



SOUNDINGS

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September, 2009

Falling In Love

by Luciano Garofalo, former assistant and current Jesuit Novice

Last December, my mom died unexpectedly. She was hospitalized with an acute colon infection that took her after a mere few days. I was twenty-one years old and had just begun finals week of my last semester at Rockhurst University. I had also just accepted a position as a live-in assistant at L'Arche in Beloeil, Quebec. Since I was planning on entering the Society of Jesus as a novice in August, I was granted the exception of staying only six months. But a few weeks after my mom's death, my Canadian visa application became hung up on so many ridiculous complications that I was forced to look elsewhere.

In all my L'Arche-y brokenness, I reached out for help to Tahoma Hope, and they took my hand. It couldn't have been more than two weeks after my first phone conversation with Diana Busch that I was boarding a plane to Seattle. I was greeted at the airport by Ricky Durham on February 1st and had fallen in love by that night. For the next six months, I lived at Anawim with Ricky, Leana, Mark, Carie, and Nathan, and I grew in love. I was so head-over-heels in love that it almost outshined my Jesuit vocation. I wrestled often during my time in Tacoma with the idea of putting off the Jesuit novitiate until I could live L'Arche more deeply.



Looch on community vacations with Bobby

According to my novice master, I "drank the Kool-Aid." Minus the brainwashing, it's actually not an inappropriate analogy. I came into the community as an orphan child, knowing very little, without a mother, thirsty for nourishment and compassion. Yet that was the role I had been chosen to fill for others. I lived the kind of mutual relationship upon which L'Arche is founded to its utmost, and within this relationship I found new life. It was fitting that my time in L'Arche began during the Christmas season, when Christians are called to reflect on the mystery of God's presence amongst us with child-like innocence and wonderment. During my six months in L'Arche, I lived in direct communion with God's children, and they made me whole.

To employ some Ignatian terminology, I experienced deep consolation during my time at L'Arche—in work, in relationships, in conversation, and in prayer. The reason for these consolations was predominately the core members, God's beloved, whom Jean Vanier often refers to as prophets. They showed me God's promise of peace, and for this I am grateful.

A Letter from a Proud Dad

by Jerome Garofalo, father of Luciano Garofalo (see cover story)

Dear Tahoma Hope Community,

As corny as this may sound, it seems like only yesterday that I was beginning my visit back in March. I was playing the role of a father who longed for the company of his son. It was my goal to experience his temporary environment and bring a snapshot of his life, your world, back home to Kansas. In time, I found myself sleeping more soundly, knowing that he was in good hands.

You know him as Looch. Mark (core member, Mark Drangstveit) calls him Luke. I brought with me the nickname Luci, and, for his benefit, would only call him Monkey in private. The time has come for him to disembark toward his chosen vocation. He now comes to the Jesuits blessed by the experience of living with you for the past handful of months.

Changing the world one heart at a time; the first was my own!

Sincerely yours always,

Jerome Garofalo, Proud Dad

Memorial Contributions

We are grateful for the donations we have received in memory of the following people. They, along with their families and friends, are in our prayers.

Gerald Filkins	Bob McConnell
LaVelle Hansen	Molly McNertney-Ross
Jean Huckabay	Larry Schott

We are also thankful for the donations we received in honor of:

Mark Drangstveit	Marissa Manza
Lu Farber	Grace Wynne



Ricky Durham has been volunteering at the LeMay Car Museum every Thursday as part of his "Pathway to Employment" program. He has found his place there in true "Ricky" fashion. He helps with a variety of tasks while there, and he also spends 2 hours a week surrounded by one of his favorite things - cars! When LeMay's purchases a new car, they always make sure Ricky gets a tour of the car. The first time he was there, he went up to a volkswagen and explained all on his own that the engine was in the back and the trunk was in the front. This got a great laugh and much admiration from everyone.

Wish List

Thank you to all of the people who have gifted us with items from our wish list.....

If you can help us out with any of these items (either new or gently used) we would be grateful!

- Food processor, vacuum cleaner
- Pots & pans, loaf pans,
- Spatulas, large plastic cereal containers, coasters
- Griddle, hand-held mixer
- Iron with steam function
- Colorful, hard plastic plates, bowls and cups
- Bath towels
- Down comforters, small couch pillows
- Piano light, dial combination locks
- Colored cardstock (paper), watercolor paper
- Acrylic paints, artist canvas, glue sticks
- Wheelbarrows, lawnmowers
- Hand clippers, leaf rakes and push brooms
- Hoses, work gloves
- Plastic grocery bags
- Chain link fence

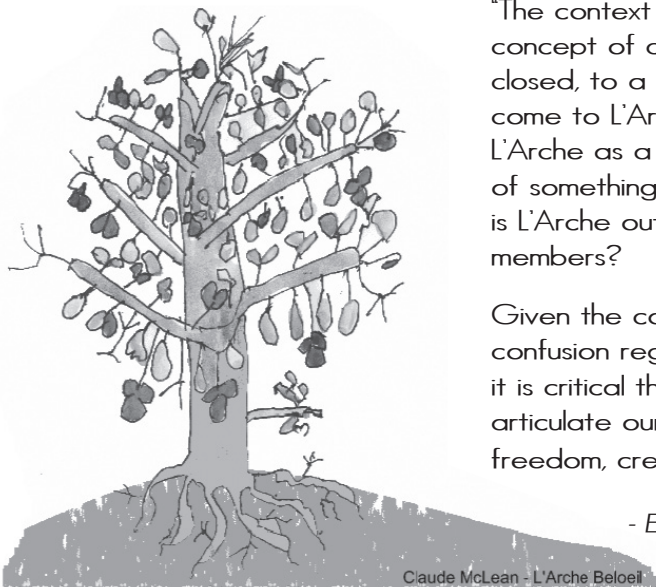
We Want Your E-Mail Address!

We have recently updated our development software and will be expanding our ability to be in contact with our friends via e-mail. If you would like to hear from us more often, please e-mail us at info@larchetahomahope.org and tell us your name, mailing address (for confirmation purposes) and your e-mail address.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Commitment & Belonging in L'Arche

by Stacy Cates-Carney, Community Leader



"The context of L'Arche has radically changed in recent years. The concept of community has changed from a physical reality, sometimes closed, to a network of open relationships. When most people come to L'Arche they do so through a community. But is it to serve L'Arche as a whole? Being a member of L'Arche is being a member of something, which goes beyond the reality of the community. What is L'Arche outside of the community, and what is its commitment to its members?"

Given the complex reality of our communities today and the confusion regarding commitment and belonging that has resulted, it is critical that as a Federation we take the time to listen and to articulate our experience. This will lead us as a Federation to more freedom, creativity and authenticity as we live out our mission."

- Extract from the International Coordinator's report to the General Assembly, Kolkata - October 2008.

Communities throughout the international federation of L'Arche will be engaging in a process of conversation and listening regarding commitment and belonging. The goal of the process is to respond specifically to the Identity and Mission process which called us to "encourage, support and sustain membership and commitment of new and long-term members" by clarifying our understanding of commitment and belonging in L'Arche and recommending appropriate support structures. We will take time to reflect upon and articulate our experience and understanding of commitment and belonging. The process will have three distinct stages spanning three years and involve the maximum number of people, whatever their membership status.

L'Arche Tahoma Hope's annual community weekend in September will focus on commitment and belonging. We've invited a core member, a board member and a long-term assistant to share their stories of commitment and belonging. We will take time for personal reflection and sharing in small groups. As a community we will also convene a small reflecting group as well as have individual consultations. We look forward to joining with other L'Arche communities throughout the world in hearing the calls for L'Arche today in relation to commitment and belonging.



On Wednesday, July 8, all of the core members and assistants gathered at the Farmhouse for the great annual community vacation send-off. This year, the five groups were scattered throughout the state and into Canada. All of the groups had great vacations and seemed grateful for the chance get away and play together. We would all like to send a huge thank you to everyone who helped make community vacations possible. For more pictures, view our community vacations photo album at www.larchetahomahope.org.



The Holden Village group feasted on ice cream daily, hiked around the Village, and closed out the week with go-cart races.



The Bellingham group stayed on the campus of Western Washington University. They spent the week swimming and dancing, drinking coffee, and connecting with friends.



Another group traveled north to Vancouver Island, where they had the chance to connect with the L'Arche community in Comox Valley. They reported enjoying all of the quality time sitting on the deck, drinking coffee, and relaxing by the river.



The fourth group traveled down and around to Hoodspout. This group seemed to especially enjoy their late morning sleep-ins and the chance to bake brownies, to go out for coffee, and to enjoy the view of the water.



The final group stayed at the Farmhouse and traveled around the South Puget Sound. Some highlights for this group included a fishing trip and eating in Olalla, a barbeque in Gig Harbor, and a night of karaoke at the Farmhouse.





Know Your Rights

by Bryce Kobrin, '08 - '09 Lutheran Volunteer on Farm & Gardens

"Right, right, you're bloody well right. You've got a bloody right to see the mountain," sang core member Debbie Wilson as we pulled the van into Paradise. Ever an expert in classic rock music, Wilson's freestyle lyrics told us all it was going to be a good day at Mount Rainier. At L'Arche Tahoma Hope, July marks the month of community vacations. With much methodical planning, the community is able to send many core members and assistants on trips and those remaining in the City of Destiny take an intentional break from the daily grind, as well. This year, groups traveled to Holden Village, Bellingham, Vancouver B.C. and Hoodsport. After all of these groups departed, only Wilson remained on the farm with team members Patrick Toohey, Meghan Dooley, Bryce Kobrin and Paul Schloesser. Marie Rueger and Allison Wisco from Noah's Workshop also joined us for our week.



Bryce, Meghan & Debbie at Mt. Rainier

Though the week included some regular work, like watering and going to farmers markets, we did fit in a couple of outings, the highlight of which was our day spent at Mount Rainier. On Tuesday, July 14, 2009, the group drove up to Paradise, eager eyes stuck to the window as we wound our way through the entrance to the park. We walked friendly paths, Schloesser snapping many pictures and Wilson stopping to focus her binoculars on objects nearby and far. After a couple hours, we sat down to our sack lunches and Wilson proclaimed, "This is the most beautiful place in the world."

In a sense, Wilson stood as our sage that day. The mountain is beautiful. It is a beautiful mecca of life and vitality. The mountain puts us in touch with our earth and the endless network of life that surrounds us. In this light, you do have a right to see the mountain because we deserve to witness that we are all a part of this network. Wilson's observations got my mind reeling: What are our rights in this world? To live and love and be loved? These must be the essence of our individual vitality, and in reflecting on my year as a volunteer on the farm, I know one thing for sure - L'Arche is doing it right.

L'Arche Farm & Gardens invites you to join us for our annual

Harvestfest

In collaboration with the Pierce County Harvest Farm Tour

October 3rd, 2009 10am - 4pm

- There will be great deals on fall plants and perennials.
- Have your face painted and try making paper.
- Take a look at our egg layers and one beautiful rooster.
- Meet special needs swine, "Flash".
- Come by and meet "Salt and Pepper" our lovely pygmy weed eating goats.
- We will be breaking ground on the Sutherland Orchard and, in collaboration with St. Leo Food Connection, we will be planting an orchard of apples and berries that will be shared and cared for by those served by the Food Connection and L'Arche Tahoma Hope.
- We now have bees and soon we will have honey! Come out to see the progress and get info on adopting a hive...OH SO Sweet.



"Bajo la Misma Luna" (Under the Same Moon)



L'Arche Tahoma Hope's Annual Auction

March 6, 2010

It's That Time of Year Again...

Mark your calendars now and get ready for another evening of fun and festivities, all in support of L'Arche Tahoma Hope!

Our fiesta themed auction will be held at The Landmark Convention Center on Saturday, March 6th, 2010.

Whether you decide to donate an item, volunteer your time, support us through underwriting funds, attend the auction, or any combination of the above, we need your participation in order for our evening to be a success.

Watch your mailbox for more information, or get ahead of the game and e-mail us at auction@larchetahomahope.org. You can also visit us at www.larchetahomahope.org to download a procurement form and get more information as the date gets closer.

David Vernon Remembered

October 22nd, 1953 - July 29th, 2009

It is with great sadness that we share with you news of the death of longtime L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community Member, David Vernon. David came to L'Arche in 1989 and made his home at the Farmhouse for over 15 years. He shared his gift of sign language with the community and was a very patient teacher.

David was especially known for his love of sweets and his "say it like it is" attitude. If you ever wanted to know how you REALLY looked, David was the person to go to. He also had a personal mission to make the world a tidier place, taking every opportunity to pick lint, hair, etc off of anyone's (yes, even total strangers') clothing.

David brought much joy into our lives. We miss him greatly. Special thoughts and prayers go out to the Vernon family during this difficult time.



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