



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts
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Congratulations abound!



DIA Member, **MarySue Veerkamp Schwab, OP** a Lay Dominican from the Central Province, completed this stained glass window painting for installation at St. Paul Catholic Newman Center in Bloomington Indiana. It depicts the symbolism of the Dominican Order.

Congratulations, MarySue!



Congratulations to **Sr. Barbara Schwarz** on the occasion of her 50th Jubilee as an Amityville Dominican. Barbara lives the preaching of the Word through her art. May God bless you with many more years of service and creativity.

Love,
Your DIA Partners in Preaching the Word through the Arts.

President's Message

This past winter was a strange one. While the central and western parts of the state were covered with several feet of snow, our area received only intermittent dustings. As we moved closer to spring, the temperatures were all over the place. One day, it would be in the high 50s and the next in the low 30s. These daily variations lasted for weeks. The plants in my perennial gardens didn't know whether they were coming or going. Tiny green sprouts that had peeked through the soil would be shriveled and brown the following day. Some of the perennials didn't make it but those weeds more than flourished. In the past, bare spots for new plants and a plethora of weeds would not have been a problem. This year, my back, legs and knees rebelled letting me know, in no uncertain terms, that they are not as young as they used to be.



In 1st grade, Sister often told us to put on our "thinking caps." Over the years, that cap has had a lot of use. So, the cap and I spent some time together and came up with a solution – Container Gardening. Then, the weeding began. For several days, my trusty weeding tool and I spent 15 minutes twice daily addressing those weeds. When that was done, off I went to Lowe's where they had a fabulous sale on begonias which are minimal care plants. A few were hung on shepherd hooks. The rest were plopped into clay pots that had been stored in the garage and then set out around the garden. My mini decorative flags were strategically placed and voila! – I had a lovely garden. It is very different than past years, but I like it.

Sometimes, facing reality can be challenging. Response to that reality can be difficult especially if it calls for change but our imagination can take us through the dilemma. Thinking and dreaming of alternative ways to the work that needs to be done stimulates our creativity. That's how I arrived at new ways of tending my garden. I wish you the same.

Looking forward to being with you at our July Gathering.

Peace,

Pat

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More Congratulations!

The Chaplain, Abbie Guthrie, for the Dominican Life Center at Adrian, shared this work of **Sarajane Seaver's** float for the Mardi Gras parade. The Sisters and co-workers made shoe box floats, and this is a picture of Sarajane parading her float throughout the congregation. It was such a delight to see her big smile as she shared her work with the other sisters.



Sr. Brigid Bray, OP, received the People's Choice Award for her work entitled "Alleluia" at the Olive Hyde Art Guild Members Juried Show in Fremont, California.

This Exhibition was held from April 6 to May 27, 2023.

Sr. Brigid was awarded this recognition by the visiting guests at the opening reception who voted Brigid's work as their choice. There were over forty other participants in the exhibition.

Sr. Brigid received a certificate from the members of the Juried Show Committee. Congratulations, Sr. Brigid!

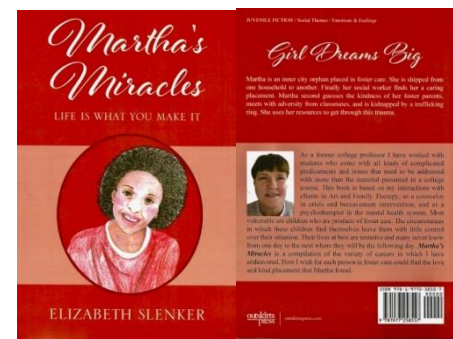
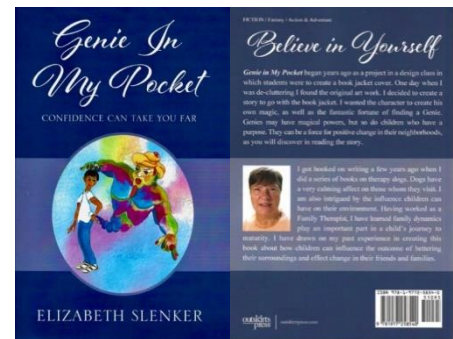
Sr. Elizabeth Slenker recently received author copies of her two new books, **Genie in my Pocket** and **Martha's Miracles**. These two books are her fourth and fifth venture into authorship. Elizabeth drew on her past experiences to create these two children's books.



Genie in my Pocket is about a little boy who finds how to draw strength from wishing for CONFIDENCE.

Martha's Miracles is based on a child in foster care, and how tentative life is for those children in state care.

Martha lucked out in being placed in a home where she was truly loved and cherished.





Change can be difficult and painful.
Ask the butterfly and then ask her
again if it was worth it when she
becomes a butterfly.

Editor's Note:

Recently Sr. Nancy Ann Turner, OP, had to move from her residence of many years to smaller accommodations. She recorded her thoughts in this reflective writing.

Pat Daly sent it out to the membership when Nancy Ann first wrote it last December. It is included here because it poignantly brings into focus what many members are facing or have had to face in the recent past – letting go of precious supplies that help one preach the Word of God through art. Nancy Ann's words help us comprehend that it isn't what we possess that gives us the incentive to create, but what is in our heart and soul that is the most important aspect of creation regardless of the equipment that we have had to let go.

An Artist Moves...



For over 60 years I have been an artist.

For Over 50 years I have been a weaver/textile designer.

For over 40 years I have been an art therapist.

For over 30 years I have designed all my greeting cards – sympathy, healing, birthday, and Christmas.

For over 25 years I have been a quilter and a serious gardener.

And this past summer I realized I had to move.

Two of the sisters with whom I was living in Detroit had to take ministries in different cities.

I tried and tried to recreate a new local community in our spacious house. Alas, there were no sisters of any congregation willing or able to move. (There are far fewer sisters in Detroit these days and Detroit is still a red flag to many folks.)

I had a lot of stuff – mostly non-personal things but many materials for all my creative projects, gifts, and other creative ways of giving. I started with the books. I had way too many weaving books, quilting books, garden books, therapy books. Slowly but surely I found new owners for well over 100 books. It was the same with the myriad assortment of paper and art supplies I had. Fortunately, two shelters and the soup kitchen where I volunteer were grateful for the art materials. But all this took time as I sorted and delivered.

One of the hardest challenges was giving away my looms. By this time, I knew where my new abode was going to be—an old-fashioned convent with very small rooms. I knew I had to downsize my weaving equipment and materials. With the help of friends, I located people interested in my looms, books, yarns, and shuttles, and was able to give them to grateful recipients. I did keep one small floor loom for myself.

Another difficult time was throwing away 30 years of journaling and much of my early artwork.

Yet, after all this, I still had lots of yarn, quilt materials, weaving materials, papers for designing cards, etc. Many bags filled the dumpster.

I had warned my new community that I had a lot of stuff, and they were gracious.

However, I didn't want to overwhelm them, so I kept some things in my car and only slowly moved things in each week – taking time to organize them before I brought the next load in.

Moving, giving away, throwing away has been a significant experience. I saw possibility in so many things – too many things. I did face the reality that it would take too many years to use up all the materials I had. That made downsizing a bit easier.

It is almost finished. I am already making new greeting cards again and will soon resume the creating of my next quilt. I am tired, peaceful—although not yet overjoyed. Yet, as I ponder the past months, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful that I could make quilts for all my nieces and nephews; I designed and made numerous greeting cards for family, friends, and congregation; I was able to weave beautiful and sacred prayer rugs and table runners for various people and places and prayer rituals for numerous occasions.

And, so this beautiful season of Advent completes my “letting-go” and “giving-away.” I have downsized significantly...but I am still a creating, giving woman. I hope each of you having to move will find it a blessed challenge, also.



Please send website submissions to: Sister Barbara Schwarz OP
at Artafire@hotmail.com

Poetry Page

"SOLITUDE"

A time to retreat – A time to be still – A time to give praise -
A time to contemplate with just God and myself
tucked away amidst the glorious gifts of nature -
"Solitude"

Heard the silent whispers of wild flowers waiting to be seen –
Quiet blankets of soil germinating new growth on earths' floor –
Watching a spider creating webs of lace –
later to be taken by hummingbirds to strengthen their nests –
"Solitude"

Symphonic rustle of trees swaying from side to side bowing to the earth -
Calls of crickets, frogs, and the sound of the Katie-Dids
Forecasting a hot summer day –
Trickling waters over rocks and logs near a narrow trail –
All harmonizing with Mother Earth --
"Solitude"

In a small wooden cabin – a peace filled haven –
Awakened to Gods prism hues of lights
dancing from window to window –
viewing mosaic patterns of tree branches –
some reaching outward – housing birds to protect their young –
some reaching toward the canvas of unpolluted blue sky
soft white patches of clouds pushed by the wind - not sure of where to travel -
"Solitude"

A time to reflect – a time to cry out –
NO MORE VIOLENCE OF WAR -
injustice,abuse, addiction, homelessness,
blatant and systemic racism –
Asking - Why can't we be ONE?
"Solitude"

A time of thanks for God loving me as I am and who I hope to become –
A woman of peace -- to sing Gods PRAISE, to BLESS others -
and to PREACH Gods love through acts of justice.
"Solitude"

Poem by Francetta Mc Cann,OP.
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Starsong

there is no silence
while the stars are singing
though their song
is heard

only by God

their voices fill the garden now
and i almost understand

almost capture the notes
almost join my song to theirs
almost

but this is not the time

instead
content in the starlight
in the song
in my silence
i am filled with wonder
and praise

Ruthann Williams, OP

See you at the Gathering – July 25-28!

INAI Gallery in Adrian is featuring the work of two DIA members, Kathleen Voss, OP and Janet Wright, OP in their latest works. The Exhibition is called *Seasons of Beauty*. Kathleen's works consist of Digital Paintings using electronic brushes. Janet creates dramatic closeup nature portraits in response to her deep concerns about nature preservation.



Seasons of Beauty

Seasons of Beauty gives us a springtime look at the brilliant paintings of Kathleen Voss, OP, Janet Wright, OP, and the extraordinary cut-out silhouettes of the late Mary Jean Dorcy, OP.

May 26, 2023 - October 1, 2023

Artists' Reception: 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sunday, June 4, 2023

Gallery Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. daily or by appointment: 517-266-4090

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|  <p>Mary Jean Dorcy, OP (1914-1988), Paper Cut Silhouettes Sister Mary Jean created black silhouettes finely cut from paper. By the 1940s, she was recognized as one of the leading American paper cut artists.</p> | <p>Kathleen Voss, OP, Digital Paintings Sister Kathleen applies her skills in art to electronically create paintings and calls people to stop, look and experience. Electronic brushes are her fine art tools.</p> | <p>Janet Wright, OP, Watercolor Paintings Sister Janet invites the viewer to share in her emotional response to the fleeting beauty of nature and has deep concerns about its preservation. In closeups, Janet creates dramatic "nature portraits."</p> |
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INAI GALLERY
on the Adrian Dominican Sisters campus

**1257 E. Siena Heights Dr.
Adrian, Michigan 49221**

Enter the campus at the eastern driveway then follow the signs to Weber Center. INAI is adjacent to the Weber Center.