



THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION

THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

“God save the foundation!” (Shakespeare)

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Janet Grauman Johnson

At age 15, Janet Grauman Johnson was a charter member of Green Lake Church when construction was completed in 1947, and she served an irreplaceable role in church life. These remembrances from Jan’s memorial service on 29 September 2018 are by Dana Waters.

I knew Jan from more than 30 years singing together in the Green Lake choir. We first met at a Messiah Sing-through. A few years later I became brave enough to sing in the church choir and tried to sit near Jan because she could “sight sing” quite well.

Once the altos were having problems with a passage; while the director worked with another section of the choir, Jan studied the music. She then announced triumphantly, but in a whisper, “That interval is a 4th, not a 5th! We can sing that!” And with Jan’s leadership, we did.

By nature and nurture, Jan loved music. Her father, Dr. Arthur Grauman, led the effort to build the Green Lake church. A physician by profession but a musician at heart, Dr. Grauman was the organist, choir director, and all-around musical and spiritual Force. Jan’s mother, Helen, was a choir stalwart and authored a book, *Music in the Bible*. Jan and her brother, David, were steeped in music at home and church.

When Jan was fourteen, she was allowed the “privilege” of joining the choir, an activity she continued throughout her life.

An incomplete list of Jan’s service to Green Lake church includes:

- Church secretary.
- Deaconess who orchestrated wedding and baby showers and provided comfort at funerals and memorial services.
- Contributor for church potlucks. Eighteen of her recipes appear in the 1997 church cookbook. A gravy recipe discloses, “This is a great basic for any cook. I can’t tell you how many ‘mistakes’ it has covered in my cooking life!”
- Decorator-in-chief of the church Christmas tree, and coordinator of Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies.
- Member of the church Music Committee.
- Pianist for the children’s Sabbath School and chorister for the Sabbath School song service.
- Church elder.

Jan combined wide reading with enjoyment of the ridiculous and mundane, leading her to share unusual facts. As a contestant in a trivia game at a church social, she astonished the audience when she knew what Bondo® is:

a resin used by auto-body repair shops to fill dents. Some hypothesized that her beloved and aged Mercedes Benz may have been held together by Bondo®, thus her erudition.

Jan sewed beautifully. She made countless bridesmaid dresses as well as wedding dresses, including the one for her daughter Maryln.

A self-described “hymn freak,” she paid attention to text, music, history, and authors of both the poetry and the music. For the Hymn Festival, Jan wrote the notes for the bulletin. In 2004, the focus was hymns by Charles Wesley of the Methodist movement. This is an excerpt from Jan’s comment on “Ye Servants of God”:

“This hymn of Wesley’s was written during 1744, a time of persecution. Charles brought out a special book of hymns, *Hymns for Times of Trouble and Persecution* in which *Ye Servants of God* had 17 stanzas and was ‘to be sung in a tumult.’”

Why 17 stanzas? Jan concluded: “For use in a prolonged tumult, perhaps!”

Her knowledge of hymns enriched conversations. After an uninspiring meal served while Jan was in rehab and during which she had mostly moved the food around on the plate, a waitress appeared with a dessert—cake with berries and whipped cream. Jan perked up and exclaimed, “Sometimes a light surprises!”

The line is from an old hymn:

Sometimes a light surprises
The Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord Who rises
With healing in His wings:
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining
To cheer it after the rain.

The hymn crystallizes Jan’s outlook on life.

We say goodbye to Jan, and she replies—as she often did: “Goodbye, darling; I’ll see you later in life.” Those who loved and miss Jan can rejoice that we will indeed see Jan later, IN LIFE. ✧



Damazos Distribute *Safari Dentist* at Camp Meeting

Old-timers at Green Lake who fondly remember Ray Damazo's many initiatives and programs in decades past will be glad to learn that Ray reprised his storied reputation for entrepreneurship at the Washington Conference Camp Meeting, held in June.

The Green Lake Foundation suggested that Ray make his book available at Camp Meeting and set the wheels in motion to make it happen. Ray and his wife, Gail, distributed nearly 900 free copies of *Safari Dentist* to hundreds of appreciative recipients.

As our History Project reported in the 2018 Q2 issue (<http://greenlakefoundation.org/resources/2018-Q2-GLF-Newsletter.pdf>), Ray was honored by the American Dental Association in 2014 as "Humanitarian of the Year" at the Association's annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

His book, *Safari Dentist*, documented how Ray established and operated a state-of-the-art dental clinic in Kenya where more than 11,000 needy patients have received free dental care. Ray's ministry to the Maasai people continues at the Maasai Dental Clinic—which Ray founded—even today and in perpetuity. (<https://healthmarketinnovations.org/program/maasai-dental-clinic>).



Ray and Gail Damazo at Washington Conference camp meeting.

On behalf of the Green Lake Foundation Board, president Rhona Kwiram recognized Ray and Gail's gift of 900 copies and their distribution at camp meeting:

"On behalf of the Green Lake Foundation Board, I would like to thank you for offering your *Safari Dentist* books to the attendees at Washington camp meeting, as well as to the Adventist Book Center and Green Lake Church. The Foundation was very pleased to be a facilitator of this generosity on your part and in getting the story of your humanitarian accomplishments out to a broader audience. What you have done for the people of Africa is a wonderful thing, and we are proud to be associated in some small way with you and your work."

If you would like a copy, a very few are still available in the church library. ✧

The Three Pipe Organs of Green Lake Church

The Balcom & Vaughan Organ

The first pipe organ of the Green Lake Church of Seventh-day Adventists, known as the Balcom & Vaughan organ, was built by C. M. "Sandy" Balcom of Seattle in 1947. The dedication concert, played by Stanley E. Walker, Director of the Music Conservatory at Walla Walla College, was on December 14, 1947, one day following the first use of the building. Finding building materials so soon after the Second World War was a real challenge. Some things would be readily available while others proved more difficult to acquire. This was especially true when it came to components for the Balcolm & Vaughan organ. The search for materials read like a good detective yarn with telephone calls such as: "I just heard about a rank of 8' Diapason pipes available in Chicago," and the hunt would be on. As a result, numerous components for the organ were recycled from old instruments, namely defunct theatre organs. This was to become a problem later on as the used components did not hold up as well as the new materials.

The Balcom & Vaughan organ had 18 total ranks, 35 stops, and 1022 pipes. Although no one knows the exact cost of this instrument, several members helped make this first pipe organ a reality. Early in the planning stages for the new church building, Mrs. Howard, a long-time member, wanted to do something significant for the church. She and her husband, who owned the Ford dealership in the University District, committed \$5,000 toward an organ. As additional features were added to the proposed organ, Mr. Howard was willing to go a couple of thousand more. Then, cost estimates rose to \$10,000—double the original expectations. Arthur H. Grauman thought of some additional pipes the organ should have, so he ordered them. He recalled the cost being about \$2,100, which he contributed. This organ served the congregation until 1977. It was later relocated to Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Idaho.

The Casavant Organ

After more than a quarter century of faithful service, the original Balcom & Vaughan pipe organ was showing signs of age. Mechanical components were worn out, necessitating frequent repairs and making the instrument unreliable; moreover, tonal deficiencies were apparent. Because refurbishing the organ would have been expensive and would not have accomplished the desired tonal improvements, a committee was appointed by the board to suggest a course of action. The organ committee, chaired by Gordon Hale, recommended replacement with a new instrument. After a thorough evaluation of several leading organ builders, Casavant Frères Limitée of Ste.

(Continued on Page 4)

A CONVERSATION WITH JAN JOHNSON

Alvin and Verla Kwiram interviewed Janet Grauman Johnson on 26 July 2014 for the Green Lake Foundation History Project. Edited for length and clarity.

Your memories of going to church start with the congregation in Wallingford?

JJ: We attended what was called the North Church then, where the post office is now at 47th and Interlake. It was an old telephone building. I was a little kid and David was a year behind me. David and I thought it was wonderful because of all the nooks and crannies to explore. But our parents had a view that this facility could be improved on.

Did your pastor agree that a new church was needed?

JJ: The new pastor, W. L. Unterseher, was told that we were going to start a building project. That was in 1944-45. That was the setting.

Is it true that in the North Church you and David always sat in the front row—where your parents in the choir could keep an eye on you?

JJ: Yes, it is true.

Do you remember any memorable sermons from your childhood at the North Church?

JJ: Yes, Elder Sergeant was the first pastor David and I remember. David said he had never before heard a sermon preached on just one word—and the word was “rigor”. Pastor Sergeant was talking about the children of Israel who labored in Egypt with “great rigor”. Exodus 1:14 says: *“And they [the Egyptians] made their [the Israelites] lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor.”*

The Elder Sergeant sermon on *rigor* thus thereafter became part of Grauman family lore!

Before the North Church in Wallingford, there was an earlier “Green Lake Church” that your father had attended during World War I?

JJ: Yes, the address was 502 East 72nd Street—only a few blocks from our church today. Dad was drafted into the Army in World War I and sang in a male quartet sponsored by the Army. The quartet performed all around the Puget Sound area, including at that first Green Lake Church. That’s what Green Lake Church initially was for him. I like driving past the site, although it has a different building now, I think an apartment building or condo.

You were barely a teenager when the fund-raising for the Green Lake church started. Any memories of those times?

JJ: Yes. I really remember raising money to build the church. It seemed that there was always a new challenge, a

new need, or a new crisis. One year, close to Christmas, members were preparing products for sale as Christmas gifts. My mother and I embroidered pillowcases to raise money for the construction. We’d each do one pillowcase, and then take the pair back to the church to sell. One set we embroidered we grew to particularly like, and we thought, “So sad, we’ve got to take those back to the church for sale.” And Dad heard us and bought that pair for us!



Where did you attend school?

JJ: Both of us, David and I, attended Seattle Junior Academy, which had been built by that time.

And high school?

JJ: We both attended and graduated from Auburn Academy

And you both went on to Walla Walla College. Which years?

JJ: I attended from 1950-1953; David attended 1951-1955. In 1953, Paul W. Johnson and I were married, moved to Seattle, and pursued our graduate and post-graduate studies. He was a dental student at UW.

Your father was very involved in the Organ Guild in Seattle. Wasn’t he president at one time?

JJ: Yes, or “Dean” as they called it.

You’ve been in the Green Lake choir forever.

JJ: That’s true. I was born in the primordial slime, and was singing in the choir from that beginning. [Laughs] The choir has meant a great deal to me, and I’m really amazed at what we have learned—the music that we’ve learned—not only the Brahms *Requiem* but quite a few oratorios.

One of the things that you have done consistently is take the lead in insisting that Green Lake have a Christmas tree.

JJ: That’s right. It fits the whole profile that an Adventist church should actually have a Christmas tree. And we decorated the windows and got poinsettias.

And you wrote program notes for many printed musical programs for Christmas, Easter, and hymn festivals.

JJ: Quite a few, yes. It forces me to learn things, which is delightful. ✧

The Three Pipe Organs of Green Lake Church, *Continued from Page 2*

Hyacinthe, Québec, was chosen, and a unanimous vote was taken at a church business meeting on January 21, 1976, to contract with that firm to design and build a new organ for Green Lake Church. Negotiations were handled for the church by Dr. Hale and for Casavant by Donald Corbett. The tonal design was by Gerhard Brunzema, Artistic Director of Casavant, in consultation with Nadine Hale, church organist, and Melvin K. West, professor of organ at Walla Walla College. Although this was an expensive project, costing approximately \$100,000, more than two-thirds of the funding was from private contributions. The organ was installed in April 1977, and the inaugural recital played by Dr. West in May.

Although this 3-manual, 32-stop, 41-rank organ was an excellent representation of the neo-Baroque approach to organ design, it proved challenging to accompany and perform a wide range of choral and organ literature and adequately support the church's ever expanding music program.

The Tidwell Organ

Discussion about enhancing the Casavant organ began around 2001. Except for tuning and minor repairs, minimal maintenance had been done on the organ. The organ committee recommended upgrading the console, performing essential maintenance, re-voicing and re-scaling some select ranks, and the inclusion of several additional ranks of pipes to expand the sound and capability of the instrument.

In 2007, an anonymous donor offered to match \$50,000 for organ upgrades, and the church board voted to move forward with a capital campaign to raise \$50,000 for the challenge grant to make improvements to the Casavant. With inflation, upgrade costs were now estimated to be \$150,000. The campaign accumulated donations, slowly edging toward its goal of \$100,000. Then, in 2009, the church voted to remodel the platform due to the increasing size of its orchestra and a desire to move the piano closer to the choir loft. Upgrading the organ was inextricably tied to the platform remodel and the church entertained three options: upgrade the Casavant (now estimated to be \$300,000), purchase a new hybrid (pipe/digital) organ

estimated at \$550,000, or purchase a new 37-rank pipe organ with an estimated cost of one million dollars.

A new organ was the desire of the church and in May 2010, the church selected organ builder Burton K. Tidwell to design a new instrument. Facing the realities of raising \$1,000,000 in a recession and the urgency of completing the organ upgrade concurrent with the platform remodel, the church followed Tidwell's suggestion of incorporating parts of the Casavant into a hybrid organ of pipes and digital components. The specification for this unique instrument was carefully crafted in consultation with Ryan Dye and Wanda Griffiths. The primary objective for the organ was to provide dynamic leadership for congregational singing; easily accompany a

vast range of choral, solo, and orchestral literature; effectively perform a wealth of organ literature; and inspire students of all ages in the education of organ performance.

Construction began in January of 2012 and was completed in early March 2012. An in-house dedication concert was given on March 10, 2012, by Wanda Griffiths and Ryan Dye. During 2012, a series of organ concerts commenced to introduce the Puget Sound community to the new pipe organ in its midst. The first concert was played on March 16 by Wanda Griffiths and Stephen Marshall-Ward.

The cost of the Tidwell organ, with 94 ranks and 87 stops, was approximately \$450,000. We thank the many donors, grantors, and in-kind donors for their contributions toward achieving this magnificent instrument. Without these gifts, it would have been an impossible task. May it inspire all who visit our beautiful space for many years to come. ✧



The Tidwell organ and Bechstein piano in position for a concert by Jeremy Filsell and Nigel Potts on April 20, 2012. For concerts, the organ can be moved closer to the audience from its "home" position at rear center of the rostrum.

Green Lake Foundation Board

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