

Harbinger

Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery

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August 23: Falling into Place: Self- Portraits by Patricia Lay-Dorsey

Those of us who have attended virtually any rally, meeting or other gathering having to do with peace or social justice issues are well acquainted with Patricia Lay-Dorsey. Her compassion, acuity about issues and dedication to being a part of those who speak out against injustices are well known in our community.

A talented photographer, her works have won accolades and praise from professionals and her contemporaries. Often dressed in her 'trademark' shade of purple, she can often be seen chronicling public events in and around Detroit. Her first self-portrait project was to intimately examine her body and the effects of aging - a daunting task for anyone. However, Patricia Lay-Dorsey writes that this most recent self-portrait project, photographing the realities of her days and the challenges she deals with is far more uncomfortable.

In 1988 she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) and by 2000 she was using a scooter, which allows her increased mobility. Patricia Lay-Dorsey represents a group of those who live with a disability but who have had to transition to that state, not having it from birth. She writes of feeling vulnerable and being ashamed by her limitations.

The exhibit committee believes that when you see her work, you will know of her extraordinary

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Who are these people? Why are they applauding? (see Little Free Library. page 3)

GALLERY HOURS TO CHANGE

Beginning August 23 with our first exhibit (see left), Swords into Plowshares will be open to visitors on Thursdays and Saturdays, 12 noon to 5 pm; some Third Thursday evenings and by appointment.

Due to the unpredictability of visitors (which all galleries experience) and difficulty in staffing, the Steering Committee voted to reduce our hours to the above. We think this will still present our exhibits to the public at convenient hours and will be easier on our volunteers. We'll take a look at this in six months to evaluate.

Director's Corner

It's just mid-summer as we assemble this newsletter, but we've all been busy planning for the coming year. You'll see that we have new gallery hours beginning in the Fall. As the Steering committee discussed this change, we also had a good, and it is ongoing discussion about how we can increase the number of visitors and the usage of this wonderful space.

There are plans underway for several types of events and programs in the fall and beyond; perhaps more poetry readings, art workshops for children, Good News Dinners where we can hear about the positives in our world (attendee participation is encouraged), a peace centered film series - all manner of ideas. If any of these interest you, please call 313-963-7575 or email the Peace Center at:

swordsintoplowshares@prodigy.org

so we can make sure to include you when these ideas become a reality. You can leave a message with your name and contact information and the event(s) you're interested in. But what would YOU like? Please use the same number or email to leave your ideas.

The Exhibit Committee has created an Exhibit schedule for the coming year that has something for everyone. We'll be sending postcards and posting information on the Web site - a BIG thank you to Bob Krzewinski for that - so you'll know what's coming up. A periodic check of the web site www.swordsintoplowsharesdetroit.org is always a good idea to keep up with the latest happening here.

At the end of June, we bade an affectionate goodbye to Rev. Ed Rowe. He, believe it or not, is retiring from Central United Methodist Church but certainly not to a rocking chair. We honor all the works of Rev. Rowe - a true friend and active advocate for peace and social justice. And we welcome Rev. Jill Zundel to Central and are looking forward to working with her. She is familiar with the work of the Peace Center, and has often expressed her desire to be at Central.

I hope your summer is joy-ful and we all forward to seeing you in the fall and throughout the year.

Wendy

The Gift Shop

BUTTONS! BUTTONS! BUTTONS! Over 60 different buttons to choose from. Our top seller is the Peace Symbol. The first person to use the peace symbol was pacifist Bertrand Russell. His group, The Committee for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) used it during a protest march in 1958 for nuclear disarmament in Aldermaston, England. Activist Gerald Holtom, who designed the symbol, based it on the international semaphore alphabet. This system uses flag signals in place of letters like a code. The peace sign is actually the flag signals for N and D, superimposed upon each other and standing for Nuclear Disarmament.

It has since become the international symbol for peace. Other buttons range from "Wearing Buttons is Not Enough" to "Co-Exist" "Detroit Love" "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" on and on.

Buy a Button! Wear a Button! ...and add some to your collection.

Joyce Mason

"Emma" is big hit

Selections from Howard Zinn's play "Emma" on Emma Goldman was sold out for the entire run of three performances at Matrix Theatre.

The play, a joint venture of Matrix and the Peace Center, was performed on the weekend of May 18 to enthusiastic audiences.

Shaun and Wes Nethercott, both of Matrix, co-directed. The part of Emma was played with fiery conviction by Karen Kron. She was supported by Maurizio Rosas, Matt Simonion, and Samer Ajluni and Shaun Nethercott. Music was provided by Suzanne Antisdell.

We hope that Howard and Emma are smiling.

Two Visible Changes

If you have visited recently, you may have noticed that our unisex restroom has been remodeled. Not only is it handicap-friendly, but it is quite beautiful, with new fixtures and paint on the walls.

We now have a dual-flush toilet, several grab-bars in strategic places, and a nifty waterfall-spout faucet over a bright and shiny new sink. The new fixtures, while they are not exactly ADA-approved (the doorway is too narrow), now allow for more space to get around in. (ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act)

A new sign on the front of the Gallery announces us to Grand Circus Park, Michigan Opera Theatre, Woodward Avenue traffic and Tiger baseball fans.

Ron Mason and Suzanne Antisdell supervised these jobs, with the able help of excellent workers. Funds came from the bequest of Jo Bristah, who with her husband Jim founded Swords into Plowshares in 1985. So next time you visit, take note!

Put Aside Your Stuff for Us

SIP's Annual Treasure Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st. The treasure sale is this wonderful exercise where we all clean our basements, cupboards or shelves of stuff that we no longer need or want or have room to store. We donate them to SIP, then come to the sale and buy each others' stuff. We also encourage our friends, relatives, and neighbors to do the same.

Please begin to save your stuff and we will notify you when you can bring them in. Please join us in this tidy little exercise where we all have some fun and SIP makes a few bucks!

Jack and Audrey Chase

Falling, cont'd from p.1

courage, not only in exposing her life, but in speaking for all of us who may well experience a similar circumstance. Her photographs will make you think long after you witness them.

The exhibit opening will take place on Saturday, August 23, from 5 - 7 pm. The exhibit runs to September 20.

Little Free Library is Up and Running

It's always enjoyable to report a success, big or little. And our Little Free Library is that: a success!

The picture on page 1 is of the library's official dedication on June 12. Left to right, Wendy Hamilton Director, Pauline Feltner, originator of the idea, Marti Alston, Vice-chair of the Steering Committee, and Brandon Brown who, along with other NOAH artists from the Church, helped design the box.

Books are going out. Volunteers here are finding that they are restocking 6-10 books each day. Not many have been returned or re-donated. But the purpose of the Little Free Library is to provide, on a take-one-return-one, trust basis, reading materials for anyone who walks down the street, so we believe we've achieved our purpose. (SIP also has a larger lending library inside.)

We did find, a few weeks ago, a bar of soap on one of the shelves. It was gone the next day. Someone needed it. And it was there. Good.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

PLEASE HELP US by sending an email to: swordsintoplowshares@prodigy.net with "address" in the subject line so we can begin sending our correspondence over the internet - it's less expensive, saves trees and is easier on everyone! THANKS.

Central United Methodist Church
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Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery
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Peace Brokers

Peace brokers dance
even when there's no chance
of winning, they move to
their own beat path
plan for the best and worst
and recant all previous positions
if necessary - they are not
too proud to say they were wrong
or misguided; and listen to the hand
extended in warmth, gripping
close with their own heart
all that they hold dear; and
perchance a day of reckoning comes near
and the dead rise from their graves
find their tongue and debate
with heat about the success
of so many years spent lying beneath the grass;
the peace brokers listen, take tea,
nod when they agree,
hold up a pen

when they do not
indicating they'd like time
at the podium of truth
when others are done speaking;
peace brokers take notes, ask questions
and resolve not to leave the table
until all has been said, heard and agreed;
until an action plan is set for the next meet
and they do not give up ever or admit defeat
because what is to gain is so sweet

Angie Trudell Vasquez

*Editing and layout - Suzanne Antisdell
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Mason.*