

November 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

THE FARM THAT FEEDS US... IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

Did you know that the 70 acres The Center calls home began with a minister's dream and a farmer's generosity? Long before there was a Children's Farm, a Wayside Chapel, or even The Center, this land was simply Ernest Warner's farm.

November and the Thanksgiving season have a way of turning our attention toward harvest. We think about what has grown, what has been nurtured, and all that we have to be grateful for. And when I think about harvest, I can't help but think about the farm, and the remarkable story of how this particular piece of land came to be The Center.

Ernest Warner was a somewhat reclusive farmer who lived on this land. Our founder, Sandy Sanders, befriended him, and over time, Ernest came to believe in Sandy's dream. He eventually donated a small portion of his acreage to help Sandy get started. When Ernest died, he left the remainder of his land to The Center.

Think about that for a moment. The land that became The Center exists because a quiet farmer believed in the dream of a Methodist minister. There is something incredibly special about this ground beginning as a farm and continuing to be farmed nearly a century later.

There was a time in the 1980s when The Center was facing such serious financial challenges that selling the farm was actually discussed. It is hard to imagine what The Center would look like today without these acres. Without the Children's Farm. Without the animals, gardens, and pastures. Without the lessons, peace, joy, and nourishment this land provides.



For many decades, the farm literally helped feed The Center. We ate what we raised. We used what we had. There was an awareness of where our food came from and a mindfulness about growing it. We were frugal and resourceful because the land mattered.

Over time, like much of the country, we became more removed from that relationship. Grocery stores made food convenient and available year-round. Seasonality mattered less, and we became consumers of food rather than participants in producing it.

Thankfully, we are finding our way back. For the past two decades, our farm has once again been striving to be an important part of our local food system. Our garden has grown tremendously thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers. Livestock graze our pastures. We raise grass-fed beef and pork, collect eggs from our hens, and keep bees that provide honey and pollinate our crops. We have apple, pear, and cherry trees, along with raspberries and strawberries.

Our friends at OAK Farm and Kitchen grow market produce here for our Community Supported Agriculture program. This season, ten households have been coming to the farm every other week to pick up vegetables, herbs, meats, and eggs grown or raised right here.

This summer, we gathered for three Summer Supper Series dinners, eating outdoors, steps from the pasture and enjoying food raised right here on the farm. Later this month, we'll gather once more for the annual Field to Fork dinner featuring five courses curated by Chef Kat and celebrating locally grown goodness.

These aren't simply programs. They are a reconnection to something that has always been part of The Center.

At our last Summer Supper, I shared a little about Ernest Warner. I think about him often. I wonder what he would think if he could walk these 70 acres today. I hope he would recognize his farm. I hope he would see the care that has gone into this land, the children learning here, the families gathering here, the animals grazing, and the food growing. I hope he would see that his gift continues to nourish people in ways he could never have imagined.

Ernest didn't simply give The Center a piece of property. He entrusted us with something. For generations, people have cared for this land before us, and someday others will care for it after us. We are simply its stewards for this brief moment in time. And perhaps that is the most beautiful part of the story.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I find myself especially grateful for that gift. Grateful for the farmer who believed in Sandy's dream. Grateful for the generations of people who have cared for this ground. Grateful for the staff and volunteers who continue to grow, tend, and teach here. And grateful for all of you who come to The Center and allow this place to be part of your lives.

Ernest's gift is still giving. Sandy's dream is still growing. And the farm that once fed just bellies is now feeding us through connection, community, peace, and wonder.

There is, indeed, much to be thankful for. Wishing you the happiest of Thanksgivings!



Amy Donze
Executive Director



THE CHILDREN'S FARM

NOVEMBER

OPEN FARM HOURS

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
10AM - 1PM

**Please Note: The Farm Closed
Sunday, November 8th**

Animal Barn • Hayrack Rides
Concessions • Walking Trails

Admission \$9 per person ages 2+



SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

SERVICES

8:30 a.m. in the Parlor

This early morning Vespers is an informal gathering that incorporates 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!

Prayers for Various Needs

During October, we have revived forms of prayer that were popular at The Center in the past. The "Prayer Chain" has been changed to a "Prayer Text String." If you wish either to be included on the prayer text string to pray for other people's needs or to request prayers for specific people or intentions, please contact the Front Office.

Coupled with the prayer text string, we have revived the practice of placing a "Book of Intercessions" in the Chapel during Vespers, and invite you to request prayers for your intentions. At the beginning of each Vespers, we will invite our fellowship to pray for all the written intentions.

Communion Sunday

Sunday, November 1 and December 6, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Join us as we gather for Communion. Non-alcoholic juice and gluten-free bread are provided, and all are welcome at the Lord's table.

A Prayer for Peace at the Labyrinth

The first Tuesday of each month, November 3, December 1, 4:00 p.m. at the Labyrinth

Let us meet at the Labyrinth to walk in silence with Love for peace. All are welcome! No registration is necessary. We will walk rain or shine! Email revc.spirituality@gmail.com with any questions.

Pre-Christmas Bible Study

During the month of November, Reverend Rich will be conducting a bible study series in the Parlor, focusing on the "infancy narratives" in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. The dates and themes of the series are as follows:

Tuesday, November 3, 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.

Truth versus fact in the birth stories

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.

The birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.

The birth of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel



Family Service Sunday

Sunday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor

Family Service returns to The Center! Please join us as we gather in the Parlor for this family-friendly service. November's focus will be all about gratitude. This service is intended for families with children 10 years and younger. Afterwards, we will share a bit of hospitality, because Jesus always ate with his friends! Questions may be directed to Rev. Chris at revc.spirituality@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Day Vespers with Communion

Thursday, November 26, 9:30 a.m.

You and your family are invited to join us for a special Vespers service with Communion. In preparation for celebrating Thanksgiving at our dining room tables, we will gather around Christ's table to give thanks to the Creator of all Blessings. Hope to see you there!

November Food Drive

Leading up to Thanksgiving Day, we are conducting a food drive, asking for your generous support by dropping off non-perishable food & personal care items to the Lodge Front Office. There will be bins just inside the outer doors of the Main Lodge for your food donations. On Thanksgiving morning, a basket of this food will be brought forward at the Vespers for a blessing. The food will later be donated to the Share Food Share Love pantry in Brookfield. Thank you for your support!

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

At both Vespers Services, we will focus on the theme of Jesus' birth to start the Advent Season. Come as we celebrate "God with us" during this beautiful time of year!

Anniversary Dinner and Renewal of Vows

Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Whether or not you were married in our Wayside Chapel, we invite you to celebrate your October, November, or December wedding anniversaries here at The Center on Sunday, December 13. 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 December 8th.

AND A FURTHER SNEAK PEEK INTO DECEMBER...

Advent Chapel Services

Sundays in December, 12:30 p.m.

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.

Pilgrimage to the Manger

Saturday, December 12 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. Rich 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.

Yule Log Service

Wednesday, December 23 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

New this year, we're offering two Yule Log Services!

Join us at The Center for a special evening filled with Christmas carols, Scripture readings, and old-fashioned holiday traditions. The Youth Children's Choir will be singing at the 2:30 p.m. service (inquire if your child would like to participate!). The highlight of the evening is the lighting of our huge Yule Log, followed by the tradition of each participant adding their own twig to the fire as a symbol of a fresh start for the New Year. *Advance registration is required.*

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lodge

We will celebrate Christ's birth in fellowship with candlelight and Vespers with a Communion service. We invite you to join us!

Please Note: There will only be one service on Christmas Eve, and no chapel services on Christmas Day. Sunday Vespers will resume on December 27.



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.**

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. 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, 5:15 p.m. - 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." Please note: There will be no session on October 20 or November 3.

Class fee: \$5 suggested donation per session

RETREATS

Women's Christmas Retreat: Preparing Our Hearts & Our Hearths for Christmas

Saturday, November 21, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

We gather for our very popular annual women's Christmas Retreat, which will focus on preparing not just our homes, but also our hearts for the holidays! Featuring Christmas crafts, fireside fellowship, and time for reflection, this women's retreat is always a wonderful way to get in the spirit of the season. A full day of creativity and Christmas Spirit!

Retreat leaders: Lois Lauer and Julie Palucki

Retreat fee: \$110.



PROGRAM



Toastmasters

Wednesday, November 4 and 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Want to stimulate your mind? Expand your social circles? Find new interests? And most of all, have some fun? If so, Toastmasters at The Center is the place for YOU! We do so much more than give speeches. We welcome you to come and see for yourself! You will be glad that you did. For more information, go to <https://5312.toastmastersclubs.org/>

WomanTalk Discussion Group

Tuesday, November 17, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Simple Abundance encourages each of us to seek out the "stunning ordinary in the simply overlooked" as we prepare for the approaching holiday seasons. Perhaps make weekly donations to a local food pantry, explore local fall events, such as a class at The Center, or visit a Will County Forest Preserve and take a Woods Walk! What would you enjoy?

"WomanTalk" is a gathering of women who meet monthly 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, founded in Spring 1997, seeks ways to live authentically and joyfully. November finds us sharing blessings reflecting the power of community, togetherness, and friendship.

We hope that you'll be able to join us in the Parlor. We often plan a group outing together each month during the meeting. If you have any questions about the group, or the outing, please contact the Center office by e-mail at tarag@thecenterpalos.org.

Reiki Circle

4th Sunday of the Month, November 22, 1:00- 2:30 p.m. in the FVR

Join us for our monthly Reiki share at The Center! There will not be a Reiki Circle in December. We will resume again in January. Whether you are trained in Reiki (I, II, 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.

LUNCHEONS

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

Tuesday, November 3 “Remember When” with Todd Hunt

Remember when there was only one flavor of Cheerios? Three TV networks? Humans answered the phone? Enjoy photos, videos, and recollections of TV shows, childhood candy, vintage ads, and more. Nostalgic humorist Todd Hunt shares memories of growing when times were simpler. (Do you still have your mood ring and Barbie doll?)

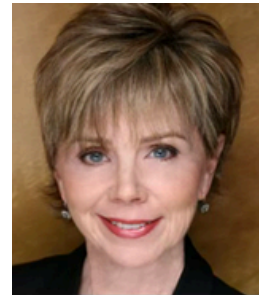


Tuesday, November 10 “Veterans Day Presentation” with Glenn Granat

In honor of Veterans Day Glenn Granat will bring a host of military items ranging from the American Revolution to current time and discuss these items' history.

Tuesday, November 17 “A Storytelling Workshop” with Jenny Riddle

Join professional storyteller Jenny Riddle for an engaging exploration of how the moments in our lives become meaningful stories. Through memorable examples and simple storytelling tools, you'll learn how to recognize story-worthy moments from your own life and shape them into compelling stories. Jenny will show how small experiences- a childhood memory, a family tradition, or a turning point- can be crafted into stories that reveal who we are and what we've learned. Along the way, you'll discover why stories are so powerful and how vivid details bring them to life, leaving you with ideas for telling the stories you carry.



Tuesday, November 24 “The History of The Center” with Mark Walker

In celebration of The Center's 94th anniversary, Mark Walker has put together a video/slide show focusing on the mission and meaning and programs of The Center. The presentation features that show and a lively discussion of The Center's history.

AND COMING IN DECEMBER...

Tuesday, December 1 “An Afternoon of Stories” with Mary Lou Edwards

Mary Lou Edwards is an accomplished storyteller and a longtime friend of The Center. She has been sharing her stories with our community for many years, weaving tales that inspire, entertain, and connect. Her passion for storytelling has touched the hearts of innumerable individuals and her genuine love for The Center makes her an invaluable part of our family. Her coming-of-age stories and life experiences combined with her zany sense of humor guarantee a very fun time.



Tuesday, December 8. Christmas Tea Around the Tree Luncheon (Registration is within the Christmas Teas)

The tea luncheon will have our typical hearty luncheon-style buffet meal, as well as Christmas Tea. All guests will have the chance to make their own blend of Holiday potpourri. Megan Wells will take us on a storytelling journey through the tender nostalgia of 1947 Illinois. Essie's Christmas follows twelve-year old Lacy through the ups and downs of a Christmas Eve snowstorm.

Event Price: \$48

Also! **Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.** sees the return of “Bob Cratchit Night” with Greg Weiss. **Tuesday, December 8** is a Christmas Tea luncheon. **[Both “Bob Cratchit” and the tea will have separate admissions and listings.]** The Live Indoor Nativity Luncheon is **Tuesday, December 15.**





ART CENTER OPEN HOUSE AND ART SHOW

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14,
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

Stop by our art center to chat with teachers from The Log Cabin Center for the Arts about classes they teach and the art they create. Teachers will have displays of their own artworks with some items for sale.



2ND ANNUAL FIELD TO FORK DINNER

Join us for a five-course farm-to-table dinner that celebrates the gifts of the season and the joy of gathering around the table!

This meal is more than a menu. It's truly a story of our land, our farmers, and the flavors that come alive when food is grown with care. Chef Kat has created a beautiful progression of dishes inspired by Thanksgiving featuring slow roasted turkey with homemade pan gravy along with sprinkling the classic sides and accompaniments throughout the entire meal.

Pasture-raised meats, eggs and honey from our own SAGE program are highlighted alongside produce from O.A.K. Farm and other local growers. Each course will be paired with a unique handcrafted, non-alcoholic beverage, designed to bring out the flavors and invite you to linger in the experience.



Every ticket purchased sows seeds for the future. Your support nurtures our SAGE program, where we teach and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while growing wholesome, nourishing food that feeds our community.



Tickets: \$125 per person
November 14 | 4PM
The Lodge at The Center



***Tickets on sale now
Come hungry. Leave nourished.***

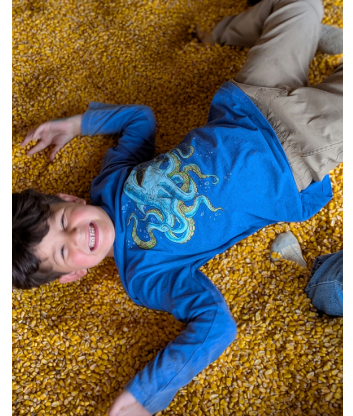
FARM AND NATURE DISCOVERY SCHOOL

This November, our children will be exploring the season of autumn! They will be making different crafts and art projects in nature and with nature. They will explore different patterns, colors, textures, and shapes while exploring their outdoor environment. We will be going on leaf hunts, observing the changes in weather, and learning about how animals prepare for winter during fall.

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. Our classrooms will explore a rich history and culture of Native Americans, as well as the Indigenous peoples from our area and across North America. We will introduce culturally sensitive and accurate lessons that are geared towards building curiosity about diversity and a drive to learn about differences in cultures.

We will also be learning about friendship and thankfulness. Social and emotional development is a massive part of our curriculum and philosophy. We are going to be exploring what it means to be grateful and practice applying that to our lives. We are also going to switch up our school feast to a pizza party this year to observe Thanksgiving!

There is still time to join us for the 2026-2027 school year! We do have availability in our MWF morning Pre-Kindergarten that runs from 9:15 - 11:45 a.m. We also have availability in our afternoon classes that run from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. for both Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about our school, or would like to set up a tour, contact Danielle Bell at 708-361-8933 or by email at FarmAndNature@TheCenterPalos.org.





The Children's Farm

Holiday FARM FUNCTION

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

Saturday, December 12th
10AM - 1PM

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

*HAYRACK RIDES ARE WEATHER PERMITTING



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2026

ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS

KIDS SEWING WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES Instructor: Angela Gonzalez
Open to students in 3rd - 8th grade. Bring your own sewing machine or use one of ours.



FALL PONCHO

Sunday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Sew a wearable poncho, perfect for fall weather.

GNOME ORNAMENT

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$6 Materials fee

Learn to sew a cute holiday gnome ornament for your Christmas Tree, or the perfect holiday gift.

FAMILY CERAMICS AND ART WORKSHOPS

Pricing includes one child and one guardian, open to all ages.

We will fire your ceramic pieces in our kiln after class and will call you to pick up when ready.

FAMILY CERAMICS WORKSHOP: TURKEY SCULPTURES

Thursday, November 12, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Families will create a charming turkey sculpture, will make a great decoration this Thanksgiving!

FAMILY CERAMICS WORKSHOP: CHRISTMAS TREE SCULPTURES

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Create whimsical Christmas Tree sculptures from clay.

FAMILY CERAMICS WORKSHOP: GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Thursday, December 3, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Instructor: Heaven Newsom

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Learn the steps to create a gingerbread house sculpture from terra cotta clay that will last for many years.



FAMILY JEWELRY WORKSHOP: RESIN PENDANTS Instructor: Aimee Leang

Wednesday, November 4, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$45 Plus a \$16 Materials fee

Have fun making mini collages inside a jewelry-sized blank metal frame. Students can use dried flowers, semi-precious stones, glitter, sequins, and more! Students will seal the pieces with a UV resin. Feel free to bring items from home to include, although the teacher will have a variety for students to choose from.



FAMILY HOLIDAY ENAMELED ORNAMENT WORKSHOP Instructor: Aimee Leang

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$45 Plus a \$16 Materials fee

Create festive holiday ornaments using copper shapes in which you will enamel with a base color of your choice. We will decorate the surface with a variety of seed beads, stones, sequins, and glitter, then seal with a permanent UV resin coating.



FAMILY HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOP: ORNAMENTS AND DECOR

Thursday, December 17, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$5 Materials fee. Instructor: Heaven Newsom
Have fun creating ornaments and holiday decor together. Some items you can create are: cute snowman ornaments, cards and art with buttons that will represent members of your family, as well as mini wreath ornaments and paper chains.



FAMILY SEWING WORKSHOP: CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Monday, November 16 or December 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$15 Materials fee per workshop. Instructor: Angela Gonzalez
Sew memories with your family while you create a holiday keepsake stocking with your choice of festive Christmas fabric.

FAMILY WATERCOLORS PAINTING WORKSHOP: A CIRCLE OF GRATITUDE

Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$32 Plus a \$6 Materials fee. Instructor: Brigid Kiruci
Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a watercolor painting of a wreath inspired by warmth and the colors of autumn. Families will paint, create, and connect while reflecting on the people, moments, and things that make life special.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2026 **SCHEDULE OF ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

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



ABSTRACT ART PAINTING Instructor: Sandy Safranek

Thursday, November 12, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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

Create your own unique Abstract/Modern Art Painting in acrylic paints on a canvas panel. Each student will use lines, shapes, textures, and colors to design a variety of patterns and produce a painting that resembles those done by contemporary artists.

BASKET WORKSHOP: HOSTESS BASKET Instructor: Jane Dwyer

Two-day workshop on Friday, November 13 and 20, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$30 Materials fee

Learn how to weave two small baskets. One that you could bring to a holiday party with handmade baked good or treats and give to your hostess as a gift, and one for yourself.



BOOK PAGE ORNAMENTS AND DECORATIONS Instructor: Barb Thompson

Friday, December 4, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$3 Materials fee

Use book pages to create ornaments and decorations for the holidays.



CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP Instructor: Marge Boyd

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

Class fee: \$31 Plus a \$5 Materials fee

Learn creative lettering styles using calligraphy pens and ink. We'll create some colorful gift tags for the holidays.



CANDLEMAKING WORKSHOP Instructor: Kim Taylor

Saturday, November 7, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Class fee: \$20 Plus a \$20 Materials fee

Brighten and enlighten yourself in candle-making basics, while walking away with your own beautifully handmade crackling wood wick candle creation! We will use 100% organic soy wax, crackling wood wicks, and aromatherapy fragrances (optional) to make candles. With fall in the air and the holiday season around the corner, your candle can make a thoughtful gift or become part of a fun family tradition.



CERAMICS WORKSHOPS AND POTTERY CLASSES

CHRISTMAS TREE SCULPTURES Instructor: Robin Power
Two-day Workshop on Tuesday, December 1 and 8, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$16 Materials fee
 Sculpt a Christmas tree from clay on the first day of class, then paint colorful glazes on the second day.

FATHER CHRISTMAS SCULPTURES Instructor: Robin Power
Two-day Workshop on Wednesday, December 2 and 9, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: \$55 Plus a \$16 Materials fee
 On the first day, you will create a "Father Christmas" sculpture that will look perfect on your mantel this holiday season. Paint with colorful glazes on day two.



LUMINARY Instructor: Chris Matusek
Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: \$30 Plus a \$11 Materials fee
 A cozy little project for the darker days ahead. You'll shape a cone of clay into a glowing winter-themed luminary that you will pierce to let candlelight shine through. Students can add colorful glazes within the class.



MARbled CLAY TRAY Instructor: Robin Power
Wednesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Class fee: \$30 Plus a \$11 Materials fee
 By using different colors of clay, you will create a marbled design in clay and form a small platter. After the piece has been fired, we will add a layer of clear glaze.



CERAMICS WORKSHOP: WOVEN CERAMIC TRIVETS
Wednesday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Class fee: \$30 Plus a \$11 Materials fee. Instructor: Robin Power
 Create a trivet out of clay that'd be perfect for your holiday table.



POTTERY CLASSES

Instructor: Robin Power
Four Tuesday mornings starting November 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Class fee: \$127 Plus a \$38 Materials fee
 Instructor: Chris Matusek
Four Tuesday nights starting November 17, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Class fee: \$127 Plus a \$38 Materials fee

In this multi-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.

COLLAGE Instructor: April Schabes
Six Wednesday mornings beginning January 6, 9:30 a.m. - Noon. Class fee: \$160
 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!"

CROCHET WORKSHOP: MINI WREATH ORNAMENTS
Saturday, November 21, 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$5 Materials fee. Instructor: Marissa Nugent
 Learn the steps to create a small wreath ornament in time for the holidays.



DECORATIVE GIFTBOX WORKSHOP
Friday, November 20, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$5 Materials fee. Instructor: Barb Thompson
 Create a gift box using unique decorative papers, just in time for the holiday season.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS Instructor: Karen Signore

GRATITUDE ROCKS

Sunday, November 15, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$12 Materials fee

The practice of gratitude enhances our wellbeing and quality of life. Join us for a heart-centered, nourishing afternoon of reflection and creativity as we contemplate gratitude. Explore gratitude through guided meditation, journaling, and art. You will use paint, markers, decorative papers, and other embellishments to decorate rocks with messages of gratitude. They can be shared with others, or leave them in unexpected places to brighten someone's day.

LAYERS OF COZY, WINTER SOLSTICE MIXED MEDIA ART WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 13, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$40 Plus a \$12 Materials fee

This workshop blends guided meditation, reflective journaling, and mixed media art to celebrate cozy winter moments and the magic of the upcoming solstice. After a calming meditation to ground yourself in the season's stillness, you will journal about winter memories, traditions, and the symbolic renewal the solstice brings. Next, you will explore layering paints, textured papers, natural elements, and a variety of embellishments to create a mixed-media art piece that illustrates your winter story

FELTED ANGEL WORKSHOP Instructor: Barb Simon

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

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$8 Materials fee

Learn the art of felting and create a charming angel that can be used as a tree topper or to decorate this holiday season.



FINGER-KNIT WINTER SCARF WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 21, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$30 Instructor: Sandy Safranek

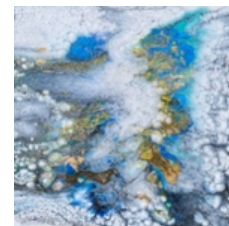
Create a soft, warm winter scarf using a finger-knitting process. No knitting experience is required. Participants should purchase and bring their own yarn. One skein (bundle) of Yarnspirations Bernat Blanket Big Yarn is all that is needed to create one scarf, available at Michaels. This will be a great opportunity to make someone a beautiful scarf as a Christmas gift.

FLUID PAINTING ART CLASS Instructor: Thomas Dunn

Tuesday, November 17, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Class fee: \$35 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

Create an original abstract painting on canvas. Students will experiment with color while paint pouring. Learn techniques in creating cell images and lacing techniques.



FOLK ART WORKSHOPS Instructor: Lois Lauer

BROOM-MAKING!

Saturday, November 7, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$36 Plus a \$15 Materials fee

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. Returning 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.



WREATHS, FRESH SWAGS, GARLANDS, OR BUCKETS OF EVERGREENS!

Sunday, November 29, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$20 Materials fee

By working with fresh fir, cedar, and pine branches, students will choose what they would like to create. Choices include: forming greens into a garland to drape above a doorway or on a mantel, a swag of gathered evergreens, a circle of evergreens to hang on your front door, or a bucket of evergreens to set indoors or out. "Frost" some of your branches with white paint, tuck in some pinecones, and add colorful holiday ribbon to finish your creations. You will go home with the fragrance and beauty of Christmas!

HAMMERED COPPER CUFF WORKSHOP Instructor: Aimee Leang
Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$30 Plus a \$8 Materials fee

Create a cuff bracelet from a hammered copper sheet. Students will draw their design, cut with metal sheers, file and add hammered textures.



LAPIDARY (ROCK POLISHING)

Four Monday mornings starting November 16, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Larry Rothenberg

Four Thursday nights starting November 12, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jackie Burger. (No class on November 26)

Class fee: \$100 per four-week session

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.

LITHUANIAN STRAW ORNAMENTS Instructor: Ann Marie Jagiella

Monday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Learn to construct your own ornaments from straw in geometric designs.



METALSMITHING FOR JEWELRY Instructor: Mary Michaelson

Five Tuesday nights beginning January 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

or Five Thursday mornings beginning January 7, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Class fee: \$140 Plus a \$52 Materials fee per 5-week 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.

MUSHROOM EARRINGS WORKSHOP Instructor: Aimee Leang

Saturday, November 7, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$30 Plus a \$8 Materials fee, per workshop

Fall is mushroom hunting season! Create your own cute mushroom earrings, choosing from many colors and sizes of high-quality Czech glass beads. Learn wire-wrapping techniques to finish and choose from a variety of earring styles.



PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP: SNOW ANGEL ORNAMENTS

Thursday, November 19, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$5 Materials Instructor: Marilyn VandenBout

Learn how to make round sheets of paper embossed with snowflake designs. Then, use the papers to create and angel ornament.



SEWING WORKSHOP: HOLIDAY TABLE TOPPER Instructor: Angela Gonzalez

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$39 Plus a \$12 Materials fee

Sew a winter-themed mat to accent your holiday table decor. The finished project is a medium-sized hexagonal table runner.



STAINED GLASS WORKSHOP Instructor: Savannah Kristof

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$100 Plus a \$50 Materials fee

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.

WINTER LANDSCAPE DRAWING WORKSHOP Instructor: Sandy Safranek
Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$30 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 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Class fee: \$112 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)



WOODEN CHRISTMAS HOUSE WORKSHOP Instructor: Sarah Mills
Friday, November 20, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$10 Materials fee

Design and paint some one-of-a-kind mini Christmas-inspired houses. Can make a great gift or look great on your mantel this holiday season.



WREATHMAKING Instructor: George Mitchell
Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$26 Plus a \$18 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!

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

NEW!! FAMILY YOGA WORKSHOP “MINDFUL TOGETHERNESS, A GRATITUDE YOGA FLOW”

Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Instructor: Brigid Kircuci

Class fee: \$30 (pricing is for two participants, open to all ages)

Through gentle yoga, mindful movement, and breathwork, families can pause to cultivate gratitude and connection. Sharing these intentional moments grounds parents and children in a calm, thankful togetherness.

GENTLE YOGA Instructor: Maura Therese

Three Friday mornings starting November 6, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

or Three Friday mornings starting December 4, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Class fee: \$48 per three-week session

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



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

Sundays, November 1 or December 13, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Fee: \$26 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.

SLOW FLOW YOGA Instructor: Danielle Schaar
Three Thursday nights starting December 3, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
Class fee: \$48

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.

SUNDAY MORNING YOGA Instructor: Maura Therese
Four Sundays beginning November 1, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Class fee: \$64
or Two Sundays beginning December 6, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Class fee: \$32

Treat yourself to a yoga class that's "Easy like Sunday Morning", a gentle session to help you ease into your Sunday. Expect mindful, breath-led movement at your own pace, and leave with that "good morning stretch" feeling. Bring your own yoga mat and yoga blocks if you have them.

TRANQUIL YOGA Instructor: Debbie Jacob
Four Monday nights starting November 23, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Class fee: \$64

Invest in your health through 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.

WINTER SOLSTICE WORKSHOP: RETURN TO THE LIGHT Instructor: Carolyn Harms
Saturday, December 19, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Class fee: \$40

A two-hour gentle yoga flow, yoga nidra, and candlelight ritual to release 2026 and call in your light for 2027.

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.

Rustic Holiday Market & Art Show

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for this huge art show and 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 and spread out to 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! This event is spread throughout the Lodge and Art Center cabins.



The Center



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

**DATED MATERIAL
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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. Guests will help themselves to a wide assortment of tea party treats. A musician plays piano throughout. All guests will have the chance to create their own holiday potpourri to take home. Holiday storytelling will conclude the event.



Christmas Teas will take place on:

Tuesday, December 8

(this luncheon tea is also listed within the Tuesday Luncheons and is Noon - 2:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 9

Thursday, December 10

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

Event Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Event Price: \$48 per person

Tickets go on sale starting Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.

