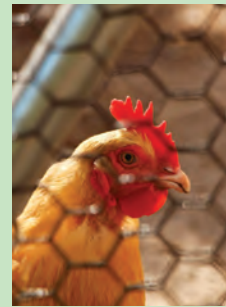


## Family of Gardeners



Cranaleith is not only blessed with beautiful natural surroundings but also with a successful eco-therapy program called Garden Wisdom. Our garden produces a wealth of organic vegetables, herbs and native plants using permaculture, a gardening practice that emulates the patterns in nature. The harvest is used in meals served to our retreatants who appreciate the value of local, fair trade or homegrown food.

The Garden Wisdom program brings together the homeless, those suffering from addictions and chronic mental illness, and volunteers from the community. They all work together in planning, planting, tending and harvesting the garden under the guidance of Leslie Porreca, a clinical social worker and Master Gardener. Access to natural beauty in a safe, nurturing environment provides an atmosphere conducive to healing, dignity and respect. The garden continues to produce throughout the year. A recently erected hoop house extends the growing season and a flock of friendly chickens (photo) provide fresh eggs, and a bit of entertainment for staff and visitors.

**Cranaleith appreciates in-kind donations. Items on Leslie's wish list include:**

- Clay Pots
- Gallon Milk Jugs
- New Garden Gloves-all sizes
- Tools in new or "like-new" condition
- Wagon Garden Cart
- Gator Utility Vehicle
- Golf Cart



Photo: Gardeners on Instagram from the Garden Wisdom program pose with staff and volunteers.

## Upcoming Programs 2015-2016

### **SPIRITUAL PROGRAMS**

January 9, 2016, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Epiphany Journey: An Art-Journaling Retreat

February 13, 2016, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Valentines' Couples Retreat

February 20, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Embracing Vulnerability: A Lenten Journey into Wholeheartedness

February 24, 2016, 9:30 a.m.–12 noon  
Contemplative Lenten Morning: "Jesus and the Audacious Woman"

March 5, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Seen Through Eyes That Have Cried: The Vision of Oscar Romero and Edith Stein

March 19, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Love of Creation and Climate Change: A Call to Conversion

### **RETREATS**

January 15 – 16, February 19-20, April 29-30, 2016  
Overnight Directed Retreat

### **WORK & SPIRIT SERIES**

January 22, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Leading With Courage and Heart—A Day of Reflection for Leaders in Business and the Professions

January 26 and May 24, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Writing the Sacred Journey (Attend all or just one)

### **COMING HOME, BECOMING WHOLE - VETERANS PROGRAMS**

January 30, 2016 and April 23, 2016, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Days of Reflection and Wellness for Female Veterans

February 23 - 25, 2016  
Tending Moral Injury After War: A Workshop for Faith Leaders

### **MASTER SEMINARS**

March 1-3, 2016 or April 19-21, 2016  
Strategic Planning and Change Management for the Spirit-Led

March 8-10, 2016  
The Dynamics of Leadership in Faith-Based Organizations

**For more information or to register contact us at [info@cranaleith.org](mailto:info@cranaleith.org) or call 215-934-6206.**

*"Cranaleith resuscitated my spirit by providing a safe and tranquil space. After attending a workshop on 'Tending Moral Injury After War' my spirit began to heal from the wounds of combat seldom discussed." -- Aronda Smith, Women Veterans*

Coordinator, Veterans Multi-Service Center, City Council  
Veterans Advisory Commissioner

## Spirit of Mercy

### **Encounters With Mercy: A Forum in Response to Pope Francis**

How does a moment become a movement? How does an encounter with a person create change in us that's lasting? The visit of Pope Francis stirred immense energy in our Philadelphia Community. Cranaleith's mission committee was determined to find a way that this energy wouldn't dissipate, but instead would seep into a deeper place where we could imagine and create a different, more merciful world for our brothers and sisters.

On October 24th, a diverse community gathered to dip back into the experience of Francis' presence, and pour that energy into the wounds of our time. We began replicating the compelling devotion to "Mary, Undoer of Knots." In communion with the 100,000 ribbons fashioned in Meg Seligman's inspired work of art outside of the cathedral, we wrote the knots that tangled and bound us on strips of fabric, and adorned our "family tree." We drank in the images of Francis, uniquely touching persons converging in the sanctuaries and historic sites, the parkway and the prison. We contemplated the faces transfigured by his presence, and recognized who we can be for one another. We told our own "stories around the family table" of the memories that seared us.

In the afternoon, we focused on the vision awakened in us for the critical concerns of the Mercy community...racism, violence, immigration, earth, and the oppression of women. A closing ritual called us once again to our family tree. We were asked to untie someone else's ribbon, and replace it with yellow ribbons that held our commitment to the newness invited in our hearts and in our world. One person gave voice to his imagination: "to create spaces where persons from diverse life-experiences can encounter one another and enter into one another's struggles and dreams." As we prepare for the upcoming jubilee year of mercy, what hope for a more merciful world!



## Join Cranaleith Business Council

Cranaleith Business Council offers programs and opportunities throughout the year for businesses executives and staff. Council members can take advantage of a range of benefits including retreats, vision and planning sessions, leadership development, team building and days of refreshment and renewal. Members can also make use of Cranaleith's meeting space, guest passes to programs, website recognition, and networking events.

Business Council membership is a great way to maximize a charitable contribution while helping us carry out our mission.

### **Join our current members:**

#### **Gold**

Guerin Management Consultants  
Trinity Health

#### **Bronze**

Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance  
Bracken Leadership  
Group G Marketing Partners  
Lincoln Benefits Group  
McKnight\*Kaney LLC

## Women's Forum - Save the Date

Save the date of October 1, 2016. Cranaleith will present a special program inspired by a number of great women who accomplished amazing feats in an effort to raise up the status of women in the 19th century. Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), Rachel Foster Avery (1858-1919) and Catherine McAuley (1778-1841), all have an historical connection to Cranaleith Spiritual Center and have left a legacy that continues to empower and inspire women today.

Using the values of these important historical figures as a foundation, Cranaleith will present *Women of Strength and Vision*, a day-long forum. Topic areas will include contemporary methods for inspiring and uplifting women, how values and integrity guide choices, mentoring personal gifts and how to support the empowerment of women today. Speakers will range from spiritual to business leaders.

**For more information on the Business Council or the Women's Forum contact Veneta Lorraine at 215-934-6206 x101**

## Passing the Baton



This fall, Zigmont Ulinski retired after serving 19 years as the Grounds and Maintenance Director of Cranaleith. Ski viewed this role as a sacred trust passed on to him by Frank Trainer Sr., under whose mentorship he learned not only to care for the trees and the buildings, but to have a warmth in welcoming each guest who came. In his tenure, the buildings expanded and the guests served grew to 4,500.

We appreciate your faithful stewardship and your care in passing the baton to Stephen Campbell, your able successor. "LuiSki Falls" stands as testimony to your determination to create a lasting symbol of the life-giving waters of the Spirit that flow continuously through this land and the beauty you have nurtured, which blesses all those who gather here to pray, to reflect, to plan, and to play. We bless you, Ski, and thank you.

### **Cranaleith also welcomes new staff members:**

Anthony Durelli, Kitchen Crew  
George McDermott, Kitchen Crew  
Christine Iacono, Kitchen Crew  
Catherine Orr, Assistant Chef  
Tess Reilly, Kitchen Crew  
Mary-Anne Smith Harris,  
Marketing Director

Photo: Frank Trainer, Sr. and Ski Ulinski

## Reflection *by Maria DiBello, RSM*



*Is the soul solid, like iron?  
Or is it tender and breakable, like  
the wings of a moth  
in the beak of the owl?  
Who has it, and who doesn't?  
I keep looking around me.  
One question leads to another.  
Does it have a shape? Like an iceberg?*

*Come to think of it, what about the maple trees?  
What about the blue iris?  
What about all the little stones, sitting alone in the moonlight?  
What about roses, and lemons, and their shining leaves?  
What about the grass?  
"Some Questions You Might Ask" by Mary Oliver  
Photo by T.S. DiBello*

Cranaleith's guests from area programs that work with the homeless community often pick up a gift that allures their eye...their touch...their heart. I see them trace the distortions and scars it bears like a caress. I watch them marveling over the form of an eggplant, a velvet pod, a flow of light. I follow their gaze, lifted to the curve of branches bent by what they carry and what they seek. So many satin stones and sculptured bits of bark find their way into their pockets...each shape a wonder, just as it is... each one drawn to the kinship that discovered them.

And what about their own beauty...the curve of their cheeks, lined by years of hardship, widened into smiles of joy? What about their bearing, bent under their own burden and longing, lifted toward a greeting that announces their dignity? What about the souls shaped by their stories...stories of fragility and resilience, suffering and grace, darkness and impossible wisdom? Each shape a wonder, just as it is...each one a gift to one who discovers it. Each one a revelation of the One Who abides there...Who yearns over them.

In this jubilee year of mercy, we ask the courage to be shaped by such encounters. We ask to shape a world that cherishes such gifts.



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*"Provident God, pour out your blessings on our benefactors. Their goodness has encouraged us; their gifts have enhanced our efforts to re-create your merciful presence in our world. In gratitude, we ask you to reward them with signs of your generous love and, when their lives on Earth are over, to welcome them to your heavenly banquet."*  
Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy

Giving Levels	2013-2014 Donation Amount	2013-2014 Number of Donors	2014-2015 Donation Amount	2015-2015 Number of Donors
\$10,000 +	160,555	6	110,000	3
\$5,000-\$9,999	35,000	6	17,774	3
\$2,500-\$4,999	12,560	4	9,125	3
\$1,000-\$2,499	25,755	20	24,755	18
\$250-\$999	30,537	65	25,870	63
\$1-\$249	31,325	477	38,880	477
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$296,170</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>\$218,404</b>	<b>567</b>

\*Variances between years largely due to Gala in 2014

### Ways to Give

Cranaleith's mission is fueled by your support enabling us to tend to the wounds of the heart and spirit. Please consider a financial gift via check payable to *Cranaleith Spiritual Center*, credit card (Visa, Master Card, Discover), a Matching or Recurring Gift or Planned Giving. Visit [www.cranaleith.org](http://www.cranaleith.org) or call Veneta Lorraine at 215-934-6206 ext. 101 to learn more.

Find a complete list of our donors on our website: [www.cranaleith.org/donors](http://www.cranaleith.org/donors)  
United Way Donor Option #12596

*Our Mission: Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Cranaleith offers a contemplative space for all those seeking wholeness and transformation for themselves and society. We are committed to making Cranaleith accessible to all, especially to persons who are poor and those who work in solidarity with them. We invite those at the center of need and those at the center of influence to reflection, reverent dialogue and meaningful partnerships.*

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## Crosscurrents at Cranaleith



Cranaleith Spiritual Center

Fall 2015

Volume 18 Number 1

### A Message from the Executive Director:

When I arrived at Cranaleith, just over two years ago, I was given a small bonsai tree, symbolic of this sanctuary of trees. At the installation ceremony, I was commissioned to make it grow. Little did I know then that the growth that would take place was both at Cranaleith and in myself.



Over the past two years Cranaleith has expanded. This year, we hosted 4,314 people, 1,100 more than the previous year. Veteran's programs made significant partnerships with veteran resource centers in Philadelphia, widening our circles of connection. The garden program is flourishing and now includes a hoop house, chickens, and bees. New groups are coming to work in the garden, allowing the earth to heal the wounds they carry. Libertae, St. John's Hospice, CATCH, neighbors and others join us every week. We have hosted an exquisite and successful gala for our 15th anniversary, honoring Fr. Jack Nevins and Marsha Four, both for their work with those on the margins. Most importantly, we honored Sr. Mary Trainer for all her work in making Cranaleith Spiritual Center an amazing ministerial outreach.

If this is not enough, we have new programs emerging, forums on justice issues, a spiritual direction formation program, and a *Conversations that Matter* series. We began a Business Council to which you are invited to become a member, are soon to launch a President's Council, and we are working toward having the main house designated as a National Historic Site. We expect this to be a reality by spring. The women who lived and worked on this land left us a legacy that can guide women of our times. Using them as our foundation, we are creating programs, built on their values for women of the future to follow.

I am filled with anticipation and enthusiasm for the potential I see in our future. It is an exciting time and each of you has in some way made all this possible. It has been the volunteers who fill so many of our needs, the facilitators who work pro-bono to help provide quality programming, the staff who always make it happen, and most especially those of you who support us with your donations. Our tree is growing, and I and all who come here are blossoming in this work because of the love that is poured out from all of you.

With a heart full of gratitude for each of you,

*Veneta Lorraine*