



# "Rooted in Hope"

## Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center

Winter 2018

Vol. 13 Issue 2

Issued biannually

### Vision:

Justice for Earth

### Mission:

Environmental education and care of Earth in the context of community, contemplation, creativity, and cultivation

### Values:

Conservation, Education, and Sustainability

### For Programs & Tours:

262-681-8527

rejane@ecojusticecenter.org  
www.ecojusticecenter.org

### For Hermitage Reservations:

262-681-8527

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Grounds Open:

Mon - Sat 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### EJC Staff and Community

**S. Rejane Cytacki, SCL**  
Executive Director

**Sarah Ronnevik**  
Program & Communications Coordinator

**Brian Gleichauf**  
Volunteer & Property Manager

**Dawn DeMuyt**  
Farm Corps Program Manager

**Robert Treptow Jr.**  
Maintenance Worker

S. Rose Marie Dischler, OP  
S. Kathleen Bohn, OP  
S. Mary Ann Weyker, OP  
S. Janet Weyker, OP

### EJC Board Members

Robin Smerchek, President  
S. Sharon Simon, OP, Vice-President  
Laura Feider, Secretary  
Jeanne Gramza, Treasurer  
S. Jane Weiss, OP, Sponsorship Office  
S. Rosalie Lauer, OP  
Tiffany Behrends  
Marilynn Pelky  
Gordy Kacala  
Rick Fare  
S. Gayle Bogdanowitz, OP

## A Word from Our Director

S. Rejane Cytacki



We have truly enjoyed our summer and fall programming and fundraisers: Farm Corps, Ecology on the Farm summer camps, Farm-to-Table, Fall Festival, and Growing Healthy field trips. The overwhelming enthusiasm and hard work of our volunteers and staff is truly amazing. We especially want to thank Grace Dougherty, a University of Notre Dame student, who spent eight weeks at Eco-Justice assisting with summer camps and Farm Corps gardens.

This is the second year Eco-Justice ran the Growing Healthy field trips in conjunction with Hawthorn Hollow and Racine Unified. We saw 650 first graders who were able to try Swiss chard, fennel, and ground cherries for the first time while learning about digestion, food, nutrition and healthy habits. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) provides several members to volunteer with running our field trips. We are so grateful to SC Johnson and Racine Community Foundation for their funding.

We have also taken time to pause and reflect on the change of seasons with our annual Fall Equinox celebration, which included a drum circle. We followed this with Eco-J's 14th Birthday Party on October 4, in which we took time to honor the memories of our founders and those who have helped over the years. We especially took time to honor Joe Weinatzl, who passed away suddenly in September. Joe was a faithful volunteer who built several fences and mowed our hay field annually. He was one of those positive people who always had a smile on his face and loved being with animals, people, and the land. He was especially fond of horses and we now have a horseshoe plaque in honor of Joe on one of the fenceposts he put up.

So many people come away with a sense of reconnecting with nature during their time here at Eco-Justice, and our mission and programming could not live on without continued support from our volunteers and donors like you.

## Meet the New Board President

Robin Smerchek

It started with summer camp. As a grandparent, I was looking for life experiences in Racine for a grandchild. A friend highly recommended the Eco-Justice summer camp. She said "the kids have fun, come home tired and sleep well at night." What's not to love about that?

Within a few short weeks, Zack, from Edgerton, WI, was attending the Eco-J 6-10 year old camp. He loved it. The freedom to explore (within guidelines), the caring of the rabbits, goats and alpacas and the craft projects had him hooked.

A little background about me: I live in Caledonia. I attended Racine Unified School District schools, graduating from Horlick High School and from UW-Parkside with degrees in the math and engineering fields.

Retiring five years ago brought opportunities to volunteer. I joined the EJC Development Committee and became a board member. As Vice President for the last year, I chaired the Governance Committee. I appreciate all the work and the use of many types of talent to create and sustain the Eco-Justice Center. I enjoy the peace, tranquility and vibrancy of the Center. Please join us in sharing your knowledge and skills at the Eco-Justice Center.



## Donors: April '18 - Sept. '18

*We are grateful!*

Joanne Ackerman  
Dennis Anderson  
Steve & Elisabeth Anderson  
Terrance & Anne Anderson  
Charlotte Arendt  
Sandy Babi  
G. Baker  
S. Nancy Bauman  
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Luan Wells  
Carol Wesley  
Gloria Wester  
Debra Weyers  
Rita Witynski  
Darlene Young  
Catherine Zelenski



Sharon Sweeney  
Recipient of 2018 EJC Volunter Award

### End-of-Year Giving

Individual donations keep EJC running! Thank you for your year-end gifts. Everyone who gives a gift of \$50 or more through the end of December will be automatically entered in a drawing for the following:

- Hermitage overnight stay (1-2 people)
- Pint of EJC raw honey
- \$20 EJC Gift Shop gift certificate

### Growing Healthy Field Trips



### Holiday Gifts from EJC

There are a number of special items available in our gift shop. Of course, you're always able to purchase a gift certificate as well, to be used toward the hermitage, camp, gift shop or workshops.

- EJC's raw honey
- jams, jellies & syrups
- alpaca yarn
- hand-knit scarves
- Anarchy Acres flour
- tatted ornaments & earrings
- felted critters and bottle toppers
- homemade soup & brownie mixes



Joe Weinzatl  
Beloved EJC Volunteer

### Volunteer & Property Update

Brian Gleichauf, Volunteer & Property Manger

It's been a very busy summer for me, the newly minted Volunteer and Property Manager. I love new challenges and learning new things, and this job has caused my cup to overflow! Getting to know all of the current volunteers, while meeting the many new and returning volunteers continuously coming through the door, has been one of those excellent learnings. I've met literally hundreds of new folks! I'm amazed by how many people contact Eco-J, having been off the radar for years, but still thinking fondly of their time here, and wanting to reconnect. The depth and breadth of community at Eco-J is a wonderful thing.

Another area of activity has been taking care of our land and buildings. With the spectacular leadership of our maintenance "guru" Bob, we've cleaned up a number of areas, and fixed up a variety of enclosures and equipment. Our volunteers have done hundreds of hours of gardening and landscaping that makes Eco-J a beautiful place to visit.

With lots of support from volunteers and the sisters in the farmhouse, we've had a successful season of pasturing our alpacas and goats, caring for our chickens and rabbits, and enjoying our cats Vader and Patch, and our tribes of guineas, roosters and waterfowl! Visitors to Eco-J love to interact with our animals, and the animals benefit from this care and attention, too. This summer we lost a couple chickens to old age, and one to a sneaky weasel. One of our roosters had a run-in with Miracle, the farmhouse dog, but he's healing nicely. All in all, the animals seem to be in healthy condition heading into the winter. Our beekeeping season also went very well, with one hive (named Jolene) producing nearly all of our honey this year!

Things are always popping here at Eco-J, and I am very happy to be a part of the hustle and bustle. As always, you can contact me if you'd like to join in the fun and work!



## Farm Corps 2018

Dawn DeMuyt, Farm Corps Program Manager

While reflecting on the past year, we are proud to share that we grew something very special in 2018. Our Farm Corps crew of high school women had the opportunity to grow healthy food, cook and eat fresh produce, and grow personally as they worked with us for the summer. We were pleased to share the farm experience with Aracely Gonzales (Horlick), Breanna Kizewic (Case), and Eh Lee Dar (Horlick), and proud of the work and growth they achieved. Our crew leader, Simone Sorensen (UW Parkside), was our inspirational ray of sunshine bringing laughter and levity to a good day's work. We were fortunate to be assisted by our returning 2017 crew leader, Laura Buska (UW Parkside), as she explored entrepreneurship on the farm growing and selling cut flowers. From our 2017 crew, Caylan Mason (Horlick) also joined us this year helping to support us at the gardens and farmers markets.

Unfortunately, we can't be as positive with the weather challenges we faced this year. It was an extremely cold and wet spring, and the gardens were off to a slow start. When it finally felt warm enough to plant, the rains did not want to stop. However, farm on we did, and we managed to harvest a healthy crop of fresh and nutritious vegetables to share with each other and at the West Racine & Great Lakes Farmers Markets. We had lots of fun with Amy Macemon of UW Extension FoodWise, as she worked with our crew one day a week to share expert nutrition and cooking lessons.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us in big and small ways this year, including our funders: UNFI, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Jr. League of Racine, and All Saints Foundation. Also, our big event was our first Farm to Table dinner held here at Eco-Justice. A very special thanks to Chef Scott Sebastian, Patrice Sebastian, and Cory Sebastian of Sebastian's for organizing this dinner. Our gratitude to the other outstanding chefs contributing to this event: Chef Mark O'Brien, Butcher & Barrel; Chef Josue Luis and Sous Chef Perry Running, Racine Country Club; and Chef Howard Brown, Vero.



Above: At Great Lakes Farmers Market  
Below L & R: 2nd Annual Farm to Table dinner



Photo by Ruth Guenther

Farm Corps Numbers	
Pounds of Produce Harvested:	2,560
Farmers Markets Attended:	19
Markets Held at Eco-J:	3
Total Farmers Market Sales:	\$2,458
Total Restaurant Sales:	\$277
Pounds Donated to Farm-to-Table Dinner:	164
Pounds Donated to Food Pantries:	297



Photo by Ruth Guenther

### In Memory of

Glenn Arendt  
S. Marie Burnaby  
Katy Wildman  
S. Mary Hope Bergemann  
Claire Anderson Patton  
S. Benedicta Schrier

### In Honor Of

Charlie Tennesen  
S. Mary Ann Weyker

### In-Kind Donations/Services

Marty Meissner  
Joe Weinatzl

### Volunteer Groups

Thank you to the following groups who have volunteered this past half year:

Volunteer Center of Racine  
youth summer camp

Unico for United Way  
Day of Caring

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Racine Montessorri

UNFI

Lakeside Curative

Kenosha Achievement Center

Girl Scout Troop 9261

Girl Scout summer camp

St. Louis Catholic Church  
youth

### Interested in volunteering?

Fill out the form at  
[ecojusticecenter.org](http://ecojusticecenter.org)

Look for the "volunteer" tab  
on the left column.

*We regret any errors or omissions. Please report discrepancies via email.*

### Supporting Foundations & Organizations:



Potpourri Garden Club

Heart of Canal

Quota Club of Kenosha-Racine

Maresh-Meredith Funeral Home

Educators Credit Union

Drager-Langendorf Funeral Home

Sacred Journeys Spiritual Community

Sisters of Saint Dominic

Strof Funeral Home



SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF LEAVENWORTH



Photo by Ruth Guenther

Grace Dougherty, summer service intern, played a big role in summer programming, helping to lead summer camp and assisting with garden projects. Thank you, Grace, and all the best in your continued studies!

Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center  
7133 Michna Road  
Racine, WI 53402



Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.



### Spring Break Camp

April 23-26, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm / Ages 5-8 / \$115

Engage in hands-on learning during four days at the farm. Activities include interaction with animals, time in the hoop house garden, crafts, exploration and education about caring for Earth.

**Registration opens February 1**  
**Visit [ecojusticecenter.org](http://ecojusticecenter.org)!**

### Summer Ecology Camp on the Farm

June 24-28 (ages 11-14, includes overnight) / \$165

June 17-21 / July 8-12 / July 15-19 (ages 6-10) / \$125

Campers experience a week on the EJC farm, getting to know the animals, preparing food, exploring the grounds, interactive ecology lessons, creativity and more!

## 2018 EJC Camps



Photo by Ruth Guenther



Photo by Ruth Guenther



*This newsletter is available in color online at [ecojusticecenter.org](http://ecojusticecenter.org)  
Tax deductible donations can also be made on our website through PayPal.*