

CHAT ROOM



STEVE KOWALSKI

Pottery wheel helps drive convert's faith

Each Friday in Lent, the Catholic Church celebrates Stations of the Cross, which recalls Christ's death on Calvary. After a late March service at the National Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, the Rev. Joseph Horn introduced Carol Long, who had a conversion story.

And lots of pottery, on which she paints crosses and angels. And here she was shaping more in front of us!

And all I'm thinking is: "This is shaping up to be a long night."

I copy edit arts stories for a living. I just finished designing Sunday's Arts page. Art is a four-letter word to me when I leave work.

Is this penance before Confession?

Wish I could turn into an unholy ghost and split.

But then I thought, "I can't let a pottery wheel drive me from church."

Everyone's had a boss who thought he was God. Guess God truly gave me this assignment.

Long's conversion starts in her hometown near Flint and takes her to New Mexico and California. It gains momentum in Yugoslavia with a visit to the Apparitions of Our Lady of Medjugorje where in 1981 Mary, the mother of Jesus, started appearing in visions to six Yugoslav teens that are Vatican approved.

Raised Lutheran, Long joined the Church in 1993 and attends daily Mass, at which Catholics believe Jesus is truly present in bread and wine.

"I get my strength from Communion and 24 hours later receive him again," said Long, a Plymouth Village Pottery Guild member who also shared her talents last month with parishioners of St. Alexander in Farmington at a Vespers with Mary, Vessels of Life program.

Her work, spiritual and secular, will be on display at the Royal Clay and Glass Art Show June 9-10. She can be just as proud of the other finished products in her life, grown children Shauna and Stephen, whose lives she shaped despite long odds.

A small world

Long believes she experienced many miracles, not incredible coincidences, on her spiritual journey.

Raising two children on her own after a divorce in the early 1970s, she struggled paying bills as a potter's apprentice in New Mexico.

Seeking college, Long showed up on the steps of a building at College of Santa Fe. Standing there was a priest named Brother Joseph, head of admissions.

The priest not only welcomed her, he found scholarships and loans to finance classes toward a nursing degree. No need for child care.

"My kids sat in class with me while their coloring books or they'd go to Brother Joe's office or the Art building and play," she remembers. "He was so warm to us."

Long graduated and landed a nursing job at Mercy Hospital in Sacramento, Calif. where she met another nurse — a nun — with an interesting family tree. When Long said she was from Santa Fe, the nun said her uncle was once the registrar at the college.

"I said, 'You don't mean Brother Joe?' and she said 'Yeah, do you know him?'" Long recalled.

"I said, 'Know him? He saved my life. I had nothing!'" Long said.

Final steps, by air

Still Protestant, but probably feeling like a Catholic charity at this point, Long sent her children to Catholic school in Sacramento.

Experiencing a better life, Long still struggled with the distance from her parents in Michigan, especially when her father was diagnosed with cancer.

They returned to Michigan in the late '80s and Long helped care for her ailing father.

In 1990, she had a free ticket for round-trip airfare to anywhere. By then her father had a tumor considered inoperable. She considered an exotic location and coming back "and caring for my father until he died," before a couple conversations rerouted her.

Please see CHAT ROOM, C8

hometownnewspapers.net

Mary Rodrigue, Editor 248-477-5450

mrodrigue@oe.homecomm.net

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

248-477-5450

School's out! Now what?

Camps offer summer fun for wide range of interests

Don't worry if you haven't registered your child for summer camp yet. There's still some openings. Here are some ideas.

Camp Invention

This national summer day camp encourages children to develop their creative abilities. It will be offered at Grandview Elementary in Livonia July 16-20 and Hillside Middle School in Northville July 30-Aug. 3. The \$175 camp fee includes snack and a t-shirt. A 10 percent discount is offered for siblings. Call (800) 968-4332 to register or visit www.invent.org

The Salvation Army

The Farmington Salvation Army at 27500 Shiloh Road only has a few slots left. The seven-week day camp program runs June 18-Aug. 3, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and after care provided for a nominal additional fee. It's for kids aged kindergarten through 5th grade. Cost is \$55 a week, per child, and includes two field trips. Call 477-1153.

Living Science Foundation

Living Science Foundation has 11 weeks of day camps through Aug. 24. Introduce campers to live animals from all over the world. Web visit at www.livingscience.org

June 18-22, Science & Nature I, Ann Arbor Botanical Gardens. Call (734) 998-7061.

July 2, 3, 5, 6, Science Sampler held in Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

July 9-13, Air & Space is offered in Canton. Call (734) 416-4927.

July 23-27 (TBA) in Canton. Call (734) 416-4927.

July 30-Aug. 3, Animal Families at the Ann Arbor Botanical Gardens. Call (734) 998-7061.

Aug. 6-10 Animal Plant, Northville. Call (248) 349-0203.

Raised Lutheran, Long joined the Church in 1993 and attends daily Mass, at which Catholics believe Jesus is truly present in bread and wine.

Aug. 13-17, Redford (TBA). Call (734) 207-9291.

Aug. 13-17, Marine Biology at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Call (734) 995-5439.

Aug. 20-24, Rainforest at the Ann Arbor Botanical Gardens (734) 998-7061.

Schoolcraft College

Schoolcraft College "Kids on Campus" program has stuff for kids 5-15. Summer classes begin July 9, and run two weeks Monday-Thursday for two hours with start times at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:20 p.m. Camps run Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Before and after care is available.

New camps include art and science, ecology, architecture and pre-med. Classes include computers, math, sci-



ence, study skills, theater, video production and art. TAG classes are designed specifically for gifted children. Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4400.

Hands-on Museum

Ann Arbor Hands On Museum/Summer Science Camp is offered in various sessions.

"Trio Grande Day Camp: Under the Canopy and Magic of the Rainforest," July 16-20 (1-3rd grades) and July 23-27 (1-6th grades) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. \$195 per camper (bring a bag lunch). Spend a week exploring the unique habitats of the Rainforest.

"Kids Invent Toys" July 9-13 (4-8th grades), Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$195 per camper. Bring bag lunch. Create new, wild and fun toys, learn about inventions, marketing, entrepreneurship and visit toy store.

Special camps include a math camp (Aug. 6-10) and radio drama workshop (Aug. 13-17). Middle school students (6-8th grades) have four camp opportunities. Robotics is offered 10 a.m. to noon July 23-27; Video Editing, 10 a.m. to noon July 30-Aug. 3; Rip It Apart, 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 6-10; and Health/Science Discovery 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 13-17.

The Hands-On Museum is at 220 E. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Call (734) 995-5439.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Detroit Institute of Arts will offer hands-on workshops for children, adults, families and teachers. The

museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Decent tours are offered daily at 1 p.m. Call (313) 833-4249 or TDD (313) 833-1454. Visit www.dia.org

Michigan Space Center

Michigan Space and Science Center hosts a half-day, five-day summer camp. Build and launch rockets, learn about history of manned space flight, astronomy, living/working in space. Appropriate for grades 2 through 7. Call Michigan Space and Science Center, Jackson (517) 787-4425. Visit www.jackson.cc.mi.us/spacecenter

Pewabic Pottery

The summer camp at Pewabic Pottery begins June 25 with the Pottery Passport theme. Students will explore the globe and discover the dynamic ceramic arts unique to each culture. Camps are a week-long adventure from 9 a.m. to noon for children ages 6-12. Each week costs \$120 and includes all instruction, materials, firings and daily snacks.

Stepping Stone

Stepping Stone School for the Gifted/Summer Day Camps provide week-long camps for ages 6-12, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Variety camps, \$140; Clay Cosmos, \$375; and Clay Innovations (adults), \$180. Extended day is available from 7:30-9 a.m. and 3:30-5 p.m.

Variety camps start June 18-22 and conclude Aug. 20-24. Topics include fun with chemistry, soar to new heights,

Fun in the summertime: Campers and their counselor at a Jewish Community Center summer day camp program at the Kahn Building in West Bloomfield last summer. From left, Mallory Gonte, counselor Morgan Simrod, Stephanie Weinstein, Carly Gould and Samantha Tokowitz. For JCC summer camps, see C8.

dinosaurs, under the sea, magic, engineering 101 and stories/drama. Steppingstone School is at 21900 Middlebelt Rd., Farmington Hills. Call (248) 473-1808, visit www.stepping.org or e-mail info@stepping.org

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

Tech Trekkers Camp provides fun experiences in science, technology and adventure that connect with the unique resources of the museum and village. This camp creates skill-enhancing opportunities for youth ages 11-14. Camps consist of four 2-week sessions. The topic for Session I (June 18-29) and III (July 23-Aug. 3) is 3, 2, 1... Take Off! The topic for Session II (July 9-20) and IV (Aug. 6-17) is The Technology of Biology - From Field to Factory. Sessions include science experiments and activities, field trips, visits with experts in related fields and tours of on-site exhibits. Each session will include a fun field trip such as the wave pool and a focused field trip that relates to the session theme. Fees are \$375 for each child enrolled in a two-week session of camp. Morning and afternoon extended care are included in the camp fees.

Discovery Camp 1 (Growing Up in America) for grades 2 and 3. This camp explores how American home-life has changed throughout history. Through special interactive visits to three centuries of homes, farms and businesses children gain an understanding of the past by experiencing it.

Please see SUMMER FUN, C8

Reading rainbow of activities at libraries

The Farmington/Farmington Hills libraries have several events for kids. No registration is required, unless noted.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all programs. Call the Farmington Hills branch at 474-3115, or the Farmington branch at 474-7770 for details.

Baby Time Babies up to 16 months.

Stories, rhymes, songs and fun. Alternate Thursdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 14, 28, July 12, 26 (Farmington branch); Alternate Tuesdays, 7:45 a.m. June 12, 26, July 10, 24 (12 Mile branch).

Little Me 16 months to 2 Years. Stories and hands-on fun. Mondays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Farmington Branch); Thursdays, 11-11:45 a.m. June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 (12 Mile library).

Learning Activity Centers, Jr. Ages 2 and 3. Stories, crafts and reading readiness activities. Fridays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 (Farmington Branch).

Fridays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 8, 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 (12 Mile library).

Learning Activity Centers Ages 3 to 5. Stories, crafts and reading readiness activities. Tuesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 5, 12, 19, 26 July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Farmington branch).

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 6, 13, 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 (12 Mile library).

Summer reading open house: Register for the adult, young adult, or children's summer reading program. Sign up for the program, enjoy refreshments, let the kids get creative with some reading road trip craft projects.

Saturday, June 2, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at both branches.

Reading road trip USA (ages 2-11): In Search of the Lost Chord (ages 11-17); If Reading Isn't Your Only Hobby (Adults of all ages).

Tuesdays are Terrific

Fun and exciting programs for elementary-age children. Tuesdays at 2 p.m., unless otherwise noted. No registration required, unless noted.

At 32727 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills (248) 553-0300.

Tuesday, June 19, 2 p.m. Paper-making - Make your own paper to take home. Registration required.

Tuesday, July 3, 2 p.m. The Josh



Search: Sam's sister, Anne, browses for some reading material.

Casey Show - Variety act packed with a blend of laughs, wacky stunts, and flying props.

Tuesday, July 17, 2 p.m. Crazy Craft Day - Move from station to station and make wacky crafts.

Tuesday, July 31, 2 p.m. Catch the Wave: The Science of Sound and Music - A highly contagious program of fun and learning.

At 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington (248) 474-7770.

Tuesday, June 12, 2 p.m. Celebrating the Wizard of Oz books - Join two characters from the Wizard of Oz to celebrate the 100th birthday of the book.

Tuesday, June 26, 2 p.m. Pet Care with Dr. Carron - The Plaza Veterinary Clinic vet will show us pet friends and how to care for them.

Tuesday, July 10, 2 p.m. Crazy Craft Day - Move from station to station and make wacky crafts!

Tuesday, July 24, 2 p.m. Magic with Ming the Magnificent - Go on a "Magical Road Trip" with Ming and his magic.

Summer Reading Club Final Party

July 30 6:30-9 p.m. at Costick Activity Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Club. The Spon Man, Dan-Dan the Choo Choo Man, Hayrides and more.

Don't miss the library at Kids Day in the Park on July 19, and a Founder's Festival Craft Tent on July 20-21.

There will be no public children's programs in the month of August.

Staff photo by Bill Eberlein

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