

L'ARCHE SYRACUSE

Creating a World Where Everyone Belongs



MIKE AND MARY
COLLEEN
DANCING AT OUR
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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NEW HIRES AND OFFICE TRANSITIONS

As the New Year has come and gone, L'Arche Syracuse has seen a plethora of changes.

After a yearlong vacancy after Bob Sackel's retirement, we are excited to welcome Samuel Thomas as our new Pastoral Minister. He comes to us by the way of L'Arche Cleveland, where he was a House Coordinator. Samuel's first day was on December 18, and their family of four is thrilled to be joining a new L'Arche community.

We are pleased to announce that Cleveland House has found its House Coordinator! Danielle Rubeus joined our community as of December 26, and Michael, Ted, Wayne and Ian are excited to have her in the home. She brings a background of coordinating direct care in Massachusetts. Please be sure to welcome her when you spot her! Our final new hire is Shannon Gannoe, who has joined us as the new Day Hab Coordinator. Shannon has a background in the developmental disabilities field, and we are lucky to have her talents replacing Allee at the Day Hab.

We are also pleased to announce new transitions in the Support Team at the office. Alif Crowley, the House Coordinator for Highland House, has accepted the Program Director position. His first day was December 16 and we are grateful to have his keen administrative eye.

Prior to this decision, Jamie, our former Program Director, made the decision to transition into the Assistant Program Director role. It is a gift to have her knowledge here to help Alif in his transition into the office. As Alif transitions into his new role he was be replaced at Highland House by Allee Eber. Her first day was March 10, and Sarah, Craig, Amy & Brian are ecstatic to have her at the house.



From left to right: Samuel, Danielle, & Shannon

REGIONAL GATHERING 2025

The first major event of 2024 for L'Arche Syracuse was our ability to attend Regional Gathering in Scranton, Pennsylvania. After a five year hiatus due to the pandemic, the ability to meet together with old friends was much needed. Almost all of our community was able to travel for the event at Marywood University. Regional Gathering occurred over a three day period from June 11-14. While in Scranton we were joined by L'Arche communities from Cleveland, Erie, Boston, Long Island, Frederick, the District of Columbia along with several emergent communities in the Northeastern region.

We had the privilege of organizing the talent show, which consisted of over two hours of acts done by core members and assistants. Highlights include our own Jimmy demonstrating jujitsu with an assistant and several stand up comics. Our community presentation consisted of a dance reciting the history of L'Arche Syracuse, which was orchestrated beautifully by our former Program Director Teasa. Core members had the opportunity to bowl and shop on top of all the activities offered during downtime, and got to participate in the talent show and enjoy a dance party.

Uniquely enough the whole event was almost cancelled early on our second day due to city wide power outage after a storm. By the grace of God the power came back on two minutes before a decision was being made to send everyone home or not, allowing the fun to continue.

A good time was had by all! We eagerly anticipate the next regional gathering in 2026.



50 YEARS OF L'ARCHE SYRAUCSE

On Friday, October 11, 2024, 160 members and supporters of L'Arche Syracuse celebrated the community's 50th Anniversary with a big party at LeMoyne College. We had the former L'Arche International Envoy to Palestine, Rick Hatem join us with his wife Ulyana Roy who is a leader of Faith and Light in Ukraine. Rick used to be an Assistant, House Coordinator and Assistant Director at L'Arche Syracuse, so it was a homecoming for him. From L'Arche USA we had Tom and Stasya & from each L'Arche community in our region we had a team of representatives. L'Arche Boston North came with Community Leader Jennifer Matthews, Assistants Emilee, Helen, Antonia, and Jette, and Core Members Lianna, Ali, Sarah, and Meghan. Community Leader Kathleen Colon and daughter Olivia and Roo came from L'Arche Long Island and Community Leader Rochelle Von Hoff and Meghan Moyer came from L'Arche Erie. L'Arche Cleveland came with Assistant Lizette and Core Member Janet. Guests started arriving at 5 p.m. to socialize around the cash bar and the Memory Table which contained photos of all Core Members of L'Arche Syracuse who had passed away in our 50 years of existence. Guests could take funny photos of themselves in the Photo Booth, buy a L'Arche Syracuse T-shirt or peruse the many community photo albums and posters. Peter Sinatra, Emily Frank and Mary Colleen Sinnott provided enchanted music and song leadership (supplemented with many noise makers) while a 150 photo slide show rotated on multiple screens. The program kicked-off with stories by Highland Core Members Amy Grealish and Sarah Farr (facilitated by Assistants Paris and Paloma Alcantar), founding Community Leader Doug Mouncey, and Galster Core Member Jimmy and Croyden Core Member Paola. Ted's Advocate Deb and L'Arche Legend Bob reminisced while Original Core Member Ted, facilitated by Shyeata, shared his wisdom. The night concluded with a dance party, and much fun was had by all. Many thanks were expressed to the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee of Kay Scharoun, Elly Pearlman, Dru Nordmark, Deb Gibson-Jawarski, Jamie Proper, Donna Popp, Allee Eber, John Knechtle as well as to slide show producer Jeff Keeler.



DAY HAB: BUSY AS EVER

As the fall and winter seasons kicked off in Central New York our day hab program has never been busier! With Allee's guidance the core members are soaking in every experience they can and taking in all the films they could ever ask for!

Outside of the day hab space in our offices the core members were able to get out to Onondaga Park, the zoo, apple picking, the pumpkin patch, the mall, bowling, the library, and the cinema. The art club made several crafts for themselves and for others including art from apples, sunflowers, trees, handmade leaves and marbles. Additionally through our Friday movie club our core members were able to enjoy nineteen new films.

This last quarter has been a rousing success, filling our offices with warmth and joy. It would be a much quieter and somber office without the liveliness of our day hab.



LENTEN REFLECTION

By Samuel Thomas, Pastoral Minister



Christ in the Desert by Ivan Kramskoi, 1872

As our community has entered into this new year, we currently find ourselves in the thick of Lent. The liturgical season is one of self denial, fasting, and almsgiving to prepare ourselves as a community for the Easter vigil. As the Pastoral Minister I have chosen to give up screen time, which has proved to be so much easier said than done. For those of us who choose to abstain, we have an endless sea of choices to pick from. Some of us will give up meals, others luxuries we rely upon just a tad too much, and some of us will wring our hands with too many choices to abstain from. The season is a reminder that we have been given days to feast and given days to fast, and the latter is at hand.

The biggest danger for our community is to believe the lie that we are not doing enough in this liturgical season. We often focus too much on our shortcomings. Our community will inevitably start to worry that we are not expressing love for each other enough. We will worry that we are not doing enough in our community, and that our little lifeboat will not be discovered by others. We worry that if we are not being busy we are not doing things right. If we believe the false promises of the accuser, we will throw ourselves from the top of the temple in the hope that others will notice and save us. But we must be like Jesus and refuse the temptation, to rely on the fact that we have been called here, to be a light and to attract others to our lifeboat. As a L'Arche community we are called not to be efficient, but to be a community of love, which in turn will be a light to our community.

INVEST IN US RALLY



INVEST IN US RALLY!

Friday, March 21, 10am

The Martha Eddy Room, Art & Home Center
NYS Fairgrounds

Hear from family members, direct support professionals, and people with I/DD who receive support from AccessCNY and Arc of Onondaga as they share why funding is needed to ensure the sustainability of essential supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in Central New York.

Let's tell our leaders that **#wematter** and it's time to **#investinme #investinidd**

For more information and to get your organization involved
contact Joanna at 315-401-0917 or email jjewett@arcon.org



www.arcon.org



www.accesscny.org



Although President Trump has stated that he will not cut Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits, on February 25, 2025, House Republicans adopted a budget resolution that calls for the House Energy and Commerce

Committee to cut \$880 billion in spending over the next ten years. If the Energy and Commerce Committee cut everything under its jurisdiction that's not healthcare related, the committee would still be short \$600 billion, according to the NY Times. This means cuts to Medicaid and Medicare are needed to reach the \$880 billion reduction.

L'Arche, like most organizations that care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, receives most of its funding from Medicaid. Cuts could be devastating. In light of this potential crisis, L'Arche Syracuse is partnering with AccessCNY and ARC of Onondaga to remind government officials and the public why Medicaid and other government funding is needed to ensure the provision of essential supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in Central New York.

Let your voice be heard and come out and support our Rally to support government funding and oppose cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

Help us to continue to create a world where everyone belongs.

MAKE YOUR VOICE KNOWN

Contact your
representative

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH 21 - Invest in Us Rally

10a at NYS Fairgrounds, The Martha Eddy Room

MARCH 27 - Board Meeting

6:30p at TBD

APRIL 1 - Monthly Potluck

5:30p at 1228 Teall Ave (The Reformed Church of Syracuse)

APRIL 14 - Spiritual Life Committee

3:30P at 920 N Spencer St (L'Arche Offices)

MAY 6 - Monthly Potluck

5:30p at 1228 Teall Ave (The Reformed Church of Syracuse)

MAY 12 - Silent Retreat

10a at the Baltimore Woods Nature Center

MAY 19 - Day of Reflection

TBD at 1228 Teall Ave (The Reformed Church of Syracuse)

OTHER STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pastoral Minister's office has a weekly open door policy for visits from 11a-1p every Tuesday. Stop by!

Are you interested in visiting our community? Want to bring a dinner? If you're interested in spending time with our community in any capacity we'd love to welcome you in one of our homes.

If interested please reach out to

pastoralminister@larchesyracuse.org