



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #77



15th Annual Walk with L'Arche on May 5th

The 15th annual **Vickar Automotive Group's Walk with L'Arche** will take place on Sunday May 5th, 2019 at Oxford Heights Community Club, 359 Dowling Ave. East in Transcona.

We hope many of you will join us for this year's walk and bring your family members and friends along. The walk not only raises funds for L'Arche, it is also about bringing together people with and without disabilities who can share an enjoyable afternoon together.

Check-in tables open at 12:30 p.m. on May 5th and the Walk starts at 2:00 p.m. sharp. You can walk either 1 km or 5 km on the walking trail, and then return to the Club for food, music, and many prize draws.

Event Registration & T-Shirts

Registration forms and fees can be dropped off at the L'Arche Winnipeg office, or register online through L'Arche Winnipeg's website. You can qualify for a free Walk T-shirt if you submit your registration form & fees to the L'Arche office by **Friday, April 5th**, along with a minimum of \$50.00 in raised pledges. You can still continue to raise pledges until May 5th, the day of the Walk. No additional T-shirts will be ordered after the April 5th deadline.

Walk as a Team

Create a team by asking your friends and family to walk with you (minimum of 5 people required to be considered a team). Choose a team captain and a team name. You can request a T-shirt with your team name on it. Each team member needs to raise their own minimum \$50.00 of pledges to get the T-shirt, and must submit that amount with their registration form & registration fees to the L'Arche office by **Friday, April 5th**.

Volunteers

Many 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 at the Walk. Volunteers help to ensure that 100% of your raised pledges will be



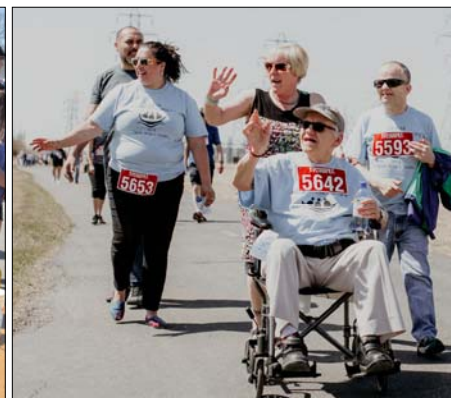
used to improve the quality of life of our L'Arche members with developmental disabilities and their assistants.

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 please contact Diane Trudering at 204-237-0300 ext. 1, or dianetrudering@larchewinnipeg.org. All registered walkers are eligible for the many prize draws, and there is also a special prize for the top **individ-**

ual fundraiser, as well as for the top fundraising **Team**.

Come and join us for this family fun event on May 5th. 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 more information, please call the L'Arche Winnipeg office at 204-237-0300 ext. 0. Registration forms and pledge forms can also be printed directly from our website. We look forward to seeing you on May 5th!



Accidental Friends - Stories from my life in community

This is the title of a new book by **Beth Porter**, a 40-year member of L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto. Please save the date of June 4th, 2019 as Beth Porter will be in Winnipeg for her book launch at **McNally Robinson** (Grant Park), as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of L'Arche in Canada this year.

“Celebrate the Gift” - L'Arche Canada On-line Art Exhibition

Celebrate the Gift is an on-line art exhibition that begins a year-long celebration of the **50th anniversary of L'Arche in Canada.**

The L'Arche Canada Art Exhibition features works by 31 artists with intellectual disabilities from each of the L'Arche communities in nine provinces. The artwork was selected by the community to express the theme *Celebrate the Gift: belonging, diversity, and inclusion.*

An introduction at the art website states that “*art opens a window into how others see and understand the world. This art exhibit opens our eyes to seeing the world from the mind and heart of a people who often are ignored, people labelled intellectually disabled. Note the lines, the vibrancy of the colour and the movement displayed in the art. Each artist has much to share.*”

Canadian Jean Vanier started L'Arche in Trosly-Breuil, France, in 1964. Five years later, Canada became the 2nd country to have a L'Arche home when *Daybreak* opened in Toronto. Today there are nearly 200 homes and workshops or day programs in 29 communities and 2 projects across Canada.

You can view the on-line exhibit at: www.art.larche.ca/



March is L'Arche Month at Pasquale's Ristorante Italiano

Solidarity is our partnership with L'Arche communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the needs of people living in communities where there is a need for greater financial support. Please join L'Arche Winnipeg, in partnership with **Pasquale's Ristorante Italiano**, during the month of **March 2019** as we raise funds for our solidarity partners.

For each **\$26.00 Pasquale Meal Ticket** purchased at the L'Arche Winnipeg office (118 Regent Ave. East, open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Pasquale's will donate back \$10.00 to L'Arche Solidarity.



Tickets are now available and may be used at Pasquale's, 109 Marion Street, during the month of **March only**, from

Mondays to Thursdays (lunch or supper) during operating hours of 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Your **Pasquale's Meal Ticket** includes: choice of Spaghetti Bolognese, Fettuccine Alfredo, or Penne Rosa - served with Caesar or Mozza Salad and a dinner roll, with a choice of pop, coffee or tea.

Reservations are recommended for groups and may be made on-line at www.pasqualesrest.com or by phone: 204-231-1403. Request main floor seating if you cannot manage stairs to the other two levels.

Albert from L'Arche Winnipeg contributed this painting entitled “*Cherry Blossoms*” for the on-line art exhibition. Albert's comment on his work: “*I painted this picture at work. I put it in a frame and gave it to my prayer partner Eva. She is a good friend.*”



Five Guys restaurant Partnering with L'Arche

Sunday March 10th will be “L'Arche Day” at all Winnipeg locations* of the popular restaurant *Five Guys*, as part of their “Community Event” fundraising program supporting various organisations.

On that day, *Five Guys* will donate 20% of the cost of your meal to L'Arche - but only if you tell your server that you wish to “donate” your meal to L'Arche.



If you are a regular customer of *Five Guys*, or you are someone who would like to discover a new restaurant and support L'Arche at the same time, then be sure to mention “I want our meals to be donated to L'Arche” when you come on Sunday, March 10th between 11:00 am and 10:00 pm.

* locations:
1575 Regent Ave. W. - 3380 Portage Ave - 2425 Pembina Hwy

Remembering Clive

Clive Molyneux passed away on January 19, 2019 at the age of 64. Clive had lived at L'Arche Winnipeg for 45 years, having come as a 19 year-old in January, 1974. Below are excerpts from 3 of Clive's close friends who spoke at his funeral service on January 25th.

Clive is the most dignified person I have ever met. I have learned a lot from him about what is important in life. He was very comfortable with who he was, and did not infringe on anyone else's right to be themselves. Richard Rohr, in his book *Immortal Diamond*, talks about the **True Self** and the **False Self**. The True Self is the Spirit of God living within each one of us. That Spirit is both unique to each one of us and universal. The False Self is our ego, giving us a false sense of our own importance, and judging others. More than anyone I have known, Clive lived in his **True Self**. He was kind and compassionate to others. I never felt judged by him. Akech told me that, when she lived in his home, one day he came into her messy room, looked around, shook his head with maybe a hint of disgust, and walked out. Both Akech and I agreed that he was judging her room, not her...

Several years ago, Clive's house leader invited me to accompany him to Disney World for a week, with six other members of L'Arche Winnipeg. We had a very good time together. But as many of us know there is L'Arche time, which means we are often late, and then there is Clive time. Near the end of our stay, Clive was being particularly slow in getting ready to go to the bus that would take us to another part of Disney World. In retrospect I don't why, but I tried to hurry him up with signs and gestures. He looked at me calmly and touched me gently on the shoulder to let me know I needed to relax. I got the message. We took a later bus...

Bob Jones emailed me this comment about Clive a few days ago: "Clive was a true original. I have met very few people who, with a small repertoire of looks, could communicate what needed to be communicated as he did! The community can celebrate that at L'Arche, he found his place to live out much of life... valued...respected... and, by many who knew him, well loved."

- Jim Lapp, Community Leader



Clive with his long-time friend Kathy French

Over the years, I learned a lot from Clive about being true to myself. The weekend we met, I remember watching him from afar, intrigued by the manner in which he was able to adequately communicate, through facial expressions and sign language. Yet those of us who use words often find ourselves stumbling in our ability to communicate with each other. Clive taught me how to communicate what was essential, from the heart, with love and laughter. As well as being able to make his needs known through his self-developed sign language, I very quickly observed Clive to have a keen sense of humour. With a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye, he appeared quite skilled as a mime artist, almost comparable, in my opinion, to Marcel Marceau, often entertaining us with his antics...

I believe that Clive was a gift from God, given to me and Roger and our families, and to all who were privileged to encounter his presence. He was a man of few words, but when he did speak, it was always profound. He was a Spiritual man and his simple Grace before meals said it all. With his eyes closed and his hands folded in prayer, he would nod his head and clearly articulate the most sacred of words, "Holy Man." Clive was a **Holy Man**. He was a gift given to us, an Angel on earth, and now, I believe he is a Heavenly Angel... You will be missed by so

many, but will always live on in our hearts, as we remember the great joy you brought to us while you walked among us.

- Kathy French, long-time friend

Clive taught us to slow down, to take our time. He taught us to love. There is no reason to rush: we just need to be present ...

Also, you don't have to be able to hear or to talk to announce your presence: you just need the right amount of key chains on your belt!

- Piroska Kulcsar, House Leader

Sr. Christella Buser

Sister Christella Buser, CSJ, died on November 2nd 2018. The first 5 years of Sr. Christella's 20-year involvement with L'Arche were spent in L'Arche Winnipeg, after which she moved back to Kansas to establish L'Arche there. In subsequent years, she also served as a Regional Coordinator and on the International Council of L'Arche.

In 1996 she wrote a book "Flowers from the Ark: True Stories from the Homes of L'Arche". She was both surprised and delighted to find out last year that her book was being translated into Korean.

December Performances Raise \$3,742.00 for Solidarity



Three of the six artists at "Songs of Christmas" evening



Part of the cast of the L'Arche Christmas Nativity

For a second consecutive year, **The Grace Sisters** & musicians entertained a very appreciative crowd on December 13 at Blessed Sacrament Church with their songs of Christmas.

Ticket sales and donations amounted to a total of \$2,130.00 for **Solidarity**, l'Arche International's program of support for l'Arche communities in countries where there is very little or no government support for people with intellectual disabilities.

Thank-you to the performers who donated their time and talent - and to all in attendance as well - for generously supporting our l'Arche family of communities.



The annual **l'Arche Christmas Nativity** on December 3rd was our fourth such presentation, and was also the one with the most attendees in the audience. The large number of people present was also reflected in the generosity of the free-will donations collected that evening for l'Arche Solidarity: \$1,612.00, which is double the amount that was collected the previous year.



The adjoining hall was full after the presentation, as people took the time to visit with each other and meet the l'Arche members who were in the performance.

Update on Jean Vanier's Health

Jean, who turned 90 last September, has since then suffered a loss of his voice, which led to surgery on his thyroid.

In the following January 2019 letter from Jean, he gives an update on his health.

My dear brothers and sisters of L'Arche and Faith and Light, and all those with whom I am united in mind and heart,

First of all, I would like to thank you for accompanying me with your prayer and friendship in the intervention operation that has just taken place and that went well.

It was during this operation that they removed a little bit of my thyroid and discovered a cancer that it was hidden there. I was strongly advised to have some radiotherapy to prevent the cancer from growing any further.

The doctors prescribed about fifteen sessions for me. They explained to me all the side effects, in the hope that I could regain my life as before. I am aware that these side effects can be a

little painful and I am counting on you to continue to support me in this descent into fragility. I know that this is also where I will discover our God of humility and gentleness.

During this whole period, which could last two months, I will stay in Paris in the apartment that L'Arche in France and a friend have generously rented for me and I will always be accompanied during this time by Odile, Annick from Belgium, and Christine. During this time of growing weakness I will have very few visits, but I know that you visit me through your prayer and your support.

Above all, I wanted to thank you for being with me in your thoughts and in your hearts. I will surely need your help during the more difficult times, but I feel happy to do what I can so that the kingdom of God, the kingdom of love, can grow on earth through my offering.

I send you my love and remain in communion with you - Jean

GRATITUDE FROM WINNIPEG

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