

LOAVES AND FISHES

DULUTH, MN

SUMMER 2012

FREE

The war at home

BY JOEL KILGOUR

We have lived in the midst of this war now these many years. It is a war not recognized by the majority of our comfortable people. They are pacifists themselves when it comes to the class war. They even pretend it is not there.

Dorothy Day, 1942

The woman on the phone apologizes for whispering; her son just fell asleep in her arms. She tells me that she and her husband have been out of work for more than a year; that they considered pawning their wedding rings for a month's rent but instead risked a move to Duluth in search of work. With no money left for a motel room and no job in sight, mom, dad and two kids spent the last February night in their car.

Answering the phone at Dorothy Day House is not for the faint of heart. Our space is limited and so is our budget. Most of the time all we can offer is a sympathetic ear and a list of resources. On an average day we turn a dozen people back to the streets. These days, every emergency shelter, soup kitchen and free clinic I know is stretched beyond its capacity.

My congressman, Chip Cravaack, could use a dose of this reality. In September he penned an op-ed for the Brainerd Dispatch complaining that "millionaires" -- a word he inexplicably couches in quotation marks -- are victims of class war, and that "inequality" between "millionaires" and the rest of us is make-believe. A few months later, he endorsed Rep. Paul Ryan's budget, which would decimate funding for almost every federal program that serves the common good in order to further and permanently cut taxes for the wealthy and pay for resource wars abroad.

Maybe my congressman just doesn't know. Maybe he earnestly believes that a higher tax rate for millionaires is a greater threat to society than 45,000 people dying each year for lack of health insurance, or 1.6 million of this nation's children enduring homelessness. But I do agree: this is war. And out here, the casualties are real.

Class war is not always a frontal assault. I doubt that anyone at Wells Fargo thought to foreclose on my friends Mary Ann and Tracie out of spite. Had they bothered to know them, they would have met a hardworking mom and brave daughter with multiple disabilities who fell, by all accounts temporarily, on hard times. They probably would have been moved by compassion, rather than putting up bureaucratic roadblocks that this family -- and hundreds of others like them in our community -- cannot possibly overcome on their own.

As much as anything, class war is waged by paying attention to capital before people, and people with capital before everyone else. Jesus said that what we treasure reflects what is in our heart. By this measure the foreclosure crisis has exposed democracy in the US as a farce. Republicans glibly blame the victims; Democrats offer lip service. In the end, the policies enacted by both parties only function to redistribute wealth upward. By the hundreds of billions of dollars, they poured our national treasure not into homeowner and neighborhood assistance, but into the coffers of the very financial institutions whose greed ignited the crisis. For Wells Fargo, that amounts to \$21 billion in tax subsidies and a \$25 billion no-strings-attached bailout. Politicians -- and the lords of Wall Street who have their ear -- tell us they had to do it because Wells Fargo is "too big to fail." What they mean is that Tracie and Mary Ann are too small to be noticed.

If class war were as simple as the very wealthy versus everyone else, the poor would end it tomorrow in swift French fashion. But desperate times raise the appeal of scapegoats and straw men. You can see it in the pitched battles between private and public sector workers; between those who are organized and those who feel abandoned by the labor movement. We cannot simply blame the powerful for this sectarianism, though they are happy to fan the flames.

Tribalism is the oldest and most insidious divide-and-rule strategy. Race was invented as

a weapon of class war; nationalism serves the same purpose. Convince people that there are not enough resources for everyone, and the instinct to preserve those who are closest to us kicks into gear.

Last year I was scolded by a friend in the labor movement for my open door position on immigration. He argued that people without legal papers work for less and therefore undercut wages and working conditions for everyone. His concerns were more reasoned than much of the anti-immigrant mob mentality gripping this country, but both fail to address a deeper problem.

Consider Manuel, who grew up in a country still scarred by a three-decade, US-backed, dirty war that claimed some 300,000 lives. He came of age only to watch his father and other local farmers slip into poverty as "free trade" policies opened the country to cheap, subsidized US crops. He could have taken a job in a maquila, enduring brutal work conditions and earning barely enough to eat. He could have moved to the capital and started running drugs. Instead he tried his luck first in Mexico, then the US. A farm kid with no higher education, he was predictably denied a visa. He came anyway. Manuel doesn't feel good about the half-truths he tells his employers, but he does what he must to care for his family. Every day some stranger tells him he doesn't belong in this country, and every night he sleeps with one eye open, ready to pack up and leave if the border patrol gets too close. Last year, they nabbed his housemate and brought him to an immigration detention center, where he was denied legal counsel and cut off from communication with the outside world. No-one has heard from him since. Manuel knows he could be next, and then what would become of his baby girl?

Manuel is an economic refugee, driven

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Duluth has just been hit by the worst flash floods in memory. We are okay, but please help us make sure the homeless are not forgotten in the recovery. Donations of tents, tarps, sleeping bags, granola bars and bug spray are now being accepted at Dorothy Day House.

BIKENOMICS

& Our Bike Cave

BY: JOHN FINKLE
& JAMES MERLE

Bicycling is a healthy activity; it is an awesome preventative medicine. Isn't it agreed that exercise is good!? It gets the blood flowing, works out those kinks, clears and makes for a happy brain!

You never have to pay for parking, though parking meters do make great places to lock your bike! Bikes cost anywhere from free (elbow grease, sweat equity) to \$400-500, and, if taken care of, can last a lifetime. No loan needed; no purchase beyond your means. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are your fuel.

Why buy barrels of oil from the other side of the planet? (Imagine the shipping cost!). Get on your bike and feel great about how you're gettin' where you're goin'!

Have we convinced you yet?- Good! Then ditch those four wheels and trade them in for two! (and learn how to true them, too!)

The Bike Cave at 1712 Jefferson operates on a less money model. Old, out-grown bicycles and parts are donated, and anyone can come and repair them. When you come, you'll roll away on a new-to-you bike-with new skills, self reliance, new friends, and a sense of making a positive difference

- Ya-Hoo!

In the

process of working on their own bikes, folks are swept up into helping out others.

Us groovy folks at the Bike Cave have begun to



A typical busy day at the Bike Cave!

make changes with our original model and usage of the space, though we would like to pay homage to our roots. Those that started the Bike Cave some 5 years ago or so ventured on, though their vision and passion still remains. If you stop by, you may see some fresh faces; a wonderful fellow by the name of John Finkle has joined the community and has thousands of cycling miles under his belt. He has experience working in community bicycling organizations and has been vital to the continuation and expansion of the Bike Cave.

The Bike Cave itself has also taken on a new look this season. We knocked down a wall and expanded the space.

We are open Saturdays 2-6pm, and on Wednesday evenings we offer a free supper at 6pm followed by wrenching bikes from 7 to 9. Come learn, come share, come volunteer, all skill levels welcome!

We would also love you if you donate your old bikes! We could also use bike tools: wrenches, screwdrivers, metric socket set, etc...

The Bike Cave has been largely successful this spring due to the hard work from our dedicated volunteers including: Molly, Kate, Ben, Alex, Steve, and many others. Thank you all so much!

If you're looking for some good bicycle literature, check out *Bicycle Diaries* by David Byrne.



Alandise getting ready to learn bike repair.

Project Save Our Homes

Since 2006, more than 3 million homes in the US have been lost to foreclosure. While the crisis can be traced to the greed and speculation of big financial institutions, everyday families have suffered the fallout. In November 2011, Loaves & Fishes helped organize Project Save Our Homes, a Duluth-Superior area grassroots coalition that tries to level the playing field by publicly holding banks accountable and offering homeowners and neighbors the tools to defend their rights.

By: DYLAN KNAGGS

“Housing is a Human Right” has become a mantra of sorts for Project Save Our Homes and anti-foreclosure groups throughout the nation. The combination of brevity and poignancy in those words make for a very effective motto to be written on countless buttons and banners. But the full meaning of this key phrase is too often underappreciated. While it is certainly catchy, the greatest value of the phrase is not merely as a marketing tool. Rather, it acts as a reminder of the strong ethical and legal basis on which we stand, with important ramifications from the international to the local level.

The idea of housing as a human right is an important one in international law. It was first codified by the United Nations in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UN clarified the concept in 2003, stating that “the human right to adequate housing...is of central importance for the enjoyment of all economic, social, and cultural rights.” The same report decried the poor job that many nations, particularly economi-

cally developed nations, have done to enforce this right.

When we work to keep people in their homes we are helping to fulfill international law. But like many human rights issues, housing is one that is discussed on an international scale, but has far more relevance on an individual level. To this end, Project Save Our Homes formed earlier this year to work against home foreclosures in the Twin Ports.

Through direct public action and working directly with homeowners PSOH has worked to prevent a number of Duluth and Superior foreclosures. Now we are addressing the issue on a new level.

PSOH has begun to work with legislators in St. Louis and Douglas Counties to seek policy change on foreclosure. While it is important to work on an individual level, we are hoping that new ordinances will force banks to be more responsible in foreclosure and even discourage the process in the first place. Through this combination of legislative and individual activism, PSOH is helping to further an important human right in the Northland.

MARY ANN JONES Homeowner & PSOH activist

Hi I am Mary Ann Jones with a short story about my three year war with Wells Fargo.

It started when my daughter ended up in the hospital with colon cancer. She was there for about three months and then transferred to Miller Dwan for therapy since she wasn't even strong enough to walk on her own.

Sadly, I ended up out of work on leave for six months to take care of her full-time. I kept asking Wells Fargo to work with me to lower my house payments. After 15 months of being at war with them they did finally lower my payments for one year. After that they doubled the payment and took it out of my personal account without my knowledge.

I kept fighting them but was getting nowhere. I then found Project Save Our Homes. They



Mary Ann (R), Tracie (L) and family

could not have come into my life at a better time. I was truly blessed to have people on my side, to understand my pain and the issues I was going through.

I was then introduced to Lutheran Social Services (LSS). I had a great outpouring from all these dedicated people who helped me and stood by my side. Finally, after three years, victory is ours. I'm thankful to PSOH, LSS and an attorney

named Peter who dedicated his time to me.

I want people to remember not to let pride stand in your way. Let us help if you are having problems and please take the first step. I have learned through all of this that people in numbers are united and strong, and alone we fall.

CARRIE DUNBAR PSOH activist

I got involved with PSOH when my brother was struggling to keep his home, which has been in our family for four generations. US Bank kept losing their paperwork and it seemed hopeless. My good friend Tara told me about a group that was helping her mother-in-law work with Wells Fargo to save her home, so I got the information to give to my brother. PSOH has been a godsend! They are very involved and help each family



The Dunbar family: (from L) Tater, Tyler, Krystal, Chloe, Wile, Chris and Jeff

in any way they can. People who didn't even know my family showed up to lend a helping hand. Together we organized an online petition drive and got the media to cover their story. The last straw was when we showed up at US Bank with dozens of kids and parents for a sing-along sit-in. The next day, the bank offered my brother a deal.

I look forward to helping save other people's homes.



Contact Project Save Our Homes by phone at: 218-428-1154 or online at www.projectsavethomes.blogspot.com



The Power of the Spirit

By MICHELE NAAR-OBED

Rifles, fully loaded with live ammunition, were turned into flower pots as soldiers trained to kill accepted red and white plastic flowers from demonstrators during the Kurdish uprising in the north of Iraq. Orders to shoot, given by men whom the Iraqi Kurds called corrupt, lawless, nepotistic leaders, were ignored as soldiers embraced demonstrators during protests in Azadi (Freedom) Square in the city of Suleimaniya. During the uprising that lasted from February to April, 2011, the power of the human spirit - fueled by an even bigger Spirit - took on new life.

The Kurdish uprising followed on the heels of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions. At the same time, uprisings were growing in Yemen, Syria and Libya. Not many people heard about the Kurdish uprising. International media virtually ignored it. The US State Department, with a small consulate right in the Kurdish north, often ignored the human rights violations that the Western and corporate-friendly Kurdish leaders were carrying out against their people.

I was with the Kurdish people in Azadi Square almost every day of the 62-day street demonstrations. I will never fully understand their politics nor the tangled web of relationships among the Kurdish people, whose recorded history spans 9,000 years. My job was to report on human rights violations and partner with organizations and individuals committed to nonviolence. Between Christian Peacemaker Teams, Amnesty International and Human Rights

Watch, we might have done a few good things, but mostly we just watched as history unfolded and the human spirit took the lead.

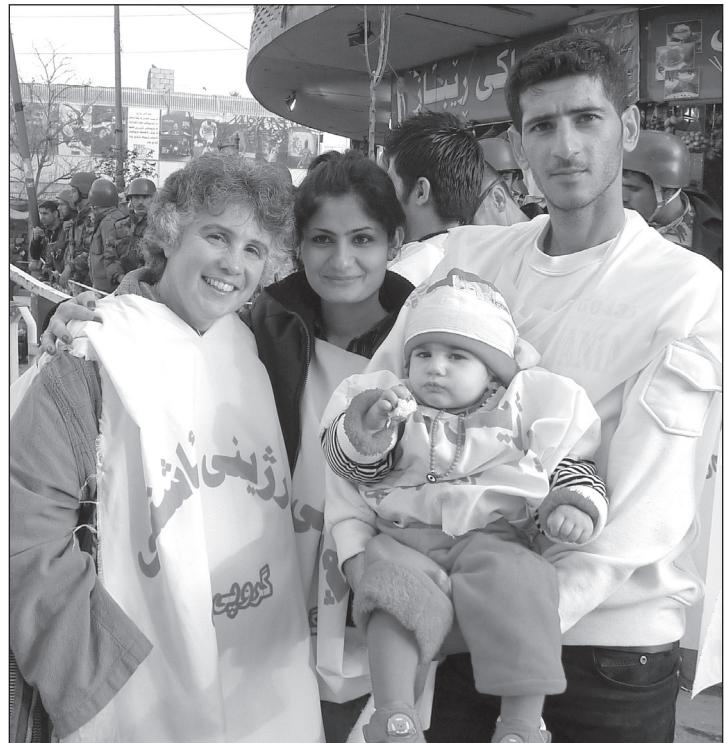
The Kurdish people in Iraq got tired of living under oppression. From empires to dictators, they have endured it for centuries. They are still the largest ethnic group in the world without a homeland. The Iraqi Kurds, which make up about 10% of the entire Kurdish population, have come closest to experiencing self-determination and freedom. However, after 20

“Between Christian Peacemaker Teams, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, we might have done a few good things, but mostly we just watched as history unfolded and the human spirit took the lead.”

—Michele Naar-Obed

years of tribal Kurdish leadership in the semi-autonomous northern region of Iraq, the Kurdish people's taste of freedom has been soured by corruption. The 2011 nonviolent uprising signaled their readiness to fight once again for their basic human rights, this time without the sword.

I remember one particularly miserable day of the uprising. Azadi Square had been taken over by soldiers who were brought in from different areas to replace those who refused to follow orders to wipe out the demonstrators. These new soldiers arrived with batons, tear gas tainted with poisonous chemicals, rubber bullets and live ammunition. They proceeded to clear the square, injuring scores of unarmed people. At the end of the day, a small group of young demonstrators stood defiantly near the sound stage, which had been ransacked by soldiers. They screamed out, “You broke



Michele poses with the youngest member of the Peace Wall and her parents during the 2011 nonviolent uprising in Kurdish Iraq

the stage, but you can't break us”. Those nine words spoke volumes about the power of the Spirit which gave those young people the courage to look death in the face and live. Even though the street demonstrations ended, the movement there continues and is not based in hatred or revenge, but in hope for the well being of all.

Examples of the power of the human spirit are many in Kurdish history. Having spent nearly three of the past six years in the Kurdish north of Iraq, I have heard their history told from many different perspectives. In 2007, I met Mr. Khalid Qader, a Kurdish historian on par with our late Howard Zinn. Khalid runs a youth center in the city of Rania. It didn't take long for Khalid and I to become friends. It was through this friendship that the Duluth-Rania Friendship Exchange Project began.

This autumn, the project will host its 4th delegation, the second from Rania. Six folks from Rania will make the trip. We still have quite a few obstacles to overcome (the US is very slow to grant visas to Iraqis!), but the power of the human spirit - to reach out to others in the human family; to overcome differences in language and culture; to love even when our political leaders deem us to be enemies - has persevered.

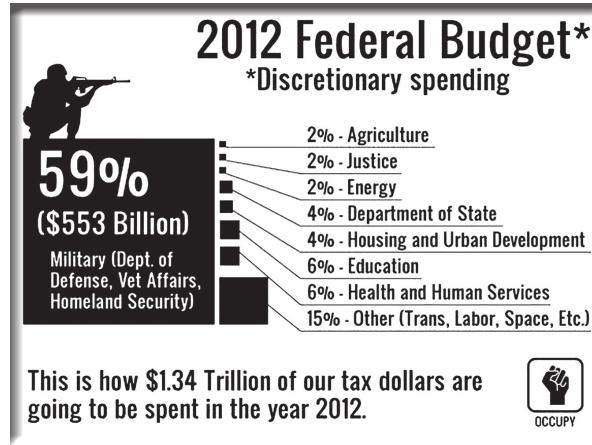
Khalid is one of the six that will come with the Rania delegation. I hope you will join me in welcoming Khalid and the others. You are invited to be part of his and herstory in the making, to celebrate this human family where ideas, talents and wisdom can be shared in hopes of a better world. You are invited to experience the power of the human spirit. No doubt you will also experience the power of an even bigger Spirit. If you are on Facebook, follow the Duluth-Rania Friendship-Exchange page for details or give me a call at 218-728-3771.

A CALL TO ACTION:

TO END THE NUCLEAR THREAT

BY: SR. MEGAN RICE AND GREG BOERTJE-OBED

Many of us in this human family are deeply concerned about the Obama Administration's plans for "unprecedented investment in ensuring the nuclear security of our country." (National Nuclear Security Administration press release, Feb 11, 2012). To sum up broadly, this could involve the expenditure of more than \$125 billion to modernize and expand the nation's three main nuclear weapons factories (Los Alamos, NM, Kansas City, MO, and the Y-12 Oak Ridge Facilities). According to the Western States Legal Foundation, a nuclear weapons watchdog, "all of this is taking place in a context where the US has a policy-and a demonstrated practice-of preventive war-making." They continue by saying that "the US government claims the right to attack any state it chooses to portray as a nuclear danger. With the Iraq War, we saw how easily that threat could be used as the core of a propaganda campaign for a war of aggression."



There are important connections between this defense spending and corporate war-profiteering. We have seen the nuclear weapons industry engage in monstrous levels of corruption, lies and secrecy since the start of the nuclear age. Unfortunately, the US government has supported this system by funding the military and ignoring the needs of humans throughout the world. Since World War II, this has perpetuated an economic system that increases global poverty and stymies genuine change.

In protest of this system, and in the hopes of creating a new one, we ask for days of awareness, reflection, and action to be held around the world August 6-9. The day would be inspired by the Occupy Movement and will focus on the US plans to sustain, modernize, and expand its nuclear infrastructure. Not only do we demand the cessation of these plans, we call for the transformation of these plans into life-enhancing alternatives. Rather than being given to the military for destructive purposes, federal appropriations should be put into sustainable industries, jobs and economic systems.

In preparation for our call and the day of action, we seek some experts among us to do the creativity in designing these projects to bring about these alternative policies. May we meet to be in dialogue around the possibilities for building wider awareness and solidarity in action? If you are interested, please contact Greg at 218-728-3771.

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from home by the same forces that are outsourcing and "downsizing" at home. But there is an even more stark lesson in his story. Guatemala is the logical end to the class war: a nation rich in natural resources but where most people live in desperate poverty. This is not because of a natural disaster; it is the direct result of "free market" policies that -- far from creating jobs and opportunity for everyone -- allowed a small group of families to accumulate most of the nation's wealth, dominate its political life, and trap everyone else in a cycle of veritable indentured servitude. What public services exist are underfunded, and those who speak out for justice continue to face harassment and death.

So what is to be done? It was exciting to watch the growth of Occupy Wall Street last year. For the first time in decades, a grassroots people's movement had broken through the orchestrated political and media silence on economic inequality, offering hope that the people could change the conditions of their lives. But OWS also suffered serious shortfalls, which may explain why it ran its course

so quickly. Goals and strategy were lost in an almost singular focus on one tactic; and personal expression always took precedence over alliance building. As numbers dwindled we watched the most dedicated of our local movement become agitators for class war, quick to draw sharp distinctions between friend and foe. For us this is a strange and alienating position: why be a foot soldier for a dirty war?

One day during his time at the New York Catholic Worker, our friend Bob Tavani announced to Dorothy Day that he was joining a march against the war in Viet Nam. "I suppose," she replied, "a little protest is good."

Street actions are part of social transformation, but only part. Most of the work, we have found, looks nothing like insurrection. It is the slow, steady and under-the-radar efforts we make in our neighborhoods, homes and hearts to "build a new society within the shell of the old," to develop systems of relationship and economy rooted in caring and the common good. We do this in little ways, first by challenging each other to name and overcome our own greed and divisiveness. We do this,

too, by opening our homes to individuals in crisis, by sharing skills and resources with friends and strangers. It is in practicing a new world that we free ourselves from the self-importance of purely political action and find clarity in our true goal. We do not seek victory in the class war. We seek to set a table with room enough for an economically confused congressmen and the most destitute of our friends on the street. Will you join us?

What we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute... we can, to a certain extent, change the world... We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend.

Dorothy Day, 1946

In Memory...



BETTY SKYE

1959 – 2012

Betty Skye had a magical ability to make things: what she made best included friends, fun, Native American arts, memories, and joy.

Her life was hard, beginning with early childhood. Maybe because of that, maybe in spite of that, she became a deeply relational and compassionate woman. And even during the years of passing from one foster home to another and from one abuse to another, she received honors in school.

Betty was known for her beading, quill-work and God's Eyes. Each of us who had the privilege of knowing and loving her gained a great deal from the experience: her hand-made gifts, her honesty, her wisdom, her acceptance, her own laughter, and her ability to make us laugh when we least expected to. Each of us was also prey, it must be said, for her many pranks.

Betty's laughter still resounds in the communities at Loaves and Fishes, San Marco, CHUM, Iron Knot Ranch, those who lived at St. Clare House, and Lac Courte Oreilles Band.

Now she walks the spirit path, with plenty to eat.

-Donna Howard



KATHY ANDERSON

1926 – 2012

Most of us in Duluth have known Kathy Anderson only since she and Andy retired from their work in the Twin Cities and moved to Duluth in the 1980s. We know her as helpmate, feminist, activist, friend, thinker, card shark, voracious reader, music-lover, crossword master... And all of us know her as a woman who insisted on intelligent discourse about the world's problems. But she never let us stop there. She demanded that we collectively remain hopeful and undertake action to create the change we understood to be needed and just. Kathy wanted to change the big things, like military domination, international corporate greed, equal representation of women in political leadership, and threat to the health of the planet. What she wanted to eliminate could be summed up as anything that was not in the best interest of the children. This was her passion and her theme.

Kathy and Andy did house duty at Dorothy Day once a week for years. And during the years when Loaves and Fishes provided sanctuary for immigrants from Central America, they drove our guests to the Canadian border many times. Andy remembers one Border Agent telling them in no uncertain terms that if he saw them again he would arrest them and confiscate their car. Good thing that man had a short memory for faces!

It's probably safe to say that everyone doing peace and justice work in Duluth has been befriended by Kathy (and Andy) somewhere along the line. So on behalf of all of us, we say, "thank you, Kathy." We'll miss you, but you so successfully inoculated us with your spirit and strength that we are carrying you forward with us as we have experienced you carrying us forward.

-Donna Howard

CLAIRE EVANS

1952 – 2012

Claire was a member of the Loaves & Fishes Community from 1993 to 1995, helping to keep the doors of Hannah House open to families experiencing homelessness. In 1998 she joined the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Chicago and served for many years as its delegation coordinator. She was a brave and thoughtful peacemaker whose life work led her to stand with victims of violence in Iraq, Palestine and Chiapas, as well as cities and First Nations Reserves of the US and Canada. Claire was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December, and died a short five weeks later. -eds



I will always remember the way that Claire was able to be direct with the people we served while she was also quite caring and attentive to people's needs. Not everyone can do that well. And not everyone reacts positively to direct communication. Perhaps especially in Minnesota. But it was certainly one of the things I appreciated most about Claire during our time together as housemates. At that time all of our guests were families coping with numerous stressors. Wounded adults and children living together in close quarters. That combination requires an ability to be both nurturing and frank or directive, in chaotic sequences throughout the day. With both the children AND the adults. We were fortunate that Claire was such an energetic woman. Picture a small, overcrowded, busy house filled with people who are traipsing across each others' boundaries all day long, displaying short tempers, hunger, distractedness, severe mental illness, and always intense need. Claire could have a wry sense of humor at times, which was a positive in an environment filled with a lot of stress and some irony. She was able to bring out the positive in difficult situations and helped guests stay focused on finding good housing. She was a very hard worker, helped Hannah House stay organized, and engaged well with children. She will be missed.

-Charlotte Karsh

small change

BY: BOB TAVANI

penny: penny for your thoughts.

*nickel: you'd be broke!
nice to be a dime sometime.*



penny: I'm copper-fine the way I am.

nickel: happy penny is a lucky penny.

penny: better than bad penny coming back.

nickel: see you penny, I'm spent.



GOINGS ON AT L&F:

We've been sooo busy since our last newsletter! It looks like we're running out of space, so here's a quick summary: our community is growing! In January, Dylan Knaggs moved into the Branch. A recent college grad from Philadelphia with a passion for statistics, baking, and strategic activism. Dylan is new to both the Catholic Worker and our frigid climate, and assures us he is greatly enjoying both. John Finkle—baker, traveler, bike mechanic and carpenter—joined us in March. His work can be seen in the new look of the Bike Cave, and the boat that is slowly taking shape in the backyard. And we're happy to have Mark Engebretson back, albeit part-time.

It has been a big academic season for us: Kate wrapped up her first year in the Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) program at UMD; Michael, Marcie and Robert are all set to head back to college in the fall. James graduated from the College of St. Scholastica, and this summer he is working at Nettleton and Grant Community School with 1st-5th graders. We are sad to say he will be leaving us for Boston in August. Rachel Obed, who, at age 17, has been at L&F longer than anyone, finished high school at Harbor City at the top of her class, and will be attending the UofM in the fall to study horticulture. We couldn't be more proud of everyone's accomplishments!

Dorothy Day House continues its revitalization, now serving nightly dinners to hungry crowds, as well as offering free hair cuts, lively weekly discussions on matters of the day, an ever-expanding garden, and, of course, the Bike Cave. Seven men now call it home, and more once the remodel of the 2nd floor bathroom is complete. (Soon, Mark says, soon).

The Olive Branch is bustling as ever. As one young family found permanent housing this spring, our friend Mary was miraculously released from jail and in time to give birth to a beautiful baby boy! She's now in a mom-friendly treatment program. (This wouldn't have happened without a lot of advocacy, and we are painfully aware of how many women languish in this nation's prisons when what they need is treatment and opportunity). Marcie pulled off a fried chicken feast for Mary's going away -- a feat she repeats often in spite of her frantic schedule of activism, work and apartment hunting. And of course, the whole house is gearing up for the wedding of Barb and Cam in August!

Hannah House, too, has been more active than we've seen it in years, with a monthly movie and potluck series, maintaining our other big gardens, and hosting several guests, including Tanny, a music education student all the way from the island of St Vincent. Tanny is a joy to have around, always laughing and cooking (mmm... Caribbean BBQ). She recently built her own bike and is learning to master the game of Bananagrams.

Of course, all of these events can be pretty messy, and we had a major cleaning party at the Branch in April to pick up after a busy spring and get the house ready for an even busier summer. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to get the house in tip-top shape... and to all of you who have contributed to this experiment in sharing over the past six months! Loaves & Fishes is still here because of you!

**From the desk of
Handyman Mark:**



We all realize that there are problems with our economic system. To address them, we must focus our efforts on an economic model that does not value wealth above all else. The current system rewards greed and feeds fear. We are afraid of not having enough and want a little more than our neighbor.

The Loaves & Fishes story demonstrates the law of abundance. Jesus was starting to get the attention of people because of his message of love and forgiveness. They came from miles away to listen to him. This was a time before cell phones, cars, or fast food restaurants, and at one event, people became restless and hungry. Those that had food did not want to share. It took a child to break through the fear. Jesus used this moment to teach us all that when we share, there is more than enough to go around.

In this spirit, I hope to start a handyman business which models these values. I would hire men staying at the house who need work and job experience. I am looking forward to improving the community by strengthening the relationship between CHUM (my current employer) and L&F; and to organize the business around principles of cooperative decision making, ecological sustainability, and empowerment.

If you are interested in being part of this project or might consider hiring our crew, please contact me at Dorothy Day House!



Loaves & Fishes
1712 Jefferson Street
Duluth, MN 55812
Tel: 218-724-2054

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Duluth, MN



Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/duluthcatholicworker

Join us for the Jefferson Street Block Party!

August 4th, 4-7pm
1600 block of Jefferson Street

Can you Help?

We need volunteers for set up, clean up, food prep,
kids activities. Please call for more info!

Loaves & Fishes Scheduled Events

DAILY SUPPER MEALS AT 6PM

SATURDAYS BY APPOINTMENT

Haircuts for those in need, call 724-2054

WEDNESDAYS, 7-9PM:

Bike Cave at the Dorothy Day House (6pm dinner)

SATURDAYS, 2-6PM:

Bike Cave at the Dorothy Day House

SUNDAYS, 10AM:

Muffins and conversation at the Olive Branch



We have all known the long loneliness, and we have found that the answer is community.

-Dorothy Day

Who we are:

Loaves & Fishes is a community of people working to build "a new society within the shell of the old." Through our houses in Duluth's Endion neighborhood, we offer food, shelter and friendship to people experiencing homelessness and migration; through our bike shop and gardens we promote voluntary sharing of skills and resources for the common good; and in halls of power and on the street we speak out for a more just and peaceful society.

Loaves & Fishes is a 100% volunteer-run effort. We are NOT a tax-deductible charity. Current live-in volunteers are: **Dylan Knaggs, Greg Boertje-Obed, James Merle, Joel Kilgour, John Finkle, Kate Bradley and Michele Naar-Obed.** Many others contribute as handywomen and men, providers of food, agitators, financial donors and more. We invite you to join us in whatever way you can.

Loaves & Fishes Wish List:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Dishwashing soap | Baby lotion and baby shampoo |
| Tea and Coffee (Fair Trade, if possible!) | Laundry detergent |
| Canned tomatoes (whole or diced) | Toilet paper |
| Fruit juice (no added sugar) | Metric socket set |
| Eggs | Living room chair/recliner |
| Butter | Sturdy set of bunk beds |
| Cheese | DTA fare cards (\$5 & \$10) |
| Hamburger | Tents |
| Tuna | Sleeping bags |
| Toothpaste and toothbrushes | Dr Bronner's liquid tea tree soap |
| Tampons and pads | |

We need you, too!

LIVE-IN VOLUNTEERS to help run the houses. This is a full-time commitment! Room and board, plus the rewarding experience of living in a diverse community.

MEAL ANGELS to provide all or part of the evening meal for Olive Branch or Dorothy Day House (many people make a monthly commitment). We feed 10-15 people per house.

HOUSE DUTY VOLUNTEERS to take 4 or 5-hour shifts at the houses: answering phones, light house keeping and spending time with guests.

For more information, please call **Olive Branch at 218-728-0629** or **Dorothy Day House at 218-724-2054**, or email duluthcatholicworker@gmail.com.