

LOAVES AND FISHES

DULUTH, MN

VOL. 31 NO. 2 — FALL 2020

FREE

In these unsettling times, we constantly find ourselves wondering how to respond to the many injustices facing our communities. In this fall issue, we are asking people in our community to share what they see as the biggest challenge facing our city of Duluth at this moment. From COVID-19, to policing, affordable housing, and climate change, we want to know why these issues are important and how I/you/we can respond. We also want to explore what role the Loaves and Fishes community could play in addressing these challenges. It is our hope as you read these reflections that you too will continue to ask yourself what small or big role you can play in helping to create a more peaceful, equitable, just, and environmentally safe world.



Joel, Tone, and Marcus marshaling at a Black Lives Matter protest this summer in Duluth

Safety or Service: An Ethical Dilemma

By Donna Howard

Shall we serve the greatest number of meals possible to people who come to our houses hungry during the day? Shall we let them come inside to do their laundry, take a shower, use the phone, and experience much-needed companionship and hospitality? Shall

we have events to distribute warm clothing before winter sets in? Shall we give rides to people needing to go to the hospital or to get free backpacks to children getting ready for school?

In order to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19, the answer to all these questions is decidedly NO. That way we who seek to serve and those we serve all stay healthy. That's the bottom line, isn't it? We can't bring people together to give them meals or clothing or company. We can't invite them into our homes or cars for hygiene or transportation. The virus is present and dangerous and waiting for us to behave in ways that allow it to transfer from one person to another.

But if we maximize our safety, our opportunities to serve are greatly reduced. The result is almost mathematical: fewer people get the virus, but more people suffer from the needs for food, clothing, shelter, cleanliness, and social contact. It seems every minute of every day and every detail of our intentions presents this same ethical dilemma: safety or service.

We at Loaves and Fishes use our houses to offer hospitality to people experiencing

homelessness. We invite folks to live in our guest rooms as housemates until the rooms are full; then we invite others to come during the day for a meal, a load of laundry, computer time, a shower, or just the comfort of being in a safe and sober home with people who care about them. But every person who comes through the door could be bringing those dreaded little orange balls of COVID-19. Sure, we wash hands and wear masks, but the risk doesn't go down to zero. And if one person gets sick...

We who organize events called Community Connect twice a year host one-day service fairs where we offer haircuts, foot care, flu shots, hot meals, Narcan training, application to housing lists, information about domestic violence resources, warrant resolution, the opportunity to meet with service providers of all kinds, and free winter clothing. Clearly, we would be irresponsible to hold such events, which bring hundreds of people into a building at once. So we looked at the list of our usual goals and decided that what we *must* do on an urgent basis was flu shots, information dispersal, and winter clothing distribution.

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Emergent Strategy: A Book Review

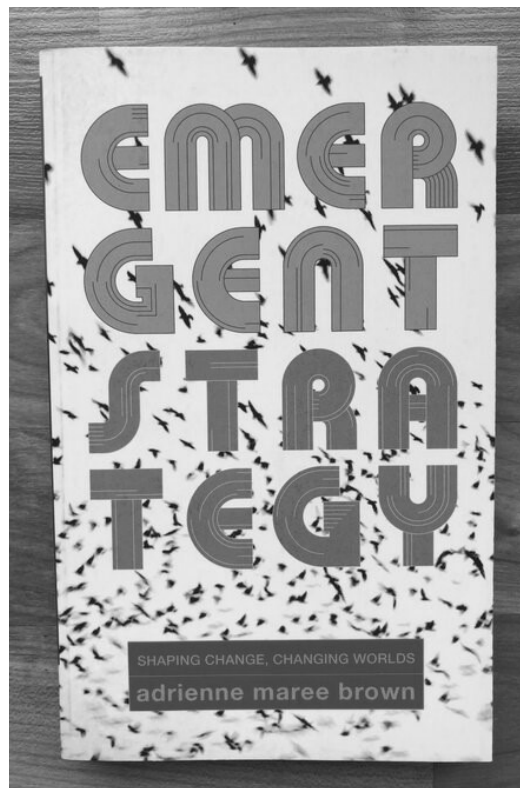
By Sarah Kilbarger-Stumpff and Tone Lanzillo

Emergent Strategy (2017) by adrienne maree brown* is a book for anyone who wants to imagine a different world. As the book states, "Emergent strategy is about shifting the way we see and feel the world and each other. If we begin to understand ourselves as practice ground for transformation, we can transform the world." adrienne credits Octavia Butler's work, particularly her idea that "All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change" for inspiring this book. Emergent Strategy is both a self-help book and a society-help book - a handbook that walks us through how to change how we collectively show up in order to transform the world. Sarah and Tone, two Loaves and Fishes community members, recently read and were inspired by this book.

Tone:

I've been thinking about how the Emergent Strategy can inform and influence my work on climate change. First, I have to be mindful to develop a proactive response, and put into practice what I want to do to lead a more sustainable life. The author states that "what we practice at the small scale sets the patterns for the whole system." Brown reminded me that I

can use my life to hopefully "leverage a shift" in the various systems that intersect within my life. In making the climate crisis personal, I have chosen to lead a smaller, slower and simpler life. The author also reminds me that because of climate change not only do I need to



personally adapt to what has taken place, but I also must decide how I want to live each day to hopefully create a healthier and more vibrant environment. I choose to be more compassionate, embrace a more ecological way of living and reduce my carbon footprint each and every day.

Sarah:

This book centers around six elements of emergent strategy: fractals, intentional adaptation, interdependence and decentralization, nonlinear and iterative, resilience, and creating new possibilities. Each chapter allows the reader to envision alternate ways of showing up, being in community, and responding to our ever-changing world. Similarly to Tone, the chapter on fractals, or never-ending patterns, really resonated with me. As adrienne wrote, "How we are at the small scale is how we are at the large scale. The patterns of the universe repeat at scale." These past few years, as I've graduated high school, left my hometown, and learned more about the world, I've found it very easy to feel cynical and hopeless. There's so much injustice and so many systems that fail the people they're meant to serve. Reading this book felt like an important reminder that what we practice at the individual level does matter. If we can't practice abolitionist values such as self accountability, mutual aid, or transformative justice in our personal lives, how can we expect our larger society to prioritize any of those principles either? Each page of this book felt like an invitation to "practice the future together," and helped me begin to understand how individual change can be related to systemic change.

**brown does not capitalize her name as she prefers to "self-determine" what she capitalizes.*

Safety or Service: An Ethical Dilemma from pg. 1

Then the simple goal of seeking donations of hats, gloves, scarves, coats and boots and then giving them all away, became a nasty tangle of ethical and practical dilemmas. Usually volunteers organize them all in one place and hundreds of people come and line up to select what they need. Not safe. Can we put them all outside? There's the problem of Duluth weather and still too many people would come at once. Can we have folks "order" what they need, e.g. women's coat size 12 and boots size 9, and we find that and take it to wherever they are? A volunteer overload to be sure, but there is also the disrespect involved in assuming that we can select something for a person who, though poor, still has taste and preference and wants to try the coat on and choose for themselves.

COVID-19 is causing so much harm in so many ways to so many people. But as we strive to reduce the risk of illness, we are transferring the harm to the people of greatest need in other ways. Those who don't get winter clothing will be very much in harm's way in another month. We will no longer be able to hand a meal out the door and ask people to eat on the porch in another month. And the flu season is approaching as rapidly as winter weather. Shall we trade the viruses of COVID-19 or flu for the viruses of poverty and homelessness?

We're walking a fine line here and struggling every day to make the small compromises that keep us between two bad alternatives. Somehow we will continue providing food, hospitality and friendship in these times of danger. We don't have the answers, but we refuse to stop grappling with the questions. And we will maintain a keen awareness that it is not an option to let problems and risks affect the most vulnerable people in the most egregious ways.



Sarah, Kate, and Donna: the sanitization squad

Round Table

2020 has been a year of many unique challenges. Our community meetings and personal conversations have featured many reflections about our role in responding to those challenges. As an entirely white community, how do we show up as anti-racists and support a more equitable future for Duluth? As a group that continues to use our houses as drop-in centers, how do we do our part to keep people safe from COVID-19? What steps can we take to secure more affordable housing in our city? How can we best support our neighbors? We opened up this conversation to people that have been longtime supporters, members, and volunteers of Loaves and Fishes, as well as to our friends on Facebook. We framed this discussion with these four questions:

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Duluth right now?

Liz Carlson: With insufficient affordable/supportive housing in Duluth, COVID-19 presents a significant challenge to navigating the opposing forces to safety for our homeless folks; exposure to the elements or exposure to the virus. CDC guidelines for dealing with the virus don't take into account the realities of poverty and homelessness. When the needs of some of the most vulnerable among us are the greatest this winter, I worry that the typical web of free daytime shelter will again be closed by Governor's order. This time, however, there will be several months of severe winter weather to contend with.

Peter and Polly Edmunds: We think the biggest challenge facing Duluth right now is the dangerously low number of affordable housing units available to low income house-



Artist: Jon McCoy

holds. While this has been a problem for years, I think the problem will be worse when the moratorium on evictions is lifted. Housing is a basic human right and it should be a point of shame for the City of Duluth to accept the numbers of people with no adequate housing or insecure housing in the city.

Michelle L. McDonald: Affordable housing is a huge barrier for the stability of people and families of Duluth.

Andrea Rose: Healthcare inequity is a huge challenge, including and especially mental healthcare. My work at the residential treatment facility has offered me much insight into how our healthcare systems work (or rather, how they don't work). The disparities in mental healthcare are partially due to regulations from different agencies as well as our system of private health insurance.

Jon McCoy: In my view, the biggest challenge facing Duluth is the continual, ongoing suppression of our imaginations. This assault on our imaginations is deliberate and well planned. Since 1980 or so, it's primarily manifested itself as 'neoliberalism,' which someone

recently defined as 'governance without governing.' Nothing matters except markets. Everything that exists is reduced to mere commodities, including people. The neoliberal thought world abhors imaginations that aren't tethered to the enchantments of mammon.

There are some writers (Mark Harris, Kim C. Domenico and others) who have posited the existence of what's called a 'revolutionary' imagination. A revolutionary imagination requires an honest view of the world and a genuine love of life. We are facing ecological devastation on a level that could render the

human species--not to mention thousands of other species--extinct. The droughts, the super storms, the hurricanes, the floods, the failing crops and the massive wildfires will all force us to change the ways in which we live. The revolutionary/creative/life loving imagination will be required if we hope to somehow survive.

Why is it important to Duluth?

Liz Carlson: In the best case scenario of shelters, warming centers, and free indoor spaces to pass time, Duluth winters are brutal for homeless folks. It is hard to imagine how people could survive living on the streets entirely if indoor shelter isn't an option due to contagion. But Duluth is better than that. We take care of one another to the best of our abilities. It's what we've always done, and will continue to do.

Andrea Rose: Healthcare inequity is important to Duluth because we have many underserved individuals here who are increasingly at risk due to the pandemic and the instability of our current systems.

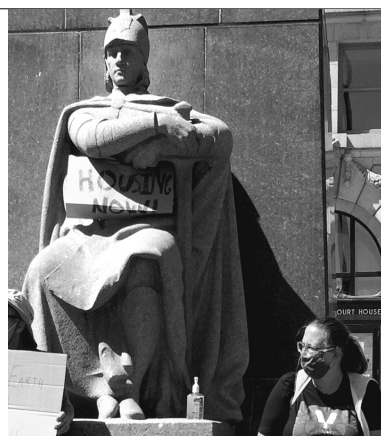
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Policing Discussion

Shelly Bruecken, one of our community members, spoke alongside many other Duluth residents in support of defunding the police at a July 13th city council meeting. This is her speech:

My name is Shelly, I use she/her pronouns and I have lived in the Loaves and Fishes Community alongside people experiencing homelessness for four years. Throughout my time living in Duluth, I have been to numerous city council, citizen review boards, and human rights commission meetings. I have both observed the city's priorities and actively fought against them.

So let's do a brief side by side: we worked on the Homeless Person's Bill of Rights for over six years and it hasn't ever really been



Shelly at an AIM protest for affordable housing this summer

passed. It required multiple community meetings, human right's commission meetings, meetings with police, city council special sessions, and it still never got passed. It was asking for BASIC human needs - the right to rest, sleep in a car, and for the city to consider options for people to shower.

On the other hand, riot gear is only supposed to be used in "special circumstances." This was discussed for less than a year. There was one citizen review board and a few community meetings before it was approved. There were a few more meetings about use of gear, and it was purchased. This stark contrast has made clear both the city's priorities and which groups they are willing to help. One group in which the system is used as a roadblock and one as a highway.

My experience in these committees is that our city continues to value the militarization of our police force for rare occurrences over known basic human needs. Our city budget reflects that. Yearly the city puts ~26% of the budget toward policing.

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The Climate Crisis

By Tone Lanzillo

It was in April of last year when the mayor of Duluth, Emily Larson, gave her state of the city address and stated "climate change is pounding our city." While Mayor Larson was referring to Lake Superior's impact upon Duluth's shoreline, her words would also serve as a warning call to all of us about the city's future with the growing challenges and complexity of climate change. I have often found myself reflecting upon the opening words of David Wallace-Wells' book "The Uninhabitable Earth" which was published in 2019; "It is worse, much worse than you think. The slowness of climate change is a fairy tale, perhaps as pernicious as the one that says it isn't happening." In his introduction, Wallace-Wells states that climate change is coming faster than we realize or acknowledge.

In the spring of 2018, a report funded by an Environmental Assistance Grant by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was submitted to Duluth's city government entitled "Vulnerable Populations And Climate Adaptation Framework." The opening sentence in this report is "Climate change is a global phenomenon that creates local impacts." The report states that from 1950 to 2015 the City of Duluth had already experienced a 1.8 degree increase in the annual average temperature, a decrease of 8 days below 33 degrees, and an increase of extreme weather events of 58%.

It also predicted that by 2100 Duluth could expect an increase of 4 to 11 degrees in the annual average temperature, an increase to 23 days above 95 degrees and 50 fewer days below freezing. By the middle of this century, somewhere between 2040 and 2070,

summertime conditions for Duluth would be similar to the current conditions felt over 250 miles to the south.

Between September and December of 2018, there were six major stories about climate change, including the Trump administration plans to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and reverse many current federal envi-

ronmental policies. On September 28th, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a statement which reported that by 2100, if current standards remain the same, the planet will warm by seven degrees Fahrenheit or four degrees Celsius. Six weeks later, on November 23rd, the U.S. Global Change Research Program published the 4th National Climate Assessment which stated that "Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities." And then on November 29th, the World Meteorological Organization released a report stating that 2017 atmospheric carbon dioxide levels reached 405 parts per million - a level not seen in three million years.

It worries me that Duluth appears to be resistant to addressing the accelerating climate crisis. Other cities across the country are doing everything from passing resolutions acknowledging the climate emergency to establishing climate change task forces. Duluth appears to be moving slowly, too slowly. With an energy commission that only meets bimonthly (unlike most commissions which meet monthly) and the city council's decision to delay enforcing an ordinance addressing single-use plastic bags, our city is not using the news and information about climate change to help create a more resilient, sustainable and environmentally-just city. In fact, we are still waiting for the city government to publicly respond to that 2018 climate vulnerability report.

I wonder if we're taking what appears to be a climate crisis seriously? I wonder if we truly realize the current and future impacts of climate change on every facet of our individual and collective lives? As reported in Naomi Klein's book "On Fire", Robert Watson, serving as chair of the United Nations' Intergovernmental

Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 report, stated "The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. We are eroding the very foundations of economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide." Klein herself wrote "The first stage is to name the emergency, because only once we are on emergency footing will we find the capacity to do what is required." *Continued on pg. 8*



*Somewhere along the Superior Hiking Trail in Duluth.
Photo Credit: Chelsea Froemke*

ronmental policies. On September 28th, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a statement which reported that by 2100, if current standards remain the same, the planet will warm by seven degrees Fahrenheit or four degrees Celsius. Six weeks later, on November 23rd, the U.S. Global Change Research Program published the 4th National Climate Assessment which stated that "Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, pri-

The Bike Cave:

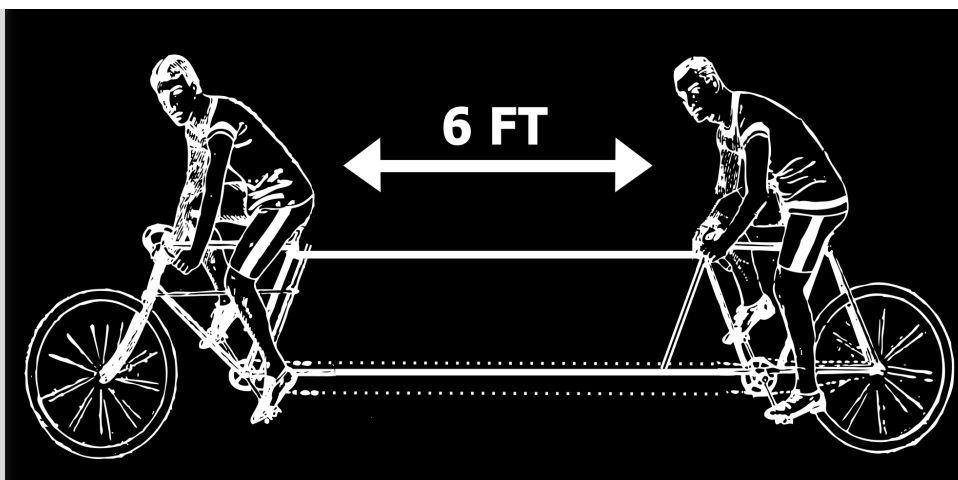
A Haiku for 2020

By Drew Anderson

Good masks stained by grease

October's breath is unseen

Wednesdays one to five



The Bike Cave will remain open on Wednesdays from 1-5 through the winter for bike repairs only. Appointments are required to maintain safety in our shop. Call or text (218)302-5523 to reserve a time. Keep tabs on our facebook (facebook.com/BikeCaveDuluth) for updates regarding donations and 2021 summer hours.

...*Policing Discussion continued* How much toward housing? Mental Health? Libraries? Outreach to people experiencing homelessness? If I am generous, <5%. Yet we expect folks to succeed without basic needs being met.

Police are not the fix-all. They are not the solution to any of these problems. The police perpetuate and protect a violent, racist system that the city of Duluth continues to build up every year. Let's be clear. I am not saying police officers are bad humans. They are people in a corrupt system that holds power over vulnerable citizens and that system is being used as an armed band aid for this city.

So that got me thinking about what kind of calls they respond to. I spent significant time reviewing Duluth Police's Facebook where there are posts of all of the "successful interactions" and they profess to be a "lifesaving institution." What was most glaring to me was the number of calls reported compared to the number of "violent" encounters.

...*Round Table continued*

Jon McCoy: One of the key things a revolutionary imagination does is to find ways of resisting the religion of capitalism. It's an extremely difficult task because capitalism constructs the very matrix in which we live. What are some ways of fighting against it? Building communities through hospitality and working together, community gardening and community farms, round table discussions of the sort that Peter Maurin, Dorothy Day and Socrates envisioned and creating art and theatre and music are all excellent paths to take. Vegetarianism and Veganism are both challenging options. Volunteering is a potential form of resistance to capitalism, although it depends somewhat on the goals and mission of the organization you're volunteering for.

How have you responded to this or how would you like to respond to this?

Liz Carlson: At this time of 'all hands on deck', I'm trying to do my part by connecting with service providers to strategize creative solutions within competing limitations, contributing volunteer labor to donation drives and efforts, and extending invitations for empty bedrooms within my home.

Andrea Rose: I am interested in the medical respite home*. I would eventually like to leave my soul-crushing salaried work in favor of SANE nursing and volunteer nursing. In the meantime I would like to help with medical

Over the Fourth of July this summer, the Facebook report said there were around 300 calls per day which is a busy week and reported ~4 "violent encounters." That is .013% where police are encountering guns.

According to the 2019 statistics Chief Tusken reported 158 uses of force last year. This is .015% of the calls. Yet police bring weapons to each call. No matter the number of de-escalation trainings or the best intentions of each officer, the pure presence and representation of the police and their weapons can escalate situations.

So let's start funding something that actually assists the people of this city. Let's make our priorities clear. Fund Duluth citizens' most basic needs. Fund the mental health crisis team. Fund housing. Fund education. Fund minority groups that have been repeatedly criminalized and punished in this city. Stop automatically funding an institution built on racism, violence, and criminalization and then wondering why your citizens don't succeed.

needs in my free time. **The Bob Tavani Medical Respite House is run by two L&F alum, check out their Facebook (facebook.com/bob.tavanirespite) for more info.*

Do you think the Loaves & Fishes community has a role in responding to this?

Liz Carlson: Loaves and Fishes' hospitality is more important than ever, their 31 year history of centering the needs of marginalized people, and ability to see the big picture while creating/supporting action are the perfect combination for both/and solutions.

Peter and Polly Edmunds: I believe L&F must respond to this crisis. You/we are positioned uniquely to know personally many of the victims. You have numbers and personal stories to tell. Could we begin a concerted campaign to interview every City/County official about how they will address this crisis? Are they aware of government assistance that could be used to build/rehab more units? What about a postcard campaign to contact officials about the urgency of the need?

Jon McCoy: Disconnecting yourself and (hopefully) others from the matrix is hard, hard work. I certainly haven't managed to do it yet but if we want to survive and truly thrive, we will have to undergo an ethical, radical revolution. In order to get there, we'll need revolutionary imaginations. I do believe that Loaves and Fishes is set upon that path and plays a role in fostering people's imaginations in the community at large.

IN-TENTS NEEDS:

By Sarah Kilbarger-Stumpff

WE WANT ACTION.



**24 HOUR
WINTER
SHELTER**



**24/7 HYGIENE
FACILITIES**



**INVEST IN
HOUSING
FOR ALL**

On October 26th, the Loaves and Fishes community, members of the American Indian Movement Twin Ports, and other concerned Duluthians gathered in front of city hall for a rally demanding action to protect those experiencing homelessness. The demands of the rally were:

1.) An immediate end to evictions of homeless camps until warming centers open; 2.) Fund warming centers 24 hours/day; 3.) Increase access to hygiene facilities year round; and 4.) Multi-million dollar annual investment of supportive and low-income housing development.

After the rally, many attendees called into the virtual city council meeting to ask the councilors to take steps to make those demands a reality. Following the call-in, the councilors discussed how they could take action to support both a warming shelter and a hygiene facility and some joined us outside city hall after the meeting.

Later in the evening, community member Drew Anderson presented an interactive video project about housing justice. Tents were set up around the Civic Center to represent the growing number of Duluthians sleeping outside in sub-zero temperatures. Around 15 people spent the night in front of City Hall. The group reconvened in the morning to memorialize those who had or were experiencing homelessness who lost their lives in 2020.



Hannah House Notes

By Chelsea Froemke

If I had known in October of 2018 when our two elementary aged foster kids moved in with us that we would be together for a global pandemic and consequential school-at-home situation, I may have said never mind, foster care is not for us. That was hard, really hard. But do you know what is maybe even harder than a stay-at-home order/school-at-home situation? Packing up those same kids that have now been a part of our family for 20 months and moving them across the country.

Drew and I never intended our foster care placements to become permanent and we never expected that a placement would last anywhere close to 20 months. Leading up to their departure I found myself worrying constantly about what life will look like for them in a new place. What opportunities will they have? What connections will they make? Does their relative have enough support? Will they still eat vegetables? Will they read books out loud together? Will some of those big behaviors that we saw early on in our time together bubble back up? Do they have the capacity to be resilient yet again? Still, I found myself rejoicing: rejoicing that they will still have a connection to their family, that they will be with someone that has known them their whole lives, that they will be loved.

In the days leading up to their departure we prioritized creating space to connect

(at a distance) with the many, many people that loved and supported our kids throughout their time with us. It was a joyful time and I know that they left Duluth feeling so incredibly loved. Of course lots of tears were shed (mostly by me) as we spent days packing and cleaning while remembering and celebrating the life we shared together. In fact, the tears have managed to work their way up as I sit to write these house notes and I am reminded that no matter how joyful their departure may have been the pain of missing them will always be something that I carry around with me.

Their transition to a new home has gone very smoothly. We have been able to video chat with them on an almost daily basis and they seem happy. Drew and I hope to visit again soon and we intend to maintain a life-long relationship with the kids who thrust-ed parenthood upon us. Sarah moved to Olive Branch after the big move, turning our six person household into three. Our household currently is just Drew, myself, and the three-year-old that joined us in January. We have kept extra busy this summer tending to the garden, going on daily bike rides with the three-year-old's favorite tag-along bike, and the occasional backpacking trip on the Superior Hiking Trail. It has been a joy to

watch this sweet little person grow and develop over the last 9 months.

Need I mention that in July, after cancelling our June wedding plans due to COVID-19, Drew and I got married! It was an abbreviated version of our original plan but featured our dearest loved ones, some in person and most virtually. We are so grateful it included the Hendersons, just days before their departure to Turkey. Life is ever-changing here on Jefferson Street; I look back on the last chapter of our lives in awe and gratitude for the community that we formed within these walls and wonder what's to come.



Drew and Chelsea bike down Jefferson street, on their way to a wedding ceremony! Photo credit: Davidson Ward

Bread & Roses House Notes

By Anne Schepers

The house and yard have seen many changes in the past several months. The pandemic meant the dining room became a classroom for Eren and Esin several hours each day. Donna, Mo and Gunes took on more house duty at Dorothy Day and Olive Branch as outside community volunteers pulled back from their previous levels of involvement.

In July, we said goodbye to the Henderson family before their move back to Turkey. Their uplifting energy, hard work and commitment to hospitality is missed. Kohti, the cat, has loudly verbalized how he misses Eren and Donna misses snuggles and laughs with Esin. The empty bedroom will provide extra space when we are



Donna and Anne celebrating Anne's move to Bread & Roses. Photo (and cake) credit: Tone Lanzillo

hosting potential community members or other guests.

The front garden was planted this spring and with support from Hannah House garden compost, has been thriving- providing food to humans and deer in abundance. Six rose plants managed to survive and the morning glories have almost reached the roof! Donna and I have missed doing house duty at Dorothy Day house but it has seemed the smart choice to reduce COVID exposure risk.

I joined the community in late April and after some time in Dorothy Day House and Hannah House am now settling into Bread and Roses. After being a volunteer for 27 years, this is the next right step for me. I raised 3 kids in Duluth and first learned of Loaves and Fishes when I was a member of First Lutheran Church. My father admired Dorothy Day, and the Catholic Worker Movement has always been on my radar.

During challenging times, the Beatitudes from Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount have long inspired me to continue to provide food, housing, heal the sick and to work for justice. Every day at Loaves and Fishes, I find reasons to be hopeful and engaged; living side by side with courageous, generous and at times hilarious, people.



Joel Kilgour and Taylor Johnson, CTI instructor, looking over plans for the Dorothy Day House kitchen

Dorothy Day House Notes

By Tone Lanzillo

At this moment, the Dorothy Day House is a little quieter. Thanks to the support from a large group of volunteers and union craftspeople, we finally closed the house to visitors several weeks ago to begin work on our new kitchen. This kitchen will give us an opportunity to better serve the many people who either live at our house or visit us each day.

Even though there are no visitors, Joel and I still find time each day to reach out and support the four men who are currently living with us. Whether it's simply cleaning one's room, washing clothes, preparing a meal, attending a support group, budgeting one's money, taking medications, finding a job or looking for a new

place to live, we are always searching for ways to encourage and embrace each man as he figures out how to put his life back together and move forward.

These days have given me some time to reflect upon my time at Dorothy Day House; to acknowledge my gratitude to Joel for everything he does to keep our house open, to remember all the live-in volunteers and people from our extended family who have given so much to our community, to think about the many people who have come through our doors as guests, live-in volunteers, those who have done house duty, helped with preparing meals or worked on various home improvement projects.

The Dorothy Day House is a very special place. For many people in Duluth, our house has become a place to rest, recharge, rebound or restart. Whatever they may need or want, we open our arms and hearts to those who may just need two shoulders to lean on and two ears to listen.

Olive Branch House Notes

By Sarah Kilbarger-Stumpff

Since I moved from Hannah House into Olive Branch in mid-June, the house has seen many changes. Recently, two long term guests have moved out. While we are excited for the next chapter in their lives, their presences, thoughtfulness, and delicious foods are missed! With new people, house rhythms and routines have shifted. We have all devoted a lot of time figuring out how best to share space and show up for each other. As we are intentional about that process, our house community has grown stronger and we've been able to fully enjoy each other's company. With the people who have joined us, Olive Branch is now home to two families with young kids! They have brought so much life to the house - by the time the next newsletter comes out, everyone who lives here will be an expert on TikTok dances. With schools being mostly online, these kids are also at Olive Branch for extended amounts of time while their parents are at work. Navigating childcare and supporting distance learning has been a

challenge during this season.

Olive Branch is also experiencing some physical changes. The front of our house and porch is receiving some much needed love after a family of squirrels enjoyed some hospitality. Additionally, we have been moving forward in replacing our cracked sewer. This project is quickly becoming more complicated than anticipated. As the weather cools, this project becomes more difficult and we live with the fear of a sewer back-up every day.

Winter's arrival will also complicate how we've been dealing with COVID-19. This summer, it's been lovely keeping our windows open to increase air circulation and using our porches and yards to offer meals and hospitality outdoors. Soon, we will no longer have these options. We are working on finding ways to keep everyone living in and visiting Olive Branch as safe as possible from COVID-19, while also providing a space for people to get relief from Duluth's bitter winters. We are expecting the need for resources



Donna and Tone graciously accepting donations from a friend

such as ours to increase dramatically, as the number of people in St. Louis County without housing is at an all-time high and is expected to increase. How do we safely serve the folks in need during this time?

Whatever the next few months bring, I am confident Olive Branch will be able to weather it. In times of social distancing, I've been grateful to live in a house filled with so much camaraderie, laughter, tasty smells, and music.

Dorothy Day House
1712 Jefferson Street
Duluth, MN 55812
(218) 724-2054

Olive Branch
1614 Jefferson Street
Duluth, MN 55812
(218) 728-0629

Email: duluthcatholicworker@gmail.com

Bike Cave
1712 Jefferson Street
Basement/Backyard
(218) 302-5523

**Loaves & Fishes Housing
INC or Hannah House**
1705 Jefferson Street
Duluth, MN 55812

Current Needs:

- Women sports bras, of all sizes
- Women underwear, size 5,6,7
- Long underwear or thermals, especially in larger sizes
- Baby wipes
- Gas Cards/Bus passes
- Cloth masks

Monetary Donations:

Tax-deductible donations, which go to help pay for house maintenance, can be made out to **Loaves & Fishes Housing Inc.** Non-tax deductible donations, which go to help pay for day to day expenses, can be made to out to **Loaves & Fishes.** Checks can be mailed to **1705 Jefferson St, Duluth, MN 55812**

Volunteer Needs:

- Plumbers, electricians and carpenters to help with house projects and maintenance. Call Joel at 218-340-4356.
- House duty volunteers to fill regular shifts at Olive Branch and Dorothy Day House. Call either house for more info.
- Live-in volunteer to help run our men's house of hospitality.
- Folks with trucks to help move guests and haul donations.

Who we are

Loaves and Fishes is a community of people inspired by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement to build "a new society within the shell of the old." We believe in a world that is abundant with resources and love, and that there is enough for everyone if we share. As a community we offer family-style hospitality to people experiencing homelessness; operate a no-cost neighborhood bicycle shop to promote shared economics; organize with our neighbors to protect everyone's right to housing; and study and practice nonviolence in our interpersonal relationships and in our politics. Loaves and Fishes is entirely volunteer-run and receives no government funding.

Current live-in members of Loaves and Fishes Community are: Drew Anderson, Shelly Bruecken, Chelsea Froemke, Donna Howard, Sarah Kilbarger-Stumpff, Joel Kilgour, Tone Lanzillo, Anne Schepers, and Kate Young. Many other people are part of our community as volunteers, donors, meal providers and advocates.

...*The Climate Crisis continued* Duluth hasn't named the emergency and therefore what concerns me is that our city will not find the capacity to do what is required. In our city government, the issue of climate change should become a part of every policy, plan and process. We are already being impacted by climate change in so many ways. We have lost 29% of our total bird population, microplastics have been discovered in the western basin of Lake Superior, and the average rate of warming lakes across the globe is .34 degrees Celsius per decade and Lake Superior is heating up at three times that pace.

In her book "Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds," adrienne brown states "Change happens. Change is definitely going to happen, no matter what we plan or expect or hope for or set in place. We will adapt to that change or we will become irrelevant." So, do we find a way to individually and collectively adapt to climate change or do we become irrelevant? Do we recognize how vulnerable our city is to the current and future impacts of climate change? Are we able and willing to acknowledge that we are amidst a climate crisis and that changes to our city are coming faster than we realized or expected?

Thank You:

- Corrine for our beautiful new community car!
- LiUNA Local 1091, IBEW Local 242, Twin Ports NECA, Local 361, UA Local 11, Rachel Wagner for helping with the Dorothy Day kitchen remodel!
- Jon for going above and beyond for the Dorothy Day House!
- Bill and Sue VanOss for years of generosity and friendship. We miss you!
- Sharon Mollerus for all the ways you hold up Olive Branch!
- Susan and Clint for lending your apple press!
- Liberation Bakery for all the tasty, tasty bread!
- Lulu's Pizza for all the delicious dinners!



The Loaves & Fishes community celebrating the marriage of Chelsea and Drew on the shores of Lake Superior. Photo credit: Davidson Ward. From left to right: Sarah, Tone, Gunes, Maweja, Eren, Esin, Chelsea, Drew. Kate, Joel, Donna, Shelly, and Anne.