

DIA Newsletter



Dominican Institute for the Arts
Vol. VIII, No. 2: May 2006



Carol O'Connor, OP, and **Thoma Swanson, OP**, (both from Columbus), join **Daniel Rolland, OP**, (Western Province) and **Kathleen Voss, OP**, (Adrian) listening to Chair **Irene Mary Diones, OP**, (Mission San Jose) at the meeting of the Planning Commission.

Plans for Gathering Xpand

by Daniel Rolland, OP

In early March the Planning Commission met at St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio, to work on **Project X**, the tenth **Gathering** of the **DIA**, which purports to be an **Xtraordinary** event. This **Xemplary** Commission has worked diligently to ensure members of the **DIA** will have an **Xhilarating** time during the celebration of this **Xceptional** milestone.

Project X will **Xceed** your **Xpectations**. **Irene Mary Diones** has **Xceled** in convening the Commission, and **Thoma Swanson** **Xpanded** the team's vision. Fortunately, **Carol O'Connor** **Xtended** hospitality with **Xcellent** cookies that fueled the good work of the team. **Kathleen Voss** is another **Xample** of diligence and care for this project. All the work was given **Xpression** by **Daniel Rolland** who brought his computer. **Andre Marie Fujier** was **Xcused** from this planning meeting but will be **Xceedingly** **Xhausted** from all the work assigned to her.

Xcited members **Xclaim** about returning to California with its mild weather and all the **Xtra Xcursions** available. You don't want to be the **Xception** and be **Xcluded**, so book your flight and register before June 1, when the discounts on registration **Xpire**. I **Xpect** to see you in July!

Calling All DIA Member-Voters

In our February Newsletter, the DIA Board named proposals to be considered by our members. They are repeated here with the Constitutional changes underlined. Please reflect on these before the voting, scheduled for the July Gathering.

Articles to be adjusted are:

Article V: Nominations and Elections

#4 Terms: The length of duration shall be four years. At the expiration of that term, the membership may vote to re-elect such member for another four-year term, but only if the member has been formally nominated. Members of the Board of Directors shall not exceed two consecutive four-year terms.

Article IX: Committees and Commissions

#3 Term of Office: Each member of a committee or commission shall continue as such until the next bi-annual gathering of the members of the Corporation.

Article X: Amendments

#1 (in final sentence) "and acted upon as an order of business at the next bi-annual gathering."

#2 The Constitutions are approved by a two-thirds vote of those members present at the bi-annual gathering.

To inflame the world,



Proclaim the Word!

We Create a Dream for DIA

A song written and composed by **Rebecca Shinas, OP**, of Mission San Jose captures the birth and growth of **DIA**. You'll get to know and sing this song at the **July Gathering** through our prayer, meeting, celebration, quiet time, etc.

It is hoped that the song's simple, catchy melody, spirit and message will linger in and fill your hearts during our **Gathering** as it did during the Board meeting in January. We invite you to pray the lyrics of the song and allow them to lift up your hearts and envision the dream that has come to reality: the fruition of the tree from the seeds planted ten years ago.

We Create Our Dream

(for DIA's 10th Anniversary)

by **Rebecca J. Shinas, OP** (Mission San Jose)

Refrain:

The seed is sown; the tree grows tall
The fruit is full: it feeds us all (2X)

Verse:

The Love of God fills up my soul
The hand* of God becomes my own
We create our dream, a world of peace
The gift of oneness ... our seed.

The seed is sown ... the tree grows tall.

*(*Each time the verse is sung, insert your own noun, for example: Word, dance, song, poem, act, painting, film, etc.)*



As the Tree Grows

by **Jean Ackerman, OP**
DIA President



As we prepare to celebrate the tenth anniversary of **DIA**,

I am very conscious of the magnificent growth that has been ours in this past decade. Dominican artists across the country and beyond have graciously shared their gifts of beauty in numerous ways. Yes, we are preaching through the arts with each new creation. As the fruit ripens in each of us, we feel that we can almost touch God in those profound contemplative moments that are pure gift.

This celebration has touched me personally in a special way: I am presently preparing a piano composition for an integrated evening on our Triune God. Preparing this composition reminds me of the words of our keynote speakers in 2005. When art moves from the composer through the performer into the hearts of the listeners, then we know that God is here. May each of your creative trees grow and bear abundant fruit!

Thank you for your contemplative preparation for our tenth anniversary. May we all meet in July with great joy at Mission San Jose. We have **beauty** to celebrate!

"Real artistry does not come from what we learn in books; it comes from what we learn from love—love of nature, of music, of humankind. For only what is learned in that way is truly understood."

— Pablo Casals

After two outstanding years as editor of the **DIA** Newsletter, **Mary Fisher, OP (Racine)**, has completed her services in this area. We are extremely grateful for the professional and artistic gifts she has offered us. We are now seeking a new editor to be affirmed by the next Board. If you or a **DIA** friend is talented and interested in this opening, please contact **Jean Ackerman** by phone at **262-639-4100**. All applications will be considered by the Board.

Board Meets, Confers, Searches for Answers, Finalizes

by Irene Mary Diones, Board Secretary

Inspired by the beauty and freshness of both the indoor and outdoor environment at St. Mary of the Springs Motherhouse, the **DIA** Board, comprising **Jean Ackerman**, President; **Jude Bloch**, **Colleen Gallagher**, **Irene Mary Diones**, and **Jeanne Stickling**, gathered in Columbus, Ohio, from January 20-22. **Rudolf Lowenstein**, in London, was unable to attend; **Pat Daly**, Vice president, participated via a conference call.

Honoring the spirit of the membership-at-large, the Board considered its responsibilities for the **2006 Gathering**, articulated policies, and investigated new possibilities:

- + **Jean Ackerman** presented proposals for some Constitutional changes or amendments regarding the frequency of gathering, the possibility of Artists' retreats, and Board members' terms of office.
- + Membership and Biography forms, revised by **Jude Bloch**, will be sent with the registration and other gathering materials for the July gathering.
- + Respective tasks and responsibilities of the Board and the Commission were identified to facilitate a smooth flow of the events and to allow collaborative efforts between the two groups during the gathering.
- + Different policies and guidelines were drafted; some revised and finalized for the Election of Board members, Editorial role and Newsletter publication, Website design, and Nomination for *Fra Angelico* Award.
- + The possibilities of Artists' Retreats and locations for future gatherings are being considered.
- + Gathering arrangements and scheduled events/activities were shared by **Irene Mary Diones**, Board Liaison to the Planning Commission. **Thoma Swanson** is chair of the Commission. Other members are **Andre Marie Fujier**, **Carol O'Connor**, **Daniel Rolland** and **Kathleen Voss**.
- + The gathering theme is "**A Seed Is Planted, the Tree Grows, the Fruit Ripens.**" **Rebecca Shinas** of Mission San Jose has composed words and music for an anniversary theme song. **Kathleen Voss** designed the flyer (which was used for the February Newsletter); **Andre Marie** and all other members are making contacts with facilitators for Studio/Workshop sessions.
- + A historical panel will remind us of the birth and growth of the **DIA**. An evening of celebration and entertainment will inspire us to a joyful appreciation of the Arts through the preaching of several artists.
- + To highlight the significance of the 10th anniversary, special invitations will be sent to the original founding members. It is our hope that these original members can be present.
- + **Carol O'Connor** has coordinated an optional X-tended trip to selected places of interest in Northern California for those desiring to extend their time here.

Other points from the meeting will surprise you. Observe for yourself the growth and fruition of the **DIA** tree July 25-28 in Fremont, California!

Why be a member of the DIA?

Among the many fulfilling rewards of membership in the internationally renowned **Dominican Institute for the Arts** are:

- Reduced conference rates;
- Opportunities to exhibit and showcase Dominican art;
- Support for collaborative Dominican artistic projects;
- Potential for connections with other Dominican artists;
- Continuance of the treasured preaching tradition of Fra Angelico into the 21st century;
- Receiving the **DIA Newsletter**;
- A listing in the Website Directory;
- Use of the listserv.

Application Form for Membership in DIA

Please check:

☐ New Member; ☐ Membership Renewal; ☐ Information Update
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Cong./Province: _____

My Art Interests: _____

Membership fee of \$35.00 spans the year in which your check is written (January 1 –December 31). Please make check payable to **DIA**. Mail check and this completed form to: **DIA Membership Liaison: Irene Mary Diones, OP 43326 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539.**



Daniel Rolland , OP, (Western Province) and **Thoma Swanson, OP, (Columbus)** seem to be entangled among vines in an impenetrable wilderness, don't they? Ask them for the true story!

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Printer, Distributor: Adrian Dominican Community

DIA Newsletter Vol. VIII, No. 2

May 2006

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