



THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION

THE GREEN LAKE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

“God save the foundation!” (Shakespeare)

Volume 1, Number 3

Green Lake Foundation

2016 Q4

Green Lake Foundation President’s Report

By *Alvin Kwiram*

Verla and I are very grateful to be members of the Green Lake Church (GLC) family. It has many special qualities among them: great diversity, an openness to new and different ideas, a warm and welcoming spirit, a commitment to excellence in all aspects of its worship and operations, and a remarkable tolerance for those with different views or approaches. This is a rare combination, and there are not many congregations (not associated with major institutions) where one can find this kind of spirit. That does not mean that we are without the normal tensions and differences that arise in any family. But there is a genuine commitment to that ideal.

I sense that many members of the GLC family feel that same way. This has been evidenced repeatedly by the remarkable generosity of the members in our various campaigns—whether for the elevator, the roof, the new organ, or the platform. Many of us would like to ensure that these special qualities and this special community can

continue for years to come and bring similar blessings to those who will follow.

That is part of the purpose of the Green Lake Foundation (GLF). The creation of endowments that provide for dedicated funds for specific ministries and operations of the GLC well into the future is one element of this. A number of such endowments already exist, and more will be created in the future by some of you. Of course, another purpose of the GLF was to foster a more strategic approach to the management of the GLC’s assets and to systematically emphasize the importance of careful planning. We also need to remind ourselves from time to time how special this family is and to think about how we can ensure its continuity. Another important role of the GLF is to manage and choreograph major fund-raising campaigns.



Alvin Kwiram

Thanks to the generosity of the members of the GLC family, we have made excellent progress. We began in 2003 with some tens of thousands of dollars of funds held in cash by the GLC, and, through our fund-raising efforts and prudent management, we have multiplied those funds many times over. Indeed, at our last GLF Board meeting we noted that we now are managing a portfolio of over one million dollars, much of it in endowments. This does not count our significant real estate investment which has benefited significantly from the recent run-up in housing prices in the Seattle area. Over the first ten years of the GLF’s existence our average return on investment was more than five percent per year, which included the punishing recession of 2008. We will not enjoy that level of success in the coming years, but the GLF Board will continue to do its best to manage the assets of the GLC and the GLF thoughtfully and prudently.

At the beginning of this report I outlined some of the special characteristics of the GLC that seem worth preserving for future generations. That is what the endowments are intended to support in part. Of course, money alone will not preserve the spirit that we all cherish.

Test Your Knowledge



The creation of the Green Lake Foundation in 2002 was approved by:

- A. The Vatican.
- B. The General Conference of SDA.
- C. The Federal Reserve Bank.
- D. The Washington Conference of SDA.
- E. None of the above.

Answer on Page 2

(Continued on page 4)

When Green Lake Danced Around the Christmas Tree

By Dana Waters

A surprise greeted churchgoers to a December Sabbath School in the late 1960s. The lighted Christmas tree had been relocated from the platform to the center of Fellowship Hall and was surrounded by concentric rings of chairs.

This was not going to be the standard, staid start to the Sabbath School. The rearrangement of the room and presence of people in traditional Norwegian clothing hinted at further surprises to come.

Chorister Hanna

Helmersen, assisted by her husband Hjaltar and sons David and Arne; Hanna's sister, Kirsten Qvigstad, and family; and Norwegian friends, invited the Green

Lake Church family to join in the family tradition of singing and "dancing" around the Christmas tree.

On Christmas Eve, Scandinavian families circle their Christmas tree holding hands while singing carols and Christmas songs. "First Christmas" and "Second Christmas" (December 25 and 26, respectively), are days of celebration, with parties, feasts, and more joyous singing of traditional songs around the tree. Hanna and Hjaltar wanted to include the Green Lake family in this celebration.

With encouragement and persuasion, the Green Lake Sabbath School formed a circle around the tree. The "dancers" held hands and decorously circled the tree, doing their best to copy the Norwegians in joining hands while walking, and to sway, clap, bow, and curtsy to the music.

Reactions of the Sabbath School attendees to this unfamiliar activity—on Sabbath morning and in church (!)—predictably ranged from delight ("How lovely") through discomfort ("This isn't how we do Sabbath School") to disgust ("It's like the Israelites dancing around the golden calf").



But, on balance, there was enough delight that Hanna, with her family and friends, led Green Lake in dancing around the Christmas tree for several Decembers.

Hanna remembers that "O Jul Med Din Glede" was sung every year.

O Christmas, you season of childlike delight,
We all give you heartiest welcome;
Our voices we raise in a song clear and bright,
To bid you a thousand times welcome.

Refrain:

Our hands we will clap, clap, clap,
As merry as can be; so glad are we this day to see,
We circle all around, bow and curtsy.

O wise men who come from the lands of the East,
We know of the Babe you are seeking;
We pray we may join you in your holy quest,
And follow the star brightly beaming.

Refrain

In joy and thanksgiving I offer my hand,
And ask that you give yours in token,
That we be united by this sacred band:
God's love through the ages unbroken.

Refrain

Nearly fifty years after Green Lake "danced around the Christmas tree," the memories of dismay and discomfort have faded, but the remembrance of taking hands and being united in gladness is still bright.

Thank you to Hanna and Hjaltar Helmersen for introducing Green Lake to dancing around the Christmas tree. Thank you to Hanna, George Neiswanger, Olive White, Jan Johnson, Ruth Christensen, and LaRene Mittleider for sharing their memories.

To watch a family singing and dancing to "O Jul Med Din Glede," see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdN9dyOm4H8>. ✧

Happy 100th Birthday, Mildred!

On January 4, 2017, Mildred Jensen will celebrate her 100th birthday. The Green Lake Church wishes her a rousing Happy Birthday. The excerpt (pages 3 and 4) from her interview is intended to celebrate this singular event. If you would like to send best wishes to Mildred for this occasion, her address is:

Mildred Jensen
% Mary Kay Campbell
6571 Witzel Rd SE
Salem, OR 97317



Test Your Knowledge Answer: D – In 2002 the Green Lake Church Board decided to seek the approval of the Washington Conference of SDA of our plans for a Green Lake Foundation. Church board chair Alvin Kwiram, together with Rhona Kwiram, contacted the Conference president and other officials and shared our plans with them, seeking their counsel, blessing, and formal approval. Conference officials requested some modifications of the plans. After some minor revisions, the Conference gave Green Lake Church approval for establishing the Green Lake Foundation. ✧

A Conversation with Mildred Jensen

On March 15, 2014, Alvin Kwiram interviewed Mildred Jensen, a founding member of Green Lake Church. Highlights edited for length and clarity.

When did you and Lyle first meet?

Lyle remembered me when I was three and he was four. We were at a home prayer meeting and I was singing a song.

Were you high school sweethearts?

No, but our families were good friends.

When were you and Lyle married?

June 11, 1940, in Stanwood, Washington.

When did you first attend the Green Lake church?

In Fall, 1940, we attended the old North Church, which had been a telephone building. My mother was the chief telephone operator there years earlier.

You moved to Chicago when Lyle was asked to work on the Manhattan Project?

From 1943 to 1945. Then Lyle taught at Andrews University the 1945-46 school year and in 1946-1947 at The Ohio State University where he worked on solid state rocket fuels. From Ohio we moved to Seattle where Lyle joined the University of Washington faculty.

You were back in Seattle when the North Church congregation moved to the new Green Lake church?

Yes. I remember we had Sunday work bees and polished the pews. We had good turnouts for those.

You had an array of responsibilities—Sabbath School divisions for children, choir, deaconess.

Yes. That was a loooooong time ago!

You were the second woman ordained as an Elder in the Adventist Church in North America.

I said “no” for a couple of years. I didn’t think the church was ready for it.

What do you mean?

I didn’t think even Green Lake, which would take on new things, was quite ready for a woman elder.

Did you get any negative feedback?

No, no. Nothing like that. It was a nice experience. Other congregations in the conference wanted to know how it had gone. It was all positive, really.

You were seen as a “model woman” in that era and were asked from time to time to come to Auburn to give talks to the girls?

That did happen at least once.

The Green Lake Foundation negotiated with the Jensen family and acquired the Jensen home, now known as the Green Lake House. The property is a key element of a “housing ministry” for those who come to Seattle for short stays and need temporary housing.

And that pleases me so much, and I know it would have pleased Lyle. Greatly.



Your generosity is renowned. You maintained contact with many people in the congregation and never went empty-handed to see somebody.

Verla Kwiram: You, Mildred, made loaves of bread, and brought them warm from the oven.

Carolyn Lacy: You helped me when I was learning to make bread; you were my tutor.

Sally Hasselbrack: You taught home economics at Seattle Junior Academy.

Alvin Kwiram: You were the Dean of Girls at Yakima Valley Academy.

Myrtle Mitchell: When I started visiting the Green Lake church, Mildred welcomed me with open arms as if I had been a member of the church for years.

Your father was a boat builder. What kind of boats?

My father went to Walla Walla College for a year but he did have this boat-building place. He built fishing boats and pleasure boats. We sailed his boats up in the San Juan Islands before there was even a Deception Pass bridge. The “Kumtuck” was one of his boats that we had wonderful times on—a working boat that was also used as a pleasure boat. “Kumtuck” was an American Indian greeting, and he knew a lot of American Indians.

Didn’t Lyle Jensen and Paul A. Johnson teach a Sabbath School class for a long time?

Yes, they team-taught a Sabbath School class, “A Walk Through the Bible” for many years. The class still meets and has the same focus and name.

Didn’t you also babysit David Grauman?

David Grauman: Oh yes, it’s true. I remember that.

Mildred: It was a good experience, wasn’t it. [Laughter]

What was Lyle Jensen like as a Sabbath School teacher?

Sally Hasselbrack: His class met in the narthex and that place was packed. He was a wonderful teacher.

What are some of your favorite memories of Green Lake?

My first is the Sunday clean-ups. There was always a good turnout for these. We washed windows, polished the pews, and we did a good job.

How often did this happen?

It was at least yearly, maybe more.

From the 1950s, who were some of the other families you remember?

Dr. and Mrs. Ching, the Youngs, the Graumans, the McAdoos, Dorothy and Carl Aus.

What is the most important thing you’d like younger generations to bring to the church?

Green Lake Foundation Board

Alvin L. Kwiram, President
Rhona Kwiram, Vice President
Ken Walters, Secretary
Ken Case
Hayden Hamilton (Associate)
Claire Knierim
John McLarty
Don Mehrer
George Neiswanger
Chris Oster
Amy Worrell-Kneller

The Green Lake Foundation
newsletter is published quarterly.

© 2016 Green Lake Foundation

Donations to the Foundation:

[https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/
About.aspx](https://www.adventistgiving.org/about/About.aspx)

Church History Quiz

These questions are all about the front window in Green Lake Church depicting Christ's Second Coming.

True or False:

1. The cherubs or "baby angels" have faces and wings but lack bodies.
2. The cherubs, coupled with the conquered angels, together depict the Great Controversy, the victory of good over evil.
3. The kneeling angels at the bottom of the window are dressed in purple gowns, honoring Green Lake's location near the University of Washington.
4. Dr. Arthur Grauman, one of Green Lake's founders, communicated with artist Albert Gerlach about the content of all windows; excerpts of their comments are in the Green Lake archives.
5. Christ is standing on clouds as he descends from heaven, crowned with a halo and resonating rays of light.
6. The window was sponsored by an anonymous donor.
7. The angels at the bottom are kneeling before a Bible.



Answers: 1.T; 2.F; 3.F; 4.T; 5.T; 6.F; 7.T.

A Conversation with Mildred Jensen, Continued from Page 3

It's wonderful when we can be in one another's homes. We know them at a different level, rather a precious level. It's different today, isn't it. Today everybody's busy with two people working.

How many times would you have people over for Sabbath lunch?

Quite often. Probably about once a month.

Sally Hasselbrack: My memory of coming here in my late 20s is that Mildred embodied what I thought the ideal Christian was. She loved everybody and she was very close to God.

Mildred: It's lovely to be here with you all. I think of you and I pray for you as a group and as individuals.

Alvin Kwiram: It's quite remarkable the energy and contributions that the early members of this congregation made. We are grateful to them for creating a culture—an ethos—which we have benefited from over the years. Thank you, Mildred. ✧

Continued from page 1

President's Report

Only our devotion to the principles and the vision for this congregation can achieve that. And that means that each one of us has to play our part. If we are simply passive observers, then the spirit will gradually dissipate. It can only be preserved by active engagement. Each one of us has to act as though the preservation of that spirit depends on us. We have to work to nourish it just as we work and plan for the welfare of our own families and homes. That is part of the reason that the GLF has launched the History Project, in order to ensure that we not forget how the pioneers in this enterprise dedicated themselves to the values that we cherish today. By reminding ourselves of their sacrifices, the standards that they espoused, and the spirit they embodied and passed down to us, maybe we can be inspired to continue that legacy for the benefit of our children and our community.

We are currently engaged in another fund-raising campaign. You can learn about the focus of the campaign on the GLF and GLC websites and in the material that has been mailed to you and distributed in the congregation. Here I simply want to make two points. First, the objectives of this campaign are very important for the future growth and vitality of this congregation. There are many ideas for how we can be a greater force for good in our community, and this campaign focuses on only a couple of those. But these can have a huge impact and build the foundation for even greater impact on our church family and community in the coming years. Second, we also hope that YOU as a member of the GLC family will begin to think about where the GLC fits into your estate planning. We hope to emphasize that hitherto neglected element of our church family financial planning in future conversations. Historically, for understandable reasons, we have tended to operate on a pay-as-you-go basis with but little planning for the future. This has not proven to be an optimum approach. So we hope to have this conversation in the coming year and lift up the GL congregation as a worthy topic in your estate planning, with the hope that you will consider including it among your favored charities (of which your children's welfare is the most important).

Again, I want to emphasize that the GLF is extremely grateful for your generosity. Without your dedication and thoughtful support, the GLF can achieve nothing. With your active participation, there is a great deal that we can do in our church family and in our community. ✧