



*Gathering Place – Grand Opening*  
September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# MESSAGE FROM MARIETTA & PAULINE

**"To walk in transition is to walk in fullness"** – Henri Nouwen

L'Arche London is stepping with joy into the fullness of life in the Gathering Place. Monday Morning Music Club has met here for the past month - friends from all around the city are discovering Music Club in this new community hub. We celebrated our first (third Friday of the month) potluck – friends and families together, experiencing a special joy to be together in this place. We welcomed L'Arche Stratford and L'Arche Hamilton at Thanksgiving – and found the Community Room in the Gathering Place fit us well!



**Marietta Drost (L)** - Community Leader

**Pauline Trudell (R)** - Board of Directors

The Day Program Core Members and Team, and the Office Team are stepping into the full potential of this new community hub. We are sharing the information regarding the rich opportunities for growth and connection that Day Program provides – multi medium arts creation and exploration, opportunities for learning, physical activation - dancing and fitness, cooking classes, music and drama. We are happy to have welcomed Arts Educator, Karina, and Café Coordinator, Dominique, through a L'Arche Canada Growth Grant, and a Trillium Foundation Seed Grant respectively.

As we walk in the fullness of this transition to our new home, we are deeply grateful. The Gathering Place is a place of welcome and belonging for people seeking meaningful connection in the City of London. To learn more about the opportunities for growth and connection through the Gathering Place, go to <http://larchelondon.ca/programs-day-programs/>.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Potluck** – December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Cloth for the Cradle

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

7pm - 8pm. All are welcome

An Advent meditative service where we will bring our personal prayers to the Lord. A treasured quiet 'spot' in the midst of the December rush to stop at the manger and pray. There is a time of symbolic action where our prayers literally form a cloth for the cradle (manger) anticipating Jesus birth. We use flannelette strips that are then sewn into a baby blanket for an unsupported mother and her child!

**Potluck** – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Annual Banquet

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

## GRAND OPENING



## NEW & EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT OUR NEW GATHERING PLACE



We are thrilled to announce that L'Arche London received a Seed Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a new L'Arche London Café that will be run by individuals with intellectual disabilities – a first in the city of London.

This Trillium Seed Grant will develop a Social Enterprise "Café" project. Citizens in London with Intellectual Disabilities will be the primary architects and managers of this Café. We are thrilled to engage this

project which will highlight and encourage the creativity, gifts and abilities of all who are involved, and be a unique place of community encounter here in our west London neighborhood of Lambeth.

Our goal is launch our new café on January 4th, 2018. To start out the café will be run one day a week, Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. As we grow in the future we will have the opportunity to expand our operating hours.



**Diane Dubois (L)** - Trillium Representative

**Ann Ramundo** - Director of Development

**Marietta Drost** - Community Leader

**Whitney McWilliam (R)**

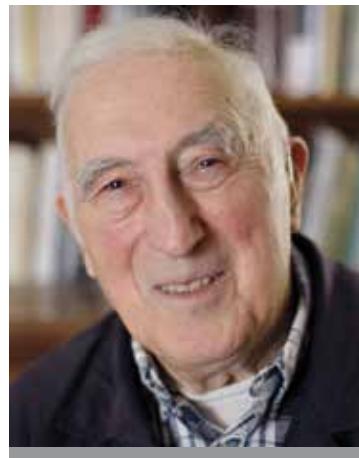
Jeff Yurek's office representative

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE FROM JEAN VANIER

Happy Anniversary to you all; 20 years, a long period. But it is more than just a long period. It's the beginning, it's an opening up, it's a growth. And I want to thank those of you who were there at the beginning; some of you have been there right from the start. Some of you have been there helping toiling, working, laughing, celebrating and so, thank you. But thank you for all those, over these 20 years, who have joined the community, helped it to grow. Helped it to discover its place in London, and of course, today with the big opening of the Gathering Place, I mean that's wonderful. So many of you have worked so hard, so many of you have worked in so many ways, for a fulfillment. Don't you think it's wonderful now, when you think of the past, when you think of all those institutions that existed, where people were locked up, and now here in London there is this beautiful community, radiating something very particular. It's not just a question of looking after people who are in need, it's much more a revelation that people can discover that these people who apparently before seem to be in need. They are beautiful people, simple loving hearts, and that's what our world needs. L'Arche London is

a little place, that wants to radiate, and will radiate even more, peace. Peace which is that we encounter people not judging them, not wanting to change them, but wanting to reveal to them, you are more beautiful than you dare believe. Help everybody discover, sadly some of us have more gifts, we are more capable, we have capacities, others have beautiful capacities of the heart, and they are reminding us that we are here in our world to be a place of peace. To radiate something which is peacefulness, helping people to meet each other, so that our world can become a better place. Today in our world there are so many fearful things happening, there

are so many people without homes who are refugees, but we can be a place where people are welcomed, rather be a sign that peace is possible in our world. So Happy Anniversary and of course it's the end but a beginning. The beginning of the next 20 years, next 40 years, so let's keep on going, growing, celebrating, being wise and particularly welcoming people who are fragile, who are in need and revealing how wonderful and beautiful they are. So thank you all.



**Jean Vanier - Founder**

## STAFF DIRECTORY

**Office Phone Number:** 519-652-9778

### **Marietta Drost** (x228)

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### **Mary Bee Haworth** (x223)

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### **Roberta Lattanzio** (x225)

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### **Ann Ramundo**

*Director of Development*  
Responsible for fundraising initiatives  
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(519-691-7550)

*Jean Vanier's message link on YouTube: [youtu.be/d3u5Gi64O20](https://youtu.be/d3u5Gi64O20)*

## JOE & JOELLE'S MESSAGE

Do you believe in Angels? In early September I was having lunch with my developmentally challenged daughter when a gentleman sitting one table away, having finished lunch, asked if he could join us. His name was John Parisio. John said that his sister-in-law was with an organization called L'Arche. John put us in touch with Marietta. After exchanging phone calls and e-mails she invited us to attend their music event. Since that time we attended 5 of these sessions. My daughter from the time we arrived to the end was smiling and greatly enjoying

the participation of the L'Arche residence individuals. Since moving back to London this has to be the highlight for my daughter and an emotional experience for me. Recently we enrolled in a L'Arche half day program. Joelle looks forward to participating at the Gathering Place and is welcomed by the most caring staff I have ever encountered. My sister believes as I do that we were guided by our Guardian Angel to this wonderful place.

Sincerely,

**Joe Podolan**



**Joe & Joelle Podolan**

# CAMPAIGN CHAIR MESSAGE

Garry Dodman - *Campaign Chair*



Please help us complete the journey.

In 2013 we launched our Capital Campaign with the theme Join the Journey. We saw this as fitting as so many people have been part of the journey of L'Arche London since its conception back in 1991. It also is reflected in our logo of 3 persons in a boat, the theme of being on a journey and the interdependence we have with each other. Our founder, Jean Vanier, has spoken often of our mutual dependence, from which comes beautiful relationships. It is a life-giving journey.

Today our journey continues but with a new resource - the L'Arche London Gathering Place - which gives us the capacity to reach out and welcome more people. As you will have read elsewhere in this newsletter there is a new energy in the community of L'Arche London as we have welcomed hundreds of people in the Grand Opening events. We have made many new connections to the larger community and we have shared in the gifts of community. The boat is getting larger!



There has been a lot of hard work and many hours invested by the community to bring us to this point. You have entrusted us with your donations, and encouraged us to continue the journey. Thank You!

In just over 4 years we are happy to report that **we have reached 80%** or \$2M of the \$2.5M target.

The goal is in sight.

So today our message isn't any different and we ask you to continue your generosity and make a donation towards this goal. Help us to complete the building and help us do the work of welcoming those who seek us out.

If you have not been able to join us for one of the Grand Opening events please accept this invitation to come. Come and see for yourself and Join our Journey!

*If you have any silent auction items you would be willing to donate or are interested in Sponsorship for the Banquet please contact Ann at ann@larchelondon.org.*

## L'Arche London Needs YOU!

I would like to help the L'Arche London Community build a stronger future by making a tax-deductible gift. Charitable registration #89183 5241 RR0001

My personal cheque is enclosed for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or donate online using MasterCard or Visa.

### Please direct my funds to:

L'Arche Gathering Place Campaign  L'Arche London Operations

Please make the receipt to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

## RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE GATHERING PLACE

Commencing December 1st, 2017, the Gathering Place will be available to accommodate your specific rental needs. From large groups to small, the Gathering Place provides kitchen facilities, meeting rooms, and a large community hall suitable for that special large function. For additional information or to set up a time for a facility tour, please contact.

**Roberta Lattanzio**

(Office Administrator)

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**519-652-9778 x225**



capital colour

L'Arche London extends its sincere appreciation to our friends at Capital Colour for the overall production of this newsletter.

Please mail this form to our office or contact us online at [office@larchelondon.org](mailto:office@larchelondon.org)

### Please send information on:

- Becoming a volunteer
- Attending a service
- Donating goods or services
- Becoming an assistant
- L'Arche Gathering Place

### New Address:

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fax: 519-652-4038

email: [office@larchelondon.org](mailto:office@larchelondon.org)

### Connect with us:

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**Thank you for your generosity**