

# Nightwatch News

October, 2016

## A tragic loss

By Rev. Rick Reynolds



My friend “Mario” just missed the bus. He came running up to the door, just as it pulled away. “Jasper,” his beloved little dog, slipped off the curb and was crushed under the wheels. Mario’s spirit was crushed as well.

There’s much sadness in the world of homeless people. When you become homeless, you lose your belongings. You lose standing in the community. You become subject to the cold and wind and rain. Through all these losses, a dog provides comfort, structure, continuity with the past, and friendship. In a long list of things which

have been lost in homelessness, Mario’s tragic loss felt like the final straw.

A few of us friends chipped in to pay for a proper cremation. We left the vet’s office on Saturday, and stood talking on the sidewalk. Mario and I hugged as we parted, sobbing at the sadness we shared. No one should have to be alone in such a moment. Thank you for helping to provide comfort to people in crisis.

*Lord, thank you that you do not turn away from those who suffer. Grant us a heart of compassion for our unhoused friends. ●*

## My moment of clarity

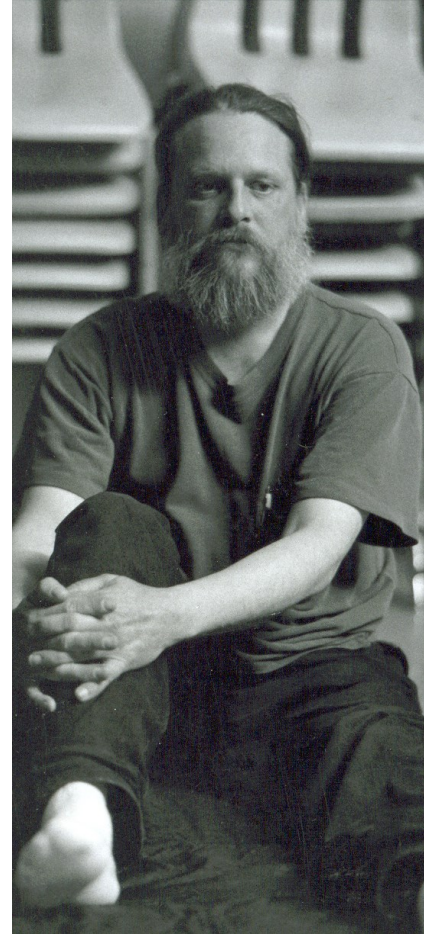
By Liz Fenn

I saw him lying on the sidewalk, dirty, crouched over and crying. He had one of our emergency blankets wrapped around his waist, covering his legs. Stomach cramps had him doubled over. He could not make eye contact as he confessed that he had soiled his pants. Feeling embarrassed and scared, he voiced aloud, “Why won’t anyone help me?”

I found myself immersed in a real life “Good Samaritan” story. Instinctively, I knew what I would do. I told him that I would help him, that I would go see if I had some pants for him, that he could get cleaned up, and then I would call 911, if he wanted. After he agreed, I invited him in.

To my astonishment I found clean t-shirts and underwear, a pair of jeans in his exact size, and a bath towel and wash cloth all previously donated by volunteers. I gave him Tums for his tummy, and soap for washing up. He came out of the bathroom, clean, dressed, and thankful. I gave him socks, toiletries, a new blanket and something to eat. He asked for a hug. Then he was on his way.

I sat at the desk reflecting on what just happened. I had been given a gift, in restoring someone’s dignity who was lost, scared, sick, homeless. In this, we are binding up the wounds of Jesus. Secondly, I felt that God was at work to orchestrate the events of the day, without my knowledge. And thirdly, the love we show at Nightwatch — staff, volunteers, donors, and even clients — make us all part of something much, much larger than ourselves. **Thank you for making this care possible, through your generous gift of time and resources. ●**



# NIGHTWATCH

**Serving the night  
community in the  
name of Christ**



**Please join us for our  
Hero of the Homeless  
Luncheon 2016!**

**Making Friends**

**Tuesday, October 11**  
Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion  
- or -

**Saturday, October 15**  
Bellevue Presbyterian Church

**More info and RSVP at:**  
[seattlenightwatch.org/hero](http://seattlenightwatch.org/hero)  
[Hero@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:Hero@seattlenightwatch.org)

**Volunteer Orientation  
Open House**

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

**Thursday, Oct 6, 2016**  
**7:30–8:00 pm**

RSVP or questions:  
[info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:info@seattlenightwatch.org)

# Memorials & Tributes

## Memorials

Myrle Bixler  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Annie Butler  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Carol Callahan  
Madge Schumacher  
Bob Cummings  
Joy Lauderbaugh  
Craig Davis  
Bruce Davis  
Tony Domzalski  
Mark & Lisa Domzalski  
Pat Domzalski  
Pete Gudger  
Cheryl Gudger  
Mary & Stan Hickman  
Susan & Doug DuBois  
Mary Ellen Ingersoll  
Jim & Jan Sullivan

Ruth Keepers  
George & Carolyn Rippee  
Ron Kimble  
Dean Kimble  
Al Lobb  
John & Jody Fenlason  
Jonathan Long  
Paul & Joybelle Eriks  
Harvey Nelson  
Harvey & Geri Nelson  
Mavis Rath  
Art & Ruby Meyer  
Dick Shipe  
Theresa & Gary Shipe  
Louise Solemslie  
Allen Solemslie  
Ross Tabor  
John & Dian Snypp

Don Tekawa  
Ron & Sharon Hirata  
Glenn & Shirley Weed  
Andy & Ramona McBeth  
Curtis & Carolyn Neitsch  
Jim & Cynthia Weaver  
Gilbert Weiss  
John Weiss &  
Corry Venema-Weiss  
Douglas Welti  
Ingrid Welti  
Leonard Woodgate  
Curtis & Carolyn Neitsch  
Mary Wooldridge  
Holly Boone

## Tributes

Skip & Beth Forbes  
Bud & Trudy Forbes  
Blaine Jeffrey Kym  
Daisy Neves  
Terry Marcell  
Fran & Frank Abbott  
Mike Potts  
Catharine Fletcher  
Joyce Siu  
Daryl Siu

## Making friends

By Ann Sakaguchi

It's never easy to lose a friend. And Lisa had been a good friend for the seniors at Operation Nightwatch. Lisa took the guys fishing and explained to them why she needed to move on. One of the more quiet seniors spoke for the group. "We'll miss you, Lisa. But you have to do what's best for you. We'll be alright."

It takes time when you lose a friend like Lisa. We knew that whoever stepped into her shoes would have their hands full, caring for 24 diverse elders who call Nightwatch home. They're sweet folks, most the time, but they will test a newcomer.

So when Marlene started, we weren't sure what would happen.

Her first day on the job, we handed her a long list of things to learn about. Landlord/tenant ordinances, bedbug procedures, Nightwatch house rules. Besides all that stuff, I kept rattling on and on about each tenant and their idiosyncrasies. There were all kinds of notes, and background, and history. But Marlene was very smart. She didn't bury herself in a bunch of details.

Marlene simply began meeting the tenants and getting to know them. She started making friends, right off the bat. She's been listening, asking questions, paying attention. She's making friends, which is the most important work we can do at Operation Nightwatch. Out of that shared concern and trust, good things will happen.

You will read more from Marlene Poland, the new Housing Coordinator at Operation Nightwatch, in the months ahead. We are so happy to be making new friends!

**Your support keeps vulnerable seniors in stable housing. Thank you! ●**



## SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS

### Sock Drive and Open House

Come by, drop off some socks and take a tour!  
Sunday, November 13  
1:30-3:00  
302 14th Ave S, 98144  
More information:  
[seattlenightwatch.org/sockit](http://seattlenightwatch.org/sockit)  
[info@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:info@seattlenightwatch.org)

## Shopping List

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

- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Lip balm
- Shave cream
- Hand sanitizers
- Sunscreen
- Cough drops
- Pain relievers
- Kleenex packs
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Kitchen towels—new or gently used
- Bulk drink mix

For more information about these items please contact:  
[liz@seattlenightwatch.org](mailto:liz@seattlenightwatch.org)

For a variety of other needed items, please check out our

## 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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