



## *L'Arche Seattle December Newsletter*



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# *A Letter From Amy*



December 2020

Dear Friends of L'Arche Noah Sealh,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration, despite the pandemic. It's hard to believe that December is upon us and I have been in my role as the Interim Executive Director/Interim Community Leader for four months. During this time, we have welcomed four new assistants – Angélica, Camila, Jenny, and Martha who joined Corey, Gillian, Haley, Jessica, Jordan, Jim, Kristin, Mairead, Sarah, Seton and Summer and we said goodbye to Elliot, Misha and Ryan. In addition, we welcomed Moira, a Jesuit volunteer who is with us until next summer, as well as Jose and Kevin, Jesuit Novices, whose time has unfortunately just come to an end and they have returned to California. (You can read a bit about Kevin in this newsletter.)

In my short time at L'Arche I have come to appreciate all that our assistants do for our Core Members and the way in which our core members are able to live their lives to the fullest extent possible. These are challenging times for all of us but our amazing assistant body has worked miracles to create festive birthday, anniversary and holiday celebrations, ensure our community nights have been full of meaning, spirituality and fun and that our Core Members continue to thrive.

I love visiting each house and spending time with our Core Members; hearing about their daily adventures as they walk through the neighborhood, watching their creativity soar through art and music and listening to them tell jokes or sing songs. They are all so full of life and spirit and it warms my heart being in their presence.

I look forward to sharing more with you in the months to come about what's happening at L'Arche and how you can be an integral part of our community. As we head into winter and the days get shorter and colder, I wish you all a warm and festive holiday season.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Wasser". The script is fluid and cursive, with a small loop at the end of the last name.

Amy Wasser  
Interim Executive Director



# Quarantine Fun



*What have we been up to over the past few months?*



*Bike rides, beach trips, tie dye, poster making, and more!*



# *Week of*

# *Giving*

This year, the benefit looked a little different - a whole week to celebrate the community and raise funds to continue to support the creativity, love, and gratitude that abound here! Pictured are just a few wonderful creations that were auctioned off for the event.



*Weaving by Paul Atcheson*



*Stitching by Robin Roche*

*Drawing by Erin Kinney*



# Core Member Corner!



Shuinota House started the month of November off by tasting an Apple Pie flavored Kit-Kat bar. Sr. Bea had dropped off some treats to our house and this was in the bag! We decided to taste test it at dinner time. The participants were Carolyn, myself, Mairead, Elizabeth, Erin, and Martha. I was nervous to try it, but Martha, Carolyn, and Elizabeth were excited to try it! Before we opened it, we guessed if we would like it or not and Mairead and I were the only ones to guess that it would taste terrible. Martha broke up the bar and we immediately smelled the apple pie flavor. The Kit-Kat bar looked white on the outside. Eventually, the Kit-Kat bar received four thumbs up and two thumbs down! The thumbs up came from Carolyn, Martha, Erin, and Elizabeth. The two thumbs down were from myself and Mairead. Elizabeth and Erin wanted seconds, but I didn't want to finish my piece! If you are adventurous and like tasting food, try this Apple Pie flavored Kit-Kat Bar!

P.S. My favorite Kit-Kat Bar flavor is plain chocolate!

By Becca Fitting, Shuinota House



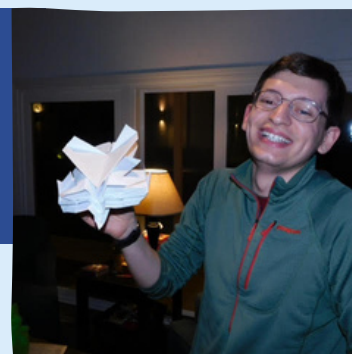
# The Crew!



**Gillian** is 26 years old and an aspiring mental health therapist who enjoys being active, baking bread, water coloring and tending to her plant babies. She used to volunteer for many years at an art studio in her home town where the artists were all individuals with developmental disabilities and also spent a summer at L'arche Cleveland during her college years. Last year she spent 10 months solo-traveling all over the US and Europe and is so glad to have landed in Seattle at L'arche again. Her favorite pandemic activity is being cozy inside and never having FOMO because nothing is happening anywhere!

## *Kevin Lee*

**Kevin** is an amateur at many things including percussion, juggling, magic, and photography. He enjoys playing board, card, and video games and watches professional video gaming occasionally.

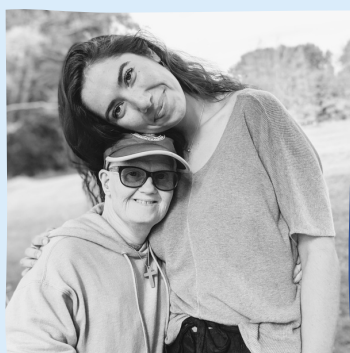


## *Jennifer Kelly*

Originally from Boston, **Jennifer** has been in the Pacific Northwest for over 40 years and part of the community for 37. She has been friends with Eddie and Patty since she was 19 when she became an SU student volunteer! She is the Director of Formation, loving this year of unique and forever memorable adventures in an outdoor tent!

## *Angélica Moreira*

**Angélica** loves to walk in nature while listening to good tunes, creating and admiring art, people watching, and talking about life.



## *Haley Marshall*

**Haley** loves drawing, writing poetry, listening to music (ABBA), reading, and drinking all the coffee.



## *Mairead Murphy*

**Mairead** worked at the Perkins School for the Blind for 6 years. She enjoys playing guitar, mandolin, and piano. Her favorite vegetable is sweet potato.

## *Jessica Liu*

**Jessica** enjoys doodling, exploring different art mediums, and stand-up comedy. She loves going to the Symphony and wandering art museums and galleries.

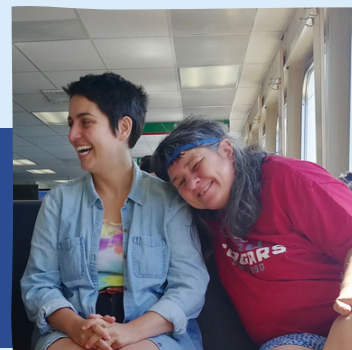


## *Jim Davey*

**Jim** loves the American League Champion Cleveland Indians, biking, hiking, Seinfeld, and a good game of cribbage.

## *Corey Hubbard*

**Corey** enjoys spending time with her spouse, cat, family, and friends. She is in year two of four for a degree in counseling.



## *Camila Biaggi*

**Camila** loves plucking at the guitar, making lots of noise, dancing, and frolicking in nature. Her favorite feeling is reading a good book on the couch with a hot cup of coffee.

## *Seton Fitzmacken*

**Seton** loves big dinners that are noisy and full of L'Arche friends. She misses going to see live theater but has enjoyed more time to rest and play board games.







*Moira McDermott*

**Moira** loves to dance, drink coffee and tea, play card games, and decorate every room with string lights.

*Summer Elliot*

**Summer** enjoys playing her ukulele, building blanket forts, and talking about her love for pugs!



*Jose Oros*

**Jose** loves playing video games, swimming, enjoying a meal with others and everything Disney/Marvel. He loves connecting with others by one on one God talks.

*Martha Espinoza*

**Martha** is passionate about social justice and living out the Jesuit values instilled in her through her Jesuit education and time as a Jesuit Volunteer. She loves traveling and eating tacos everywhere she goes.



*Sarah Devamani*

**Sarah** loves music, enjoys singing, baking, playing with dogs and being in nature. She is intuitive, believes in the goodness of people and cares about deep and meaningful relationships.

*Kristin Causey*

**Kristin** loves the US Women's National Soccer team, reruns of The Office, and reading fiction with a nice cup of coffee.



*Jordan Carrell*

**Jordan** loves the outdoors. His favorite place is Mt. Rainier. His favorite food is salmon sashimi.



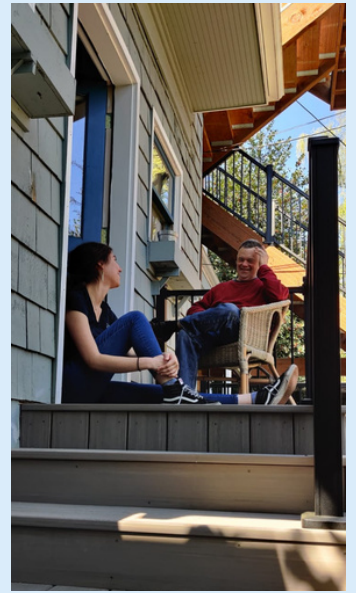
# Reflections

Shortly after his arrival to community, I was able to sit down (over Zoom, of course) with Kevin, one of the Jesuit Novices who joined us for a few months. Over the course of our Zoom call, we were able to touch on everything from where Kevin grew up (Virginia), to why pizza is the best food (you can put anything on it), to his favorite hat (the flat cap; ask him to elaborate on that story). Though I will not be able to share everything we discussed, I've rounded up some meaningful takeaways from our conversation.

Early on, Kevin shared about his love of math and physics. Kevin studied these subjects at the University of Virginia, and throughout our conversation his appreciation for these topics was clear. When I prodded on why one might feel so deeply connected to these things, he shared that he found beauty in the simplicity of numbers. Though his answer pertained to the subjects he studied, his appreciation for the beauty and simplicity of the ordinary rang true as we talked more. From effortlessly describing the magic of putting two numbers together to graciously stepping into the L'Arche community, Kevin demonstrated a deep ability to see the beauty in everyday occurrences.

After four years of college, Kevin served as a Jesuit Volunteer (JV) for a year, like many members of our L'Arche community. Kevin mentioned that he felt drawn to this service as he had spent 21 years of life studying God's creation through school, but wanted to spend part of life serving God's people and connecting with them. He served at a Jesuit Catholic Parish in East Los Angeles as the Youth Ministry Coordinator. When his year as a JV ended, he entered the Jesuits. As a Jesuit Novice, he has been a volunteer chaplain at a hospital, activities assistant at a skilled nursing facility, and small group leader for a virtual prayer series. We are so grateful for his time serving and connecting with us here at L'Arche.

To finish things off, Kevin shared a bit on what he was looking forward to as he joined us in community here. He mentioned looking forward to the unknown experiences to come and he observed, "There is a lot of love in this community. I have been thinking about this a lot—what I am here for, why I am here...To experience the love and generosity that is here".



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