



WINTER 2023

## A Tale of Two Friends



*Alex and Arthur on one of their outings*

It doesn't take long to figure out how deep friendships run when you're sitting around the table with everyone at L'Arche's Creation house. Even though there's a wide range of ages and backgrounds, there's the feeling of family when they gather for a meal.

### These people know each other well.

Food likes and dislikes are known. Teasing and appreciation bounce around as the meal is shared. There's shared history with sentences that start "Remember when...". People here are part of each other's stories. Laughter is always on the menu.

The two people around the table that share the most history are Arthur and Alex. Arthur is a founding member of L'Arche Greater Vancouver, having come to the community almost 50 years ago. It was here that he met Judie Leckie, L'Arche's first Community Leader and the difference in his life was profound. He says, **"My whole life changed"**.

He is a respected elder in the community and is described as a man of prayer. His favourite thing to do (besides going for coffee) is to welcome people. He takes time to ask about others and often has the right word for a situation.

Alex spent most of his working life in large corporations, including seven years in the Navy. Ten years before he retired, he volunteered for Aids Vancouver looking after people who were abandoned by their families and shunned by society.

It was there that he realized he wanted to do something different and more rewarding. So, after 42 years in the corporate world, he took early retirement and went back to college at the age of 57 to earn a Diploma in Care Aide. He did part of his practicum with L'Arche and made some interesting discoveries about himself.

"I learned that I was more at ease and found it to be more rewarding than climbing the large corporate ladder.

### Being part of a community seemed more like me".

Arthur and Alex became friends immediately. In the early days, they would walk up to Metrotown and have coffee or lunch. They've gone on vacations together and shared long drives on the open road. Today they still go for drives and have coffee along



*Arthur at his favourite place, the White Rock Pier*



*Creation House on a road trip*

the way. Arthur describes Alex as kind, understanding, and someone who can make him laugh. "How I make Arthur laugh is a secret...but it does involve some dancing and singing". Arthur makes Alex laugh by making funny faces.

Wherever their daily activities take them, there is an unmistakable bond between these two men and **it's all because they were introduced to L'Arche.**

# In Time for Christmas Giving and New Year Planning!

Our **"Once Around the Sun"** 2024 Calendar is available for purchase, featuring the 18 paintings from this year's Art Together show. Calendars are \$15 when picked up from the office during regular working hours or \$18 by mail.



**Art Cards are \$5 each or \$6 by mail.**

For a full showcase of Art Products and Original paintings available for purchase go to

[www.larchevancouver/imagegallery/](http://www.larchevancouver/imagegallery/)



# Ark Builders and Art Together September 23, 2023 John Paul II Pastoral Centre



*Speakers Sandra and Tiana Kirkegaard*



*Ark Builder pin recipient Barbara Cullen*



*Sig Stark, Barb and Diane Winteringham, Patricia Simpson and Jim Lattimer*

Ever since 2008 L'Arche has welcomed faithful and generous donors to an annual "Ark Builders Brunch". These friends of the community have fervently kept our ark afloat with their financial support. This year's program included an update on the construction of our new building from Jim Lattimer, Board President, an inspiring talk by Sandra Kirkegaard and her daughter Tiana Kirkegaard, and the presentation of Ark Builder pins to our newest Ark Builders.

Our guests were also the first to view our 2023 Art Together paintings before the show opened to the public in the afternoon. Artists used this year's theme, Once Around the Sun, as their inspiration to create unique pieces of art.

In the afternoon we welcomed friends, family, and community members to our 13th Annual Art Together Show. Guests mingled with artists as they viewed this year's paintings, enjoyed refreshments, and purchased paintings, prints, calendars, and other artwork created by L'Arche artists. We are grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the day a success.

## Vancity

*Event Sponsor, Vancity*

## dhdigitallyhip

*Honourary Sponsor, Digitally Hip*

As in past years, our friends at Vancity's South Burnaby Community Branch were presented with a painting of their choice to be added to their L'Arche Art Gallery. Their 2023 choice was Yumi and Sue's painting "Cherry Blossoms".

Left to right:  
Fatima Morabito (Sr. Financial Service Representative), Fairly McKinley, Sue Allen, (both from L'Arche), Ashley Hansen, (Assistant Branch Manager), and Cidalia Pinheiro (Account Manager)





# Our Big Numbers

As reported in our 2023 Annual Report



## Creation House

Donated **74** hats  
Went to **17** different parks  
Erol attended **4** Canucks games

## Emily House

Celebrated **62** birthdays  
Prayed **998** times around the dinner table  
Took **852** walks



## The Crossing

Linda knitted **25** hats and scarves  
Sue spent **650** hours colouring  
We welcomed **50** guests for meals

## Nazirah House

Baked together **45** times  
Made **105** hospital visits  
Enjoyed **70** outings for coffee



## Emmaus

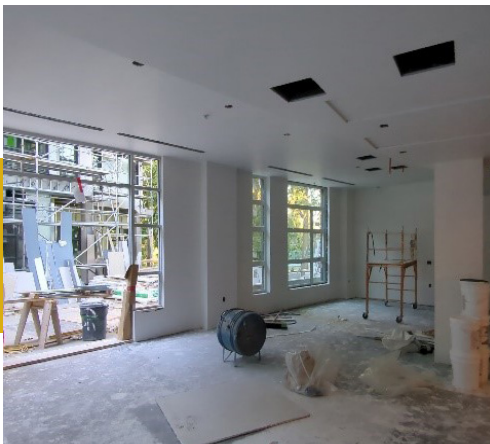
Celebrated **22** Birthdays  
Delivered **352** Meals on Wheels  
Collected **\$660** from recycling bottles and cans  
Created **60** toques

## Neighbours Helping Neighbours

Served **36** regular customers  
Shoveled snow from **19** driveways and sidewalks  
Weeded and raked **84** times  
Cut **149** lawns



## Construction Photos



One of the three New L'Arche Homes



The Courtyard looking East



Looking toward the park from one of the L'Arche homes

# Supporting Organizations

We gratefully acknowledge the following Organizations for their support from June 1 to October 31 2023

Agape Catholic Charities Fund  
held at Vancouver Foundation  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
BC Housing

Catholic Women's League of St. Joseph's Church  
Charitable Impact Foundation  
City of Burnaby

Cloverdale Nursery Ltd  
Columbia-Bowell Funeral Chapel  
Community Living BC

First Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster  
J & G Servant Foundation

Knights of Columbus, Holy Cross Council, No. 5423  
L'Arche Canada

McGuire Family Foundation

Mount Pleasant War Memorial Community Cooperative  
Association

Provincial Employees Community Services Fund  
VanCity, South Burnaby Community Branch

# Tributes

The following were honoured or remembered with a tribute gift to L'Arche

## In Honour

Arthur Hutchinson  
Manuel Pickburn

## In Memory

Phyllis Alexander  
Gwenda Dunlop  
André Faucher  
Rev. Doug Graves  
Thea Hoffman  
Mary Kierans  
Daniel Manulak  
John (Jean) Massot  
Cyril McGuire  
Peter McConville  
Peter Mercer

## WAYS TO SUPPORT L'ARCHE GREATER VANCOUVER

- Mail:** Mail your cheque to L'Arche in the postage paid envelope provided
- Online:** [www.larchevancouver.org/donate](http://www.larchevancouver.org/donate)
- E-Transfer:** [giving@larchevancouver.org](mailto:giving@larchevancouver.org) - Add your name and address in the message box along with any special instructions
- Phone:** 604-435-9544 ext 120

Charitable Registration No. 1376468671-RR0001



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