

December 2012

The Center



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

The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation
Sunday services 12:30pm and 4:30pm

<http://www.thecenterpalos.org>

708-361-3650

ALERT!! ADVENT VIRUS IS RAMPANT!!

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner *HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE.*

The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the ADVENT VIRUS:

- ♥ A tendency to think and act with loving kindness.
- ♥ A loss of interest in judging the actions of others.
- ♥ An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- ♥ A loss of interest in conflict.
- ♥ A loss of interest in gossiping about people.
- ♥ A loss of the ability to worry (this is VERY serious!)
- ♥ Frequent, overwhelming episodes of laughter.
- ♥ Feelings of contented connectedness with others and nature.
- ♥ Frequent attacks of smiling.
- ♥ An increasing tendency to be grateful for what you already have.
- ♥ An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it. Don't worry, though...your factory settings will be restored in the image and likeness of God!

If you find yourself coming down with the Advent Virus...Give thanks! Infect as many people as you can! Celebrate the contagiousness of Peace, Love and Joy! Rejoice that Hope is born again into the world and be willing to wish everyone you meet a very, Merry Christmas!

PEACE and MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Chris Hopkins



*A huge and heartfelt Thank You!!
Please support our sponsors this Holiday Season:*



Butler Orthopaedics

15300 West Avenue
Suite 300
Orland Park, IL 60462

The logo for Southwest ICE ARENA, featuring a blue snowflake shape with the text "Southwest ICE ARENA" inside. To the left of the logo is a red rectangular graphic with a gold border and a small holly decoration.

5505 West 127th Street
Crestwood, IL 60445



Hackney's



123rd and LaGrange Road
Palos Park, IL 60464
& other Chicagoland locations

The logo for State Farm Insurance, featuring a red square with the text "STATE FARM" at the top, "Auto Life Fire" in the middle, and "INSURANCE" at the bottom. To the left of the logo is a red rectangular graphic with a gold border and a small holly decoration.

Diane S Trennert Insurance Agency
9712 South Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465

SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE SEASON:

ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND RENEWAL OF VOWS

Sunday, December 2, 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 \$75 for dinner for two, to be received no later than November 19. *Planning ahead? The Jan-Feb Anniversary Dinner is scheduled for February 17.*



EMERSON HILL NIGHT: THE BOB CRATCHIT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Sunday, December 9th, 5:15 - 9:00 p.m. Reservations required.

In the tradition of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, we'll feast on roast goose, turkey, and plum pudding, just as Tiny Tim's family did in merry old England. Both before and after dinner, we'll be entertained by the delightful storyteller/drama teacher, Greg Weiss, as he reads from Dickens' classic tale of the Christmas spirits visiting Scrooge. The tradition of reading The Christmas Carol at The Center dates back to the 1930's. In the 80's, we added the dinner, and have enjoyed this as one of the nicest evenings of the year at The Center ever since.

Dinner tickets are \$30 per person and are limited in number. Please reserve early.

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONSHIP

Spiritual Director Kathy Fontaine donates her time and expertise to The Center, by offering her one-on-one spiritual companionship services to anyone seeking spiritual direction through prayer, meditation, and dialogue. The cost is \$20/hour, which Kathy donates to the camp scholarship fund. Please, call the office at any time for details about setting up appointments with Kathy, who is here as a spiritual companion all day every Tuesday. We all need the love, support, and witness of others who share our journey.

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEAS IN THE LOG CABIN ART CENTER:

Heartwarming, Cozy, And Delicious!

Sat, Sun, and Mon, Dec 8, 9, and 10

Thurs, Fri, Sat, and Sun, Dec 13, 14, 15, and 16

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Log Cabin hostesses invite you to enjoy a cup of Christmas tea and a plate of scrumptious Christmas cookies, cakes, hors d'oeuvres, fruits, and tea sandwiches. A heartwarming Christmas story will be shared by the fire and each tea guest will have an opportunity to make Christmas potpourri so that they can take home a bit of the Log Cabin's warm and cozy holiday ambience. Advance tickets are required: \$25 per guest.



THE YULE LOG SERVICES

Saturday and Sunday,

December **22** and **23**

7:30 p.m.

\$10 advance tickets required, available at the lodge

The Yule Log Services are lovely evenings at The Center, featuring Christmas carols, scripture, stories, and a variety of old-fashioned traditions. The highlight of each service is the lighting of the huge log and the opportunity for each participant to throw his or her own twig into the fire, symbolizing a fresh start for the new year. Special music will be provided both

nights by pianist Lori Moreland, and on Sunday by The Center Youth Choir and Ensemble. Dave Sanders will lead both evenings, which will also include fractured Christmas Carols by the staff "Elfcats" and the reading of the Christmas Story from Luke 2 by Rev. Chris Hopkins. The Yule Log Service is a night of warm fellowship, good cheer, and Christmas spirit.

The Yule Log Service is a very popular event at The Center. In order to make the experience both wonderful and safe, we do have an attendance limit for each night. The tickets are actually name tags, so that they can be worn at the Yule Log Service. We encourage you to get your nametag-tickets early to insure your place in this wonderful and traditional Christmas evening.



CENTER CINEMA

Film Classics Shared and Discussed

A Serious Man (2009) The Coen Brothers, 106m

Friday December 7th, 6:30 - 9 pm

Michael Stuhlbarg plays Larry Gopnick, an everyman—or is he Job? Joel and Ethan Coen mold this darkly comic story of a life coming apart at the seams into a weighty study of Judaism, tradition, and family. Lively discussion to follow. We'll bring popcorn. Free, but please give a call if you're coming—Center Cinema has been very well-attended lately.



WOMANTALK NEW YEAR'S EVE BRUNCH!

Monday, Dec 31, 10 a.m. – noon

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" and other books. The focus of Womantalk is on learning to live authentically, joyfully, simply, and gratefully. A free-will donation will be collected for a women's charity. Please call to reserve a spot for brunch!

OTHER PROGRAMS COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR (please pre-register after December 15):

TUESDAY LUNCHEON, Jan 8: Be the Best You Can Be! Guided Imagery with Carole Wilson

EMERSON HILL: Jan 13, "Letters from Lebanon," a 2-women play by Carol Stoub and Marthyann Brandt

REIKI resumes Sunday, January 27, 5:30 p.m.

JAZZ TRATTORIA, Sunday, Feb 10, with Darlene Baresch and musicians, and a 5 course Italian dinner. (registration after January 1st)

RETREATS AT THE CENTER:

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS RETREAT: *Preparing Our Hearts and Our Hearths for Christmas*

Friday and Saturday, November 30 and December 1, 5 pm to 5 pm

Just before Advent, we gather for a weekend of Christmas creativity with baskets of pinecones, red felt, chocolate candy, evergreen branches, and more.

We invite you to our very popular 19th annual women's Christmas Retreat, which will focus on preparing not just our homes, but also our hearts for the holidays. Featuring Christmas crafts and gourmet treats, fireside fellowship, and time for reflection, this women's retreat is always a wonderful way to get in the spirit of the season. Retreat leaders: April Schabes and Lois Lauer

Retreat Fee: \$116, includes leadership, 3 meals, accommodations, and retreat supplies.



2013 WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT: *Simple Indulgence: Healthy Self-Care*

Friday, January 25, 5 p.m. – Saturday, January 26, 5 p.m.

Led by Donna Desai, with Lois Lauer, Carolyn Redding, and Jan Sylkatis

A weekend to pamper yourself, body and soul. Therapist Donna Desai will lead us in exploring the whys and ways of healthy self care, while wardrobe coach Carolyn Redding helps us figure out how to look our best, and massage therapist Jan Sylkatis how to feel our best! Friday evening we'll enjoy group sessions with the leaders, while Saturday will include lots of time for individual massages, wardrobe consulting, and speaking personally with Donna, plus time for reflection, fellowship, journaling, collaging, walks in the winter woods, and fun! Cost per participant is \$116 which includes leadership, accommodations, meals, and all major supplies. Individual sessions cost additional fees, (30min/\$30 or 15 min/\$15) paid directly to Jan or Carolyn. Longer massages available Friday afternoon by appointment. *Early Registration is advised!*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

FROM THE EIGHTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

This past November 11th The Center celebrated eighty years of growth and dedication to the spirit of love and service. We have continually focused on and honed that mission so thoughtfully laid out eighty years ago by our founder Rev. Paul T. Sanders. Sandy dreamed of a place which as he put it, would be "A sanctuary that exemplifies selfless love, beauty, harmony and brotherhood." I see that every day here in the actions of our fellowship, our volunteers, our men in recovery, our staff, and our board of trustees. There is bountiful love, compassion and empathy towards one another. There are acts of kindness and grace that warm our hearts and rekindle our faith in the goodness of people. There is also tremendous beauty in the cycle of nature, the changing of the seasons, the forest and farmland. And there is untold beauty in the hearts and minds of all who partake here. I have always felt part of a strong brotherhood at The Center...where if I made a mistake or had a bad day...there would be many who would pick me up and dust me off and say "It's ok, we love you anyway." That is perhaps my most cherished trait of this organization and fellowship. We give people room and inspiration to grow. Our fellowship has this uncanny spirit of "catching people doing something right!" This feeling, this vision is essential to our success. It is what keeps people coming back and connected here.

The average life-span of a not-for-profit organization is forty years. The average life-span of a church is seventy years. We are now at eighty years and still going strong. Our success is not because of an expert CEO or a large endowment fund. Our success lies in a harmony amongst our fellowship, our staff and volunteers. Each plays a critical role here. There is an overlying vision of what The Center stands for that is shared by all of us - a place that is guided by the teachings of love and service. The Center is a place where you can find some peace, an anchor in our ever-changing world. We do our best to promote growth and give room to grow. Most importantly, I feel we are exceptional in allowing people to heal – to overcome setbacks, to start over if necessary. Here is a place you can do that with a fellowship that has your back. We have witnessed this so many times. Scott Hone in our fellowship corner recently wrote "When I first came to The Center I was lonely, tired and very angry. I met the kindest people here, volunteers, staff and visitors. These people and The Center changed my life, helped me make the person I am today. I'm fortunate to be able to come back a lot and plan to do so often." Scott's words warm my heart. These words make so many things worth the effort...but Scott's words are not unique. They are shared by so many people of all ages and walks of life who found new beginnings here.

The Center is an oasis where children can learn and grow through a nature-based preschool, summer camp programs, Junior Farmers with Miss Kay, 4H and art programs. Adults can learn and grow through our many retreats and luncheon programs, spiritual programs, meditation, vespers services and art programs. There are Christmas teas, wildflower walks, festivals, barn dances, pumpkin picking and shearing sheep. Even the fellowship and camaraderie of running a huge rummage sale is awesome. We do an amazing amount of activities in a year and could not do them without you!

The words of our mission statement have changed throughout the years – but not the original intent. The Center's mission is to give people of all faiths, backgrounds, and ages the space to dream, grow and become fully alive – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We have a wonderful place and the fellowship to do just that! I thank each and every one of you for making The Center what it is today. It has been an honor for me to be a part of this magnificent dream that still unfolds.

Wishing you the Merriest of Christmas' and a Happy and Joy-Filled New Year!



David F. Sanders
Executive Director
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 travel, nature, art, book reviews, personal growth, world affairs, spirituality, or other topics of interest. Cost is \$16. Please make reservations by the Sunday before the luncheon.

Reminder about the last of the November luncheons!

Tuesday Nov 27: Fair Trade Bazaar/Mayaworks!

Join us at our 8th annual Fair Trade Bazaar and luncheon where Jeanne Balanca of Mayaworks will talk about the work of her organization in supporting the artisans of the Guatemalan highlands through education, microloans, and fair trade wages for the products. **Both before and after the luncheon, from**

11:30 am to 2 pm, you will be able to shop for Fair Trade products.....meaning you'll be helping to give a fair wage to farm and craft workers in developing countries. Shop for chocolate, coffee, baskets, ornaments, jewelry, and more....buy some beautiful and meaningful Christmas presents...be a part of "shopping that makes a difference!"



Tuesday, December 4:

The Christmas Crèche—from St. Francis to the Children's Farm

Center Program Director Lois Lauer will share the story of how St. Francis began the tradition of reenacting the story of Christmas, and then she'll be joined by Chris Hopkins and several other members of The Center's staff to stage our own reenactment of Bethlehem right here in the Great Hall of the Lodge (with a real donkey and sheep!). Several beautiful examples of porcelain and wood nativity sets will be on display. If you have a nativity set to add to the display, please let us know when you register for the luncheon.

Tuesday, December 11: A Mary Engelbreit Christmas Party!

Pauline Myrick will share her love and passion about all things Mary Engelbreit, beloved folk artist well known for her polka dotted children and checkered borders. Accompanied by photos of her whimsical artwork and stories of her life, Mary Engelbreit will be celebrated by Pauline, who will also bring her significant collection of Mary Engelbreit cards, calendars, books, and more to display. Of course the day will focus on Mary Engelbreit's Christmas drawings and traditions, including some favorite Christmas carols and readings. We'll begin by dining on recipes from her cookbooks and with the help of our own folk artist April Schabes, end in the log cabins with some Mary Engelbreit-like crafts.



Tuesday, December 18: Concert of Christmas Music

Join us for a delightful afternoon of both classical and popular Christmas music by flutist Denise LaGiglia and pianist Joe Gonzales. We'll begin with a special Christmas luncheon and then enjoy the joy and spirit of beautiful Christmas music on the flute and piano, and even have a chance to sing along on some favorite carols.

NO LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 25 or JANUARY 1

SHOPPING EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS? Consider these gifts that benefit the recipient AND The Center!

- ★ A gift certificate to an art class, retreat, summer camp, annual family farm pass, or other Center program
- ★ Bring a friend or give tickets to a Christmas tea, luncheon, or dinner
- ★ Make a gift to The Center in honor of someone you love
- ★ Donate animal food and supplies at the Holiday Trim-a-Tree party at the farm on Dec 8th
- ★ Shop at the Fair Trade Luncheon on Nov. 27
- ★ Shop at the Fellowcrafters Gift Shop...often!
- ★ Shop on The Center's eBay site: <http://stores.ebay.com/The-Shop-at-The-Center-Palos-Park>



Meditation: Attending the Silence

Every Tuesday *evening*, 5:30 pm- 6:00 pm in the parlor.

Every Monday and Thursday *morning* 9:00 am-9:30 am in the parlor.

Please join Chris Hopkins for a 20 minute period of silent meditation each week.

Come whenever you are able.

Gather Round the Table

Sunday evening, December 2nd, 6:00 pm in the parlor. 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!

Christmas Eve Children's Service

3:00 pm Saturday, December 24th.

This service will be held in the Anderson Center (on the east side of Southwest Highway).

All families with younger children are invited! We will celebrate Jesus' birthday with a real birthday cake, read the Christmas story and sing a Christmas carol or two. Each child is asked to bring a "birthday present" for baby Jesus by picking out a can of food to be donated to the Palos Township Emergency Food Pantry.

Pilgrimage to the Manger

Saturday, December 15th and Sunday, December 16th at 6 pm

Our pilgrimage has been so popular we have decided to offer the pilgrimage on both Saturday and Sunday! As always, we will don Judean head scarves in the Lodge in order to follow Mary and Joseph on their pilgrimage to the manger. Bring warm coats, mittens, etc., for the walk across the bridge to the farm. The shepherds with their sheep and the Magi on horseback will join us on the pilgrimage. The Rev. Chris Hopkins will lead us in scripture and carols, as we each experience again the Miracle of that first Christmas. It is truly a special night for both children and adults. Reservations are required as we will accept a maximum of 100 people per pilgrimage. Please reserve your spot for either evening as early as possible! *A free will donation is greatly appreciated.* All proceeds support the mission of the Center.

Coming in January, 2013!

3M Mornings for families each Sunday morning: 11:00 am-12:00 pm

We live in a fast paced, very busy world! Much is being written about how all of our activity and all of our technology is affecting our physical, emotional and spiritual health. Much is also being written about the positive affects of meditation and mindfulness practices for adults *and* children. **3M** (Meditation, Mindfulness and Miracles) **mornings** are designed for families to meditate together and do a 'mindful' activity together. On the first Sunday of the month, those who are new to meditation are invited to come at 9:30am for instruction prior to 3M. *Registration is required for the instruction session only.* Questions may be directed to Chris Hopkins: 361-3650.

Monday Morning Book Club January 14 10:00-11:45 am

This month's selection is the true story: *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom.

According to the back cover: "...[it is] a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story." Albom is a wonderful writer best known for the international best sellers *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. *Registration is requested and a free will donation is greatly appreciated!*

Our Center Singers' CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. (as the Vespers services)

The season of Advent begins on December 2nd and Center Singers will offer a *Christmas Cantata* during Vespers. A cantata is a musical telling of the Christmas story. It is a beautiful way to begin a very holy season. Please join us!

ADVENT CHAPEL SERVICES

This year, Advent begins on December 2nd. Our beloved Wayside Chapel takes on the special beauty of the season during the season of Advent. Adorned with greenery and candlelight, the Chapel is especially welcoming. With song and prayer we reflect upon the stories of Christmas.

The themes for each week are:

- December 2nd** Christmas Cantata
- December 9th** The birth of Jesus of Nazareth
- December 16th** The Coming of the Shepherds
- December 23th** The Coming of the Magi
- December 24th** **Children's Service at 3:00 p.m.**
(in the Great Hall of the **Anderson Center**)



Candlelight Communion Service at 4:30 p.m. only (in the Great Hall of The Lodge)

Please note that there will only be one adult service on Christmas Eve and no services on Christmas Day.

What a beautiful way to begin your Christmas celebrations! All are truly welcome!

Holiday Trim-a-Tree Party

Featuring Christmas Carols from Local Youth Percussion Ensemble, Flam and Cheese

Saturday, December 8th, 1pm to 3pm

Our Holiday Trim-a-Tree party will focus on getting our farm Holiday ready! Children will spend time making several 'wildlife friendly' tree ornaments, decorating our outdoor tree, and bringing some Christmas spirit to our farm animals. Our animals will all be awaiting visitors and holiday refreshments will be served as we enjoy the musical entertainment of Flam and Cheese, a local youth percussion Ensemble.

- 1:00-1:45 Craft Making
- 1:45-2:15 Decorate Tree & Visit Animals
- 2:00-3:00 Refreshments and Musical Entertainment
from Flam and Cheese, a local youth percussion ensemble

In lieu of an admission fee, we are asking guests to bring a Christmas gift from our Animal Wish List.



- ◆ DuraFlex Rubber Feed Pan – 3 and 6 ½ Gallon Sizes
- ◆ Chicken Mash – 50 lb bags
- ◆ Oats – 50 lb bags
- ◆ Small Pet Bowls – Stainless Steel Preferred
- ◆ Horse lead ropes – Poly or Cotton
- ◆ Grooming Brushes – Curry Combs, Hard Bristle brushes, soft bristle brushes, Mane and tail brushes
- ◆ Horse Halters – Pony, small horse, and average horse sizes
- ◆ 5 Gallon Flat Back buckets
- ◆ Plastic Stall Pitch Forks
- ◆ Deep Trough Metal Wheelbarrows
- ◆ Industrial, Rubber Hose – 3/4 "X 50 Ft
- ◆ Agrimaster Poly-Tuf Structural Foam Stock Tank – 50-150 Gallon sizes

***All of the above items can be found at Blain's Farm and Fleet in Kankakee, IL – 815.933.3244
All animal feeds and pet supplies can be found at Ludwig's Feed in Lemont, IL – 603.257.3097***



A message from our Chairman of the Board:

I do not feel that I am qualified to be writing this letter. To be perfectly honest, I have always been uncomfortable asking people for money--I told Dave that when he asked me to join the board. A few years later, when he asked me to be chairman, it became my duty to write this letter. What I *am* qualified to do is write about something I believe in, and that is the programs and people of The Center.

I am sure that The Center would love to be in a position not to ask for money. However, for The Center, fundraising is very important. We all should remember that most months here expenses outpace income, and as a result, The Center has always been dependent on individual contributions.

I have heard many, many times over the years that people do not want to contribute to pay for fuel oil. That means it is hard to get donations for the day-to-day things that are essential to run any organization. It is much easier to raise money for a sick horse or to build a new Pathway bathroom, but the essentials still have to be taken care of.

In this season of giving, I would like to ask you to support The Center in the way you deem most appropriate. I would encourage you to support The Center because you believe in its mission, programs and people. We depend on the generous contributions of all of you.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!



Andy Maricle
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Farm and Nature Discovery Preschool

November was a great month as we celebrated family, friendships and love with Grandparents' Day and Thanksgiving. For our special grandparents' celebration, we sang songs, wore special apple stamped tee-shirts, presented them with gifts we made using materials from nature, and showed off our nature banners that we hung in the Great Hall for all to enjoy. These were fun class projects that we all did.

Also this month, we gathered all our classes together to have a Thanksgiving feast, complete with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. The kids were encouraged to try everything on their plate.

We also had a special visitor come in and perform a skit to help the kids understand what Thanksgiving is all about.

Next month, we will be celebrating the holidays and winter with our theme entitled "Winter Wonderland." We will be outdoors hopefully enjoying snowflakes and looking for animal tracks in the snow.

We sold coffee as a fundraiser to make money to give to the farm for hay for the horses. We thank all of our parents for all you do for us, including your generous contributions of food to our grandparents' day and our feast.

It is not too late for your child to attend our program. There are available spots. Please contact Kristin at (708) 361-8933 if you would like information.



Fellowcrafters Gift Shop: Great Christmas gifts!



Once upon a time people gave one another gifts which they had made themselves. It's certainly a nice thought, but so many of us are too busy these days or don't know how to create homemade items. Well, we have the perfect solution: you can learn how to make so many lovely things in our Art classes and come to shop in our Fellowcrafters Gift Shop located in the Main Lodge of The Center. About 20 ladies produce a variety of items---all by hand—and then donate them to our shop. At Christmas time we call ourselves the elvettes, and we have been very busy creating floral arrangements, wreaths, mini Christmas trees, ornaments ranging from hand stitched snowmen to crocheted angels and snowflakes and so much more! You will find gifts for everyone on your list: cozy, hand knit hats, mittens, headbands, scarves, cowls, neck warmers, slippers, baby sweaters and booties.

We have our crocheted necklaces in brand new colors. There are even reusable cloth sacks to make gift giving easy and eco-friendly. To accompany your gift, there are whimsical, one-of-a-kind cards. For the Santas who will be stuffing stockings, we have the most clever items: mini tissues in handmade covers, checkbook covers, secret wallets, ribbon bookmarks, bottles of hot sauce dressed in tiny ponchos and sombreros, miniature walnut snowmen magnets, holders for playing cards, Bingo buddies, weather forecasters, and so many more. For your holiday entertaining, don't forget the table runners, dishcloths, and towels. Of course, every item is lovingly handmade, and all proceeds benefit The Center, so you will be giving a gift twice! **We are also offering gift certificates this year.** What a perfect way to introduce someone to The Center and to our shop. We hope you will stop in soon. All of the Fellowcrafters wish you and yours a very cozy and Merry Christmas!

Also in the Gift Shop: NEW 2013 CALENDARS and "A Taste of The Center" Cookbooks.

And on the front porch and lawn of the lodge: Handmade wooden reindeer and Christmas Wreaths!

NEWLY ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the November 11th Annual Meeting, the following people were elected to the Board of Trustees of The Center for a term of three years. Please give them a warm welcome.

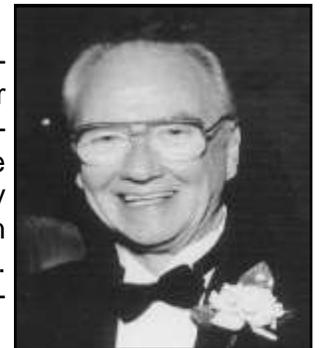
Ken Linderborg is a life-long resident of the Southwest Suburbs – growing up in Oak Lawn and then as an adult, moving to Palos Park in 1987. Ken attended Richards High School and then went on to Illinois State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He has been involved in a family business since a teen and now owns Oak Steel Supply Company, a steel service center in Chicago Ridge. Additionally, Ken and his wife, Marty, own the Great Harvest Bread Company here in Palos Park. Ken, Marty, and their three children, Susan, Jenny, and Karen, have been active at The Center for a number of years as the girls became involved in the farm, 4H, and many other activities. Ken previously has served on our board for more than eight years, two of those as President. In addition to service at The Center, Ken serves on the governing board of the First United Methodist Church of Oak Lawn.



Aleida Netzel and her family are long-time friends of The Center. Aleida currently works for Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services (CARPLS), a legal aid hotline in Cook County. She is married to Mark Netzel and they have two children, Andrew and Anthony. Mark is a doctor who heads up the emergency room at Palos Community Hospital. Their oldest son Andrew graduated from West Point and is now a 1st Rank Lieutenant currently flying Blackhawk Helicopters in Afghanistan. Anthony is a senior at DePaul University. Aleida also volunteers at Operation Support our Troops – America, the South Cook County 4H Association, and many hours here at The Center. She came to The Center when her boys were little. They enjoyed Junior Farmers with Miss Kay and then went on into the 4H program. Aleida says “The Center keeps me sane because it’s so peaceful. When I am here I forget I have to come home

and make dinner!”

Eugene Bruce is being nominated for his first three-year term on the Board of Trustees. A long-time friend and supporter of The Center, this will be Gene’s fourth “tour of duty” on the Board of Trustees! He and his wife Billie are long-time residents of Palos Heights. Gene is retired from Draper and Kramer, Inc. of Chicago where he served as Senior Vice-President. He has been very active in our larger community serving on the board of the Illinois Mortgage Bankers Association, South Suburban Builders Association, and long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Palos Heights. Gene brings much experience to the board having been Past President, Past Treasurer, and having given many, many hours of volunteer service to The Center.



Penny Wills is being nominated for her first three-year term on the Board of Trustees. Penny has lived in Palos Park since 1985 and became acquainted with the Children’s Farm (and Miss Kay) around ‘87. Her younger daughter, Sarah, attended farm camp and fell in love with the horses at the farm. Because of this interest, Sarah became one of the first members and Penny a co-leader of the 4-H horse club. The friendships made during these years are still cherished. After a few years involved with 4-H and the activities of the farm, Penny “moved” from that side of the road to the lodge side. She started singing with the Center Singers and for weddings, being the director for the past 10 years. She absolutely loves the Center Singers’ “family.” Penny retired from teaching at AERO Special Education Cooperative in 2009 having taught adapted physical education. Her undergrad degree was from Bowling Green University with a Masters in Kinesiology from UIC. She has held office in the professional organization ICAAPE and made several presentations at various educational conventions and workshops in the state. Penny has two married daughters, Marie and Sarah; son-in-laws Don and Scott; and three grandchildren – Ellie, Anthony, and Gabby. As a family they all enjoy the activities of The Center, especially the Farm’s Fall Festival and Easter Egg Roundup. The serenity and friends Penny has here at The Center continue to be an important part of her life. She is honored to be a part of the Board and looks forward to making a contribution to the Board of Trustees and The Center’s continued growth.



Drawing
by
Lois Hrejsa
2012

Express Your Creative Spirit at
THE LOG CABIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park
708-361-3650 www.thecenterpalos.org/artclasses.html
Classes and workshops for adults and children in fine arts and folk arts
DECEMBER 2012

Most of the autumn art classes are in their final few weeks before the Christmas break. However, there are a few late November and early December holiday workshops (see descriptions below). We also include a tentative list of starting dates for January and February classes. The complete January-February Schedule will be available at The Center by mid-December and will be published in the January newsletter and on the website. Join us for an opportunity to express your creative spirit! Preregistration is always required for art classes so that teachers can prepare.

EVERGREEN WREATHS!

A circle of fresh greens for Christmas!

Instructor: George Mitchell

Monday evening, November 26, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Let professional floral designer George Mitchell help you create a beautiful fresh balsam fir wreath complete with pine cones and a red velvet bow, just in time for the Christmas holidays. Class Fee: \$10.50 plus \$10 materials fee (Bring pruners)

CHRISTMAS GOURDCRAFT!

*Create holiday gourd ornaments, holly gourds, or birdhouses**

Instructor: Karen Caldwell (www.picturetrail.com/karencaldwell)

Mon, Dec 3, 1 – 3:30 or 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Transform dried gourds into marvelous holiday decorations with acrylic paints, pigment inks, glazes, and a protective coat for a finishing touch.

Class Fees: \$18 plus \$15 materials fee

*Early registration is necessary in order for Karen to have your gourd type or size ready for you.

** HAVE AN UNFINISHED GOURD FROM A PREVIOUS CLASS? Come between 3:30 and 6:30 to burn a design, add a rim, or other embellishments. Register as a Follow-up student. Follow-Up Class Fee: \$6.50 per hour plus \$5 materials fee.

KIDS' AND TEENS' POTTERY HOLIDAY WORKSHOP!

A creative and fun way to spend your holiday break!

(for grades 4 through 12!)

Instructor: Laura Milkert

Friday, December 28 and January 4, 4-5:30 p.m.

Join former camp director Laura Milkert for a creative pottery workshop. We'll hand-build the objects from clay on Dec 28, and return to glaze with sparkling colors on Jan 4. The pottery will be ready for pickup after being glaze-fired in the kiln in January.

Class Fee: \$21 (includes glazing session) plus a \$5 material and kiln fee

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.

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR JANUARY ART CLASSES DEC 15.
CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE TODAY!

*Win-Win 10% discounts available for students who register by Jan 15
for 3 consecutive sessions, January through May.*

STARTING DATES FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013 ART CLASSES:

KIDS' ART! Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.
TEEN POTTERY with Heather Young, Monday, January 7, 6 p.m.

ADULT CLASSES:

PAPER-CRAFTS with Ann Fowler, Tuesday morning, February 26, 9:30 a.m.

POETRY with MaryAnn Grzych, starts Friday, January 4, 9:15 p.m. then 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

CALLIGRAPHY with Marge Boyd, Monday, January 7, 1 p.m.

PEN AND INK DRAWING with Lois Hrejsa, Thursday, January 10, 9 a.m.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING with Lenox Wallace, Wed or Thurs,
January 9 or 10, 6:30 p.m. , or with Lois Hrejsa, Thursday January 10, 1 p.m.

STONEWARE POTTERY with Karen Stasky, Thursday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.

WOODCARVING with Keith Miller, Wed, January 9, 6:30 p.m. or
Thurs January 10, 9 a.m.

COLLAGE with April Schabes, Monday (level 1) and Wednesday (level 2),
January 7 and 9, 9:30 a.m.

PAPERMAKING with Marilyn VandenBout, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., date TBA

BASKETMAKING with Ann Fowler, Thurs, Feb 7, 9:30 a.m.
or with Jane Dwyer, Thurs, Jan 10, 6:30 p.m.

QUILTING with Denise Dulzo, Wednesday, January 9, 1 p.m.

WEAVING with Nettie Botts, Wednesday, January 9, 9:30 a.m.

LAPIDARY with Larry Rothenberg, Monday, January 7, 9 a.m.
or with Sharon Byrne, Wednesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

SILVER JEWELRY with Dan Snyder and Dave Sanders, Tuesday, January 15, 2 p.m.
and 6:30 p.m.

STAINED GLASS with Harry Meneghini, Monday January 7, 6:30 p.m.

MANDALAS with Robin Neumann, Wednesday afternoons, beginning in February

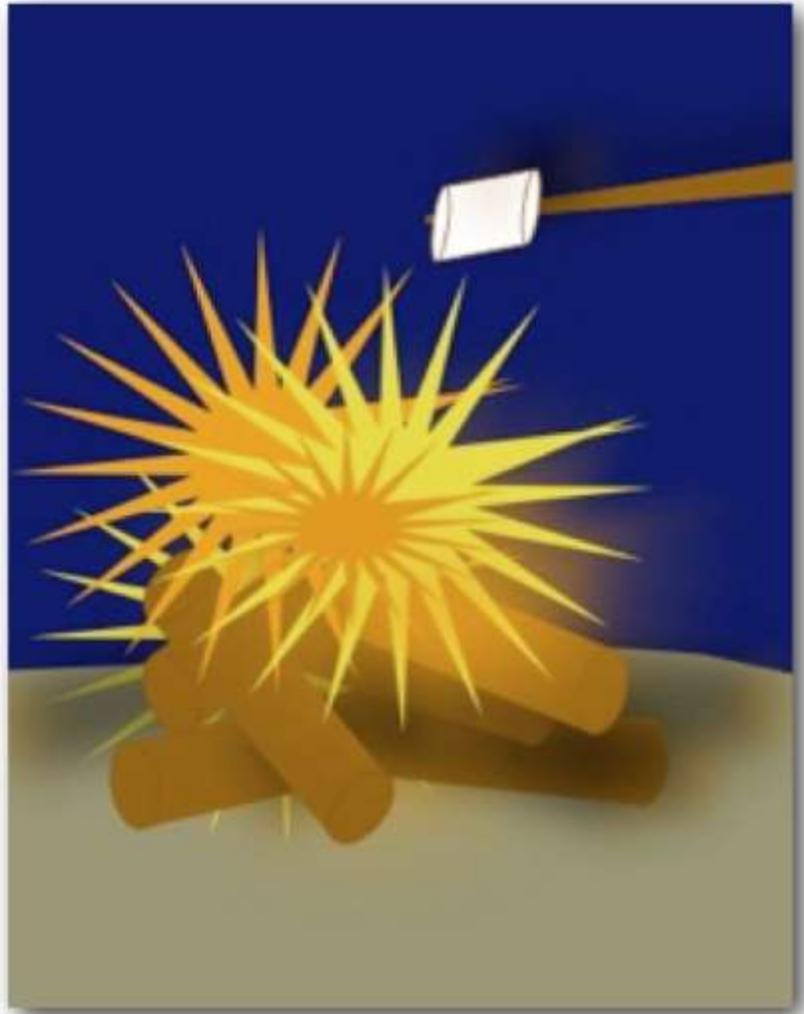
ARTIST WAY GROUPS with Robin Neumann (level 1) Thursdays 10-12 a.m.
and with Linda Whittaker (level 2) Tuesdays 9:45- 11:45 a.m. beginning in February.



SAVE THE DATE!

SAVE THE DATE!

SAVE THE DATE!



A Night to Linger, 2013

A fundraiser to help more children
experience summer camp

Thursday, February 21st, 7.00pm

Admission \$10

At Hackney's, Palos Park for the 4th straight year!

More great prizes! Please save the date!



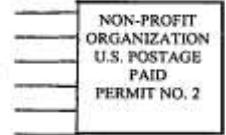
Fellowship Corner: Sarah Turek

My name is Sarah Turek and I have been a member of the Center for about a year and a half. Chris Hopkins brought me to this amazing place. She had asked me to sing for the Holy Thursday service. I had no idea of what The Center was all about. I was both excited and nervous to come and sing. As I was rehearsing the music before the service, a board fell out of the ceiling and **hit me on the head. Gratefully I wasn't hurt, and I had a really good laugh** and was told not let that deter me from coming back. Well I am so glad that I did not.

Currently, I am a soloist for both Vespers and Weddings. I have learned that the Center is an amazing place. I absolutely love singing here and I am truly blessed to be a part of The Center. Everyone I have met here has added to my life. I keep spreading the word of this hidden treasure. Thank you for welcoming me and letting me be a part of this wonderful experience that is The Center.

We appreciate your talent, and are grateful you decided to stay! Our programs here at The Center would not be as successful without talented people involved, including yourself. We look forward to hearing you sing at many more of our programs! The Center Staff





The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, IL 60464
708-361-3650

<http://www.thecenterpalos.org>
email: centerpalospark@sbcglobal.net



Wishing you the blessings and joys of Christmas
And a New Year filled with happiness!
The Center Staff