Humanities in Medicine

presented by

The Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Health Network:
Spiritual Services and Behavioral Health

Thursday, March 7, 2024
Humanities in Medicine is a creative opportunity to connect the arts to the healing process. It allows our patients, providers and staff to share their healing journey through music, dance, art, poetry and other creative works. As we fulfill our mission of advancing the health of the people of the diverse communities we serve, the Humanities in Medicine program will enrich the connection between exceptional care, innovation and discovery.

—Richelle Webb Dixon,
Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Froedtert Hospital
EVENT SCHEDULE
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Welcome to the 2024 Spring Humanities in Medicine event. Feel free to mingle and enjoy the artwork and performances this afternoon.

3:00 PM Richelle Webb Dixon, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Froedtert Hospital
Opening Remarks

PERFORMANCES
3:15 PM – 4:45 PM
Each performer will be performing their piece twice during the event.
(Performing Artists in Order of Appearance)

Jennifer Schoenholtz, Spiritual Services Administrative Assistant
Poetry Reading

Kelly Coffey, LPN, Rheumatology
Dramatic Monologue

Michael Kofi Esson, Medical Doctor
The Medical College of Wisconsin, Class of 2025
Poetry Reading

Rev. Letdell Briggs, MDiv, Spiritual Services
Poetry Reading

Rev. Jim Durnil, MDiv, BCC, Spiritual Services
Music and Vocals

5:00 PM Rev. George Ontko, SSM, MDiv, CTSS
Director of Spiritual Services
Closing Remarks
ARTIST STATEMENTS

VISUAL ARTISTS:

Ahmed Obeidat, MD, PhD Neurology
The Medical College of Wisconsin
As busy as life can be and with the demands that come with living as a physician, I find joy and healing power in our surroundings. As a neurologist, the power of observation is key to my success and ability to diagnose accurately. The same applies to photography. As an observer, you can find the extraordinary in the ordinary. We may pass by our surroundings and not notice the intricate details and immense beauty. However, as a photographer, I started to pay attention to the smallest details in my surroundings. I can spend hours examining nature and capturing beautiful moments in life. The Metallic Flower Power is one example of how one sunflower in a large field can be perceived as one of a kind.

Artwork Title: METALLIC FLOWER POWER
Medium: Photography

Audrey M. Millikin, RN
Froedtert Hospital
I have always had an interest in drawing for as long as I can remember. It has always been a peaceful calming pastime. I liken it to how meditation is beneficial for some people. It calms my mind and helps keep me feeling positive, both of which are integral to my mental health.

I have had a change in my health and I can no longer participate in my physical activities and hobbies like I once did. Currently I am disabled and that is not going to change. So I decided to focus on art and drawing as a pastime I can pursue and enjoy. I cannot put into words how much this has helped me mentally and emotionally. I have challenged myself with different subjects and to try new mediums. My piece Red Rock Canyon Nevada is the first landscape I’ve completed. I used to like to travel out west and enjoy the beautiful scenery and be out in nature. Now I draw it.

Artwork Title: RED ROCK CANYON NEVADA
Medium: Pastel

Artwork Title: PILEATED WOODPECKERS
Medium: Colored pencil on live-edge basswood
Andrea Maleu, Guest Relations Representative
Froedtert Hospital
Art is a way to create inner peace and to live in the present moment. The Water Phoenix was inspired by a photograph I took of a blue heron that visits the pond across from the Cancer Center. This piece is a homage to the Cancer Center and all that it does. It’s a place that took great care of my husband when he underwent surgery. I am very fortunate to work at the Cancer Center. I meet so many wonderful people. The blue heron symbolizes rebirth and healing to me. I hope this resonates for you.

Artwork Title: THE WATER PHOENIX
Medium: Mixed Media

Elizabeth Lucena, Health Unit Coordinator
Froedtert Hospital
As a visual artist I blend nostalgia and creativity by photographing 1980s cartoon toy figures like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Alf, The Muppets and integrating them into real world settings. This art form serves as a therapeutic escape, for both me and my audience. By placing these beloved icons in every day scenarios, I create a bridge between the innocence of youth and the complexities of adult life. This juxtaposition not only evokes a sense of comfort and familiarity but also encourages the viewer to reconnect with their inner child. The process of meticulously cutting, positioning and editing my photos is meditative, offering me a moment of tranquility and focus amidst the chaos of daily life. For those who encounter my art, I hope it to be a whimsical reminder to find joy in the small things and to approach life with a lighter heart.

Artwork Title: PENSIVE DON
Artwork Title: RAPH & HIS VESPA
Medium: Photographic Art

Jennifer Schoenholtz, Administrative Assistant
Spiritual Services – Froedtert Hospital
The visual arts have always had a profound presence in my life. I feel closest to Spirit when I am creating art. I like to call it “my dance with the Divine.” Creating art has been a wonderful healing tool in my life. It helps me process and express physically, emotionally and mentally what I am feeling and experiencing in the moment.

We all experience the light and shadow of life many times in our lifetime both collectively and individually as we traverse our paths while here on earth. It’s part of the human experience. We even see this theme reflected in nature. Redemption is a sacred healing space where we grow, learn lessons, seek meaning and find purpose. It’s about the dualities in life and honoring the phoenix within who rises from the ashes to be rebirthed. A new beginning filled with hope to create something new.

Artwork Title: REDEMPTION
Medium: Photography
ARTIST STATEMENTS

VISUAL ARTISTS:

Nadia Alkhun, Froedtert Health Patient
These two artworks dive deeply into my mind and reflect on various memories, joyful moments in life, infinite ambitions and hopes for colorful dreams. As the tangible perception of the state of being can sometimes deceive the distinct abilities of our five senses. What you see as fun and vivid image, can hide deep feelings of ambiguity, but as a way of healing, there is always a path to reach that colorful dream.

Artwork Title: THE UNSEEN BUT FELT
Artwork Title: THE OTHER EPISODE OF MY MIND
Medium: Mixed Media

Paula Bierke, Business Office Specialist – Specialty Care
Froedtert Holy Family Memorial
Photography is relaxing, a way to cope with the stresses of life. Being able to capture a pleasing view is a way to remember the moment and helps me to relax each time I view the photo. When photographing landscapes or people, your mind wanders to its happy creative place. For a moment in time, worries and troubles disappear. For some people this is seen as a time of reflection.

Artwork Title: KOHLER ANDRE TRAIL
Artwork Title: NORTHERN LIGHTS
Medium: Photography

Rebecca Gilligan, RN, MICU
Froedert Hospital
For me, the process of creating is stress relieving because I can focus my nervous energy on one task which happens to be something that makes me happy. However, I feel one’s home should reflect their personality and when that happens, the home’s occupants feel good about themselves and comfortable in their space. Creating helps me help others make their homes “their” space.

Artwork Title: FRAMED FABRIC 1
Artwork Title: FRAMED FABRIC 2
Medium: Mixed Fiber Art
Riley St. Claire, Patient Access Service Representative
Sargeant Internal Medicine
I started making art as a way of healing from my past and grounding myself in the present. It gives me a way to express and process ideas, memories, and emotions that I am not able to verbalize.

*Artwork Title:* KIND GIVER
*Medium:* Mixed Media

*Artwork Title:* NO ONE
*Medium:* Acrylic on Canvas

**PERFORMING ARTISTS:**

Jennifer Schoenholtz, Administrative Assistant
Spiritual Services
Froedtert Hospital

*Winter Womb*

*Poem by Jennifer Schoenholtz*

The performing arts have always had a profound presence in my life. I feel closest to Spirit when I am creating art. I like to call it “my dance with the Divine.” Creating art has been a wonderful healing tool in my life. It helps me process and express physically, emotionally and mentally what I am feeling and experiencing in the moment.

This poem was written on Imbolc which is an ancient Celtic holiday that celebrates the half way point between winter and spring. During this time, we see signs that nature is starting to stir from its sleepy slumber as it welcomes back the sun. Soon new seeds will break free from the earthen soil. This season also calls on us metaphorically to sow the seeds of inspiration, creation and possibility.
Rev. Jim Durnil, MDiv, BCC  
Chaplain, Spiritual Services  
Froedtert Hospital  
*Music and Vocals*

The arts have been a major influence in my life. Particularly the performing arts of music and theatre. Whether I am playing music or playing a part, I find it is a way to tap into and express my emotions. I revel in exploring the depths of a character or a musical piece and sharing that with an audience. This is something that enriches my spirit and provides a healing of sorts for my own psyche.

Kelly Coffey, LPN  
*Rheumatology*  
Froedtert Town Health Center  
*Imaginary Endings by Ellen Dunphy*  
*Dramatic Monologue*

Storytelling has always been an outlet for me to explore complicated feelings and situations. It’s a form of expression that can be as real or abstract as you want to make it. Through performing and writing there is a release that allows the work to stand outside of yourself and weave into the fabric of all the stories that we share every day. Through that connection it can make healing possible. I was co-founder of a local theatre company, Cooperative Performance, for 9 years and was lucky to collaborate with many talented people to create original stories/performances. From that experience I was able to connect with other storytelling partners and we are currently in the process of creating a new performance company called The Cicada Complex. I am grateful to have this form of expression to collaborate, share and connect with people.
Rev. Letdell Briggs, MDiv
Chaplain, Spiritual Services
Froedtert Hospital

There Comes a Time
Poem by Rev. Letdell Briggs, MDiv

I have been a wordsmith all of my life. However, it was for entertainment/work purposes only during my youth. Over the years I had lost the desire to write raps. I had never written a poem before last year. But lately, I have been writing poetry to make meaning of the suffering that I’ve witnessed over the years. Suffering that my patients, staff members, my family, friends and of course my church family go through. There is so much suffering right now on earth and I use poetry to order it. I try to make sense of it. I pray for deliverance from suffering because it just doesn’t feel good, but at the same time, I find that it can be healing. It’s all about perspective.

Michael Kofi Esson, Medical Doctor, Class of 2025
The Medical College of Wisconsin

Alliza
Poem by Michael Kofi Esson

Art is not an escape, it is life. For me, poetry allows me to process emotions in a creative and productive manner. It affords me an avenue to reveal a part of myself: my secrets, my hopes, my joy and pain. In poetry, my life is portrayed.
FROEDTERT HOSPITAL
HUMANITIES IN MEDICINE COMMITTEE:

Rev. George Ontko, SSM, MDiv, CTSS
Director of Spiritual Services

Jennifer Schoenholtz
Administrative Assistant, Spiritual Services

Bethany LoPresti, PhD
Executive Director, Behavioral Health
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry

Rev. Jim Durnil, MDiv, BCC
Chaplain, Spiritual Services