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Petawa Cultural Center

Transforming culture through
personal growth and lifelong learning.

Spring 2019

Newsletter for
Cooperators
and Friends



Celebrating the Past, Looking Towards the Future

From The Director

There is no doubt that these last months have been difficult ones as we have said goodbye to so many dearly loved in our family of Petawa. Reflecting on the lives of Bernie Cole, Patrice Smyczek, Chuck Kustner, and Natalie Fitzpatrick, two words keep coming back to me: gratitude and generosity. I think I can speak on behalf of all of us when I say that we are so deeply grateful for all they taught us through their generous example of self-giving love and dedication.

The self-giving love they gave to their families, to their friends, and especially to God is a call to each of us to remember what is most important in life. Their lives are a reminder that we are here to give of ourselves generously to others.

Their dedication to carrying out the mission of Petawa was so clear to each of us. Each one gave generously in his or her own way and provided a service that I have no doubt is being rewarded now in heaven.

With so many projects and activities underway at Petawa, I know that Bernie, Patrice, Chuck and Natalie are helping us now more than ever. I have already seen so many fruits this year and am positive their intercession will continue to bring an abundance of things to be grateful for this year!

Sheila Hamill

Sheila Hamill

You are cordially invited to a 90th anniversary celebration! Please join us on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield at 5:30 p.m. for cocktails, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Petawa Cultural Center Gala. This year's event marks 90 years since the founding of Opus Dei by St. Josemaria Escriva.

To mark the occasion, a very special evening has been planned. Karen E Bohlin, EdD, an internationally recognized leader in character education, will deliver the keynote address. Her presentation, "Character: Practical Wisdom, Leadership and Hope" will be an inspiring message with practical implications for changing our world today for the better.

Head of an all girls elementary school in the Boston area for the last 16 years, Dr. Bohlin has a distinguished career as a "teacher, mentor, author and consultant with books and articles on character development, adolescence, citizenship, ethics, literature and the moral imagination. She is director emeritus and senior scholar

at Boston University's Center for Character and Social Responsibility and has just completed a fellowship at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues in the UK." She has penned two books, *Teaching Character Education through Literature* and *Building Character Resource Guide*. (Both available through Amazon)

Also planned for the evening is special guest Maria Valdeavellano, known affectionately as Maricucha. She will share her first hand memories of the early days of Opus Dei, working alongside St. Josemaria and his vision for centers, such as Petawa, and its role transforming culture fifty years later.

The celebratory evening will also include live music and a silent auction of many one of a kind items and experiences. Tables of 10 are available so invite your friends! Registration can be made online by going to our website at www.petawa.org/event-payment or you can mail a check to Petawa directly. Questions? Contact Christine Dejewski at christinedejewski@gmail.com.

Blaze the Trail

Registration has opened for another exciting summer at Camp Tuck! Camp Tuck is an overnight Leadership Camp in Hartland, WI for girls entering grades 5-8 (in fall of 2019). This year's theme, "Blaze a Trail", will inspire campers to think outside the box of peers and not be afraid to chart their own life course based on values and service to others.

Tuck offers all the usual fun of a traditional camp, including swimming, hiking, sports, nature, crafts, as well as formative activities such as daily Mass, the rosary and virtue talks. Girls who attend Tuck meet other girls from throughout the Midwest who share similar values, and often life-long friendships have been forged over the camp fires, scavenger hunts and cabin cheers.

At Camp Tuck we try to teach the girls by their experience throughout the week that there is no dichotomy between "being good" and "having fun"; in fact, a person is happiest and has the best time

when she maintains a relationship with God and treats others with respect and kindness. Every day is jam-packed with exciting fun, but everyone still finds time to visit the Blessed Sacrament, which we have reserved for the week, and confession is available for everyone who wants to go.

Counselors are carefully chosen from among high school and college students who have themselves received plenty of formation and make excellent role models for the campers. This year's counselors have already begun their preparation for Tuck with a work day on a Saturday in February where they decided themes for the year, received their specific assignments, met the other counselors and chose camp names for the new counselors.

We have two sessions of Camp Tuck this summer: Week 1: July 7-12, and Week 2: July 16-21. For more information or to register go to: <https://www.petawa.org/camp-tuck/>

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Upcoming Events

For a full listing of activities, visit www.petawa.org

Every Thursday 7:15-8:30pm Apologetics Doctrine Class for High School at Windsor

Last Venture Session for the Year is May 18

Petawa Gala June 14

Camp Tuck:

Week 1: July 7-12

Week 2: July 16-21

For more information or to register go to:
<https://www.petawa.org/camp-tuck/>



Petawa Gala

Attendees enjoyed the Petawa Cultural Center Gala 2018. Please join us on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Sheraton Milwaukee-Brookfield at 5:30 p.m. for cocktails, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Petawa Cultural Center Gala. Registration can be made online by going to our website at www.petawa.org/event-payment or you can mail a check to Petawa directly. Questions? Contact Christine Dejewski at christinedejewski@gmail.com.



From the Prelate

We have great news! The Prelate of Opus Dei, Msgr. Fernando Ocariz, will visit the United States this summer! He will be in our country from July 7 to July 28th and will visit four major cities, i.e., New York, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles, during that time. Details about the trip are pending, but everyone is encouraged to start praying now for the fruits of his stay in our country, which will be his first as Prelate.

Recently, March 30th, Monsignor Ocariz visited Saragossa, Spain and celebrated Mass in the church of San Carlos seminary where St. Josemaria was ordained a priest in 1925. In his homily, the Prelate commented on the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican who went up to the Temple to pray. "This prompts us," he said, "to consider St. Josemaria's persevering prayer here where he so often begged God for light to see the path he knew he was called to, without yet knowing its specific form.....Those years for St. Josemaria were marked by many hours of prayer here before the Blessed Sacrament. His prayer would intensify progressively throughout his life, especially after God gave him the mission to open up and develop the path of Opus Dei."

"St. Josemaria shared his own experience when he said: "Prayer is the foundation of any supernatural endeavor. With prayer, we are all powerful; without it, if we were to neglect it, we would accomplish nothing."

In the rectory of San Carlos, there is a commemorative plaque which states that St. Josemaria "lived, was formed and was ordained a priest here."

Gratitude: A Memory of the Heart

Tom and Mary Magnor, who have been married for 35 years and have eight children and four grandchildren, share why they support Petawa Cultural Center.

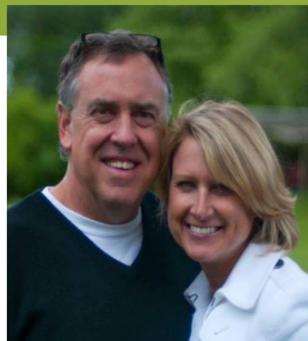
Mary: I have been attending the means of formation at Petawa for over 25 years. Circles, days of recollection, workshops, classes and retreats have been my mainstay. By attending these offerings from Petawa, I have gained insight into my profession, made good friends and learned practical tips from other experienced women. Finding a mentor to help me with goal-setting and practical ideas, such as good use of my time, have been especially key. I found the more I took part in the activities, the more I had to give to the others, particularly my family.

I've watched our five daughters take part in activities sponsored by Petawa and grow in unexpected ways. The girls were all connected to clubs from a very early age, and that led to the highlight of each summer ...Camp Tuck! In addition, they have participated in Petawa Service Project, retreats, classes at the Little House (now known as Windsor), attended World Youth Day and gained lifelong friends in the process. Watching them develop into women of character with a bent towards service has been a direct result of their interactions at Petawa. The Center has been a key ally in the task of raising our family in a very harsh culture.

Tom: My motivation for supporting Petawa is very simple: happy wife, happy life! Mary comes home from Petawa more energized. While I have to admit, when the kids were little, I wasn't too keen on her leaving me and going to a means of formation but I saw over time a change in her. Maybe it's selfish, but I have directly benefited from what she is taking in.

I know that keeping marriages strong and enduring is an important part of the formation at Petawa. I've also seen her grow in her role as a mother and professional in the home. She seems to have more time for friends and outside commitments without compromising important family time. The reason for this growth is the deepening of her interior life of faith with classes, opportunities for prayer and the sacraments offered at Petawa.

Tom and Mary: We fully support the mission of Petawa! Its family atmosphere, which embraces lifelong learning, enriches the lives of women in order to transform culture. Woman to woman, family to family, the formation is grounded in Truth and leads to fruitful lives.



Petawa On The Move

With your help, a new Petawa Cultural Center will be coming to Brookfield! Currently, Petawa's center is on the east side of Milwaukee in an historic three-story home that was built in 1895. Yes, the building that has housed the work and activities for the women of Opus Dei is ready to move into her next chapter. The venerable east-side mansion has been the scene of thousands of apostolic activities over the past 50 years. There have been tea parties, sleepovers, service projects, seminars, classes and many opportunities for women to draw closer to God.

In addition to the increasingly demanding schedule of maintenance required, over the years, the location has become less convenient. Street parking in the city is less available than ever, and the parking lot at Petawa was not designed to hold cars for groups of visitors. Being located where growing families live is a priority, and Brookfield's proximity to I-94, and its location between Milwaukee and Madison, make it more convenient geographically.

Fundraising for the new Petawa Cultural Center is into its second year, and approximately 25 percent of the money needed has been raised so far. The team behind the fundraising is as busy as ever. This small but dynamic group is responsible for introducing Petawa's work to people and organizations who

have never heard of Opus Dei, St. Josemaria, or Petawa. This doesn't faze committee member Paul Smyczyk, however. As Paul says, "This is not just about fundraising. This is about souls! And apostolate! What really matters is that we tell as many people as possible about St. Josemaria and the work that Petawa does, and then people will want to help us build!"

Paul's enthusiasm is a reminder of the zeal that St. Josemaria recommended for all of our endeavors. As St. Josemaria wrote in his spiritual classic, *The Furrow*, "Those who have met Christ cannot shut themselves in their own little world; how sad such a limitation would be! They must open out like a fan in order to reach all souls. Each one has to create – and widen – a circle of friends, whom he can influence with his professional prestige, with his behavior, with his friendship, so that Christ may exercise his influence by means of that professional prestige, that behavior, that friendship."

That is the goal of Petawa's fundraising committee: to widen the circle of friends, bringing each of those new friends closer to Christ. Some of those new friends will be moved to help build; will you be one of them?

Fashion IQ

Most of us know beautiful fashion when we see it. We are naturally attracted to things which help us to feel more feminine, and we enjoy the art of expressing ourselves with colors and pieces which tell our stories.

Well, in theory we do. Often, it's hard to know not only what to pick for any given occasion but where to get it. We sort of know how we want to look, but then actually getting the look can seem awfully complicated.

That's where fashion intelligence comes in. Fashion intelligence means knowing what kinds of fashion works best with your personality, your natural beauty and your lifestyle. It also means knowing how to purchase needed fashion thoughtfully and reasonably.

Several initiatives throughout the United States have been founded to help young women increase their "fashion IQ" and rock their own fashion worlds. In New York City, The Murray Hill Institute has been hosting its annual conference on fashion at the Fashion Institute of Technology of New York since 2015, becoming an incubator for other initiatives throughout the world. Watch mhinstitute.org for information on next year's seminar.

One of those initiatives, just down the road from Milwaukee, is Fashion Matters Chicago which is helping women all over the Midwest to "reawaken" their personal style and understand their inherent dignity as women. Led by a highly experienced team of fashion stylists, bloggers and retailers, the group hosts educational events with internationally-known professionals. Visit fashionmatterschicago.com for more details.

In Washington DC, The Fashion Intelligence Project, founded in 2016, is tackling the issues of sustainable consumption and the ethics of fashion mass media messages. The group is a project of fashion marketing students at the Catholic University of America, producing educational content, a blog and a platform for professionals in the industry. It is also in partnership with Success In Style (www.successinstyle.org) by helping to promote these ideas among men and women who are in need of material assistance in fashion. See

fashionintelligence.org for more information or to submit your own blog entry.

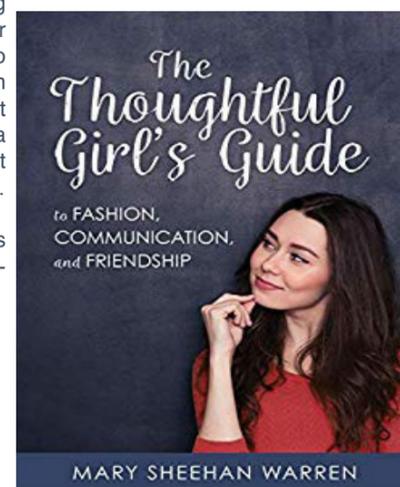
Finally, if you want to know how to style a new look, try a new makeup technique, or figure out why Yves Saint Laurent was ever important, there are dozens of YouTube channels to give you the most up to date and practical advice.

If, on the other hand, you'd like to go deeper, Mary Sheehan Warren's new book, *The Thoughtful Girl's Guide to Fashion, Communication, and Friendship*, has recently been published by TAN Books and is available at Amazon. Mary digs behind the "why's" of her previous book, *It's So You: Fitting Fashion to Your Life*, and adds information on body language, etiquette, speaking, listening and even media literacy skills. The book is intended for young women between the ages of 13 and 18, but has useful information on preparing for a job interview, dating, and even on how to choose a wedding dress.

The book, Mary's blog See What I Mean, and other resources can be found at marysheehanwarren.com.

As you can see, there are many exciting initiatives promoting the need for fashion to take women seriously, but there's also a lot more that can be done.

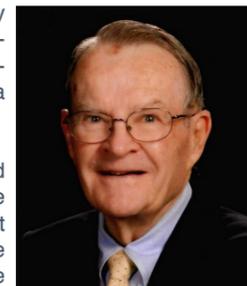
So, what's your initiative?



In Memoriam

Charles "Chuck" Kustner, a founding board member of Petawa Cultural Center, was born into eternal life on March 11, 2019. Chuck was an ardent supporter of Petawa and all its projects for many years. His business background, optimism and strong faith made him an obvious choice when Petawa incorporated a board of directors.

As a founding member, Chuck helped advise the center on maintaining the physical building, inside and out, but more importantly, he supported all the formational activities which touch the



lives of women and girls. Chuck's wife, daughters, daughter-in-law and granddaughters have all taken part in activities of Petawa.

In grateful tribute to Chuck's vision and leadership, a scholarship fund to Camp Tuck has been created. The Chuck Kustner Memorial Scholarship will give half scholarships to two campers in 2019. If you know a worthy camper, please contact Sheila Hamill by emailing her at sheila.m.hamill@gmail.com. Also, please remember Chuck and his family in your prayers.

From The Board

Spring is slowly arriving. And with Spring comes fresh hope, new energy and always- gratitude. There is hope that the sun will warm up our earth, energy to take on the activity we had set aside all winter and gratitude for all the new life popping up around us.

These same thoughts come to mind whenever I reflect on the work that goes on at Petawa Cultural Center. Hope is the foundation of all the work that goes on there - reaching out to people and sharing with them everything good, true and beautiful. In our culture today, full of anger and deception and sadness, Petawa leads the way to all that brings joy and peace. Energy abounds as activities are constantly being organized and delivered to reach out to women of all ages - inviting them to learn more about their faith, true friendship, family, the arts and more. Finally, this counter-cultural environment is so positive and active that I, personally, am awed and full of gratitude for its far-reach and strong message of faith in people and its desire to help cultivate women prepared to transform our community and our culture.

Please join all of us at Petawa in creating this hope-filled future for our community and beyond. We continue to rely on your prayers, your involvement with activities, and your financial support to make this future ideal become reality. Help us in transforming culture. Please visit www.petawa.org. Thank you so much for your valued interest and generosity.