



THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION

# THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

“God save the foundation!” (Shakespeare)

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Green Lake Foundation

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## Green Lake Launches Housing Ministry

The Green Lake Housing Ministry was officially dedicated on Sabbath, September 16, on a glorious Seattle afternoon. Nearly 50 Green Lakers showed up for the festive event.

The “Grand Opening” was blessed by the dedicatory prayers of Mildred Jensen and Pastor John McLarty. Attendees received a guided tour of the Guest Suite, viewing the entrance, dining area and kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, and the combined sitting room/bedroom.

Alvin Kwiram, Green Lake Foundation president, welcomed attendees and provided a specially prepared slide show of the planning and events leading up to the Grand Opening, accompanied by his personal commentary on the construction work that made it all possible. He especially noted the extended service and labors of



Gummi Ibsen Photo

Groups visiting at the grand opening of the Green Lake Housing Ministry, September 16, 2017.

Foundation board member Don Mehrer in the fund-raising campaign and the construction phases.

A hospitality committee of members supplied a delicious buffet of fruit crisps—peach, berry, apple, and other fruits—served up with ice cream. The mid-September outdoor weather was perfect. Nola-Jean Bamberry and Keoni Smith set up the lunch table and food, and Rhona Kwiram saw to it that all the guests received their preferred dessert.

Alvin noted, “This Guest Suite and the Housing Ministry are possible only because of the donations so many of you made to the recent campaign.”

“But, in addition, special thanks are due to Don and Shirley Mehrer without whose substantial personal contributions, active work on the project, continuous support and encouragement this project would not have been successfully concluded. Don oversaw and participated in the renovation, and Shirley selected and arranged for the furnishings (with Kim’s active participation) of this well-appointed Guest Suite.”



Ken Walters Photo

Rhona Kwiram serving the hungry.

# The Vision

Where did the idea for Green Lake Church to have a Housing Ministry for people in serious need of emergency housing in Seattle come from? It actually had its genesis in the generosity and thoughtfulness of Green Lake members as practiced over decades since the founding of Green Lake Church in 1947.

Long before there was a “Housing Ministry,” some Green Lake members had basement apartments or other space which they generously deployed to help visiting students or new members make transitions to Seattle, to help out-of-town families who needed housing while seeking specialized medical care in Seattle, and for other emergencies or unexpected needs.

In that sense, the “new” ministry of the Green Lake House Guest Suite is not completely new. It is a continuation of the Christian hospitality and the welcoming spirit that makes Green Lake Church what it has always strived to be.

Today, Green Lake is poised to ensure that this kind of ministry continues and flourishes. It was inspired by the quiet work of so many members over the years.

Jenni Bolejack and Hayden Hamilton made a gift to formally create the Green Lake House Endowment Fund to help make such a ministry possible in a more formal and systematic manner. The seed they and others sowed has now been augmented, thanks to the GLC members who gave so generously to the recent fund-raising campaign.

These funds have allowed us to proceed with the creation of a Guest Suite at the Green Lake House through which we can provide ongoing support to our extended church family through an active housing ministry.

*Members enjoying the sunshine and conversation.*



# Multiplying Your Gifts to the Foundation

The Green Lake Foundation board members labor mightily to stretch your donated dollars and deploy them in a way that will maximize the effectiveness of the church's ministries. And what could be better than making the same dollars do two things at once?!

Remember the story of "Jesus Feeding the 5,000"? Jesus took a boy's lunch and fed a multitude. In the case of the Green Lake House, we are doing two things at once with the same dollars.

First, the investment in the Green Lake House is just that—a financial investment. Like nearly all real estate, perhaps especially in a currently vibrant city like Seattle, it should increase in value in the years ahead. That, the Board decided, would be a wise use of Foundation funds.

Second, can we help people in need at the same time as our investment increases? If we can achieve this, the Foundation's money does two things at once—an investment earns returns to the Foundation, but it also can be used for the Housing Ministry. Individuals and families in need can be assisted at the same time as the investment grows in value.

We haven't quite performed a miracle on the scale that Jesus did when he multiplied the boy's gift by 5,000. But maybe, over time, the blessings of the Housing Ministry will be shared with scores of people—and maybe even more.

*Sophia Casper relaxing in the bedroom.*



# Mildred Jensen's Continuing Support

The Green Lake House was purchased by the Foundation from the Jensen family in December 2013, but since that date Mildred has continued to financially support the Housing Ministry and has shown an active interest in the construction work which has made that space suitable for the ministry.

The Green Lake house has deep roots in the Jensen family since Lyle Jensen, a professor at the University of Washington, in 1948 personally built the house, even planting the pear and plum trees in the backyard. Lyle's meticulous record-keeping, including the purchases of almost every nail, remain part of family lore. What is now the Green Lake House has a rich history.

Mildred, now age 100, offered the prayer, albeit via a video, inaugurating the opening of the Green Lake House ministry on September 16.

Her generosity continues to inspire others in the Green Lake family to support the ministry.



*Mildred Jensen*

*Appliances and counter (west wall of kitchen).*



*Gummi Ibsen Photo*

# The Dynamic (even if Dirty) Duo

Making a basement into a near-palace does not happen without quite a lot of labor, involving both brains and brawn. And that is especially true if some unromantic tasks like removing asbestos are part of the challenge. Or, for that matter, blasting out an ample section of concrete floor and digging and installing a trench for a



new sewer line.

Green Lake stalwarts Alvin Kwiram and Don Mehrer somehow forgot they were too old to do these and other unprepossessing construction tasks. And we have photographic proof.

You may never again see a photo of Professor Kwiram in this charming costume, but the GLF Foundation Newsletter duly records this moment in history for your amazement—and possible amusement (see Page 8).

But first some background. Respirators are used to purify the air that humans breathe when they work in a toxic environment. The most common respirator is a half face, **du-al cartridge respirator**. Respirators must be equipped with HEPA-filtered cartridges specific for filtering out asbestos fibers. It is not a “fashion moment.”

But the good news is twofold: (1) Alvin survived and (2) the asbestos is gone.

The story gets better and better. Alvin’s indefatigable compatriot in basement remodels,

Don Mehrer, was seen and recorded deploying equipment similar to a jackhammer and a pickaxe. A sewer line for a new basement bathroom for the Green Lake Housing Ministry had to be dug out of the existing basement and installed.

Don was up to the challenge. By all accounts, he wielded tools with considerable finesse, command, and ample expertise.

The photographic evidence of both of these stalwarts at work is proof of their dexterity and their dedication. Mission accomplished!

In August, Pastor John McLarty preached a sermon about Jesus’ parable about serving in the vineyard. One son promised that he’d show up for work and then didn’t. The other said he couldn’t make it to work, but then he changed his mind and showed up.

The lesson is this: some people promise, and others deliver.

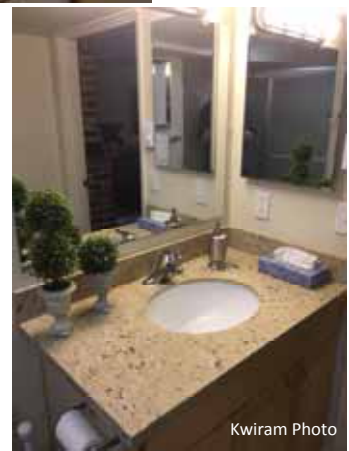
The story of the construction of the Green Lake House provides a modern-day example about both promising and delivering. Both Alvin and Don decided they’d show up for the dirty work, and they actually got more than just their fingernails dirty in the process. The job was done.



Gummi Ibsen Photo



Kwiram Photo



Kwiram Photo

Above Left:  
Dining Area.

Above Right:  
Bathroom and  
Vanity.

Right: Hanz  
Jouissance checks  
his phone in the  
Bedroom.



Gummi Ibsen Photo

# Planning Before Execution

Before a complex job gets done, another thing has to happen: planning. Figuring out what should be done is just as important as doing it. If the plan is ill-conceived, you end up with a disappointing result.

Planning the Guest Suite for Green Lake's new Housing Ministry was not an easy task, nor was it done quickly. The entire board of the Foundation got involved and debated multiple issues at several board meetings.

A number of problems had to be addressed and resolved. All involved design details and costs.



1. Should the furnace for the Green Lake House be moved, or could the existing furnace location be used?
2. What new walls separating the Guest Suite from the rest of the basement space needed to be built? And precisely where?
3. What about a closet? Should it be large or small? Where could they be located?
4. Did the entry to the apartment need a wall separating it from the living room/bedroom?
5. Should the bathroom have a shower or a combined bath/shower?
6. How could the fireplace be functional? And should it?
7. How could an efficient yet extremely compact kitchen fit into such a small space?

*Quality and Excellence  
always have been the  
guiding principles at Green  
Lake in all we do.*

And there were many more ample discussions, if not debate. Not only design aesthetics but dollars were at stake in all the decisions.

Alternate floor plans were drawn up and discussed in some considerable detail. Board members agreed on two basic principles: (1) the apartment should and would not be gold-plated—nobody proposed to gild the lily; but (2) we wanted it to be nice, comfortable, and welcoming.

Quality and Excellence always have been the guiding principles at Green Lake in all we do. And in the Green Lake Suite and Housing Ministry these standards still guide us. And so may it ever be.

## Green Lake Foundation Board

Alvin L. Kwiram, President  
Rhona Kwiram, Vice President  
Ken Walters, Secretary  
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Claire Knierim  
John McLarty  
Don Mehrer  
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Left: Alvin Kwiram, wearing HEPA filter, while removing asbestos tile. Note the special suspended ceiling and insulation for sound isolation.

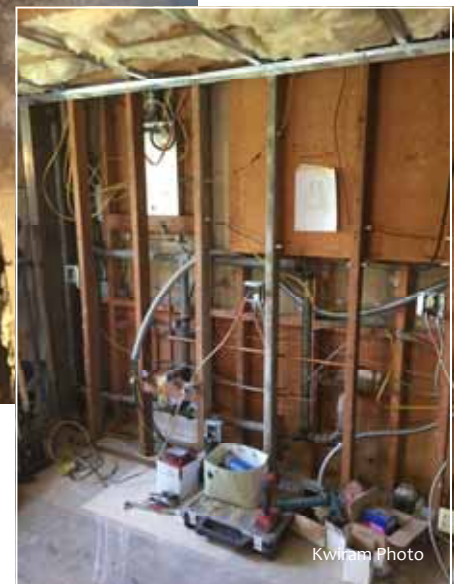
Below Left: The trench through the bedroom from the new bathroom to the side sewer.

Below Right: Behind the scenes—the west wall of the kitchen, which backs up to the laundry area.

## Church History Quiz

True or False:

1. The concept of a Green Lake Housing Ministry is the congregation's response to Seattle's homelessness problems.
2. The Green Lake House is located just south of Sea-Tac Airport .
3. Lyle and Mildred Jensen, charter members of Green Lake Church from 1947, were legendary for their warm hospitality.
4. The Guest Suite in the "Green Lake House" is actually a fourth-floor penthouse in an apartment building.
5. The Housing Ministry has an endowment in the Green Lake Foundation to which donations are still needed and welcome.
6. Hundreds of volunteer hours by Green Lake Foundation board members were devoted to the remodel of the Green Lake House and Housing Suite.
7. The Green Lake House and Guest Suite are projects undertaken by the Green Lake Foundation and supported by members and friends of the Green Lake Church of SDAs.



6. T, 7. T,

Answers: 1.F; 2.F; 3.T; 4.F; 5.T;