

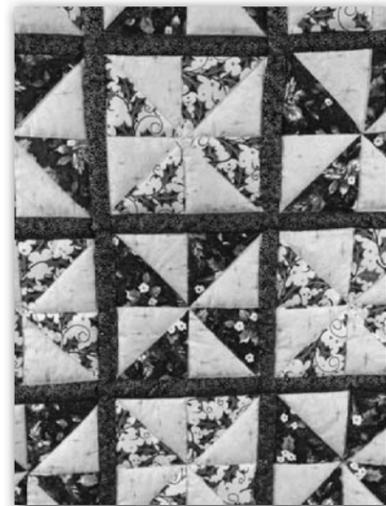
# KING'S HOUSE ANNUAL RAFFLE

The King's House Raffle will start in July and we want you to be a winner! With each ticket purchased you will have:

- 52 chances to win: 12 chances to win \$500 and 40 chances to win \$50.
- A winner is drawn each week and all names are returned to the drawing.

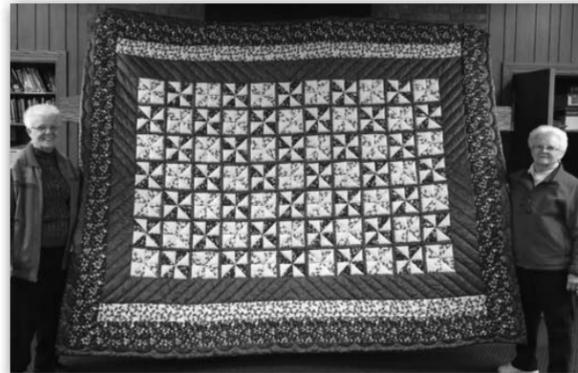
Your raffle ticket purchase makes King's House a winner, too!

We are blessed to welcome several thousand people to our spiritual programs each year. This includes our signature Quiet Retreats, Catholic High School retreats, Women Religious and clergy of several denominations and dioceses, 12-Step groups, church staff, catechists, and others. With your prayers and financial support we will continue to welcome people from across the region. Look for your tickets and return envelope in this mailing!



## NEW THIS YEAR: QUILT RAFFLE

Thanks to Retreat Captain Patricia Brandmeyer and crew, King's House is raffling off a beautiful Christmas Quilt! Pat's friend Barb Lammers did the detailed machine quilting. The quilt is 92" x 112" in size and is on display in our lobby. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets will be sold at King's House throughout the year and our drawing will be held at our annual Candlelight Vespers Service and Open House on December 11, 2015. Help us spread the word: grab a stack of tickets to sell to your parish members and friends!



## SUMMER RETREATS ARE FILLING FAST!

While our Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, retreat is already full, we have many other wonderful options for a summertime retreat:

**May 4-10: Retreat for Women Religious with Fr. John Mark Ettensohn, OMI**

**May 15-17: Role Models: Mentors for Mission with Fr. Joe Nassal, CPPS**

**June 19-21: Art and Spirituality Retreat with Fr. Mark Dean, OMI, and the King's House Staff**

**July 20-26: The Mystery and Power of Being Here with Paula D'Arcy**

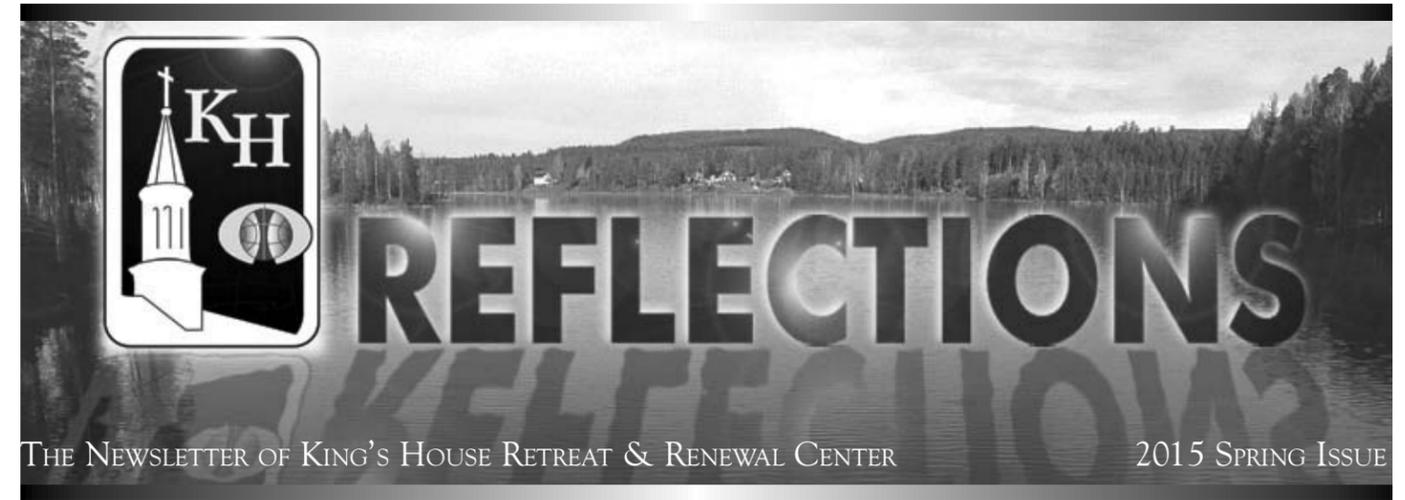
**June 22-29 and July 13-20: Private Directed Retreats**

Prices and schedules vary. Please visit our website ([www.KingsRetreatCenter.org](http://www.KingsRetreatCenter.org)) or call us at 618-397-0584 or 800-779-7909 for more information.

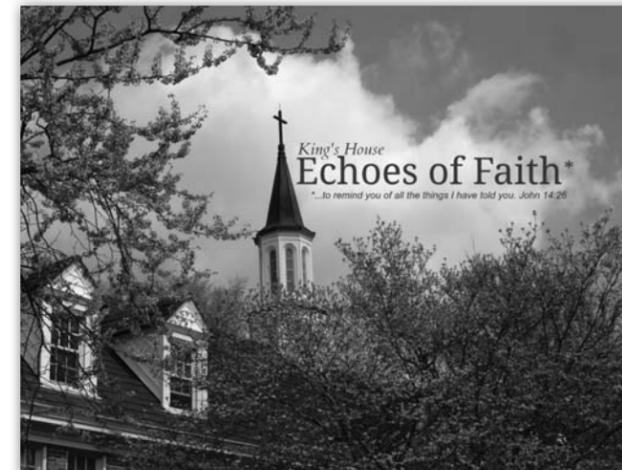
Visit the King's House website for information on all our events, including Taize Prayer, Book Studies, Spiritual Cinema, Days of Prayer, and our *Joy in the Journey* retreats for men and women! [www.KingsRetreatCenter.org](http://www.KingsRetreatCenter.org)



King's House Retreat and Renewal Center  
700 N. 66th Street, Belleville, Illinois 62223  
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## KING'S HOUSE ECHOES OF FAITH NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



*Echoes of Faith* is a new e-publication from King's House Retreat and Renewal Center. The reflections echo an inspiration shared by a staff member or friend of King's House, and we hope they are meaningful to you as well. To be sure you're on our email list, sign up by filling out the newsletter form in the lower right hand corner of our website homepage: [www.KingsRetreatCenter.org](http://www.KingsRetreatCenter.org).

Here's a sample from *Echoes of Faith*, written by King's House Director Br. Pat McGee, OMI:

*Attention!*

*I find myself hitting the restart button a lot! This is not the same as the snooze button. Lately, I have been keenly aware of a stubborn lazy streak and lack of discipline in my prayer life – and I'm quite positive I'm the only one!*

*The good news is: I can hit the restart button. I am grateful to a bunch of friends who remind me that I can restart my day whenever I need to! Prayer, meditation, mindfulness – each is a practice of “presence” and, as Anne Lamott says, “presence is in attention and in the flow of breath.” (Small Victories, p. 100) So, today I will make a renewed effort to be one with God while taking a walk outside, and pay attention to the growing lights and lessening shadows around me and to my own flow of breath, and I will thank God for my life this day. Join me, won't you?*

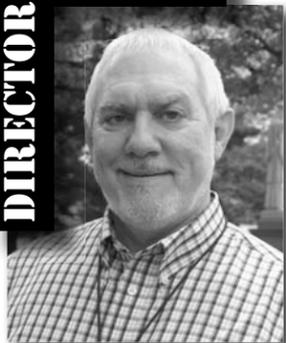
## BNC EXTENDED PROGRAM STUDENTS PITCH IN AT KING'S HOUSE

Students from the Bridges Networking Connections Program (BNC) visit King's House three times a week to help our grounds keeping, housekeeping, foodservice, and administrative departments keep things humming! The 18-22 year old students are in a program through Belleville District 201 focusing on life skills, work experience, community participation, and adult education. The students are supervised onsite by Terry Farrell.

“We are so excited to partner with King's House!” said Program Teacher Carol Francis-Jorns. “It's a great environment for our students to work in, and they look forward to being on the beautiful grounds and helping out.” King's House is one of dozens of area employers and nonprofit agencies who partner with the BNC Program. These service opportunities are all part of an integrated program for nearly 65 students to get hands-on experience post high school. The program goal: every participant contributes to the community throughout their adult lives as employees or volunteers. In addition to the Program Teachers, 19 additional staff serve as job coaches, like Terry. “There's great diversity of needs and backgrounds with our students,” said Carol, “so we need lots of different learning opportunities to support their training”

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**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**



**Br. Pat McGee, OMI**

**Amazing!**

This afternoon, of an on-again off-again rainy day, I was looking out my window, fascinated by the play of brightness and shadow as light from the sun kept trying to break through. Since I wasn't hard-pressed to "get something done," I let myself "notice" for a good long time.

I let myself enter the experience of the branches shedding droplets of rain water, and the road glistening its wetness in the light.

I had just set aside a poem by Mary Oliver called "Going to Walden". It made me recall my own first visit to Walden sometime in the mid-1970s. I remember spending 4 or 5 hours, walking around the Pond, sitting in the shade, taking a few pictures, writing some. Mary Oliver concludes her poem: "Going to Walden is not so easy a thing as a green visit. It is the slow and difficult trick of living, and finding it where you are."

We are in that fascinating time of year when dying gives way to new life, in nature and in liturgy. Light conquers the darkness, Christ is raised and present among us.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel reminds us, "Never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed." In this Easter Season, take time to be amazed, and you will find yourself grateful! Alleluia!

**SUSTAINING FRIENDS OF KING'S HOUSE**

Please consider becoming a Sustaining Friend of King's House. For just \$20 a month, your gift will help us continue to sponsor and host the vital retreat and spiritual renewal programs our guests value. Our fundraising goal is to increase our annual revenues by \$120,000 to support our operating expenses and necessary maintenance on our facility. We're asking 500 friends to make this commitment. All Sustaining Friends will receive a DVD of Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, recorded at King's House.

You can make your pledge online ([www.KingsRetreat-Center.org](http://www.KingsRetreat-Center.org)), or by phone by calling 800-779-7909, or stop by King's House for a cup of coffee and a cookie, and make your gift in person.

**MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!**



That smile you hear on the other end of the phone is our Hospitality and Communications Coordinator, Sarah Biermann. Sarah joined our staff in the spring of 2014 and is the first person you'll talk to when you call or contact King's House. She greets our guests, arranges event details with groups who rent our facility, handles all our program registrations, and many more tasks with lots of energy and good spirits! Sarah and her husband Kyle live in Belleville. Sarah's favorite thing about working for King's House is: "Greeting our guests and helping them experience what a wonderful place King's House is!"



Justin Shellenberg keeps our buildings running and our grounds beautiful as our Grounds/Building Maintenance Supervisor. Justin came to us first as seasonal volunteer help, and joined the staff full time in the spring of 2014. You can count on his "can-do" spirit to make things comfortable for our guests. Justin lives in Collinsville and has two children. His favorite thing about working at King's House: "Everyday's different. I enjoy a new challenge, and look forward to what's next!"

**•BNC PROGRAM**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Four years ago, the school district acquired the former Ravissant Winery property and made it the B.N.C. Program's home. "The house and pastoral surroundings are great places for learning," said Bob Dahm, first-year Program Teacher and brother of King's House Business Manager Richard Dahm. The students community garden is in its fourth season, and by working it they've learned the whole process from planting through harvesting to selling produce at the farmers' market. This spring, they're launching a Community Supported Agriculture program. An adjacent greenhouse includes hydroponic vegetable growing stations. In addition to the garden, students also work as janitors, do kitchen duty, and whatever else needs to be taken care of around the property.

Christine Gooding, Vocational Coordinator, said the BNC Extended Program has become a model for other districts establishing similar programs. Several have visited the BNC campus, or learned about the program through the Illinois Statewide Transition Conference. "It's important for these young adults to have an engaging learning environment away from the classroom," she said. "By providing opportunities for our students to get real world experience, our community partners are essential to our program."

The BNC Program partnership with King's House is a great example of community involvement and service, all in support of terrific programs at both locations. We just might see some marigolds from the greenhouse dotting the King's House landscape this spring. Come by for a visit!

**We Remember in Prayer**

A memorial has been placed in the lobby of King's House in memory of:

Mary Ann Gonzalez  
Clifford Gruenenfelder  
Ervin Hartmann  
Gerald Kuenstler  
Mindy Landers

Rhoda Moone  
Shirley Santel  
John & Dee Schell  
Richard Allen Spradling  
Judith Wilke

**Insure the Future**

Please remember King's House in your wills, bequests, and gifts. Occasionally, someone remembers us in their will. These gifts are added to our long-term fund that is invested through our religious order, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. This fund will help insure retreat ministry for years to come.

**Reflections  
King's House Newsletter**

King's House Newsletter  
Published two times per year  
Editor: Maria Rodgers O'Rourke  
King's House Staff  
Br. Pat McGee, OMI, Director  
Fr. Mark Dean, OMI

*King's House is owned and operated by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate as a welcoming place where laity, religious and clergy alike can find an atmosphere of prayer and support.*

Address all inquiries to:  
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**Raffle Winners**

**November 2014 - March 2015**

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| Nov. | Mary Ann Farell<br>Carol Ann Jenkins<br>Carol Prinster<br>Carroll Emrick<br>Christine Bischof | Jan. | Mary Kreher<br>Margaret Conrad<br>Steve Schenk<br>Don Lohman             |
| Dec. | Bob Vernier<br>Sue Levin<br>Sharon Heinz<br>Fran Kellems                                      | Feb. | Rosemary Wever<br>Mary Ann Schultz<br>Conchita Ongjoco<br>Ralph Wilhelm  |
|      |   | Mar. | Ellen Kuhl<br>John Teich<br>Jerry & Marlene Vosholler<br>Phyllis Artwein |

**WAITING FOR THE  
SPRING BLOOMS!**

As we welcome the beauty of spring, we are reminded of the severe cold and draught we've experienced in recent years. We ask your help in enhancing the beauty at King's House. If you would like to donate outside plants (perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, etc.), or perhaps make a monetary donation, we would certainly be grateful. We had many folks, last year, donate their extra perennials to King's House and it sure made a big difference. Not one went unplanted. So, if you are able or willing to donate this year, please give us a call (618-397-0584 or 800-779-7909). Planting season is just around the corner. Thank you!