



January/February 2012



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's that time of the year when pundits and critics offer their "10 Best" lists for the year just past, and in that spirit, I'd like to offer these "ten best" things that characterized Nightwatch in 2011:

- 1) The opening of a second Hospitality Center on the East Side ("Nightwatch Southeast")
- 2) The refitting of the Mobile Hospitality Center so it can provide medical care
- 3) Receiving a grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund to support the hiring of a Health Care Coordinator
- 4) The creation of new partnerships to forward our mutual missions:
 - A) With Lents Baptist Church, coordinating Friday evening outings with the Mobile Hospitality Center
 - B) With Clackamas Service Center, the site of Nightwatch Southeast
 - C) With Portland Chamber Music, contributing its talents to our benefit concert series
 - D) With Clackamas Community College, establishing Nightwatch as a new clinical site for its nursing program
 - E) And, of course, with St. Stephen's, as our relationship has deepened through this first year we have shared together
- 5) Full volunteer rosters at the Hospitality Center, starting in the fall and extending into the new year

- 6) The ordination of Roger Fuchs, our Nightwatch chaplain
- 7) The introduction of acupuncture at our downtown Center
- 8) Being rated a "Top Food and Shelter Non-Profit" by GreatNonprofits.org (one of only 36 nationwide!)
- 9) Earning a "Valued Partner" designation from GuideStar.org, meaning Nightwatch meets "best practices" standards in terms of financial responsibility, transparency, and accountability
- 10) Celebrating our 30th year of service!

But lists are only lists. Can a list really tell what is *best* about Nightwatch? I think that's better told in terms of stories.

Like this one that appeared on the GreatNonprofits.org site, written by one of our volunteers:

I first had that opportunity to volunteer at Nightwatch three years ago as a student and I continue to volunteer to this day. Nightwatch is so much to so many people. What makes it so amazing is difficult to describe but easily seen if you have the opportunity to visit. Rather it be the smiles on peoples faces, the chatter in the corner, the vision of groups playing scrabble or seeing a person be able to sit down and feel safe for the first time in the day. As a social worker in the field, Nightwatch is to me an inspiration, it gives me hope and reminds me why I got into this field in the first place. Nightwatch does what many nonprofits don't do, they let people be themselves and allow for a clean and safe place to socialize with other people. Very few if any places exist that just allow people to be themselves and to come as they are. If it wasn't for Nightwatch so many people would not have the opportunity to do what so many of us take for

granted, the ability to socialize with other people and to be treated like a person instead of a nuisance. I honor Nightwatch and what they do, they run flawlessly and on a shoestring budget. Nightwatch is very well deserved of some assistance as they provide so much to so many.

Now, I ask you: isn't that the best?

Gary L. Davis

IN MEMORIUM: PAMELA CHASSE



Pamela Chasse was one of those "behind-the-scenes" volunteers who grabbed little attention or glory but who was vital to the operation of our Hospitality Center. For years, Pamela was the solitary maker of our much-reknoned tuna sandwiches. Back in the days before we had generous deli donations or other food contributions from outside sources, Pamela was there week-after-week, devoting herself to making sandwiches so our guests would be assured of having at least something to eat.

Each of her sandwiches was made with tender loving care.

Some indication of the effort Pamela put into the project was that when she retired from the endeavor because of her failing health, she had to be replaced by a whole team of people to make the sandwiches.

We will miss not only Pamela's dedication, but also her spunk and spirit.

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As the Program Coordinator, I get to see the ins and outs of Operation Nightwatch. Besides the usual Thursday, Friday and Saturday Nights at the Hospitality Center, I also lead a short story discussion group every Tuesday afternoon. I wanted to create a group outside the regular Hospitality Center setting that brought guests together over a common reading. Short stories are convenient because they are easily accessible over the internet and if one guest doesn't enjoy one week's story, there will be a new one the following week.

Every week I am awestruck by the insights the guests bring. For example, I have learned that Larry, one of our "regulars," is a very learned person. The first short story I picked was a piece by Franz Kafka – "In the Penal Colony." In a nutshell, it's a story about a man condemned to death via a very intricate machine. Larry was quick to remind me that Kafka, an Austrian, wrote in German and that any translation would be "woefully inadequate." The German language, Larry observed, involves many intricacies of grammar, word choice, and word combinations. It so happened that Larry also revealed that German, not English, is his preferred language. Now Larry gives me lessons in German poetry following the discussion group.

I continue to be thankful for the guests. This job definitely is unlike any other. My primary duty is to be present to those who don't have many caring people in their lives. Everything else, from making sure we have enough coffee to mopping the floor after the night is over, is secondary. I have learned such profound things about people as a result of committing to this term of service, among them the complexities of human interaction, the talents someone may keep hidden, and the joys of simple things. You wouldn't think to find these things among people experiencing homelessness, the mentally ill, drug addicts, or alcoholics. With a place like Nightwatch, these small things come out almost with intentional quiet. It takes real listening to find out these things.

As one of my favorite German poets, Rainer Maria Rilke, writes: *"als Samen sonnst du dich in den geringen / und in den grossen gibst gross dich hin."* - "As a tiny seed you sleep in what is small / and in the vast you vastly yield yourself." (Larry assured me that this translation is adequate.)

-- James

"NIGHTWATCH SOUTHEAST"--OUR SECOND HOSPITALITY CENTER--OPENS

It was a convergence of happy events. The Nightwatch Board of Directors, knowing that Portland's homeless population was shifting (more can now be found in SE Portland than downtown), had been talking about the possibility of opening another Hospitality Center on the East Side. It even had included such intentions in its long-range strategic plan.

Meanwhile, our Mobile Hospitality Center had been going out on Saturday evenings to set up in the parking lot of the Clackamas Service Center, located near SE 82nd and Johnson Creek Road. Over the course of a year or so, a steady community had come to meet it and avail itself of the MHC's services.



With the advent of winter's frigid rain, it dawned on the folks meeting on Saturday nights that meeting inside would be more pleasant to meeting outside, so those running the Clackamas Service Center were approached. It so happened that they were looking for someone to serve a meal at their center on Saturday nights. It was a win-win situation. Agreeing to serve the meal, we moved in.

This moved a lot faster than the Board's strategic plan envisioned. But opportunity knocked, and we were invited over the threshold.

With "Nightwatch Southeast" now being open for business, another volunteer opportunity opens itself on Saturday evenings, proving especially convenient for those living in that part of the city.

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Food Fight or ONW Worship?

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42 KJV

On a 2009 visit to Vancouver, BC, my family and I discovered the First United Church of Canada, a "Gospel Community" on the city's Downtown Eastside. It's rare to see a newer church building in a badly declining area. Next time, I plan to spend a whole day there. See what they do and how: <http://firstunited.ca/>.

Recently, a Canadian pastor was a bit critical of their worship. "They do things backwards," he said. "They have worship first, then a meal. They should feed 'em first, then worship with those who want to stay." His words set me back. According to him, we've been doing things backwards at Nightwatch Worship for nearly five years. I disagree for several reasons.

We are not a soup kitchen. Our focus is first and foremost the people. We all need food, clothing and shelter. We are also spiritual people. For this one time in the week of our guests, Word, Sacrament and prayer come first. ONW worship is open to everyone. So is our meal following worship. We don't lock the door when church starts. No one has to "sit through a sermon in order to get fed" in the Canadian pastor's words. Late arrivals are welcomed. At St. Stephen's, our worship and meal are two hours earlier than at Julia West House. Worshiping first opens the door to many deeper conversations and prayers during the meal. Worship? Yes! Food fight, not so much!

—Pastor Roger

CO-SPONSORS STILL SOUGHT FOR 2012 OUTINGS

Sponsors have come forward for just over half of our annual outings. However, some sponsorships remain to be filled.

Perhaps you would like to sponsor an outing, but find full sponsorship beyond you means. Consider a half-sponsorship or a 1/3 sponsorship. You will not only be helping our guys, but perhaps also enabling someone else who is hoping to be a sponsor, but can only be one if s/he teams up with someone.

Here are our scheduled outings for 2012, showing our sponsors and also the events that remain sponsor-less:

MONTH	OUTING	SPONSORS
January	Shopping Spree (\$160)	Leah Hollingshead
February	Bowling	Al Bowen
March	Oregon Zoo (\$100)	David Groff
April	Miniature Golf (\$150)	
May	Mt. Hood (\$150)	Leah Hollingshead
June	Spiritual Retreat (\$300)	
July	Mount St. Helens (\$175)	Kenneth & Frances Grillo
August	Cape Lookout State Park (\$200)	Madeline Grimm
September	Corn Maze (\$175)	
October	OMSI (\$200)	
November	Camp Adams Day Trip (\$100)	Gary & Mary Fischer
December	Christmas lights (\$175)	

HONORARY GIFTS

The following have contributed to Nightwatch in honor of family and friends:

DONOR	GIVEN IN HONOR OF:
Susan Dial	Ginny Gaines
Sherry Heying	Dawn Hayami
Lucy Nonnenkamp	Dawn Hayami
Richard Tracy	Carol Tracy



Gary Davis and Board President David Groff receiving grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund

CHRISTMAS THANKS

If we were to add an eleventh item to our “10 Best” List for 2011, it would be “Best Christmas Party Ever!”

It was so good, we extended it over three evenings during regular Hospitality Center hours.

Three nights meant three menus, three sets of activities, and three sets of volunteers. Those who helped came from three different groups, each of which took responsibility for an evening.

Those groups were the ONW Board of Directors, members from St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Beaverton, and members (including the confirmation class) from the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ.

Thanks to all of them for making the celebrations a success!

BECAUSE WE DON’T WANT YOU TO SAY, “OH, THAT’S OLD NEWS . . .”

You’ve probably heard about the travails of the U.S. Postal Service, which is likely to lead to a cutback in its services.

One of the consequences of those cutbacks is that a piece of third-class mail—like this newsletter you’re reading—will take up to three weeks to end up in your mailbox.

There’s a simple way of avoiding being behind the Nightwatch “news curve:” join the many who have elected to get the newsletter electronically via email. Just drop us an email of your own, and we’ll put you on the list.

ONW’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN STREET ROOTS

A fine article about Nightwatch and our 30th birthday concert appeared in the Nov. 11 issue of *Street Roots*, written by our former Jesuit Volunteer, Cole Merkel.

If you would like to read it, you can access it online by going to the ONW Web site: www.operationnightwatch.org/cole's_street_roots_article.jpg.

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**NEWSLETTER
PRODUCTION TEAM**
Al & Gloria Bowen
Gary Davis
Madeline Grimm
Sheila Nichols

**ONW BENEFIT CONCERT
WITH PORTLAND CHAM-
BER MUSIC, JANUARY 21**

The second in our benefit concert series featuring Portland Chamber Music will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Saturday, January 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20, but a two-concert combo ticket (which also includes the upcoming concert on April 21) can be had for \$35. Student / low-income tickets are also available for \$5.

Tickets may be obtained through Nightwatch, or online through brownpapertickets.com.

Join us for this fun and fulfilling evening, and lend your support to Nightwatch!

OPERATION NIGHTWATCH

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