

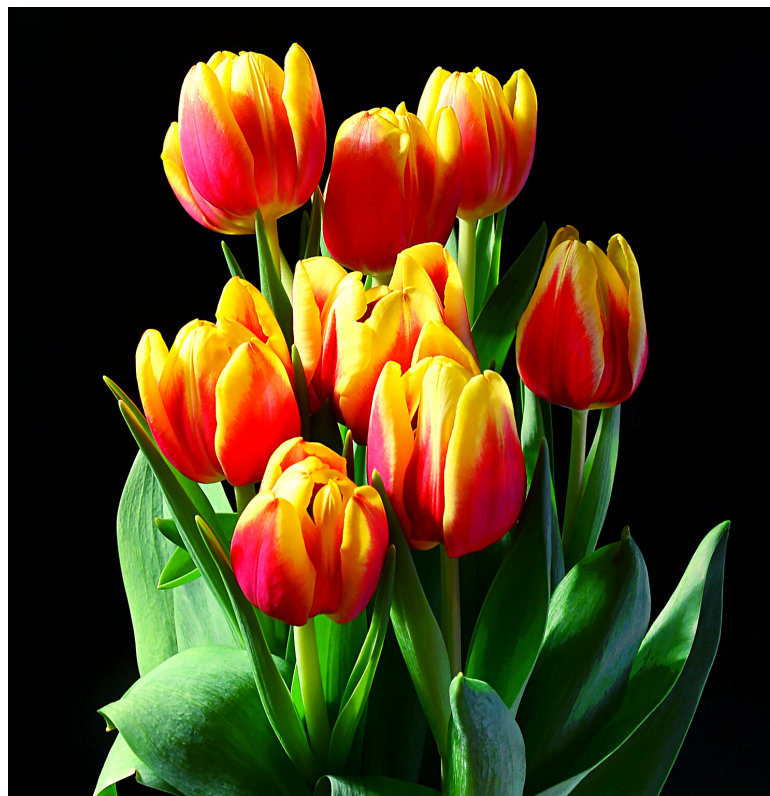
1ST FLOOR NEWS

THE MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019 | ISSUE 1 | VOLUME 4



TULIPATHON SET FOR LAST SUNDAY IN MAY



| OTTAWA | It's soon time to start fundraising – Tulipathon 2019 is set for Sun., May 26! MHI's annual walkathon in support of affordable housing is scheduled to take place at its traditional location at Commissioners Park (across from Dow's Lake). Participants can hand in their collected dollars and pledge forms when registration starts at 2:30 p.m. The opening ceremonies and walk begins at 3:00 p.m. Like last year, the 2019 walk will take place on the last Sunday in May.

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MHI's AGM Sunday

The 17th Annual General Meeting of Multifaith Housing Initiative is scheduled to take place this coming Sunday (Mar. 31) at the Ismaili Muslim Community of Ottawa, 3225 Conroy Rd. This is the first time this particular faith group is hosting the charity's meeting.

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Holiday closures

The MHI offices in Barrhaven and Vanier will close for Good Friday on Apr. 19 and Easter Monday on Apr. 22.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 31, 2019

2:30 Registration

3:00 Meeting | Reception to follow



2:30 registration start for AGM

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Guests are asked to arrive around 2:30 p.m. to allow enough time to register and sign the sign-in forms at the front desk before the event starts at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you in advance to everyone who volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the event for the reception that will follow the meeting.

Guests will be asked to store their shoes in the coat check rooms located at the back entrance of the venue. Attendees are welcome to bring their own slippers if they wish. Please be advised that there will be video footage and photographs captured during the AGM. Event photos will be posted online and on Facebook following the event. We hope to see as many supporters there as possible!

Lady Elaine Hillier visits for Veterans' House debrief

Thank you Lady Elaine Hillier (centre) & Emma Orr (right) for joining MHI reps to learn about our upcoming project, Veterans' House, back in January. Thanks as well to the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum for hosting our visit. Pictured with our guests are Sheldon Leong (left), Manager of Fund Development; Kerry Marriott (2nd from left), MHI Communications Committee member; and MHI Board Member Neil Raynor.





MHI launches Planned Giving Program, web page

| OTTAWA | Legacy giving is a wonderful way to support the things you care about most, now and after you're gone. For many donors, it's also an important part of their estate planning and exemplifies the vision and forethought of their philanthropic beliefs. Also, by including charitable gifts in your estate planning, you may eliminate significant taxes payable upon your death.

By leaving a legacy gift for Multifaith Housing Initiative, you are helping to ensure that individuals and families in Ottawa who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, find a safe, affordable home in inclusive communities.

To discuss your legacy giving, please contact our Fund Development Manager at 613-686-1825 or fund.development@multifaithhousing.ca. You can also learn more at MHI's new Planned Giving Program webpage, www.multifaithhousing.ca/donate.

The information provided is not a substitute for professional financial or legal advice.

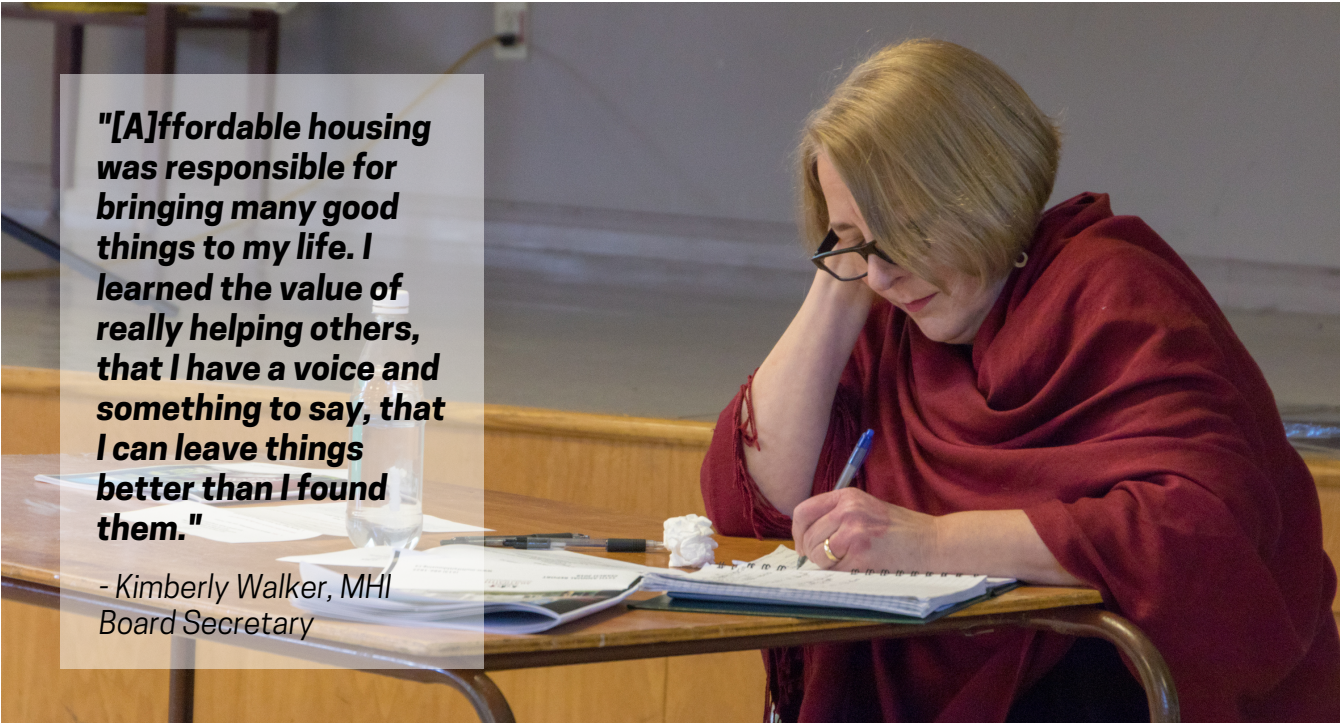
Consult a lawyer and/or financial adviser to determine which options are best for you and your family, and to maximize the tax advantages of your gift.



Fingers crossed for spring flowers, no showers continued from front

Tulipathon runs rain or shine. In previous years, the event typically took place earlier in May, but in 2018 organizers opted to push the walkathon forward a couple weeks to improve the chances of having warm weather. "Even if it rains," MHI Executive Director Suzanne Le noted, "at least we're less likely to experience extremely cold weather – or hail, which believe it or not has happened in the past!"

Printable pledge forms will be posted online shortly, and staff are working to improve the online fundraising experience this year. To stay abreast of changes, be sure to subscribe to MHI's digital mailing list for updates. Sign up by emailing communications@multifaithhousing.ca.



"[A]ffordable housing was responsible for bringing many good things to my life. I learned the value of really helping others, that I have a voice and something to say, that I can leave things better than I found them."

- Kimberly Walker, MHI Board Secretary

Outgoing secretary reflects on MHI involvement

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: KIMBERLY WALKER

| OTTAWA | I think I was meant to find MHI and be a part of it for these last six years. The path hasn't been straight – it wandered about, but in the end, I'm here. I've often felt (and said) that affordable housing was responsible for bringing many good things to my life. I learned the value of really helping others, that I have a voice and something to say, that I can leave things better than I found them. So that is what I've worked toward, sometimes with more success than other times. How did I come to MHI? This is a nice story. It was a connection that ran from Fran Klodawsky to a student of hers and a co-worker of mine named Lenore, brought to me as a gift by my nice husband, Matthew. Lenore heard from Fran over a lunch that she needed a geographer to teach a class. Lenore said she knew of someone, so I passed Matthew's information on. After class one day, Fran asked Matthew if he knew of anyone with board experience in affordable housing. And he did.

So, coming to MHI is really a longer story – as they often are. I did have experience with boards and affordable housing. In high school, I volunteered

to clean apartments for elderly tenants living in a Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) senior high-rise. This was before universal design, so if the tenants were not able to clean well enough, they were at risk of losing their housing. Fifteen years later and suddenly on my own, I moved into a HAP family housing complex with three little children. Then I started a tenants' union to start turning a housing complex into a community and make our voices heard by our landlord. I was heard by the mayor of Portland, who appointed me to HAP's board of commissioners. When Fran called me to see if I would like to meet and talk about MHI, I was so excited. I did my homework and MHI seemed exactly right. At the annual general meeting, I met Executive Director Suzanne Le, and introduced myself around to members and chatted. I remember that everyone was very kind and very smart and very committed. I remember feeling at home. My term as a member of the MHI Board will end soon, so I'd like to thank the MHI community for your kindness, support and encouragement in my work here.

MHI to recruit new volunteers

| VANIER | Are you passionate about affordable housing? MHI is recruiting dedicated and skilled volunteers for the positions below. To volunteer, to obtain more information about these volunteer positions, or to learn how to get involved with MHI, contact Manager of Community Outreach Sahada Alolo at 613-686-1825 or comm.engagement@multifaithhousing.ca.

Property Maintenance Team

- Purpose: Work in a team to help with property maintenance at the Haven.
- Duties include: Unit preparations, painting, cleaning, carpentry, and general handy work.

Membership & Outreach Committee

- Purpose: Serve on a committee to promote MHI membership and outreach.
- Duties include: Facilitating MHI engagement within the faith communities through an annual membership drive; outreach activities such as presentations, public forums, and special events.

Tenant Relations Team

- Purpose: The Resident Relations Committee (RRC) is a volunteer group concerned with supporting and addressing tenant concerns at MHI. We also work to enhance neighbourly relations within our buildings and within the community.
- Duties include: Contacting and meeting with new tenants to welcome them to our buildings; attending meetings once a month to contribute towards a positive life experience for our tenants; directing tenants to information and resources as needed, and maintaining a supportive connection during their tenancy, particularly during times of difficulty.



MHI staff on CHRI 99.1 FM with Rabbi Steven Garten

| OTTAWA | Last Thursday (Mar. 28), Executive Director Suzanne Le and Manager of Community Outreach Sahada Alolo pre-recorded a half-hour interview with MHI Patron Rabbi Steven Garten, host of Jewish Faith and Jewish Facts on CHRI Radio. The interview is scheduled to air at 6:30 a.m. this coming Sunday (Mar. 31) on 99.1 FM Ottawa.

The podcast will also be available afterwards on the CHRI website.

To find the podcast after it airs Sunday, go to www.chri.ca, then click on the "Guide" menu, followed by "Schedule" and "Jewish Faith & Facts." MHI will also post a link to the podcast on www.multifaithhousing.ca. Thank you to Rabbi Garten for bringing MHI to the airwaves!



100 Men Who Care members donate \$3,000+ to MHI

| OTTAWA | MHI would like to issue a big thank you to 100 Men Who Care Ottawa, who raised \$3,910 for our charity at a Tues., Mar. 19 event at The Prescott on Preston Street. MHI tenant and Blake superintendent Cynthia Pothier was among the speakers from various worthy organizations asked to provide a five-minute talk about their organization. A total of 42 donors opted to support MHI with a financial contribution. Thank you to 100 Men Who Care!

MHI's newsletter, *First Floor News*, is published three times per year. For more information or to suggest a faith group, donor, tenant, or volunteer to be featured in the publication, email communications@multifaithhousing.ca.