

Creatively Engaging People with Memory Loss

Shelly Rollins: Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
Amber Joswick: SPARK! On the GO!
Claire Carlson: John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Shelly Rollins



- Education Specialist, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center since 2004
- Undergraduate in Fine Arts –Painting and Art History minor from Northern Illinois University
- Masters Degree in Education –Curriculum and Instruction with Outdoor Teacher Certification from Northern Illinois University
- Co-leading center SPARK! program since fall 2016

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center



Located on Lake Michigan in Bayside, WI (NE Milwaukee County)

Our mission is to conserve our land's diverse habitats on Lake Michigan and provide meaningful experiences and environmental education for all.

Conducting 18 SPARK! programs a year since 2017

2nd Tuesday/3rd Thursday of every month except July/August.



Amber Joswick

- Director of SPARK! On The GO!
- Co-Director of the Oasis Memory Camp
- Member of the EndAlz Fest Foundation
- Certified Dementia LIVE Master Trainer
- Dementia Friends Champion / Dementia Friends Youth Champion
- Member of the Dementia Friendly Community Coalition - La Crosse County Dementia Coalition
- Healthcare Professional



In Partnership with



Claire Carlson, BA, MA

Programming and Engagement Coordinator, John Michael Kohler Arts Center
Secretary, Dementia Care Network of Sheboygan County
TimeSlips Creative Storytelling certified practitioner
Background in performing arts and education

SPARK! session held monthly and by request for select groups

John Michael Kohler Arts Center

The JMKAC in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is known for promoting the understanding and appreciation of self-taught and contemporary artists through exhibitions and commissioned works of art. The facility includes eight galleries, two performance spaces, a café, a museum shop, and a drop-in art-making studio.



The Art Preserve of the JMKAC

In 2021, the JMKAC opened the Art Preserve, the world's first museum to focus entirely on artist-built environments. The 56,000-sq.-ft., three-level building holds more than 25,000 works in the Arts Center's world-renowned collection, which includes complete and partial environments by more than thirty self-taught and academically trained artists.



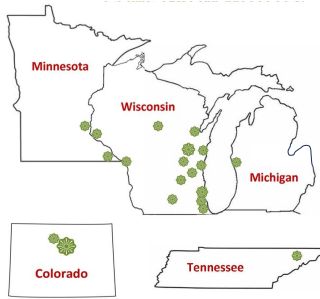


CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH MEMORY LOSS AND THEIR CARE PARTNERS

- SPARK! is a cultural program for people with early to mid-stage memory loss and their care partners.
- Programs are designed to keep participants actively engaged in their communities by providing experiences that stimulate conversations, provide peer support and inspire creativity through creative engagement, workshops and programs.
- SPARK! programs typically last 60-90 minutes and group sizes are limited, so please pre-register for the programs you plan to attend. Each program is unique and include topics such as cooking, art-making, drama/dance, music/song, poetry and storytelling.
- SPARK! programs are **FREE** for families to attend together in a comfortable environment led by specially trained staff and volunteers.



- The SPARK! Alliance is a foundation of museums, nature centers and cultural centers committed to programming for people with memory loss and their care partners.
- In 2009, the founding 10 institutions chosen by the Helen Bader Foundation (now, Bader Philanthropies, Inc.) established a forward-thinking program of collaboration and cross connected policies and procedures that help new institutions and organizations begin engagement programs that are accessible to families living with Alzheimer's, dementia and memory loss.
- The SPARK! Alliance has continued to develop and grow as individual organizations and through collaborative trainings and program development. Hosting an annual engagement training and conference, the SPARK! Alliance works together to cultivate, strengthen and multiply programs centered on the art of memory loss engagement.



13 Years with 38 locations!
COME GROW WITH US!



- What does SPARK! stand for?
- SPARK! is not an acronym, it's something that happens between care partners when engaged in a stimulating and engaging experience – SPARKing a moment together – living in the moment.



Today's Activities

We will model our respective SPARK! programs, and everyone will get to experience all activities!

Notice the way we set participants up for success by using:

- uncomplicated materials
- large print resources
- simple, clear language
- affirmations of success
- sensory stimulation

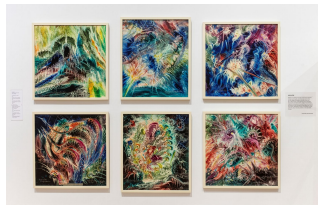
River Exploration

1. River table exploration
2. Fishing bingo with jokes/Mad Libs
3. Circled finned fish project
4. River trivia/quotes
5. Water themed snack

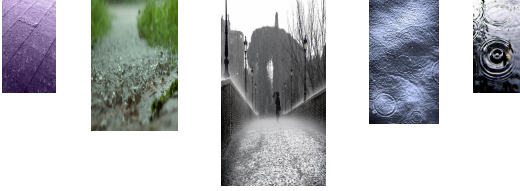


EVB-Inspired Sensory Paintings

1. View and discuss Eugene Von Bruenchenhein's work
2. Sample aromas and share our responses
3. Create a painting using brushes, fingers, combs, and forks



To get us warmed up before the activities we will take a moment and do some group body movement. Enjoy!



Past Program Highlights



Past Program Highlights



Past Program Highlights



Time for Trivia!



- What does SPARK! stand for?
- What types of organizations can host a SPARK! program?
- How much do we charge people to attend a session?
- Who should you contact if you want to start a SPARK! program?

If you are interested in bringing SPARK! to your community, contact...

Dawn Kocuja
Community Engagement & Advocacy Officer
Milwaukee Public Museum
800 West Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Email: kocuja@mpm.edu
Call: 414.278.6943

Visit <https://www.sparkprograms.org/> to learn more!

Closing Thoughts

What are your takeaways from this session?

Any questions for us?



I am **STRONG**

I am **WORTH IT**

I am a **FRIEND**

I will see you next
time!
