

January 2026



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: 8:30am and 12:30pm
<http://www.thecenterpalos.org> 708-361-3650

Executive Director's Comments from Annual Meeting 2025

November 9th, 2025

Good afternoon, and on behalf of myself, the staff, and the Board of Trustees, I extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome to The Center's ninety-third Annual Meeting.

The Center began humbly in 1932, born from a dream held deeply by my grandfather. Here on these wooded hillsides, that dream took root – and for nearly a century, it has continued to unfold into the rich and multifaceted ministry we celebrate today.

Through all these years, we have remained steadfast to the guiding principles laid down four generations ago: to be a place of love and service to all who come here; a place of peace; a place of healing in both body and spirit; and a place that nurtures growth and gives room to grow.

Over the decades, thousands have walked through our doors seeking comfort, strength, and renewal – and they have found a community of compassion, care, and support. Each of you gathered here today is part of that living community. You are the strength and foundation that makes all things possible, as together we strive to walk in the footsteps of the Master.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as Executive Director of this extraordinary organization for the past twenty-five years. Before that, I had the privilege of serving for eight years under my father's leadership as Assistant Director. Through those years I have been blessed to work alongside people of remarkable dedication and goodness, and to form friendships that I will always hold dear.

Three generations of the Sanders family have helped guide this ministry through its ninety-three years of service. There was, however, a ten year period – from 1973 – 1983 – when no Sanders was here. During that time, five executive directors came and went. I believe they struggled because they were not homegrown. The Center has a deep and unique culture – one built upon empathy, patience, second chances, goodness, and shared ownership – a culture that takes years to truly understand and embody.

In May of 2025, I informed the Board of Trustees of my intention to retire as Executive Director in December of 2026. I feel the time has come to entrust the leadership of this organization to someone younger – someone who will carry this ministry forward with new energy and vision.

That person is Mrs. Amy Donze.

Amy's roots at The Center run deep. As a young girl, she spent much of her time here, where she formed a special bond with Kermit, the farm's beloved pony. She even brought Kermit to an Annual Meeting once, sharing with everyone how much joy he had brought into her life. She was just twelve years old at the time – a moment many of us still remember fondly.

After earning a degree in Business Marketing, Amy quickly realized her heart belonged not in the corporate world, but here, in the work of service and growth that defines this place. By providence, there was an opening for Farm Director – and from that moment we met on Indian Hill for her interview, I knew she was a perfect fit.

That was nineteen years ago. Since then, Amy has served with distinction as Farm Director, then Camp Director, and now as Program Director overseeing all of our programming. She created Pumpkin Playland, launched our SAGE program, and developed numerous outreach and marketing initiatives. During the challenges of the COVID years, she provided steady leadership, guiding our camp and school programs safely through uncharted territory.

Amy is smart, innovative, compassionate, and – most importantly – deeply committed to the values and principles of The Center. She is, without question, “homegrown.”

The Board of Trustees has unanimously endorsed my recommendation that Amy become the next Executive Director of The Center.



Dave Sanders

The Center's Nominating Committee presented the following nominees at the last Annual Meeting to the Board of Trustees held on November 9, 2025. These individuals were voted in for a term of three years. Please give them a warm welcome.



John Schabes was elected for his first three-year term on the Board of Trustees. John graduated with honors from Governors State University in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in business. He returned for a second bachelor's degree in accounting, graduating in 2005 with high honors and completing his certification as a Certified Public Accountant shortly thereafter. He is currently employed as a Director at Forvis Mazars in Chicago helping companies and individuals with their outsourced accounting needs. He is also a member of the Dean's Leadership Council in Governor States College of Business and serves as a mentor to their accounting students. Regarding his service on the Board of Trustees, John states "It is an honor to give back to this wonderful organization and help them fulfill their mission."

Stephen Greene was elected for his second three-year term on the Board of Trustees. Stephen, and his wife Cindy, live in Oak Lawn, Illinois. They have two adult children, Scott, and Dana. Stephen's first experience at The Center was when his daughter Dana joined the 4H Club sponsored at the Children's Farm in 2003. It was not long before he and his wife Cindy started to volunteer at the farm. The more they volunteered, the more they knew that the Children's Farm was a very special place. Steve met Dave Sanders while volunteering for one of the festivals and Dave explained to Steve the entire mission of The Center. He began to realize his volunteering at the farm supported the whole mission. Steve states, "The Center holds a very special place in my heart." His favorite part of volunteering is driving his 1946 Farmall tractor for hayrack rides. He loves talking to the visitors about The Center and its many activities. Stephen, now retired, worked forty-two years for Aerospace Tool and Die as a quality manager. He also spent twenty years as an adjunct instructor at Moraine Valley Community College teaching auto-cad. Steve served on the Oak Lawn High School Board of Education from 2012-2016. He is a very dedicated volunteer and has been a wonderful addition to The Center's Board of Trustees.





Rea Bulgum was elected for her first three-year term on the Board of Trustees. She has over 15 years of leadership experience in nonprofit operations and human services. She currently serves as Senior Director, Development Operations at Brookfield Zoo, where she oversees the Operations Team responsible for gift processing, donor database management, reporting, and administrative functions that support fundraising and engagement efforts across the organization. Previously, she held leadership roles at Volunteers of America of Illinois, providing programmatic leadership in foster care and veterans' services. She also has a long-standing connection to The Center through her son's participation in the Children's Farm camp programs, where both have volunteered, and has dedicated more than a decade to coaching youth soccer- reflecting her deep commitment to children, families, and community engagement.

Sharon Woodcock was elected for her second three-year term on the Board of Trustees. Sharon has a strong background in business, marketing, and sales. Her career started with Ace Hardware Corporation as a merchandiser increasing sales from 13.7 million to 149 million within four years. Sharon is a three-time recipient of the President's Award in 1989, 1990, and again in 2011 for True Value Company. She also has volunteered with the H Foundation in LaGrange, Illinois raising funds for cancer research for Northwestern Hospital. Sharon found The Center in 2018 through Chris Hopkins. Sharon's mother fell ill in 2018 and Rev. Chris came and prayed with them several times before her passing in April 2018. Sharon states, "I knew I had to get involved with The Center after meeting Chris!" Sharon volunteers in many areas of The Center, including our rummage sale and running our Fellowcrafter's Gift Shop in the Lodge. She regularly attends Vespers services and has been a wonderful addition to our Board of Trustees.



Spiritual Offerings

SERVICES

8:30 a.m. in the Parlor

This early morning Vespers is an informal gathering that incorporates meditative music, silence, prayer, Scripture, and conversational reflection. It's a time of sharing collective wisdom and building community, and you are invited!

12:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Each Sunday, we have a non-denominational service of music, meditative message, and prayer. Immediately following Vespers, we gather in The Great Hall of The Lodge for a time of fellowship and light refreshments. We would love to have you join us!

Communion Sunday

Sunday, January 4, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

On the first Sunday of every month, we gather for Communion. Non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread are provided, and all are welcome at the Lord's table.

MINDFULNESS

Sunday mornings 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 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.

MEDITATION

Loving-Kindness Meditation (Metta)

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. in the Forest View Room (FVR)

All are welcome to gather in the Forest View Room for 45 minutes of getting centered for the beginning of a new year. Metta includes a silent meditation, but it is primarily a group prayer for peace in the world, beginning with ourselves. No registration is necessary. Questions may be directed to Peggy Quinn at 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.**

EVENTS



Anniversary Dinner and Renewal of Vows Sunday, February 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Whether or not you were married in our Wayside Chapel, we invite you to celebrate your January or February wedding anniversary here at The Center on February 15th. Beginning with fellowship in the Great Hall at 4:30 p.m., 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 February 10th.

Luncheons

run from 12 noon until 2:15 p.m., cost \$40 per person, and offer a delicious meal and the best in entertainment and educational programming.

Tuesday, January 6 “Mindfulness for the New Year” with Dan and Sharon Morley

A New Year is coming! Don't get caught overwhelmed! Let go of the anxiety! We can face the new with a little love and patience and bring concerns about the unknown to the present moment. A mindfulness practice can help. Join Dan and Sharon Morley for a mindful presentation on breathing your way through, one step at a time.



Tuesday, January 13 “Clear the Clutter for the New Year” with Colleen Klimczak

Come take home some tips and suggestions on how to get rid of all that clutter that's weighing you down. Join M. Colleen Klimczak, CPO, a Certified Professional Organizer and owner of Peace of Mind Professional Organizing, LLC. Since 2003, Colleen has helped hundreds of people get a handle on their space and stuff and time, finding Peace of Mind in their personal and professional lives.

Tuesday, January 20 “An Afternoon of Music” with Ray Lemieux

Ray Lemieux was born in Chicago and grew up in Oak Lawn. He counts as his influences the Beatles, garage bands, the original Sha Na Na (the early stuff, not the corny TV incarnation). Here's a quote about music from Ray: “I am thrilled to be able to play some of it. Sharing with others just makes it better.” Come join us for a great afternoon of oldies, country, and acoustic rock.



Tuesday, January 27 “The Vito Zatto Show”

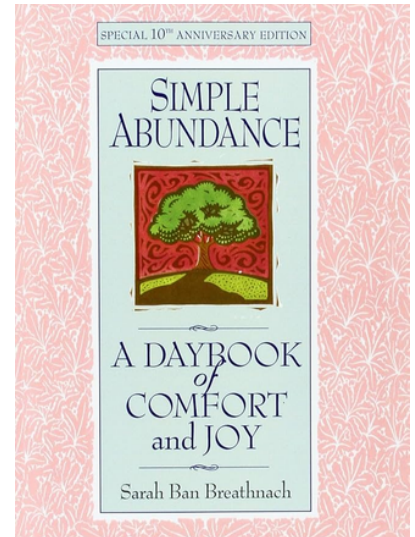
Vito Zatto will bring his brand of stand-up comedy, song stylings, celebrity impersonations, audience participation, dancing, and much more! Come welcome Vito for his latest performance ever at The Center.

Program

WomanTalk Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 27, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

"WomanTalk," hosted by Kate Atkins-Trimnell, is a gathering of women who meet this month on the last Tuesday in the Parlor to nurture and support each other on their personal journeys of creativity and self-discovery. Rooted in Sarah Ban Breathnach's Simple Abundance, the group, now in its 29th year, seeks ways to live authentically and joyfully. Sarah quotes Rainer Maria Rilke "And now let us welcome the New Year. Full of things that have never been." Sarah encourages each of us to "make your personal space at home as inviting as possible." As the cold weather approaches, prepare for seasonal fun indoors, such as hot cocoa or cozy pajamas, and outdoor fun such as sledding or snowshoeing. Let it be an adventure! We hope that you'll be able to join us this year. If you have any questions, please contact the Center office by email at thechildrensfarm@thecenterpalos.org



Reiki Circle

4th Sunday of the Month, January 25, February 22, and March 22, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the FVR

Join us for our monthly Reiki share at The Center! Whether you are trained in Reiki (I, II, or III) you are welcome to participate. Reiki is a Universal Life Force Energy that can activate natural healing and restore physical and emotional well-being. We will meet together in a circle and share healing Reiki energy. There is no fee but a donation to The Center is very much welcomed. No need to register. Please contact Eileen Hurn (773-550-6174) or Karen Signore (708-860-7813) for further information.



Join TOASTMASTERS: For a New Confident You in 2026
Wednesday evenings, January 7th & 21st, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in improving and practicing your public speaking skills, we invite you to join our supportive group. We take turns leading the meetings and giving speeches, and we have fun doing it. We're all in this effort together and gain confidence from the encouragement of each other. We invite you to come as a guest to the next meeting and to consider becoming a Center Toastmaster. For more information, see Lois Lauer.

January Retreats

Awake at The Center: A Day of Mindfulness in the Outdoors. Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 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.



Farm & Nature Discovery School

This January, we will be learning all about Winter! We are looking forward to snowy adventures this month while exploring activities inside and out that help children learn about the world during this beautiful season. We will learn about the weather in winter and how we can stay safe in the extreme temperatures and conditions that come with the season. We will learn about people who live in extreme cold environments and how their cultures operate in that type of climate.

We will learn about animals and how they live in the winter. We will learn about how they store food, some animals hibernate, and some live underground during winter. We will explore animals that live in cold climates, learning about their anatomy and way of life that help them to survive in their biome.



The BEST part of winter is SNOW! All the beautiful snow. We will definitely take advantage of our own cold environment by sledding, building snowmen, going on snow walks, and having snowball fights (gently of course). Teachers will make sure to plan their lessons around the availability of snow and take advantage of the children's curiosity and wonder that inevitably comes with it.

We will be opening a private registration for our 2026-2027 school year on January 8th for our current families. We will also offer a private registration for any returning families on January 15th. We will then open registration to the public on January 22nd.

We are offering the same sessions as usual for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten. We will offer 2.5-hour sessions in the morning and afternoon on MWF or T/Th. We will also be offering full and half-day options in our Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs for children 4-6 years of age. This program is a 5-day program.

Information for next year, including tuition rates, is available upon inquiry. 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 by email at FarmandNature@TheCenterPalos.org





January / February 2026 Art Classes for Children and Teens

AFTER SCHOOL FUN WITH CLAY Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Four Wednesdays starting January 14, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$55 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Students will work with clay each week creating a variety of sculptures and pottery pieces. Open to students in grades K-5

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP: HEART SHAPED DISHES Instructor: Ally Rein

Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$10 Materials fee (pricing includes one child and one guardian, open to all ages)

While working with clay, families will create a variety of heart-shaped dishes. Students will use lace and stampers to create fun textures in clay and add colorful glazes. All dishes will be food safe. Items will need to be fired in our kiln after class and we will call you to pick them up when ready.



KIDS SEWING WORKSHOPS Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

Open to students in 3rd-8th grade. Bring your own sewing machine or use one of ours.

SWEATSHIRT UPCYCLE

Two Sundays, January 11 and 18, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$45 Plus a \$6 Materials fee

Update your sweatshirt with new sleeves, a fun pocket, patches, and more! Participants will need to bring in an old sweatshirt or hoodie to use.

WALLET WORKSHOP

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 - Noon

Workshop fee: \$30 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Sew a convenient wallet to hold your cash and gift cards. Pick your own fabric from our wide selection.



FORTUNE COOKIE VALENTINE

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

Workshop fee: \$24 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Sew a cute fabric fortune cookie that you can fill with valentines.



LOG CABIN ART FOR KIDS Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Four Saturdays starting January 10, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Students will learn techniques in painting and drawing, as well as fun craft projects. Classes are held in our fun log cabin art center! Open to students in K-5 grade

January / February 2026 Schedule of Art Classes for Adults

Teens are able to register for most adult classes. Please inquire with interest



ARTFUL ACTS OF KINDNESS, MINI MASTERPIECES

Instructor: Karen Signore

Sunday, February 8, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Join us for a heart-centered, relaxing afternoon of creativity, kindness, and connection. We will begin with reflective journaling and guided meditation to open your heart and explore the intention of kindness for yourself and others. Experiment with paints, collage, pens, and mixed media to create a set of miniature works of art infused with uplifting words and imagery. Share them with loved ones or leave them in unexpected places to brighten someone's day and send out ripples of kindness in small but meaningful ways.

THE ART OF WORDS- WHAT'S YOUR WORD FOR 2026? Instructor: Karen Signore

Sunday, January 18, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Having a guided word for the year can be a powerful practice for clarifying priorities, creating focus, and cultivating growth. Join in for a fun and relaxing afternoon of reflection and creativity. Through whole-brain journaling techniques and guided meditation, you will choose a word to guide and inspire your decisions and experiences for the year, then you will choose from a variety of materials to create a mixed media collage that reflects your word to use as a visual affirmation of what you are wanting to create in 2026.

BEYOND VISION BOARDS: THE ART OF ACTION PLANNING

Instructors: Dr. Cherie Lechner and Eric Dean Spruth MA, ATR

Saturday, January 24, 10:00 a.m - Noon, Workshop fee: \$25 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Immerse yourself in the creative process of the journey from vision to reality. Your facilitators will collaborate with you in creating traditional vision boards with a plot twist! You'll move beyond vision to reality, anchored with a creative action plan and a 2026 calendar. Materials will be provided, and your outcomes will be measurable. Including postcards that will be mailed to you as a reminder to stay on your path of dreams fulfilled. Bring your dreams, goals, visions, and life desires and be prepared to have fun!

CERAMICS WORKSHOPS Instructor: Robin Power

NERICOMI BOX

Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$12 Materials fee

Nericomi is a Japanese technique where multiple colors of clay are combined to create marbled or patterned designs. Students will work with different colors of clay in this technique, then create a box that can be used for trinkets or jewelry. We will add a clear glaze after the first firing and call you when it's ready to pick up.



SELF PORTRAIT IN CLAY

Two Tuesdays, January 20 and 27, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Workshop fee: \$55 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Who knows how to sculpt you better than you? Be your own model and create a ceramic sculpture bust of yourself. We will have mirrors for students to use, bring a profile pic of yourself to work from, or we can take one of you during class. We will contact students to pick up after fired in our kiln, students will have the option to paint at home or we can add an oxide colorant for you.



COLLAGE Instructor: April Schabes

Six Wednesday mornings beginning January 7, 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Workshop fee: \$155

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!"

CREATIVE ART JOURNALING Instructor: April Schabes
Meets the last Friday of each month throughout the year, Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Workshop fee: \$260 for all of 2026

Create a colorful artistic record of your days, your thoughts, your experiences- through words, collages, photos, poems, magazine images, drawings, watercolor, and a fun project to add to your journal each month! No excuses!

CROCHETED SCARVES Instructor: Marissa Nugent
Four Friday mornings starting January 23, 10:00 - Noon
Workshop fee: \$90 Plus a \$12 Materials fee

Learn to crochet your own scarf using a variety of different types of yarn and colors. We will have a variety of yarn for students to use, and crochet hooks. Students may need to purchase more depending on the style they choose.



FELTED WOOL SNOWMAN WORKSHOP Instructor: Barb Simon
Thursday, January 22, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Workshop fee: \$25 Plus a \$7 Materials fee

Learn the steps to create a felted wool snowman sculpture utilizing real sheep's wool from our farm.



FINGER-KNIT WINTER SCARF WORKSHOP Instructor: Sandy Safranek
Saturday, January 10, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Workshop fee: \$30

Create a soft, warm winter scarf using a finger-knitting process. No knitting experience is required. Participants should purchase and bring their own yard. 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 Michael's.

FOLK ART WORKSHOP: BROOM MAKING 101... AND BEYOND!
Saturday, January 17 or February 21, 9:00 a.m. - Noon each workshop
Workshop fee: \$33 Plus a \$15 Material fee. Instructor: Lois Lauer

The traditional art of broom-making is enjoyable and productive, providing both creative fun, and also useful brooms for your home! New students will learn the basic principles of traditional broom-making by creating your own small whisk broom that is functional and decorative. More experienced students will learn advanced techniques like plaiting, attaching wooden handles to larger brooms, adding "shoulders" and "turkey wings", plaiting with cut stalks, fancier wraps, and stitching.



LAPIDARY (ROCK POLISHING) Instructor: Larry Rothenberg
Four Monday mornings starting January 5, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Class fee: \$100 per four-week session

Four Thursday nights starting January 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$100 per four-week session. Instructor: Jackie Burger

Learn the art of rock polishing as you turn rough chunks 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
• **Five Tuesday nights beginning January 6, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. or**
• **Five Thursday mornings beginning January 8, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
Class fee: \$131 Plus a \$44 Materials fee per session

By working with silver, copper, or brass, students can create either a silver ring or pendant. Students will learn the basics of metalsmithing such as sawing, filing, sanding, and soldering to create their own original jewelry pieces. Students are welcome to bring in stones for which to create their own settings. Advanced instruction will be given to continuing/advanced students.



MOSAIC WORKSHOP: HEARTS Instructor: Noelle Cervantes
Two Thursday afternoons: January 29 and February 5, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Workshop fee: \$50 Plus a \$18 Materials fee

Create a mosaic with a heart design on a 6x6-inch wood board while using stones and tile pieces. On the second day of class students will add grout to finish their piece.

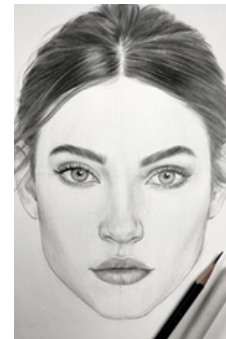


PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP: VALENTINES Instructor: Marilyn VandenBout
Saturday, January 31, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Workshop fee: \$25 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Create a variety of heart-shaped, handmade papers with imbedded pressed plants or designs. Get ready for Valentine's Day or create beautiful papers to use in future art projects.

PORTRAIT DRAWING Instructor: Sandy Safranek
Three Thursdays beginning February 11, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Workshop fee: \$75 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Learn the basic proportions of a human face from a frontal view, and tips on how to draw individual facial features. You will learn the correct placement of the facial features and basic shading techniques while completing a drawn portrait of a human face. Bring a frontal view picture of an adult to work from, or the instructor will have some images for you to use. You will also experiment with two different types of graphite drawing pencils to complete your drawing.



POTTERY

- **Four Monday afternoons starting January 5, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.,** Instructor: Madeleine Burns
- **Four Tuesday nights starting January 6, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**
- **Four Wednesday afternoons starting January 14, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.,** Instructor: Robin Power

Class fee: \$125 Plus a \$35 Materials fee per 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 and then glaze on the last day. Pottery will need to be picked up after a final kiln firing.

SEWING WORKSHOPS Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

No experience necessary. Bring your own sewing machine or use one of ours.

SWEATSHIRT UPCYCLE

Two Sundays, January 11 and 18, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$38 Plus a \$7 Materials fee

Update your sweatshirt with new sleeves, a fun pocket, patches, and more! Participants will need to bring in an old sweatshirt or hoodie to use.



PINCUSHION

Sunday, January 25, Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$32 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Sew a cute turtle-shaped pin cushion to hold your sewing needles and pins.

HEART SHAPED OVEN MITT

Sunday, February 8, Noon - 12:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$32 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Learn about heat-safe fabrics and learn to sew a heart-shaped oven mitt.



STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP Instructor: Savannah Kristof

Sunday, January 11 or 18 or February 1 or 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. each workshop

Workshop fee: \$100 Plus a \$50 Materials fee per workshop

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



TUNNEL BOOK WORKSHOP Instructor: Barb Thompson

Tuesday, January 27, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Workshop fee: \$25 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Create a layered story within the construction of a tunnel book. All materials will be provided, although artists are encouraged to bring some of their own small images to work from.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING Instructor: Lenox Wallace

Six Monday afternoons starting January 5, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. (Advanced Class)

Six Thursday mornings beginning January 8, 10:00 - 12:30 p.m. (Beginner Class)

Workshop fee: \$155

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

WINTER LANDSCAPE DRAWING WORKSHOP Instructor: Sandy Safraneck

Saturday, January 17, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$28 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Become familiar with both black and white charcoal as a drawing medium, while completing a drawing of a Winter landscape scene. Please bring some pictures of Winter scenery to work from. The instructor will also have some available for students to use.



WOODCARVING Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

Six Thursdays starting January 8, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$125 per six-week session

Learn and practice the tools and techniques of woodcarving in basswood. New students will gain knife handling skills and create beautiful, simple relief, or three-dimensional projects such as a star, shoe, or bird. If you are 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)

Rejuvenate Yourself at The Center, Yoga, and More!

Class will take place in the beautiful Forest View Room in The Lodge. Bring your own yoga mat and props.

GENTLE YOGA Instructor: Maura Tovar

Three Friday mornings starting January 16, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Class fee: \$45

These 75-minute hatha yoga classes are perfect for releasing tension, connecting with the breath, and helping students gain strength and flexibility.

SLOW FLOW YOGA Instructor: Danielle Schaar

Four Thursdays starting January 8, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$60

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 settling into a restful meditation, finding peace in body and mind. Bring your own yoga mat.

TRANQUIL YOGA Instructor: Debbie Jacob

Four Monday nights starting January 5, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$60 for a 4-week session

Start your week off right with one hour of gentle yoga and a sprinkling of Qigong and natural movements for simple challenges to your everyday posture transitions. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga strap.

GONG BATH Facilitator: Debbie Jacob, Vibrational Sound Therapy Certified Practitioner

Sunday, January 4 or February 1, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. 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 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily.

The Center



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Parish and Community Center Foundation
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708-361-3650
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Email: admin@thecenterpalos.org

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The Center presents...

A NIGHT TO LINGER

An unforgettable evening benefiting our Camp Scholarship Fund

SAVE THE DATE

12 MAR 2026

Papa Joes Italian Restaurant
14459 La Grange Road
Orland Park, IL 60452

TICKETS ON SALE FEBRUARY 2ND



Corporate and Individual Contributions Needed!

**Contact Amy at thechildrensfarm@thecenterpalos.org
for more information.**

Raffles ♦ Silent Auctions ♦ Dinner