



Happy 14th Anniversary to L'Arche Wavecrest!

by Karen Carr



As we assembled for our Gathering on July 14 at Abraham House in honor of the 14th Anniversary, everyone was very excited. Abraham House was packed with people for the gathering. After sharing the history, we sang Happy Birthday and had cake. The gatherings are a wonderful time to share with others the joy of being a L'Arche community. I was able to share our history of the beginning of the community until the present. We welcomed 2 of the core members, Terry and Chris on July 3, 2004 and Jason later in July into a rented home in Fullerton with two founding assistants, Karin and Luigi. Then we needed to move and we ended up putting a down payment on a house in Orange, California where we finally welcomed 2 more core members, Cathy and Cindy totaling 5 core members in the year 2007.

Today we have 5 core members, Terry, Chris, John, Cathy, and Jazz. Abraham House is a lively house where core members and assistants live together as family and are able to share their gifts with each other and the community as a whole. It has been an incredible journey during the past 14 years and 12 years before that in the planning of the community.

I give thanks for all the years that we have journeyed together as a L'Arche community and I look forward to the future and opening more houses.

Not only show that I care, but to also be cared about

by Berhane Elias

The first time I experienced the warmth and hospitality of Abraham's house I knew this is a very special place and I wondered when I could come back. It was Gail Herrmann, from Trinity United Presbyterian Church, who invited my wife and me to one of the monthly fellowship lunches. From the moment John welcomed us and made sure we had a nametag, we knew this was a special home where everyone is valued. I remember the poem that was read that day – it talked about each person being of great worth, each having something to offer. It was like a prayer and it, made me feel good to be there and part of such community.

After that first visit I asked Travis if there might be a way I could be of service – we decided I could come one or two times each week to spend time with the residents, maybe help with dinner, but mostly just spend time together and check in to see how everyone's day was. It reminded me of my work as social worker with teenagers in Sweden – there too we were a community and like here, the most important thing was the relationship. It is refreshing to be part of the Abraham House community. I am blessed to not only show that I care, but to also be cared about and valued as a child of God by some amazing new friends.



Jazz (Core Member)
& Berhane (Assistant)

2018 L'ARCHE USA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A Reflection by Marianne Loewe, L'Arche Wavecrest Board President

It was an uplifting and enlightening experience for me to participate in L'Arche USA's 2018 National Assembly, held at the welcoming Pacific Lutheran University Campus in Tacoma, Washington. The tone that was set was one that encouraged participation by each and every person present and that promoted collective, cooperative ways to advance together in our common mission.

For L'Arche USA Leaders and Board, Community Leaders and Community Board Members, the mornings were devoted to reflecting on and discussing the proposed changes to the By-laws, Constitution, Membership Agreement, and Policy Manual. It was a delight to be introduced to and to work with board members and community leaders from other parts of the country, to hear their questions and concerns, and to know that all of these concerns and questions were heard by L'Arche USA Leadership. The facilitator, Trace Haythorn, was adroit, flexible, and inspiring. He was also a good listener. He has a child with Down Syndrome.

Each afternoon, participants could choose two workshops (Friday) and one workshop (Saturday). On Saturday morning each community was invited to vote for the changes. All documents were approved nearly unanimously. The first evening there



John (Core Member)

was a Core Member Talent Show. The second evening there was a dance for all.

What struck me most about the gathering was that at every workshop, gathering, discussion, etc. a main piece of it was led by a Core Member, accompanied by her/his Assistant (Caregiver). The "Inclusion" effort on behalf of L'Arche USA Communities in terms of "voice, power, decision making, and responsibility" has advanced remarkably. There is a phrase used by a group of persons with physical disabilities in Mexico, "Nothing about us without us." That phrase describes perfectly the Inclusion effort. I learned that each home has been invited to have an Inclusion Pair. Our Inclusion Pair consists of Travis and Chris. They both shone at the National Assembly!!

Inclusion goes further than participation. It also builds community, recognizing the dignity and impact of each person: **heart-to-heart, home-by-home**. It gives each Core Member the opportunity and guidance to live to her/his greatest potential, and the spirit of that transformation percolates throughout the entire community through their active presence. **THAT IS THE GIFT OF L'ARCHE!**



Cathy (Core Member) &
Jim (Executive Director/Community Leader)

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A Reflection by Chris, Core Member

In June, we headed to the L'Arche Regional Gathering & National Assembly in Tacoma, Washington. I had a lot of Ginger ale sitting on the plane with Cynthia. At the regional gathering, you just have fun with everyone! Seeing old friends and making new ones. The only low part of the trip was having to ride a charter bus for a couple of hours while all feeling really hungry.

As part of the National Assembly, I was a part of voting. I met lots of people from L'Arches all over. I met someone from New York, Atlanta, Portland, Spokane, Missouri and Omaha. On the first morning, I had french toast and then pizza for dinner. I liked to eat with my friends from Spokane. It was raining really hard Friday and Saturday but having to stay inside and help others was really fun.

I also was able to be part of the inclusion team workshop. Me and Travis did a skit. We pretended to go to a park and have allergies to show how to be inclusive when deciding what to do with your L'Arche community. It was really hard acting for the skit, but when it was all over, I was happy I did it. We all just had a good time!



Terri & Chris (Core Members)

SAVE THE DATES



Prayer Night:

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm on 4th Monday of each month.

Community Gathering:

September 8th, October 13th, November 10th, December 8th.

**Building Community:
Heart-to-Heart,
Home-by-Home**

L'Arche Wavecrest has embarked on an exciting campaign to open another community in 2018.

For more information please contact:

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Visit us at www.larchewavecrest.org