

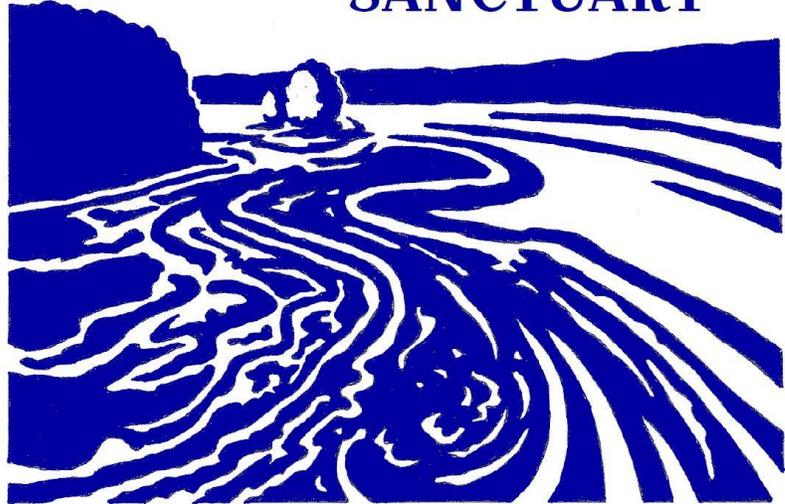
Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary*

Newsletter

March 2019

REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY



Welcome Home

The Tibetan Buddhist Meditation group met at Reversing Falls Sanctuary for a number of years until the problem we had with mold drove them out. As you know, the mold problem has been resolved, and the group is returning to RFS. Here is an announcement from Sheila Moir:

The Thursday Evening Meditation Group meets every Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm (except on March 7). Though our practices are grounded in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, we welcome people of all faith traditions to join us as we explore practices that evoke the qualities of wisdom, compassion, and natural awareness. Many of our guided meditations offer people the opportunity to commune with those spiritual benefactors who are most meaningful to them.

The Third Half of Life

Registration for an evening on March 7 to talk with Fred Van Liew and with each other about the third half of life has closed. A full contingent had registered within a day. Thanks to the registrants for their prompt response, to Sheila for taking registrations, and to Elaine and Mike Hewes for hosting the evening. Our regrets to those who won't be able to attend. Be assured, we have not seen the last of Fred. Perhaps this will not be our only opportunity for this important conversation.

A Call for Artists

The Gallery Within at the Reversing Falls Sanctuary, 818 Bagaduce Rd., Brooksville announces a call for entries for the upcoming show, **Water: Flow and Form**, April 7-28, 2019.



How do artists use water as an image or in the fabrication process of their work? Artists in this exhibit might work in watercolor, wet felting or basketry or depict foaming ocean waves, drops of rain, water lilies in a pond or ice crystals. Artists explore, expand and explain our human connection to water . . . a basic element of life.

Artists interested in participating in this exhibit should contact Daksha Baumann, 326-0631 or janetlynn821@gmail.com.

The Gallery Within is a non-profit gallery and seeks to exhibit work:

By those not represented or under-represented by commercial galleries whether emerging or established artists

By those whose work will strengthen connections among the local community

By those who explore ecological issues

By those who explore spiritual issues

By those who engage others in a collaborative art making process

By those who expand the creative culture of the local community

Daksha Baumann



The Gallery Within provides artists with a non-commercial space where they can show work other than what they might show at their regular venues. They can show, for instance, works in progress, personal work not for sale, experimental work, etc. This is a breath of fresh air in the art business.



The space itself is different and spiritual in nature from other art venues. Our professional lighting system and pristine walls are a delight to hang work in. It is a remote location and so I urge people who are showing to assist our volunteer art team with press releases, show cards, and follow up. Artists' talks and other programs that happen in the space provide a unique audience.

But again, additional assistance is helpful in promoting the exhibitions, bringing refreshments and rounding up people to attend the opening or, other events that happen at the sanctuary in conjunction with the exhibitions. *The Gallery Within* offers an opportunity for artists to participate in the artistic process and to make these exhibitions successful and well-attended.

Reversing Falls Sanctuary programming is diverse. (see www.reversingfalls.org for info) Building community is foremost and the art events certainly extend an open invitation to cross disciplines and to meet new and spiritual, broad thinkers. For me, the conversation is everything. Why do all this work if we don't engage and educate attendees about our work in the arts?

Patricia Wheeler

Photos accompanying the articles above are by Pat Wheeler, and the subjects are artists and workers at the set up of "The Art from Anything" February exhibit.



United Methodist Church Developments

Because Reversing Falls Sanctuary has a continuing if unique relationship with the United Methodist Church, and because several in the RFS community have expressed concern about the decision reached at the special General Conference in St. Louis this week, I'll hazard a few observations. Because General Conference delegates from the South and from the fast-growing congregations in Africa and Asia outnumber those from the Northeast and from the West, with the Midwest divided, the result, however disappointing to many of us, was not unexpected, though closer than it might have been. As Bec Poole observed to me before the conference, after struggling with this issue for 40 years, this is the worst possible moment, thanks to division and polarization in the country, to make this decision. Some observations:

- Many disappointed and hurt individuals will leave the denomination.
- Local churches, annual conferences, the five regional jurisdictions in the United States and perhaps the one in Europe will struggle with consequences intended and unintended.
- In New England trained facilitators will lead “Courageous Conversations” throughout the conference in the months ahead. I expect these conversations will emphasize healing and reconciliation and perhaps address the question: “What do we do now?”
- The Supreme Judicial Court of the Church will rule on the constitutionality of the provisions in the proposal that was passed. Perhaps those provisions that increase the punitive measures taken against “violators” will be stripped. In any case the Court has in the past few years refused to reverse decisions reached by the conferences to resolve cases without punishment.
- You may be interested to know that the Western Jurisdiction, which includes every state west of the Rockies including Alaska and Hawaii, has been in formal noncompliance [in open defiance] with the present discipline since 2016. That is, the Annual Conferences within the jurisdiction refuse to enforce the provisions of the church *Book of Discipline* with regard to LGBTQ concerns. In fact, the Western Jurisdiction elected a Lesbian bishop in 2016.
- The New England Conference at its 2017 Annual Meeting informally adopted a resolution of noncompliance. Moreover, the New England Conference has been in *de facto* noncompliance for some 20 years. That means that complaints against clergy alleged to be LGBTQ or to have officiated at LGBTQ weddings have gone into the dead file.
- Beautiful expressions of concern for those injured by this decision and of continuing prayers in solidarity with the UMC as it struggles with this moment have come from the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, from the president of Auburn Theological Seminary in NY, from Jim Wallis the head of the Sojourners Community in DC, from New England’s own bishop, and no doubt from many others which I have not yet seen.
- I do not expect this decision to have any practical or institutional consequences for RFS even if the decision results in a schism in the denomination of the sort that has damaged the Episcopal Church in America these past few years.

I will be glad to talk with or exchange emails with anyone who wants to pursue this concern or who wants to remain apprised of developments. A “Courageous Conversation” will take place March 9 from 1-3 at Brewer United Methodist. Gary

And these lines from Kenneth H. Carter, President of the United Methodist Council of Bishops: “I pray that we will move toward the pain and grief . . . especially among our members in the LGBTQ community. . . Our mutual prayer and confession is for a larger purpose: our healing. And our healing is for an even greater purpose: that we might be ‘repairers of the breach.’ (Isaiah 58:12).”

A Request

Tony Ferrara has faithfully managed the care of our audio-visual equipment and has communicated with program presenters who needed the equipment, been on site to set up, and has solved technical problems when they have appeared. He would like to be relieved of this responsibility. If you are interested, please speak with Tony.

Water: Theme for the Year

The programs listed below for Sunday's in March will initiate a year-long emphasis on the importance of water in sustaining our environment, in creating the wonder and beauty we see around us, and in sustaining our very lives as well as the life of Mother Earth herself. The Program Team welcomes suggestions.

Coming Events

Sunday 3/3, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Monday 3/4 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Meeting

Thursday, 3/7, "Third Half of Life Conversation" – registrations closed.

Sunday, 3/10, 4 p.m. "Water in Music and Poetry." Participants include musicians Debra Bomba, Ralph Chapman, Alison Dibble, Sonia Turanski and poets Marie Epply, Anne Ferrara, Emily Blair Stribling, Gary Vencill.

Monday 3/11, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Meeting

Wednesday, 3/13, 4:30 p.m. Program Team Meeting

Thursday, 3/14, 6 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group

Saturday, 3/16, 3 p.m. Board of Directors meets

Sunday, 3/17, 4 p.m. Film, "Frozen Pond," with discussion by the filmmaker Edwin Barkdoll. Barkdoll promises ". . . an evening exploring life under the ice culminating in the annual, amphibian emergence and migration." He says, "we may "expect to leave looking at a frozen pond through different eyes."

Monday, 3/18, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Meeting

Thursday, 3/21, 6 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group

Sunday, 3/24, 4 p.m. Kimberley Ridley and Rebekah Raye, author and illustrator respectively of award winning and remarkably beautiful books about waters on and around the peninsula, *The Secret Pool* and *The Secret Bay*, will present the program.

Monday, 3/25, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step Recovery Meeting

Thursday, 3/28, 6 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group

Saturday, 3/30, 7 p.m. Bree Newsome and Maulian Dana will be in conversation with Rob Shetterly in Blue Hill at the Bay School's Emlen Hall. Bree Newsome is the young woman who in the wake of the shooting of nine worshippers at Mother Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, climbed the flag pole at the SC State House and took down the confederate flag. Maulian Dana is the current Tribal Ambassador of the Penobscot Nation and a founding member of the Maine chapter of *Not Your Mascot*. This event is sponsored by *Americans Who Tell the Truth* and is supported by Reversing Falls Sanctuary and others.

Info: robert@americanswhotellthetruth.org

Monday, 4/1, 6:30 p.m. 12 Step recovery Program

Thursday, 4/4, 6 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group

Sunday, 4/7, 1-3:30 p.m. Opening art exhibition at the Gallery Within of *Water: Flow and Form*. The artists will be invited to speak about their work and to answer questions.

4 p.m. Women's Circle

Water: Flow and Form can be seen Sundays in April at the gallery between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Information: www.reversingfalls.org