

Community Retreat photos (continued)



Tribute Gifts

In Honour
*Jim Colgan
Laura
Mary Kierans
Scott H*

In Memory
*Gwenda Dunlop
Dr. Jack Harrigan
Fred Dunstan
Olga & Bill Carter
Barrie Thomson
Anne Marshall
J.B. Rocha
Basil Henney
Pat Sadler*

“We can create a little place of peace where we love each other.”

L'ARCHE FOUNDER, JEAN VANIER

Check out our blog for updates, stories and more. L'Arche news: www.larchevancouver.wordpress.com
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YES, I would like to support the work of L'Arche locally!

Thank You for supporting the work of L'Arche in Greater Vancouver

If you prefer to donate online go to:
www.larchevancouver.org and click “Donate Now”

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PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____
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By providing your email address you are agreeing to receive emails from L'Arche Greater Vancouver.
This may include e-newsletters, event invites or requests for support.

- ☐ I would like to become an Ark Builder by committing to a gift of \$500 or more a year.
☐ I would like to receive information about donating securities or leaving a gift in my will.
☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

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HERE'S MY GIFT OF:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100
☐ \$50 ☐ Other: \$ _____

☐ I have enclosed my cheque payable to
L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver.

☐ I prefer to use my credit card.
PLEASE FILL OUT CREDIT CARD INFO BELOW

OR I WILL GIVE MY MONTHLY GIFT OF:

☐ \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$60 ☐ Other: \$ _____

☐ Please debit my bank account on the 1st of each month.
I have enclosed a cheque marked “VOID”

☐ I prefer to make a monthly contribution by credit card
PLEASE FILL OUT CREDIT CARD INFO BELOW

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRY DATE

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BUILDING A WORLD
WHERE *Everyone*
Belongs

Fall 2018

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Tabea's L'Arche Journey

Meet Tabea—our recent MCC volunteer who arrived in September 2017 and returned to her native Germany in August 2018. L'Arche Greater Vancouver has benefitted from the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) volunteers for many years. They have contributed to our Community Inclusion Day Programs in many ways and assisted L'Arche in living our mission.

Tabea learned about serving others and giving back from her parents, however her experience at L'Arche was beyond her expectations. It surprised her that this kind of family-like community existed.

One of her discoveries was how people needed different approaches in order to feel loved and appreciated. Mary liked quality time, Theresa felt loved when you allowed her do things independently, Ilonka liked receiving gifts, and Melina was happy when she sat and “puzzled”

with her. When asked what she will remember most, Tabea responded “Self-discovery...I don't need to be perfect...the world won't fall apart if I make a mistake.”

Tabea was not only a dedicated and hardworking volunteer, but was also someone who desired building deep and respectful relationships with our core members and assistants. She truly became part of both the Emmaus and Neighbours Helping Neighbours teams and was always eager to help in any way she could.



Tabea Liebe

Tabea made many lasting friendships during her time with us and her absence is felt every day.

We all wish her well on the next leg of her journey and hope to see her again soon.



Tabea (bottom row, second from left) with some of her L'Arche colleagues

Our 2017-18 Big Numbers

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

- Cut **181** lawns
- Volunteered **144 hours** at Collingwood Neighbourhood House

Creation House

- Creation House members went out for coffee **1452** times

Emmaus

- Hosted **28** Friday Lunches, where we welcomed **106** guests

Emily House

- Rosie and Mary spent **6650** minutes doing evening exercises together.

Nazirah House

- Went on **50** outings that included coffee, watching airplanes take off, park walks and aquarium visits

Peniel House

- We welcomed friends for meals **115** times

The Crossing

- We watched **55** movies together

Community Life

- We held **43 Community Prayer** evenings where we sang **275 songs**

CARF Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) conducted an on-site survey of L'Arche Greater Vancouver May 16-18, 2018. **We earned the highest rating possible** – Three Year Accreditation – for our commitment to meeting CARF's high standards in our everyday service delivery. From the survey:

*It is evident that the principles of inclusion, individualized service delivery, personal preferences and the health and safety of the core members are incorporated at all levels. There are **many opportunities for social interaction; creativity in art and music, self-determination; and expression of faith, caring, volunteering, and celebration.***

CARF is an independent, non-profit accreditor of health and human services, enhancing the lives of persons served worldwide. This is our fifth consecutive three year accreditation.

From Denise's Desk

Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, turns 90 on September 10th!

Jean had no idea that welcoming two men with developmental disabilities into his home would spark a worldwide movement. There are now nearly 150 L'Arche communities in 45 countries. Jean still lives in the village of Trosly, remaining close to his home community.

I've had the privilege of meeting Jean a number of times over the years and treasure those memories. Two memories stand out in particular. The first is when he came to celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2004 that included a public talk at St. Andrews Wesley United Church. The talk, entitled "**Community: Healing the Heart, Mending the World**" simply, yet profoundly, encompasses his life's mission. The church, which seats hundreds, was packed to capacity and yet it felt like an intimate

gathering of friends as he delivered his gentle and powerful message. He spoke of the deep and universal yearning as human beings for community and belonging.

The second was the Gospel of John retreat in Trosly. There he spoke of the "**sacrament of the encounter**" that Jesus had with many people He met. Jean invited us to discover the sacredness of "the other", especially with those whom we perceive to be different from ourselves. It happens when we seek to recognize, and discover, the unique gift and beauty of the person in front of us at any given moment.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have met Jean personally. His words and presence have helped to shape my life.

Happy Birthday Jean.



Board Spotlight

Ted Kuntz, President, L'Arche Greater Vancouver Board



I am a retired Psychotherapist, author and educator. I also raised a son with disabilities and he taught me more than all of my professional training and background.

In March 2014, my journey with L'Arche began. Having learned that relationships help vulnerable people feel safe, I value the contribution L'Arche makes to creating a community of support around individuals with disability. I also value that L'Arche recognizes the gifts and contributions of all individuals.

I believe that our goal to expand L'Arche's mandate, and expose more individuals to the benefits of living in an intentional community, has the potential to transform how we live in society. L'Arche is a living example of a compassionate community. I'm honoured on the journey with L'Arche.

Audrey Staudacher, President of L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver



After working in social services and not-profit organizations for 25 years, I am now retired. I began volunteering at 15, teaching Sunday school in our church, and have continued to volunteer in a variety of capacities and organizations throughout my life.

My first connection with L'Arche began 12 years ago. As I supported my sister-in-law through the transition from living with her parents to living at L'Arche, I observed the compassionate and respectful care she received. Upon further reading and research about Jean Vanier, and experiencing firsthand the life shared among the assistants and core members of Unity House, I felt I belonged.

With L'Arche I receive more than I give and it is such a pleasure to be part of a place that truly lives its mission every day!

Community Retreat



This year's Community Retreat, held June 15-16, at L'Arche Greater Vancouver, had a record attendance of 89 people. Our theme was "**Celebrate**" and was facilitated by long-time members of the community, Laurie Duke and 'Nita Venter. We were invited to consider how we find ways to celebrate and be thankful every day.



The Big Living Room was packed and the upbeat rhythm of a song carried us all to our feet, "Hallelu-hallelujah"... people young and old... we were all dancing and singing our hearts out."

Annelise Jacky, Community Life Coordinator