minister that "when measures employed to defend nation states... threaten humanity and the planet itself, such measures must be categorically rejected."

Members of the WCC Ecumenical Peace Advocacy Network and Pax Christi International have also been in contact with the Australian, Netherlands, Belgian and Norwegian governments. These states, which rely on U.S. nuclear weapons, were urged to engage in the ban debate in good faith.

Support for establishing a new legal prohibition against nuclear weapons is stronger than the 68 states that voted "yes." In the final week, 108 states of Africa, Latin America, South East Asia, the Pacific and a few in Europe called for a time-bound commitment to start negotiations on a ban; 127 states have signed a "Humanitarian Pledge" to make new treaty law against nuclear weapons, while 159 have made a joint declaration that nuclear weapons "must never be used again, under any circumstances."

At last year's UN General Assembly, 135 states voted to set up the current Open-Ended Working Group to identify "concrete, effective legal measures" required for a world without nuclear weapons.

A large majority of the group has now concluded that outlawing nuclear weapons is the place to start.

REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

2016-17 Resource Directory is now available

This year The Fig Tree published the 2016-17 Resource Directory in July, as part of the ongoing partnership with Spokane County HeadStart/ECEAP. It is ready for distribution by mail and in bulk quantities.

Staff is receiving requests for copies and seeking volunteers to help with the mailing and deliveries starting in September.

"We printed 12,000 copies, 500 copies more than last year," said directory editor Malcolm Haworth. "Last year several organizations ordered more copies at the end of the year. Watch for

copies coming in the mail soon. Bulk orders will take longer."

Copies may be picked up at The Fig Tree office in the Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., room 215. The entry is on the east side of the building off S. Ivory St. To arrange pickups, call 535-4112 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Updated data is also online at thefigtree.org/connections.

"We include a wide range of congregations and agencies, so people can connect with the resources of value to them," he said.

"We hope agencies and congre-

gations will inform us of new listings and changes, which we can add online and include in the next annual directory," Malcolm said.

"While the directory is available free, we rely on donations of directory users—\$8 for one copy, \$7/copy for five copies, \$6/copy for 10 copies and \$5/copy for 25 or more," he said.

Donations may be mailed to The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane WA 99202, or online at thefigtree.org/donate.html.

For information, call 216-6090 or email resourcedirectory@the-figtree.org.

One Peace Many Paths plans for days of peace

The 11 Days of Peace from Sept. 11 to 21, sponsored by One Peace Many Paths in Spokane, will feature the Compassion Games.

The opening event is a Compassion Forum and Resource Fair at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W. Ft. Wright Dr.

There will be sessions introducing the Compassion Games and breakout sessions for community dialogue on how Spokane can be a more Compassionate City led by Philip Tyler, president of Spokane NAACP; on Compassionate Justice led by Smart Justice; on Compassion and Interfaith Relations, and on Self and Personal Compassion, led by Russell Kolts, professor of psychology at Eastern Washington University.

There will also be a presentation

of a video on a First Nation singer/songwriter, Ta'Kaiya Blaney. The 15-year-old is an Everyday Community Action Hero who lives north of Vancouver, B.C.

She promotes living responsibly on the earth, caring for the ecosystems and ending oppression, racism and corruption.

The closing presentation at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21, is being held in conjunction with Pax Christi and Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies.

It will include a World Peace Flag Ceremony created by the World Peace Prayer Society to affirm peace around the world. It's an audience participation event.

During the 11 Days of Peace, organizer Joan Broeckling of One Peace Many Paths, said that people are invited to connect with partner groups to help them

provide services, do fund raisers and engage in random acts of kindness.

Several organizations are offering activities and seeking volunteers to assist them with projects: the Ronald McDonald House Polo Fund Raiser; Greater Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels' Grandparents Day benefit; the Food for All Garden; The Arc Rock the Runway benefit Free Rein Therapeutic Riding fund-raising horseback ride/hike; Northwest Harvest Distribution Center food packaging; the Soka Gakai Exhibition on "Building a Culture of Peace Pinwheel Making Project"; the Native non-Native Talking Circle and Potluck, and a Community Sing for Peace at Gonzaga's Hemmingson Center.

For information, call 536-2811 or email onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com.

Transitions holds 'People Who Care' event

Transitions' annual "People Who Care Event" Thursday, Oct. 6, includes a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and lunch at noon at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane.

At the benefits, Transitions informs people of its services and of the women and children it serves as it seeks to end poverty and homelessness in Spokane.

For 20 years, this local agency has hosted the "People Who Care Event," featuring speakers, who share their stories of growth and success, and a video that tells about the impact of Transitions' five programs.

"This year, after recent budget cuts, we need more funds to continue our work to end poverty and homelessness," said Mary Tracey,

development director.

Transitions seeks event sponsors, table sponsors, table captains and guests for this event.

During 2015, Transitions served 1,755 women and children, helped 21 women further their education, supported 40 who found employment, provided 64 women with one-on-one vocational counseling, and empowered 119 women to move into permanent housing.

Since 1995, it has helped women, children and families rebuild their lives after abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and homelessness. Transitions administers Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare and New Leaf Bakery Cafe.

For information, call 328-6702, email mtracey@help4women.org or visit help4women.org.

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Save the Date

We Are LCS 

33rd Annual
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Sunday, November 6, 2016

Mukogawa Ft. Wright Commons
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Social Hour: 12:30 pm Lunch & Program: 1:30 pm

Program Spotlight

Advocacy - Erin Williams, Program Director

There is no cost to attend. You will be invited to give gifts and pledges to support the programs of LCSNW:

- Sexual Assault & Family Trauma Response Program
- Child Welfare & Clinical
- Human Trafficking
- Advocacy & Outreach
- Education & Prevention
- International & Domestic Foster Care

Please RSVP by Sunday, October 30th
online at www.lcsnw.org/rsvp

Questions: Christie McKee
(509) 343-5020 • cmckee@lcsno.org

Faith Action Network plans fall gatherings

Following the primary elections in August, the Faith Action Network (FAN) Interfaith Leaders' Council issued a call for candidates for public office to commit themselves to participate responsibly and respectfully in the electoral process.

"Recently our Interfaith Leaders' Council reflected on the teachings and values of their faith traditions, and they felt a need to raise their moral and public voices in the social, economic and political context of this year's election," said the Rev. Carol Jensen, FAN governing board co-chair.

Initially, 33 interfaith leaders issued this statement—see page 11—and will continue to invite other faith leaders to sign on to the statement and share it with their

communities.

FAN is also starting a blog, asking faith leaders in Washington to share reflections on how their theology, faith, culture or traditions shape how they see and do the work of social justice.

The blog will include diverse perspectives and stories about faith guiding social conscience, said Paul Benz, FAN co-director.

"While we remain focused on the actions we can take together for systemic change, our interfaith leaders remind us we also need to raise our moral voices to bear on the issues of the day," he said. "With this blog, we're excited to share the wisdom of those engaged in our network."

The first post is the Interfaith Leaders Council's statement.

FAN is also planning candidate

forums and initiative forums.

In addition, it is organizing small, geographic cluster group meetings as opportunities for advocates and communities to interact, build closer relationships among faith communities, hear advocacy updates and strategize on advocacy plans and events.

Cluster meetings scheduled in September are:

- Central Washington Cluster: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10, at Ellensburg First United Methodist Church, 210 N Ruby St.

- Yakima and Tri-Cities Cluster: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 18, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 640 N Columbia Center Blvd. in Kennewick.

For information, call (206) 625-9790 or visit fanwa.org.



Children from Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center sang at the 2016 Unity in the Community celebration in August in Spokane. There were about 100 vendors and 2,000 attending.

Spokane River Clean-Up planned

The 13th Annual Spokane River Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17, at five locations.

Conservation groups, businesses, clubs, schools, congregations and the public gather to "give the Spokane River some good old fashion love," said Lindsay Box, coordinator of development and communication for The Lands Council.

Last year, more than 600 volunteers removed

over four tons of debris from the Spokane River shoreline.

This year, the clean-up will cover locations in Spokane Valley, the University District, the Downtown River Gorge area, High Bridge Park, and People's Park.

Individuals and groups can register online, designating the area they want to work.

For information, call 209-2851 or email lbox@landscouncil.org.

YWCA luncheon recognizes achievements

The YWCA Spokane has announced winners of the 2016 Women of Achievement Awards to be honored at the 2016 Women of Achievement Impact Luncheon, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, at the Davenport Grand Hotel, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

"Each year, I am awed by the accomplishments and dedication of our award winners," said Regina Malveaux, chief executive officer of the YWCA Spokane. "Our 2016 winners will inspire others to reach for more and to contribute to the health of Spokane."

For 34 years, YWCA Spokane has celebrated women in the community for their achievements and commitment to give back. The luncheon has honored more than 200 women while raising awareness of domestic abuse in the community.

This year, the event will feature Ashley Judd, actress, humanitarian and advocate for women and children worldwide.

Ashley has spoken out on the impact of human trafficking, alleviating poverty and social justice. Recently, she has focused on

raising awareness on the need for educating girls worldwide.

Awards are given in six categories. This year, the YWCA will include a Lifetime Achievement Award to acknowledge an outstanding lifetime of volunteerism, advocacy and community support.

Winners of 2016 awards are:

Mari Clack, an advocate for women and children in need - Lifetime Achievement Award;

Jan Wigen, a patron and supporter of the arts - Arts and Culture;

Joyce Cameron, chief development officer for Providence Health Care Foundation - Business and Industry;

Roberta Wilburn, associate dean of graduate studies in education, Whitworth University - Carl Maxey Racial and Social Justice Award;

Robbie Paul, director of Native American Health Sciences Programs, WSU Spokane - Community Enhancement;

Chrissy Davis Jones, dean of Student support services, Spokane Falls Community College - Education, and

Lisa Shaffer, founder & CEO, Paw Print Genetics - Science, Technology and Environment.

For information, call 326-1190 or email ericas@ywcaspokane.org.

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International Day of Peace - Sept. 21

- **12:00-12:10 Community Sing for Peace:** Gonzaga choirs and Director Timothy Westerhaus will meet at the Hemmingson Center Concourse to sing with the international movement: <http://voice4peace.org/faqs/>. Lyrics provided.
- **3-5 p.m. Peace Pedagogy Faculty Workshop:** David J. Smith, of the U.S. Institute of Peace, will lead a workshop for higher education faculty - Hemmingson Lower Level Auditorium.
- **7:30-8:30 p.m. Peace Jobs Student Fishbowl:** David J. Smith, author of *Peace jobs, A students guide to working for peace*, will interact with college students on how they can work for peace - Hemmingson Lower Level Auditorium.

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A Closing Celebration

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia gratefully acknowledges and appreciates all the support provided by the Spokane community. We cordially invite you to our closing celebration.

A Closing Celebration

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016 - 11 a.m.
 St. Joseph Family Center Campus, Serenity Garden
 1016 N Superior St., Spokane

We will begin with the Liturgy at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow. We encourage you to attend, walk the grounds, tour the buildings and share with others your memories of St. Joseph Family Center.

RSVP to info@sjfconline.org or by calling (509) 483-6495

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Zip code one is born into should not limit opportunities to be what youth want to be

Continued from page 1
his or her future.

"Poverty is confining and generational," he said. "We seek to show youth they can do anything they dream of doing. After four years with us, many know what they want to be and know that they can be what they want to be."

"The zip code one is born into shouldn't limit opportunities," he said.

Gangs are still an issue, but when youth have something to do with their time and energy, they choose to earn money and gain skills.

The program relies on volunteers.

"There was little infrastructure in financial policies, budget process, board development or employee guidelines when I came," said James.

After earning a bachelor's degree in communication in 1990 at Lenoir Rhyne University, in Hickory, N.C., he and his wife, Catherine, went to Lenoir-Rhyne's Columbia, S.C., campus, where he earned a master of divinity in 1994 at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

They moved to Houston where she completed graduate studies in genetics and he served two congregations. They moved to Spokane in 2003.

James served as an interim and transitional pastor, helping congregations decide next steps in this time of decline for mainline churches. He guided St. Paul's as it merged with Emmanuel Lutheran to form All Saints Lutheran, and Grace Lutheran whose members decided to disperse.

He was involved as St. Paul, Grace, Emmanuel and Salem Lutheran churches formed the Spokane Urban Ministry for affordable housing development of Walnut Corners near Salem.

Then he served Holy Trinity Lutheran in Spokane Valley when Christ and Good Shepherd Lutheran and 65 percent of Trinity members formed Advent Lutheran.

In 2011, James left the ministry and started a technical company, learning what's needed to start a small business. After two years, he decided he wanted to do non-profit work. Knowing about Project Hope and the neighborhood, he applied to be its director.

Pat Mannhard, a farmer with Urban Eden Farm, has been operations manager part time for four years.

James has been working on strategic development for Project Hope growth.

In February, they hired Jenifer Priest as full-time development director to do grant writing, fund



Youth plant, water, nourish, harvest and sell produce.

raising and donor relationships.

"We plan to grow from our start as a West Central nonprofit, known in the neighborhood, but not outside," he said. "If it's just a neighborhood program in a the county's poorest neighborhood, it's hard to raise enough money to support our work, because our biggest cost is youth payroll."

Today, grants are harder to come by and provide less funding. Grantors' priorities are changing.

For a year, James has been in conversation with neighborhoods, including East Central, Shadle and Northeast Spokane, which is a Housing and Urban Development Promise Zone, about expanding into those areas, as well as to Airway Heights and Cheney. Those neighborhoods/communities want to "have us come to do there what we are doing here, so we would no longer be confined to one neighborhood."

The board removed from its mission statement wording about "working with youth in West Central and Emerson-Garfield neighborhoods."

This year Project Hope began to partner with Northeast Spokane.

"Our goal in two years is to move from being gift-and-grant funded to being self-sustainable, generating revenue from services and products," said James.

Project Hope grows produce on seven lots. Last year, it grew 5,000 pounds for four farmers' markets. This year, they expect to grow 8,000 pounds for markets at Kendall Yards, South Perry and Emerson-Garfield.

Partnering with Greenstone Corporation, developers of Kendall Yards, youth now farm property that may be developed later. Greenstone provides water.

"Profit margins for farming are crummy," James said. "With scattered sites, we lose efficiency, so it's hard to make money, but by turning trashed lots into gardens,

we have added value to and food for the neighborhood that has no grocery store."

Project Hope also operates West Central Lawn Care, offering below-market-rate yard services.

"We don't charge a market rate, because youth are learning skills, but they learn quickly and work hard," he said.

Lawn care is a reinvestment in the community, because low-income people cannot afford to buy lawn mowers, trimmers or blowers, but can pay \$15 to \$20 a time for lawn care.

Because many on tight incomes cannot afford to water, lawn care teams may feel their mowing makes little difference, but they also have commercial contracts with Walnut Corners and part of Kendall Yards, where they can see their work.

James said Project Hope may buy bulk grains or chickpeas from local farmers, package them and resell the small packages at farmers' markets.

The farm and lawn care are limited to the growing season, so Project Hope's main program is during summer vacation. Youth work from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays to Fridays.

Last year, a donor provided two hoop houses to extend the growing season at the West Central Episcopal Mission. Now youth can help in the spring from 3 to 6 p.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, planting seeds in February and March. About 10 to 20 start in March and April to repair lawn equipment and irrigation, prepare beds and start planting.

The same number help in the fall to finish the season, service and store equipment, and prepare beds for winter.

Project Hope is an independent nonprofit but has support from major denominations in the area, including the Episcopal and Catholic dioceses.

Its office is at Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway. Its program headquarters is at West Central Episcopal Mission, 1832 W. Dean.

Its 2016 Benefit Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 20, in the Champions Room of the Spokane Arena, 720 W. Mallon.

The speaker is Kent Hoffman, a therapist in private practice at Marycliff Institute in Spokane since 1985. He has developed

the Circle of Security program, used by parents and clinicians worldwide. His current focus is to apply that model to street dependent teenage mothers, fathers and their infants at a homeless shelter in Spokane. He is also designing approaches to support security for high-risk youth in schools.

For information, call 703-7433 or email james@projecthopespokane.org.

Saffron & Honey:

Muslims, Jews & Christians in Medieval Spain

Antonio Gómez - musician, educator, facilitator

Thursday, Sept. 8

6:30 p.m. dinner (\$7 suggested donation), 7:15 p.m.

presentation - Temple Beth Shalom • 1322 E. 30th Ave.

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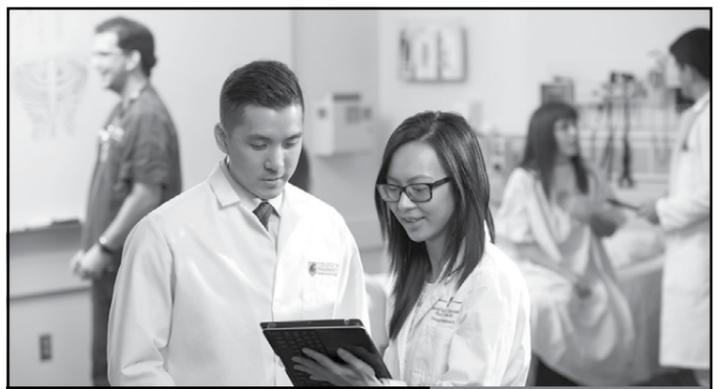
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Powwows are a time to celebrate, be healed and connect with roots

By Kaye Hult

Powwows such as Julyamsh, the powwow offered by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in July 2016, serve several functions within Native American communities.

Powwows offer a time to celebrate. They are filled with color and sound and movement. Spectators come from around the nation and world to experience the pageantry.

For Native Americans, powwows are also a way of life, according to Quanah Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Casino cultural affairs director, who was master of ceremonies for Julyamsh.

"Many Native Americans use that as their spirituality and walk, as well as a time to celebrate and be healed," he said.

Powwows grew out of the celebrations the Indians put on when their warriors would return from an expedition—a hunt, a raid on a neighboring village or a war, he said.

Warriors would stop short of arriving home and change into their finest regalia. They would begin a serpentine approach into camp. They would sing a snake dance song, and then a song of victory, he explained. This return meant it was time for a social dance to welcome them back. It allowed them to share the story of their journey and display what they had brought back with them.

Times changed.

Native Americans were uprooted from their traditional homes and forced onto reservations. They were told their languages and traditions were no longer acceptable. Much was lost over time, Quanah said.

Powwows now are a chance to recover the languages, history and traditions of the past, and reinforce their importance for Native American identity.

The horse parade at the beginning of Julyamsh, along with the grand entry, reminds participants of the serpentine entry of warriors.

"The grand entry begins with a prayer," Quanah explained. "It acknowledges where we come from and who we are."

The eagle staff, the original emblem of Indian people, is brought in—always first. It is followed by the flags of the United States and Canada, and then flags of the states represented. It is accompanied by the flag song.

A victory song follows.

"We are still alive today," he said. "The song celebrates our resilience, our growth and the maintaining of our Indian identity. We are not victims. We are over-



Quanah Matheson

comers. We are forgiven, forgive and move forward."

Drums and singing accompany the grand entry, as the dancers—first men, then women—come in. The rhythms and songs celebrate the history of the native peoples, he explained.

All sit in concentric circles, beginning with leaders, musicians and dancers, then those who are there to watch, followed by those providing food. It is understood that beyond that circle is the circle of the "old ones," the ancestors, who still are very much with them. The entire powwow represents a holistic understanding of life, according to Quanah.

"People's spirits soar. The dancing often is for others who cannot dance, as well as for the individual dancers. It's a way of bringing life into balance, harmony and order," he said.

A powwow provides food as a way to say "Thank you for coming to our lands! Welcome home!" It celebrates family—"our home, our circle, our traditions and our heritage," he said.

"We come to celebrate and enjoy ourselves," he continued. "When we come to a place of enjoyment, with songs, prayers and culture, it is spiritual medicine."

The number four is important to Native Americans. There are four elements: earth, water, air and fire. There are four directions. There are four races of people, represented often in the colors used in the outfits that are worn: red, yellow, black and white.

In the regalia worn by people from southern tribes, he added, the blue of the ocean and green of verdant growth also appear.

The regalia that is worn is full of meaning. Many times, outfits have been passed down from generation to generation, with particular family symbols in the

beading and use of feathers. Different styles of dress are worn for different styles of dances.

The regalia demonstrate also how one cares for oneself and others over time. It shows a person's mindset by how well he or she cares for it, Quanah said.

"Outfits have a life to them," he said. "They are an enhancement of our identity. It is important to carry regalia in a certain way, to treat it like a relative."

"The colors and design represent where we come from. They represent our family and our family's belief. They help tell the old-time story of our people."

Competition is built into powwows, although some participate simply for the joy of it and in honor of others.

"The competitive spirit makes us better ourselves," he explained. "Our warrior spirit comes out. The prizes also give people money, which they use to travel home or to the next powwow, or to care for their families."

The dances have meaning, according to a pamphlet put out about Julyamsh:

- The men's grass dance originates from the way scouts sought a site on which to camp or have a meeting. They tamped the grass down with a special dance. It also represents how a warrior would stalk game. Regalia for the grass dance includes strands of yarn hanging from the arms and waist to simulate grass and includes a roach—headdress—with two feathers attached so they move as the dancer moves.

- The women's traditional dance is more stately, slow-moving or simply with a nonmoving bouncing step. The outfits, often made of buckskin or wool, are heavily beaded, along with quill work and other decorative features from nature. The colors are quiet.

- Younger, energetic women participate in the women's fancy/shawl dance wearing brightly colored, elaborately decorated regalia.

- In the men's traditional dance, participants imitate the animal spirit world. They wear eagle feather bustles and grouse feathers, as well as deer, elk and porcupine headdresses. Their regalia pieces may have been passed down for generations.

- The men's fancy dance is relatively new. Young men move in unique, energetic ways. Competition between dancers and singers may spring up. When the singing stops, the dancing is also supposed to stop, right with the end beat. Singers try to end in

unexpected ways. Dancers gain or lose points, depending on how well they do.

- The women's jingle dance is done in dresses covered with small metal cones that jingle when they move.

The dances, singing, drumming, sharing food, and visiting with friends and family help Native Americans remember from where they have come, and build their pride in their history and how far they have come, Quanah said.

"There are wonderful things about the sound of drums and voices and dancing in unison together, circles and circles," he reflected. "This is energy that heals. It is medicine to us."

"When we look like our people and when we stand a certain way, we are seen to be strong and to know our identity," he said.

The powwow way of life is somewhat modern. Drums reawaken the old ways. It is an awakening of Native American spirit, he explained.

"Powwows also are a time of learning from the oldest to the youngest. The circles we are in

are a lifelong experience," he said. "When we go back home to our real home at the end of our lives, we'll be greeted by long lost relatives. It will be a continuation of life as we have known it, but with everlasting grass, with no pain or hunger, and with dances and songs, horses and animals."

"We keep coming into these circles with family and extended family. We are sovereign beings, children of God. That's our true identity," he said.

"We are born to a mother and father, who pass on our cultural identity. We strive to achieve harmony and balance. Our goal is to talk and present ourselves in a focused way, showing we know who we are and where we come from," Quanah said.

"It is important to keep our heads up high, showing we are proud, but not arrogant. Those are strong individuals, who have found their center. Powwows celebrate that strength and invite that centering," he said.

For information, call 800-523-2464, ext 7234 or email at qmatheson@cdcasino.com.

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Franciscan sisters close counseling center, several stay in Spokane area

Franciscan Sister Pat Millen has been going through files, finding and repacking treasures and records from the time five Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia first came to Spokane in 1890 to open St. Joseph Orphanage.

Over the years their ministry developed into the St. Joseph Family Center, which has provided counseling, classes, hospitality and spiritual care since the 1980s and is now closing.

A few weeks ago, Sr. Pat took the adoption files of orphans to the Department of Child and Health Services to keep for people seeking information about their families.

The last day of programs and services at the St. Joseph Family Center was June 30.

Anger management classes for men and women, parenting children in divorce classes and the parent project classes have been taken over by Northwest Mediation at 35 W. Main, Suite 230. Two teachers will continue under that program.

Counselors Lorraine Costanza (953-8100) and Ed Hinson (435-2756) will continue to serve counseling clients through their private practices. Sr. Pat said that most clients were on state insurance, which did not reimburse adequately to cover the cost of services, a major reason for the center closing.

"It was a sad decision, but the right one," said Sr. Pat.

It's sad for staff, three of whom are still looking for employment. It's sad for the people the center served because they may not find the same quality of therapy. It's sad for the City of Spokane to lose a nonprofit serving the community since 1890, she said.

"It's also part of the times with fewer women in religious service in Spokane. At the cemetery, we can see the numbers of sisters who served the community," she said. "We are the remnant."

Sr. Pat will continue to serve in Spokane, leaving her role as director and beginning as part-time justice, peace and integrity of creation coordinator for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia on the West Coast. By early November, she will work out of her apartment.

Sr. Pat already has been involved in several advocacy roles—the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium's advocacy committee, the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance's public policy committee, the board of Habitat for Humanity, the board of Transitions, the Intercommunity for Peace and Justice Center Board and its Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, and the City of Spokane Community Housing and Human Services Strategic Planning Committee.

Sr. Elaine Thaden will still do vocational ministry in Spokane. Sr. Joanne Clavel will stay in Spokane as director of the Franciscan sisters mission fund. Sr. Florence Poch will continue at Kairos House. Sr. Patty Novak is looking for a new ministry.

The center will close Sept. 30, and a decision has yet to be made about the facilities. Meanwhile, Passages Family Support has renewed its lease through next October. Sisters of Providence continue to rent a building. The maintenance person will work until a decision is made.



Sr. Pat Millen, OSF, will serve as advocate for Franciscan Sisters.

The hospitality component will carry on under Sharon Eklund, the Franciscan Place director. People and groups can rent the space by calling her at 995-7997. Clare House will still be available for visiting professors and private retreats through Dec. 30.

Sr. Pat came to the center in July 2010, after working 10 years with Catholic Community Services in Tacoma as director of the Family Center in Bremerton.

"As Franciscans, we respond on several levels. Providence sisters focused on education and health care. Holy Names sisters focused on education. Franciscans have responded to diverse needs, particularly needs of low-income, blue collar neighborhoods. They still have five health care hospitals in the Puget Sound area.

"As Franciscans, we respond to people who are not being served," she said. "That's why we offered counseling for the working poor and court-ordered classes on anger management."

Sr. Pat sees her new ministry as responding to Pope Francis' call to care for the common home of people and the environment.

In this region, that will entail challenging coal and oil trains, and working for a carbon emissions tax.

She also will advocate for undocumented immigrants, refugees and Muslims. Her Ukrainian grandparents came in the early 1900s and her Italian grandparents came in 1912. She remembers experiencing discrimination against Italians growing up in New Jersey.

Sr. Pat entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1978, earned a bachelor's in religious studies and behavioral science from Neumann University in 1985 and a master's in education and counseling at Loyola of Maryland in 1989 while serving as a guidance counselor at Baltimore Catholic High School. From 1992 to 1995, she worked with Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, DE, served four years in social service programs in Alaska,

and a year with Mercy Housing in California before serving at the Kitsap Family Center and in Bremerton.

When Sr. Elaine retired in 2010 as director of St. Joseph Family Center, Sr. Pat was asked to apply.

Now she's planning for the closing ritual liturgy, during which she will welcome people to share their memories as they tour the buildings and grounds.

Dave and Sue Rolando will

lead music and Fr. Ty Schaff, whose sister Loretta Schaff is a Franciscan sister, will preside at the liturgy. The service begins at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 17. A reception will follow.

The ceremony is for Sisters of St. Francis, companions, former members and people who served with them or were served by them.

For information, call 892-9241 for clinical records, and 995-7997 for hospitality.

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New NAACP Spokane president connects to organizations in community

President of the NAACP Spokane for just a few months, Phil Tyler has been making the NAACP visible on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and its website to interest younger people to come to membership meetings.

Often Phil's postings on social media show him in the community, meeting with different people.

"We are going to people to talk with them, rather than talking at people trying to draw them to us," he said. "We want to work on reconnecting with people or establishing new relationships. We need to nurture relationships to expand our outreach."

Along with showing himself meeting with community leaders, Phil offers Facebook messages, like recent comments related to Unity in the Community:

"We need to fix the broken relationships that have been damaged as a result of partisan politics. We can do it and events like this prove it. We do it through 'Unity.' We do it by coming together, celebrating our diversity, finding and binding those things that bring us together. Thank you to all who showed up, in person and in spirit, to show that we can do it together!"

Membership in the NAACP Spokane is growing. So is attendance at meetings, Phil said.

"I see room for expansion locally in the national NAACP's growth model for involving more people—young and old, Democrat and Republican, and more than blacks and whites," he said.

"We want the knowledge and values of the NAACP to be carried on to the next generation," he said.

"My role is bridge building, finding common ground, rather than dwelling on conflict, and working in partnership, not being partisan," he said. "What we do is about the right of all citizens to human rights."

Phil has been involved with the Spokane NAACP for two years. He knew about it from his mother's involvement. He saw it as existing to bring about equality during the civil rights movement, and then, for him, it seemed to be silent.

As a military child, Phil grew up around the world and United States—Japan, the Philippines, Montana, Oregon, California and Washington. His parents divorced, and he grew up on public assistance with his mother in Spokane, graduating from Ferris High School. He entered the Air Force and served in California,



Floyd Rhodes, Dave and Faye Baptiste, Phil Tyler, Meg Demand, Karen Boone and Dorene Hagen.

Korea, Kentucky and Washington, leaving the military in 1993.

He then worked with the sheriff's office jail division for many years, and now works in security at Gonzaga University and has his own communication consulting business, Wisdom and Words.

"I seek to serve the community in various capacities," he said.

Recently board members Dorothy Webster and Faye Baptiste attended the national convention.

They brought back a poster that shows a tapestry of the founders.

"It may be a surprise to some that the founders were not all African American. We need to share that message, so Spokane does not divide on black and white racial lines, but also involves Asian Americans, Native American, Hispanic Americans and Muslim Americans in the community," Phil said.

"We are still fighting for rights, equality and ending discrimination. We need to reach the broader community so more come together to work on those issues. We will be more powerful the more members we have," he said.

He reported that at Unity in the Community, the NAACP had signed up six more people.

At a recent meeting a new young man came on his birthday. He gave \$40, his birthday money—\$30 for membership and another \$10 as a donation.

Until recently, membership meetings drew about 40 people, but the last few meetings, 80 have been coming, Phil said.

The five "game changers" that are the basic priorities of the NAACP work both locally and nationally are 1) economic stability, 2) education, 3) health, 4) public safety and criminal justice, and 5) voting registration and political

representation.

The national has also been emphasizing that to accomplish those, the NAACP must expand to engage youth and young adults.

The NAACP is organized to have committees responsible for each of those five priorities. With more people involved with the NAACP, he knows that everyone together can do what needs to be done to help the city move forward and heal.

On education, for example, the local chapter is working with the District #81 school superintendent, Shelley Redinger, to address the disproportional expulsion and discipline of minority students, as one issue.

Related to criminal justice, Spokane recently received a MacArthur grant for law and justice. The NAACP is part of efforts to reduce the jail population, particularly the large minority population in jails by promoting community courts and diversion of those arrested who need mental health treatment, so they do not end up in the criminal justice system.

The NAACP is also registering and educating voters. Part of that effort is to inform felons who have served their terms and are off probation that they can vote. That has been the case in Washington for many years, but many think that once they have been imprisoned for a felony they can never vote again.

Phil feels he has "big shoes to fill" as NAACP chapter president, but he noted that, just as he as a child was able to walk down the hall wearing his mother's shoes, he can "make it down the hall through obstacles" with the city and community.

To do that work, he believes, means operating with a measure

taining the consistent voice of the NAACP's core message for social justice and civil rights.

"I'm motivated by a desire for fairness, equality and justice for all," he said. "That includes gender equity, instilled in me being raised by a single mother with three sisters, and modeled every day by the women who make up the NAACP Spokane Executive Committee."

Phil also said hate motivates me, not that "I hate" but that "I hate hate."

He wants to eradicate hate so people can have discussions and disagree without anger and fear turning to hate.

"Every struggle is worth the endeavor," he said. "For me the journey is the reward."

For information, call 954-8392 or email lt.ptyler@gmail.com.



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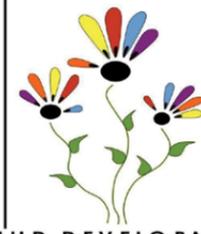
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Partnering for Progress provides relief for people in southwest Kenya

By Erin Rebar - Intern

Partnering for Progress (P4P), a Spokane-based relief program that provides aid in education, nutrition, health, clean water and economic development to an impoverished region in southwest Kenya, has accomplished much for a nine-year-old organization, according to part-time executive director Dia Maurer.

"Roads are scarce in that part of Kenya, and luxuries often taken for granted in the United States, such as electricity, are a rarity," said Dia, describing the lack of infrastructure.

P4P recruits medical, education and engineering volunteer teams to travel to Kopanga to provide on-site health care, training, education and project development in collaboration with community health providers, school leaders and local water committees.

Organizers work to understand the needs of the communities through communication with local, regional and government organizations. Together they become a catalyst for change, breaking the long-standing cycles of poverty and disease, said Dia, who learned about the program from her dentist, who told her while he had a drill in her mouth.

Although she has operated strictly on the U.S. side of the project, Wayne Krafft, a P4P volunteer and chemist, has traveled to Kenya several times with the organization.

Wayne learned about P4P through his wife, Patti, a nurse practitioner who worked with one of the original founders of the program, Stacie Mainer, ARNP, to help establish a self-sustaining health clinic—the original focus of the organization.

The clinic, he explained, was a tiny shack with dirt floors, no power and no running water.

"Working there fit my wife's skill set," he said.

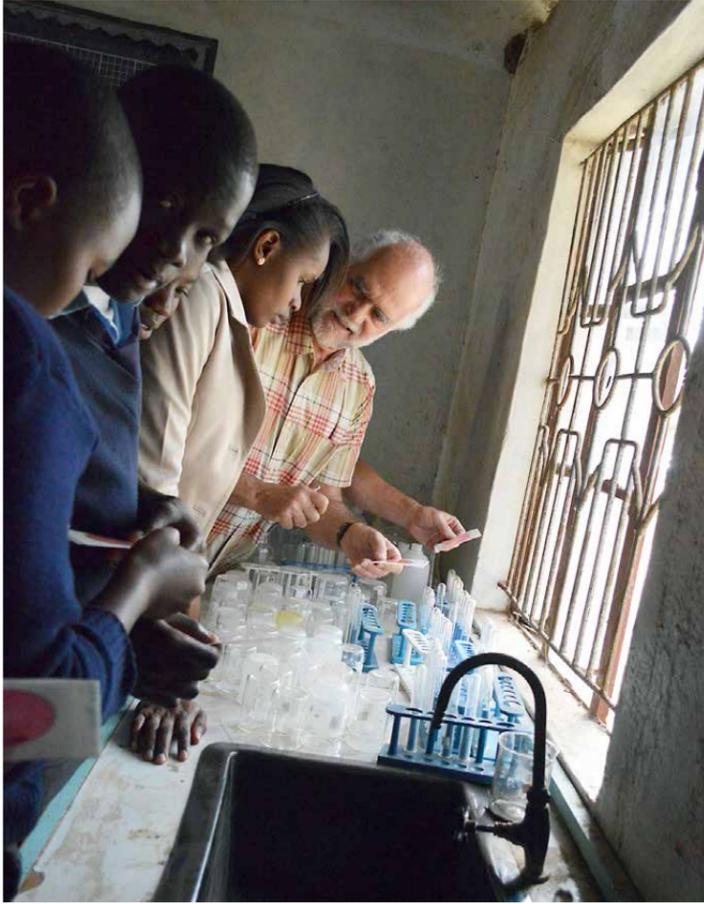
When he was first approached about joining the P4P team, Wayne wasn't certain there was much he could contribute, given P4P's focus on the health field.

"I'm a chemist by education and work in the environmental field," he said.

Eventually, he found he could contribute to the cause by applying his skills in chemistry and ecology. In 2010, he made his first trip to Kenya and began working on a new project—developing clean sources of drinking water.

"I realized that we just can't go over for a couple of weeks a year, do some health care and make any significant changes, Wayne said.

"We actually have to change



Wayne Krafft teaches a teacher in Kopanga.

the community, and we have to do that in a multi-faceted way if we want to have any real impact. Water and sanitation were an outgrowth from health care," he said.

In southwestern Kenya, finding water isn't the problem.

"Water is plentiful there," Wayne said, "but it is all hand carried. It's drinking out of mud puddles. It's drinking from streams—the same ones that the horses, cows and everything else drink from. There's not much in the way of outhouses, so outdoor sewage runs into the water. People drink that water and get sick."

Wayne's involvement requires working with the people in a two-faceted way. First, he helps villagers understand what pathogens and water-borne diseases are by introducing them to French chemist Louis Pasteur's studies. Then he brainstorms with his team to come up with solutions that work.

P4P educates villagers about differences in cleanliness between water sources, and coming up with simple, low-tech solutions to obtain clean water.

"The problem is," Wayne said, "if someone is carrying a five-gallon bucket, how far is he or she going to go to find clean water? Especially if the person carrying the water doesn't understand that there's a real difference between clean and polluted sources."

Dia, whose passion for P4P is evident in her voice, is overjoyed

with what the organization does.

"One of the efforts we have engaged in this year," she said, "is encouraging people to help us sponsor scholarships for children. We have \$100, \$300 and \$500 levels. A \$500 scholarship will support a child through a year of high school at boarding school. That's room, board and education. I think that's important for people here to know because it's affordable, and it changes a life."

Dia serves as a communication hub for P4P. She coordinates P4P's seven committees of volunteers and helps them collaborate on what they do.

She also supervises P4P's full-time staff member in Kenya—a Kenyan who works on the ground with the people P4P serves.

Dia has always been drawn to international work. Before P4P, she worked for Habitat for Humanity's international program, because she feels like she is blessed to be born here.

"It fits into my faith system, that we are all God's children and to the least of these we should give because we have been given much," she said.

Her faith journey has taken many twists and turns through her life. She has been Methodist, Lutheran and Baptist, and is now Presbyterian. "God has been the constant in my journey," she said.

"P4P involves people of many faiths," she said, "and some of

no particular faith, but they come together out of a passion to reach out to others who weren't born with the blessings we have. We did nothing to deserve to be born here and now. It's a gift for us to be able to share.

P4P's "Into Africa Auction" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 5:30 p.m., at the Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan Rd. in Spokane Valley.

That event raises 40 percent of P4P's revenue in one night.

"There's always room for more help. There's a ton of work to do,"

Dia said. "We need a videographer and a web designer for communication. Those things need to happen to keep the funding rolling along so the work can be done.

"P4P is about sharing the gifts we've been given with people who are less fortunate," she said. "They want better lives for their children, good health and sustainable incomes. They want to be well-fed and healthy."

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Nonprofits form Faith Partners to educate faith groups on abuse

Three years ago after a hiatus of several years, the YWCA and the Women's Healing and Empowerment Network (WHEN) revived a partnership that started 15 years ago to educate the faith community on domestic violence.

Faith Partners connects the YWCA Alternatives to Domestic Violence programs with nonprofits such as WHEN, Abuse Recovery Ministry Services (ARMS) and Create Your Statement in Spokane.

Mable Dunbar, director and founder of WHEN, said the program started with Sandi Thompson-Royer, a Presbyterian woman who formed Women Walking Together, and Patty Wheeler, director of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, to raise awareness of how faith groups can perpetuate domestic violence based on twisted use of Scriptures.

The goal of Faith Partners is to educate clergy and members of congregations about the dynamics of domestic violence so they can become more aware of resources available to support victims and perpetrators, and to help end the intergenerational cycle of abuse.

For the last three years, Summer Chitwood of the YWCA and Mable of WHEN, have been coordinating Faith Partners.

Mable, who attends the West Central Multicultural Seventh Day Adventist Church, pointed out that "because statistics indicate that there is just as much abuse in Christian homes as there is in non-Christian homes, it is imperative that the faith community become an integral part in ending the intergenerational cycle of abuse."

She is a licensed professional counselor, cognitive behavioral therapist, certified domestic violence counselor and family mediator. She travels internationally to lead workshops and healing conferences to educate communities, church leaders and members on the dynamics of domestic violence and sexual abuse. She has also written three books and numerous articles on domestic violence and related abuse.

Summer served as a legal advocate for a domestic violence program in Anchorage, taught in special education and has been involved with international mission experiences in 2008 and 2010 to 2011. She has attended New Community church in Spokane, where she and her husband Joel, lived while he completed the Moody Bible Institute's aviation program. They moved back to Alaska in August.

She started as a relief advocate on call at the YWCA shelter, a legal advocate and then became



Mable Dunbar, Chris Chandler and Summer Chitwood

manager of advocates helping women with protective orders and criminal domestic violence cases.

"The YWCA believes that the faith community is important in helping address, prevent and advocate for victims of domestic violence," said Summer.

Since Summer moved, Chris Chandler of the YWCA's Women's Opportunity Center agreed to coordinate Faith Partners with Mable.

"The YWCA is the largest and the only state recognized domestic violence program in Spokane," said Summer.

It works in collaboration with the faith community to provide housing, counseling, protection orders, family law, TANF and job readiness to help women return to work.

"Domestic violence victims deserve resource, help, legal advice, safety and means to hold offenders accountable," she said.

For the past two years, Faith Partners has offered four trainings—two a year—and provided presenters to hold workshops when faith communities request them.

A "Domestic Violence 101" training for pastors in August 2014 included input from law enforcement and pastors. There were six participants.

In February 2015, 25 attended a Domestic Violence 101 Forum, which included a panel consisting of a law enforcement officer, the prosecutor, a pastor and victim advocate. It included a case study.

In August this year, there was a Domestic Violence 101 pastor training, "Strategies for the Faith Community Response to Violence." It included a presentation from Stacy Wenzl of the Public Health District with research on how violence affects the community and a survivor's experience of how a church re-

sponded to her. Stuart Vogelman of a security company and former pastor of Valley Real Life Church gave ideas on how to create a safe church. Faith Partner agencies and Lutheran Community Services Northwest shared resources they have available. There were 29 participants.

The Being There Conference theme this year is "Bitter or Better? Empowered Through Loss, Grief, Trauma and Depression."

WHEN sponsors this annual interdenominational conference and the YWCA helps promote it.

It will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Hillyard Baptist Church, 2121 E. Wabash.

The conference is a healing Christian Forum for women and men to engage in open discussion to help create an abuse-free community.

It is also designed to provide healing, education and information for people who have experienced abuse, perpetrated abuse or want to support victims of abuse.

The conference will include testimonies, workshops, informal discussions with professional presenters, including a grief recovery specialty and two physicians. There will also be healing activities. Information on the conference is at whenetwork.com.

Future trainings being planned by Faith Partners will be held

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February 6, 2017, at West Central Multicultural Seventh Day Adventist Church at 1201 W. Spofford, and July 10, 2017, at City Church, 1047 W. Garland.

The YWCA and its partners organize two trainings a year.

"It's important for the community to hear about the realities of domestic violence and its effects on people in churches," said Summer. "We assume that people in churches 'have it together,' but that is not always the case, given that one in three women and one in seven men experience domestic violence."

"We look forward to continuing to bridge the gap between the faith community's response and people experiencing domestic violence," said Chris, who is the Women to

Work/Basic Food, Employment and Training program coordinator and has worked at the YWCA Spokane for almost two years.

For information, call 326-1190 or 323-2123 or email mabledunbar@gmail.com or chris@ywcaspokane.org.

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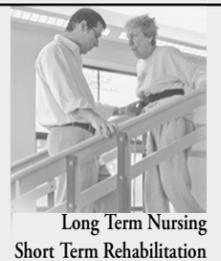
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'If you're tired, scared, hungry and wanting freedom, keep going'

Sitting with my three-year-old granddaughter on my lap, cuddling while she contemplates whether she will eat the French toast I made, I relish with joy sharing in her life. This summer she became a River Rat, loving to play in the St. Lawrence River, where I have roots. How fortunate I was that she and two of my other three grandchildren, 10 and 12, were able to join me!

For many, grandparenting is at a distance. I have the joy of having three of four close—all four last year. What fun to watch them grow and learn. Wow, they did sprout this year and over the summer, and they learned new words, new concepts, new nuances of life.

Now I watch on FaceBook as several once grandchildless folks, who could not understand my dotting, became grandparents and understand. I watch the photos of them dotting, smiling, bragging at every coo and giggle of the new ones.

It's for my children, grandchildren and

for future generations that I continue to work to build healthy relationships among people by sharing stories of people who make a difference because of their faith and values. I'm also interested in drawing in more to help with writing, editing and other functions of producing The Fig Tree to carry on this unique model of media.

I watch as some media pick up on every contrived squabble and issue that will hurt my life, the lives of my children, their children and future generations.

I worry as I see my grandchildren in school where social studies, civics and history are seen as add-ons, not a core reason for education so we have informed citizens.

Reading is of course essential so young people can gain access to information on history and won't be swayed as politicians redefine history to their own benefit.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) help students join the marketplace for some jobs.

All of life, however, is not defined by

STEM. Young people need to know about history, government, leaders, struggles, movements, voices, freedom, equality, justice, faith and hope, as well as the skills for finding and holding jobs.

We need people who are informed on issues, who can think, who can form opinions, who can engage in discussions, who can disagree, who can find ways through disagreements to compromises that are solutions for people living together in a healthy society.

When the focus of any media is primarily to make profits for themselves, they compromise our society, they manipulate people to come back for more and more non-news just to fill owners' pockets.

There comes a point of saturation, numbness and fatigue with the same-old, same-old stories every day—even though there may seem to be some nuanced twist that grabs attention of the unsuspecting reader, viewer or listener.

This summer, I took my two oldest

grandchildren to visit the home of Harriet Tubman in Auburn, NY. Harriet was the "Moses of her people," leading hundreds of slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad in the 1850s.

My grandchildren came away with T-shirts that will tell their friends a quote often attributed to her:

If you're tired, keep going.

If you're scared, keep going.

If you are hungry, keep going.

If you want to taste freedom, keep going.

Harriet Tubman never gave up. She spent her life encouraging others to keep fighting for freedom, justice and equality.

Particularly in an election season, when media quips and manipulations seek to sway minds and hearts, we must remember—as people of faith living in a democratic society, as grandparents and parents, as ancestors of future generations—to keep going, to persevere in the struggle for peace, justice and a healthy society.

Mary Stamp - Editor

Newsletter Excerpts

Sounding Board

Letter to the Editor

Church assemblies, interfaith leaders, pastor and reader offer insights

At the May Regional Assembly, the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted a two-year focus around our key priority of "Embracing Diversity." In our Mission Plan adopted in 2009, we declared:

Diversity is a gift from God that must be nurtured, cherished and encouraged, as God's truth is usually too much for any one of us alone. We commit ourselves to the work of healing and reconciling our brokenness and the wounds of the past. In light of our oneness in Christ, we commit to be open, receptive and inclusive of all people, recognizing that we as individuals and together as a regional church will be transformed by our relationships with one another.

Since then, it feels like we have had weekly reminders of our need to live out this focus area in real and tangible ways. The news is filled with stories of violence, hate speech, intolerance and a call by some that seems to want to divide us based on skin color, religion or ethnicity versus what we believe to be our Creator's yearning for a Beloved Community united in the knowledge that we are all wonderfully made and cherished by the God of Many Names.

As part of living into our commitment to Embrace Diversity and to bear witness to the God of Love, we are offering a challenge and encouragement to all congregations to engage in a study or conversation during the month of September around the issues of diversity and anti-racism.

Sandy Messick
Regional Minister
Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

In the Conference of Bishops we have a bit of wisdom that is repeated on a regular basis. I offer it as a sign of hope and thanksgiving as we begin this transitional year in a transitional time for the whole church: "The church elects the bishop it needs."

I've never heard anyone try to refine the statement beyond that line, so it remains gracefully ambiguous. However, following the recently completed Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I offer the quote as my summation around the leadership of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Three years ago at this time we were surprised, anxious and curious about what the election of Bishop Eaton would mean.

That Churchwide Assembly (2013 in Pittsburgh) began with full expectation that Bishop Mark Hanson would be reelected.

Since then the leadership of Bishop Eaton, and Secretary Chris Boerger, has emerged in a patient way, addressing the urgent questions of the day, but building the confidence of the church. In her report this year, the line that will stay with me is this: "This church is not dying. This church is changing, and that's what God does, making all things new."

Pastor Jeff Kallevig summed it up this way: "I know, in a new way, that we are a part of a church that seeks to be public, inclusive, transparent and driven in faith and practice by the Spirit of God."

Together I think those statements summarize this Churchwide Assembly in its work and its worship, and by the leadership of Bishop Eaton. I believe the church has elected the bishop it needed even though at the time we may have not known why.

There is a lightness to her leadership that is refreshing and confident. She is playful in a safe way, meaning her humor doesn't carry barbs hidden within it. She is personal, naming names and bantering with voting members from the podium.

Her preaching is faithful and her presiding at the table is transparent, meaning she doesn't thrust her own personality "in front of the table," which, of course, belongs to Jesus.

She is fluent in Spanish, a gift we didn't know would be so important but now which reminds us all—pastors and members—that the gift of receiving another in their own tongue is generous and kind.

She is smart and quick-witted. One bishop quoted his mother as having said, "Bishop Eaton can say in 10 minutes more than most can say in a week!" To summarize I would say the gift is a nimbleness that has gravitas, but doesn't smother and discourage us in a day of so many intractable challenges.

To some of those challenges, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America responded:

- With confirmation that we want to be an inclusive church, racially diverse, listening and speaking Gospel with both humility and purposefulness in this polarized day;

- That we intend to be a church of reconciliation, even as we press our church in Palestine and our brothers and sisters in Israel to stop digging the hole that threatens to collapse on all, and

- That, while the reformation of the church goes on, we seek the full, visible unity of the great Church, a unity that is the Spirit's gift and the Spirit's call. In that important respect we received the document, "Declaration on the Way," a summary of our conversations with the Roman Catholic Church, including those issues we still hope to address.

This is the perfect study document to undergird our commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation beginning this October 31, 2016, and I commend it to you.

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

Facilitated by the Faith Action Network of Washington, 35 interfaith leaders have signed the following "Call for a Responsible and Respectful 2016 Electoral Process:

As interfaith leaders of the Faith Action Network of Washington State, we lift our voices together to call upon all candidates for public office to commit themselves to participate responsibly and respectfully in the electoral process, and for members of our faith communities to do the same. We are deeply troubled by language that vilifies political opponents; that targets particular groups in our society, encouraging hatred and fear, and that fuels disrespect of government and its leaders.

Our faith traditions—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Quaker, and Unitarian—call us to love our neighbor, reconcile with our enemies, and strive for the inclusion of all in our communities, especially the most vulnerable. We share with all Americans the responsibility for creating a society where political differences are respected, where civil dialogue on critical issues is the norm, and collective action for the common good transcends narrow political agendas. We yearn for a time when our elected leaders work together with mutual respect, negotiation, and compromise to advance the wellbeing of our communities and our nation.

In this electoral season, we call upon candidates for public office, their staff, and supporters to commit themselves specifically:

- To act respectfully toward others, including those with opposing views.
- To refrain from personal attacks on

individuals or groups while maintaining the right to vigorously disagree.

- To refuse to deliberately make untrue statements and welcome objective fact-checking of statements made.

We also call upon members of our faith communities to participate responsibly, respectfully and faithfully in the electoral process. We urge listening to diverse voices, learning about the issues at stake, holding candidates and the media accountable, and voting for the common good according to one's conscience."

Signed by 35 interfaith leaders

I am not going to write about racial tension, mass shootings, political races, how polarized our society is, excessive use of force, corrupt leaders or the like this month. Instead, I am just going to remind you about the 8th Commandment and Martin Luther's explanation: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Martin Luther commented: "What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

There you have it. Our neighbor exists to be loved not to be used. Too often we use our neighbor to feel good about ourselves. We want to feel right, good, smart. So we characterize our neighbor (our political opponent, enemy, anyone we disagree with) as wrong, bad, or stupid. So pay attention. If you find yourself talking about another and it comes down to them being "wrong, bad, or stupid" then it may be all about your ego. You might be using your neighbor and may be breaking the 8th commandment.

Repent therefore, and trust you are of infinite worth, not because you are right, good and smart, but because God loves you and it is God's righteousness, goodness and wisdom that saves us and makes us whole. Trusting that, you have no need to use your neighbor. Trust in the grace of God and live in the peace of Christ.

Bob Albing
Lutheran Church of the Master
Coeur d'Alene

What a great issue was the last Fig Tree in June. So much usable information. As I remember, so was the issue before.

Joyce Wright - Sponsor

Calendar of Events

- Aug 31-Sept 5 • Pig Out in the Park**, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., spokanepigout.com
- Sept 8 • "Saffron and Honey: Muslims, Jews and Christians in Medieval Spain,"** Antonio Gomez, Temple Beth Shalom, 6:30 p.m., dinner, 747-7394, spokanetbs.org
- Sept 10 • Faith Action Network** Central Washington Cluster Meeting, Ellensburg First United Methodist, 210 N. Ruby, 2:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org
- **Come, Listen and Sing**, hymns, solos, instruments, All Saints Lutheran, 314 S. Spruce, 4 p.m., 327-2827, nishacoulter@gmail.com
- Sept 11 • SpokeFest 2016**, three routes that are 211, 29 or 50 miles and Bike Safety Rodeo, 8 a.m., Kendall Yards, spokefest.org
- **Grandparent's Day**, CenterPlace, 2426 N. Discovery Pl., 1 to 4 p.m., 924-6976, s.schermer@q.com
- **"How Can Spokane Become a More Compassionate City?"** Unitarian Universalist Church, 4340 W Fort Wright Dr., 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., onepeacemanypaths.org
- Sept 13 • "Between the Shadow and the Light"** Art Exhibit opening, Lied Center for Visual Art, Whitworth University, 5 p.m., artist lecture, 6 p.m., 777-3258 or WUArt@whitworth.edu
- Sept 13-Oct 28 • "Between the Shadow and the Light"** exhibit, U.S. and African artists engage on five themes: Remembrance, Resistance, Reconciliation, Representation and Re-visioning, Bryan Oliver Gallery, Whitworth, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 777-3258
- Sept 14 • Senior Empowerment Community Fair**, Spokane Housing Ventures, Clare View Seniors Community Building, 4827 S. Palouse Hwy., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 252-6500, crystaldawnw@spokanehousingventures.org
- **"Road to Discovery"** walking tour of Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (IHRC), 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 448-1224, ext. 105, development@ihrc.net
- Sept 14, 19 • Package food at Northwest Harvest** Distribution Center, 3808 N. Sullivan #15-K, 10 a.m. to noon on 14th, and 7:30 p.m. on 19th, 891-7012, northwestharvest.org
- Sept 16-Oct 30 • "Chinese Lantern Festival—World of Light,"** displays, performances and demonstrations and activities, Riverfront Park, Clocktower Meadow, opens 5 p.m. daily, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., spokanelanternfestival.com
- Sept. 17 • Annual Spokane River Clean-Up** in Spokane Valley, the University District, the Downtown River Gorge area, High Bridge Park and People's Park, 209-2851, ibox@landscouncil.org
- **Constitution Day 2016 Town Hall** with candidates for Washington's 5th Congressional District, Whitworth President Beck Taylor, moderator, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4739, whitworthcommstudies.org
- **St. Joseph Family Center Closing Ceremony**, 1016 N. Superior, 11 a.m., 995-7997
- Sept 18 • Soka Gakai Exhibition**, "Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World/ Peace Pinwheel Making Project, 1 to 5 p.m., onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com
- **Faith Action Network** Yakima and Tri-Cities Cluster Meeting, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 640 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Kennewick, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 206-625-9790, fanwa.org
- Sept 19 • NAACP Monthly Membership Meeting**, Community Building, 35 W. Main, 7 to 9 p.m., spkncpbr@gmail.com, spokanenaacp.com
- Sept 20 • Caring for Kids Luncheon**, benefit for St. Anne's Children and Family Center and Morning Star Boys' Ranch, speaker Mary LoVerde, DoubleTree Hotel Downtown Spokane, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 358-4254, catholiccharitiesspokane.org
- **Native Non-Native Talking Circle** with speaker Paul Wapato, Sr., Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 6 to 8 p.m., 443-4884
- Sept 20 • Benefit Breakfast for Project Hope**, speaker Kent

- Hoffman, a therapist, Champions Room of the Spokane Arena, 720 W. Mallon, 7:30 a.m., 703-7433, james@projecthopespokane.org
- Sept 21 • Coffee and Contemplation:** "Greater Things Shall You Do. Holy Spirit Opportunities for Healing Today," Andi and Ernie McGoran, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 to 11 a.m., 448-1224, skrause@ihrc.net
- **Community Sing for Peace**, Gonzaga choir and community, Hemmingson Center, noon to 12:10 p.m., onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com
- **Compassion Games Closing** with World Peace Flag Ceremony, Hemmingson Center, 6:30 p.m., onepeacemanypaths@gmail.com
- Sept 22 • Peace and Justice Action League** of Spokane, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870, pjals.org
- Sept 22-24 • Greek Festival Dinner**, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1703 N. Washington, 328-9310, holyltrinityspokane.org/festival.html
- Sept 23-25 • Valleyfest 2016**, Mirabeau Point Park/ CenterPlace Regional Event Center, valleyfest.org
- Sept 24 • Fiesta Spokane Heritage Festival**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wall St. downtown, latinohopefoundation.org/Hispanic-heritage-festival.html
- **2016 End AIDS Walk**, Spokane AIDS Network, Riverfront Park's North Bank Shelter, 10 a.m. 455-8993, spokaneaids.wixsite.com/san-nw1
- Sept 26-Oct 2 • "Living as a Monk in Everyday Life,"** Spirit Center, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Cottonwood, ID, 208-962-2000, www.Spirit-Center.org
- Sept 27 • Laudato Si: "Practical Stewardship and Our Responsibility,"** dinner, Bishop Emeritus William Skylstad and Fr. Joseph Sullivan, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., 448-1224
- **"On Mission: East Africa and the Missional Church,"** panel on Muslims partnering with the American church, South African speaker Musa and panel of Whitworth and Partners International leaders, Weyerhaeuser Hall, Whitworth, 7 p.m., 777-4437, oce@whitworth.edu
- Sept 28 • "Experiencing Mercy from God and from Ourselves,"** Silent Day of Prayer on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Msgr. John Steiner, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 448-1224, ext. 109, programs@ihrc.net
- **Caritas Mini Resource Fair**, Spokane Friends Church, 1612 W. Dalke, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 326-3349
- **Spokane Police Accountability and Reform Coalition**, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., 838-7870
- **Family Promise of Spokane Benefit**, "Beauty and the Beast," Spokane Civic Theatre, 1020 N Howard, 6:30 p.m., 747-5487
- Sept 30 - Oct 1 • "Bitter or Better?"** Empowered Through Loss, Grief, Trauma and Depression," Women's Healing and Empowerment Network and YWCA, Hillyard Baptist, 2121 E. Wabash, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 323-2123, mablecdunbar@gmail.com
- Sept 31 • Fig Tree distribution**, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813
- Oct 1 • The Fig Tree Board**, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 p.m., noon Benefit Planning, 535-1813
- **L'Arche Auction**, "There's No Place Like Home," St. John's Cathedral, 127 E. 12th Ave., 5 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 483-0438
- **Partnering for Progress** "Into Africa Auction," Mirabeau Park Hotel, Spokane Valley, 5:30 p.m., 720-8408, email info@partneringforprogress.org or visit partneringforprogress.org
- Oct 3-5 • Turner Memorial Lectures**, "Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community," Leah Gunning Francis, Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, disciplesnw.org/event/2016turnerlectures
- Oct 5 • Ministry Institute Benefit**, "Beauty and the Beast," Civic Theatre, 1020 N. Howard, 313-5763
- Oct 7 • Indian classical music concert**, South Asia Cultural Association of Spokane, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 7 to 9 p.m., 467-5558
- Oct 8 • Caritas Craft and Bake Sale**, Spokane Friends, 1612 W. Dalke, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 326-3349

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Institute director develops awareness of power of words and images

Continued from page 1
of Cincinnati in 1991 and master's degrees in business administration and in organizational development from Bowling Green State University in 1999, she completed a doctoral degree in leadership studies in 2009.

In addition, Kristine did a semester of undergraduate study in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she gained "lived experience" in one of the world's most egalitarian societies.

She came to Spokane in 2009 to teach organizational ethics and organizational change at Gonzaga, drawn by its mission to "serve men and women for others."

After John Shuford, the institute's former director, left, she began as director this spring. The several directors since 1997 have each had different emphases.

Academic Vice President Patricia Killen and Associate Academic Vice President Ron Large of Religious Studies say the institute is unique, adding value to conversations on hate through research and teaching.

Kristine, who grew up United Methodist and raised her three sons Presbyterian, said that her mother-in-law, who taught at Old Fort, Ohio, helped start an immigrant education program that had impact on the lives of immigrants who came from Mexico and Texas to pick tomatoes. The children did not have access to textbooks or consistent time to go to school, because they migrated with their families.

"My mother-in-law's commitment to education as a right has been compelling," said Kristine, whose formative experiences included time with her grandparents on a Central Ohio dairy and grain farm. In the rural community, they shared dinner with the farm workers regardless of their background.

"For me, the idea of human dignity is ingrained, even though I graduated from Bowling Green High School that had just four African-American students in a class of 200," she said.

For a high school paper, she interviewed an African-American nurse who shared about his life. He told of his frequent experiences in the 1980s of people crossing to the other side of the street when they saw him coming.

Even though Kristine walked the same paths, she was not aware of anyone crossing the street just because they did not want to share the sidewalk with her.

"It was a formative experience that spurred my curiosity," Kristine said. "Why do we see some people through a lens of fear



Kristine Hoover

and others with an assumption of goodness or neutrality?"

When she applied for a doctorate and wanted to do research on diversity, her advisor said, "We've already covered that." So Kristine shifted to leadership studies and built on the idea that relationships are central and that organizations—both for profit and nonprofit—are significant sources of self-worth, social identity and economic opportunity.

"My doctoral research looks at developing awareness of the power of words and images, and their connection to organizational ethics and culture," she said.

"For a class exercise, I asked students to list words and phrases that included 'black' or 'white,' and then indicate a positive or negative connection. It was compelling to see the free

association of words," she added.

"Language in organizations and some political speeches has different meaning to different parts of society. It can be helpful or hateful," Kristine said. "We are exploring our own awareness of how the same organizational communications can impact how we engage with others.

"The first step is awareness of the power of language and understanding that receivers hear messages differently: How do we develop greater empathy and understanding? How do hurtful, hateful messages help us understand what dialogue is? How does this contribute to dialogue in a complex world? How do we reflect on the ease in which we learn how to make ethical decisions relating to how we treat people in our organizations?"

How does our narrative reflect the ethical perspectives we claim?" she asks to help students recognize the power in the use of words and images.

Kristine examined how websites of businesses and institutions of higher education depict people related to their abilities, gender, age and race to communicate inclusivity.

What is strategically included or excluded? How is the body shown—face to the front or sideways? Who is at the front of the picture and who in the background? Is someone grasping an object strongly or delicately? Is someone more scantily dressed?

"All people have dignity, so why are there differences in images?" she asked. "If we think the playing field is level and all have equal access, why are those in power shown in different ways?"

"Some claim diversity is not an issue, but people of color and women are still disproportionately represented related to power," she said. "In messaging about how to be educationally and economically empowered in the workplace, who is at the table?"

Unless images are inclusive, she said businesses and nonprofits will not have "access to the greatest talent to create the greatest good."

To show people with some characteristics and not others by default includes and excludes, Kristine said, asking people to be intentional about these decisions.

She imparts that understanding through teaching and the institute. After John left the institute and

before she started, the Institute looked at its board structure and talked with faculty further about integrating it into campus life. They sought to energize the board in research and teaching to align their expertise with the mission.

Kristine has met with leaders of other organizations, such as the Human Rights Education Institute and Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (KCTFHR) in North Idaho, the new Spokane County Human Rights Task Force (SCHRTF) and the Interfaith Council.

The annual *Journal for Hate Studies* publication is still a priority, she said. The fall 2016 volume will focus on research on dissent, such as that of the Westboro Baptist Church.

For International Peace Day on Sept. 21, Kristine planned forums for faculty and students with members of North Idaho College, Whitworth University and Community Colleges of Spokane. David Smith, a former member of the U.S. Institute for Peace, will lead events on peace pedagogy for higher education at Gonzaga. He will tell faculty about career and professional peace jobs. He will also be in dialogue with students from the local universities.

There will be two public events: a Community Sing at noon, Sept. 21, at the Hemmingson Center, and a Peace Flag Ceremony at 6:30 p.m., that day in the Hemmingson rotunda.

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

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