



Quarterly Newsletter for Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and their supporters who show up, stand up, and speak up!

SPEAK-UP!

CELEBRATING OUR 10th YEAR



First Lady Trudi Inslee; Founder, Margaret Heldring; Mayor Bruce Harrell with First Lady Joanne Harrell and GAGV Board Member, Winona Hollins-Hauge and GAGV/RISE Grief Baskets for families who have lost a loved one due to gun violence.

A full house of Grandmothers, supporters, friends, family and dignitaries gathered at the Northwest African American Museum to celebrate Grandmothers' Ten-Year Anniversary.

From a grassroots organization to a force to be reckoned with, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (GAGV) is known for leadership, legislation and activism. Through our determined and dedicated advocacy, GAGV has grown from four founding members to over a thousand. We have a Foundation that raises funds for research and education; working committees; staff and great partnerships. A slide show was presented that showcased the group's activities, speakers and accomplishments as guests dined on food provided by DayoSense catering and enjoyed musical entertainment by the Chris Patin Trio. Washington State's First Lady, Trudi Inslee, a member of Grandmothers and Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell shared remarks thanking Grandmothers for the diligence and commitment demonstrated throughout the 10 years.

Executive team members from our newest partnership, RISE (Resilient In Sustaining Empowerment) and several contributors to the grief baskets shared in the celebration, including Dr. Mona Lake Jones, poet laureate and best-selling author. Also in attendance, Leonard Garfield, Executive Director of MOHAI; Members of the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar and Dr. Wendy Barrington, U OF W and proponents of the anti-gun violence movement.

Founder, Margy Heldring shared a brilliant original Haiku, "Not On Our Watch" which emphasized the importance of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence being involved in this effort to save lives and make the world a safer place for our children, grandchildren and generations to come.



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VICKI YOUNG

Speak up Staff

SARAH J.E. DEAN
MAUREEN FRISCH
LADONNA KENNY
CYNTHIA MACKENZIE

Committee Reports:



Membership Committee Olympic Hills Elementary March



The kindergarteners at Olympic Hills Elementary selected a school action topic. They chose gun violence prevention. They organized the march, made their own signs and decided their chants. With the help of their teachers they read books to research and talk about gun violence solutions and actions they could take to prevent gun violence in their young lives. Students wrote letters and sent their research to others, including Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

The “Stop the Gun Violence March” students marched around the campus holding up their signs. They were joined in solidarity by 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade classes, teachers, parents and Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. Barb Bishop-Sand and Linda Berkson shared thoughts and comments at the assembly which followed the march. They were very impressed with the awareness and dedication the children showed.

Diversity and Partnerships Committee Resilient In Sustaining Empowerment



The Diversity and Partnership Committee met Lynniah Grayson at different times and under different circumstances. Debbie MacDonald collaborated with her on two articles for the Seattle Children's Magazine and Winona Hollins-Hauge met her when she hosted Leadership for Tomorrow students at her home. Sarah Dean met her at a Wear Orange event. They all came to the same conclusion, we need to partner with RISE.

Since partnering with RISE we have attended several of their events; collaborated on the grief baskets and featured their cause on a D&P program.

RISE provides vital support for marginalized communities directly impacted by gun violence; vulnerable children; mothers and families. RISE provides tools to assist in trauma recovery, healing-centered engagement, positive identity, professional development, and grief support for families impacted by gun violence.

The gift baskets were presented at our 10th Anniversary. Grandmothers contributed books, fabric, sympathy cards, money and time. We will continue to work with RISE to assist in easing the pain of losing someone to gun violence. We are grateful for the direct opportunity to make a difference.

Meet Our New Board Assistant Jade Thurston



Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is pleased to introduce **Jade Thurston** as our new Board Assistant.

Jade is an avid storyteller, determined to illustrate authentic narratives through writing, design, photography and video.

Born in Bellingham, Washington and rooted in the Pacific Northwest, Jade also finds passion in exploring other spaces and learning new stories. With a background in visual journalism, she is devoted to sharing information in the most captivating, accessible presentations.

At Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, Jade feels honored to help spread the message of gun violence prevention and gun safety. She has seamlessly moved into her position - redesigning aspects of the website, supporting the GAGV Foundation and providing audio-visual support for the webinars,

Jade's work has been published in the New York Times, Bellingham Alive Magazine and the Seattle Sounders FC, among others. If she's away from her notebook or computer, look for her on the soccer field.

By the time you read this article, Jade will have married her best friend and soulmate. We congratulate the newlyweds and welcome Jade aboard!

Why I Joined Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

Winona Hollins-Hauge MSW, LICSW, GAGV Board Member and Committee member: Governance, Explorers, Diversity and Partnership (Co-Chair), District 32 Legislative Lead



Winona with Grandsons, Deon and D'von Fields.

As a dedicated member of Mount Zion Baptist Church in the now very gentrified Central Area, one of our pastors, Rev James Bigham, asked if I knew anything about a group of ladies who were meeting monthly at our church. He said they were fierce advocates for reducing and addressing gun violence and asked me to attend the next meeting. I shared with him that I was over committed, however, he urged me to check out *'these nice White ladies. Afterall,'* he added, *'our black and brown children are being victimized by most of the gun violence.'* I agreed to go and was recruited on the spot by Margy Heldring, the chair and founding member.

The issue of gun violence pulled at my heart strings. I could visibly see that there was no diversity among the group. I prayed and asked God, *"What can I contribute to these very seasoned and committed women and their cause?"* I knew my innate skills for outreach, could be utilized, so I joined and got involved. Sadly we lost Reverend Bigham, but through his bond with GAGV we gained a lasting relationship.

The past nine years are history. I immediately connected with the leadership and was welcomed on to the board. I began building a strong foundation for a sustainable position. My life in GAGV has taken on a whole new level of building from within to attract members from a variety of backgrounds and varied interests.

I am most proud of being an influencer and connector who freely uses my many corporate, community, business and church communities to further enhance and contribute to the mission centered work of GAGV. I use my media outreach, as a panel moderator and convenor of unique people and special topics, to support Grandmothers' efforts to Show up, Speak up and Stand up. I am an advocate for all and any forms of action and results centered changes.

I have 17 grandchildren (14 bonus) and 7 great grandchildren (6 bonus). It is easy to see why the mission of Grandmothers' is near and dear to my heart.

Winona Hollins-Hauge

We Show Up!



Our goal is to get exposure for the need for gun safety, and bring attention to the epidemic of gun violence. Join us Monday, August 14th at the Waiting for the Interurban statue in the Seattle Fremont neighborhood. Remember to wear ORANGE! Show Ups are held on the 14th of every month, 3:PM-4:PM. Check our website for future locations and more information.

Alliance Lunch

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence showed up in full force to support the Alliance For Gun Responsibility at their annual luncheon.

The Westin was filled to capacity with gun-sense politicians, gun safety advocates, survivors of gun violence, families of loved ones loss to gun violence, gun violence prevention proponents and people who want to see a change in our gun laws. The signature fundraising event brings real people with real stories to the forefront and puts a voice and a face to the reality of gun violence.



Save the Date

September 12, 2023 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Virtual Program presented by GAGV Foundation