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[Forecast »](#)

- [home](#)
- [news](#)
- [entertainment](#)
- [shopping](#)
- [classifieds](#)
- [real estate](#)
- [cars](#)
- [jobs](#)
- [herald services](#)

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- [business](#)
- [sports](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [obituaries](#)
- [weather](#)
  
- [calendars](#)
- [news extras](#)
- [news archive](#)
- [world news](#)
- [photobook](#)
- [space.com](#)
- [season of the arts](#)
- [reunions](#)
  
- [main page](#)
- [news](#)
- [entertainment](#)
- [outdoors](#)
- [eTechnology](#)
- [classifieds](#)
- [real estate](#)
- [communities](#)
- [cars online](#)
- [jobs](#)
- [personals](#)

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- [submit](#)

## Opinion



[home](#) > [news](#) > [Opinion](#) > Saturday, January 22, 2005

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### OUR VIEW

# Temple reflects King's message

The members of Whatcom County's largest Sikh temple ought to be thanked for opening the doors of their temple to the rest of the community on Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a show of unity.



The temple Guru Nanak Gursikh Gurudwara hosted a "Day of Prayer" event that included speakers from 15 different religions.

Temple leaders invited the community to their place of worship because they want to help people understand their ways and to show that they welcome all people.

Organizers of the event and temple leaders said they felt like the event met with King's message of bringing people together. Sikh leaders said that King's message is also reflected in their religion, which they say is based on equality of



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• news archive

• classifieds

• obituaries

• homes & real estate

• new & used cars

• jobs

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people.

Especially considering other King Day celebrations in this area have been diminished by their blatant and sometimes nasty partisan politics, it was nice that the temple became an alternative for people who wanted to show they believe in reaching out to all members of the community and uniting instead of dividing.

### **Caring goes a long way to help family**

Helping someone get organized might seem like a little thing.

But the folks who helped Shannon Waterman organize her house did the widowed mother a world of good.

Waterman's husband, Paul, died last May of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and she was left home with two daughters and in a fog of grief.

The house she bought with her husband's life insurance money was great for her daughters, but she quickly became overwhelmed by the effort of keeping it up.

Enter professional organizer Julie Clarke and decorator Mindy Thomas. The two women worked to help Waterman reorganize her Lynden-area house and then enlisted even more help - eventually ending up with about \$5,265 worth of work, paid for with a budget of only \$554.

How do you do that? Well, it's the true and amazing generosity of Whatcom County people that makes stories like these come true. The folks at Custom Closets in Bellingham, for example, did

\$621 worth of work on the house for free. Others made smaller donations.

All told it added up to a new, wonderful home for Waterman and her children.

Upon seeing it she said: "It's like a home you want to come home to."

Thanks to Clarke, Thomas and all the others who took part for again renewing our faith in the kindness of our community.

### **Community holds Bob Moles Sr. in high regard**

When Bob Moles Sr. passed away at age 82 last week, a victim of cancer, he left behind a lifetime of caring and compassion in the community.

As owner of the Moles funeral home chain in the county, Moles met thousands of Whatcom County residents over the years and he left most feeling better for having met him.

The Moles family has lived in Whatcom County since 1889 - six generations. Bob Sr. joined the family funeral business after serving in World War II and his son Bob Jr. and now his grandson John have owned and operated the family business, which has included many of the funeral homes in this county.

Bob Sr. was held in such high regard that the honors have poured in for him from across the county and the state. Many people have left messages on the company Web site, [www.ferndalemoles.com](http://www.ferndalemoles.com), saluting the elder Moles.

Moles was a leader in the community in

the old-fashioned way, serving in numerous community groups and on many boards that do good things for the community, such as the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce, Whatcom County Polio Foundation and the Bellingham Rotary Club.

He was also a well-known arts supporter, receiving the Bellingham Mayor's Arts Award in 1996 in part for supporting renovations for the Whatcom Museum of History & Art and Mount Baker Theatre.

After his death, Lummi Nation hosted a special visitation for the Sandy Point resident at tribal facilities.

Said Lummi Nation spokesman Aaron Thomas: "He was a beautiful man to our people."

Many Whatcom County residents feel the same way.

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