



Community Outreach Alive at Peace

In a school year dedicated to the Dominican value of Community, global consciousness and outreach is alive at Queen of Peace. These special initiatives include Haiti awareness, an all-school art mural, and "Arts Without Borders" experiences to the Holocaust Museum in Skokie and upcoming trips to the opera.

Peace held an all-school prayer service Jan. 19 for the victims, families and relief workers of the horrific Haitian earthquake and reflected on the promise of hope in the world.

Through Operation Rice Bowl, Peace is currently raising money school-wide to aid Catholic Relief Services with the organization's efforts in Haiti. A giant rice bowl, created by the Student Council, has been placed in the cafeteria for contributions and serves as a reminder of the earthquake's devastation to all students during their lunch periods. This collection will continue throughout Lent, and is in addition to the French Club's donation of nearly \$500 to Doctors Without Borders.

Peace also plans to increase aid to Haiti by participating in the "Haiti Houses" project, which began in 2008 by two art teachers in Florida after they saw a presentation about the living conditions in Haiti. They noted at the time that most of the people of Haiti lived in shacks made of cardboard,

plastic or any materials they could scavenge together. Since the earthquake, the "homes" have been reduced to piles of rubble, and the project – started to make a difference in the lives of Haitians – has raised more than \$87,000 through charities which are

purchase before Easter. All donations will be forwarded to "Food for the Poor," a Catholic Relief Service.

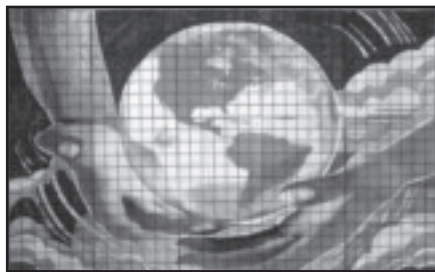
In addition to the "Haiti Houses" project, Art Club and its moderator Linda Vorderer has completed the final touches to an all-school mural that will be installed in the cafeteria, at the back of the stage. The 8' by 12' mural of a globe is made up of 864 square-inch pixels. At a Harmony Day community art session Nov. 5, each Peace student, faculty and staff member was given a one-inch pixel of the final image to recreate. They matched the shapes and colors within their individual square as best as possible and added their name and the Dominican value they most cherish.

"Since we are becoming interconnected with the world via our technology initiatives, I looked for an image that says we are a global community; yet the

fabric of this community is made up of each individual, equally important to the whole. These individuals, along with these values, make up our world," Vorderer said.

Peace's community-building activities have also extended beyond the visual arts. As part of Arts Without Borders, the entire sophomore class visited the Holocaust Museum in Skokie and saw a performance of "Anne Frank" at Moraine Valley Community College on Feb. 9-11.

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Top left: A replica of Peace's all-school art mural that will be placed in the cafeteria. Top right: Peace held a prayer service Jan. 19 for the victims, families and relief workers of the Haitian earthquake. Bottom left: French Club members Heather Kierzek (left), Julia Amador and Michaela Strauch collect money for Doctors Without Borders outside of the cafeteria on Jan. 29. Bottom right: Mock-ups of completed, decorated "Haiti Houses."

providing direct relief to Haiti because of the involvement of communities of teachers, students and churches. Fine arts teacher Mrs. Linda Vorderer and the Art Club, together with the Student Council, is organizing Peace's version of "Haiti Houses."

More details about this project, including an all-school "Haiti Houses" building day, will be provided on Peace's website in the coming weeks. Each "house" – a one-of-a-kind piece of art made into a pin or magnet – will sell for \$5 each and will be available for

Voices of Peace

A Newsletter for Alumnae and
Friends of Peace
March 2010

Voices of Peace is published three times per year. All submissions or comments should be directed to editor Erin Foley at foleye@queenofpeacehs.org or (708) 458-7600, Ext. 252.

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Queen of Peace, a Catholic Dominican college preparatory high school, educates and empowers diverse young women in an environment that inspires academic excellence. The Queen of Peace community promotes collaboration, moral and ethical leadership, service and a passion for justice.



From the Desk of the President/Principal



Dear Alumnae,

Nearly four years ago, I agreed to accept the position of interim administrator of Queen of Peace High School in order to affirm the mission and Dominican values of Queen of Peace and to guarantee

the on-going pursuit of academic excellence for the young women we serve. Even though this was a major digression from my long-range personal career goals, I elected to invest my energy in creating a peaceful and peace-filled environment, and since this was to be only a one year commitment, I said to myself, "I can do that!"

After all, I had 19 years invested in this dynamic and vibrant learning community as teacher, assistant principal, and finally principal, and had since studied, taught and administered in numerous educational institutions in the Midwest. I could step up for one year and assist in the work of transitioning Peace to new leadership. Surely, I could do that out of a deep gratitude for the Sinsinawa Dominicans who have had such a powerful impact on my life through the educational opportunities they afforded me.

For many reasons the one year stretched into four. First, I have had the great pleasure and privilege of working alongside exceptionally talented and committed administrators and support staff and dedicated, deeply caring educators who serve as wonderful models and mentors for our students — something very unique and difficult to let go.

Second, I have witnessed the joy and delight the young women of Peace exude as they mature and grow and deepen their investment in learning and working for peace and

justice in so many, many ways. This, after all, is what the mission and ministry is truly about - and also difficult to let go.

At last, the challenge of working to move secondary educational practices into the 21st century, especially for women, has had a tight hold on my professional life and growth and, frankly, was impossible to accomplish in only a few years.

However, after much prayer and reflection, I now think it is time to let go and reposition myself on a career path I left four years ago. I wish to inform you that I have decided to resign my position effective June 30, 2010. I hope to travel, search out new and interesting career opportunities and eventually return to teaching - my first love - at the University level.

Please know I am committed to doing everything in my power to further the mission, vision and values of Queen of Peace High School as the president/principal in my remaining days and to assist the Board of Queen of Peace in a seamless transition of leadership.

I believe I leave the Queen of Peace community in a strong and dynamic place and have every confidence that the future leaders of Peace will enter into a unique experience that will also be very, very difficult for them to ever let go - because this is such a wonderful community.

May Peace be with you always!

Kathleen M. Hanlon, Ph.D.
President/Principal

Upcoming Events

Visit queenofpeacehs.org for further details.

March 18-20 Robotics Midwest Regional

March 20 Peace Parents' Association Trivia Night | 7-10:30 p.m.

March 27-28 Fair Trade Bazaar | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

April 14 Career Day | 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

April 16 Buona Sera | 6-10 p.m. | Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook

April 17 Peace Pride Boosters' Bean Bag Tournament

April 23-24 Performing Arts Show

April 29 Health and Wellness Day

April 30 Catherine Congress

May 29 Class of 2010 Graduation

Sixteen seniors named Illinois State Scholars



Queen of Peace is proud to announce that 16 seniors have been named as 2010 Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The award is based on a student's performance on the ACT, SAT or Prairie State Achievement Exam and their class rank at the end of their junior year. Illinois State Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of high school seniors from 752 schools across the state.

"These students are among the best and the brightest in the state," said president/principal Kathleen Hanlon, Ph.D. "Queen of Peace is extremely proud of their commitment to academic excellence."

2010 Illinois State Scholars

Top row (left to right) - Nicole Frederick, Allison Kirwan, Heather Kierzek, Anna Dron, Michaele Strauch and Paige Jeffrey.

Middle row - Kelly Gierman, Kelly Kosiewicz, Julia Amador, Marcella Perez and Erica Vrkljan.

Bottom row - Sara Seweryn, Sara Majewski, Emily Boyle and Diana Rodriguez. Not pictured - Natalie Watson.

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Prior to the trips, Peace's social studies department integrated the Holocaust into class discussions.

"Art studies are part of every course. I couldn't imagine a class that doesn't utilize music or arts," said Arts Without Borders coordinator Anna Reynes.

One goal of the trip, Reynes said, was to help students "connect emotionally with the past and to understand that behind the statistics of 12 million people lost, there were real faces, lives and histories." Following the trip, students wrote an essay on the prompt: "How will you erase genocide in your lifetime?"

"I'm hoping students took this trip to heart and will consider how they can be 'upstanders' in today's society, instead of mere bystanders."

Peace's frosh will take a backstage tour of the Lyric Opera Chicago on March 9, while the senior class will see the *Elixir of Love* on March 16. Both opportunities are being made possible through the generous support of a donor.

From the Chair of the Board of Directors Mary Kay Nickels

Dear Members of the Queen of Peace Community,

The Queen of Peace Board and Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa wish to express our deep gratitude for Kathy Hanlon's years of service, her vision and professional leadership, and her wisdom and dedication to the mission of Queen of Peace.

Her legacy and commitment to academic excellence will live on through the integrated technology programs, expansion of the arts, including Arts Without Borders, support for the Infinity program and FIRST Robotics competitions, interdisciplinary and integrated learning programs, and strengthened academic requirements, as well as increased student/teacher contact time.

The Queen of Peace Board has hired Trinity Executive Partnership to host a nationwide search for our new president, supporting a seamless transition to new leadership. Trinity Executive Partnership offers the experience and resources needed to orchestrate a broad range presidential search. They have a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience with educational institutions throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Over a period of six months, many in the Queen of Peace community - parents, students, alumnae, faculty, staff, Board Members and other community members and friends - participated in the strategic planning process entitled, "Creating the Vision." This process set the stage for

creation of action plans designed to strengthen all future endeavors and guide the investment of financial and human resources.

One explored avenue included a review of administrative leadership models that are employed in various Catholic, educational communities; this study has resulted in our decision to seek two distinctly different administrative leaders.

We will first seek to hire a president and then the president will initiate a search for the next principal of Queen of Peace. The "Creating the Vision" document will be a tremendous asset in our search for the right persons to implement our plans, which continue to be guided by our constituents' affirmation of the unique mission, values and vision of Queen of Peace High School.

I know that it is with great humility, pride and confidence that together we shepherd Queen of Peace High School into the future and extend our appreciation to Dr. Hanlon for her service and dedicated leadership. We wish her well in her future endeavors and keep her in our Queen of Peace prayers.

Sincerely,

Mary Kay Nickels
Queen of Peace Board Chair

Have you registered?

peacealum.com

Find a friend, read your classmates' updates, chat, post pictures, update your mailing information.

As a secure site, Peace will never share your e-mail addresses or personal information. Only Peace alum may create groups with other alumnae.

PEACE IN THE NEWS

Five Peace students represent Armenia at Model UN Conference

Five Queen of Peace students, including seniors Sarah Malec and Victoria Williams and juniors Sonia Shahin, Dorothy Murzydlo and Michelle Maturlak, joined more than 2,000 high school students from nearly 100 schools across the country and around the world Feb. 4-7 at the Model United Nations of the University of Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton. Students from each school represented the member states of the United Nations and together grappled with the most pressing issues facing the world today, including the current global economic/food crisis, the Israeli conflict, nuclear proliferation, global warming and maternal mortality.

"Our students had the opportunity to see up close how the United Nations works. They were exposed to different cultures and ways of thinking, which can only help prepare them to be leaders for our nation and world in the future," said social studies teacher and Human Rights Task Force co-moderator Joyce Cruse, who along with Judy Zitlow attended the conference.

Peace's students attended MUNUC XXII, as the conference is known, from the perspective of Armenia. In their respective committees, the students worked to produce mock resolutions on global issues.

"I loved being able to come together as young adults and debate real issues," Williams said.

The conference, staffed by students and



Senior Sarah Malec (left) and juniors Dorothy Murzydlo, Michelle Maturlak and Sonia Shahin represented Armenia at the Model UN Conference on Feb. 4-7.

alumni from the University of Chicago, is one of the largest high school conferences in the country and widely regarded as one of the most prestigious.

Peace students jointly said they enjoyed gaining a sense of individuality and meeting students from around the world with the same interests who were working toward the same goals.

"I left the conference with friends from Beijing as well as Illinois," Murzydlo said. "Because of the conference I also grew closer to the Peace girls. We became stronger as a community and as a school because we helped each other do our best in the committees."

Robotics Team preps GammaBOT

It was one year ago that Peace's Robotics Team, RoboPRIDE, placed third among 53 teams after eight seeding rounds at the Midwest Regional and eventually made it to the semi-final round. As just one of two all-women teams, Peace was recognized as the highest-seeded rookie team.

The 20-member team is now gearing up for this year's *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology* (FIRST) Regional to be held March 18-20 at UIC. From the time the challenge was announced worldwide Jan. 9, the team worked diligently to build this year's robot, GammaBOT, and program it to play the game, Breakaway. During the competition, each robot must traverse an obstacle course and maneuver a ball into a goal.

Robotics coach and science teacher, Mrs. Karen Amador, along with senior Julia Amador, junior Lindsey Frederick and sophomore Mary Kate McKeown, presented GammaBOT on Feb. 19 at the Engineering Week Awards Banquet at University Club of Chicago. GammaBOT was shipped to University of Illinois at Chicago, the site of this year's competition, on Feb. 23.

During the building process, WiSE Women of Peace - alums involved in Women and Science and Engineering and loyal friends of the community - used their engineering backgrounds to mentor team members as they built GammaBOT.

Senior Megan Graves receives NIA Woman of Purpose Award

For the 32nd consecutive year, hundreds of Catholic school students gathered for a special Mass on Feb. 4 at Holy Name Cathedral to celebrate African-American

Heritage Month and the fifth Kwanzaa principle NIA, or purpose. Queen of Peace senior Megan Graves, of Oak Lawn, was among those honored at the service with the NIA Woman of Purpose Award. Ten Peace students, along with campus minister Kathleen Greenan, attended the Mass that featured traditional African drumming and liturgical dancing.



Graves

Other honorees included political activist and community leader Timuel Black and TV broadcast legend Merri Dee.

Because of the many accomplishments of the honorees, Graves, who plans to study theology at Dominican University, said she

felt a little intimidated about receiving her medal.

"It was a real honor to stand up with everyone who has had such an impact on the community," Graves said. "I didn't feel I could live up to their standards. When I get to their ages, I hope to have had an impact like they did."

Even at the age of 17, Graves exemplifies Peace's Dominican values, especially this year's focused value of community.

Graves is involved in Peace Ambassadors, Student Council, Dominican Preachers, Human Rights Task Force, Chamber Singers and Tri-M, Music Honor Society. She is president of Spanish National Honor Society, and the weekend after being honored at the Heritage Mass, led a VERITAS retreat for the second time.

"I like doing service; it's a little way of Jesus Christ's hands working through mine," Graves said.



Ten Peace students, along with campus minister Kathleen Greenan, attended the African-American Heritage Mass on Feb. 4 at Holy Name Cathedral. Senior Megan Graves (top row, right) received the NIA Woman of Purpose Award.



Buona Sera

A “*Good Evening*” for a Great Benefit!

Queen of Peace High School Mazzuchelli Scholarship Benefit

Hosted by the Queen of Peace Board of Directors

Please Join Us

and put in your bid
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Friday, April 16

6 - 10 pm

Prairie Ballroom of the
Oak Brook Hyatt at
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Enjoy a Good Evening

Hors d’oeuvres
Open Bar
Grand Buffet
Sweet Table
Entertainment
Live and Silent Auctions

~

Ticket cost is \$125 per person
or a table of 10 for \$1,000.

Valet parking included.

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or call (708) 458-7600, Ext. 250.

For more information, call the number above
or e-mail kmettyc@queenofpeacehs.org.

Coming Soon
Pre-Event Online Auction
March 15 - April 14
Place your bids at
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*Lend your support by becoming a donor,
sponsor, or most importantly, attending this
‘Good Evening’!*

**Visit queenofpeacehs.org
and join us in making a difference.**

The 2010 Benefit Committee

Pat Mulligan DeLeonardis ‘66 Co -Chair, Donna Gailus ‘77, Cindy Kmetty,
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Kay Leonard Otter ‘71 Co- Chair, Pat Dunne Stewart ‘74 and Mary Lou Sullivan

Making Connections and Interweaving Lives

Executive Director of MayaWorks strives for social, economic justice and greater opportunities for women, children in Guatemala

While a junior at Queen of Peace, Jeannie Balanda remembers wondering what she was going to study in college. Possible majors floated through her head but nothing really stood out – nothing as important as her intended post-college plans.

“I knew I was going to work on behalf of social justice. I knew the first thing I was going to do was get a broader perspective and I was going to do that through the Peace Corps,” Balanda '83 said. “I needed to really see how the rest of the world lived.”

After studying abroad for a year in Costa Rica during her time at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and becoming fluent in Spanish, Balanda joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer in Guatemala.

Little did she know then that her love of Guatemala and its gracious, kind people, along with a dedication to the non-profit sector, would lead to her perfect job – executive director of MayaWorks in Chicago.

Following her time in the Peace Corps, Balanda worked in domestic violence, and for 16 years, helped Latino youth prepare for college scholarships. She had already finished a master's degree in non-profit management and was beginning an MBA when she started longing to once again work in the international sector in social ventures or social entrepreneurship.



Balanda

“It was almost really kismet when this opportunity with MayaWorks came forward (18 months ago) because it was such a good match for me,” Balanda said.

MayaWorks is affiliated with the Fair Trade Movement and is a member of the Fair Trade Federation, Aid to Artisans and the Craft Center and joins these organizations in a commitment to working with disadvantaged artisans by developing markets for their products in First World countries.

The MayaWorks artisans in Guatemala handcraft placemats, table runners, bags of all kinds, cornhusk dolls, hackysacks, kippot, backstrap loom products, pastoral stoles and beadwork jewelry. The income generated from these beautiful crafts is returned directly to the artisans.

Becoming the executive director of MayaWorks – one of the vendors participating in Peace's third Fair Trade Bazaar on March 27-28 - meant strengthening her bond with Guatemala, continuing to advocate for the growth of women and children, and forming partnerships. The idea of a North American woman and a Guatemalan woman working together to enrich each other's lives is most important, Balanda said.

“Guatemalans find the good in everything and want to make a better life for their children,” Balanda said. “They want to work very hard for what they have; it's always about how women can reach across and give a hands up to help other women.”

As Fair Trade becomes more widespread, especially as consumers question how their dollars are being spent, Balanda is looking forward to introducing MayaWorks to the Peace Community at the Fair Trade Bazaar.

“Folks will be able to learn a little bit about our social venture but also that we have educational programs and that we're giving scholarships to the daughters of our artisans and have microfinance programs for our artisans as well.”

Making a difference and working on behalf of social justice, Balanda said, can be accomplished often.

“Nothing is too small – start at home by making your parents' lives better or your siblings' lives better and then little by little finding the opportunities in every day,” Balanda said. “It will really come to you what you should be doing. Don't be afraid to take those steps.”

“I knew I was going to work on behalf of social justice. I knew I was going to get a broader perspective and I was going to do that through the Peace Corps.”

We want to hear from you!

Do you know someone who should be featured in the Voices of Peace alum profile?

If so, contact Erin Foley, PR Coordinator, at foleye@queenofpeacehs.org.

Let us know about the many professional accomplishments of Peace's Women of Peace.



MayaWorks executive director Jeannie Balanda '83 (top row, right), along with product manager Naomi Czerwinskyj (top row, left), visit Xenotox artisans in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. The MayaWorks artisans handcraft placemats, table runners, bags of all kinds, cornhusk dolls, hackysacks, kippot, backstrap loom products, pastoral stoles and beadwork jewelry. The artisans participate in MayaWorks funded workshops to improve the quality of their crafts and to learn better business practices.



Fair Trade Bazaar

March 27-28, 2010

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Queen of Peace is partnering with Ten Thousand Villages and a large scale number of vendors to host its third annual Fair Trade Market featuring high-quality, international handcrafts. All proceeds support fair wages for artisans.

If you appreciate handmade originals and the work of artisans, plan to shop at this incredible bazaar.

To view a list of participating vendors, visit queenofpeacehs.org.

For more information, contact Cindy Kmetty at (708) 458-7600, Ext. 250 or kmettyc@queenofpeacehs.org.



"One of my favorite parts of the time I spend in Uganda working on product development is visiting the homes of our artisans."

Holly Elzinga, Fair Earth

Share your talents at **Career Day**

**Wednesday,
April 14, 2010**

Queen of Peace alumnae, parents and friends are invited to share their career choices, insights and knowledge with Peace's eager, young future leaders.

Panel Discussion Groups

10:30 a.m.

Career Fair

11:45 a.m.

Lunch will be provided!

If you are interested in serving on a panel and/or participating in the fair, please contact Guidance Assistant, Mara Weil, at (708) 458-7600, Ext. 262 or weilm@queenofpeacehs.org.

What is Fair Trade?

The Fair Trade Movement is an international network of producers, importers, retailers and consumers who are thinking globally and trying to give people in developing countries a chance to sell their products at a price that enables them to live in dignity – at a time when half the world's population is living on less than \$2 a day.



Every purchase made at Peace's Fair Trade Bazaar allows a producer to provide the basic necessities of life. Alternative sales like these give producers hope and the opportunity to provide for their families, remain in their villages, seek medical and educational opportunities and explore business relationships. The producer is guaranteed not only a fair wage in the local context but also the hope of extended business agreements to continue selling their products.

Queen of Peace raises an awareness of the issues that third-world men, women and children face daily. Peace students have become involved with the Fair Trade Movement through special Harmony Days, the Human Rights Task Force, the Poverty and Hunger Task Force and numerous service projects.

Coming Soon

Pre-Event Online Auction March 15-April 14

*Place your bids at queenofpeacehs.org.
Join the Peace community
and put in your bid for a cause that matters.*



*Raise Your Hand for the
Biggest Event of the Year!*

Buona Sera

Mazzuchelli Scholarship Benefit ~ April 16
For more event information, see page 5.

Save the Date

**Peace is having a
PARTY
at Bourbon Street!**

**Saturday,
November 20, 2010
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

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plan this event, e-mail
Donna Ramsden Barnicle '82!
d_barnicle@yahoo.com

You will be notified of the date
of the first meeting.

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