



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #68



Remembering Yvonne



L'Arche Winnipeg lost another long term community member with the peaceful passing of Yvonne Richard on December 9th 2015 at Park Manor Personal Care Home. Her many friends gathered at Blessed Sacrament Church on December 15th for a funeral mass where we shared our sorrow and expressed our gratitude for Yvonne's life with us for 39 years. The following is the eulogy given by Community Leader Jim Lapp at Yvonne's funeral.

Yvonne was born on October 5, 1958 at St. Boniface Hospital the youngest of 8 children. She came to L'Arche Winnipeg on December 1, 1976 and has been a member of L'Arche for over 39 years. She has been a loyal friend to many of us gathered here.

Like many of our members, Yvonne was a graduate of Prince Charles School where her teachers commented that she was friendly, courteous and cooperative. While there she developed her talents and became a very good worker. For many years she had a paid position at a Transcona restaurant called Mr. Steak until it closed down. She was happy to move on to Palliser Furniture where many of her good friends already worked.

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Olympic Building Centre's 12th Annual Walk With L'Arche On May 1st

The 12th annual walk will take place on Sunday May 1st, 2016 at Oxford Heights Community Club, 359 Dowling Ave. East in Transcona. Check-in tables open at 12:30 pm and the Walk starts at 2:00 pm sharp. You can walk either 1 km or 5 km and then celebrate with free food, prize draws, and entertainment for the entire family!

Event Registration & T-Shirts

Mail in or drop off your registration form & fees to the L'Arche Winnipeg office, or register online through L'Arche Winnipeg's website or at The Running Room. Walk T-shirts can be requested if you submit your registration form & fees to the L'Arche office by Monday, April 11th, along with a minimum of \$50.00 in raised pledges. You can still continue to

form & registration fees to the L'Arche office by Monday, April 11th

Volunteers

A large number of volunteers are needed to make the walk a success. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Liz Gauthier by phone at 204-237-0300 ext. 20, or at volunteer@larchewinnipeg.org if you would like to volunteer.

Volunteers help to ensure that 100% of your raised pledges will be used to improve the quality of life of our L'Arche members with developmental disabilities and their assistants.

Prizes

The prizes at the walk are donated by the business community, organizations and individuals. If you have a prize that you would like to donate for the walk



raise pledges until May 1st, the day of the Walk.

Create a team by asking your friends and family to walk with you (minimum of 5 people needed to be considered a team). Choose a team captain and a team name. You can get a T-shirt with your team name on it. Each team member needs to raise their own \$50.00 of pledges to get the T-shirt, and must submit that amount with their registration

please call Diane Truderung at 204-237-0300 ext. 1 or send an email to dianetruderung@larchewinnipeg.org

Come and join us for this family fun event on May 1st. More details are available in our walk brochure and on our website. If you would like to obtain more brochures, pledge forms and registration forms, or require further information, please call the L'Arche Winnipeg office at 204-237-0300.

For more information on L'Arche, visit the L'Arche Winnipeg website at: www.larchewinnipeg.org or the L'Arche Tova Café website at: www.larchetovacafe.com

Remembering Yvonne ...

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Yvonne was very independent and took Winnipeg Transit to and from work. She hated to miss work and would often go when she was not feeling well. Evelyn, who lived at The Ark with Yvonne, told me the story of one day arranging for her to take a day off work to do something else. When Evelyn got up she discovered that Yvonne was missing. Yvonne had gotten up early and taken Winnipeg Transit to work without anyone knowing.

Yvonne was very proud of the many things she could do independently. She was excellent at cleaning up, cooking, working hard, being well dressed and taking Transit. She loved Johnny Cash, wrestling, crosswords, word searches, and TV shows about animals.

Besides a good work ethic Yvonne had many other gifts. While she presented herself as being shy, she always had a smile when greeting new people. She was a very loyal and faithful friend. Once the friendship was established you would be her friend forever. Evelyn was deeply touched by Yvonne's concern and prayers for Evelyn's family members and their problems. Years after they no longer lived together Yvonne would ask Evelyn about how her family members were doing.



Yvonne with her good friend Sandra.

Yvonne was a very determined person. She made it very clear to others what she liked and didn't like. Yvonne taught many assistants to be patient as she didn't like to be rushed. Evelyn told me the story of preparing for a fire drill at L'Ainé where they both lived. They had just discussed that when the fire alarm went off you were to leave everything you were doing and immediately leave the building. When the alarm went off Yvonne immediately headed upstairs to get her coat before leaving the building. No one could persuade her otherwise.

Yvonne liked being well dressed. She expected that of others as well. When Lorena and Tim lived with her they liked to wear their most comfortable jeans that had holes in them. Yvonne always want-



Yvonne treasured this photo of herself driving the boat while on holidays in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in 1990.

ed to fix the holes and when that didn't work would say that she would buy them new jeans for their birthday. Once again she was a loyal concerned friend.

At least 15 years ago when I was serving on the Board of L'Arche Winnipeg, David Northcott from Winnipeg Harvest, came to my church to talk about their work. He did not know that anyone at Aberdeen Church had anything to do with L'Arche. He proceeded to spend at least half his allotted time talking about two volunteers at Harvest who came from L'Arche named Yvonne and Michelle. Their presence changed the atmosphere at Winnipeg Harvest. Everyone was warmly welcomed by them. They enjoyed the work and were proud of what they accomplished. Other volunteers picked up on their pride and enthusiasm and worked harder. They brought a great deal of joy to Harvest. What a gift they were to everyone there!

And what a gift Yvonne has been to us! Her smile has touched all of us. She has gone ahead of us on our journey to get everything ready to welcome us into heaven. Yvonne is with Jesus and all our loved ones who have passed away. When we meet her again we will experience the joy she shared with others at Winnipeg Harvest.

"I will always remember her sweet and contagious smile, her passion for dancing and for listening to the music of her favourite singer Johnny Cash. Yvonne was a beautiful soul - such a strong person through and through, in character, personality, and presence."

- Cecile Ancheta, House Leader at The Ark where Yvonne lived.

MREA Grant to L'Arche Winnipeg

L'Arche Winnipeg is very grateful for the grant donation that was received from the **Manitoba Real Estate Association (MREA) Shelter Foundation**. Although L'Arche receives operating funds from Manitoba Family Services and Housing, they do not provide all of the funding required to maintain the L'Arche homes. The funds received from MREA will assist L'Arche with the cost of installing air conditioning in one of our homes.



(l. to r.) Roger Burns, Chair, MREA Shelter Foundation, Diane Truderung from L'Arche, and Hannon Bell, Past Chair, MREA Shelter Foundation

The mission of the MREA Shelter Foundation is to raise funds for charitable organizations that support shelter-related causes that improve the quality of life of Manitobans. The MREA Shelter Foundation Inc. was created to support Manitoba charities that are devoted to shelter related causes.



Tom van Leeuwen (l.) presents cheque to Jim Lapp

Pillar to Post Home Inspectors, who did work for L'Arche in 2015, recently made a generous donation to L'Arche. We also thank **Tom van Leeuwen** of Pillar to Post for his donation of tickets to eight **Manitoba Moose** hockey games!

On the subject of hockey, we would also like to thank **Murray Kilfoyle** who gave us two tickets for a **Winnipeg Jets** hockey game, an evening greatly enjoyed by two members of L'Arche.

Miracle on Day Street

by Jim Lapp
Community Leader

Recently I gave a sermon at my church, Aberdeen Mennonite, about the Spirit of God and miracles. I stated my belief that whenever you witnessed compassion or creativity, that was the Spirit at work in the world. Most, if not all, of these manifestations of the Spirit I would classify as miracles. A miracle is defined as a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency (God). In my sermon I used the following story as one example of a miracle.

Several years ago Maressa, a long-time member of L'Arche Winnipeg, fell and badly injured her leg. She needed an accessible apartment when she got out of the hospital. We looked all over Transcona but the only available accessible apartment was in North Kildonan, a 20 minute car ride from all her friends in Transcona. Maressa had little choice but to move there. Then one day about two years ago Barb Pantel noticed that an accessible condo on Day Street, very near the L'Arche office in Transcona, was up for sale. We knew the condo well as Maressa had rented it for a few years before the owner had sold it to someone else. Because we weren't quite ready to buy the condo we agreed to rent it again for up to two years while we worked out all the details of ownership. Maressa was very pleased to move back to Transcona but was a bit worried that she might have to move, again, if the condo got resold.

The first step was for L'Arche Winnipeg to ask the government's permission to purchase the condo, since they would be paying the rent. The first government person we contacted did not agree to the purchase. As we tried to figure out what to do next, I met with the CEO of Casera Credit



Maressa, happily receiving friends in her condo: (sitting) Barbara Pantel, L'Arche Homes Coordinator, and Julie Rempel, Apartment Support person. Inset photo: Elizabeth (Betty) Fox.

Union where we do our banking and asked him how much we would need for a down payment for the condo. He said we needed exactly \$30,000.00. Two weeks later a letter arrived in the mail from a lawyer in Edmonton telling us that Elizabeth (Betty) Fox, a long-time supporter of L'Arche Winnipeg, had left us a bequest \$30,000.00. Clearly this bequest was meant to purchase the condo!! God was telling us that we needed to purchase this condo and that he was taking care of Maressa's needs. Elizabeth's niece and executor of her estate, Jan Fox, told me that Elizabeth would be thrilled that her bequest was being used to purchase the accessible condo. Jan and her family too "are so thrilled that Aunty will have such a wonderful legacy!". Shortly after this I contacted a different person in the government and they

wrote back that we had their approval to purchase the condo. We took possession of the condo on January 1, 2016. When we told Maressa she too was thrilled and wanted to come to the next Board meeting to thank the Board in person for purchasing the condo. She even baked some muffins to share with them!

In the forty one years I have been connected to L'Arche I have seen many miracles. Members with a disability and assistants (including myself) have been healed of wounds they carried. Financial gifts and assistants have arrived just when we needed them. Big and little miracles have happened. I sometimes think that the fact L'Arche Winnipeg even exists is a miracle. In the end isn't all life, all creation, a Gift from God?

A Special Calendar in Support of L'Arche

Addison, the grandson of our maintenance person Murray Barkman, is a 14 year old boy who has cerebral palsy, with significant visual and coordination impairments. Drawing has always been a favourite pastime of his since early childhood, and he has an amazing ability to capture detail and perspective. Addison explains how his sketches became a calendar:

"My grandpa and I started this project about a year ago. We picked buildings that are considered Winnipeg landmarks. We would sit in front of buildings, sometimes for hours. He would read, I would draw. Soon after I began these drawings, we decided to turn them into a calendar. It was to be a memory of our time together. We have since chosen to use the funds from the sale of these calendars to support the work of L'Arche, which is an organization that is important to my grandpa and I."

The calendars have brought in approximately \$2,000.00, with about 40 calendars left for sale. Thank you Addison for your support!



Addison's calendar cover & self-portrait

Leave a Legacy, Endowment Fund

Did you know that there are many ways in which you can donate to a charity through the "Leave a Legacy" program?

A charitable bequest is a distribution of your estate to a charity through your last will and testament. Insurance policies, RRSP's, RRIF's as well as annuities can have a charity as beneficiary. L'Arche Winnipeg also has an endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation.

For more information, please call Diane Truderung at 237-0300 ext. 1 or email: dianetruderung@larchewinnipeg.org

New Items at L'Arche Tova Café

Our Café, located at 119 Regent Ave. West in Transcona, began the new year with a new and improved menu (with some price reductions in effect). We invite you to come and discover, or re-discover us!

We now have a variety of individual frozen meals for sale (ask your server, or check our freezer in the Café) as well as ready to cook frozen tourtières (French Canadian meat pies - beef & pork).



Dedicated Volunteers

There are many generous volunteers who are present each day at the Café and strive to make your visit a warm and enjoyable experience. As a group, this team of volunteers has been nominated for the **Family Impact Award** at the **Volunteer Manitoba Awards** to be held in April, 2016.



Our committed volunteers are: Evelyn, Claudette, Albert, Mary, Josie, Erin, Dorothy, Hazel, Kathy, Dale, Stephen, Chantelle, Leonard, Teresa, Dave, Martha, Drake, Corey, Stacey, Ross, Clive and Lauchie. Whatever the outcome of the Volunteer Awards, we think they are all winners and we truly appreciate all that they contribute to the Café!

L'Arche Tova Café is also a finalist in the Social Enterprise category for the 7th Annual **Spirit of Winnipeg Awards** of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. The awards presentation will take place on March 4th at Club Regent Event Centre.



Public Christmas Pageant Well Attended

The hall at Christian Family Centre was filled to capacity on December 9th for L'Arche Winnipeg's first public presentation of our annual **Christmas Pageant**. Organisers of the event were very pleased with the attendance and the many positive comments received after. A larger hall might be needed next year!

The free-will offering at the pageant totalled \$590.00. L'Arche Winnipeg gave the amount to **Hospitality House**, an organization supporting refugees, who were very appreciative of this donation. Hospitality House is the organization who welcomed the 10 Somali orphans (siblings) who arrived in Winnipeg mid-January from Saudi Arabia, thanks to the efforts of their oldest brother Fathi who previously also made a long journey to get here via the States, walking the last stretch from the US border to Winnipeg.



Café Special

A **coffee** and a freshly baked **cinnamon bun** for just **\$4.00** - come in soon for this delicious deal. L'Arche Tova Café is open Monday to Saturday, 8 am till 2 pm. (closed Sundays and statutory holidays).

Catering

The Café can cater your event, large or small. Phone us at 204-421-9388 for details, or see our **catering menu** on our website: larchetovacafe.com

GRATITUDE FROM WINNIPEG

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