



December 2024

The Center



Community Center Foundation

"A place for celebration, enrichment and healing"

(708) 361-3650

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

"It's not Christmas if..."

Even though the Christmas message of God's love gift to the world is timeless, every year I like to look for new ways for us to celebrate Jesus' birth creatively. Writing the December lead for our Newsletter is no different, and that's why I was so excited to discover Ruth Boling's new book, Season's Greetings: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There.

The author introduces her book by asking her readers to finish this sentence, "It's not Christmas if"... It's not Christmas if it doesn't snow. It's not Christmas until we place Jesus in the manger on Christmas morning. Everyone would probably answer that question a little differently because our expectations determine what meaning we give to Christmas as to whether it's a blessing or a disappointment.

What I love about Ruth's perspective is that she resists the notion that there is only one true meaning to Christmas. Each chapter of her book takes the form of a letter written to 21st C. readers by one of the Biblical characters involved in the Christmas story. Each letter tackles the subject, "What Christmas means to me" from a different perspective.

For our Advent Vesper Services, I plan on selecting several of these chapters to be presented, so that you have an opportunity to sort out for yourselves what Christmas means to you personally.

So you get a taste of what this might look like, here's a sample from one of the letters, a question for reflection, and a journaling prompt. I am a firm believer that experience is the best teacher, especially when it comes to hearing the Holy Spirit for yourselves. May this Christmas be a wonder-full encounter with God's Presence of Love, and may it birth in you a sense of hope for the changes your heart desires and a joy that your soul yearns to feel.

A Letter from Jesus:

Dear Beloved One, This is a love letter. And here is a love poem: "Roses are red, violets are blue. The meaning of Christmas is, "I love you."

Did I make you laugh? Or at least groan? Good! Now that I have your attention, I want you to know that I am dead serious. This is a love letter - from Me to you... Forever yours, Jesus.

Reflection Question:

What's the difference between Christmas being on our agenda versus Christmas setting our agenda.

Journaling Prompt:

Write your own letter to Jesus. What do you want Him to know about where you are in your relationship with Him? In what ways do you want His help to grow in new ways next year?

This Christmas is a gift waiting to be received. Stay open to what God wants to speak to your heart, and as Ruth Boling says, "Watch for divine grace to meet human longing in yourself, in others, in communities, and in the world."

Nancy M. Nemeth

AN ACT OF FAITH

This November 10th The Center will be celebrating its ninety-second year. I always like to share with you what happened in the early days because I think it is important as to who we are. In November of 1932 Reverend Paul Sanders, his wife Elizabeth, and their two sons, Frank and Paul moved into a rustic one-room cabin on nine acres of cow pasture here in the woods of Palos. Ernest Warner had donated the land, and the wood for the cabin came from an old girl scout camp in the woods. There was no electricity, no indoor plumbing, only a wood burning stove to heat and cook on. In my grandparent's eyes, this was to be an act of faith; faith in the miracle of God's love, selfless love, in the goodness of the human spirit, and the acceptance of all. All people were welcome here. It did not matter who you were, where you came from, or what you had done, good or not so good. What mattered every day to Granddad was that those who came here experienced the goodness of humanity, God's love, and the wonder and awe of God's beautiful and magnificent creation. If one could realize that, feel that, and live that even just for a day...why then love, peace and harmony could reign over the most insurmountable of troubles and wrongs. This was not an organization... rather a movement, an experiment in faith, a vision.

This seed planted ninety-two years ago could have withered away. Many do just that. Some of the best plans, hopes and dreams, grand ideas, go unrealized for any number of reasons. There were many times over the last ninety-two years The Center could have failed. However, even in the toughest of times people who came here seeking help, seeking faith, seeking an understanding of God's love...found it. To me, that is what has made all the difference in the longevity and success of The Center. It is this fellowship and camaraderie, those in the past who gave so much, and those of you giving here now that are the lifeblood of this place.

Today we are a multi-faceted organization. From a dream and a vision that started in a one-room cabin, we have grown greatly in ministry, fellowship, program and facility. In many ways, we act as an organization now with budgets, finance reports, employee organizational charts, and short and long term planning. All of this is necessary to do what we do. However, in our hearts we must always remember how we began. We were an experiment in faith. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). This was one of Granddad's favorite Bible verses. He and his wife Elizabeth lived this verse. They started here with nothing but a belief and a faith in that idea. Everything that went on here was tailored to that idea; our work with children introducing them to the wonders of God's creation through nature, through compassion and through service, our work with alcoholism and substance abuse in first turning your will and your life over to God, our work in the arts where the heavier emphasis has always been to nurture the creative spirit, being mindful to the beauty around us.

The Center is a place to pause, to pray, to seek peace, and to take notice of God's Kingdom.

There is always a fine line in making things work together to achieve that feeling. Things have to be done. There has to be some order. Certainly, over the years we have become more orderly, more organized. There are many more rules today that there used to be. We are in all practical terms now an organization. But, it is our sincere desire to be so much more. We want to act out of love, compassion, tolerance, and respect. We want to learn together, experience together the beauty and simplicity of God's love and God's magnificent Kingdom. All are welcome here, and this place was built on these sacred premises.

The Board of Trustees and staff of The Center wish to extend to all of you our sincerest thanks. Thank you for making this place a special place. We greatly appreciate your participation in this fellowship and in this ministry. We are grateful for your prayers, your support, and your dedication. We would not be here without you. We look forward to the future of The Center, in the hopes and dreams of this place, in the hopes and dreams of this fellowship working together in love and service.



Spiritual Offerings

SERVICES

Advent begins on Dec.1st this year!

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Parlor

This early Vespers gathering is informal and inviting as we reflect and converse about the true meaning of Christmas. Whether meditating, praying, or reading Scripture, it's a comforting and safe place to listen and participate in the collective wisdom of a small group whose heart is to connect with others and know God more intimately.

Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Our beloved Wayside Chapel takes on the special beauty of the Christmas season as it is decorated with greenery and candlelight. Join us in song and prayer as we celebrate Christ's coming and reflect upon the stories of Christmas.



“The Longest Night”: A Blue Christmas Service

Thursday night at 4:30pm - The Orland Park Presbyterian Church

Last year we began the tradition of hosting a Blue Christmas Service at The Center in conjunction with Pastor Joy and the Orland Park Presbyterian Church. This year Pastors Joy Smith and Nancy Nemeth will co-leading the service at the Presbyterian Church. This is a comforting worship service for those who find Christmas a sad, complicated, and difficult time. It reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World and overcomes the darkness of loss, suffering, and loneliness. Bring a friend to join you.

Advent Vespers with The Center Singers

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 12:30pm Vespers in the Chapel

The Advent season would not be the same without The Center Singers sharing their enthusiasm and special songs in hopeful anticipation of the coming Messiah. Please join us! It is a beautiful way to prepare for the birth of Jesus together.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 3pm, join us as we celebrate Jesus' Birth in the Great Hall of The Lodge with candlelight and Communion. If you plan on attending, please register on our website (www.thecenterpalos.org) since seating is limited.

Please Note:

**There will only be one service on Christmas Eve, and
No chapel services on Christmas Day.**

ADDITIONAL SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

MINDFULNESS

Sunday mornings 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)

Mindfulness: the practice of being present to what is with kindness and curiosity. We invite you to come and find the support, guidance, and companionship that you need to be present wherever you are in life. Please contact Dan Morley with any questions you may have at 708-280-3945.

Loving-Kindness Meditation (Metta)

Every Monday - FVR, 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Metta includes a silent meditation, but it is primarily a group prayer for peace in the world beginning with ourselves. Questions may be directed to Peggy Quinn - 773-841-3203.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction (Companionship) is a long time non-denominational practice that offers a person confidential space to reflect on the connection between life and God's presence. A Spiritual Director is trained to listen with compassion and to help navigate through life's challenges from a divine perspective. To make an appointment, call The Center at 708-361-3650, and one of our spiritual directors will return your call to schedule a meeting. The fee is \$30 per session.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The focus for donations hosted by **The Good Seeds Ministry** will be Outerwear Clothing during the winter months. This December, we will collect winter wear such as coats, mittens, and gloves, hats, scarves, etc., Donations may be placed in the large beige wicker box located on the front porch of The Lodge, and they will be distributed to the needy in Chicago.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Nancy by emailing

waysiderev@thecenterpalos.org



Programs

ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND RENEWAL OF VOWS Sunday, December 15

Whether or not you were married in our Wayside Chapel, we invite you to celebrate your Oct., Nov., or Dec. wedding anniversary here at The Center on **Dec. 15th**. Beginning with fellowship in the Great Hall at 4:30pm, enjoy a delicious candlelight dinner followed by a meaningful Renewal of Wedding Vows ceremony in the Chapel. For reservations, please contact our front office at 708-361-3650 to make your payment of **\$110** before Dec. 10th.



THE BOB CRATCHIT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Sunday December 8, 5:15 - 8:15 p.m.

In the tradition of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, we'll feast on 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 \$54 per person and are limited in number. Reservations required. Please reserve early.**

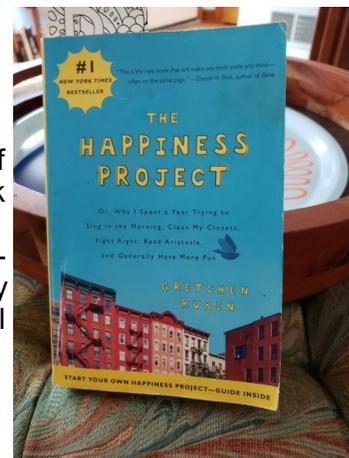
NEW BOOK CLUB beginning Friday January 3, 2025!

Co-leaders: Nancy Crivellone and Kim Callahan-Kelly

Meetings will be held in The Parlor of The Lodge at 10:00am-11:30am.

The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin will be discussed on the first Friday of the month for a year. We will read that month's chapter, discuss what we took away, and share how we are applying it to our lives.

Please get a copy of the book <https://a.co/d/7SQoylq> (Amazon), and read the introduction "Getting Started" by the first meeting. Questions may be directed to Nancy Crivellone by email: **Vince414@comcast.net**. There is no class fee, but a freewill offering for The Center would be greatly appreciated.



CHRISTMAS TEA AROUND THE TREE

A lovely chance to gather with friends or family in the Great Hall of the Lodge, around our beautiful twenty-foot-tall Christmas tree! We will serve you punch and a delicious tea that was grown in our garden, a wide assortment of tea party treats, while a musician plays piano. All guests will have the chance to create their own holiday potpourri to take home, and holiday storytelling will conclude the event.

Christmas Teas will take place on Tuesday, December 10 (This tea is listed within the Tuesday Luncheons and is Noon-2:00), Wednesday December 11, Thursday December 12, Friday December 13 and Saturday December 14, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Event price: \$44 per person



PILGRIMAGE TO THE MANGER

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m.

We start in the Lodge where we will dress with Judean head scarves in order to follow Mary and Joseph on their pilgrimage to the manger. Bring warm coats and mittens 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. Rev. Nancy will lead us in Scripture and carols will be sung as we each experience again the miracle of that First Christmas. It is truly a special night for both children and adults. A free will donation is greatly appreciated. All proceeds support the mission of The Center.

WomanTalk Discussion Group:

Tuesday, December 10th: 10-11:30am

WomanTalk is a gathering of women who meet in the Parlor to nurture each other's personal journeys of creativity and self-discovery. Please note that this month we are meeting on Tuesday, December 10 from 10 am to 11:30. This group is rooted in Sarah Ban Breathnach's book Simple Abundance, and focuses on living authentically, joyfully, simply, and gratefully. We often share reading material from our lives which relates to our spiritual journeys. December's Joyful Simplicities encourage us to put this year's unfinished business aside and write down a list of aspirations for 2025. Sarah encourages us to "celebrate the glorious woman" we are.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB: Learning to Communicate

Wednesday, December 4 & 18, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in improving and practicing your public speaking skills, we invite you to join our supportive group of speechmaking students. We take turns leading the meetings, giving speeches, critiquing speeches, and having fun doing it. We're all in this effort together and would love your participation. For more information, contact Lois Lauer. loislauer@sbcglobal.net



YULE LOG SERVICE In the Great Hall

Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Advanced reservations required.

The Yule Log Service is a lovely evening at The Center, featuring Christmas carols, Scripture, stories, and a variety of old-fashioned traditions. The highlight of this service is the lighting of the huge Yule log and the opportunity for each participant to add his or her own twig into the blazing fire, symbolizing a fresh start for the New Year. Group singing, a reading of Christmas Scripture from Luke 2, and the "Night Before Christmas" poem creatively told by Megan Wells make the Yule Log Service a night of warm fellowship, good cheer, and Christmas spirit. Though there is no fee for this year's

Yule Log Service, we would appreciate you RSVP'ing so that we are prepared with enough refreshments for our fellowship gathering following the service. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful Christmas celebration!

Sign up at https://thecenterpalos.org/Yule_log-rsvp-2024/

Farm and Nature Discovery School



We are wrapping up our fall season and rapidly heading into winter. This December is a quick month for us! We will be learning all about Winter Holiday Traditions as we prepare for Christmas and Winter Break. Winter brings many celebrations from different cultures and what an exciting topic to learn about and explore!

We will start off by exploring family traditions in our classrooms to see how our friends celebrate holidays in their homes. We are looking forward to learning about our students' family traditions while finding similarities and differences among them. Every family and every celebration look a little differently and how interesting that can be!

We will also be looking at holiday traditions from around the world. We will explore traditions in Germany, Mexico, The Philippines, Sweden, India and more! While exploring other cultures, we can learn to respect what and how others celebrate during this time.

We will be having our Live Nativities for our families right before our Winter Break! Each session will choose a Mary and Joseph to lead out the angels and wise men to the manger. After singing a few songs for our families, we will all join and celebrate together with coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies!

We are excited to open up enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year in January for current families and in February for the public! We will also do a new, private priority registration process for new families in late January. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about our school, or would like to set up a tour,

I, Danielle Bell, can be contacted at 708-361-8933 or email me at FarmandNature@TheCenterPalos.org.

Rustic Holiday Market and Art Show

Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for this huge art show spread throughout the main lodge and art cabins. Do your Christmas Shopping here at The Center! Our art teachers and students will have a wide variety of fine art and holiday crafts for sale. The Fellowcrafters gift shop will be stocked in the Great Hall. SAGE, our sustainable agriculture program, will be selling meat and farm goods as well! And of course, we will have our popular log reindeer for sale.



Luncheons

run from noon until 2 p.m., cost \$36 per person, and offer a delicious meal and the best in entertainment and educational programming.

[Please note: The December 10 Christmas Tea is also listed also with the other Christmas Teas in this newsletter and online, and has different pricing than the standard luncheons.



Tuesday, December 3

“Mindfulness for the Holidays” with Dan and Sharon Morley

The holidays are coming! Don't get caught overwhelmed !Let go of the anxiety! We can face the holidays with a little love and patience. Bring the joy of the season to the present moment. A mindfulness practice can help. Join Dan and Sharon Morley for a mindful presentation on breathing your way through the holidays, one step at a time.

Tuesday December 10, Christmas Tea Around the Tree

Everyone knows the Nutcracker Ballet. But do you know the folklore behind it? Come hear Storyteller Megan Wells spin the magic story behind one of our most treasured Christmas ballets. The tea luncheon will be our luncheon style buffet meal. All guests will have the chance to make their own blend of Holiday potpourri. Event price: \$44



Tuesday, December 17 “A Live Indoor Nativity”

Come join us for this special luncheon, as we'll have live animals and characters in costume played by our fellowship and staff. You won't want to miss this spiritual, sacred, and tender narrative tradition here at The Center.

DASH FOR DEN, October 20, 2024

To honor Dennis Raber's memory, our good friends Mark and Kathy Raber, Dennis' parents, hosted their 7th Annual “Dash for Den” on October 20th at the Children's Farm. The 5K walk/run intends to raise awareness of the opioid crisis epidemic afflicting our younger generation every single day in this country.

Mark & Kathy's son, Dennis Raber, had a wide array of talents. He was an athlete, a cook and a musician. Compassionate towards animals, Dennis was always looking for ways to help others. But despite these admirable qualities, he struggled with addiction. His battle with opioids ended tragically in February 2018, when he passed away at just 30 years old, following a decade long fight. “We're losing a generation to this disease” Mark exclaims, noting the increasing danger of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, that is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

With around 350 participants, this year's Dash for Den raised over \$40,000 for The Center's Pathway to Sobriety Program. We wish to extend our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to the entire Raber family and to all who participated. If you would like to see drone footage of this event, search “Dash for Den” on YouTube. You can also see clips of it on The Center's 2024 Annual meeting presentation on our website.



Christmas is a wonder-full time of the year at The Center. All decked out with fresh evergreens, including a 20-foot tall balsam fir tree, The Center envelops us in the beauty and meaning of the season. I hope you will have an opportunity to attend a Christmas Tea, or the Bob Cratchit Dinner, or Advent Vespers, or the Pilgrimage or any of the myriad of other opportunities to celebrate in this warm and special season. Please come and let The Center share the light and hope of Christmas with you!

In addition to participating at The Center at Christmas, I hope you will remember The Center in your Christmas generosity during this season of goodwill. I encourage you to express your gratitude and your appreciation of The Center by using the enclosed envelope to respond to our annual Christmas appeal. We depend on the support of you, our fellowship, to continue to provide the wonderful programs and services we offer. Please donate whatever amount you are able, to help The Center continue to heal and enrich the lives of so many. We truly appreciate your faith in our work and your generosity in supporting it.

Wishing you a lovely Christmas season, which we hope will include your participation at The Center and your contribution in gratitude for our programs.

Warmest regards,

[Click here to Donate Now](#)



*Lois Lauer
Chairperson of The Center's Board of Trustees*



Online Store

PURCHASE OUR BEEF, PORK AND EGGS ONLINE!
EASY ORDERING AND PICK-UP!
NEW OPTIONS ADDED FREQUENTLY!

THE ONLINE STORE CAN BE ACCESSED VIA OUR
WEBSITE WWW.THECENTERPALOS.ORG

All our meat is grown right here at The Children's Farm through our SAGE program. We raise Aberdeen Angus grass-fed and grass-finished cattle and non-GMO fed, pastured Heritage breed hogs.

THE CHILDREN'S FARM AT THE CENTER
12700 SOUTHWEST HWY PALOS PARK, IL
(708) 361-3650
WWW.THECENTERPALOS.ORG



HOLIDAY FARM FUNCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 10-1PM

VISIT THE FARM ANIMALS - TAKE A PHOTO WITH SANTA
ENJOY A HAYRACK RIDE* - COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS SERVED

**\$10 PER PERSON AGES 2+
UNDER 2 YEARS OLD: FREE!
NO ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

THE CHILDREN'S FARM AT THE CENTER
12700 SOUTHWEST HIGHWAY
PALOS PARK, IL 60464
WWW.THECENTERPALOS.ORG

*HAYRACK RIDES ARE WEATHER PERMITTING



December 2024 / January 2025 Art Classes for Children and Teens

CRAFTED CHRISTMAS TREE WALL HANGING Instructor: Corrine Miller

Thursday, December 5, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Workshop fee \$15 plus a \$4 Materials fee

Using sticks students will construct a Christmas tree inspired wall hanging then embellish with a variety of craft supplies to create the ornaments. For students in grades K-8



FAMILY PAINTING WORKSHOP: SNUGGLY BEARS

Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$23 plus a \$7 Materials fee

A class geared towards Moms or caretakers and little ones to have fun completing paintings together. (pricing is for caretaker and 1 or 2 children)

HOLIDAY CERAMICS WORKSHOP FOR TEENS Instructor: Ally Rein

Two-day workshop: Wednesday, December 4 and 11, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$35 plus a \$8 materials fee

Have fun creating ornaments and holiday inspired pieces out of clay! Students will work with clay the first day, and then they will paint and embellish them on the second day of class to take home for the holidays. Open to students in grades 5-12.

KIDS SEWING WORKSHOPS Instructor: Angela Gonzalez, Open to students in 3 - 8th grade

FAMILY CLASS, SEW AN ORNAMENT

Sunday, December 8, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$26 plus a \$6 materials fee

A class for parents or caregivers and children to have fun creating sewn ornaments together, adding trim and embellishments to their creations. Pricing is for parent/ caregiver and one child

CROSSBODY PURSE Sunday, January 5, 10:00-12:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$27 Plus a \$8 Materials fee

Sew your own cross body purse with a lining.



POTTERY FOR TEENS Instructor: Alley Rein

Four Wednesday nights beginning January 8, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$90 Plus a \$22 Materials fee

Students will learn hand-building techniques with clay as well as taking turns on the pottery wheel. Open to students in grades 6 – 12

December 2024 / January 2025 Schedule of Art Classes for Adults

Teens are able to register for most adult classes, please inquire with interest



BOOK ON A LOG WORKSHOP Instructor: Marge Boyd

Thursday, December 5, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$27 plus a \$3 Materials fee

Learn the steps to make a small book (3" by 8"). You'll decorate the pages with dried materials such as petals, leaves and flowers seeds. Paper supplied as well as the branch, some pages can be collaged.

COLLAGE Instructor: April Schabes

Six Wednesday mornings beginning January 8, 9:30 – noon

Class fee: \$150 per session

Experiment with color and composition to create your own mixed-media collages... an opportunity to "play in your own world of artistic expression with a fun and easy art form!"

EMBROIDERED FELT SWAN ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

Instructor: Victoria Baleckaitis

Wednesday, December 18, 10:00-Noon

Workshop fee: \$24 plus a \$4 Materials fee

By using felt and embroidery techniques, you will learn to create this swan ornament.



EXPERIMENTING WITH COLOR Instructor: Barb Thompson

Tuesday, January 14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$24 plus a \$6 Materials fee

Learn about various colored pencils, pastels and papers while creating colorful abstract artworks.

FINGER-KNIT WINTER SCARF WORKSHOP Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Wednesday, December 18, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$27

Create a soft, warm winter scarf using a finger-knitting process. No knitting experience is required. Participants should purchase and bring their own yarn. 1 skein (bundle) of Yarnspirations Bernat Blanket Big yarn is all that is needed to create one scarf. It may be one color or multi-color, and is available at both Michaels and Hobby Lobby. These scarves make perfect holiday gifts!



FOLKART WORKSHOP: CHRISTMAS GARLANDS Instructor: Lois Lauer

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$24 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Bring the scent of Christmas to your home this holiday season, by creating a garland of fresh fir, pine, and cedar. Embellish with pinecones and a bow or two, or three! Your garland will be ready to be hung above a doorway or laid along your mantle or in the center of your dinner table. Could also be folded in half and hung as a swag on your front door. Bring your own pruners.





FOLKART WORKSHOP: MAKE YOUR OWN BROOM! Instructor: Lois Lauer
Saturday, January 11, 9:00-Noon
Workshop fee: \$35 plus a \$12 Materials fee
 With broom corn grown in the farm garden this summer, you'll learn the basic principles of traditional broom-making by creating your own small whisk broom, which will be both functional and decorative!

LAPIDARY Instructor Larry Rothenberg
Six Monday mornings starting January 6, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Or Four Thursday nights starting January 9, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.,
with Instructor: Jackie Burger
Class fee: \$100 per four-week session,
\$150 for six-week session
 Learn the art of rock polishing as you turn rough hunks of rock into beautifully polished gemstones. Create a pair of round or oval stones, and then advance to more complex designs. Stones are not included but can be purchased from our instructor for projects.



METALSMITHING FOR JEWELRY Instructor: Mary Michaelson
Six Tuesday nights, beginning January 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. or
Six Thursday mornings beginning January 9, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: \$155 plus a \$40 materials fee per session
 By working with silver, copper or brass students can create either a silver ring or pendant. Learn the basics of metalsmithing such as sawing, filing, sanding and soldering to create your own original jewelry pieces. Students are welcome to bring in stones to create their own settings. Advanced instruction will be given to continuing/advanced students.

PAINTING WORKSHOP: COZY WINTER CABIN Instructor: Heaven Newsom
Tuesday, December 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Workshop fee: \$20 plus a \$5 materials fee
 Heaven will show you step by step how to create this fun painting, all materials provided.



PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP: WINTER WHITES
 Instructor: Marilyn VandenBout
Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 – Noon
Workshop fee: \$24 Plus a \$5 materials fee
 Create a set of handmade paper ornaments! Pour paper pulp into different shapes and press those shapes onto textured surfaces creating snowflakes and snowmen shapes.

POP-UP CHRISTMAS CARDS Instructor: Barb Thompson
Tuesday, December 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Workshop fee: \$24 plus a \$4 Materials fee
 Create some fun and easy cards just in time for Christmas.

POTTERY Instructor: Madeleine Burns

Three Monday afternoons starting December 2, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Three Tuesday nights starting December 3, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.,

Three Thursday nights starting December 5, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.,

Class fee: \$90 plus a \$28 materials fee for all three week sessions

Four Tuesday nights starting January 7, 6:00-8:30 p.m.,

Class fee \$120 plus a \$35 Materials fee for four-week session

In this beginner's level class students will take turns on the pottery wheel and create pieces by hand learning the art of ceramics. Students will create with clay each week then glaze on the last day. Pottery will need to be picked up after a final kiln firing.

SEWING MACHINE BASICS Instructor: Chris Walsh

Monday evening, January 13, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$30

Do you have a new sewing machine but don't know how to use it, or have questions on becoming more familiar with your machine?? Join us as we go through the threading process, types of threads, different machine needles, changing the needle, bobbin winding, stitch selection, stitch length, and more. Bring all feet, bobbins and accessories that come with your machine. Bring your sewing machine, foot pedal and cord, spool of thread and pair of scissors. Please make sure your sewing machine works prior to registering.

SEWING WORKSHOP: TREE SKIRT Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 - 12:30 or 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$27 plus a \$10 Materials fee

Sew a festive and functional tree skirt for your holiday décor.



SEWING WORKSHOP: BOOK PILLOW

Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

Sunday, January 5, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$20 plus a \$7 Materials fee

Sew a pillow to carry and store your favorite book or reading device

SEWING WORKSHOP: LARGE FABRIC STORAGE BAG

Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

Sunday, January 12, 10:00-12:30

Workshop fee: \$27 plus a \$13 Materials fee

Sew a large bin for blankets or other home storage.

STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP Instructor: Savannah Kristof

Sunday one day workshops to choose from:

December 15, January 12 or January 19 all workshops 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$100 plus a \$50 material fee per workshop

Learn the steps to create a stained glass sun catcher from start to finish using the copper foil method. You will choose glass colors and cut their glass then grind, foil and solder as to finish your project. There will be multiple designs to choose from, and you will be able to take your project home by the end of class. All supplies provided.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING Instructor: Lenox Wallace

Six Monday afternoons starting January 6, 1:00-3:30 p.m. (Advanced Class)

Six Thursday mornings beginning January 9, 10:00 – 12:30 p.m. (Beginner level Class)

Class Fee: \$150 per class

Structured lessons for beginning watercolorists with critique and guidance in composition, values, textures, negative painting, brush stroke usage, and more. Experienced painters work individually with occasional guidance and critique. Materials list can be accessed through this link: www.thecenterpalos.org/watercolors

VISIONING, (R) YOUR HEARTS DESIRE FOR 2025 Instructor: Karen Signore

Sunday, January 12, Noon – 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$40 plus a \$10 Materials Fee

Let your heart lead the way as you begin a new year. Access deeper wisdom to help you visualize, design, and manifest your dreams. Join us for a relaxing afternoon of creative nourishment as you connect with your dreams and your wise inner self. Through Reiki infused guided meditation, collage and whole brain journaling techniques you will: Clarify your heart's true desires for the year ahead, create a soul inspired collage as a visual affirmation of your heart's path, learn processes to access wisdom and insights from your collage images, gain effective tools to address the inner critic and work through blocks and obstacles to your heart's desire. Based on the Book *Visioning: Ten Steps to Designing the Life of Your Dreams* by Lucia Capacchione PhD, ATR.



WINTER LANDSCAPE DRAWING WORKSHOP

Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Saturday, January 11, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$27 plus a \$10 materials fee

Students will become familiar with both black and white charcoal as a drawing medium, while completing a drawing of a winter landscape scene. Bring some pictures of Winter scenery to work from or the instructor will have some available for students from which to choose.

WOODCARVING Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

Six Thursday mornings beginning Thursday January 9, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.,

Class Fee: \$125

Learn and practice the tools and techniques of woodcarving using a variety of types of wood. Create beautiful animals, objects, and faces. New students will make projects such as a bird, a shoe or an egret. If you're experienced, you may design your own projects. Wood and bench knives are available for purchase in class from the instructor (approximately \$25 for wood and bench knives)

WREATHMAKING -a circle of fresh greens for Christmas!

Instructor: George Mitchell

Monday evening, Dec. 2, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$24 plus \$16 materials fee

Let professional floral designer George Mitchell help you to create a beautiful fresh balsam fir wreath complete with pinecones and a red velvet bow, just in time for the Christmas holidays. (bring your own pruners)



REJUVENATE YOURSELF AT THE CENTER, YOGA AND MORE!

GENTLE YOGA Instructor: Carolyn Harms

Three Friday mornings starting December 6, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Class fee: \$44

Or Five Friday mornings starting January 3, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Class fee: \$73

Come practice gentle yoga at The Center. These 75 minute hatha yoga classes are perfect for releasing tension, connecting with the breath and helping students gain strength and flexibility. Class will take place in the beautiful Forest View Room in The Lodge. Bring your own yoga mat and props.

SLOW FLOW YOGA Instructor: Danielle Schaar

Four Thursday nights starting January 9, 6:00-7:15,

Class fee: \$58

This 75-minute yoga class combines Hatha Yoga and functional mobility to help students gain strength, flexibility and ease in movement. We'll finish by setting into a restful mediation finding peace in body and mind. Bring your own yoga mat.

TRANQUIL YOGA Instructor: Debbie Jacob,
Four Mondays starting January 6, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Class Fee: \$54

Start your week off right with one hour of gentle yoga and a sprinkling of Qigong and natural movements for simple challenges to our everyday posture transitions. Class with take place in the beautiful Forest View Room in The Lodge. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga strap.

GONG BATH Facilitator: Debbie Jacob, Vibrational Sound Therapy Certified Practitioner
Sunday December 1, or Sunday January 5, 6:00-7:00 each night

Fee: \$25 per event

Spend an evening immersed in the serene sounds and vibrations of the gong, accompanied by singing crystal and Tibetan bowls. Relax on your yoga mat and allow these ancient healing sounds and vibrations to wash over and through your body to deepen your state of relaxation. Don't forget to bring your yoga mat, pillow and blanket to maximize your relaxing experience. Will take place in The Forest View Room. Advance registration required.

Pre-registration is required 24 hours in advance for all Log Cabin classes and workshops. Class and materials fees are due at time of registration; we cannot reserve space without payment. No refunds or transfers of fees are available for cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to the beginning of class. Any cancellations made by students will subtract a \$10 administration fee. To register you can visit our website at thecenterpalos.org You can also call 708-361-3650 or visit our main office between the hours of 9:00 – 5:00 daily.

AWAKE AT THE CENTER:

A Day of Mindfulness in the Out of Doors

Saturday, January 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Feeling stressed after the holidays? Looking for some peace and space to ponder the New Year ahead? Then consider joining this day of Presence and Mindfulness. The grounds of The Center have always held a peaceful energy that can be palpably felt when we take the time to be aware. This retreat is led by Sharon and Dan Morley and the other leaders of our Sunday Morning Mindfulness team. You will be invited to sit, to walk, to listen, to see, and to share all the beauty and wonder that abounds. In the afternoon you will experience the healing sounds of crystal bowls offered by Jalima Cuesta. Please wear clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather. Don't worry about the cold: there will always be a warm fire awaiting us when we come in from the outdoors. **Retreat fee: \$65 includes leadership, lunch, and retreat supplies.**

Retreat



**Are you still looking for unique and thoughtful
Christmas gifts?**

Stop by The Center for lots of great ideas!

- Sustainably raised meat, eggs and honey from our SAGE program
- Beautiful and unique gifts and decorations

from our Fellowcrafters Gift

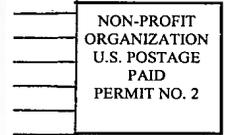
Shop

- Handmade wooden reindeer and balsam wreaths
- An annual pass to The Children's Farm
- A gift certificate for a class at the Log Cabin Center for the Arts
- Tickets for any of our Holiday programs –

Yule Log, Bob Cratchit, Tuesdays Luncheons.



The Center



The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community Parish and
Community Center Foundation
12700 Southwest Highway, Palos Park, IL 60464
708-361-3650 fax: 708-361-2811
Website: <http://www.thecenterpalos.org>
Email: admin@thecenterpalos.org

**DATED MATERIAL RETURN
SERVICE REQUESTED**



This month, this whole month, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Open your eyes again to the beauty and peace of His spirit. As you go out into the December night may you see the star and hear the song. Regardless of what life holds for you, may there come deep in your own heart, the beautiful memory of the birth of the Christ child.—Frank Sanders 12/2006.

Open your eyes and heart to the beauty and peace of His spirit throughout the holidays. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and happiness in 2025.

The Center Staff—2024