



Winter 2010 E-Newsletter Volume XI No. 1  
[www.DIArts.org](http://www.DIArts.org)



## Next Stop For the Annual DIA Gathering – Grand Rapids, Michigan!! Mark Your Calendars July 28 – 31, 2010

The Dominican Institute for the Arts will be holding its Annual Gathering in Grand Rapids, MI at Dominican Center from July 28 - 31, 2010.

This year's Annual Gathering features:

- Keynoters Ann Willits OP (storyteller, poet, humorist, preacher) and Jim Marchionda OP (composer, musician, preacher)
- A day of reflection led by our keynoters
- An afternoon together at the world renowned Meijer Sculpture Park and Gardens
- An art display by Thoma Swanson OP (fabric painting) that expresses the theme

of this year's event: *Feel the flame – catch the fire – burn with peace!*

- Studios and break-out sessions
- Opportunities to preach to others and to one another from our love for the arts
- Liturgies and socials
- Art Gala Evening featuring entertainment, a silent auction and raffle
- Marketplace merchandise
- The bestowing of the Fra Angelico Award and the Spirit of the DIA recognition

All Dominicans, Dominican Associates and friends of Dominicans are welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Sue Tracy OP at 774-0843 / [toodoolosue@aol.com](mailto:toodoolosue@aol.com) or Jude Bloch OP at 774-0843 / [jubloch@aol.com](mailto:jubloch@aol.com)

**Note to potential or new DIA members:** You need not be a fine artist to attend. Among the present DIA membership we have appreciators of the arts, those who dabble in art, card makers, sculptors, those who make crafts and other skilled arts, the art of cooking or baking, painters, the healing arts, illustrators, storytellers and mimes, song writers, poets, jewelry makers, dancers and musicians. . . the list goes on. Membership in the DIA is an annual \$35 fee which reduces your cost to attend the Annual Gathering. Because of the meshing of the arts and prayer, some have called this event a retreat.

## The Gift of Shadows

Board Chair, Liz Sully, OP

“Pay attention to the shadows.” This was the prompting Stephanie Stauder, OP offered some years ago in my initial introduction to water color. Stephanie now lives in her own shadow land, the result of a stroke. Recently we visited, holding hands and treasuring the opportunity for ‘felt conversation,’ word flow no longer readily available to her. I hold one precious sentence: “You don’t know—you’ve made my day.” Sheer treasure . . . Tears formed and surfaced for each of us.

“Pay attention to the shadows.” How in our artistic endeavors might we more readily engage the art of contemplating shadows? It’s in the unharnessed undercurrent of our dreams and in the vast hinterland of wild things that shadows loom. It’s here that creativity finds a home. These urgings of the ‘not yet’ prompt us to move into, be conscious of, and continue to dive deeper.

Many moons ago I was a student sister at Edgewood College in Madison, WI, in an

art class taught by Stephanie. She had just returned from a seminar/workshop presented by a famous artist. I hadn’t a clue who he was, nor do I now--I just know he was “famous”. Stephanie unrolled a scroll of white paper on the floor some seven yards long and about eighteen inches wide. The painting, made by the above famous artist, was one long black, 5” x 20’ house painter’s brush stroke. At the end of the stroke were four ‘prongs.’ Stephanie said the scroll was part of a larger painting, our section being a 20 ft. long chicken leg! Surprise still wells up!

We each have such scrolls in life which have unlocked doors to imagination and exploration. Holy Mystery daily invites us into the marvel of creativity. Are we **accepting of this invitation?** What has most recently inspired us to ‘get on a roll’? Do we pay attention to the shadows? How might we DIA members encourage one another to probe the unexplored caverns, hills, valleys and chicken coops of life?

*(Stephanie Stauder OP passed away in early January.)*



## Dimensions of Leading Creatively

Joeann Daley, OP

The setting, key note speaker, the power point presentations, the environment, and the theme for the 2009 Dominican Leadership Conference could easily have been planned for a DIA gathering. Miniature easels, paint brushes, pallets and primary colored water were placed on each table. Colorful flowers, tools of creativity, and creative musings, set the theme: ***Dimensions of Leading Creatively.***

Keynote speaker, Carolyn Foster, asked “*How do leaders stay creative and responsive to the situations they face? What keeps creativity from flowing?*” We were led in a process for addressing the questions and developing skill sets in four areas - self awareness, self management, social awareness and relationship management. This was a fitting preface for *Designs for DLC* facilitated by Toni Harris, which led to decision making. Sunday afternoon concluded with a tribute to Anne Lythgoe, OP, the outgoing director of Dominican Life.

Our DIA table with its forest green materials, fall leaves and candy corn provided an artistic setting for our informational materials and for displaying our black tote bags.



## Preaching Through the Arts: the Next Generation

by Barbara Schwarz OP

It's nothing new really and then it is always new! This past summer into fall I spent time creating a video for Gina Fleming OP about the Youth Preaching Programs and the work of the Dominican Young Adults.



In the interviews I conducted, the spontaneous responses of young people and mentors gave

evidence that the programs have added to our Dominican Family but have given rise to deeper understanding of ways in which we preach. Our Dominican Youth are realizing that preaching can really be FUN and the work of DIA members in the process offers support and the context for this.

Twelve years ago, the Dominican High School Youth Preaching Program, the dream of Patricia Brady OP, was born. Pat in her wisdom realized that study and prayer needed the Arts which could provide not only an active form of contemplation but also a creative way for youth to preach. Some of the DIA members over the years include: Grace Dennis OP, Jeanne Stickling OP, Nancy Murray OP, Dominic Delay OP, and Barbara Schwarz OP. Eventually the conference moved to Adrian's Siena Heights University. Mary Soher OP continues what Pat began as she now chairs the High School conference.

The young people responded so well that when Gina Fleming began the College Preaching in Action Conference almost eight years ago, the arts would again play an

integral role. Joe Kilikevics OP, Nancy Murray OP, Barbara Schwarz OP, Joann Timmerman OP and others have continued to share the Arts as Preaching in new ways.

The conferences lead young people to identify themselves as Dominican Youth Preachers and then they are challenged to share that experience on their own campuses. The Dominican Young Adults USA was formed and went to its first international meeting in Portugal. Their third national conference is this year.



Acting and moving in the Spirit

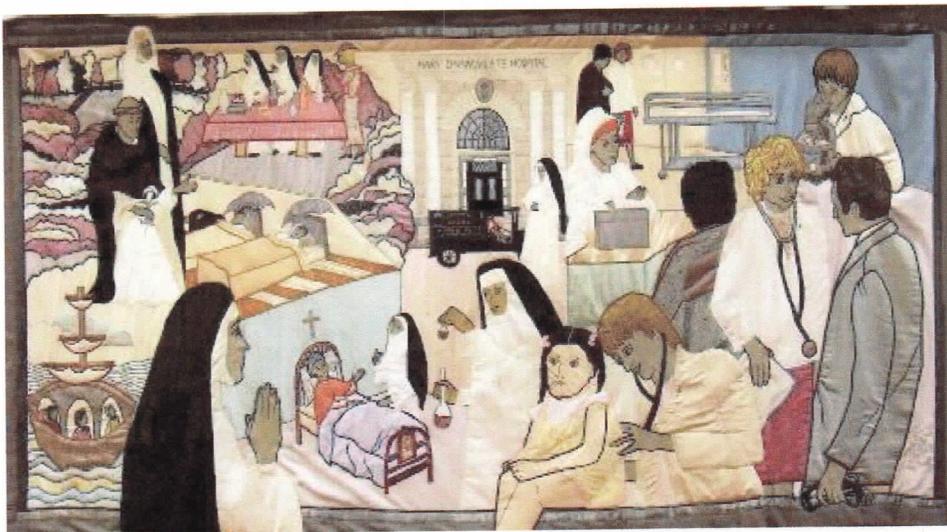
I have found that the young people remember the gifts given over the years. In Amityville we have a Dominican Volunteer who went to the college conference several years ago. Experience of the arts as preaching has helped them to be more deeply rooted in prayer, study, scripture and ministry. These young people have been a revelation of God in our midst.

If you are invited, consider taking part and discovering the enthusiasm our youth bring to the Charism. In them the preaching continues and we are refreshed.



US group in Fatima

## FEATURE: THE ARTIST AS PREACHER



A gift from  
Linda Fisher  
1953

The above visual narrative recounts events in the lives of the Amityville Dominican Sisters and the history of Mary Immaculate Hospital. The artist expresses historical time in the movement from background to foreground and in the evolution of the Dominican habit. In the center we see the hospital's first permanent structure with an early motorized ambulance. On the left, the figures of Catherine and Dominic, whose compassion inspired the founders, appear above a fragile ship carrying the first sisters from Ratisbon, Germany to New York in 1853.

In the foreground beside the ship, Mother Catherine Herbert of Amityville, who initiated this ministry, continues to pray for and with her sisters while a series of small scenes memorialize episodes from the early days when the sisters endured hardship for the sake of their patients. One particularly intriguing vignette pictures them sleeping under umbrellas when they gave up their beds to needy patients and slept under leaking attic roofs. Medical personnel and instruments dominate the right hand of the tapestry to convey the pulse of the hospital.

With its vibrant colors accented by white, the whole work communicates a sense of joy. A sense of joy even with the recent closing of Mary Immaculate Hospital whose ministry touched and healed those in need for over 100 years (1902 – 2009). Buildings may crumble, services may change but the creative heritage upon which we stand today forms the foundation for our present day creative outpouring called MINISTRY. Lord, love your people back to life!

### A Reflection by Jean Chapman OP

M emories  
A bound  
R eligious  
Y outh

I nspired  
M any  
M embers  
A ll  
C oncerned  
U ntil  
L ately  
A ttitudes changed  
T eachers  
E loquently

H elped  
O h  
S o many  
P eople  
I nterested  
T alented  
A always praying  
L ord (love your poor  
back to life)

## DIA Artist Commissioned

Rev. George Turok, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Old Tappan, NY, has commissioned DIA artist Adele Myers to design mosaics for two side altars. The first, which has been completed, features flowing water, forming the backdrop for Our Lady of Lourdes. The parishioners were so pleased that Adele is now working on a liturgical setting for the tabernacle.

Adele has also been invited to create a work honoring a former factory complex in Haverstraw, NY which now houses artists' studios and a gallery.

We congratulate Adele in all of her creative undertakings!



## Where Are You in the Virtual Jubilee Gallery?

The Order of Preachers is three years into its Jubilee Celebration and artists have been invited to submit works to the Virtual Jubilee Gallery. World wide, few have responded. The doors are wide open for all DIA artists to share their work with the international Dominican Family.

Artwork accepted will be accessible on the Order's official webpage: [www.op.org](http://www.op.org).

EACH YEAR HAS A SPECIFIC THEME.

2010'S THEME IS:

“How can people preach unless they are sent?” (Rom 10:15)

The Mission of Preaching Artwork need not depict Dominic to fulfill the invitation for artwork. However, only artwork that reflects the 2010 theme will be accepted.

### How to submit:

- Send a photo of artwork or document of text or music to [idi@curia.op.org](mailto:idi@curia.op.org).
- Accompany your entry with name, address (including country) and email address.
- Add either “Permission granted for public use” or “Permission required for reproduction.”



## 2010 Gathering Announcement

If you have not yet received your registration packet in the mail, it should be arriving soon. It has also been sent via email. Contact Sue Tracy [toodoolosue@aol.com](mailto:toodoolosue@aol.com) or Jude Bloch [jubloch@aol.com](mailto:jubloch@aol.com) if you experience a problem with receiving your packet. It can also be downloaded from the DIA website – [www.diarts.org](http://www.diarts.org) Register quickly in order to save money and get into your first choices for studios and workshops. Grand Rapids awaits you!!

## Call for Nominations for the Fra Angelico Award

(Use separate pages to nominate multiple people)



*The Fra Angelico Award gives special recognition to members in the Dominican Family represented in the DIA who have distinguished themselves in some area of the arts. We look for candidates in the different fields who have received the recognition of their peers for excellence in their discipline.*

*Please take this opportunity to consider DIA members who qualify for this honor. Your input is very important. DIA Board Members make the final determination.*

*Thank you for your assistance.*

Mail/Email as soon as possible:  
**DIA Award Nominations**  
c/o Liz Sully OP  
719 Penn AVE NE Atlanta, GA 30308  
[sullyop@aol.com](mailto:sullyop@aol.com)

Name of person nominated (must be a DIA member):

Your name:

Your phone number:

Genre of Nominee:

Share what you know about the Nominee's Training/Background:

Share what you know about Recognition and Awards received by Nominee:

State your reasons for recommending this artist:

Give contact information here of someone knows more about this artist's accomplishments:

## DIA Board Members

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## Wise Words from the Artists

The strange persuasion of photography  
rests on selective accuracy  
wedded to selective distortion.

Richard Powers

Art connects us to our dreams . . .  
to the things that have touched  
our core,  
to our imaginary world,  
and even to our personal chaos.  
Art has something to do with that part  
that doesn't want to be tamed.  
Our challenge as artists is to muster  
the technique,  
the vision,  
the persistence  
and the emotional courage  
to explore what means most to us.

Rod MacIver

I can go starved the whole day long,  
draining a stone, eating a husk,  
and never hunger till a song  
breaks from a robin's throat at dusk.

from *Robin at Dusk* by Jessica Powers  
(Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit 1905-1988)