



# RKC NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

## From the Director's Desk

Once again, it seems impossible that we are nearing the end of another year at the Roberta Kuhn Center, and planning for 2018-19 is well underway.

One of my favorite things to do is to sit in on classes and be a part of the interesting things being taught, and the interactions that occur which are unique to each class. This year some highlights were hearing a Vietnam veteran talk on his experiences and how forgiveness became a way of life as a result. A class on the beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria had me longing for my undergraduate days as a history major at Clarke. Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker of Loras College presented on the Influenza epidemic and its effects on the city of Dubuque. I enjoyed poetry reflections and talked books and literature. I also enjoyed a visit from Maestro William Intriligator and singer Megan Gloss as they provided a preview and some background on the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's Romeo and Juliet themed performance. I also taught a few lessons myself to the quilters. This is just a sampling of the wonderful things happening in the Roberta Kuhn Center and I am fortunate to be able to be immersed in the quality of our offerings and a part of the community of learners that is a natural consequence. ---Karen

### Important Upcoming Dates...

#### RKC Open House in St. Joseph Hall

Wed. May 2

set-up 12-4pm

Thurs. May 3

1-3pm guests are sisters & staff

Fri. May 4

1-3pm guests are friends & family

#### RKC Classroom Classes Last Week of Class April 30-May 4

#### Bread for the World Presentation

St. Joseph Hall

Wed. June 8 2pm

## Collage & Mixed Media Class "Fuels the Creative" in Its Participants

Over the course of the semester, the students in Collage & Mixed Media taught by Carmelle Zserdin, BVM were heard to be excitedly discussing the latest challenge given them. Some of this excitement centered on the tea bag challenge, the creation assignment and an introduction to Wabi-Sabi, a Japanese art form. I asked members of the class to explain what the class was for them and how it made them feel. Here are some comments from the students...

-Collage is all about play and feeding my spirit. It is one way I take part in creation. I love to make something that has never been seen before. The process is most often more satisfying than the end-result. In collage, we gather bits and bobs, ephemera, words, numbers, scraps, trash, etc. and see what happens when we follow Carmelle's golden rule which is, "there are no rules."

-I see things differently since being in the class. "Junk" now looks like possible art material. In our latest Wabi Sabi assignment we learned to see the beauty in impermanence and decay...and I truly do see fallen leaves, broken seashells, old barns or broken down fences as beautiful.

-I am a minimal sheet metal sculptor creating most pieces in one piece and one color! Imagine the mind/thought expanding collage class-, forming by build-up of small pieces of color, image with texture and text is a whole new language. I am challenged to speak in a new collage voice!

-Each Monday we are introduced to an assignment to work on the following week. Recently it was blackout poetry. I'm excited to rip some pages out of a book and start looking for words to create my little poem. I always feel so enthused and ready to sit at my dining room table and create and let my household chores just slide.

Many participants also mentioned the creative energy sparked by "generous and talented classmates" and being grateful for this unique RKC offering.

## A few details about next year's registration....

The brochure for next fall is already being written. The brochure is set to be mailed the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, so watch for it.

**Each year, registration is new, so no one is pre-registered because of attendance the previous year.**

We encourage you to return to classes you enjoy, but to realize that you need to complete the registration form each year. Please be aware that the brochure for 2018-2019 will be posted on our website the same day as it is mailed. Registration forms and payment can be mailed back to the RKC (address is in the brochure) or brought to campus. Use the Caritas entrance and drop your envelope in the white box near the receptionist's desk.

**The new registration form must be used to register for a class.** The form can be accessed at <https://www.bvmsisters.org/get-involved/roberta-kuhn-center/> after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Recycling Efforts Continue

Thank you to the RKC Community for your overwhelming contributions to our recycling efforts to keep oral care and beauty product containers out of landfills and to help aid the BVM Hunger Fund. To date, over \$907.24 has been collected. Items can be brought to Mt. Carmel over the summer break and left in the collection boxes in the RKC hallway. The door code from this year will open the door from 8am-3pm weekdays until September.

Thank you for your efforts to drive slowly and to park carefully for the safety of us all. The speed limit on campus is 15mph so be sure to slow down as you enter campus. Also warmer weather brings out many more walkers on campus, so be aware as you are driving!



**A safe and happy summer to all!!**

## We Remember...

Helen Kerrigan, BVM	Pat Potok, BVM
Marion Pasdiora, BVM	Thelma Sbarra
Anne Marie Dolan, BVM	Gunnar Ant
Mary K. O'Brien, BVM	Sandi Michel
Dolores O'Dwyer, BVM	Linda Andrews
Noella Cavallero, BVM	Heather Davis
Paul Francis Bailey, BVM	Don Wasmundt
Johnellen Garrity, BVM	Elva May Prenosil
Rita Mary Zander, BVM	Howard Higley
Isabel Miller, BVM	Harlan Knuth
Mary Ernest Rothe, BVM	Mary Kathleen
Joan Newhart, BVM	Dolphin, PBVM

## You Are Invited...

### Bread for the World Offering of Letters

On June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm, the Roberta Kuhn Center community is invited to learn about and participate with the BVM Community in Bread for the World's program to urge lawmakers to invest in programs and support policies that help improve lives for persons struggling with hunger. Action is taken with the annual Offering of Letters campaign which engages people to write letters to Congress.

People write letters, usually as a group, and present them as an offering to God before mailing them to Congress. Hundreds of Offerings of Letters are held each year, resulting in tens of thousands of letters to Congress. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. They have, and continue to have, a significant impact on the decisions made in Congress. Join us as Sr. C. Jean Hayen, BVM leads us in this program. The event will be held in St. Joseph Hall. The door code from this year will allow access to the building. Bring a friend! Excerpts for this article taken from [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

## Special Thanks To...

Janell Timmermans, Gail Chavenelle and Dee Hinds for their generous donations to the Roberta Kuhn Center.

Pam Davis of Quilt This who hosted the RKC Quilter's Group for class at her shop.

The various guest speakers from the Dubuque Community who came to our classes this year to enrich our learning.