



# Padua Ponderings

Summer-Fall 2022

## “Peaces” of Art Sunday, October 9, 2022

5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Sullivan Center

Baldemar Valesquez

Keynote Speaker and

Recipient of The Padua Promoter Award.



The Padua Center is proud to welcome Baldemar Valesquez as the keynote speaker for this year’s “Peaces” of Art celebration. He will also be presented the Padua Promoter Award. Baldemar Valesquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) grew up in a migrant farmworker family based in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Each year he traveled the migrant trail of harvesting farm crops. His family settled in Ohio and after high school Baldemar graduated from Bluffton College, the first member of his family to do so. Incensed by the injustices suffered by his family and other farmworkers, Baldemar founded the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in 1967. Baldemar is an internationally recognized leader in the farmworker and immigrant rights movement. His commitment to justice and human dignity make him a perfect Padua Promoter.

### Fletcher Word—MC for “Peaces” of Art

Fletcher Word, co-owner and publisher of Sojourner’s Truth newspaper, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the “Peaces” of Art dinner and auction. Fletcher Word grew up in New York City and was raised in Washington, DC. He is a graduate of Harvard University, majoring in Government. He is best know in Toledo for his civic involvement including The Northwest Ohio Black Media Associates, The Toledo Press Club, The Greater Toledo Urban League, and Toledo Museum of Art Cultural Diversity Committee. He also serves as president of the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union Board of Directors.



Reign is finishing her artwork for the “Peaces” of Art auction.

“Straight Up” will provide music for the evening.



Once again Kay Shrewsbury has produced an exquisite portrait for auction at our Peaces of Art Celebration. This counted-cross stitch pictures a multi-generational family in an embrace of love. This item is included in our “on-line” auction so that those who cannot attend the event can still make a bid. The link for bidding is below:

<https://paduacenter.betterworld.org/auctions/peaces-art-2022>





Dr. Minda Te, Mon Taroy, Adrienne Castellanos and Roger Whickum hold signs for The Old West End Parade.

**Protecting our Environment**  
 Volunteers from The Padua Center and St. Martin de Porres joined the Social Justice Advocates in celebrating World Environment Day by marching in the Old West End Parade. The Padua Center works with the children to care for our Mother Earth. Environmental education is extremely important and this past summer The Padua Potters met every Wednesday before Summer Camp to learn about creation, gardening, the water cycle, composting and more.



This summer The Padua Center had three youths from the Youth Employment Service assist with the gardens, as well as help with the children in the summer camps. To increase their knowledge of gardening and environmental education they visited the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center in Tiffin, Ohio Gardener Roger Whickum and Sister Virginia accompanied them on the trip. David Lucas, Isaiah Wright and Makaila McKenzie are pictured with Sister Shirley Shafranck and her assistant.



Honey for sale at The Padua Center is \$7.00 for 8 oz, while they last!

Mr. Bert Kaiser is pictured on the right letting some of the campers taste the honey from the bee hive located at the Padua Garden (Ujima Urban Agriculture). Mr. Kaiser assists Roger Whickum with the bees, and harvesting honey.



In a garden there is always a need to weed. During the Padua Potters Club Journey Ingol and Joshua Pitts take some time to pull weeds before planting beans for a second harvest.



**Kwanzaa Park Neighbors' Meetings**  
 Monthly meetings of Kwanzaa Park Neighbors are organized by Phyllis Toney. She has arranged for various speakers to come the First Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30. The next meeting is September 1, 2022. Please come and join us for an opportunity to connect with neighbors, find out about volunteer opportunities, and work toward making our neighborhood safe and beautiful. The meetings include a visit from the Toledo Police Community Service Officer, a raffle and always news of the neighborhood.

**Chicken Fest Raffle Prize Winners**  
 1st Prize—Four Tickets to Cedar Point—Sharon Ahlfors  
 2nd Prize—Fire Pit—Sharon Ahlfors  
 (Donated back and will be a silent auction item for Peaces of Art)  
 3rd Prize—Projector—Dorothy Haverbusch  
 Congratulations and Thank you for your support!





# Summer Camps



This summer The Padua Center offered educational opportunities, fun, adventure and a never to be forgotten experience of summer camps.

The summer camp theme this year, “You Really Matter,” was developed at multiple levels and opened opportunities and adventures for the nearly twenty daily participants.



**Week 1 “Money Matters”** Highlights of this week were presentations on counting money, electronic transactions, marketing, and the Padua dollar system for campers to earn money for the Padua shopping on Friday.

**Week 2 “Culture Matters”** This week offered information about the Juneteenth celebration.

**Week 3 “Health Matters”** Week three moved the focus of the camps to personal health. Yoga, running a lap around Junction Park and time to reflect on mental health issues were included in this week.



A quick photo as the Padua campers leave the zoo! (l)

During the Care of Creation week the campers dug potatoes from the garden! (r)



**Week 5 “God’s Creation Matters”** This week of Vacation Bible School used Bible stories to help the campers understand the gift of creation and to respect the diversity and wonder of creation. The camp began with a trip to the Toledo Zoo.

**Week 6 “Metroparks Matters”** This yearly camp week is directed by the staff of Toledo Metroparks. The campers went to Pearson Park, Providence Park and Side Cut parks. They enjoyed a canal boat ride, fishing, canoeing, archery, camp songs, spiders and mosquitos!

**Week 7 “Teamwork Matters”** week was filled with activities that facilitated the youth working together and building teams.

**Week 8 “You Matter”** finished the camps with various activities building upon the campers’ self-esteem. The high heat made the water balloon toss very popular.

The **Camp leaders**, in addition to Avery Cooper and Anique Davis included Sandra Newsom, Linda Barnes, Roger Whickum, and volunteers: Adrienne Castellanos, Maddie Fogg, Susan Ford, Minda Te, and Kerry Gibson.

**Guest speakers** included: Mrs. Patrice Powers-Barker, Bert Kaiser, Claire (from Toledo Grows), Toledo Police, Charlie Johnson, and Sister Virginia Welsh.

**Youth workers & Garden Helpers** were Anastie Taylor, Isaiah Wright, David Lucas, Makaila McKenzie

Thanks to Kim McFann ( for lunch pick-up) and Lupe Villolovos and Deb Johnson who provided a clean environment for everyone. It was a great summer! Thank you for your support.



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## Mission Statement

*The Padua Center,  
is a Christian community-based presence  
reaching out by empowering people at  
all stages of life  
to achieve their maximum potential  
through education, support,  
and community involvement.*

We offer remembrance and prayers for supporters who died this last summer:

Jeanne Zurat, Richard and Pat Hanusz, and William (Bill) Welsh, brother of Sister Virginia Welsh.

### Padua Center Board Members:

Dennis Jarrett—President

Carty Finkbeiner—Treasurer

Joseph—Secretary

Msgr. Michael Billian, Vice-President

Beverly Moore

Harvey Savage

Lonnie Ghee

Arthur Jones

Phyllis Toney

Theresa M. Gabriel

DeLise Simmons Hass

Mike Badik

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS—APRIL 2022— AUGUST 2022

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Sister Jackie Doecker, OSF (Tiffin)

Srs. Sara Aldridge & Joanne Lammers OSF

Sue Nowak & Kay Shrewsbury

Theresa M. Gabriel

Thomas McDonald & Liz Facey

Tom Dibling

Marge Linhart and Sally Miller  
in memory of Bill Welsh

These contributions include gifts for the  
Chicken Fest and summer camps.

Thank you.

A donation was received in honor of Kay Shrewsbury and Sue Nowak from the Tiffin Franciscan Associates in honor of their leadership on the Associate Resource Team..



Kim McFann, Administrative Assistant, offers her skills to Carl Polk who is filing some important information on the computer. Kim prepares many communications that come from The Padua Center.