



E-Newsletter, December 2012

7105 Gentle Oak Dr. Austin, TX 78749-1747

512-807-6863

www.aspaciousplace.com

~Soul Nurture Through Creativity~



Gifted2Give! Thanks

We had a blast at Gifted2Give: from our array of delightful gift-making options, to henna tattooing, to our creativity shop, to great food and amazing music. Many, many thanks to our crew of amazing volunteers: Ezequiel Calderon, the Lannaya Drum & Dance Ensemble, Mike Lawrence, Caitlin McGuire, Arielle McKee, Bethany McKee, David McKee, Priya Patel, Tejal Patel, Beth Patterson, John Patterson, Tammy Sartain, Kelsey Silva, Tina Silva, Jim Sipowicz, DeAnn Slivensky, and Lisa Viets

And many thanks to our corporate sponsors: the Mary Lee Foundation and the Neighborhood.

Looking for a holiday gift? We have copies of our Young Writers Club books, *A Spacious Place* t-shirts, gift baskets, and bath salts in various scents available. Phone 512-807-6863 or email kaye@aspaciousplace.com to place an order.



January 12: Young Artists Club Begins/Young Writers Resumes

When?

Jan. 12*

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Where?

7105 Gentle Oak Dr. Austin, TX 78749

What?

If you like, come costumed as a superhero!

YAC dues: \$65 for first child in family, \$60 for remaining children (\$5 less on all fees for *A Spacious Place* members)

YWC dues: \$50 for first child in family, \$45 for remaining children (\$5 less on all fees for *A Spacious Place* members)

Who?

Young Artists Club: 1st—5th Graders with BIG imaginations
 Young Writers Club: 3rd—8th graders with BIG imaginations

Artist/Writer of the Month Hint: This artist/writer is a MARVEL! Fantastic! Excelsior! Okay, 'nuff said.

*Clubs will meet jointly on Jan. 12, beginning in February, the YWC will meet the first Saturday of each month and the YAC the second Saturday.

Register for both clubs on our website: www.aspaciousplace.com or phone 512-807-6863. Space for both clubs is limited.



CARD-MAKING FUNSHOP

Want to make personalized cards that not only accompany gifts, but are gifts themselves? Want to create beauty from recycled materials? Join our funshop and create holiday and gift cards as unique as you are. We're scheduling a funshop early next year, but if there's enough interest, we can add a December date, so participants can create their own holiday cards. Interested? Email kaye@aspaciousplace.com or phone 512-807-6863.



December Soul & Solace: DON'T...give till it hurts

I just finished Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*: an interesting read for a writer/nonprofit director who, as it turns out, works more for love than legal tender. *Atlas's* powerful story and philosophy challenges me to think deeply about what I believe and why I believe it. Ayn Rand terms religious leaders "mystics of the spirit" who demand that those who "have" provide for those who "need." Mystics of the spirit preach sacrifice as superior to happiness.

Is that the message we nonprofits send? When I drive by billboards that prompt us to mark through "be jolly" this holiday season and write in "give to the needy," I'd say yes. Call me greedy, but I think we can be jolly *and* generous. *Atlas* has helped clarify *A Spacious Place's* values: what we are and what we are not.

- First, we honor time, prayer, and creativity as much as financial contributions. Indeed, we've functioned for five years doing just that, thanks to our amazing crew of creative volunteers.
- Second, we're free-choice fans: we won't accost people with donation demands as they enter and leave their local pharmacy, or yank on heartstrings with tearful photos of innocents (a practice that disrespects both the photo's viewers and its subject).
- Third, we won't be a black hole of need. I love the story in which Moses asks donations to build the tabernacle and finally begs: "Please stop! You brought more than enough!" Moses articulated the needs for a specific project and then stuck to the plan. Too often nonprofits suck generous people dry by asking support for one project after another. God loves cheerful, not beleaguered, givers.

And there's the poignant story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-43). I don't believe religious leaders guilted the woman into "giving till it hurts." I cannot see Jesus honoring her choice under those circumstances. For whatever reason, the widow chose, as her spiritual practice, to give all she had. And that's a choice of joy.

We all have need. We all have something to give. This holiday season, *A Spacious Place* wishes you generosity—and we wish you joy.

What are your thoughts on holiday and charity? Share them with us on our *A Spacious Place* blog (www.aspaciousplace.com).



Like *A Spacious Place* on Facebook and follow us on Twitter
@ASPACIOUSPLACE.



*"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:18 NRSV)*

The passage above takes us to the bone. Transported to Ramah, we feel Rachel's loss and suffering. We stand with her in the timelessness of her grief.

Perhaps you, too, know inconsolable loss: of loved ones, of health, of relationships, of childhood, of dreams, of innocence, of job, of....

Do you stand alongside Rachel? Have you survived or are you dwelling this moment in Ramah? Please consider joining our online community. Visit www.RamahFaith.com.



Becoming an *A Spacious Place* Member

Apply for a membership that includes

- 1) access to the *A Spacious Place* calendar for posting upcoming creativity/spirituality events (see calendar below);
- 2) 2 discounts on *A Spacious Place* offerings, such as courses and camps; and
- 3) a venue for artists to share their work (such as musical offerings or poetry slams).

Because *A Spacious Place* believes the contribution of one's creative gifts and/or time equals the contribution of money, the board has designated the following ways in which one may become an *A Spacious Place* member.

	One Year Membership	Two Year Membership	Three Year Membership
Individual	\$40 or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$75 or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$100 or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services
Tier 1 Group (1-5 individuals)	\$35 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$65 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$90 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services
Tier 2 Group (6-10 individuals)	\$30 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$55 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$80 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services
Tier 3 Group (11+ individuals)	\$25 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$45 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services	\$70 each or equal "in kind" payment of goods or services

Interested in an "in kind" membership? Check in with David McKee at david@aspaciousplace.com.



Upcoming *Spacious* Events

Bona Terra Classes

Dec. 5, 19

Bona Terra Center, Cumberland

Mary Lee Foundation Classes

Dec. 7, 21

Mary Lee Center, S. Lamar

Ramah Faith Community Website

ongoing

www.RamahFaith.com

Young Artists/Young Writers Club

Jan. 12 1—4 pm

7105 Gentle Oak Dr.

ASP Board Meeting

Jan. 19 9:30-11:30 am

7105 Gentle Oak Dr.



Want to Support *A Spacious Place* Ministries?

Here are some possibilities—

- * Include us in your prayers
- * Provide a dolly to transport all our goodies!
- * Check out our camp registry at www.aspaciousplace.com
- * Donate or loan a van or bus in good condition in time for camp
- * Provide us a space
- * Donate beading containers
- * Donate guitars
- * Provide us a space
- * Donate art supplies of any kind
- * Purchase items from our Zazzle! account or our Amazon *A Spacious Place* store
- * Donate funds toward any *A Spacious Place* offering
- * Donate a Mac computer
- * Donate a color laser printer



Our Mission and Vision

Mission: To develop and implement educational and therapeutic programs related to the enhancement of spiritual growth and expression effectively and creatively in all media, including writing, graphic arts, music, theater and daily life for people of all ages, and ethnicities and traditions, with a primary focus in the Central Texas area.

Vision: To provide, for the central Texas area, true sanctuary—

- * in which persons may, through creativity and education, explore and express their spirituality;
- * for persons of all ages, ethnicities, and traditions



Dr. Kaye P. McKee, Executive Director
Lanna Johnson, Board Member
Mike Lawrence, Attorney, Board Member

Arielle McKee, Board Secretary
David E. McKee, Jr., Chair of the Board
Beth Patterson, Board Treasurer