

TACOMA CATHOLIC WORKER

April

2011

Edition

Guadalupe House of Hospitality

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COMING SOON! MAY 21, 2011—THE GUADALUPE GALA!

By Frank Petrich

Please join us for our annual Guadalupe Gala on Saturday May 21 from 6:30-10 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Hall in Tacoma.

The Gala will feature dinner, music and a live and silent auction. You will have a chance to bid on everything from **hand-crafted furniture**, by Tom Karlin, to **face painting for your birthday party**, created by Catherine Petrich. **Vacations** near and far, including a **guided trip to Camp Muir**, escapes to White Pass, Washington or the Oregon Coast. This year's Gala features Catholic Worker Peter Roderick, who will attempt to escape from a canvas bag while soliciting your donations to Guadalupe House. Come see if Peter can pull off a trick worthy of the great Houdini. If you can't make it to the Gala this year but would still like to contribute, consider sending in your donation in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank you for your support!



Plowshares 5 Begin their journey in the Federal Detention System, and the Struggle to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Continues



A HUGE THANKS to all who wrote to Judge Benjamin Settle on behalf of Anne, Bix, Lynne, Steve and Susan. It was so important for Judge Settle to hear our voices supporting those who call on our government to uphold the law when the government is so clearly in contravention of so many laws.

The trial is over, the sentencing done, and the Disarm Now Plowshares five are currently being held in a temporary facility (Federal Detention Center Sea Tac), with the exception of Bix who is on his way to Tennessee for another court date. Travel through the Federal Prison system takes a long time, with many stops along the way so we do not know his route or when he will arrive, but periodic calls and letters give us a glimpse into the his travels. As of this writing, Bix is in Atlanta. So the milk run journey continues.

The Disarm Now Plowshares blog <http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com> has

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updated addresses, and posts letters from each of them.



You can never get too many letters when you're on the inside, so please feel free to write. They will greatly appreciate your letters! But please don't even think of sending packages (no packages allowed)! They have been assigned register numbers, which are needed for correspondence. The numbers are: Fr. Bill Bichsel 86275-020 (Note: Bix is in transit. Please do not send letters for now.) Susan Crane 87783-011 (Susan will also be transferred very soon, destination unknown) Lynne Greenwald 40672-086Fr. Stephen Kelly 00816-111 Sr. Anne Montgomery 03827-018 The address for Anne, Fr Steve Kelly and Lynne is:

NAME & REGISTER NUMBER
FDC SEATAC
FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER
[enter unit here -- Anne : "Unit GA"; Lynne:
"Unit DA"; Steve: "Unit FA-4"]
P.O. BOX 13900
SEATTLE, WA 98198



Besides our letters and good wishes, we can support Disarm Now Plowshares continuing our work to abolish Trident and all nuclear weapons. There are plenty of organizations working to do just that.

Please come for weekly prayer on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Jean's House, 1414 Tacoma Avenue S., to discern ways into the present and future. Jean's House is located on the opposite side of the alley behind Guadalupe House. Look for the "nuclear weapons free zone" sign on the door.

The following is an excerpt of one of the recent letters from Bix:

I'm blessed by the peace and quiet spirit inside. I'm not concerned about trying to be more than I am with the other inmates. I'm trying to let them see – and not hide or disguise – my lack of knowledge of so many things. I want to be as I have been formed by time and the community of people about me at different stages and positions in my life. Like I said: I'm lucky to be here.

I know I'm getting weaker – it takes all my strength and breath to make my bunk. I have to sit down a few times in the process. It takes all I have now to do one or two slow shuffles around the common area.

I don't feel panicked or upset about my condition. I know I can keel over at any time; but I feel very much at peace with this condition and understand and accept it – thankfully – as part of my journey.

I don't have a regular prayer time now – but pray and try to be alert, i.e. at rest in the presence of God. I ask God to lead me as God sees fit. There is no anxiousness or compulsiveness or resolve to preach or hold prayer sessions or do any "religious actions" – just be and shuffle around. There are four TVs I avoid with their steady diet of sex and violence.

I am so thankful to feel at peace with my life. It's a gift from God and I do feel God working in – with me. I could be wrong – but this is what I experience. The action we did was beyond us – as the carrying out of other Plowshare actions have been. I do feel our prison stay is part of the same journey. -Bix

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Puzzle by John Hewitt

Find the hidden names... Abel, Abimelech, Abraham, Absalom, Adah, Adam, Ahab, Amos, Barnabas, Bartholomew, Bartimaeus, Bathsheba, Benjamin, Boaz, Cain, Dinah, Esau, Eve, Gad, Ham, Ishmael, Jael, James, Jesus, Job, Joel, John, Judah, Lot, Luke, Manasseh, Mara, Moses, Nebuchadnezzar, Nimrod, Noah, Obadiah, Paul, Philip, Potiphar, Rebekah, Ruth, Shem, Solomon, Stephen, Thomas, Timothy, Zebedee

Nuns and/or Angels

Theresa Power-Drutis Director, New Connections

As an advocate of rights for women, men, children and life in general, the position of women within the Catholic hierarchy has always perplexed and saddened me. The only thing more baffling is that so many strong, gifted women navigate this system as nuns. After decades of pondering and many conversations, I have come to view nuns as enigmatic blessings who are not diminished by my lack of understanding.

What other choice do I have? They are a force to be reckoned with, especially regarding social justice issues. A case in point is Sister Phyllis Kelleher, a Tacoma Dominican who stepped up to the Irma Gary House (IGH) plate to provide respite for Lynne Greenwald. Lynne, resident manager of IGH since our 2010 reopening, needed to visit family prior to being incarcerated for her participation in the Disarm Now Plowshares action. Sr. Phyllis saved the day.

Phyllis returned after the sentencing on March 28 and offered to stay on at IGH during April as we searched for someone else to fill in for Lynne during her 6 month sentence. A volunteer with a passion for helping women as they transition from prison to community life is a rare gift. Even more extraordinary: a person willing - and able - to live in the house and to provide the heart of the home. After the judge pronounced sentencing, I stood outside the courtroom pondering life without my dear friends. My second thought, "How will I replace Phyllis when she can no longer replace Lynne?"

At precisely this moment, yet another nun approached me; Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ, of the Nevada Desert Experience. After inquiring about the needs of IGH, Megan asked her community to support her in taking up Lynne's work while she is in prison. Amazing!

So, what do YOU think: nuns, or angels, or both?

New Connections thanks the many volunteers and donors who continue to help wrap a community of hope around the women of Irma Gary House. The Tacoma Catholic Worker provides us with rent free housing and supportive services. They are our closest neighbor in every way possible. From the broader community, everything from dish soap to eyeglasses to tutoring for the GED makes a difference. Special thanks to our incredible volunteers and case managers who are the foundation of all that we do. Please visit our web site or call Theresa at (253) 617-1405 to learn more about New Connections and ways to help women in transition. www.nctacoma.org

Guadalupe House needs...

socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, **a strong working lawn mower!!**

razors, shaving cream,

sugar, dish soap, laundry soap, bleach, toilet paper, and a two line phone

You can deliver donations at 1417 South G Street, Monday through Friday between 11am and 2pm, or call Peter at 226-9605 to arrange a delivery time. Thank You! If you are looking for a special way to participate in our hospitality to the homeless, you can also **adopt a room** at Guadalupe House! Call us for more info.



MEET JANDI DUNLAP !

She came to Tacoma Catholic Worker last November, and recently started volunteering at Catherine Place. She is an ecumenical social justice advocate called to serve the homeless and poor. Jandi began volunteering at The Norse Home in Seattle at age 11, and has spent 30 years as a soup kitchen cook.

She has been described in the past as "An exhorter with the heart of a servant. Humble, cheerful, and willing to help wherever needed." She very accurately describes herself as "a worker bee."

She is a former member of Central Lutheran in Seattle, and continues on a contemplative spiritual path. Jandi joined the Catholic church this Easter (and may have already joined Pax Christi by the time you read this).

Quotes by Dorothy Day, co-founder of Catholic Worker:

"The mystery of the poor is this: That they are Jesus, and what you do for them you do for Him. It is the only way we have of knowing and believing in our love. The mystery of poverty is that by sharing in it, making ourselves poor in giving to others, we increase our knowledge of and belief in love." A Radical Love: Wisdom From Dorothy Day

"I don't think of the Passion as the Crucifixion. I think of His whole life as the 'Passion.' I don't mean to become a theologian now; I have never been good at theology. My mind isn't abstract enough. But when I think of Jesus I think of someone who was constantly passionate; I think of all His experiences as part of His Passion: the stories He told, the miracles He performed, the sermons He delivered, the suffering He endured, the death He experienced. His whole life was a Passion - the energy, the love, the attention He gave to so many people, to friends and enemies alike." Dorothy Day: A Radical Devotion



Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove at Guadalupe House May 12

Tacoma Catholic Worker and Parish Collective are partnering together to put on an event with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove at Guadalupe House

Thursday May 12 from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Liturgy/Dinner/Thoughts and Discussion around his recent book *The Wisdom of Stability: Rooting Faith in a Mobile Culture*. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove is a New Monastic leader and author of several books: *God's Economy*, *Free to Be Bound*, *New Monasticism*, *To Baghdad and Beyond*, *Becoming the Answer to our Prayers*, and *Common Prayer*. He lives at the Rutba House with his New Monastic Community of Hospitality, Peacemaking and Discipleship in the neighborhood of Walltown in Durham, North Carolina with his wife, Leah, and two children along with other friends. \$10 suggested donation

What is the Tacoma Catholic Worker?

TCW centers on Guadalupe House of Hospitality and the surrounding houses and gardens. Out of these spaces, and with our friends and neighbors, we strive to build a community of hope.

We invite people with no place to stay to live with us in our home. We share chores, have communal dinners, and open out house weekdays 11am to 2pm for folks to get mail, shower, use the bathroom and phone. To the larger community we offer opportunities to pray together, and participate in justice work.

We are an organism. Our consensus model is non-hierarchical and uses a volunteer staff, greatly supported by our neighborhood and community. We are not an institutional provider of social services. In fact, donations are very much appreciated, and needed, but are not tax-deductible.

We are entirely supported by individuals, we provide no salaries, committing ourselves to voluntary simplicity, non-violent social activism, and living with the poor.

REFLECTION BY GREG LUCID, A JESUIT VOLUNTEER IN TACOMA As a member of Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest for the 2010-2011 year, looking back on my time of service has opened my eyes and heart to the JVC Northwest values of community, spirituality, social justice and simplicity. The Tacoma Catholic Worker community has also been extended family. This year I was given the opportunity to serve at Nativity House, which is a daytime drop-in center in Tacoma for many of those seeking food, clothing, rental assistance, hygiene products, mail services and more. I have had experiences preparing and serving 150-250 plates of food at each meal (breakfast and lunch on weekends, snack and lunch during the week) to our guests. A number of them face hardships such as homelessness, mental illness, and unemployment. From my experiences, serving at Nativity House has helped me build patience, compassion and love for those around me. I have been inspired by many, including reading up on the life of Dorothy Day, co-founder of The Catholic Worker. Thoughts and prayers go out to the Plowshares 5.



MEET GUADALUPE HOUSE GUEST: DON

In 1954, the year I was born, my father had his house built in a rural area of Kitsap County known as Chico. I lived in a pristine area surrounded by woods. It didn't last. The men that built my father's house went on to create Eldorado Hills which became a huge housing development. Family and houses displaced the forests and the trees. When I was growing up I found myself playing outside most of the time. I began playing football and basketball at a young age and continued in high school. Before the start of my junior year in high school I had a Bi-Polar episode in which I had an overabundance of energy and wasn't making sense. A psychiatrist gave me medication and in the spring the illness went into remission. I graduated from Central Kitsap High School in 1972. On my 19th birthday I had my second Bi-Polar episode. I was in and out of college and psychiatric wards for the next five years. Finally, another psychiatrist changed my medication and I stabilized. I met my wife in 1984 and married in 1987. We have three children: Devon 20; and Anna and Kayla who are 15-year-old fraternal twins. Devon expects to attend WSU this fall. Anna and Kayla are high school sophomores. I visit them about once a month and always enjoy my visits. In 1993 I received my class A drivers license and drove trucks for several years. In 2004 my wife and I separated. At first I was fine, but then I lost my job in 2007 which caused a downward spiral.



In October 2009 I was on the verge of being homeless. I interviewed with Michael Sterbick at Guadalupe House and they invited me in and helped save my life. I take 12 different medications, have two stints in my arteries, and kidney disease in addition to Bi-Polar disease. If it wasn't for Guadalupe House I probably wouldn't be alive. Between my current job delivering mail at the University of Washington at Tacoma, and from the folks at Guadalupe House, I get tremendous support which is, I feel, what it's all about.



Financial Update by Harlan Landon

Once again, it's time for our annual fundraiser. We hope you can make it. Not only is it a matter of funds, but the fact that you are so much a part of our community. When I write these articles, I am always afraid of coming across as seeming as though we only want to see you if you have money. That isn't so, we are always happy to see you. Sometimes this is the only time we get to see you. It's not enough to serve the poor, but we also need to bridge the gap between those who have a little more and those who have less. That gap is not only financial. We are called upon to love the needy, but you can't love those you don't know.

Financially we are not in real bad shape, but there are always expenses that need to be met. Now that the JV house is taken care of, we can now concentrate on fixing the leaky roof, working on the Lewis Jones House and on Jean's House (where Bix lives). It is great that we have so much in terms of houses and the garden, but good stewardship requires that we take care of it. One of the lessons my father taught me (he was an Iowa farmer), was that the land is not ours, but merely on loan, and that we should leave it in better shape than when we first got it (that includes our houses, too). Our program budget runs about \$65,000, and then we look to see where else the money is needed. One example, just this morning we had to pay \$140 to have the yearly inspection and re-fills on our fire extinguishers.

As always, we appreciate all that you do for us. Harlan

If You Want To Keep Getting This Newsletter...

a l l y o u n e e d t o d o i s s a y s o .

Thanks to so many of you who already let us know that we can keep the newsletters coming or, equally helpful, that we can stop sending them. No need to respond a second time. We are happy to send our newsletter to anyone who wants to receive it, but we don't want to waste paper if it isn't getting read. So this is the final call...

Do you want to receive it through US mail? _____

Or e-mail? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP _____

E-mail: _____



thank you!