

WOTS | WORD ON THE STREET

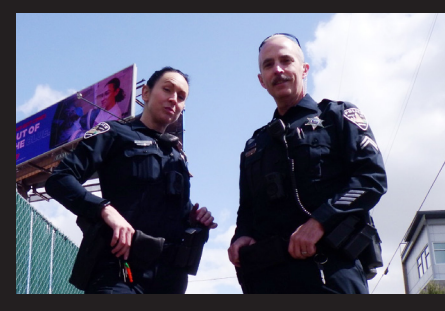
a paper for the people

We can disagree and still love each other...
 ...unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist
 - James Baldwin

WOTS

YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW YEAR?

- TAFT ELEMENTARY, SICK WASH AND GERRI'S XMAS STOCKINGS
- Q&A WITH THE WCA
- SHELTER STORIES
- ONE STONE VISITS HOMELESS ART COLLECTIVE



2023 *in* PHOTOS

Photos courtesy of Gypsy Wind





What is Word on the Street?



WOTS is a collection of personal narratives, artwork, poetry, and reporting on social issues in the Treasure Valley and beyond. Readers can purchase copies of the newspaper from our vendors experiencing homelessness (look out for their official green WOTS vests) for a \$1 donation or pick up a copy for free at any of our delivery locations (visit www.facebook.com/wordonthestreetIFS for more information).

Word on the Street was founded by Project Well-Being, a day program at Interfaith Sanctuary focused on mental health and recovery. WOTS is printed and distributed to 30,000 Treasure Valley households once a month with the help of the Idaho Press. If you have story ideas for Word on the Street, would like to volunteer, or are interested in becoming a vendor, please email erin@interfaithsanctuary.org. We would love to hear from you!

- This paper is printed by Idaho Press -



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Solstice

By Gerri Graves

New Year's Eve. It has become a symbol of a sort of rebirth. A time of commitment to change in oneself. Resolutions to plot our future, reverse a past.

Before a rebirth can take place, however, I personally need to reflect on the year gone. Take stock in my self-evolution. Give myself credit where it is due, but admit my shortcomings. Reflection must always come before change.....before a resolution can manifest.

For me, reflection is done on the darkest day, the longest night. Solstice.

I do my best thinking in the dark. The quiet solitude.....enveloped in black. Lacking distraction and unwanted voices of input. A conduit, likened to a river just before it meets the sea. It's as if I need a toe in it to feel.

I realize this self-help, faux happiness world we reside in doesn't understand that side of me. Painfully aware, actually. A lifetime of not fitting in. The anomaly. The eccentric weirdo. I wear it like a badge of honor anymore.

The world needs more of us weirdos, societal rule breakers, me thinks.

That being what it is, there are still some shortcomings that are not in line with that anarchist spirit I own, and as I evaluate, I realize....the list is much the same as last year's.

I wonder at my lack of growth this past year.....and then it hits me. The world over, we're all suffering from catastrophe fatigue.

2023 is the worst year on record (in regards to climate disasters). Flooding. Hurricanes. Wildfires. Tornadoes. Extreme weather events. Erosion and landslides. Etc.

This coupled with thirty wars the world over, America's gun problem (over 35,000 people died last year from gun violence) Covid's continual relevance – still among the top three leading causes of death, the rising costs of just existing,

record breaking homeless numbers.....this list can go on forever.

We have watched genocide live on our little screens. We have witnessed the absolute worst of human behavior and the arguments FOR it. As if there is an adequate reason for the death of children. Unfathomable. Incomprehensible. I cannot wrap my head around it.

Along with personal, familial issues.....this has been the worst year in my life's memory.

What's to be gleaned from it? What's salvageable? Where is the one thing that gives me hope?

An American, in Latin America, who is lifting the homeless and needy out of poverty. He's building a village, where they live and work. He's not only throwing money at the problem, he's giving them an income going forward. I absolutely love watching his updates.

The brave Palestinian reporters. Donning their press vests, which makes them a target, so that the world may witness truths.

Doctors and nurses at Palestinian hospitals who refuse to leave their patients' sides under threat of bombs.

Cathedral of the Rockies 'adopting' Ukrainian families. Helping to provide food and housing in war-torn areas.

Advances in DNA technology, giving names back to the missing and murdered. Some of the 'Does' as far back as the 1950's. The most recent, Georgia's 'Christmas Doe'.....Kenya-ta Odom. A five-year-old found in 1988, now has her name back.....and an arrest in her case.

A 3,000-year-old stela found in Las Capellanías in October. The headdress, found on female stelae and a warrior sword, found on male stelae, were found on one stela. This stela is associated with both the male and female attributes and insignia. Meaning: it was acceptable 3000 years ago to NOT be assigned a specific gender and have both traits attributed to one person. Much like the indigenous 'two spirit', which has also been an accepted practice for thousands of years. The

idea of gender neutrality or possessing traits not associated with birth gender is not a new concept, folks.

Ancient erhu and zither (guzheng) instrumentals/music. Always been a fan of the lute.....now I have new beauty to enhance my listening experience.

Our DNA can be traced back to an African woman that lived over 200,000 years ago. We truly are ONE! Humanity is written in blood. Though it seems that the more diluted we are from our origin story, the more inclined we are to deny its existence.

The activism and inclusion of our youth. The determination to see with their minds and hearts and demand rights for millions they do not personally know.

Two decades after its disappearance in the wild, the Spix's macaw is about to be reintroduced into the forests of Brazil. Thanks to careful breeding and nurturing, eight will be released soon, followed by twelve more. Brought back from extinction. Truly, a scientific miracle.

.....yeah, I read a lot. There are so many more little miracles to be thankful for, but I can't name them all within this article.

My point being: I am a pessimist by nature, yet I am constantly looking for articles and news that promote the things we get 'right'. I have to keep the faith. We all have to keep the faith. We have to believe there is a way back. Seek and gain trust in one another again.

We have to march longer, fight harder, and make our voices loud enough to hear round the world.

Good guys aren't the only ones wearing a white cape and the bad guys have held the baton for far too long. Disguised as heroes, throwing around the word 'evil' as if they are the last word on the subject.

I recently heard a line that caught me off guard. I tear up, just thinking of it now....."The distance between us is but a step off a cliff."

The fear of the unknown.....of what we don't understand, can only be remedied by forcing ourselves to dive into the oblivion of the misunderstood. It takes stoicism, determination and bravery and if we are all brave together.....we can gap that bridge.

There seems to be a line drawn in the sand. An idiom we are all familiar with.....the line between good and evil. The definition of either depends on which part of the globe you reside.

We have to be wise enough to resist coercion, and strong enough to tread a path that is not laid out for us. Assign titles to them who resemble the deed and not those delegated by manipulation.

We are smart enough to know the difference. We have to find a way.

My resolution for 2024 is incumbent on my reflection of 2023. To bravely explore all that scares me. To seek out knowledge of the things I don't understand. To step off a proverbial cliff on the slim chance that it will lead to change.

Sick Wash Hosts 3rd Annual Gratitude Dinner

By Matt Hoffman

This is "Sick Wash" and company. The guy in the picture holding up a shirt is Jay. He owns Sick Wash, which is a mobile car cleaning service in Canyon County. For the 3rd year in a row, they brought our guests unbelievable amounts of delicious food. They bring like 15 hams, 15 turkeys, mashed potatoes,

green beans, gravy, pies and cheesecakes, and soda. We usually have leftovers for days!

Jay does all of the coordination and gathers sponsors months in advance to finance and volunteer. The humility and gratitude from Jay and the rest of the team makes this one of our favorite nights of the year. Jay just loves doing this and is thankful for the opportunity to serve.



Taft Elementary Sock Drive

By WOTS Staff

During the month of October, 5th grade students in Ms. Zammiello's class at Taft Elementary collected socks for guests at Interfaith Sanctuary. After meeting with Interfaith Executive Director Jodi Peterson-Stigers, the students learned that the cold weather brings this specific need to guests at the shelter. They designated the month "Socktober" and invited Taft students

and community partners to donate socks! At the end of the month, the 5th graders, led by their classroom service committee, collected 175 socks and hats! Maranda Jay, Interfaith Sanctuary shelter director, came to Taft for the presentation of the socks. This group of students are difference makers and contribute to the kindness and generosity of the Boise community!



Homeless Art Collective Visits Alternative Christmas Market

By WOTS Staff

Interfaith Sanctuary's Homeless Art Collective took part in the Alternative Christmas Market hosted by Cathedral of the Rockies in mid-November. The market allows local nonprofits to set up booths to sell ethically made goods that align with their fundraising efforts. Here are photos of some of our artists showing off their work.



A Day in the Life

By Julie Loomis

My busiest day is on Tuesdays, so I will walk through my day. This will also show how I keep myself involved with different programs offered at Interfaith Sanctuary. We all have our way of dealing with the day to day life living without a home. I have a street family and a bed to sleep in, so right now that is my home.

Our new wake up time is 7 a.m., not 6 a.m. The new change is to keep people warm by letting us stay in till 8:15 a.m. Corpus Christi opens the day shelter at 8:30 am. I am in the well-being program, so we can stay in till our group time. The recovery program also has the same privileges. I usually slowly get out of bed after I take my morning medications. I have medical and mental health issues, so I am on medications. It takes time for my body to wake up and begin my day. I have my coffee and head to the Phoenix building where group is held. I am in Phase Two, and we meet at 8:45 am.

The well-being group meets to meditate and check in on how we are feeling. We usually have coffee and then it is the art collective. Anyone can join this group. We make paintings, jewelry, clothing, crochet, and crafts. Many artists sell what they make. Right now we are working on donations to a charity event that will raise money for the

shelter and the programs. I do photography and water-color paintings. I just finished my hobbit hole painting and am also donating two of my photos. I will be working on different art projects to help with raising money.

At 11 a.m., we have our Word on the Street meeting. This is also open to anyone that likes to write poetry, photography, and write about issues we deal with in the homeless population. I feel like I am contributing to a better understanding of being homeless. We are not hopeless, just homeless.

I usually go back to the shelter and relax until dinner time. I participate in Project Sing, an open meeting where we sing. We have Bernie, who volunteers his time to play the guitar and bring sheets of songs. We sang at a gala and will also be singing at the holiday event in December. People in the community can come to the shelter at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and join along. We have a lovely lady who plays a mean harmonica and anyone else who stops by.

That is pretty much my day at the shelter. I have great bunk mates, street family, and supportive staff that makes it doable being without my own place. I actually feel that I have a bit of a home. So, it is almost lights out, so time to wrap up my story, thanks for reading along.

An Interfaith Christmas

By WOTS Staff

In true Interfaith form, three congregations from different faiths come together to serve Christmas dinner to our guests each year. What began in 2011 as a last-minute response to a canceled meal has become an annual tradition.

In 2011, Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel and the Islamic Center of Boise stepped in to serve Christmas dinner when our plans fell through, even though it's a Christian holiday. That night our guests ate a delicious meal with foods from all over the world. A few years down the road, the LDS church joined in on the fun. "We nicknamed this annual event the MJM production for Muslim, Jewish, and Mormon volunteers," Dr. Said Ahmed-Zaid, a Boise State engineering professor and member of the Islamic Center of Boise, wrote in the Idaho Statesman's faith column in 2019.

The congregations served a turkey dinner, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, hot cider, and apple and pumpkin pies. There were also

items such as a Kurdish rice dish with raisins and roasted almonds, and a variety of Middle Eastern sweets served with North African mint tea. This year's celebration is the 12-year anniversary and in addition to bringing desserts, members of the LDS church will decorate the entire shelter.

Rabbi Dan Fink of Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel told WOTS in 2021 that it makes sense to serve dinner not only as it allows Christian volunteers to celebrate the holiday with their families, but also because it challenges the idea that people of the Jewish and Muslim faiths don't get along. "There are a million stories in the news because of the Middle East and about us living in tension with one another, but really, we've worked together with the Islamic community here for a long time and it seemed like a natural partnership," he said.

"I think there's a really special value in just doing something together and doing something that serves the community. When we come together to serve a common purpose to do a greater good, I think it really does enable us to build bridges."

Hand-Sewn Stockings



By WOTS Staff

Our longtime contributor Gerri, who is herself experiencing homelessness, has spent weeks preparing stockings for the kids in Interfaith Sanctuary's family program so that they have something special to keep this holiday season and each one to come. She designed, selected, stitched, and embroidered each of the 40 stockings herself. Gerri told us she doesn't want any congratulations for her work (please don't kill us Gerri!!), but rather to spread warmth and joy to her fellow humans this holiday season despite the chaos happening in the world. We hope that others follow her example of always seeking to understand, support, and advocate for the people who need it most.



Reverie

By Gerri Graves

Sometimes I offer small prayers within the confines of my mind. As if to speak them aloud, would somehow taint them. The magic woven into the words, lost upon their first utterance. Not even a whispered birth, could prevent immediate demise.

A wish with no voice. A voice with no depth. Clandestine warmth with none of the frigidity of secrets.

I am nothing but a tongue that longs to speak, and a mind that swims in a quagmire of her own creation. A creation that stays the tongue and warns that dreams cannot be broken.....if we never utter them.

Quote of the Month

"We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist." - James Baldwin

Q&A with WCA

By WOTS Staff

WCA (Women's and Children's Alliance) in Boise provides community and residential support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The organization serves people of all genders. WCA Philanthropy Director Laura Honn visited our WOTS editorial meeting last month to answer questions from members of Boise's homeless community about the work WCA does, what resources are available, and how to access them.

Q: I know you offer court counseling and services and that you've been around for a long time. Based on today and where we are, what are you guys seeing as far as increased need?

A: So our hotline is the biggest way to get through to our services, and of course people can come to our downtown location – it's at 720 W Washington – our hotline calls have increased by about 78% between 2019 and 2022. We saw a huge increase in the need for our services. Obviously when COVID-19 happened people were at home, maybe didn't have opportunities to go places away from their abusers. I also think our community has seen a massive increase in people, and with people comes victims and survivors that may need our services. We've done our best to increase the services that we can offer, especially our community services. Counseling is a great one – we used to have three counselors, now we have seven. That's just an example. All of our services are free and will always be free. I would say the need has also increased because we've tried to do a lot more outreach and tell people that we have our services. We have cards, we have posters. For example, every bathroom in Albertsons has our poster. I think more people are calling because more people know.

Q: If somebody calls your hotline, to what extent is it anonymous?

A: Super anonymous. Somebody doesn't need to give us their name or anything. They can just call to have a conversation and seek out some advice. Sometimes people call to talk about a friend. Sometimes we have people calling about people in completely different states that are just trying to get some idea about options. Some people call our hotline multiple times before they decide they want to go on our waitlist. We serve all genders and our hotline is open 24 hours a day. You could call at 2 a.m. and someone would be able to answer, and it's completely anonymous. If you choose to access our services we have paperwork, but we follow HIPAA com-

pliance. That information is not shared with law enforcement or any other agencies.

Q: When you say waitlist – if someone is reaching out to you and they are in a situation where they need to get out – what does that look like?

A: Basically we use a risk assessment. We don't have a waitlist for group counseling sessions. We actually implemented a model recently where we have crisis counselors that someone can see for a six week period. You will be able to see a counselor that week and by the time that six weeks is up, you would move onto a more long-term counselor. In terms of our shelter, as I'm sure you guys know, it is one of our most needed services in the community. We're the only service that only serves domestic abuse victims, and domestic abuse was one of the top three causes of homelessness in our community. We do always have emergency rooms. If somebody comes with the threat of lethality – that means they could be killed by an abusive partner – we will always have space for them. The majority of people that we serve will go on a waitlist and the average waitlist time is between 20-35 days. We're in constant contact with those people to check that what they're experiencing hasn't changed.

And that's the hardest thing, is that we do not have enough beds for everybody, so we have to make tough decisions. But we always try to do that in a really fair way by using this system that specifically assesses risk – it's to do with weapons, experiences, violence. To be completely honest, some people on our waitlist don't always feel they're ready to leave yet, and they're on that waitlist to be able to put things in order to be able to fully leave. We know that on average, it takes a victim of domestic abuse seven times before they actually leave for good. When they do come to stay with us, they can stay with us for seven months. They get four months in our emergency shelter and then three months in our transitional shelter. And then we work with great partners like CATCH to find them perma-

nent housing, as well.

Q: Bea Black, your executive director, testified at the hearing to get the conditional use permit approved for Interfaith Sanctuary's new shelter on State Street. One of the things she said was that she hopes it's approved because it will mean more space for people exiting domestic violence – what's the interplay you see between homelessness and domestic violence?

A: Huge. I think it's the Idaho Housing and Finance Association – every year they do this great report that tries to see what is the main reason why people find themselves to be homeless. I want to be clear that domestic abuse knows no boundaries and gender, so anybody can experience it, but often we find that the number one cause of homelessness for women is something related to a domestic abuse instance. Only last year did the number one cause change to missed bills or rent, but prior to that, it had been consistent that domestic abuse was the number one cause of homelessness in Idaho. There's a lot of intersections because often people can be experiencing things in an environment and have to stay because it's the only way they can stay housed. As domestic

abuse and sexual assault become things we talk more about, people realize some of the things going on in their home are not acceptable, and therefore seek to leave, but there aren't very many options available to them. Something we've seen a really big shift in the past three years is the cost of living in Boise. A huge amount of people that do work or would normally have been able to leave an abusive partner and get their own place cannot do that because the cost of

living is so high. The only way they can leave is by going to a domestic abuse shelter, but then when you come back around to the fact that there aren't enough services to accommodate all of the people, they can't leave.

Q: Bea said something really interesting during the public hearing because there was pushback about our shelter being located so close to your shelter, but she explained that



Q&A with WCA: Continued on page 6

Volunteer Shoutout

By Matt Hoffman

This is one of the many reasons we love our job!

This is Holy Apostles Catholic Church, organized by Gloria Schafer. Gloria came by the shelter with her husband and a couple of friends a couple of months ago for a tour and conversation on how they can serve our guests. They were so touched by what we do here that they wanted to get involved right away. I told them we'd soon need warm weather gear and they liked the idea of getting their whole church involved with a clothing drive. Today, they showed up with 3 SUVs full of coats, hats, gloves, socks, and hand warmers. All of the coats were separated and labeled by

gender and size. They made sure to bring some bigger coats, as well. They wouldn't even take a donation receipt.

God I love our supporters. I make new best friends every day!

Matt Hoffman

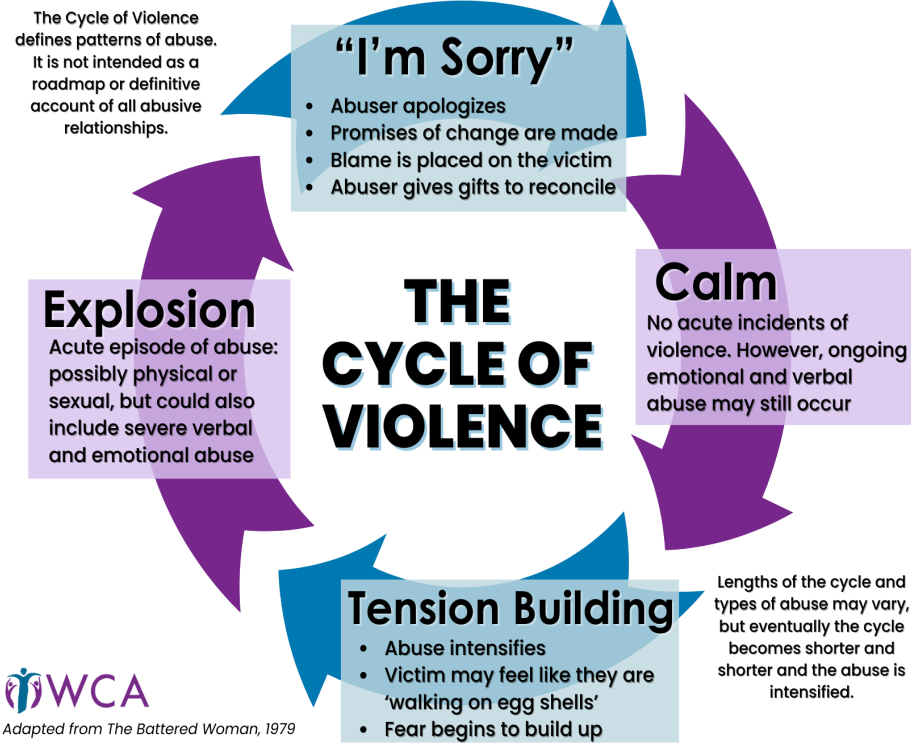
Operations Director
Interfaith Sanctuary



the person experiencing domestic violence fears their abuser, not other people, and that's what they're trying to get away from. Do you feel like our new shelter will be able to help?

of the things that you'd do is call our hotline number and ask to speak to our court advocates. They would be able to set you up with an appointment with a legal aid attorney. They can often do all of the paperwork for you and take care of everything. If you have to appear in court, for example, they may be able to represent you, and it's free. That's one of the biggest uses for our legal aid attorney is divorces of a confidential nature.

A: The way we explain the difference is that FACES does a really great job of being the emergency room. If something has just happened, especially in the sexual assault realm, they are such a wonderful place to go. They have nurses and representatives from other agencies that can help the immediate needs. They also have crisis counseling. WCA is the outpatient space – we're where you'd go afterward to continue your healing. We offer longer-term counseling, longer-term housing options, longer-term support, court advocacy, financial empowerment, etc.



Q: What about aid for victims of sexual assault? Do they go with you to your court appointments?

A: That's a great point – we are very well known for domestic abuse, but we do a lot of work with victims of sexual assault as well. It predominantly falls under the court advocacy and protection orders, but also under counseling services. We have a support group open to the public, as well,

Q: Let's say someone in the homeless community either doesn't have or has lost their cell phone. When can they go to your address?

A: We're at 720 W Washington in Boise. You can absolutely call our hotline or go to our physical address. Past business hours, you'd be able to get in touch with our hotline, but staff would not be in the building. I would suggest going to a local police station. We also have great partnerships with the hospitals – St. Alphonsus and St. Luke's. I would encourage going to the hospital and presenting yourself. We get calls all the time from law enforcement and hospital partners about people who have presented at their facilities.

A: I think that for me, personally, any organization that is trying to combat homelessness in our community should be welcomed. When I first saw the plans I was super excited to see there was opportunity for families and children, and to see it as an option of a place we can refer to if we don't have space. Sometimes we have guests who don't score that highly on our risk assessment at the moment – perhaps a reason is the abuser is currently in prison, for example, and other people have higher need. Knowing that there are other options, I think that's a great thing. And I'm excited to see what the partnership will look like. I get that it's in a close proximity, but I agree with Bea that it's good to have another option for people to utilize, because we can't do all the work on our own.

that's specifically for sexual assault.

Q: Sometimes our shelter will send people to FACES of Hope in a crisis. Can you explain the differences between those services and what WCA provides?

(Editor's Note: People in the homeless community can also ask shelter providers for help contacting WCA).

COMMENT: Bea is on the Our Path Home Executive Committee, which approved the new shelter design. One of the things we talked about was shared programming – where a WCA client maybe can't get into your shelter yet but can still receive your services. I think we're excited about being neighbors.

A: We serve probably 3,000 people in our community every year and a huge portion of those people have not yet left their abusive relationship. Even though our shelter is a really awesome program, it's not the only program that we offer. I loved that you talked about court advocacy because I think it's the least known in our community. Our court advocates are at the courthouse every day helping people who need a civil protection order, we also help with criminal cases, we have legal aid attorneys – all sorts of things. Those community services are accessible to everyone who needs them at any time. Another thing that we have is a great prevention program that works with teenagers and youth. Prevention is the way to hopefully put an end to domestic abuse.

Q: Do you help with filing for divorce in a confidential manner?

A: Absolutely. We have legal aid attorneys that are in our downtown location every day. One

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208-343-7025
 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Hotline

WCA
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24-Hour Hotline
 Court Advocacy & Safety Planning
 Case Management
 Sexual Assault Crisis Advocacy
 Therapy & Support Groups
 Financial Empowerment

We Carry Their Names

By Carina Aleckson

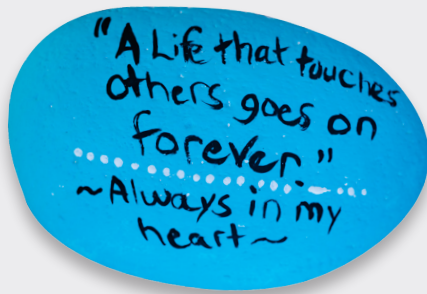
This poem written by Carina Aleckson honors these individuals by ensuring we don't forget their names.

In solidarity with
All who sleep outside
Who sleep in shelters
To show they are us, and we are them
All: We carry their names
To remember, to mourn, to celebrate
To offer our support
To ensure that no life, no death
No passing from here to the beyond
Is unseen or unacknowledged
All: We carry their names
We speak the names of those who are no longer
with us.
Names of people we knew
Names of strangers
Names of relatives
Names of ones whose names are not known.
All: We carry their names
We share memories of struggles:
Tears, battles lost
Memories that haunt us, and fuel our work.
We share memories of good times:

Laughter, successes
Memories that heal, and keep us warm.
All: We carry their names
Buoyed by embracing loss
And sharing comfort
We leave with full hearts
Until we gather again
All: We carry their names

This year we will honor:

Gary Swor
Jeff Kearns
Jeffrey Garrett
Brian Carson
Levi Walker
Corbin Weaver
Carl Woodland
Ryan Kanady
Billy Manzanarez
Jesse O'Leary
Craig Myren
Derek Schaffer
Laura Maynez



Longest Night Vigil

By Jodi Peterson-Stigers

The winter solstice, typically taking place on December 21, is the shortest day of the year and marks the longest night of homelessness.

Communities around the world celebrate the Longest Night Vigil each year to remember our friends and loved ones in the unhoused community. In Boise, Corpus Christi House and Interfaith Sanctuary provide candles and a space to sit together, tell stories, and remember the warmth these lives provided to our community.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. on December 21 on the back side of Interfaith Sanctuary. Members of Boise's faith community will provide music. Corpus Christi House and Interfaith Sanc-



tuary spend time before the vigil painting rocks with the names of the people we have lost this year. These rocks are then placed in the memorial garden at Interfaith's shelter, where anyone who passes through our doors can spend time learning their names.

Thanksgiving With My Girls

By Viola Crowley



time ever and they came out perfect. I wasn't supposed to do anything this year but Kory was tired from the day before so I ended up helping with Thanksgiving dinner after all. So, we all

This year I had Thanksgiving with my oldest (Tayy) and youngest (Kory) girls. Kory lives with me and Tayy lives across town. Kory went to Tayy's on Wednesday to help prepare her house for Thanksgiving and to bake pies. She baked pumpkin pies for the first

helped cook dinner together. It was a great day. Saturday we put up our tree. It came to us secondhand and had burned out lights attached. We spent over 30 minutes outside cutting off all the lights. Then we took it inside and put it together and fluffed it up and then time for lights that work. I got a nifty set of lights that are a ring you put around the top of the tree, and the lights string down. My daughter was impressed. She said we're never going back to regular lights again. She hates stringing lights on a tree. Then I let her do the decorations anyway she wanted. All that was missing was a tree topper. It was a great day. The holidays are usually very hard for me, but so far, everything is going great and I'm actually happy again. This year I am so grateful for so many things. I'm grateful for my family, friends and community. I'm grateful for Interfaith Sanctuary and their continued support. And I'm grateful for my readers/fans.

ART in the Phoenix with Some New Friends

By Julie Loomis

Today was a new challenge working with some local high school students to make art for our holiday charity event. The One Stone Academy high school reached out to ask if they could bring some students to join us in the Art Collective and make stuff for the auction. About 24 kids and three teachers joined us.

First, I would thank the staff that came and also the students. I was amazed by their creativity and manners. We gave them free reign with our art supplies and they even brought some clothing to paint on. We also had Justin with his jewelry station and David drawing. I just helped with supplies.

The students chose what they wanted to do and got to it. We had some painting on clothes, making jewelry, painting pictures, and even decorating a picture frame. The energy these students brought was spectacular. Justin gave each student a crystal necklace and we took pictures of their art work in our giant picture frame. Nicki and Chris also helped out and we really enjoyed ourselves. Thanks again One Stone for coming and doing art with us.



