

February 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

Camp Is the Realness Kids Need

We are living in a time when much of childhood is filtered, edited, and manufactured. Images are altered. Stories are curated. Artificial intelligence can generate answers, art, and experiences in seconds. Even relationships are increasingly mediated through screens. For children growing up in this landscape, it can be difficult to know what is authentic, what can be trusted, and where they truly belong.



Summer Camp at The Center offers something incredibly powerful and increasingly rare. It offers realness.

At camp, experiences are not virtual. They are simply lived. A horse responds honestly to how it is handled. A campfire only burns if someone gathers wood and tends the flame. A high ropes course requires effort, trust, and persistence. Campers feel the weight of responsibility and the pride that comes from following through. These moments cannot be edited or replaced. They are earned.

Relationships at camp are real too. Campers learn how to be in community without filters or avatars. They learn how to listen, how to disagree respectfully, how to repair when things go wrong, and how to care for one another in tangible ways. Counselors know campers by name, notice their strengths, and walk alongside them through challenges. In a world where so much interaction is transactional or anonymous, this kind of genuine connection is essential.

Being real matters more than ever because children are still forming their sense of self. They need places where they can test their limits safely, make real decisions, and experience real consequences and real grace. Camp grounds children in what is true. Dirt under fingernails. Laughter shared across a table. Quiet moments of courage, kindness, and accomplishment. These experiences build confidence, resilience, and trust in ways no technology can replicate.

For over 90 years, The Center has held space for this kind of formation. It is one of the most important things we do.

Why Camp Scholarships Matter

The Camp Scholarship Fund is truly at the heart of The Center's mission. We believe deeply that access to real, formative experiences should never depend on a family's financial situation. Scholarships ensure that camp remains open, welcoming, and inclusive, allowing children from all backgrounds to experience growth, belonging, and joy.

This mission is only possible because of the generosity of folks like you. Your support turns values into action and belief into opportunity.



This year, our goal is to raise \$65,000 in camp scholarship funds and we are grateful to share that a \$10,000 matching gift has already been pledged, making this a powerful moment to give. Every dollar donated now will be doubled, extending the reach of your generosity and opening the door for even more children to experience camp.

When you give to the Camp Scholarship Fund, you are not just supporting a program. You are offering children something real in a world that often feels uncertain and artificial. You are helping ensure that The Center remains a place where children can grow and become fully alive.

Join Us at Our Fundraising Event: A Night to Linger- March 12

To help raise the necessary funds for camp scholarships, we invite you to join us for our annual fundraising event, *A Night to Linger*, on Thursday, March 12. This evening is a chance for our community to gather in a real and meaningful way, to slow down, share space, and celebrate the honest, life-shaping work of camp. Your participation directly supports children who need access to real experiences, real connection, and real growth at The Center. We invite you to attend, donate, linger, and help us reach our goal of sending more children to camp in 2026. Whether you have been part of camp for decades or are just beginning to learn about our mission, your presence and generosity matter. Together, we can ensure that Summer Camp at The Center remains real, inclusive, and accessible for all children, now, and for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this work.



Amy Donze
Deputy Director

A NIGHT TO LINGER

MARCH 12th, 2026

Papa Joe's Italian Restaurant
14459 La Grange Road
Orland Park, IL 60452

Benefitting our Summer Camp Scholarship Fund



Raffles ✧ Silent Auctions ✧ Dinner

TICKETS: \$50

Help us give the gift of camp to children in need. All event proceeds will benefit our camp scholarship program, which directly sends deserving local children to Farm and Ranch Camp this summer.



A Glimpse at 2026 Summer Camp Programs At The Children's Farm

Teen Leadership Training for Grades 10th-12th

Designed for teens with a desire to become part of our camp leadership team at The Center. During this nine-night residential program, teens will work on their leadership skills and team-building initiatives through on-site and off-site programming. Participants who successfully complete this program will be eligible to attend other weeks of camp as a Counselor in Training.

Residential Camping for Children Entering Grades 8th-10th

Ranch Camp- 12 nights of action-packed rustic living, trail rides, and horse care. Camp program includes onsite riding lessons, trail rides, barn chores, arts & crafts, creek walks, an off-site campout, and group activities. Successful campers will leave camp with an increased appreciation for the Earth and all her creations, having advanced their horsemanship skills, plus a renewed sense of cooperation and teamwork from community-based living.

Outdoor Adventure for Teens- 12 nights of adventure and exploration through on and off-site experiences such as hiking trips, overnight campouts, and adventure challenges. Successful campers will leave camp with an increased appreciation for the Earth and all her creations, an increased comfortability in wilderness settings, plus a renewed sense of cooperation and teamwork from community-based living.

Residential Camping for Children Entering Grades 5th-8th

Farm Camp- 5 nights of fresh air, caring for farm animals, riding horses, exploring nature, crafts, group games, laughter, friendship, and so much more! By utilizing our vast natural spaces and caring community, Farm Campers will gain independence and self-confidence as well as develop a deeper appreciation of the natural world.

Please note that scholarships are only available to Farm Camp and other overnight camp programs.

Day Camping for Children Ages 7-10

Farm Explorers- Our flagship Day Camp program is a five-day camp experience for campers ages 7-10. Farm explorers will meet from 9am-4pm, and will spend lots of time at the farm, with the animals, and taking care of barn chores, in addition to other weekly activities like hiking, horseback riding, camp crafts, cookouts, group games, singing, and more! Sack lunches required daily.

Half Day Farm Program for Children Ages 6-8

Junior Farmers- 1-week sessions with classes meeting on Monday through Friday afternoons from 12:30 - 3:30pm. This is a farm-focused program that will give children lots of hands-on time with the farm animals and exposure to fun activities on our 60-acre farm!

One Hour Farm Program for Children Ages 3-5

Junior Farmers- 1-week sessions with classes meeting on Monday through Friday mornings from 9:30am-10:30am or 11am-12pm. This is a farm-focused program that will give very young children an opportunity to experience summertime at the farm. Hands-on time with the animals and farm activities will be the focus.

One Hour Farm Program for Children Ages 1-3 with Chaperone

Barn Buddies- 1-week sessions with classes meeting on Monday through Friday mornings from 9:30am-10:30am, 11am-12pm, or 1:30pm-2:30pm. A perfect bonding opportunity for any child/adult pair! Children ages 1-3, with an accompanying chaperone, will be led through a series of hands-on farm and nature experiences and activities. Adult chaperones should plan to be active participants in each class as the program content is designed to be a shared experience.



2026 OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMPS

AT THE CHILDRENS FARM



**FARM
CAMP
OVERNIGHTS**
\$895
Grades 5th - 8th

- Five Night Sessions
- Drop Off - Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Barn Chores & Animal Time
- Horseback Riding
- Nature Exploration
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires
- Cookouts
- Group Activities
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living
- 6 sessions offered

**REGISTRATION OPENS
FEBRUARY 4TH**
THECENTERPALOS.ORG/CAMPS

**RANCH
CAMP**
\$2360
Grades 8th - 10th

- Twelve Night Sessions
- Drop Off - Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Horse Chores
- Daily Horse Care + grooming & saddling
- Daily Riding Lesson & Group Rides
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & cookouts
- Off site campout
- Group Activities
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living
- 3 sessions offered

**OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE
FOR TEENS**
\$2360
Grades 8th - 10th

- Twelve Night Sessions
- Drop Off - Sunday 4:30 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Off Site Adventure Challenges
- Wilderness camping
- Animal & Horse Time
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & Cookouts
- Off site campout
- Group Activities
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living
- 3 sessions offered

**TEEN
LEADERSHIP**
\$1390
Grades 10TH - 12TH

Designed for teens with a desire to become part of our camp leadership team at The Center. Participants who successfully complete this program will be eligible to attend other weeks of camp as a Counselor in Training.

- June 17 - 26
- Drop Off - Wednesday 4 p.m.
- Pick Up - Friday 5 p.m.
- Camp Leadership Training
- Team Building
- Off Site trips
- Rustic Bunkhouse Living

NEED BASED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!

2026 SUMMER DAY CAMPS

AT THE CHILDRENS FARM

**BARN
BUDDIES**
\$105

**Ages 1-3 with
chaperone**

- 1 Hour per day
- Monday-Friday
- 9:30am, 11am or 1:30pm
- Hands-on Farm Animal interaction
- Designed to be a shared experience between chaperone and child
- Chaperone required
- 2 sessions offered

**JUNIOR
FARMERS**
\$105

AGES 3-5

- 1 Hour per day
- Monday-Friday
- 9:30a.m - 10:30a.m. or 11a.m. - 12p.m.
- Hands-on Farm Animal interaction
- Chaperones allowed but not required
- 6 sessions offered

**JUNIOR
FARMERS**
\$245

AGES 6-8

- 3 Hours per day
- Monday-Friday
- 12:30p.m. - 3:30p.m.
- Hands-on Farm Animal interaction
- Farm Chores
- Animal Grooming
- Farm & Nature Exploration
- 6 sessions offered

**FARM
EXPLORERS**
\$475

AGES 7-10

- 7 Hours per day
- Monday-Friday
- 9a.m. - 4p.m.
- Barn Chores & Animal Time
- Nature Exploration
- Arts & Crafts
- Horseback Riding
- Campfires
- Group Activities
- Sack Lunches Required
- 6 sessions offered

**FARM
CAMP
DAYS ONLY**
\$895

AGES 9-11

- Sunday - Friday
- Sunday PM, M-TR 9am-9pm, Friday 9am-5pm
- Barn Chores & Animal Time
- Horseback Riding
- Nature Exploration
- Creek-walks
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires
- Group Activities
- Lunch & Dinner Provided
- 6 sessions offered

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 4TH
THECENTERPALOS.ORG/CAMPS

EARLY SPRING JUNIOR FARMERS

THREE DIFFERENT PROGRAM OPTIONS, LED BY YOUR FAVORITE FARMERS!

Early Spring Session

4 weeks - \$78

1 hour per week

First Day of Session

March 5th-11th

Online Registration Opens

January 28th

<https://thecenterpalos.org/farm/junior-farmers/>



Junior Farmers

Our flagship program with Farmer Paul is perfect for children ages 3-10 to come experience the magic of our real working farm. Filled with hands-on learning and fun on the farm, Junior Farmers is ideal for independent children with an interest in animals or the desire to connect with nature!

Farmers-In-Training

Designed for children ages 10 and up, Farmers-In-Training will see firsthand what it takes to care for a farm full of animals! Through hands on experiences, children will learn about and participate in the nutritional and exercise needs of our animals, veterinary care, daily cleaning and feeding.

Barn Buddies

A perfect bonding opportunity for any child/adult pair! Children ages 1-3, with an accompanying chaperone will be led through a series of hands on farm and nature experiences and activities. Adult chaperones should plan to be active participants in each class as the program content is designed to be a shared experience!

EARLY SPRING SCHEDULE

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 28 AT 10AM -
THECENTERPALOS.ORG/FARM/JUNIOR-FARMERS/
4 WEEKS - \$78 - 1 HOUR PER WEEK

Junior Farmers

Ages 3-6:

Thursday - 1:30pm Beginning March 5th
Friday - 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm Beginning March 6th
Saturday - 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm Beginning March 7th
Sunday - 9:30am, 1:30pm Beginning March 8th
Tuesday - 9:30am, 11am Beginning March 10th

Ages 6-10:

Thursday - 4pm Beginning March 5th
Saturday - 3pm Beginning March 7th
Sunday - 3pm Beginning March 8th
Tuesday, Wednesday - 4pm Beginning March 10th and 11th



Barn Buddies

Ages 1-3 with accompanying chaperone

Thursday - 9:30am, 11am Beginning March 5th
Friday - 9:30am Beginning March 6th
Monday - 9:30am, 11am Beginning March 9th
Tuesday - 10:30am Beginning March 10th
Wednesday - 9:30am, 11am, 1:30pm Beginning March 11th

Farmers in Training

Ages 10+

Monday - 4:30pm Beginning March 9th
Wednesday - 4:30pm Beginning March 11th

Spiritual Offerings

We are currently seeking flower donations for our 2026 Vespers Services. If you are interested, please contact Hannah at waysidechapel@thecenterpalos.org. Thank you for your continued love and support.

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, February 1, 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.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 9:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. in The Wayside Chapel

As we begin the Lenten season, a brief meditative message will be offered and ashes will be distributed. Come and enter the solace of a new Lenten journey this Ash Wednesday.

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.



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

Zen Meditation

Tuesday nights beginning February 10, 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor

Jim Matson, a Zen Buddhist Priest is teaching a class on the background and practice of Zen Meditation. He comes with 24+ years of experience and describes Zen Meditation as "the art of becoming aware of the movement of the mind. It permits an understanding and realization of the deeper and more subtle aspects of our lives and points toward a compassionate and more confident way of living". **Class fee: \$5 suggested donation per session.**

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 OPPORTUNITIES



The Center Singers

Welcome Center Singers! The choir will begin practicing for the fall season on Monday, January 26 at 5:30 pm in the Great Hall. If you've thought about joining but are unsure, please come. We will sing during the 12:30 Vesper Services on February 22nd, in addition to other services and events throughout the year. It continues to be Penny's pleasure to direct this talented group. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Wills at 708-436-2315.

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER 2026 WEDDING?

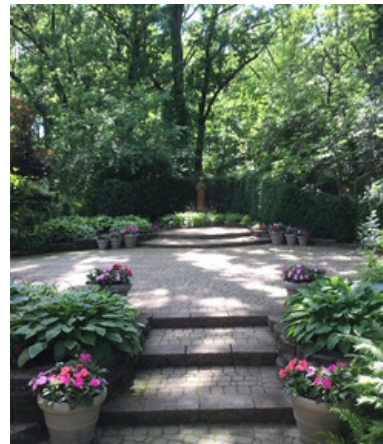


THE WAYSIDE CHAPEL
LETS YOU CREATE A
FAIRY-TALE BACKDROP TO
YOUR WEDDING DAY

For more information on packages,
or to schedule a tour, contact:

waysidechapel@thecenterpalos.org.

Let us help you make your dream
wedding day a reality!



THE CHILDREN'S FARM 40TH ANNUAL

EASTER EGG ROUNDUP

TWO DAYS!

ADVANCED TICKETS ARE REQUIRED

Online sales open February 18th at 10AM and can be purchased at
thecenterpalos.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD & SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

\$38 PER CHILD

(INCLUDES TWO COMPLIMENTARY ADULT ADMISSIONS)

TICKETS AVAILABLE EVERY HALF HOUR FROM 10AM - 2:30PM

Children, ages 9 and under, accompanied by no more than two adults, are invited for a special day of Easter magic at The Children's Farm.

Visit the resident animals and the spring babies ♦ Collect and color an egg from the coop ♦ Make an Easter craft ♦ Visit the Easter Bunny's Magic Forest ♦ Hunt for a colored egg ♦ Meet The Bunny himself!

Ticketed children will receive jelly beans, a cookie and a campfire roasted marshmallow in addition to their eggs and basket.

All guests should dress to be outdoors and plan to spend a couple hours completing the whole experience. Farm-grilled concessions will be available.

Program

**Join TOASTMASTERS: For a New Confident You in 2026 *New Time*
Wednesday evenings, February 4 & 18, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00pm**

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.



Reiki Circle

4th Sunday of the Month, 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) or not, 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 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.

WomanTalk Discussion Group

Tuesday, February 24, 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. "Gratitude is the thread we weave into the fabric of our daily lives this month, giving thanks for our simply abundant lives," says Sarah encouragingly. She encourages us to consider keeping a gratitude journal, perhaps to create a sacred space to consecrate our inner work, and to bring color into our home environment that lifts our spirits, whether through living plants or cosmetics. We hope that you'll be able to join us. We are now taking a group outing each month. If you have any questions, please contact the Center office by email at thechildrensfarm@thecenterpalos.org

Garden Volunteers Interest Meeting: We dig our garden!

Sunday, March 15, 2:00 p.m. in the Farm Greenhouse

Do you like to play in the dirt? Are you thrilled when seeds sprout, or when the first tomatoes ripen? Would you like to be part of a community of volunteers in the Children's Farm Greenhouse and Garden? We plant and water seeds in greenhouse trays in Feb, March, and April, then repot the seedlings into pots for selling at the plant sale and for transplanting into the farm garden in May. All summer and fall, we water, weed, tend, and harvest in the garden. And we dry herbs, shell beans, make herbal vinegars and tea bags in the fall, and sell produce and garden products in the Farm Store and at the Christmas Market. Join us on Sunday, March 15th, in the farm greenhouse to start your adventure as a Children's Farm Garden Volunteer!



Farm & Nature Discovery School

February is the month of love! We will be spreading out a theme of love, friendship, inclusion, and community during this month. While we do this in our everyday curriculum, we will hyper focus on social and emotional milestones for our students. We will be tying these skills into planned activities that foster sharing, team work, classroom community building, kindness, generosity, empathy, and more. We will have Valentine's Day parties in each session where the children will exchange valentines, participate in themed games and activities, and create a cute craft to go along with the Valentine theme.

February is also Black History Month. Throughout February, we will sprinkle books, crafts, and more to teach our children about artists, authors, teachers, inventors, heroes, and more throughout Black History and in our current society. We will also participate in activities and lessons that focus on inclusion, equity, and diversity, which will directly correlate to our theme of love and friendship.





For the overall monthly theme, our students will be "Going Underground!" The children will be exploring all things that live and grow underground, including fossils, caves, animals, insects, plants, and roots! This is one of our favorite themes, as there is so much to learn about that we cannot see easily.

The children will go on worm hunts, investigate root vegetables, grow geodes, and make fossil prints in salt dough. We will look at pictures of caves and pretend to be spelunkers exploring deep, dark caverns. We will watch short videos about animals that live underground or build their homes underground, as well as animals that live in caves. There is so much to learn about in the underground world!

Registration for the 2026- 2027 school year is open to the public as of January 22nd, 2026! 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.

Welcome back to
The Children's Farm!
 Join us on
SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST
 to celebrate...

Spring 2026 Grand Opening + **Elsa & Anna's Birthdays!**

Hours : 10AM-1PM
\$9/Person Ages 2+

Open Barn & Concessions & Hayrack Rides*
*Dependent on weather & road conditions

Help us make the day extra special for the birthday girls!
 Bring a gift when you visit—or have one shipped straight to the farm:
 Scan here for Anna & Elsa's Wish List! →

12700 Southwest Hwy, Palos Park, IL ~ (708) 361-3650



New year, new season at the farm!

Welcome back to
The Children's Farm
 2026 Season

The animals missed you, come & say hello!

March Hours
 Friday, Saturday & Sunday
 10:00am - 1:00pm

12700 Southwest Hwy
 Palos Park, IL 60487

Admission \$9/person
 ages 2 & up

Open Barn **Hayrack Rides***
Walking Trails **Snack Sales**

*Hayrack rides are road condition & weather dependent

Questions? Call or email at
 (708) 361-2434 ~ adeleg@thecenterpalos.org



February 2026 Art Classes for Children and Teens

AFTER SCHOOL FUN WITH CLAY Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Four Wednesdays starting February 18, 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.

AFTER SCHOOL SEWING

Four Tuesdays starting February 17, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$95 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

In this multi-session class, students will be encouraged to explore their creativity and expand their sewing skills. Students can choose between a wearable garment, an advanced bag, or a designer's choice project.



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.



TABLET HOLDER

Sunday, February 22, 10:00 - Noon

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

Sew a stand for your tablet, phone, or book.

LOG CABIN ART FOR KIDS Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Four Saturdays starting February 21, 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

February/March 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.

BLOOM WITHIN: A REFLECTIVE MIXED MEDIA EXPLORATION OF SPRING

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

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$10 Materials fee. Instructor: Karen Signore

Join us for a nourishing afternoon and explore the rich symbolism of spring through mindful reflection and creativity. You will connect with the energy and symbolism of spring through guided meditation and journaling focused on the theme of release, awakening, renewal, and planting seeds of intention for the months ahead, as well as any personal symbolism that the season of spring holds for you. Next, you will infuse your canvas with intentions of new possibilities and use layers of paint, texturing, papers, and embellishments to translate your reflections into a mixed media Spring-themed collage.

CERAMICS WORKSHOPS Instructor: Robin Power

NESTING DOLLS

Two-day Workshop on Tuesday, February 17 and 24, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

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



On the first day of class, you will learn how to sculpt a set of animal sculptures that all fit inside each other. Students will glaze their pieces on the second day of class. We will fire them one more time in the kiln and call you when it's ready to pick up.

NERICOMI BOX

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

Workshop fee: \$35 Plus a \$11 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.

COLLAGE Instructor: April Schabes

Six Wednesday mornings beginning February 25, 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 HANGING PLANT HOLDER WORKSHOP Instructor: Marissa Nugent

Friday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Workshop fee: \$25 Plus a \$6 Materials fee

Learn the steps to crochet a hanging plant holder. Students will have the option to incorporate wooden beads as well.



HANGING BASKET WORKSHOP Instructor: Jane Dwyer

Two-day Workshop on Friday, February 13 and 20, 10:00 a.m. - Noon each day

Workshop fee: \$50 Plus a \$35 Materials fee

Learn the steps to weave your own hanging basket that can be hung on the back of the door or a wall. Students will also learn to weave a small Swedish-style woven heart to add.

FOLK ART WORKSHOP: BROOM MAKING 101... AND BEYOND!

Saturday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

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.

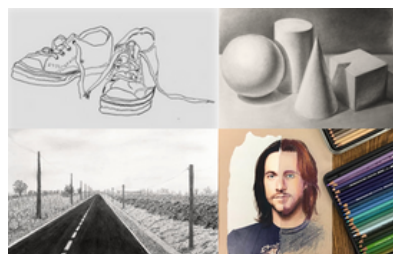


GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Instructor: Jack Martin

Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$20

General Photography will cover simple photographic tools, techniques, tips, and tricks to improve your photography. Learn what the pros know about simple composition, how to elevate the image, and how to deal with problem situations. Know what makes a great image and what went wrong with a failure. No experience necessary. This program will help the novice along with the experienced photographer. All levels are invited. Presentation will cover all types of cameras, cell phones, DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, etc.



INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Four Thursdays beginning March 5, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$105 Plus a \$20 Materials fee

Become familiar with the Art of Drawing through guided practice exercises in Contour Line, Still Life, Perspective, and Portrait drawing. Graphite (pencil), black and white charcoal, and colored pencils as drawing mediums, along with a variety of techniques designed to develop observational and technical skills, will be explored. All supplies will be provided.

LAPIDARY (ROCK POLISHING) Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

Four Monday mornings starting February 9, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Class fee: \$100 per four-week session

Four Thursday nights starting February 12, 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 February 17, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. or**

• **Five Thursday mornings beginning February 19, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Class fee: \$131 Plus a \$45 Materials fee per session

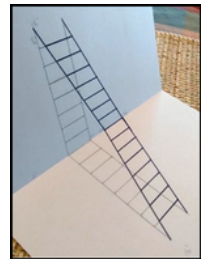
By working with silver, copper, or brass, students can create either a silver ring or pendant. Students will learn the basics of metalsmithing such as sawing, filing, sanding, and soldering to create their own original jewelry pieces. Students are welcome to bring in stones for which to create their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

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS IN ART Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Wednesday, April 1, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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

Celebrate April Fools Day by creating optical illusions, based on the concept of Anamorphic Art, in which the artist uses visual tricks that fool our eyes. You will complete 3 different drawings of distorted images that will "spring to life" as 3-dimensional forms when you view them from a certain angle using the camera on your phone. Please bring a cell phone that has a camera to the workshop.



PAINTING WORKSHOP: VALENTINE HEARTS Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Saturday, February 14, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Workshop fee: \$20 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

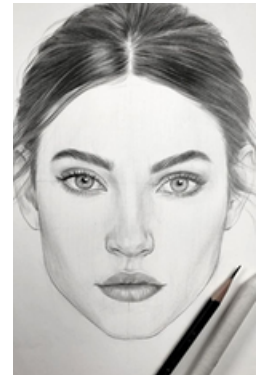
Heaven will show you step by step how to create this fun painting, with room for individuality. Open to students of all ages, as long as students aged twelve and under are accompanied by a guardian.

PORTRAIT DRAWING Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Three Wednesdays 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 February 9, 1:00 -3:30 p.m.,** Instructor: Madeleine Burns
- **Four Tuesday nights starting February 10, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**
- **Four Wednesday mornings starting Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 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.



HEART SHAPED OVEN MITT

Sunday, February 8, Noon - 2:30 p.m.

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

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

SEW A SACHET

Sunday, February 22, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Workshop fee: \$26 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Sew a beautiful fabric sachet to fill with a fragrant dried botanical potpourri blend. Dried lavender and rose will be available, along with other fragrant herbs and spices. Great to put in your drawers, cars, or give as gifts.

STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP Instructor: Savannah Kristof

Sunday, 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 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.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL PAPER CRAFTING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. - Noon Instructor: Barb Thompson

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

Create a three-dimensional paper craft out of folded and glued strips of cardstock that can be displayed in a shadow box.



WATERCOLOR PAINTING Instructor: Lenox Wallace

Six Monday afternoons starting February 23, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. (Advanced Class)

Six Thursday mornings beginning February 26, 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

WOODCARVING Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

Six Thursdays starting February 26, 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 Therese

Three Friday mornings starting February 13, 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

Three Thursdays starting February 19, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$45

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 February 9, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$60

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, February 1 or March 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.

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, February 3 “Addiction, Recovery, and the Pathway to Sobriety Program”

Join Pathway Director Mark Walker as he discusses theories, strategies, and some common misconceptions about aspects of addiction and phases of recovery. Pathway Manager Matt Barry and Pathway Alum Dan Morley will also be in attendance to add to the discussion and the Q&A



Tuesday, February 10 “Hooray for Art” with Terry Lynch

Join actor Terry Lynch and experience the exquisite world of art with a typical French artist, Monsieur Henri Palette, as he takes you on a journey to explore his favorite works and their creators. Discover the timeless masterpieces of Joseph Cornell, Alexander Calder, Mary Cassatt, Jacob Lawrence, Paul Klee, John Singer Sargent, Diego Rivera, and the art of 6th-century China in this captivating program.

Tuesday, February 17 An Afternoon of Music with Mark Dvorak

The Chicago Tribune called Midwest troubadour Mark Dvorak “masterful.” The Fox Valley Folk Festival describes him as “a living archive of song and style.” Dvorak will be here to perform folk classics, original songs, and sing-along favorites with guitar and 5-string banjo.



Tuesday, February 24 “An Afternoon of Magic” with Trent James

Comedy Magician Trent James brings some new tricks to The Center. Trent has received over twenty awards and honors for his magic. He’s the youngest ever recipient of the Milbourne Christopher Award, whose past winners include David Copperfield and Penn & Teller. Trent is quickly becoming one of the top magicians in the country, and his fast-paced show is loaded with humor, audience participation, and mind-boggling magic that will entertain all ages.

Have You Shopped at The Center’s Gift Shop...

Located in the beautiful lodge at the Center is the quaint Fellowcrafters Gift Shop.

The shop was established in 1939 and still flourishing 86 years later. A dedicated group of volunteer crafters design, create and donate beautiful handmade items. The shop also carries unique quality vintage items. You are sure to find something special for that certain someone.

The shop is open 7 days a week, 9 to 5 when the Lodge Office is open. The shop is managed by volunteers and 100% of the gift shop proceeds benefits the Center. Fellowcrafters always welcome new crafters.

Any interest or for additional information contact the Lodge Office
Phone: 708-361-3650 Email: admin@thecenterpalos.org
Hope you visit soon

The Center



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Parish and Community Center Foundation
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708-361-3650
Website: <http://www.thecenterpalos.org>
Email: admin@thecenterpalos.org

**DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

A NIGHT TO LINGER

Benefitting our
Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate By Mail

Return the donation slip
included in this month's
newsletter.

Every dollar counts! All
proceeds will directly
send local kids in need to
farm and ranch camp this
summer.

Donate Online



Attend Night to Linger

We encourage everyone to
support the case by
attending a Night to Linger
on March 12, and
participating in the night's
activities.

Tickets will be available for
purchase beginning
February 2.

Help Us Recruit Raffle & Auction Prizes

Reach out to family, neighbors, and friends: ask for donations of goods, services, or monetary contributions that can be used as raffle or auction prizes at our event.

Contact your employer or local businesses: engage local shops, restaurants, and service providers to contribute items or gift certificates.