

# Dominican Institute for the Arts



Vol. IX # 1

September 2007

PROMOTING THE ARTS AS PREACHING,  
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL,  
LIVING JUSTICE,  
CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT.

## 2007 Gathering Opens Out to the Future

From the first sentence of her welcoming address, to her final acceptance of the Fra Angelico Award, Joeann Daley OP, Chairperson for the 2007 Planning Commission, clarified and exemplified the intent of the Racine Gathering: "The year following the DIA's tenth anniversary and the Order's 800<sup>th</sup> seemed to the Commission an ideal time for a transition from the past to the future, from inner strength to outward exploration and sharing." Hence, the 2007 program involved not only celebration of DIA members' works but also interaction with the arts communities of Racine and Milwaukee, and with the beauty and needs of our planet.

Keynote presenters, DomLife Editor, Anne Lithgoe, OP and DLC Executive Director, Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, modeled creativity in preaching with their playful interpretation of the theme "Living Waters, Birthing Flame." In a unique combination of computerized imagery and dramatic monolog, Anne personified water as the Woman at the Well and Mary Ellen personified fire as Saint Dominic's mother, Jane de Aza. The Board's presentation of the Nine Muses, a melding of wisdom and nonsense, culminated in a visioning process to elicit ideas from the membership for the DIA's future direction. Feedback from this process will guide the Board when it meets with Carmelita Murphy, OP to develop a strategic plan for the next decade. After workshops in drawing, music, filmmaking, photography, and poetry, participants made three

*(continued on page 2)*

## Fra Angelico Award to Joeann Daley OP, Sinsinawa Artist



Chair of the DIA Board, Lucianne Siers OP, presented the Fra Angelico Award, the DIA's highest honor, to Joeann Daley, Sinsinawa Dominican Artist. Significantly, Lucianne pointed out, Joeann earned her MFA and served as teacher and administrator in Fra Angelico's city of Florence where Rosary College had its graduate school of the arts. Criteria for this award require not only that the artist exemplify the ideals of the organization, but also that the recipient produce work who's quality is recognized by his or her

professional peers. Since 1972, Joeann has exhibited regularly in the US and abroad: in Wisconsin, Montana, and Washington states; Bogotá, Columbia; and Florence and Lucca, Italy. She has served as President of the Montana Art Gallery Association and was Founding Director of the Copper Village Museum and Art Center in Anaconda, Montana. Joeann's whimsical images of saints, angels and mythological figures often conceal the challenges of her labor-intensive media: etching, intaglio, lithograph, photo-collage. "Both playful and profound," commented Lucianne, "Joeann's art teaches and stretches us." *(continued on page 2)*

## Letter from DIA Board Chair

Dear Friends,

With our memories still full of Lake Michigan, the Racine Art Museum, our workshops and Muses, September is upon us and ready or not, Autumn in her radiant beauty and cool breeze will be calling us soon to focus our energies into ministry and our art.

We are so grateful to the Racine Dominicans and the Planning Committee for all they did to make our Annual Gathering such a wonderful time. The thoughtful details and the graciousness of all who met us were indeed a blessing and gift. Our sincerest congratulations to Joann Daley, as she now becomes a Fra Angelico Alumna and to Dominic DeLay, Irene Mary Diones, and Mary Pat Reid for their Service Recognition Awards. It is such a privilege to know each of you as you continue your service in the Arts as Dominicans.

I also want to thank all of our board members who work on behalf of the DIA all year. They are generous and open and very creative. It is a pleasure to work with them.

We are delighted to send you our first on-line newsletter. Hopefully our communication systems will be functioning 100% soon.

Much peace,

Lucianne Siers, OP

DIA Chair of the Board

## 2007 Gathering Opens (cont'd)

trips beyond the Siena Center lakeside: to the Racine Museum of Art, to the Calatrava Museum in Milwaukee, and to the Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center. Janet Weyker, OP, Director of the Eco-Justice Center, is familiar to DIA members as a visual artist. "I'm still an artist," assures Janet; "Now I work on a 125-acre canvas." Friends of the arts in the Racine community were guests at the DIA's first annual Art Auction. Sixteen DIA artists donated works in photography, painting, sculpture, intaglio, graphics—and fabric donated by the Eco-Justice resident alpaca. The evening "Celebration of the Arts" began with the DIA Virtual Gallery mounted by Carol O'Connor, OPA from Columbus. Throughout the evening guests were entertained by performing artists Jean Ackerman, OP, Anita Smisek, OP, Kathleen Loewen, OP, Michael Burke, OP and Mary Fisher, OP. The Saint Dominic's Day Eucharist, celebrated by Daniel Rolland, OP, was energized by an outstanding chorus and bell choir from the resident Racine community. Homilist Martha Bartholomew, OPA, potter, poet, and Sinsinawa Associate, urged Dominicans to be "mystics of fire and light" (See page 7).

## Fra Angelica Award (cont'd)

Accepting the award, Joeann closed the 2007 Gathering with perfect symmetry as she commented that the visit to the Eco-Justice Center brought her back to the childhood origins of her art, the beauty and energy of the earth on her father's farm.

## DIA TO SEND DELEGATION TO MEXICO

"Sign me up!" responded Spanish-speaking DIA artists at the Annual Gathering in Racine when they heard Jude Bloch OP read the invitation from Valeria Nougues, OP, the lively Argentine sister with whom we danced last summer in Mission San Jose, CA. Inspired by the DIA, Valeria headed back to Argentina determined to facilitate the first gathering for Dominican artists of Latin America and the Caribbean. Now she welcomes us to share in the Second Latin American Artists' Meeting in Mexico next spring.

Dear Jude,

. . . With the organizing team we decided that five sisters or brothers from the USA could join us in our Meeting, we prefer that those people be able to speak Spanish, this will help with the communication with us.

During our meeting we will need from DIA your experience to discuss the future of the way to work in Latin America organization of the arts.

I hope the 11th Meeting of DIA this year will be so beauty as the last one. Please give for all the participants my best wishes. God bless you and the meeting of DIA.

Your sister,  
Valeria Nougues

DIA members who immediately signed up at Racine are Pat Lee OP, Joeann Daley OP, Irene Mary Diones OP and Thoma Swanson OP.

**We can accept only one more. A waiting list will be compiled as people express interest.**

After Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, Jude will begin contacting those on the list.

**Vital information:** The DIA will subsidize each of the five members who attend with \$350.00 worth of expenses.

**When:** May 11 – 18, 2008

**Where:** Amecameca, Mexico

(1 ½ hrs from Mexico City, Mexico)

Total Cost for Registration and Transportation while in Mexico: \$150.00.

(Roundtrip flights from the U.S. to Mexico City can be found as low as \$450.00)

**A visa will be necessary for leaving/entering countries.**

Confirmation of interest deadline: October 31, 2007.

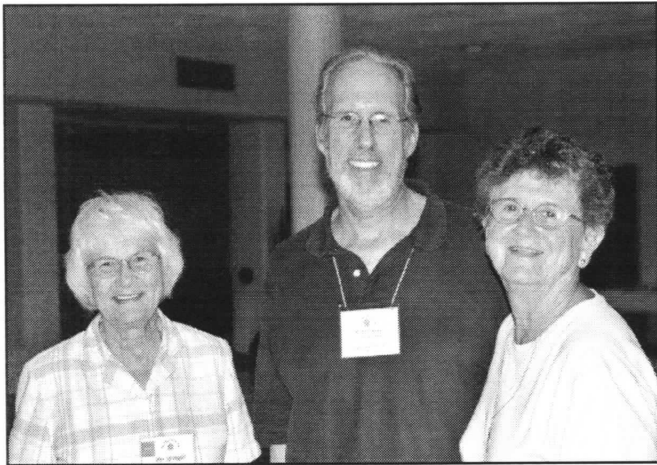
Contact Jude Bloch OP at [jubloch@aol.com](mailto:jubloch@aol.com) or 616-774-0843.

## Spirit of the DIA Recognition

The Board recognized three members outstanding for consistent support and service to the DIA and who share the Dominican spirit using art as a form of Holy Preaching: Dominic DeLay OP, filmmaker, Western Province; Irene Mary Diones OP, visual artist, Mission San Jose; Mary Reid OP, potter, Caldwell.



DIA Board impersonates the Nine Muses



Pat Spangler, Michael Burke, and Colleen Gallagher



Rudolph Lowenstein, Elaine Taylor, and Jean Ackerman bless the assembly



The Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center







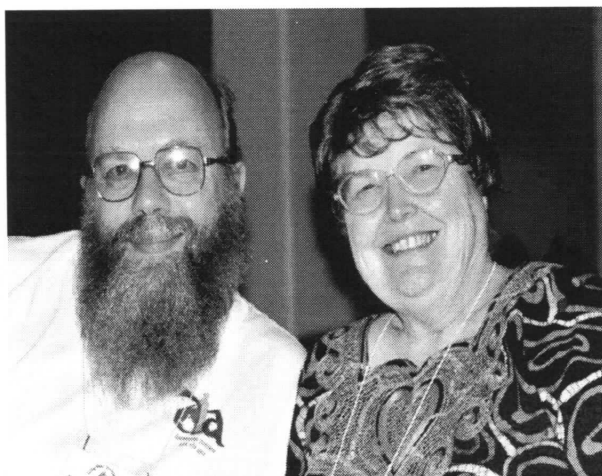
Elizabeth Sully and Daniel Rolland



Irene Mary Diones and Amy McFrederick



Keynoters Anne Lithgoe and Mary Ellen O'Grady, dramatize the theme of Living Waters



Rudolph Lowenstein and Elaine Taylor



Elaine De Rosiers in one of the Dominican Prayer Moments

## What People Said about the Racine Gathering...

“Of all the meetings I’ve attended, this was by far the most creative.”

“This year’s Gathering was different and delightfully outgoing. I think we are on a new journey, with this Gathering showing our growth.”

“I liked the variety in the schedule and the un-rushed pace—with bits of down time in between to think about each event.”

“Celebrating the Arts was a wonderful way to involve all the art forms.”

“The ‘Arts Plunge’ into the local art museums and galleries was a great opportunity for those of us who don’t get to do that often.”

“I liked NOT having “make something” workshops—“The workshops emphasizing art as prayer and contemplation were profound and helpful.” ---- “I would walk 100 miles for Dominic De Lay’s workshop on Cinematic Contemplation!”

“The Saint Dominic’s Day Eucharist was a work of art!”

## **Save the date!!!: DIA GATHERING 2008**

When: July 10-13, 2008  
Where: St. Mary of the Springs, and Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, Ohio  
Keynote Speaker: Jan Phillips, noted artist, author, motivator.

### **Be a part of it now! Join the Planning Commission**

Buoyed by the energy of the 2007 Gathering, the nucleus of the 2008 Commission began meeting before leaving Racine. Catch the spirit from this enthusiastic group!

Contact Carol O’Connor OPA, Board Liaison  
[coconnor@columbusdomincans.org](mailto:coconnor@columbusdomincans.org)

## Fra Angelico Winners Share Words of Wisdom

Three recipients of the Fra Angelico Award present at the DIA Gathering in Racine, WI, spoke to their love of art and Holy Preaching. Here are some brief and timely quotations:

**Phyllis Mrozinski OP** – “Through my most recent work—a life-size sculpture of Dominic— more than any other work of mine, I feel as though I am walking in the sandals of Dominic. . . It calls me to live a simple, uncluttered lifestyle dedicated to prayer and to preach everywhere. It preaches to me and I preach to it. . . This is my most joyful work ever!”

**Thoma Swanson OP** – “Our gifts are to share and to give. . . I make art to give it freely. . . . Contemplation and prayer are bound up in it. Let us have confidence in our art and know that it is worth sharing and doing. The Fra Angelico Award helps support our confidence. . .”

**Stephana Toomey OP** – “You don’t receive the Fra Angelico Award alone, you know – my parents played a huge part in my love for art and design. My work offers me the chance to preach nonverbally. . . . We must open our tents wide to the young because we will only get better and they will help us become more diversified.”

## Holy Preaching on the Feast of All Preachers

**Martha Bartholemew, OPA** Sinsinawa, homilist for the Dominic’s Day Eucharist at Racine, integrated the theme of the DIA Gathering with the gospel for the day: “No one after lighting a candle puts it under a bushel but on a lamp stand.” (Matt 5:5)

“We, who must pass through fire and water until we dare to face the responsibilities of joy. Moved only by the center which is love, we must bring our stories from hiding to lamp stands.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Mariandale Chapel Art Gallery

September 9-October 1: Mary Yim Kliauga, Oil Paintings "A Dance of Nature"  
*Opening Reception: Sunday, September 9, 2007 2:00-4:00PM*

October 14-November 17: Janet McKenzie, Oil Paintings,  
*Opening Reception: Sunday, October 14 -2:00 -4:00PM*

Check our website for future exhibits, [www.mariandale.org](http://www.mariandale.org).

## **The Power of Mindful Music**

Wednesday, October 10 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Martin de Porres Center, Columbus, Ohio

Mindfulness is the opposite of “mindlessness.” Mindless people do things automatically, by habit, without thinking. Mindful people are engaged in the present and constantly noticing new things. Dr. Timothy Russell, the music director of ProMusica, will discuss how his approach to mindfulness impacts his work as a conductor and educator, and how it can positively impact you and your world. Mindfulness, aside from being generally enlivening, can literally lead to a longer, happier life! Come and hear how and why . . . share in this invigorating discussion.

Timothy Russell, Ph.D., is the co-founder and Music Director of the award-winning ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, Ohio. He was named the winner of the 2006 Ohioana Pegasus Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions in the arts and humanities. Dr. Russell is also in his 15th year as a Professor of Music and Director of Orchestras at Arizona State University. He is one of America’s most versatile and dynamic conductors and foremost music educators. Suggested donation is \$10.00. **Please register by October 3.** For additional information or to register: 614-416-1910 or [www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp](http://www.columbusdominicans.org/mdp). *Presented in partnership with the Ohioana Library Association and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.*

## **Artists' Contemplative Retreat**

June 6 - 13, 2008

Mariandale Retreat & Conference Center, Ossining, N. Y.

This retreat is for the serious artist who expresses her own creativity in painting, drawing, sculpture, poetry, writing or music. Throughout these days together, each artist is invited to listen and to respond to God's inner call in her prayer and in her work. The natural beauty and serenity of Mariandale encourages each participant to pursue her own artistic medium alone and then share her inspiration with other retreatants. Scholarships are available. Number of participants is limited. For additional information: [www.mariandale.org](http://www.mariandale.org).

## **Letter from the Editor**

Dear DIA Members,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dee Fontana, and I am the new editor of the DIA Newsletter. I am a Dominican Associate of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus, and I also work at St. Mary's in the Martin de Porres Center as an Administrative Assistant.

My roommate, Faith, and I are involved in stained glass, gem stone jewelry, and painting ceramics. I also enjoy photography and acrylic painting.

Please feel free to contact me with articles and information, or with any ideas you might have for the newsletter. I would also appreciate any cartoons, quotes, stories, etc. that you would like to share about the arts. The next newsletter will come out in early February, so the deadline for submissions will be January 19. The best way to contact me is either at [dfontana@columbusdominicans.org](mailto:dfontana@columbusdominicans.org) or 614-416-1910.

I look forward to working with all of you!

Regards,  
Dee Fontana