

SPEAK-UP!



We show-up, stand-up and speak-up to make the world a safer place for our grandchildren and yours!



Bittersweet Year for Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

BY SARAH J.E. DEAN, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence has faithfully and fearlessly fought to end gun violence using our compassion, our energy, and our maturity. This is a bittersweet fight. We are a multi-faceted group that is determined and united. We recognize gun violence as a public health issue and a personal issue that has no boundaries. An issue where no one is guaranteed safety.

As we mourned mass shootings across the nation, we experienced the losses in Washington State. An Ingraham High School student was murdered on campus. A prominent, young entrepreneur was gunned down in front of his business. And a nine year old was critically wounded in Skyway.

We saw students from the Seattle School District go to City Hall to plead with lawmakers and leaders to do something about the easy access to guns.

While we made inroads in common sense gun laws, on the state and federal level and President Joe Biden signed into law the first major federal gun safety legislation passed in decades, we still heard horrific stories of lives lost through homicide, suicide, domestic violence, and accidental shootings. The overuse and misuse of guns has affected families everywhere.

In 2022, we comforted families, attended vigils and held programs to increase awareness of the gun violence in our society. Sadly, we probably will need to do the same in 2023. We have lived long enough to know that we must take the bitter with the sweet. We are an active, strong, and powerful, collective. This year you will see us - wearing orange; posting on Social media; supporting our Partners; endorsing gun sense candidates and supporting elected officials who align with our cause. We will send out our Newsletters, update our Website, present programs, and provide Grand Conversations.

The new year will find us supporting our Partners - Alliance for Gun Responsibility, Rise4us, Choose 180, Community Passageways, CeaseFire and others; marching with youth who are marching for their lives; demanding action with Moms; writing letters; sending post cards; standing on overpasses holding up signs, sharing information at the Farmers Markets and continually making our voices heard.

You will see us loving on our grandbabies and the grandchildren in our communities. We will not go away until guns are stored safely and common sense gun laws are enacted. We encourage you to join us in our effort to take the fear out of public places and ensure a safe future for children everywhere.

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WE SHOW UP!

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Margy Heldring Retires from GAGV Board Will Continue Her Work with the GAGV Foundation



Dr. Margaret Heldring,
Founder and Former Chair

Margy Heldring is wrapping up her ten years of service, dedication and leadership on the Grandmothers Board at the end of 2022.

Following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Dec 15, 2012, Margy and three friends founded Grandmothers Against Gun Violence with the triple mission of advocacy, education about gun violence, and support for critically needed research into gun violence.

Margy is a retired clinical psychologist who, in addition to her clinical practice, served as clinical faculty in Family Medicine at UW. Heldring was selected as a Congressional Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served as health policy advisor to Senators Bill Bradley and Paul Wellstone and directed health policy for Bill Bradley's presidential campaign.

During the span of her dedication to this grassroots organization, Margy has helped make Grandmothers a household name in a new sense of the word. The image of little old ladies baking cookies has surpassed past stereotypes and demonstrated that Grandmothers is a force to be reckoned with. State elected officials clamor to have Grandmothers attend their events and endorse their candidacy. Local and national organizations align with our cause and initiate partnerships to further our cause. Children proudly give our buttons and stickers to their Grandmothers. Drivers respond to our Show-ups with a honk and thumbs up. Membership flourished from four members to over 1,400 that have been a part of GAGV over the last 10 years. Her op-eds and letters to the editor have been widely published and she will continue to support our work after leaving the GAGV Board. The informative programs that Margy has implemented and worked on over the years, including our Grand Conversations, have steadily increased our visibility in the community and elevated us to rock star status. Okay that's an exaggeration, but we have all been proud to hear our followers excitedly announce, "The Grandmothers are here!" with pride.

"I will remain active with the movement and look for ways to promote the role of grandmothers/older women and men in fostering social change and bringing new dignity," she said in her farewell.

Margy will continue to serve on the Grandmothers Foundation Board and act as spokesperson as needed.



GAGV to Celebrate 10 Year Anniversary

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence will celebrate our 10 year anniversary this Spring. Stay tuned for additional information and exact time and location.

In Remembrance

Please honor the memory of the Grandmothers and Supporters we lost in 2022. Jean Amick, Former Co-Treasurer; Cherie Rowe-Proctor, Past Chair of Diversity and Partnerships; Patrinell Wright, Total Experience Choir-performer at Concerts Across America GAGV; Al Young, GAGV supporter and husband of GAGV Member, Vicki Young.

GAGV 2023 Board of Directors



Suzanne Tripp,
GAGV Chair

Suzanne Tripp has been elected Chair of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. She brings a wealth of knowledge and compassion to the organization.

Other Directors on the Board include:

- Jennifer Dolan-Waldman, Vice Chair; Legislative Committee Chair
- Marsha Donaldson and Jill McKinstry, Co-Treasurers
- Pati Otley, Secretary; Governance and Nominating Committee Chair
- Susan Simon, Past Chair
- Maureen Frisch, Communications Committee Chair
- Winona Hollins-Hauge, Diversity & Partnership Committee Acting Chair
- Linda Berkson and Hannah Marcus, Membership Committee Co-Chairs
- Maggie Carr and Jane Skrivan, Programs Committee Co-Chairs
- Sharon Friel, Bert Greenwood, Charlene Kahn and Evelyn Yenson, At-Large Directors
- Delney Hilen, GAGV Foundation Chair
- Sue Cary, Liaison to Alliance for Gun Responsibility

Meet Our Newest Board Member



Charlene Kahn,
GAGV
Director At-Large

Charlene Kahn began her career in day programming for elder adults at a social service agency in Boston and continued that work in Seattle at The Summit at First Hill. Her interest in gun violence prevention was spurred by the Café Racer shooting in 2016 and a frightened daughter in lockdown at her high school nearby. She joined the West Seattle Moms Demand Action and built connections with other area Gun Violence Prevention organizations, including GAGV, where she has served as the 34th District Liaison.

Charlene has a passion for global issues. She taught English in Colombia and now volunteers at the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA) preparing refugees for citizenship interviews. She has two grandchildren in Seattle and a daughter in NYC. She holds a BA in Art History, a Master's in Management and a TESL certificate.

Get Involved

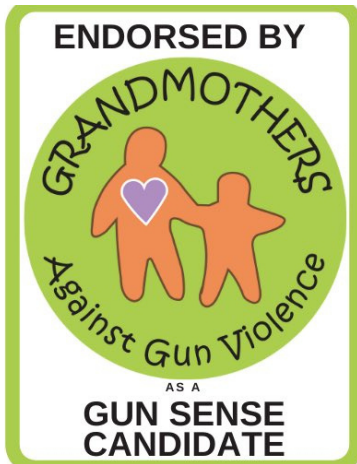
If you would like to be more actively involved in the work of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, visit our website and sign up for a committee! Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is a member-based, activist organization. Please contact us for member opportunities by filling out our Member Engagement Form. Put your skills and talents to work and become a part of the Legislative, Communications, Diversity & Partnership, Membership or Programs Committee. For a brief description of each committee please see the bottom of our board page www.grandmothersagainstgunviolence.org/memberengagement

GAGV Foundation to Send RFP (Requests for Proposals) for Future Grants

The Foundation is sending out a new RFP (request for proposals) to start the new year right. They plan to award funds to researchers in the first part of 2023. Look for positive announcements on their progress in the Spring newsletter.

Second Effort at Endorsing Candidates Huge Success - Legislative Committee

BY JENNIFER DOLAN-WALDMAN, CO-CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



Grandmothers Against Gun Violence endorsed 63 House candidates and 18 Senate candidates. Our 18-person Legislative Committee endorsement team contacted every single candidate and researched each candidate who expressed an interest in gaining our endorsement. We wrote almost 1,000 postcards in support of eight candidates in very close, tough races.

All of the people we wrote for won their races. We posted endorsements on our website and sent the list in a CC to all members. While we cannot be sure of how much our efforts paid off, clearly, we involved a lot of people in the process, making them more aware of the candidates and, hopefully, casting their ballots.

Here's how the HOUSE candidates we endorsed did on their election. We had candidates in 60 races; in some races we endorsed both candidates and we also picked up two more candidates in the postcard effort. As a result, we supported, 63 candidates.

In the SENATE, we had 18 candidates in 16 races; in two races we endorsed both candidates. One candidate lost to an incumbent, the other lost to a current Representative who ran for the Senate seat in her own district. We are particularly grateful to have had so much help not only from the Legislative Committee but also from the 70+ people who participated in the postcard effort. About two dozen of them were from local senior residences, a group we are very happy to have connections with.

Our candidates won 49 out of their 60 races. Of the 11 who did not win, seven were running against incumbents, typically in Republican districts. Three were in open races against another Democrat. In another open race, the GAGV candidate was defeated by another Democrat who did not respond to our offer of endorsement.

Despite earlier predictions about how the 2022 elections would go, the Democrats fared well in-state. We look forward to having opportunities for success in addressing legislation that furthers our mission to reduce gun violence.

Having just started the endorsement process in 2020, it is amazing to see how far we have come in the second attempt. Thank you all for your support and your votes. We are also grateful that 2023 will not be an election year!

Half Price Membership for New Members Month of January Only



Please renew your annual membership and help spread our message of gun safety. Renew by January 31st and give one annual membership at half-price for an additional \$25 to anyone new to Grandmothers.

We will send them a New Member Welcome Packet with an acknowledgement the gift is from you. New members help us educate more people on ways to keep their families and our communities safe. You may renew online (and gift a membership) by going to:

www.grandmothersagainstgunviolence.org/

Thank You for Your Activism Margy!



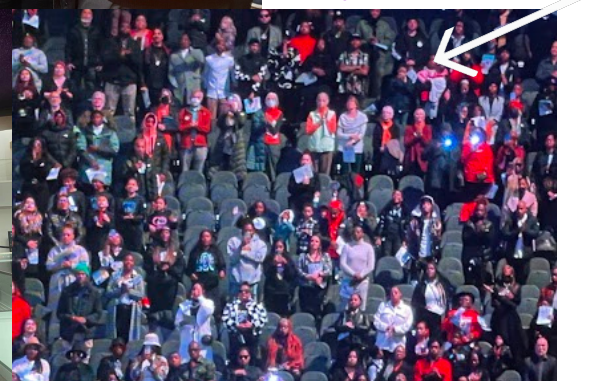
"No one ever really leaves Grandmothers. I hear this regularly from past Board members. I know it to be true. You cannot experience the depth of passion, purpose, and community we do only temporarily. These get into our systems and endure!"

Margy Heldring

We Show-up!



1st Row - Maureen Frisch with Attorney General, Bob Ferguson and Former SPD Chief, Carmen Best
 2nd Row - Sandy Hook Candlelight Vigil with Reps Liz Berry and David Hackney
 3rd Row - Memorial Service for D'Vonne Pickett at Climate Pledge Arena (Winona Hollins-Hauge and son, Deon)
 4th Row - December 14th Show-up



Join us for our upcoming Show-Ups! Our goal is to get as much exposure as possible for Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and our message. You are encouraged to join us. Don't forget to wear **ORANGE!** Upcoming Show-ups will be held on January 14th, February 14th, and March 14th in **Seattle**. Check our website for locations and times. www.grandmothersagainstgunviolence.org/upcoming-events