

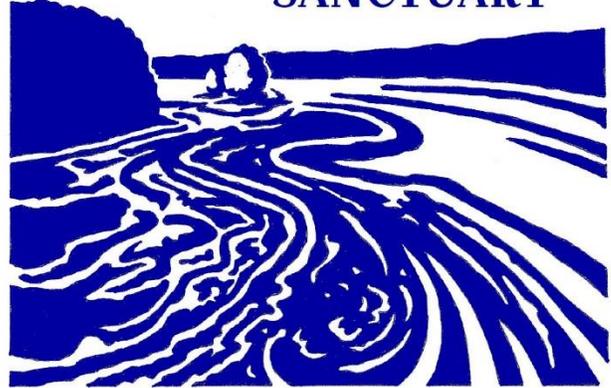
*Ebb and Flow*

*Reversing Falls*

*Sanctuary Newsletter*

*April 2018*

**REVERSING FALLS  
SANCTUARY**



The mission of Reversing Falls Sanctuary is to

- ❖ Build strong community bonds
- ❖ Support local artists and musicians
- ❖ Care for our earth
- ❖ Welcome people on diverse spiritual paths

During three Sundays in March blessings rained down on our gatherings at Reversing Falls Sanctuary for the *Awakening the Spirit* series. As I reflected on what we heard, shared and experienced in those programs, it struck me that perhaps a larger theme united all three. And that would be the Blessings Found in Memory. Augustine wrote in his autobiography, the *Confessions*, “. . . I come to the fields and spacious palaces of my memory.” On each of those Sundays the fields and spacious palaces of memory were evoked for me.

What is said by presenters or by participants in our Sunday programs and conversations is held in confidence. So, I write about what was prompted in my memory by what I heard. I have had a checkered career in which I have done many things and taken roads that had no apparent destination. Yet each contributed to finding myself at last “in the place just right,” a phrase from the Shaker hymn, “Simple Gifts,” which we sang that first Sunday. And that “place just right” is not just what I have been privileged to do, but that I have been privileged to do it in a place like Brooksville and among friends at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. I suspect my experience is not altogether unique in the RFS community.

I was reminded that if my eyes, ears, and heart are open, that people we meet every day of our lives in every conceivable situation and relationship have a blessing to offer. And that if we have the courage and the willingness to be vulnerable, we need not suffer alone, for a community can surround us with healing energy.

I was blessed to grow up on a cattle ranch, and the stories I remember from childhood and youth on the ranch are not only more precious, but more instructive as I grow older. And from the first group of Sunday School children I served on Chicago's Southside to our own grandchildren, it is hard to think of a greater blessing than that which children confer in their love and their trust. I thought about how a dramatic event that happened in my family 140 years ago, and a more common but unsettling experience more than 100 years ago, continue to echo down to the present generation. And for the first time I asked myself, where are the blessings to be found in that long sequence? And how can the blessings and not the wounds become the inheritance of the next generation of children?

The Program Team is planning a follow-up program: "Blessings Found in Aging." This too may unfold in a series.



from the Blue Hill march.

On Saturday, March 24, folks from RFS participated in the *March for Our Lives* in both Blue Hill and in Bangor. This coming Saturday, April 7 at 3 p.m. we are co-sponsors of a Town Hall at the Bangor Public Library in the continuing sequence of events the Parkland shooting has set in motion. The Town Hall's purpose is to engage in a conversation regarding gun violence with Representative Poliquin and one or more of his opponents in the upcoming election. Thanks to Peter Robbins we have photos



Thanks to Anne Ferrara, the Sanctuary hosted a March 30 Good Friday Stations of the Cross,

the *Passion of Mother Earth*. At each station, as they walked the labyrinth, participants reflected on ways we are destroying the earth with this invitation to hope: *The heart broken can embrace the whole world*. Stations included fracking, desertification, melting Arctic ice, bee colony collapse, Pacific garbage patch, lead in drinking water, Puerto Rican hurricane, death of last male Northern white rhino, drought and famine, destruction of tropical rain forests, water shortages, Dakota Access Pipeline spills, dying of coral reefs, and mountain top excavation.



This listing does not do justice to the power of the text Anne provided. The concluding reflection was from Drew Dellinger's *Hieroglyphic Stairway*:



*It's 3:23 in the morning  
and I am awake  
because my great-great grandchildren  
ask me in dreams  
what did you do while the planet was plundered?  
What did you do when the earth was unraveling?  
Surely you did something  
when the seasons started failing?  
As mammals, reptiles, birds were all dying?  
. . . what did you do once you knew?*

Rev. Allen Myers, a historian of reed organs and an expert at restoring them, reports that we have “an upscale *Cornish Organ* with some rather peculiar features.” He is registering our instrument with the Reed Organ Society data base. He sent some photos that call attention to the beauty of the organ overall and to some of its decorative effects. Allen says it would cost \$3,000 to restore it we would learn that nothing for it. But it tuning (once every fifty A functioning reed instrument capable of a musical performance with the values of the and that at Antique Road Show collectors would pay us “. . .requires neither frequent years or so) and no electricity. organ is a versatile musical broad range of music and style and is fully consonant Reversing Falls Sanctuary.”



Thank you, Allen, for this report and for these accompanying photos.

*Window Dressers* has just won the 2018 Portland Press Herald's *Source Award for Energy Savers*. Last year *Window Dressers* saved Maine Households 2.2 million dollars. The appeal for volunteers has just come out from the Rockland headquarters where plans are under way for an even more extensive build this fall. A hearty thankyou to our team and volunteers for our part in this ever more important enterprise.

*Reversing Falls Sanctuary Water and Bathroom Appeal Update*: \$8,000 has come in as of the end of March. We are \$2,000 short of matching our donor's generous challenge. The building team is scheduling now the drilling of a well and the other work needed for a functioning bathroom and kitchen. Checks can be made out to Reversing Falls Sanctuary and sent to Treasurer Karen Adamo at 72 Schooner Rd., Penobscot, 04476. A photo of the outhouse is not available for publication.

*Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island* is seeking to raise \$50,000 for this summer's July 13-16 event. The money will, among many things, help bring elders from around the world including Native women from Peru. Donations can be made at <http://spiret.org/land-p> or checks made payable to **Spiret Foundation** can be sent to: Sherri Mitchell, PO Box 2102, Bangor, ME 04402. The planning committee has put out an appeal for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer either to help set up or at the event weekend, contact me at [garyvencill@gmail.com](mailto:garyvencill@gmail.com) and I'll put you in touch with the organizers.



## ***Coming Events***

Sat. 4/7, 3 p.m. *March for our Lives Town Hall*, Bangor Public Library

Sun. 4/8, 4 p.m. *Women's Circle*

Wed. 4/11, 4 p.m. *Program Team* meets at Annie Guppy's

Sat. 4/21, 9 a.m. *Clean up day* - snow melt permitting  
1 p.m. *Earth Day observance*

Wed. 4/25, 4 p.m. *Board of Directors* meets at RFS

Sun. 5/6, 4 p.m. *Women's Circle*

Next month's *Ebb and Flow*. Many of us are reading or have already read Sherri Mitchell's *Sacred Instructions*. I'd like to print a few short reviews. Please send your comments and insights to [garyvencill@gmail.com](mailto:garyvencill@gmail.com)



A last photo from the March for Our Lives.

Photo credits: Peter Robbins, Anne Ferrara, Allen Myers, Amy Thompson, and another from Peter Robbins.

Information: [www.reversingfalls.org](http://www.reversingfalls.org) or visit Reversing Falls on Facebook.