



[www.haleyhouse.org](http://www.haleyhouse.org)  
Winter 2007-8

Printed on recycled paper  



*Haley House community members get together outside the Soup Kitchen with Sister John Paul, who has taught active listening courses to Haley House's intentional community for over 15 years. (Pictured here from left to right are Cindy, Nicole, Danielle, Rich, Luz, Glynn, Caliph holding Axe, Jim, Christine, Mark, and Sr. John Paul.)*

**F**or this holiday edition of the Haley House newsletter we decided to ask several members of the intentional community what drew them to Haley House, the ways that this community has nourished them, and to share how their experiences of integration into community living have been. We hope that their stories, insight, and the diversity of their experiences provide a glimpse of the tapestry that a genuine communal lifestyle of service can create.

**Danielle Watson**

I am called Danielle Watson and I have been living this life for 23 years. I came to Haley House in August of last year with my partner Caliph and our 3 week old son. We came from an organization in Williamstown, Massachusetts that focused on international volunteering. We were looking for a more family oriented place to raise our son. Haley House seemed to be a fit for us because it was full of comfort as well as challenges, both of which are necessary for change and growth.

Since being here I have become involved in a variety of things. I coordinate the Haley House Food Pantry, which provides fresh produce, canned goods and various other household necessities to men, women and families in our neighborhood. In keeping in line with the Haley House mission, our focus is not solely on food but rather on building community. I also teach a culinary class to high school students at nearby McKinley School along with Kathleen Durkin, a student at Boston College. There we learn together how to create healthy balanced meals involving foods from all over the world. I am excited to work with these 6 students who take great pride in their creations.

The growth that I have seen in my life is mostly due to the men and women who have become my teachers. The Soup Kitchen has become the place that I hang out, learn, share, and observe. It is where I am often confronted with my own growing edges. It is humbling and beautiful and I am thankful.

• • • • •

**Mark Longhurst**

It has been quite a journey at Haley House, including my coming, and now, my going. After completing a ministry internship at Haley House through Harvard Divinity School, Christine and I got married and a few months later, moved in. Haley House has moved me out of an individualized, narcissistic, and racially and economically privileged perspective, and it turned things upside down. I'm wrecked for life! The friendships and challenges found working with folks from the street have grounded me in a way that could never happen at seminary. It taught me what true ministry can look like. In addition, my time here living on very little money has revealed my addiction to capitalism.

Community living, I think, is almost as difficult as marriage — if it's going to be healthy and sustainable — and it's not easy to do both well at the same time! Consensus decision-making, conflict negotiation, and cramped space have taken their toll in various ways. In order to care for ourselves and keep from burning out, Christine and I are taking a break for a bit, leaving the future open-ended. It's with sadness, but great joy that I reflect on my time at Haley House. The people I've met here are a diverse community of love — and human foibles. I continue to be inspired by this community, this organization, and its remarkable heritage of work with marginalized folks in Boston. May Christ's presence shine through Haley House another 41 years!

• • • • •

**Christine Evans**

I brought my worm composting bins with me to Haley House. Ever since I've been working to plant gardens in every free inch of the surrounding block. When you can't find me in the upper floors of 23 Dartmouth knitting from old clothes, you'll spot me writing grant proposals in the office or limbering up at the yoga studio (a passion I've succeeded in evangelizing at least as far as my husband Mark).

**Glynn Forkey**

I come to Haley House by way of winding roads that began in the tiny rural town of Freedom, New York. Most recently, I come to explore ways of living spirituality grounded in authentic relationships. I recently completed a dual Master's degree in pastoral ministry and social work at Boston College, prior to which I lived and volunteered in a Franciscan community that runs a full-time soup kitchen in inner-city Philadelphia. My graduate work provided me with language for articulating my faith and values and a community within which to challenge my thoughts about and embodiment of love, justice and liberation. Haley House and my part-time work at the Trinity Boston Counseling Center now integrate these thoughts into my everyday living. Though I have only been here since the end of August, I am already experiencing the reviving effects of being in an alternative, intentional community, and mutual ministry again. I am very grateful to be here!

• • • • •

**Jim Hardcastle**

Coming to Haley House was a crucial part of my personal and spiritual journey. Feeling a quiet and deep calling to more fully live out my faith I began volunteering in the late spring of 2006, and was immediately drawn to the open, compassionate and mindful ways the community lived out its mission. The challenges and blessings of community living have been profound and nourishing.

• • • • •

**Luz Mestas-Nunez, SFCC**

Haley House is, for me, a community of real simplicity where members of the community serve our guests with remarkable dedication and a loving attitude. Certainly, Dorothy Day would be proud of this house. As a Sister of Christian Community, I feel happy here because the community members make me feel welcome by loving and accepting me the way I am. I thank God for bringing me here, and I thank each member of the community for being the way they are.

• • • • •

**Nicole Uzans**

It begins, "Where're you from? 'Cause your accent..." Since arriving at Haley House, my puzzling accent has sparked more than a few conversations. I begin by saying I'm Canadian, but that most recently I've been living in England. As for why I'm in Boston now, that's something I'm still discovering.

For the past year, I was a member of the Pilsdon Community, an intentional, farm-based Christian community in Dorset, UK. I'll soon be returning to Pilsdon, but while the bureaucratic wheels turn to secure me right of residence on English soil, I'm enjoying a 3-month interval of exploring community here. It was chance, or adventure, maybe serendipity, that prompted me to come to Boston to check out Haley House. Once here, I was intrigued enough to want to stay a while. I love the layers of connection that make up Haley House — in the intimate household, the boisterous kitchen, the networked city. I love the extraordinary in the ordinary here, the meetings of people, personalities, tragedies, and delights that happen over shared tables and shared food. As a stopping place on an unfolding journey, this is a very good place to be.

• • • • •

**Cindy Biastock**

I came to Haley House from St. Joseph, MI. Prior to coming here I worked in the mental health field as a counselor for the mentally ill. On September 2nd I joined the intentional community as an intern, and I will be staying here in Boston for 3 months. I've found that community living has been much more than simply staying with a group of strangers and rather more like an extended family situation. Serving the visiting soup kitchen guests has been a life-changing experience. The elder meal is my favorite task. Having the guests sit down and be served a full meal provides a unique and special experience for both visitors and volunteers.

**Email [haleyhousevolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:haleyhousevolunteers@gmail.com) for donations and volunteering or call 617.445.0900 for café involvement.**

**NEW EVENTS!!!** The Haley House Bakery Café is now open Thursday nights. Didi's cooking up tapas from 5-9 and amid the tapas at 7:45 we're offering "Art is Life Itself: A Performance Series Embracing Arts, Culture & Spirituality" at the Haley House Bakery Café. Partnering with Nina LaNegra of the Roxbury Media Institute, Thursday nights will bring a series of live performance of music, theatre, voice, and words; visual presentations of film/video, photography, painting, and text; and "cultural spiritual Expressions," which can take the form of lectures, readings, dialogue, and more.

## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!!

We've partnered with Earthworks, a Dorchester-based organization, to provide local fruit to the bakery café and soup kitchen. We're looking for volunteers to help us manage two urban orchards — in exchange for tending the orchards we receive all the fruits of our labor. We are looking for a few hearty souls to volunteer on a pruning team that will prune within the orchards 3 or 4 times during 2008. We can also take groups or individuals willing to tend, harvest, and work in the orchards. Please get in touch!

## VOLUNTEER

- \* Meals for homeless men and elders
- \* Volunteer expertise (*computer, marketing, carpentry needed*)

## DONATE

- \* Men's clothes (*especially pants, underwear, socks, hats and gloves*)
- \* Bowls, cutlery, and mugs
- \* Toothbrushes and toothpaste

## PARTNER

- \* Eat at the café and rent our space for your occasions
- \* Use our catering in your workplace or at home
- \* Help Haley House follow its mission through monetary support



*Buddha, currently the most senior member of the Haley House Intentional Community, enjoys special privileges and is not obligated to attend community events such as group pictures. She is pictured here separately.*

**"Therefore we must renew  
 Labor and worship, work and blessing.  
 Cure the land with prayer and plow,  
 Cure the sea with wonder.  
 We must receive new seeds from an old harvest.  
 Old truths out of a time newborn  
 If we would crown our timeless peace with timeless blossoms  
 When the strong Child climbs quietly to His throne."**

**Thomas Merton, A Responory.**



*Jeanene, Cassandra, Kathleen, Chelsea, Roukie, and Danielle enjoy their homemade quesadillas in the Haley House Soup Kitchen.*