



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts
 Gbnt123!!!F.Of x t rhuuf s!!Wprn f !YJWOp/!4!
xxx/E.Bst /psh!!

Oakland Gathering Recreates the Wisdom of the Wild

Small in number, but huge in enthusiasm, Gathering 2012 assembled in St. Albert's Priory, Oakland, CA to journey on an



imaginary safari together from July 25-28. From Morning Prayer enhanced by African

doxologies and drummed accompaniment, to masked dancers and playful revelers whose culminating performance shattered the serenity of St. Albert's cloistered courtyard, Gathering 2012 echoed the keynote theme: "Arts and Culture, Teacher and Wisdom."



Joeann Daley's axiom "Creativity begins with play," was avidly embraced with meticulous and occasionally hilarious detail

throughout both formal and informal activities. In her opening welcome, Joeann issued an invitational warning, reminding all that a safari is a journey fraught with risk. Surrounded by Pat Daly's masterful photos of animals, however, it was

easy to forget danger and focus on the homiletic eloquence of each beast depicted. (Pat Daly OPA, one of the many DIA members whose attendance was impossible this year, found a way to contribute, while the tangible presence of all the absentees enlarged the spirit).



Shaman Daniel Rolland OP, recognizable beneath his multiple disguises, helped coordinate a series of creative "villages," each headed by a Safari Guide: Music - Andre Marie Fujier OP and Donna Marie Moses OP (Mission San Jose) and Liz Sully OP (Sinsinawa); Drama - Jill and Michael Poehlman OPA (Sinsinawa); Dance - Karen Zavitz OP and Francis Sedayo (Mission San Jose); Masks - Joeann Daley OP (Sinsinawa).



Several ancillary exhibits underscored Janice McLaughlin's emphasis on the role of the arts in dramatizing social issues. An exhibit of artwork by children in Holy Angels School taught by Esther Pagaedano, OP (Mission San

Jose), showed how art can add a dimension of delight and self-expression to social studies, while Frances Sedayo, a professional dancer from the theatre arts department at Heyward University, showed a video of the powerfully moving "Unsing the Song," a multi-media theatre work which responds to the Rwandan genocide in choral poetry, percussion, and choreography.

We will long be grateful to the Planning Commission for making the 2012 Gathering unique and memorable: Joeann Daley OP, Irene Mary Diones OP, Kathy Rhodey OPL, Daniel Rolland OP, Jill Poelman OPA, Michael Poehlman OPA and Carol O'Connor OPA.



**Janice
McLaughlin,
M.M.
Translates
the Wisdom
of the
Animals**

No speaker is more eloquent than her own biography. But not even Janice McLaughlin's fulsome curriculum vitae in this year's registration packet could adequately anticipate the impact of her presentations which skillfully wove together insights from art and culture into a fascinating narrative of her years in Africa. Perhaps the most

compelling episode in that narrative came in 1977 when, because of her reporting on the atrocities committed by Ian Smith's government in the War of Liberation, her office was raided and Janice was imprisoned and held for three weeks in solitary confinement. For the first time in her life, she experienced what it is like to have nothing but God. Janice found those three weeks of profound peace "better than a thirty-day retreat."



Janice McLaughlin MM receives
a bouquet of gratitude.

During her years in Africa, Janice explained, she combined contemplation of nature's revelations with compassionate presence to the suffering in a world they cannot control. For her, this integration was further enhanced by the work of local artists. This experience convinced her that the arts are not a luxury, but essential nourishment which the artist provides for the human spirit. Illustrations from *Ostriches and Dung Beetles and Other Spiritual Masters* plus photos of work by native African artists accompanied her talks.



2012 Fra Angelico Recipient



Sister Magdalena Ezoe, O.P.

This year, the suspense characteristic of the Fra Angelico announcement did not last long. As soon as Mary Fran Gorman OP began listing biographical details, members knew it could be only one person. "Born in Japan where her uncle directed a music conservatory;" "taught at the International School of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo;" "her favorite composer was Chopin whose homes she visited in Poland and France." As Mary Fran spoke, the wit and passion of Magdalena Ezoe's 2011 Springfield breakout session and concert replayed in members' heads and hearts.

Having recognized the recipient, DIA members did not need to hear Magdalena's academic and professional resume to applaud the board's choice. A Master of Music Performance from the University of Michigan, post graduate work at Catholic University of America, a thirty-eight year career at Siena Heights University, and a list of professional awards including: the Fred Smith Champion Award, the Adrian Dominican Education Leadership Award for a Path to Cultural Harmony, the Golden Apple Award from St. Joseph Academy Alumni, and the Ellen Rice Outstanding Teacher Award.

Mary Fran expressed the sentiment of the DIA when she commented: "The list of all her honors are nothing when compared with the graceful manner in which Magdalena lives her life and blesses others with her gifts. The impact and power of each note is not in their volume or complexity but in their heat and heart and in her huge sense of humor."

Mary Fran communicated the good news to Magdalena via cell phone from the chapel of St. Albert Priory.

Spirit of the DIA Recognition 2012

The DIA board expressed deep appreciation to Carol O'Connor OPA (Peace) and Janice Holkup OP (Adrian).

Carol O'Connor's (left) recognition was given for the continued support she offers to the DIA



as an artist volunteer in multiple arenas and often behind the scenes.

Recognition was given to Janice (right) for her enthusiasm and use of art to preach against injustice.

Annual Board Meeting with Membership

One perennial item on the annual agenda is the election of new board members. Having consulted a canonist, Mary Fran Gorman advised the members that, because attendance at this Gathering was so low, the assembly was insufficient for an election. Hence, those present were invited to "vote to not vote" and to ask all current board members to remain for the next year. This they graciously agreed to do.

Although there were multiple reasons for the marked absence of veteran members this year, those present observed that, given the factors of aging and of diminishing congregational resources, we can expect this trend to continue. Therefore, Mary Fran entertained discussion of a proposal from the floor that membership be extended to artists and art appreciators who are not Dominicans. Members then approved a proposal that the full membership be polled electronically for permission to change the DIA Constitution so that a timely invitation can be issued for the 2013 Gathering. After the members approved this proposal, Mary Fran herself recommended that we begin by extending the invitation to colleagues in our sponsored institutions.

To further encourage new membership, the Board prepared a CD of DIA photos to be displayed at the DSC meeting in October.

The Board accepted Dominic DeLay's resignation and acknowledges the good work he did as Board secretary. At this time the Board has divided up responsibilities as noted on the last page of this newsletter.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
GATHERING 2013 at COLUMBUS, OH
GATHERING 2014 at ADRIAN, MI



Ann Eigenbauer OP: The Shopkeeper as Curator



My art is a different kind right now . . . it combines distinctly different media to bring about an easy-flowing display of beauty. You might say that I've become a curator of other people's treasures.

Where do I begin?

That's always a big question. Should the artwork be displayed on a blank glass wall or on plastered slats? What will tell the best story or set the theme? A prayer for Divine assistance dispels a moment of possible anxiety and the fun begins.

It seems that the artists who entrust their creative works into my hands are themselves free spirits. Their works are beautiful and life-giving, and I get to choose the best possible place to show them to visitors coming to my small world in the Sparkill Center Gift Shop. I remove the artists' works from underneath their 'bushel baskets' and let them shine forth in witness to the glory of God present in the work of their hands.

DVDs are another medium for displaying both the works of individual artists and for thematic collections. Talk about leaving the ninety-nine to go in search of the lost sheep! That's what it's like to search among thousands of works for just the right one to bring order and love to a completed DVD project. Sometimes an image tells the life-story of a sister who has passed on. At other times I assemble photos and music to bring the beauty of spring, summer, fall or winter to those who can no longer walk about outdoors to see it for themselves.

Creating art exhibits is a service to both the artist and her audience. I get the most satisfaction when a display or a DVD encourages a senior citizen to take up a brush and express herself with a slow but inspired motion coming from the heart."



Taylor & Lowenstein: A Transcontinental Collaboration

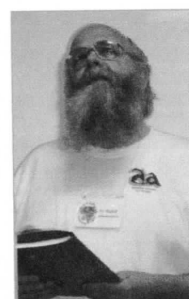


An original children's musical entitled "Stranger in Paris" with book by

Elaine Taylor OP (Sinsinawa), and music and lyrics by Rudolph Lowenstein, OP (English Province) is scheduled to premiere May 2013 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Inspired by a weekend Elaine spent recently in the city of lights, the work will feature twenty characters who will perform both solo and choral compositions.

Rudolph did not hesitate to forego the excitement of the London Olympiad in his native land to come to Oakland so that Elaine could hear the music for the first time. Between now and when Elaine begins directing rehearsals, Rudolph will fine tune the score.



DIA Gathering: July25 - 28, 2012 – Evaluation from the Planning Commission

There were 27 artists who attended and 12-14 responses to the evaluation at the time of publication. There was a place to write comments and to check #1 – #5 with #5 being the highest:

Schedule:

1 ☒ for #4, 12 ☒ for #5

Full, but not hectic. Time to breathe and take care of bodily needs. Great! I appreciated the chances we had to chill out as well as to interact. VG and relaxing. Was well planned. Enjoyed the pacing. Excellent. Relaxing! Superb! I've been enriched. Thanks to the planners. You're great! Nice flow. Time to relax and visit.

Safaris / Guides:

1 ☒ for #4, 11 ☒ for #5

Wonderful, went to masks and drums enjoyed both. Knowledgeable and excellent communicators. Very helpful. Very good guides. They poured themselves into the process. Cheers! Talented & dedicated.

Janice McLaughlin MM, Rafiki – Wisdom Keeper:

12 ☒ for #5

Beautiful & inspirational. Excellent speaker. She spoke from her heart and was easy to listen to. Gracious presentation that I appreciated. Superb. Just what we needed. She was an integral part of the days. Fortunate to have her.

Shaman, Daniel Rolland OP:

1 ☒ for #4, 12 ☒ for #5

Superfluous, but funny. Very effective. Great sense of where things were at. Grand embodiment. Did a great job in linking & bringing people to the great celebration.

Prayer:

1 ☒ for #4, 11 ☒ for #5

Appreciated cosmological approach. Excellent. A lot of work went into them. Need words to music if expected to sing. Different but also beautiful. Helped to get connected to nature. I so know the work that goes into this. Perhaps more quiet and fewer words. Prayer and Janice's talks were connected.

Liturgy / Preaching:

4 ☒ for #4, 9 ☒ for #5

Beautiful from the dancing to Rudolf's words. Needed more time for Mass. Liturgy great, except hymns not as well known. Would have been nice to know about the 5:00pm Mass. Well done! The whole was beautiful. Mass was too long. Liturgy, prayer and days were integrated.

Celebration of Creativity:

2 ☒ for #4, 10 ☒ for #5

A little confusing. It was fun and not bad for a first time. We didn't quite know how to put it all together, but we were getting there toward the end. 28 minutes wasn't long enough. Yes! Such a beautiful spot to have the celebration. It showcased dance, drama and drums. Fun!

Facility & Food:

2 ☒ for #4, 10 ☒ for #5

Fine. Excellent. Would have preferred greater privacy with showers. Reginald, Lupe, staff and community were gracious and hospitable. Especially food. Would have preferred less dairy content in the main meals. Great meals. VG. I think I gained weight, loved all the fruit. So much food! Mark produced works of art with food.

Did you have fun?

12 ☒ for #5

You bet. Yes. A lot of fun. Missed some of our regulars. Thanks to the board and resident community too. Once I relaxed I had fun. Keep pushing for gatherings every two years. I did and got to know new people. Yes! People seemed to enjoy each other. We succeeded at a new way of being together.

FEATURE: The Artist/Artifact as Preacher



Throughout Gathering 2012, participants listened and responded to the preaching of one pervasive medium — percussion.

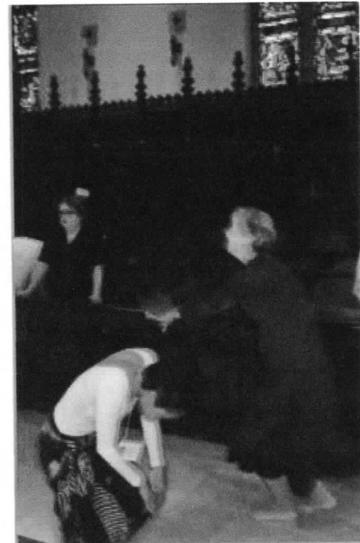
An extraordinary number and variety of instruments — including African drums, rain sticks, tambourines, timpani, maracas, and castanets — accompanied daily prayer and transformed the final liturgy.

Responding to the African theme of the 2012 Gathering, Janice Holkup OP brought to Oakland a hand drum she had constructed at a workshop in South Carolina several years ago. This drum was made completely from deerskin stretched over an octagonal wooden frame. In performance, it is the drum that preaches to the drummer.



Janice went on to say, “The deer gives his life for art and the drum gives the deer a voice to speak what cannot be said in words.” Used in the liturgy, therefore, the deerskin is privileged to preach and to pray.

Moreover, Janice described how, at the workshop, when all the drums played together, she could feel the deerskin receiving vibrations from the others and transmitting spiritual energy to her own body. This experience of spiritual communion between human and other-than-human creatures became a wordless homily in a new “biblical language.”



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

GATHERING 2013 at COLUMBUS, OH
GATHERING 2014 at ADRIAN, MI

DIA Board Members

Mary Fran Gorman OP
President
mfgop@yahoo.com

Mary Boyce MM
Vice President
mary@sistermaryboyce.com

Mary Pat Reid OP
Board Secretary
marypreid@gmail.com

Jill Pohlman OPA
Treasurer
jipoehlman@wowway.com

Elaine Taylor OP
Membership Liaison
etaylorop@verizon.net

Joeann Daley OP
Member at Large
jdaley40@aol.com



Other Contacts

Jeanne Stickling OP
Archivist
sjsclay@yahoo.com

Carol O'Connor OPA
Web Editor
coconnor@oppeace.org

Elizabeth Michael Boyle OP
Newsletter Editor
emichael@caldwell.edu

Jude Bloch OP
Newsletter Editor
jubloch@aol.com

Wise Words from the Wild

Quotations from Janice McLaughlin MM, 2012 Keynoter

Art, culture, and nature gave me
strength and confidence and led
to my missionary vocation.
Fiction, drama, and film introduced
me to the history and culture of
Africa, and music and dance
deepened my union with its people.

The Shona people of Zimbabwe have my
favorite word for God: *chipinduke*,
'One Who Turns Things Upside Down.'
It comes from *kupinduka*, 'to be uprooted.'
The artist's vocation is to be uprooted from our
assumptions, prejudices,
deeply-held views –
to turn upside down our
culture of militarism, consumerism,
and political polarization.

For me, as for Desmond Tutu,
"Artists are mid-wives of meaning."

The Bushmen of Kalahari say their rock
paintings depict the world behind
the one we see with our eyes.
The vocation of the artist is to
reveal this vision to others.