

AFTER 40 YEARS, JONESTOWN SURVIVOR STILL STRUGGLES WITH TRAGEDY'S LEGACY, LESSONS



CHARLIE NEUMAN

Laura Johnston Kohl of San Marcos gives interviews and writes publicly about surviving the Jonestown massacre in 1978.

BY JOHN WILKENS

Forty years later, even after the way it ended, there's a part of Laura Johnston Kohl that still misses Jonestown.

She's standing in the living room of her San Marcos home, holding a framed photo that usually hangs on a bedroom wall. It's an aerial shot of the compound where she and other followers of the Rev. Jim Jones had turned a jungle in Guyana into what they hoped would be a utopia of respect, justice and fulfillment.

"Look how much we accomplished in just two years," the retired 71-year-old schoolteacher said, pointing at the rows of dormitories and cottages. This is where more than 900 people lived.

And where they died.

It remains among the 20th century's signature horrors and one of the most chilling massacres in the history of reli-

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