

## Paused but Present *by Amy Rich*

Like usual, Thursday, March 12 was a busy day at Patchwork. In the morning, our main room was full of people. Nancy and Gavin made nine pots of coffee. Shawn oversaw eight showers. Many people came through the building to rest or to visit with their friends. The food pantry provided three full food orders and plenty of additional loaves of bread and produce. But, there was extra tension in the air. Nancy noted that many of our guests had an elevated need to talk to someone. We all knew something major was coming.

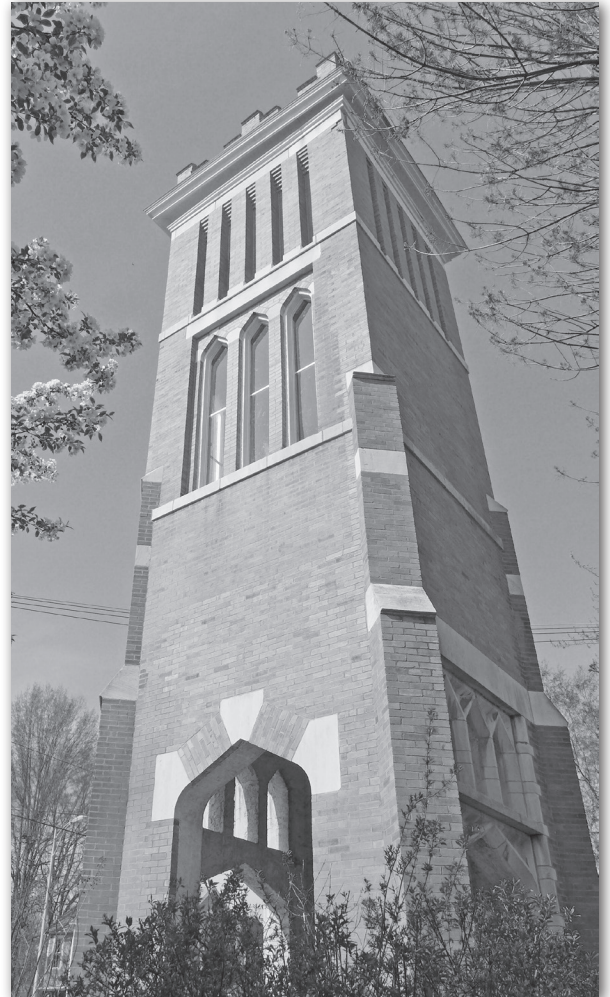
That afternoon the children's program was not very busy because a torrential rainstorm hit just as most kids got out of school. Still, Patchwork was a safe place for the kids who were here, including a boy who decided to ride his bike to us for eight blocks in a downpour. We helped him dry off and call his mom to let her know he was safe. We ate snack, conducted tutoring sessions, and played board games with the kids like usual. What was not usual was that I was in my office watching the weather to make sure no tornado warnings were called and watching Evansville's mayor declare a state of emergency because of COVID-19.

As that afternoon ended, the boy who had ridden his bike in the rain performed (with gusto) a Michael Jackson-inspired dance routine for the group while wearing a green, flocked St. Patrick's Day hat and a bedazzled bow tie. We all left Patchwork like we do every Thursday. Except, March 12 wasn't every Thursday.

Patchwork's building has been empty, for the most part, since that day.

I deeply miss the hubbub, but John and I assessed the situation: the activity we observe at Patchwork on a daily basis, the recommendations from the CDC, the dangers to our staff and volunteers. At this time, Patchwork has only a limited capacity to truly keep our guests, staff, and volunteers safe from the coronavirus. Now is not the time to welcome large groups of people to come together in our big room.

So for the time being, the majority of Patchwork's programming is paused, and the building is closed to the public. However, Patchwork is still present in this neighborhood. For all of Patchwork's history, we have been adaptable. Our people are part of this neighborhood. We have worked hard to listen for the needs around us. We have looked for the ways that our skills and resources can meet those needs. Even now, in the second month of this crisis, it's a continually changing situation. As things settle into a new normal, we will be here. We are here now. We won't leave, though we all will change.



*Continue Paused on page 2*

## Paused *by Amy Rich* (continued)

We plan to re-open our programming thoughtfully. For instance, hearing that access to food is a significant concern within our community, we reopened our food pantry a few weeks ago but on a limited basis. Our food pantry clients don't come inside our building and can distance themselves from one another while they wait for their food. We are limiting our staffing so we can all spread far apart within the building. We are wearing masks and sanitizing. Some of our most dedicated volunteers are not here so they can stay at home where it is safer for them to be.

Our children's program staff have maintained contact with our participants and their families. We're assessing what our Summer Arts & Smarts will look like in this new, socially-distanced world. We're also looking to see how we can continue much

needed services like the Sozo Health Ministry and our Neighborhood Hospitality without risking the health of our staff, volunteers, and clients by inadvertently spreading disease.

We will continue to keep you updated as we maintain our presence and listen for ways to help our community during this crisis and afterward. Please keep us and our community partners in your prayers. And, if you are able, please continue to provide financial support for Patchwork Central. We continue to have bills for things like our utilities and insurance, and we continue to pay our staff in order to help them as much as we can during this crisis and to make sure they are here and ready for our programming to be in session again.

Thank you.

## Images of Arts & Smarts

The Spring Semester in the Arts & Smarts Program was unexpectedly cut short, but we still managed to fit in a lot of creativity, learning, and fun! We built academic skills during tutoring. We made acrylic pour paintings and designed stamps to be the paintings' focal points.



*Continue Images on page 3*



## Images *(continued)*



We made unicorn horns.



We learned to knit.



We held a pajama party  
for our Junior Leaders.



We made collaged cards for Valentine's Day.



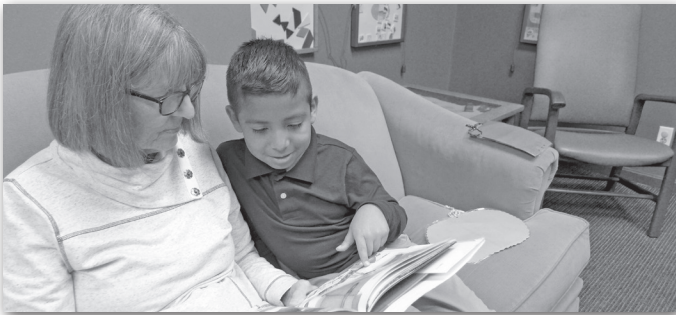
We made a snack of green eggs and ham and then read the book that inspired the snack in Book Club.



*Continue Images on page 4*



## Images *(continued)*



We read together in Book Club.



We learned about music and drumming as part of African American History Month.



We created containers using dried gourds and drew designs on the outsides.



And, we built important and supportive relationships between our participants and our staff and volunteers.



# Alan Winslow, 1922-2020

Alan Winslow, 97, died Monday, March 30, 2020 at the Solarbron Family-First Senior Living Facility.

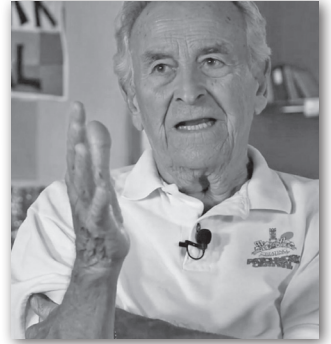
He is predeceased by his wife of 33 years Peggy Treat Winslow (1982) and Judi Jacobson his wife of 22 years (2007). He leaves behind his daughter Diane Winslow of Newburgh, Indiana; David (Amy) Winslow of Orlando, Florida; and Michael (Darcy Stallings) Winslow of Portland, Oregon; three grandchildren, Bryan (Sarah) Youngs, Sarah Winslow, and Kate Winslow; and two great grandchildren, Levi and Cody Youngs; his sister Nancy Woodman, of Republic, Missouri; nieces and nephews, Fay Noffsinger, Dolph Woodman, Duffy Woodman and Wendy Gum; great nieces and nephews and many, MANY cherished friends.

Alan was born in Terre Haute and raised in Evansville, Indiana, the son of William Wilbur and Elizabeth. He lived his entire 97 years in Evansville.

In his early years, Alan worked for and eventually ran his family's shoe store Dawson/Winslow, circa 1927. After graduating from Bosse High School, he attended Rose Hulman where he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the Navy to be a pilot. He was stationed at Mankato, Minnesota, for flight school and in Norman, Oklahoma where he flew open cockpit, bi-wing planes. His Naval career ended in Buford, South Carolina, where he was assigned co-pilot navigator but the war ended without going to Japan.

In April of 1949, he married Peggy Treat Winslow of Evansville. He continued running Dawson / Winslow, joined the Junior

Chamber of Commerce, was the Chairman of the trust for Trinity Methodist and traveled with their three children, mainly to Florida. Alan was an active member of the Evansville Rotary for over 60 years and received several Paul Harris awards for his service. Peg was diagnosed with breast cancer in the '70s and succumbed to the disease in 1982.

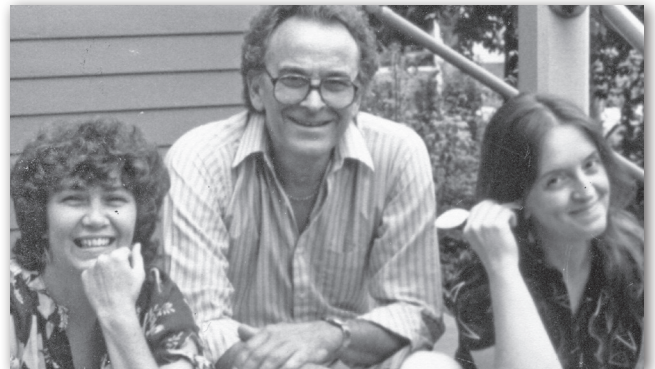


*photo by Scott Adams*

In 1983, Alan started Patchwork's Neighborhood Economic Development Center providing micro loans to low income residents wanting to start a business. It is through this work that he met the Reverend Judi Jacobson. They were married in 1985. Alan and Judi were lifelong supporters of CoCoDa building water projects in El Salvador for over 17 years. Judi and Alan were key contributors to the community through Patchwork Central supporting families in need. Judi died in 2007 from brain cancer.

Alan was a true friend to many, from the Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) and other full-time volunteers serving at Patchwork and every stray dog that found a place in his home. He was a selfless champion for his friends and family. He will be sorely missed.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a future date when large gatherings are advisable. Contributions can be made to Patchwork Central (100 Washington Ave., Evansville, IN 47713 or [www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)) in his honor.



*three photos by Calvin Kimbrough*

## Alan Winslow: Always There to Make the Call *By Amy Rich*

Alan never considered himself to be a Patchwork Central founder, but he was here from the beginning.

There are many great Alan stories. Here's one as told to me: In the 1980's during the Cold War, a group of Patchworkers came up with a great idea. It would be part art happening, part protest, part community witness. They would go to a field on a dark night and stand in the shape of a giant peace sign while holding flashlights pointed skyward. A Russian spy satellite would fly over and capture their message of world peace.

The path of the spy satellite was key to the plan. Someone needed to make a phone call, so of course Alan agreed to do it. Alan called the CIA to ask when a Russian spy satellite would fly over Evansville, Indiana so Patchwork could shine a peace symbol at it. The CIA wasn't helpful, but the event happened anyway. There's photographic evidence on the wall at Patchwork.

To me, the story defines what Alan did for Patchwork. If there was a difficult phone call to make, if there was an unusual

question to ask, if someone needed to volunteer when no one else dared, if someone needed to sound calm and cool to get something done, if someone needed to look out for the group, if someone needed to figure out how to make wild dreams happen, Alan was there.

He found funding so Patchwork's founders could have health insurance. He led numerous committees to help keep Patchwork financially stable. He helped many people follow their dreams and start their own small business through the Neighborhood Economic Development Center. He provided solid support for young leaders who came to Patchwork through the Mennonite Voluntary Service and AmeriCorps. He provided the incentive behind many big Patchwork parties held both for fun and for fundraising. He lived in and cared about the neighborhood where Patchwork is located. He was always there to offer his assistance. He never stopped learning.

Alan lived a remarkable life, and he will be deeply missed.

## Alan Winslow: Hub & Connector *By John Rich*

*"Oh, he's very popular, Ed. The sportos, the motorheads, geeks, sluts, bloods, waistoids, dweebies, dickheads - they all adore him. They think he's a righteous dude."*

— Grace Wheelberg, Ferris Bueller's Day Off

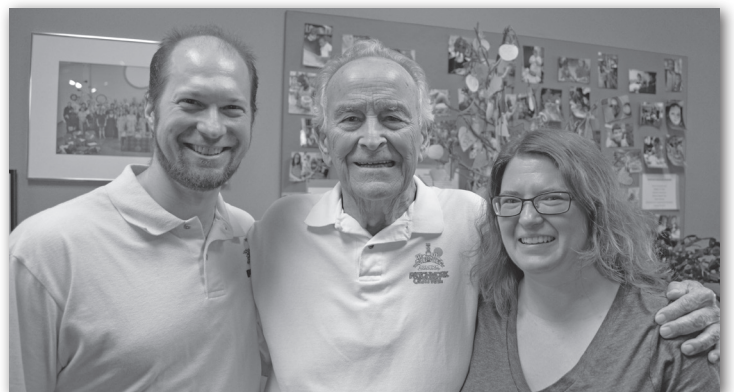
I first met Alan in the summer of 1999. I was an AmeriCorps VISTA worker, fresh out of college. I had never set foot in Evansville, Indiana, let alone knew a single soul who lived there. At the time, Alan was the Director of the Neighborhood Economic Development Center (NEDC), my VISTA placement. My role would be to help teach the small business course, organize the Peer Lending Group, and assist Alan in administering the micro-loans that NEDC offered to low-income entrepreneurs. I had zero experience or training in lending, finance, micro-credit, or economics.

Alan started teaching me the skills and knowledge I would need to know to do my job. More than that, though, he started introducing me around to the people with whom I would be working over the next two years: bankers, lenders, business owners, and community leaders. He also introduced me to the unique cast of characters that comprised the Patchwork Community. Without exception, every one of those people admired and loved Alan Winslow.

It didn't matter who they were—Rotarians, guitar-players, ex-nuns, lawyers, stray dogs, sushi chefs, city councilors, old hippies—they all adored him. They thought he was a righteous dude. If it had merely been that Alan was loved and admired by all who knew him, that would have been an impressive legacy. With Alan, though, it went far beyond that. He was a social "hub and connector" for people. He had friendships in an incredibly diverse array of social groups, and he leveraged them to create more relationships, especially between people who would otherwise never have met one another. There was always a particularly bright twinkle in his eye whenever he introduced two people who came from completely different worlds, but somehow hit it off and became the best of friends.

Perhaps more than anything else (and there is a LOT else), that is Alan Winslow's legacy—the connections he facilitated, the lifelong friends he introduced to each other, the incredibly diverse and inclusive community he created by connecting all kinds of people together. A relationship is always more than the sum of its parts. The connection takes on a character of its own, becomes an intangible entity, a "spirit," if you will. In that sense, Alan Winslow birthed a multitude of spirits, spirits of community, justice, friendship, and love. Alan continues to abide with us in this "spiritual" web of relationships that he helped to create and multiply.

By the time I left the AmeriCorps VISTA program two years later, I had literally dozens of friends and connections in Evansville, Indiana--and I'm a raging introvert. Alan Winslow was many things to me: a mentor, a friend, and, eventually, he became like an adopted grandfather. He was also my "spiritual" hub and connector. I adored him. He was a righteous dude.





## E-Newsletter

### More Stories! More Photos! More News!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter! You will receive email updates highlighting the most recent happenings at Patchwork.

Simply visit our website, [www.Patchwork.org](http://www.Patchwork.org), and click the "join our mailing list" link!

## Bequests

The next time you update your will, please consider adding **Patchwork Central, Inc.** as a beneficiary. As a **501(c)3 nonprofit organization**, Patchwork is eligible to receive donations from bequests. Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing for our programming and contributing to our long-term stability.

## Sunday Worship

During this time of social distancing, the Patchwork Community is meeting for virtual worship on Patchwork Central's Facebook page **every Sunday at 5:15 p.m.** Worship is led by volunteers and changes every week. You are welcome to join us!



## Patchwork Central, Inc.

100 Washington Ave.  
**Evansville, IN 47713-1521**  
**(812) 424-2735**  
[www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

Patchwork Central creates community, honors personal dignity, empowers people, and encourages spiritual and social growth through its program and hospitality, its opportunities for learning, its creative atmosphere and cultivation of the arts, and its work toward reconciliation and a more peaceful and just world.

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**Bill Hemminger** | Food Pantry Coordinator

**Pete Emery** | Bike Shop Coordinator

Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelope provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.





100 Washington Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47713-1521

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*Photo by Calvin Kimbrough*



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