

Troubadour

Newsletter of the Franciscan Life Process Center ♦ Vol 3, No 1, Autumn 2008

Art ~ Counseling ~ Music ~ Therapy ~ Preschool ~ Retreats ~ Volunteer



On the Farm

Some years, summer is hot and dry. Trees and flowers struggle to survive in the parched soil, while the land takes on the faded look of a photograph left too long in the sun, scratched and etched with lines and creases from the fallen, brittle leaves and cracked earth. It is a constant struggle to keep lawns healthy, flowers and trees growing and vegetable gardens thriving.

But this year, the healthy rains have yielded dazzling flowers and abundant produce. Tall grass fields lining the roads leading to the Franciscan Center have been harvested for their hay, perfect for local horses. Sweet corn planted early in the season have grown at a fast pace, filling the field with a dense sea of deep green stalks, golden tassels and colossal ears.

Around the main buildings, the cultivated flower beds were overflowing with radiant blooms. Wild flowers also encouraged to naturalize the surrounding land. Site manager Cris Ritsema and maintenance staff Barb Rogers and José Mauricio Anleu have worked diligently all summer to protect and promote sweet woodruff, trillium, and ferns. In the fallow fields, black-eyed susan, purple coneflower, phlox, wild bergamot, goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace and milkweed grow well.

The Franciscan livestock take the passing showers and storms in stride. Miniature goats, Cyril and Methodious, sharing a pen with their full-size cousin, Confidence, watch the rain from the rooftop of their goat house. Miniature horses, Mister Ed and Star, seem unconcerned by the muddy pasture while the cows and sheep seek cover inside the barn. Curled up in the hay loft are a scattering of barn cats, awaiting the clearing sky. It is just another day "on the farm."

New hay bales glow in the morning light.



20th Annual LIFE fest is Great Family Event

The guest speaker for the Franciscan Center's 20th annual LIFE fest addresses a core value that helps define a person's character: "It's about the small steps you take every day. Doing the right thing at the right time even if no one is watching; that's integrity." National Character Education Foundation representative Charlie Aeschliman continues, "Nothing takes the place of perseverance - not strength, not talent and not intelligence. There is only ever one true failure and that's giving up on yourself. Don't fear failure; it's a normal part of the experience."

Aeschliman will be the guest speaker for the LIFE fest 2008 dinner on October 18th. The former elite Navy Elite SEAL is considered the best trick basketball handler in the world and was recently crowned NIKE's "National Playoff Festival Champion." Emcee for the evening will be John Varineau. The Saturday event is open to adults and students grade 7 - 12.

"A Country Sampler" takes place from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The afternoon begins with noon Mass, followed by a casual lunch of hot dogs, Sloppy Joe's, chips and more. Guests can enjoy plenty of family games, horse and wagon rides and craft demonstrations on the grounds. Children's activities will include rock painting, pumpkin carving, mask making and other craft projects.

Music Marathon has been incorporated into the events for the first time this year. All afternoon Sunday, a variety of local and regional music with vocal and dance entertainment is scheduled at multiple locations around the Center.

A Silent Auction begins on Saturday night and continues through Sunday afternoon. Guests may bid on a variety of donated items including linens from Assisi, Italy, hand-made crafts and many locally donated items. Franciscan Friend volunteer Jack Davidson's hand-finished, blue-bird houses are a feature, as well as an intricately stitched, full-size quilt made by the sisters of Sister Theophane Wurzer, FSE.

Monies raised from this annual benefit directly support the Center's scholarship pro-grams, which provide subsidies for preschool tuition and music and art scholarships for families and individuals needing financial assistance.

Tickets for Saturday night's dinner and event are \$60 for adults or \$50 for students grades 7-12. Sunday's

"A Country Sampler" tickets are \$7.50 for adults or \$25 per family. Those interested in ordering tickets may use the form on the back page of the newsletter. For more information, please call the Franciscan Center at 897-7842.



LIFE fest Silent Auction items include hand-made quilts and bluebird houses.

GVSU Professor Puts FLPC on Global Map

Carrying mobile transmitters, cameras, and maps, Grand Valley State University Associate Professor of Geography and Planning, Edwin Joseph, walks the grounds of the Franciscan Center, carefully listening for the beeps and clicks that indicate measurements are being recorded correctly. It is part of the methodical process required to add sites to the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Information Systems (GIS.)

The digital information will provide a precise, permanent record of underground cables, pipes, power lines and geographical data. This data can be downloaded to the international GPS site, the only fully functional global navigation satellite system (also known as NAVSTAR-GPS.) NAVSTAR is a network of more than thirty earth-orbiting satellites

world-wide. An example of GPS imagery is used on websites such as www.googleearth.com

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, former professor in the Biology Department at GVSU and now Chairman of Development of Environmental Science Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, accompanied Joseph and a group of environmental science students, as they recorded data. Information gathered on location was taken back to the university for processing. Joseph generously donated his time and services spent completing the project.

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, and Grand Valley State Associate Professor Edwin Joseph collect GPS data.



Music Department Adds New Employees

Three new staff members have joined the Franciscan Center music department this fall, increasing the availability for music lessons and music therapy programs. New Music Educator Jane Rittenhouse began in early August while music interns Hanna Pieper and Pete Muszkiewicz started later in the month.

Jane earned her a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio. She was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Music Education at Western Michigan University, and most recently taught in the Wayland-Union (Michigan) school system. Proficient in the K.M.T.I. instructional method (similar to the Suzuki violin approach,) Jane will use the technique with the Center's preschool and young music students.

The Philadelphia native is married and has two grown daughters, Jennifer, who lives in Florida, and Melody, who lives in Cincinnati.

Music therapy intern Hanna Pieper comes from Wartburg College, Waverly, IA and

Peter Muszkiewicz from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Both have a very clear idea as to why they have chosen music therapy as their professional path.

Hanna says, "Music can be used in a variety of ways...and is a means of communication and expression. I want to be able to give myself in order to increase the quality of life for another." Peter chose to apply to the internship site for his clinical training because "as a native of Grand Rapids who continues to live and work there, I am deeply interested in serving my community through music therapy."

Franciscan Center Updating E-Mail News & Contact List

If you are already on our mailing list and are interested in receiving special events information or news bulletins regarding the Franciscan Life Process Center programs or events via e-mail, send *your* e-mail address to: www.lifeprocesscenter.org

If you are not currently on our mailing list, please include your full name, mailing address and phone number in your e-mail to us.

Catholic Youth Rally Planned for November

Over 500 high school students are expected to attend the God Persistently Seeking (GPS) Vocation Youth Rally for Catholic High School students in the Diocese of Grand Rapids on Saturday, November 8. The all-day event will be held at Catholic Central High School and is free of charge for youth and their parents.

Intended as an opportunity for high school students to explore their Christian vocation and vocations in religious life and priesthood, the youth rally hopes to encourage youth to seriously consider how God is calling them to serve. Activities planned include vocation exhibits, live bands, witness talks, keynote speakers, Adoration and Benediction at the Cathedral, concurrent sessions for youth and their parents, and Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 4:30 p.m. at the Cathedral.

Religious congregations/providences are invited to display vocation materials in the exhibit area. For a \$30 fee per exhibit, guests will receive a skirted 8-foot table, signage and lunch. Deadline for registration is October 1. Contact Mrs. Toni McKay at jamtam9894@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Jane Rittenhouse, Music Educator

Advent Retreat Set For Early December

Can the events of our daily lives that evoke passion and cause conflict lead us to God? Is the "stuff" of our familial, professional and relational experiences raw material for an encounter with the divine?

If these are the questions you ponder, please join us on Thursday, December 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for an opportunity to take a fresh look at how God seeks to transform us through the chaotic demands of everyday living. By descending into our earth-boundedness, we may find an inner treasure waiting to be claimed and embraced.

The day will include prayer, presentations, quiet time, Mass, refreshments, and a noon lunch. **Fee: \$50.** For more information, call (616) 897-7842.

Preschool Begins Autumn Schedule

Beginning September 2, many fresh faces will join familiar ones in the Franciscan Center Preschool. Instructor Fredna Rayford helps the young children adapt to new routines, reassuring anxious tots as they familiarize themselves with different surroundings. It is an exciting time for all. Teacher Aid, Miranda Gasper, starts her first full year.

The preschool program emphasizes a core curriculum of reading and literacy, mathematics, music, science and art. Part of each school day focuses on these vital areas, helping to prepare children for kindergarten. Children also explore the outdoor environment with daily trips to the farm, nature hikes or open-air projects.

Preschool volunteers are always welcome. No previous preschool experience is required. Those wishing to volunteer one or more mornings or afternoons, Monday through Thursday, please call 897-7842. Hours are available from 9 a.m. - noon or 1 - 4 p.m.

Registrar Helps Guests Join Classes/Programs

As the Franciscan Center continues to expand its offerings of retreats, programs, classes and special events, it became clear that a centralized system for managing schedules and registration would be ideal. Our new staff member, Maggie Walsh, will help fulfill this need.

Maggie continues to work part-time as Program Director of Project Rachel of Catholic Charities, West Michigan. A Geography and Planning graduate of University of Toledo, Maggie has spent her adult life in religious training. The Detroit native is married and the mother of five children.



Maggie Walsh, Registrar

September 2
Sept. 9-Dec. 9
Sept. 10-Dec. 10
Sept. 26-Nov. 21
Sept. 25-26
Oct. 3-4
Oct. 6-Nov. 24
Oct. 16-18
October 18

October 19
Oct. 18 & Nov. 1
October 25
November 8
Nov. 12-15
Nov. 17-Jan 16
December 4

Thursdays
By Appointment
By Appointment
By Appointment

Fall Preschool/Music Lessons Call for more information
Tuesday Paint-In/Outs (with Kathy Crane) \$100
Wednesday Paint-In/Outs (with John Knight) \$100
Loom Weaving with Jochen Ditterich (Friday mornings) \$80
Liturgical Design Workshop with John Knight \$85
"Drawing for the Inexperienced" with Brian Buck \$85
"A Family Affair" Digital Photo Classes with Randall Gornowich (Mondays only) \$200/two
"How to Maximize the Colors in Your Palette" with Joe Fettingis \$295
"LIFE fest 2008" Saturday Evening Banquet
with guest speaker Charlie Aeschliman \$60 adults/\$50 students (grades 7-12)
"A Country Sampler" LIFE fest 2008 family picnic \$7.50/person or \$25/family
Raku Pottery with Maija/Karlis Maskevics \$100
"Watercolor: Step One" with Kathy Crane \$85
"GPS Vocation Youth Rally" at Catholic Central High School (..... see news article for details
"The Goddess Within" Mixed-Media/Collage Workshop with Edee Joppich \$295
The Calligraphic Society of Grand Rapids Holiday Art Exhibit Open to the Public
"In the Midst of Chaos: The Kingdom Begins Within" Advent Retreat \$50
Pottery Class with Sr. Mary Colman Pyle (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) \$10/one hour or \$15/two hours
Individual Music Lessons Call for details.
Music Therapy Services Call for details.
Spiritual Direction Call for details.

Autumn Workshops

Tuesday Paint-in/Outs

Weekly September 9 through December 9: This new weekly gathering of artists begins a fall/winter session. A second offering of the popular Wednesday Paint-in program, the group meets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays (except holidays), works individually in a chosen medium or experiments with a new one. These are not instructional classes, although facilitator artist **Kathy Crane** is present for advice at each session. For more information, call 897-7842. **All levels welcome. Fee: \$100 Limited to 20 artists.**

Wednesday Paint-in/Out's

Weekly September 10 through December 10: Program organizer and facilitator artist **John Knight** begins a new season. For more information, check the listing for Tuesday's session or call 897-7842. **All levels welcome. Fee: \$100 Limited to 20 artists.**

Loom Weaving

Sept. 26 – Nov. 21: Beginning this autumn, Friday morning weaving classes will expand to eight sessions, allowing students more time to work on their projects. Under the direction of master weaver **Jochen Ditterich**, students of all levels are assigned a full-sized loom on which to learn and create their piece. Trained in Germany, England and the U.S., Jochen brings over 50 years experience to his classes. *9 a.m. to noon weekly. Fee: \$80 Sign up early as these classes are limited to seven students.*

"Liturgical Art" Workshop

September 25 – 26: Art director emeritus **John Knight** brings a strong background in design and years of experience in liturgical art to a workshop that focuses on visual symbols, seasonal colors, and easily readable banners that fit architectural space. For those interested, we will have a mini-tract on designing bulletin board covers and other visual challenges that church members who are artists are often asked to do. Bring your wish list. (With the focus on design, we will not be able to get into the hows of quilting and sewing.) *Open to all levels. Fee: \$85*

"Drawing for the Inexperienced"

October 3 – 4: Artist **Brian Buck** contends that "anyone can draw. Anyone." Michigan's Master of Pointillism shares his secrets for creating beautiful, life-like renderings in this two-day class for all levels of students. Not only will students learn the art of pointillism and other drawing techniques but Buck will touch on art theory and history. For a peek at this award-winning artist's work, visit his website at www.gozabo.com/artist/master-of-pointillism *Open to all levels. Fee: \$85*

"A Family Affair" Digital Photography Classes

Oct. 6 – Nov. 24 (Mondays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.): Professional photographer and former high school photography instructor **Randall Gornowich** leads a basic photography class for a parent/guardian and child partnership. Perfect for beginners, the class will explore the digital photo world from elements of design to basic technical in's and out's. Learn how to create visually interesting compositions and connect with the world around you. Each duo can enjoy the daily assignments and encouraging tips. See Gornowich's website at www.randallart.com for examples of his work. Open to youngsters ages 10-16 and their parent/guardian. *No experience necessary but must have own camera. Fee: \$200 per pair. Sign up early as class is limited to ten pairs.*

"Adventures in Raku"

October 18 & November 1: Clay artists **Maija** and **Karlis Maskevics** return to instruct one of the Center's most popular classes. Construct, fire and glaze your own earthenware clay pieces with award-winning artists and mentors. Suitable for all levels, this workshop is ideal for those who want to try a new art form but yet challenging enough for advanced raku artists. Participants usually are able to finish 3 or 4 unique pieces. *Open to all levels. Fee: \$100 (includes all materials.) Limited to 14 students.*

"Watercolor: Step One"

October 25: Whether you are a beginning painter or are looking for a refresher course in the medium, award-winning watercolorist **Kathleen Crane** is the

perfect teacher. Her Art Practice & Education degree plus years of teaching experience will help build confidence in paper preparation, composition, color mixing and paint application. This one day class is geared to helping students understand the unique properties of this timeless art form. *Open to all levels. Fee: \$85*

"How to Maximize the Colors in Your Palette"

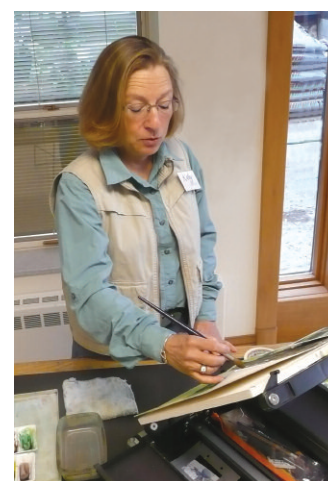
October 16 – 18: With a workshop that emphasizes technique rather than self-expression, international watercolor artist and instructor **Joe Fettingis** returns to challenge even seasoned watercolorists. Among other lessons, students will learn the secret to creating deep, intense, bold colors without losing transparency. Those who have taken Fettingis' workshops comment on the vast improvements they have noticed in their work. To view examples of Fettingis' work, visit his website at: www.jfettingis.com **Fee: \$295**

"The Goddess Within" Mixed-Media/ Collage Workshop

November 12-15: We are excited by the return of Michigan's own **Edee Joppich**, signature member of the *International Society of Experimental Artists* and *ISEA 2007 Cutting Edge Award winner*. This four-day workshop combines drawing, watercolor and collage techniques. Joppich's meticulous application of materials along with her skilled transition between colors takes collage to an entirely new level. With a boundless supply of ideas and energy, Edee always ignites her students' imaginations. *Intermediate to advanced level. Fee: \$295 Limited to 14 students.*

only a few days, this weekly series is focused on personal growth. Artists may work in the art studio or paint on the grounds. Occasional field trips in the area are scheduled.

The fall season starts September 9th and



continues through December 10th (every Tuesday or Wednesday, except holidays) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Artists must commit to attend at least two-thirds of the sessions. Those signed up for a particular day will not be permitted to switch sessions mid-season. **The fee is \$100.**

Weekly Painting Class Now Offered Two Days

One of the Franciscan Center's newest art programs has become such a success that a second day has been added to accommodate more artists. "Paint-in/Outs," a weekly open-studio style gathering of artists, is available either Tuesday or Wednesday starting September 9. Wednesday sessions will continue to be headed by artist/facilitator **John Knight**. Artist **Kathy Crane**, experienced art teacher and watercolorist, heads the Tuesday addition to the art schedule.

Not intended as a workshop, although an instructor is available, these full-day gatherings are a series of self-directed sessions in a chosen medium. The sessions encourage mentoring from fellow artists who share similar goals. Unlike other workshops of

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Franciscan Life Process Center
11650 Downes Street NE
Lowell, MI 49331-9489
www.lifeprocesscenter.org

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Our Mission: To promote a relationship with God that brings dignity and hope to the sacred process of all life through programs that assist, educate, enrich and inform.

Autumn Event Registration Coupon

Please register me for the following (place a check in the box before class desired). I understand that class sizes are limited and that some may have already been filled.

<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 9 – Dec. 9	Tuesday Paint-In/outs with Kathy Crane*	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 10 – Dec. 10	Wednesday Paint-In/outs with John Knight*	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 26 – Nov. 21	Loom Weaving with Jochen Ditterich (Friday mornings)*	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 25 – 26	Liturgical Design Workshop with John Knight*	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 3 – 4	"Drawing for the Inexperienced" with Brian Buck*	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 6 – Nov. 24	"A Family Affair" Digital Photo Classes with Randall Gornowich (Mondays evenings only)*	\$200/two
<input type="checkbox"/> October 18	"LIFE fest 2008" Banquet w/Charles Aeschliman	\$60/adult or \$50/student (grades 7-12)
<input type="checkbox"/> October 19	"A Country Sampler" LIFE fest 2008 Family Picnic	\$7.50/person or \$25/family
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 18 & Nov. 1	Raku Pottery with Maija/Karlis Maskevics*	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> October 25	"Watercolor: Step One" with Kathy Crane*	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 16 – 18	"How to Maximize the Colors in Your Palette" workshop with Joe Fettingis*	\$295
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 12 – 15	"The Goddess Within" Mixed-Media/Collage Workshop with Edee Joppich	\$295
<input type="checkbox"/> December 4	"In the Midst of Chaos: The Kingdom Begins Within" Advent Retreat	\$50

*A 50% non-refundable deposit is required to register for these classes and/or workshops. See cancellation policy below.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

LIFE fest tickets: _____ (Number of Adult tickets for Saturday night at \$60 each)
_____ (Number of Student tickets for Saturday night at \$50 each)

"A Country Sampler" Picnic: _____ (Number of Single tickets at \$7.50 each)
_____ (Number of Family tickets at \$25 each)

Payment Options: ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Total Amt. Enclosed:*

Credit Card # _____ Vin # (back of card) _____

*A \$1.00 processing fee added to all charge orders. Expiration Date: _____

Signature of credit card holder _____

Please make checks payable to: **Franciscan Life Process Center**. Mail your coupon to FLPC, 11650 Downes Street NE, Lowell, MI 49331-9489. Call (616) 897-7842 for more information or visit our website at www.lifeprocesscenter.org.

CANCELLATION POLICY: We depend on your attendance to make teaching and/or supply arrangements for classes and workshops. Effective August 1, 2008, a 50% non-refundable deposit is required. The remaining balance is payable on or before your arrival at the Center. Cancellations of less than 48 hours of scheduled arrival will incur a \$50.00 service fee.

Franciscan Friends Make Many Items for the Needy

Algene Feuerstein, a retired journalist and volunteer at the Center, wrote the following article

The long worktable at the end of the craft room stands loaded with a variety of finished projects ready to be sent out to fill needs in many areas. No one expresses surprise. Most of the crafting projects handled by the Franciscan Friends volunteer group are completed in answer to specific needs around the world. Children's needs. Veteran's needs. The poor and impoverished in areas ravaged by floods, storms or earthquakes have many, many needs. In fact anyone with a special necessity could be given an answer to a prayer by a nurse or other relief agent with just such a shipment from the Franciscan Center.

Shown the diversity of the items on the table, it is hard to imagine the hours of volunteer time it took to finish all of them. Laid on the table that week were:

26 chemo caps
3 medium afghan blankets
30 acrylic chemo capes
1 king-size quilt
2 small quilts
1 shrug
2 large Afghans
3 quilted lap blankets

And still more item request projects are underway in the craft room. All of the projects, finished and unfinished, represents almost 3,000 hours of work every year.

It is a common misconception that the volunteers do nothing but quilt. However, few of the items are ever the result of just one person's attention and effort. Most show the teamwork from several volunteers' training and experience.

Take Jean Carlson, for instance. Every Friday morning (Volunteer Day at the Center) she goes directly to the sewing machine carrying a box of pre-cut quilt fabric pieces and, following instructions within the box, begins to sew. And that's what she does during her volunteer time - she sews the beginning quilt blocks together to get the quilt started.

Why is she satisfied to spend her time simply sewing more and more quilt blocks together, never seeing the finished projects or having the fun of picking out colors and patterns? "This is what I do best," explains Jean. (A note: She has made over 60 neo-natal covers and delivered them to St. Mary's Medical Center in her free time.)

Other volunteers do what they do best, too. Some knit, some do special projects for local preschools and some keep stockrooms organized to help keep the work going. All enjoy doing what they do best.

Teamwork between Franciscan Friends (from left) Jenny Lynn, volunteer coordinator Pat McClellan, and Judy McCall helps complete a quilt.

