

# Nightwatch News

June, 2017

## Blessed rest

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



I worked briefly for a temp service – doing physical labor for minimum wage. One work place was in a foundry, stacking heavy ingots as quickly as I could. At the end of the day they were impressed. “Can you come back tomorrow?” they pleaded. I was pretty sure I wouldn’t be able to move – at all – for at least 48 hours, so I declined the honor.

Our homeless friends’ experiences are even worse. Sometimes they work, and don’t get paid. They are hired to do the work no one else wants to do. They tell about working without a break.

One night at our Dispatch Center, one homeless guy was gooey with tar residue. His shoes were covered, as well as his pants and shirt. Without new clothes, no one would hire him again – even

as a laborer. We had to scrub the chair down after he left. He worked all day for a pittance, and then had to replace everything he was wearing.

It made me want to weep for him.

*Lord, make us aware of those workers who help to build this city, but are not able to enjoy its benefits. Grant them your blessed rest.*

Your support means Nightwatch can provide food and shelter for those who are working, and those who cannot. God bless. ●

## A senior smile

By Marlene Poland

Senior Housing Coordinator

We welcomed a sweet old man into Nightwatch housing. A smile played across his face. The months of sleeping on a mat in a shelter were over. He is no longer homeless. He now has keys in his pocket, and his own bed. What a relief!

Nightwatch is serving more seniors now than at any time in our fifty-year history. Seniors on fixed income can’t keep up with Seattle rents. **Instead of grandma baking cookies, she’s putting her things in storage and sleeping in her car.** Last year our shelter program served 395 different individual seniors, up from 254 just a few years ago. That is too many homeless seniors.

Thanks to your support, Nightwatch offers an alternative – safe, simply-furnished rooms, with shared kitchens and bathrooms. The 24 seniors become family for each other. They share stories, eat meals, take field trips, and hang out. **They have all experienced that moment of relief, when they are no longer facing homelessness.** They have all had that smile on their face at some point.

The rent at Nightwatch is affordable because people like you volunteer and give financially. You should join us. You just might see a senior smile! ●



# NIGHTWATCH

Serving the night  
community in the  
name of Christ

### Volunteer Orientation Open House

The best way to learn about  
Nightwatch and the many  
volunteer opportunities.

**Thursday, June 1, 2017  
7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:  
info@seattlenightwatch.org

# Memorials & Tributes

## Memorials

Bill Branom	Ron Kimble	Mary Speltz
Mary Branom	Carl & Heather Craven	Greg & Kate Speltz
Charley Bush	Al & Maxine Lobb	Neal Stoddard
Ginny Larkins	John & Jody Fenlason	Joy Lauderbaugh
Marie Davidson	Paul & Tina Miller	Don Tekawa
Lola Davidson	Daniel Martin	Ron & Sharon Hirata
Tony Domzalski	Linda Martin	Zollie & Sylvia Volchok
Mark & Lisa Domzalski	Charlie Maslow	Tony Volchok
Pat Domzalski	Lyle & Shelley Staley	& Cindy Monsen
Michael Fendrich	Mark McLaughlin	Glenn & Shirley Weed
Marla Hoffman	Arnold Becker	Bud & Trudy Forbes
Ozie & Ora Gibson	Paul Sakaguchi Sr.	Andy & Ramona McBeth
Hal Gibson	Stacie & Paul Sakaguchi Jr.	Jim & Cynthia Weaver
Pete Gudger	May & Budd Seslar	Gilbert Weiss
Cheryl Gudger	Rick & Lorri Reynolds	John Weiss
Mary Ellen Ingersoll	Rik Shafer	& Corry Venema-Weiss
Jim & Jan Sullivan	John & Ivy Conklin	Mary Wooldridge
Paul Keating & all who died	Dick Shipe	Holly Boone
on the streets homeless	Gary & Theresa Shipe	
Pam & Clay Herbst	Jane Shipe	
Patty Rose Kemp	Louise Solemslie	
Lisa Connolley	Allen Solemslie	

## Remembering Gene

By Ann Sakaguchi

Eugene Vance came to live at Nightwatch the year after I started. He was 70 years old at the time and needed someplace to live so he would not become homeless. I knew him for almost 13 years. I will remember him.

Our tenants stay as long as they can pay the minimal rent and manage living on their own. This is not always easy for people over 62. Over the years, we've seen many come and go. Sometimes they find a better subsidized apartment and improve their situation. We are happy for them when they move, and we welcome them when they return, whether it's just a visit or they move back because they missed us. But with time, illness overcomes our beloved seniors, so they require more care than we can provide.

Gene was a charming, intelligent and respectful gentleman, from the East Coast. He served honorably in the Korean War, and fell in love with Seattle. He had done a lot of living and was a great story-teller. He rolled with most anything; through it all, he entertained us with this wit and wisdom. As the years went by, he adapted to the changes in our Senior Housing program and made friends, who became like family. For our part, we walked alongside him, as his body aged. Gene made a home for himself at Nightwatch.

The last years were hard for Gene. Health issues piled on top of each other resulting in countless doctor and ER visits. His strongest desire, always, was to come home to his own place, to be where he had known happiness.

Truth be told, his room at Nightwatch was nothing fancy. There is one window. The bathroom is down the hall. Why was this humble place so important to Gene?

I think it was community. His friends were here. His family could visit him here. We were here to encourage him. And you were here with us, through your financial support, making it possible for Gene to live here.

Eugene Vance passed away on April 27, 2017.

Rest in Peace, beloved Gene. We miss you. ●



## Tributes

Adam's twin babies  
Jim & Joan Barlow  
Mim Crouse's 90th birthday  
John & Jody Fenlason  
Deacon Larry McDonald  
Carol & Eric Paulson  
Mike Potts  
Catharine Fletcher  
Eva Rose  
Lisa Connolley  
S. Everett Fire Dept.  
& First Responders  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Greg & Mary Speltz  
Robert Petersen  
Paul Staley  
Harvey & Geri Nelson

## Shopping List

Please help by collecting these items for us to distribute to our homeless friends and tenants (travel sizes are preferred):

- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shave cream
- Hand sanitizers
- Multi-vitamins
- Cough drops
- Pain relievers
- Kleenex packs
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bulk drink mix

For more information about these items please contact:  
liz@seattlenightwatch.org

## Amazon Wish List:

<http://tinyurl.com/zjo64fd>


## Shelter Dispatch Center & Senior Apartments

302 14th Ave. S  
Seattle, WA 98144

**Contact us:**  
PO Box 21181  
Seattle, WA 98111

206-323-4359 Administration  
206-860-4296 Senior Housing  
206-329-2099 Shelter Dispatch

[Info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:Info@seattlenightwatch.org)  
[www.seattlenightwatch.org](http://www.seattlenightwatch.org)

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