The Center gives people of all faiths, backgrounds, and ages the space to dream, grow, and become fully alive—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

“A place for celebration, enrichment and healing”

May 2015

Welcome to one of the most beautiful months of the year here at The Center. When I was a child my mother always told me “April showers bring May flowers.” I remember her saying that to me as we walked in the woods amongst all the colorful rockets and violets in full bloom on the forest floor. The trees bursting with fresh green leaves, the squirrels happy, the birds busy – it is a most enchanting time in the woods of Palos. I can remember always finding a patch of May Apples and laying down in them. I would stare up through their canopy and I always wanted to eat those berries. Mom said they were poisonous – I didn’t believe her though.

I discovered poison ivy at the age of nine. Brandon Brdecka and I made a fort out of dead-fall wood on a small island in Mill Creek. We lined the floor of our fort with fresh greenery and then spent the night there camping out. In the morning we went to get mom to show her our efforts. What a cool fort and place to spend the night we thought. If you could have seen the look on my mother’s face as she realized we had slept in a huge pile of poison ivy all night. We were covered with it and I was pink with calamine lotion for two weeks. Ever since then I can spot poison ivy a mile away.

The hills of Palos were created by a terminal moraine of the last ice age. Beneath about six inches to a foot of black dirt there lies clay and boulders transported here by a glacier that dug out the bed of Lake Michigan. Most of the sloughs in the area were created by huge chunks of ice that sat and melted for years creating a small indentation in the land. In the early days of The Center every spring my Granddad broke the tip of his plow on a rock in the field above our slough. One spring he had had enough and told his two sons, Frank and Paul, to dig it out. They dug and dug and the rock kept getting bigger and bigger – it was the size of a car. Finally Granddad, with the help of some local farmers, blew the top off it with dynamite.

No more rock!

As you walk through the woods behind our lodge there are an assortment of large oaks, shagbark hickories, and an occasional black walnut. In the ravines the maples take over, crowding out everything else. The largest tree in the forest preserves that I have ever seen lies at the outlet of Groundhog Slough – just a fifteen minute walk from our lodge. Here a huge old-growth stately bur oak stands with a trunk measuring fifteen to twenty feet in circumference. It’s a record maker and I’m sure it’s old enough to have been around during the Civil War and earlier.

The Children’s Farm is bustling with new life as all our spring baby animals are enjoying the nice warm weather. Most of the sheep were born in the cold of February but now have discovered a fresh green field of clover to run around in and eat. We see that the beaver have come back to our creek behind the farm but so far, are not causing a problem. Our horses are frisky to get out in the morning and the SAGE chickens have full run of the place. Everyone’s happy! May is also a very popular month for elementary school tours at our farm. We are always looking for volunteer farm tour guides, but as Kate Bracken used to say, you have to enjoy three of the most unpredictable things in the universe...children, weather and animals!

Please take a look at our newsletter for all the activities going on at The Center in May. We would love to have you – whether participating in a program or just to take a walk. We have plenty of places to relax and take in this beautiful time of year. From all of the staff we extend to you the heartiest of welcomes and look forward to seeing you soon!
Meditation: Attending the Silence  
**Tuesday evenings** 5:30 pm- 6:00 pm
**Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings** 9:00 am-9:30 am
Please join us for a 20 minute period of silent meditation each week. Come whenever you are able.

Loving-Kindness Meditation  
**Monday mornings** 9:00 am-9:30 am
Our Monday morning meditation is a Loving-Kindness meditation. It is not a silent meditation, but a group prayer for peace in the world beginning with ourselves. Come whenever you are able. Questions may be directed to Chris Hopkins, 708-361-3650

Gather Round the Table  
**May 17th** 6:00pm
This gathering is a circle of rich conversation and prayer. We remember when Jesus broke bread with his disciples and friends and we do the same. We welcome all to spend a brief time of deepening their relationship with God. We gather in a circle of mutuality, open and inclusive—please join us!

Mindfulness  
**Sunday mornings** 11:00am-12:00pm
We gather to meditate and to reflect upon one aspect of meditation and/or mindfulness. We actually do a mindful activity and we spend some time offering each other support and encouragement in our quest to actually be present to our lives. No registration is required. All are welcome!

Spirituality 101 ~ Tuesday evenings ~ 6:30 p.m.-8:00 pm (or) Thursday mornings 10:00 am-11:30 am
Our study of Centering Prayer continues and you are still welcome to join us! Any questions may be directed to Chris Hopkins

Our new offering begins June 9th & 11th and is based upon the book by Eve Eschner Hogan: The Way of the Winding Path. Join us as we strive to understand and deepen our spiritual journey. From the back cover: Way of the Winding Path offers simple, practical steps for experiencing life as a spiritual pilgrimage and serves as a map guiding you to find your way with ease, grace, and clarity. ’This offering includes input, discussion and walking the labyrinth. If walking the labyrinth is difficult for you, finger labyrinths will be available...so all are welcome! (The book is not required for the class, but well worth purchasing. It is available through Amazon for $10.01). Registration is mandatory, so that we have enough labyrinths available. Classes are $5/session.

Vespers in the Chapel  
**Every Sunday** 12:30 pm & 4:30 pm
Please join us each week for a nondenominational service of music, meditation and prayer led by Rev. Chris Hopkins. The Chapel stands on the highest point of The Center’s grounds and symbolizes the underlying spirituality of all Center programs. All are welcome!

Communion Sunday  
**May 3rd** 12:30 pm & 4:30 pm
On the first Sunday of each month (except August and December) Communion is offered at both of our Chapel services. Volunteers are needed to help set up for Communion as well as helping to distribute it. If you are able and interested, please contact Chris Hopkins. ALL ARE WELCOME! *Please note: we always have a non-alcoholic cup & gluten free bread.

Family Service Sunday  
**May 17th** 10:00 am
Please join us as we gather outdoors behind the Lodge on the west side of Southwest Highway for this family friendly service. And we will share a bit of hospitality together, because Jesus always ate with his friends!

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**LABYRINTH OFFERINGS!**

Thursday evening Labyrinth walk ~ May 7th ~ 5:30pm
**Please note, there is no morning walk on May 2nd due to the World Labyrinth Day walk at 1pm. Let’s gather at our permanent labyrinth to walk in fellowship and peace. No registration is necessary. We will walk rain or shine! Hope to meet you there!**

World Labyrinth Day ~ May 2nd ~ 1:00 pm
This is a global movement to gather and walk the labyrinth for peace. We will join this movement! We will Walk as One at One, so please join us at 1pm at the labyrinth so that we can add our energies and prayers to this global peace effort.

~Tending the Labyrinth
Do you love the labyrinth? Would you be willing to devote some time to keeping the labyrinth and the surrounding area beautiful? We are looking for volunteers to help keep the labyrinth looking loved and tended. It would be not only practical but it could be a spiritual discipline! If you are willing to help out, please contact Chris Hopkins at 708-361-3650.
CENTER CINEMA: Film Classics Shared and Discussed:
Friday May 1st, 6:30—9pm *Pat and Mike*, George Cukor, 1952, 95m, B/W
Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy are the title characters. She’s a squeaky clean champion athlete. He’s a sports promoter with a bit of a “colorful” history. Do opposites attract? Lively discussion to follow. We’ll bring popcorn. Free, but please call to say you’re coming.

Our tenth annual SPRINGTIME TEA…amidst the Wildflowers
Sunday, May 3, 2-4 pm
Please join us for an afternoon of “high tea” sandwiches and sweets, plus music, wildflowers, and an inspiring talk by motivational speaker Eileen Kerlin Walsh. Weather permitting, seating available both indoors and out. Hats and gloves are encouraged! Tickets: $30 each (please call to reserve tickets)
(Please tell us when you reserve tickets if you have friends with whom you want to sit.)

LAUGHTER CIRCLE: Sunday, May 3, 6 p.m.
Laughter leader Kathy O’Brien, R.N., brings laughter and all its benefits to our new Laughter Circle, a group for people who want to LAUGH! Not from jokes or comedy routines, but rather from laughter for the sake of laughter, reducing stress, alleviating pain, strengthening your immune system, and even helping folks to get along better! The cost each month of participating in the Laughter Circle is $5 which Kathy donates to The Center. Please call to reserve a spot!

TOASTMASTERS: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, May 6 and 20, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Toastmasters is an opportunity for folks who wish to improve their public communication skills. The Center’s Toastmasters Club consists of staff, volunteers, and friends of The Center. No commitment is necessary to try it out: so join us on the 1st or 3rd Wednesday evening of the month. For more information, talk to Dave Sanders or Lois Lauer.

Please visit our wonderful FELLOWCRAFTERS GIFT SHOP this month!

Celebrating your wedding anniversary in May?
Then you are invited to our MAY ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND RENEWAL OF VOWS CEREMONY
Sunday, May 17, beginning with 4:30 p.m. Vespers.
Whether you were married in our chapel, a grand cathedral, or a courthouse, we invite you to this beautiful evening of celebrating and renewing your marriage commitment. The evening begins with a Vespers Service at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel. After Vespers, you will enjoy a gracious candlelight dinner in the lodge and then return to the Chapel for the Renewal of Wedding Vows ceremony. For reservations, send $80 for dinner for two, to be received no later than May 4. Planning ahead? The next Dinner is scheduled for June 14.

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP
Kathy Fontaine is offering her one-on-one services to anyone seeking spiritual direction through prayer, meditation, and dialogue. A good friend of The Center for many years, Kathy Fontaine has been trained by the Institute for Spiritual Companionship. The cost of Kathy’s spiritual companionship is $20/hour, which Kathy donates to the camp scholarship fund. Please, call the office for details about setting up appointments with Kathy, who is here as a spiritual companion all day every Tuesday.

WOMANTALK COFFEE HOUR!
Tuesday, May 26, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
WOMANTALK! is a wonderfully nurturing and supportive women’s discussion group, led by Mary Ann Grzych, and focusing on the month’s readings in Sarah Ban Breathnach’s “Simple Abundance,” or any other inspirational resources that ladies would like to bring to share. The focus of Womantalk is on learning to live authentically, joyfully, simply, and gratefully. Please call to say you will be coming.
New! GARDEN GUIDES Sundays, April 26 and May 31, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Lois Lauer is forming a cadre of garden enthusiasts to help show the garden to farm guests on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, when the farm is open to visitors. If you might be able to volunteer one weekend afternoon a month and are interested in learning more about being a volunteer garden guide, please join us! We'll have a short educational session for garden guides on the last Sunday of each month throughout the growing season—to tour the garden, see what's coming up each month, and prepare ourselves to be ready to educate our visitors about what's growing! If the weather cooperates, we'll see the sprouts of potatoes, onions, garlic, peas, lettuce, spinach, chard, broccoli, asparagus, cabbage, and several herbs on April 26. By May 31, the garden will be well established with spring plants, hopefully including peapods and strawberries to taste, and small seedlings of the summer vegetables and herbs. You can see what's happening in the garden by checking Lois' garden blog at www.childrensfarmgarden.blogspot.com.

HERB AND TOMATO SALE: It's not too late to support the camp scholarship fund by ordering healthy herbs, flowers, and tomatoes for your summer garden. You can access an order form on the website (www.thecenterpalos.org) or call The Center to order. Choose from 3 types of tomatoes, plus a variety of herbs, flowers, and other veggies.$4 per pot. Pickup days: May 15 and 16.

MEN'S POV (Point of View)
The group meets May 19th in Log Cabin 3 at 7pm. Russell LaMantia will lead a discussion on the classic book about statesmanship, “The Prince.” Russ is a retired Foreign Service officer who served with the State Department for thirty-three years, including five postings at embassies overseas. He also served on the personal staff of both Henry Kissinger and James Baker III. New members welcome!!!

Emerson Hill Night: JAZZ IN THE PINES:
An Outdoor Concert by The Darlene Baresch Quartet
Sunday, May 31, 5:30 p.m.
We are thrilled to offer our twenty-third annual outdoor spring jazz concert – to be held on the beautiful stage in the pine woods on the north end of the farm—with the Darlene Baresch Quartet. Spencer Keys on keyboard, Tyke Hendershot on bass, Scott Gumina on saxophone and clarinet, Dean Minuth on percussion, and singer Darlene Baresh will bring a delightful program of jazz standards. Just park at the farm and jump on the hayrack with your lawn chair, blanket, and Ravinia-style picnic if you choose (no alcohol please!). We will provide punch and cookies. There is no admission fee to the concert, as the event is The Center’s gift to those who wish to attend. Kids welcome!

Little Art Show 2015!
Sunday, May 31, 1-3 p.m.
On the lawns and in the classrooms of the log cabins. Please join us for our second annual Little Art Show of….small artworks! There will be tiny pottery pieces, tiny drawings and paintings, tiny quilts, tiny weavings, tiny woodcarvings, tiny baskets, and more…on display and for sale! And of course…tiny refreshments will be served! And new this year...fun live music on the lawn from a band with appropriately small instruments...ukuleles!!)
We would like to add a special note of thanks to Anne Scheiermann, who closed her shop Mary Del Corsetieres in Palos Heights after thirty-five years in business there. Anne donated to The Center everything she had left over after her final sale, including lingerie that we're selling in our eBay store, furniture, office supplies and a video surveillance system that we installed at the Farm & Nature School.

Thanks, Anne!

It's not too early to think about Summer FARM FEST!

At the farm, Saturday, June 6, 10 am – 4 pm
Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! Kick off a summer of fun at the farm!

Horserides, hayrides, crafts, animals, live music, games, and great food!
Also, garage sale vendors, flea market vendors, and craft vendors.

AND, new this year, A KIDS' FLEA MARKET!
Spread the word—THIS is the way to start the summer! Ask in the office or check the website for vendor and kids' flea market guidelines and applications.

GENTLE YOGA CLASSES
5 Tuesday evenings, beginning June 9, 6:30 - 8 pm, at the Anderson Activity Center at the farm
We invite you to this series of gentle, restorative yoga classes taught by yoga instructor Valerie Lindstrom. The classes will include discussion and practice on breathing, relaxation, and centering, as well as movement and poses. Dress in comfortable clothing; bring a yoga mat and block. Meet at the Anderson Center at the farm. Class fee: $50. Preregistration required. (Also see June 20 Yoga Retreat, described with retreat listings)

SUMMER WELLNESS BREAKFASTS
begin with Intro session 7:30 a.m. on June 16th.
Followed by 10 Tuesday mornings, June 23 – Aug 25, 7:30 – 9 a.m.,
on the Anderson Center porch at the farm.
We gather each week to discuss a book about healthy eating and healthy living, and how to care for our precious bodies. The textbook is yet to be chosen. Suggestions are welcome! The discussions are facilitated by counselor Sharon Butler (MHS, CRADC). She and Lois Lauer provide a simple healthy breakfast each week. Program Fee: $120 for 10 weeks. No charge for first introductory session on June 16. We would appreciate your calling in a reservation so we can plan food, but you needn't make a commitment to the whole summer until after June 9. Participants are asked to purchase a copy of the book TBA and read the first assignment by June 23.

AUGUST 28 & 29
ONE WEEK BEFORE LABOR DAY WEEKEND THIS YEAR!!

PLEASE START SAVING YOUR UNWANTED TREASURES TO BRING TO THE RUMMAGE SALE THIS YEAR! ONE WEEK BEFORE LABOR DAY WEEKEND, AUGUST 28TH & 29TH!!

We would like to add a special note of thanks to Anne Scheiermann, who closed her shop Mary Del Corsetieres in Palos Heights after thirty-five years in business there. Anne donated to The Center everything she had left over after her final sale, including lingerie that we’re selling in our eBay store, furniture, office supplies and a video surveillance system that we installed at the Farm & Nature School.

Thanks, Anne!
Women’s Spring Retreat: Remembering how to Play!
Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Join Lois Lauer and Jan Sylkatis to explore and experience the importance of play in our lives. Play can release tension, restore balance, build rapport, and make us smile! The day will include time for reflection, discussion, and lots of playful activities, all designed to help us experience this vital part of our lives that so often gets left on the sidelines because it seems irresponsible to “waste our time” playing. We’ll meet on the Anderson Center front porch at the farm and hope to spend much of the day outdoors. Retreat fee: $72 includes leadership, lunch and dinner, and retreat supplies.

Spring Knitting Retreat: A day to unwind with your knitting needles!
Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Join Georgann Ring for a fun and relaxing day in the beautiful Forest View room while you work on your PIP (project in progress), make new friends, and share ideas. If you’d like, bring a knitted item(s) for show and tell. Don’t know how to knit? Bring a ball of Sugar and Cream yarn and a pair of U.S. size 8 knitting needles, and we’ll teach you how! Retreat fee: $45 includes leadership, lunch, and instruction. (Crocheters welcome too!)

Yoga Retreat...Celebrate summer with a day of movement and meditation!
Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Yoga instructor Valerie Lindstrom will lead this yoga immersion day, with an opening mandala activity, yoga sessions morning and afternoon, a “wish-paper” ceremony, and some reflective time at the labyrinth and in the woods. The sessions will include practice on breathing, relaxation, and centering, as well as movement and poses. Dress in comfortable clothing; bring a yoga mat and block. Meet at the Anderson Center at the farm. Retreat fee: $45 includes leadership, lunch, and instruction. (Crocheters welcome too!)

Farm and Nature Discovery Preschool and Kindergarten
Hard to believe I am writing our last newsletter of our school year. Despite our long winter, we are at the end of another wonderful school year. During April, we learned all about planets. The teachers are so creative and came up with amazing crafts. We also practiced our end of the year songs every day. The kids and teachers are working very hard to have a wonderful show. We also did spring evaluations for each child and had an Easter Egg hunt. It truly was a busy month.

During the month of May our theme will be “Here we Grow Again.” The month will revolve around planting and gardening and growing. This will include life cycles as we watch our eggs hatch in our incubator. I’m sure we will be visiting our own garden that Lois has planted; as well as do our own planting. We will study how roots grow and how sunlight and water effect growth. Of course, we will be outdoors as much as possible enjoying our last month at school.

We will have a wonderful graduation ceremony for our students as well as our very first Kindergarten graduation this year. It will be hard to say goodbye to those going off to first grade.

We are currently registering for our summer program, a two-week adventure entitled “Bugs and Blooms.” Although we did this theme last year, we have new ideas, crafts, and fun planned. If you are interested in registering your child for this program, preschool or kindergarten, please call for a tour or paperwork. Our kindergarten for fall is currently open to either full time or part time. 708-361-8933
COW PIE BINGO:
PLEASE HELP S.A.G.E EXPAND OUR BEEF & POULTRY OPERATION – HOGS ARE COMING TO S.A.G.E. IN 2015 ....AND TAKE A CHANCE AT WINNING $1000!

What an incredible year S.A.G.E. has had! It's truly hard to believe that it's only been one year since the ribbon cutting ceremony of this incredible program. The first year of S.A.G.E. brought lots of great successes and learning opportunities. We managed to raise and process 6 geese for The Center's Bob Cratchit Christmas dinner, 20 broiler chickens for an all staff summer lunch and 6 turkeys for our Farm to Table Autumn dinner. We had our first lowline angus calf born, introduced hundreds of camp kids to the concept of local, sustainable farming, and learned so much along the way! We are happy to announce that our new project for 2015 is to start a small hog breeding program. We will begin this project by purchasing a young breeding sow and three piglets and the proceeds from Cow Pie Bingo is going to help us do this!

**Sunday, May 10th Starting at Noon**

For those of you who are new to 'Cow Pie Bingo', let me explain...

Cow Pie Bingo is a fun way to raise money for S.A.G.E. while embracing our 'farmy' roots. We will be selling 324 tickets for the event and each ticket buys a square on our grid. We will be painting a large grid on the farm lawn (all squares of equal shape and size) and then turning one of our S.A.G.E. cows loose into the grid space. The game involves waiting for the first ‘cow pie’ to be deposited on the grid. The first square ‘hit’ is the winner and will be taking home a $1,000 cash prize!

Tickets (for a grid square) are currently on sale and can be yours for a $20 donation. We will be selling until all 324 tickets are sold! The event will be held on the Sunday of Barn to Be Wild and will be a wonderful family friendly afternoon. And all ticket holders and their families get FREE ADMISSION to the Bingo game as well as Barn to be Wild and all the farm fun happening that day.

For official contest rules, more information, or to purchase your tickets, please call The Center!
TUESDAY LUNCHEONS – 12:00 NOON - 2:00 P.M.

Every Tuesday at The Center, we have a delicious luncheon followed by an enlightening program on music, travel, nature, art, book reviews, personal growth, world affairs, spirituality, or other topics of interest. Cost is $18. Please make reservations by the Sunday before the luncheon.

Tuesday, April 28: Glenn Martin in Concert
Our dear friend and accomplished pianist Glenn Martin of Palos Park once again brings us a delightful afternoon of music. His program this spring includes works by Robert Schumann whom Glenn considers the "ultimate Romantic." Please join us for a delightful spring afternoon of music.

Tuesday, May 5: Save the Monarchs!
In honor of both Monarchs and Mexico, home to the migrating Monarch butterflies, we'll celebrate Cinco de Mayo Day by learning more about the plight of the Monarch butterflies whose population has decreased drastically in recent years. Kay MacNeil will tell us about the butterfly situation and tell us what we can do to help...namely, to plant milkweed, the only plant on which monarchs will lay their eggs...and she'll give us each some seeds to plant in our yards, parkways, roadsides, or anywhere we choose.

Tuesday, May 12: The Classic Folkart of Spinning....alive and well today!
Beverly Atseff from 2-B Weavers of Western Springs will bring her spinning wheel and demonstrate and discuss the art of spinning yarn from wool and other fibers. Beverly is a Chicago area artist and teacher, specializing in hand-spun, loom-woven clothing and jewelry. With some wool shorn from our sheep on April 26, Bev will spin fresh wool yarn, still oily with the sheep's natural lanolin. In addition to yarns and woven articles on display by Bev, our Log Cabin weaving and knitting students and instructors will display some of the items they've created!

Tuesday, May 19: Poetry and Tea in the Chapel Garden…plus Quilts!
Our poetry students will again host this beautiful springtime luncheon, aided by our quilting students who will exhibit their creations from the past year's quilting classes. MaryAnn Grzych and the Center poets will read from their outstanding collection of poems, which they publish periodically to share with The Center fellowship. To celebrate the spring season, we'll serve tea in the chapel garden surrounded by wildflowers.

Tuesday, May 26: Straight from the Blacksmith's Forge
Joliet blacksmith Steve Helis will brings us the traditional craft of forging useful and artistic items from metal. Steve will bring his anvil and blacksmith tools, and set up on the lodge lawn after we eat for a presentation and demonstration of hand-forging items such as simple S-hooks. He'll also have some items for display, and some for sale such as dinner bells and hooks for plants and birdfeeders.
May 9th & 10th
The Children’s Farm at The Center

Barn To Be Wild 7

live webcast
free farm admission for our visitors
festivities run from 1pm Saturday until 4pm Sunday
for more information:
www.barntobewild.org

The Center Singers--and lots of their closest “pen” pals--will be living with the animals to raise money to further our mission.

Sing a different tune at The Center.
The Center is a 501c3 religious organization and all contributions are tax-deductible.
Farm and Ranch Camps...  
and Senior Outdoor  
Leadership Program!  
Day Time and Residential  
options: Grades 4 - 12!

The Center's Farm and Ranch Camp program is an opportunity for young people to live at The Center and to learn and play and grow in a healthy country setting. The Camp program includes horseback riding, camp crafts, hayrides, farm animals, nature hunts, games, songs, fun, and laughter. Prospective campers should register as soon as possible, as camp is filling. At the time of writing, Farm and Ranch Camp has space for 4th-9th grade girls and 4th-7th grade boys. If you know of prospective campers, please call or visit The Center for information about registering for a great summer of outdoor fun.

There are also openings for males & females in our Senior Outdoor Leadership program for teens entering grades 10th-12th. The focuses for SOL are adventure challenge activities, such as canoeing and camping, learning to live and have fun in the outdoors as a group, and leading younger campers. Whether you’ve had experience in the outdoors or not, this is a great opportunity to develop useful skills for the future and stretch your limits while enjoying the camp experience.

Day Camp Options for Summer 2015...

FARM EXPLORERS DAY CAMP
This program is a great way to get a taste of what Summer Camp at The Center is all about! This Day Camp will run from 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday, and will experience many of the same great activities that our overnight camp does: crafts, songs, nature, farm animals, horses, campfires, laughter, fun and so much more! Farm Explorers is offered to children entering grades 2nd-6th. $300 registration fee includes all activities and lunch served daily in our dining room.

EXTREME FARM EXPLORERS DAY CAMP
Extreme Farm Explorers will spend 6 days side by side with our residential farm campers. This program will mimic Farm Camp except for the overnight stays. Campers will join us for morning farm chores, lunch and afternoon programs, and also for dinner and evening activities. We feel this is a great way to satisfy the camper that is ‘almost’ ready for overnight camp. Offered to children entering grades 3rd – 7th. $450 registration fee includes all activities and lunch & dinner served daily in our dining room. Meets Sunday from 5pm-9pm, Monday through Thursday, 9am-9pm, and Friday from 9am-5pm.

Please help send a child to camp!
Camp Scholarship Update...
The Camp Scholarship Fund is well underway! We have had some very successful fundraisers as well as many generous donations from private donors so every day we're a bit closer to achieving our goal of $50,000. We're very grateful for the many contributions that we have received. The Fund helps children who otherwise would be financially unable to attend camp. Whether you send $5 or $500, you'll know that you have made a difference. Each contribution you make to the Scholarship Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar, and if each of us contributes, in whatever way possible, we will reach our goal. Another child will have an opportunity to experience the healthy, natural country atmosphere of The Center's Farm and Ranch Camps.
Have you been to The Children’s Farm this spring? Did you notice how empty our driveway and farm lawns look?

Sadly, the farm trees have been terribly hit by the Emerald Ash Borer. At the time of writing, we have already removed 18 trees and we still have another 10 to go. The landscape of the farm now looks empty and we have lost a lot of our shaded areas so we are on a mission to replace as many trees as possible and we need your help!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TREE ANGELS TO DONATE NEW TREES TO THE FARM!!

We are hoping to plant a variety of slow and fast growing trees and have priced them out at approximately $250 a tree. If you’re interested in donating a tree in memory of a loved one, in honor of Earth Day, or just because you want to help re-beautify the farm, please contact Amy at: thechildrensfarm@sbcglobal.net.

Summer Junior Farmers
An outdoor opportunity for children to learn and play while enjoying life on the farm!

Children, ages 3 to 8, can enjoy two weeks of sunshine and fresh air while participating in one of the four summer sessions offered. Children will meet up to 3 hours per day, three days a week. Summer Junior Farmers will pick clover for the rabbits, gather fresh eggs from the chickens, brush the ponies and the goats; all while enjoying summertime at the farm.

They’ll explore the barns and 60 acres of crops and wildlife.
They’ll touch, they’ll learn, they’ll enjoy!

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<th>Ages 3-6:</th>
<th>Summer Sessions</th>
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<td>M, W, &amp; F afternoons 1-2 pm or 2:30 – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>June 22 – July 3</td>
<td>M, W, &amp; F mornings 9 am – 12 noon</td>
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<td>$86</td>
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Summer Sessions
June 22 – July 3
July 6—July 17
July 20 – July 31
August 3—August 14

Ages 6-8
M, W, & F mornings
9 am – 12 noon
$206

Have you been to The Children’s Farm this spring?
Did you notice how empty our driveway and farm lawns look?

Summer Sessions
June 22 – July 3
July 6—July 17
July 20 – July 31
August 3—August 14

Ages 6-8
M, W, & F mornings
9 am – 12 noon
$206
Visitors are always welcome at the Log Cabins!
Come, let us entice you to express your creative spirit this spring at...

THE LOG CABIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park
May-June 2015 Art Schedule

We hope you'll sign up and let those creative juices flow! All classes require pre-registration.

Like us on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com and search for Log Cabin Center for the Arts @ The Center, Palos Park. Lots of new photos of classes and student artwork. Check it out!

OUTDOOR ART FOR KIDS! (for grades K to 8)
Drawing, printmaking, pottery, papier-mâché, painting, papermaking, and more!
Our enthusiastic art teachers invite kids to develop their artistic talents and to learn new ways to express their creativity. Each session of the summer offers new projects and new areas to explore. Each session ends with an art show of the students’ creations.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, 9-11 am
Two week sessions begin June 22, July 6 and 20, and Aug. 3
Class Fee $110 per 2 week session.

KIDS’ KNITTING 101 (for grades 5 and up)
6 Wednesdays beginning July 8, 11:15 am - 12:45 pm
Knitting instructor (retired school teacher) Georgann Ring used to teach her 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students to knit and she’s ready to teach kids here this summer! The focus of the kids’ classes will be simple stitches, used to make headbands, wristbands, and sweatbands for their first project. Georgann will supply the yarn for the first project and then help the children decide what to do next and what yarn to buy. Kids should come to the first class with bamboo/wood knitting needles, 9" long, size 8 (5.0 mm). Class fee: $70
When registering for kids’ summer classes, please state grade in school in autumn 2015.

TEEN POTTERY (grades 7 to 12)
Instructor: Heather Young
4 Tuesday evenings, beginning June 23, 6:00- 7:30 pm
Or 3 weeks of Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning June 22, 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.
A class for creative teens: Instruction in both hand-building techniques and throwing pots on the wheels.
Class Fee including all supplies and kiln firings: $60 for 4 Tuesday classes, or $85 for 3 weeks of Mon/Wed classes.
TEENS are also allowed to register for some adult classes. Please inquire.

FAMILY ART AND POTTERY CLASSES
FAMILY POTTERY (all ages, adults without children welcome too!)
Instructor: Heather Young
Miniature Ceramics: 2 Wed. evenings, May 13 and 20, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Learn to make an assortment of miniature animal sculptures and pottery pieces. You can then exhibit your finished pieces at The Little Art Show on May 31st! (The first night is for clay. Then the pieces are kiln fired to a stone-like hardness. The second night is for applying glaze. The pieces are then fired a second time to melt the glaze into a shiny finish. Pottery pickup is a week or two after the last class.) Family Art Workshop fee: $18 per person
POTTERY PARTY --- to benefit Barn to be Wild!
(for adults and families with kids of any age)
Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 - 8 pm at the farm pavilion

Heather Young has generously volunteered to raise funds for Barn to be Wild by organizing this night of creativity and fun as part of her fundraising.

She invites you to come to the farm and make adorable little pigs and other tiny farm animal sculptures...her goal is to help you have fun creating something out of clay! The items will be ready for pickup at the Little Art Show on May 31. We'll go on a short farm tour to see the animals and finish the evening with roasting marshmallows around a campfire. Benefit Workshop fee: $15 per person, all of which goes toward Heather's Barn to be Wild Pen Pal fundraising effort.

ADULT CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

**BASKETMAKING**
Instructors: Jane Dwyer (evenings) and Lois Shive (mornings)
6 Thursday mornings beginning June 4, 9:30 – 11:30 am
Or 6 Thursday evenings beginning June 4, 6:30 – 8:30 pm (skip 6/18)
Begin by making an easy and beautiful wood-bottomed basket with your choice of colored trim. Continue on to learn techniques for weaving a variety of shapes and sizes of baskets and choose your own project in consultation with the instructor. You can expect to make 2-3 baskets in 6 weeks, depending on your style and choice of projects.
Class Fee: $90, plus $25 materials fee per 6 week session

**SPECIAL BASKETRY WORKSHOP WITH CATTAILS!**
Instructor: Lois Lauer
Monday, August 10, 10 am - 2 pm
We'll cut the cattails from The Center lowlands and weave them into "au naturel baskets!" Bring a picnic lunch and extra shoes that can get wet just in case we have to stick our toes in the water for the best cattails.
Workshop fee: $30, includes all supplies.

**KNITTING**
Instructor: Georgann Ring
6 Monday evenings, beginning June 1, 6:30 - 8:30 pm (skip 7/6)
or 6 Friday mornings, beginning June 5, 9:30 – 11:30 am (skip 7/3)
Beginners will learn to use the knit and purl stitches, to cast on and bind off, to manage simple increases and decreases, and to read a simple pattern while completing their first two knitting projects, a dishcloth and then a scarf.
Georgann will help those with experience choose their projects and learn more advanced knitting skills.
Class Fee: $90. Beginning students should bring a ball of Sugar n’ Cream yarn, light solid color, and a pair of 10”, U.S. size 9 knitting needles, aluminum preferred. Students purchase own yarn for advanced projects.

**LAPIDARY**
Instructor: Larry Rothenberg
6 Monday mornings, beginning June 1, 9 -11 am (returning students) or 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (new students)
Turn rough hunks of rock into beautifully polished gemstones. Create a pair of round or oval stones, and then advance to more complex designs.
Class Fee: $90 plus $10 new student materials fee for introductory projects. Students purchase rocks for advanced projects.

**LEGACY LETTER WRITING**
Instructor: Beth LaMie (www.bethlamie.com)
4 Thursday afternoons beginning June 4, 1-3 pm
Learn how to write a Legacy Letter for your family, which includes personal values, family history, life lessons and achievements, and hopes for the future. Although a legacy letter is neither legal nor financial, to your loved ones, it is priceless. Don’t you wish you had a Legacy Letter from your loved ones who are gone? Beth is a Personal Historian who enjoys helping people write stories to be remembered. Please bring paper, a notebook or journal and your favorite writing instrument.
Class Fee: $60

**NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**
Instructor: Rick Steffen
4 Saturdays, beginning April 25, 9-11 am
Bring whatever camera you have, and Rick will help you to use it more easily and more effectively. He’ll demonstrate and share his strategies for composing great pictures, getting the right exposure on each shot, and, perhaps, most importantly, how to look for great subject matter in nature.
Class Fee: $60
NO-EXCUSES JOURNALING
Instructor: April Schabes
Friday, April 24 and May 29, 12—3 pm
It's not too late to begin! Create a colorful artistic record of your days, your thoughts, your experiences, through words, collages, photos, poems, magazine images, drawings, watercolor, etc. No-excuses! $10 per month

PLEIN AIRE SKETCH and WATERCOLOR FIELD TRIPS Summer 2015
Instructor: Lois Hrejsa
8 Summer Thursdays beginning June 4, 9:30 - 2 pm
Each summer, Lois Hrejsa and art students take field trips to interesting sites throughout the Chicago area, to sketch and pen and watercolor throughout the morning, break for lunch, and then have a lively critique session featuring everyone’s morning creations. A listing of locations will be posted in the June newsletter. Please preregister by calling The Center, but pay upon arrival at each session with a check made payable to The Center (no cash please.) Bring your art supplies and a stool or chair. Ask for lunch details and driving directions at The Center office. Class Fee: $22 per session. Some art experience required.

SOFT PASTEL WORKSHOP
Instructor: Susan Flanagan (www.sueflanagan.fineartstudioonline.com)
Monday, June 1, 9 am - 12 noon
This workshop will focus on painting a simple subject in soft pastel. Participants will have an opportunity to experiment with several watercolor under paintings with pastel on top to achieve different effects. A good under painting can be done in many ways and is the foundation for a beautiful pastel painting. This workshop is appropriate for beginning and intermediate pastel students. The emphasis is on technique, experimentation, and discovery. Let’s make some dust and have fun!
Sue’s work can be seen at http://sueflanagan.fineartstudioonline.com/
Class fee: $22. List of required supplies available in office.

SILVERSMITHING
Instructor: Dan Snyder
6 Monday afternoons or evenings, beginning June 8, 2-4 pm or 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Learn to design, saw, file, solder, and polish silver into beautiful pieces of jewelry. New students: learn the basics as you create a sterling silver pin for your first project, then move on to pendants, brooches, bracelets, and more. You can also set polished rocks into sterling silver pendants, which you make by sawing, filing, soldering, and polishing the silver to fit your stone. Class fee: $90. Materials fee: $15 for new students for first project. Students can expect to pay an additional $40-$50 in silver costs, to be paid directly to the instructor.

STAINED GLASS
Instructor: Harry Meneghini
6 Thursday evenings beginning May 28 , 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Create beautiful stained glass pieces, by learning the principles of glass design and color and the techniques of cutting and soldering, using both lead came and copper foil to join the pieces of glass. Start with simple projects, and eventually design your own windows, pictures, and lamps. Class Fee: $90. A list of glass and supplies which will need to be purchased will be distributed the first day of class, or may be obtained at The Center office, but wait until after the first class to make any purchases.

STONEWARE POTTERY
Instructor: Karen Stasky
6 Thursday evenings beginning June 4 , 6:30 – 8:30 pm
or 6 Tuesday mornings beginning June 9, 9:30 - 11:30 am
Make strong professional-looking stoneware pottery, such as beautiful stoneware bowls, mugs, and vases, in addition to interesting decorative pieces. Beginner? Learn a variety of hand-building techniques. Returning student? Learn to throw pots on one of the wheels. Class Fee: $90 plus $15 materials fee

WEAVING
Instructor: Nettie Botts
6 Wednesday mornings, beginning May 6, 9:30 – 11:30 am
New weavers: learn the basics while making a sampler - then design and complete a project of your choice. Returning weavers study and weave a project in the pattern weave of your choice. Class Fees: $90, plus $10 materials fee for new weavers. Students purchase own threads and yarns for future projects.
STARTING AN HERB GARDEN  
Instructor: Lois Lauer  
Sun, May 17, 2-3:30 p.m. Taste, smell, observe, feel, and learn how to grow and use a variety of herbs. If you'd like to plant a large pot with basil, parsley, chives, and a cherry tomato plant, please indicate that when you register! Class fee: $13 (plus $12 materials fee includes pot, soil, and plants, only for those who wish to take home a pot of herbs--must register by May 12 to plant a pot of herbs).

STRAWBERRY JAM, from the farm garden...hopefully!  
Instructor: Lois Lauer  
Sun, June 21, 2-4 p.m. If Mother Nature cooperates, we’ll pick the berries from the garden, and then go into the Anderson Center to cook up a batch of strawberry jam. (In the event the berry patch doesn’t yield at the estimated time, we’ll have berries from the farmers’ market.) Everyone will go home with a jar of fresh strawberry jam! Class fee: $16, plus $6 materials fee. Meet at the farm garden to pick berries, then cook the jam in the Anderson Center kitchen at the farm.

All of the above classes and many more will resume a full schedule in September. See the June newsletter for additional summer workshops.

Pre-registration is required for all Log Cabin classes and workshops. Class and materials fees are due at time of registration. All class fees include a $10 non-refundable, non-transferable registration fee. No refunds or transfers of fees are available for cancellations made less than 24 hours prior to the beginning of class. To register by mail, send check and the following information: Name, address, phone, email, name and date/time of class, and if registration is for a child, send birth date and grade in school, plus parents’ names and emergency contact information. When registering for kids’ summer classes, please state grade in school in autumn 2015.

FELLOWSHIP CORNER: MICHELLE KARNOSKI  
My name is Michelle Karnoski (Rubbens/Sullivan). The farm has been a part of my life for 28 years. I participated in camp from 1987 to 1993 as a camper and a C.I.T; I made some of the most lasting friendships of my life through the farm...friendships that are still strong today. I even met my husband through my farm friends. As a child, I always came and volunteered and helped Ms. Kay out; did the Yule log and the Haunted Farm. The farm and the friends I developed there gave me some of the best memories of my life; it felt like home for me. We moved a lot when I was a kid, I even went to 8 different schools, and the farm has always been my home away from home. When I was 18 I left for the army and was gone for 15 years. Almost every time I came home I always tried to make the rodeos or, once I had kids, just visit. I never got to “just visit”...Ms. Kay always found a place for me to help, and Ms. Kay’s loving ways always made me feel at home and loved.

In 2007 I got divorced and moved back home with my three children. I started coming back to the farm. My daughter Samantha Sullivan really took to the place, as well as to Ms. Kay, Brittany, and Amy. Life became a full circle and my little girl started to go to camp and volunteer. Which brought me back into the folds of volunteering at the farm once again. I started giving tours. We now both help out with Junior Farmers. I learned to drive a tractor and give hayrides, and I also saddle horses and chaperone the kids when they’re giving horse rides, which I must admit – doing those things are like riding a bike. My Sammie is also apart of the youth organization called Cornerstone, which we love, and has brought me closer to one of my fellow C.I.T.’s. I am lucky to once again call her my friend.

My son Scott is autistic and he loves to visit the farm. He doesn’t like to hug just anyone, but Amy, Brittany, and Ms. Kay provide an atmosphere and an environment that let people feel at home and loved so he always has a hug for Ms. Kay. He feels so comfortable with Amy and Brittany and will sit and talk and ask them questions. He even got to help out in the haunted hayride in 2014! The Children’s Farm is a special place filled with amazing people. I feel the farm has been a gift to me and my family that fills me up, and it keeps giving. I love this place and what it represents. I hope my daughter and I get to keep volunteering for the Children’s Farm for many, many years to come.

Michelle: We feel you are a gift to us, thank you for being a part of The Center for so many years!!
It’s not too early to think about Summer **FARM FEST!**

**At the farm, Saturday, June 6, 10 am – 4 pm**

Mark your calendars! Tell your friends! Kick off a summer of fun at the farm!

Horserides, hayrides, crafts, animals, live music, games, and great food! Also, garage sale vendors, flea market vendors, and craft vendors.

**AND, new this year,**

**A KIDS' FLEA MARKET!**

Ask in the office or check the website for vendor and kids’ flea market guidelines and applications.

Spread the word—THIS is the way to start the summer!