In this time when our country and our culture is so inhospitable to the stranger, the sojourner, the refugee, it is time to remind our community that all are welcome at Reversing Falls Sanctuary.

Whoever you are, you are welcome here.
Wherever you come from, you are welcome here.
Protestant or Catholic, you are welcome here,
Buddhist, Jew or Muslim, you are welcome here
From whatever religious tradition you come, you are welcome here,
And if you come from no religious tradition at all, you are welcome here.
If you are a believer, you are welcome here.
If you are not a believer, you are welcome here.

Whatever your sexual orientation or gender expression, you are welcome here.
Whatever your age or ability, you are welcome here.
If you come here often, you are welcome here.
If you have not been here for a long time, you are welcome here.
If you have never been here before, you are welcome here.
We open our hearts to you, and ask only that you open your hearts to each other.
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

Kelsey Juliana Visit Report:

“And the children will lead them . . .” [adapted from Isaiah 11:6]

Kelsey Juliana, lead plaintiff in the Climate Change lawsuit, Juliana vs. US, ended her whirlwind tour at College of the Atlantic’s Human Ecology Forum after a morning talk with a packed George Stevens Academy audience. This followed her previous keynote address at Rob Shetterly’s Samantha Smith Challenge involving 300 or so Middle School students and her Sunday talk in Blue Hill attended by more than 100 people. So, Juliana explained the status and history of “Our Children’s Lawsuit” to well over 500 people spanning a full range of ages.

Why so much interest? Why did so many and varied organizations endorse, publicize and recommend her talks? Clearly, the struggle she has committed herself to has resonated with people of many different perspectives and age groups. Why?

At the end of the Will Children Save the Environment event, people were animated, and there was a buzzing optimism about changing our climate direction. As such, Kelsey brings us hope. In return, our acknowledgment of the validity of her mission empowers her, and this is the way it should be. Hope and Power; the dynamic duo reciprocating. It will take an inter-generational effort with the young in the lead to right this spaceship earth. The process, Kelsey urges, is to become your authentic self, find your passion and claim your power. That message resonates deeply with the young as it should with us all.

Power to the young people, Tony Ferrara
Poems by five freshman students from George Stevens Academy were read by the students at Kelsey Juliana’s presentation, “Will Children Save the Environment,” at the Bagaduce Music Lending Library on June 3 to which Tony refers above. Anna Trowbridge’s poem, “You Shall Reap What You Sow” follows. Watch for poems by some of the other poets in future newsletters.

“You Shall Reap What You Sow”

by Anna Trowbridge

Why did you do it?
What good did you think could ever come of all this?
It’s like killing your own mother — the one who poured all her love and hope and life into you, down to the last drop, only to receive cold-blooded destruction in return.
How can you still deny the brutal reality we have brought upon ourselves?
When you learn that 200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal go extinct every 24 hours,
When you see the smoke, the scab-like smog and the greyness where once was green,
How can you still say, I am in the right?
How can you still say, it’s all a hoax?
Look around you.
We are destroying our planet.
And so far, it’s the only one we’ve got.
So when you see fish, lying belly-up in the oil-scummed water,
When you see the pipes stretching like greedy fingers into the once-blue sky,
Spewing thick blackness into the atmosphere,
When you hear the stories of how it was in the old days,
When you could safely drink right out of a stream, when the ocean’s bounty was not disintegrating because of us, when earth’s life had balance to it.
How can you still say that this is all make-believe?
We were given a vast, diverse, astonishing jewel to make our home upon.
But we forgot how alone we are.
We forgot to ask — if the time comes, who will save us from ourselves?
Instead, we wasted with disregard, scouring earth’s bounty dry.
We, the human race, are afflicted with a deadly case of hubris.
And every time we deny, deny, deny, we take a step closer to our grave.
Every time we praise the “beautiful, clean coal,”
We slide closer to the edge of a chasm from which we will never return.
And every time we poison the waters, flatten the mountains,
Tear our forests limb by limb, and fill the sky with smoke,
We take away from our children, our children’s children, and all future generations,
Who will say,
Why did you do it?
What good did you think could possibly come from all this?
On the evening of May 30 and all-day June 1 the Board of Directors, the Program Team, and the Building Team attended a retreat with Fred Van Liew, a “Peace Circle” facilitator. In the interest of sharing the nature and the fruit of the retreat with the RFS community, here are some reflections from participants:

“The gift of the retreat was the conversation – revelatory in many instances, authentic in all. I know I felt blessed to be in the midst of so many people who are genuinely seeking meaning in their lives and doing it with intentional discernment. The value of growing in trust cannot be overstated for us as a community, and I think Fred helped with that process brilliantly. Simple questions can lead us to such deep places. As we know, you don’t care for what you don’t love. As folks’ stories of their experiences at RFS were told, their love for this place was so evident. That is what will restore the building, the land and the mission.”

Anne Ferrara

“The great gift that Fred Van Liew brought to us in the peace circle was to tremendously deepen and enhance the trust and respect we all have for each other. I think the retreat time together yielded these insights: We are healthy. We trust each other enough to be honest about the work we share — and with each other when and if necessary. We will probably try some things that fail. We will surely make mistakes. But what we are about is of such paramount importance and promise that Revering Falls Sanctuary will prove to be a pioneer in the development of new kinds of spiritual communities across the American landscape.”

Gary Vencill
“The process itself is the pearl of great price. How we live and work with one another is the goal. And that the sharing of leadership, the careful practice of being attentive to one another’s stories, sorrows, sufferings and joys, and the honoring of all perspectives as we do the work of living authentically in a world that does not always value authenticity — these are the gifts we give to one another and to the world. So no matter what the final ‘product’ … no matter how “successful” we may be in terms of raising money, shoring up the building, or getting new people through the door, as long as we continue being such an alternative way of being in the world, we will model “Heaven/the kingdom of God.” — Elaine Hewes

These reflections give an account of the most important endeavor of the board in the past month. Reports from the building team and the Program Team follow:

**Building Team Report:**

This past month has been filled with efforts to bring us closer to the realization of:
- A well drilled by Mark Taplin
- Tree clearing of the septic system site by Jason Lepper
- Installation of submersible pump and also a SIMPLE pump into the wellhead
- Installation of septic tank and leach field by Jim Gross

Daksha Baumann

Pat Wheeler will be one of the five artists at an exhibition entitled “The Invention of Atmosphere.” The exhibition at the Cynthia Winings Gallery, 24 Parker Pt. Rd., Blue Hill, runs from 6/26 until 7/21 with an opening celebration July 1 from 4 until 7 p.m. A painting by Pat is seen on the right. One of our missions is to support the arts. We are blessed to have in the RFS community painters, potters, poets, authors, musicians, actors, directors, film makers... We would like to publish in the newsletter your exhibitions, the publication of your books, your concerts, your plays, your films. Please send information announcing your events to Gary at garyvencill@gmail.com
Coming Events

I cannot remember when there have been so many exciting and enlightening programs at RFS in a spring season topped off by May and June events that were each more stunning in impact than the other. In his email to fans world-wide Mazim Qumsiyeh, reporting on his speaking tour of the U.S., mentions his visit to RFS along with events in much better-known venues in DC, Boston and NY. Special thanks are owed to Rob Shetterly, Tony Ferrara, and Carolyn Coe. Coming next:

Reversing Falls Sanctuary Events

Sunday, 7/1, 4 p.m. **Women’s Circle**, focus on flowers.

Sunday, 7/8, 7 p.m. **Reggie Harris Concert**

Friday, 7/13 through Monday, 7/16 at Nibezum in Passadumkeag, *Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island*.

Elders are coming from around the world. Sweat lodges and a long house are being constructed.

Saturday, 7/21 at RFS, a memorial service for Eric Czerwinski.

Sunday, 7/22, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Blue Hill Library Howard Room, a symposium sponsored by the Jonathan Fisher House on divisions in the churches in Blue Hill and Castine early in the 19th century and in the mainline Christian denominations today. Scholarly papers will be read by Michael McVaugh, Gary Vencill, Alison Dibble and Lin Parsons. A forum on the contemporary divisions facing churches will feature Elaine Hewes, Emily Blair Stribling and Vicki Woods.

Sunday, 8/5, 4 p.m. **Women’s Circle**

Monday, 8/13, 7 p.m. **Ellacappella Concert**

Brooksville United Methodist Church Events

Sunday, 7/1, 9 a.m. The Brooksville Methodist Church welcomes new pastor Robin Sprague.

Tuesday, 7/3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., *J. S. Bach Recitals* with Bobby Cleveland on synthesizer and Dan Conte on keyboard.

7 p.m. **Curtis Brand Concert**

Tuesday, 7/10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., *J. S. Bach Recitals*  
7 p.m. **Archipelago Concert**

Tuesday, 7/17, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *J. S. Bach Recitals*  
7 p.m. **Ellacappella Concert**

Saturday, 7/21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Summer Fair**

Tuesday, 7/24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *J.S. Bach Recital*  
7 p.m. **Isle of Jazz Concert**
Tuesday, 7/31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. J. S. Bach Recital
7 p.m. Mike and Susie Fay Concert

Tuesday, 8/7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. J. S. Bach Recital
7 p.m. Emy Taylor Concert

Tuesday, 8/14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., J. S. Bach Recital
7 p.m. Brooklin Band Concert

Bagaduce Theatre Summer, 2018 Play Schedule

[Play times are at 7 p.m. except for Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.]

July 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

July 3, 4, Staged Reading of Disgraced by Ayad Akhtar

July 12, 6 p.m. a Summer Gala

July 15, What Would Shakespeare Say? With Colin McPhillamy

July 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, Long Day’s Journey into Night by Eugene O’Neill

July 31 & Aug. 1, Staged Reading of Bird of Passage by Colby Halloran

Sept. 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, Vita and Virginia by Eileen Atkins

News from the United Methodist Church

Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard Sessions is a member of the United Methodist Church. In a complaint signed by 640 United Methodist clergy and laity, these offenses, chargeable according to the Book of Discipline, have been lodged against him: Child Abuse, Immorality, Racial Discrimination, and Dissemination of Doctrines contrary to the standards of the United Methodist Church. The doctrinal complaint has to do with his misuse of Romans 13 in justification for the policy of separating children from parents. That the policy has been revoked neither ends the crisis nor changes the validity of these charges. The aim of the charges is to expel Sessions from the UMC – unless he should repent and take steps to undo the damage he has done.

Anne Ferrara took these photos of Elaine Hewes, Pat Wheeler and Gary at a rally at Congressman Bruce Poliquin’s office to speak for children at the border and for keeping families together.
I include this information here because Reversing Falls Sanctuary has a relationship with the United Methodist Church. There is also a petition circulated by Faithful America which encourages UMC officials to act on this complaint. It can be signed by any Christian.

The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, meeting in Annual Conference Session, urged church members to contact their members of congress to voice concern about Jeff Sessions’ “Horrifying Treatment” of immigrant families. The conference passed this resolution: *We pledge not to look away from the horrors, but to watch and bear witness. We pledge to hold responsible those who continue to use the power of the state to traumatize children and adults alike, inflicting lasting psychological damage by taking children away from their families at the border.*

More locally, acting upon an idea from Tony Ferrara, seamstresses met for three days at the Drop-In-Center at the Brooksville UMC and sewed together 60 beautiful bags for clerks at Bucks Harbor Market, C & G, and Hinckley’s to give free to customers who come without bags in which to carry their purchases. The bags have been an immediate hit.

This summer at the Brooksville United Methodist Church there is a yard sale every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Every Tuesday from July 3 until August 14 there is a free J. S. Bach Recital from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. That evening there will be a concert by area musicians. Saturday, July 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a summer fair.

Credits: Annie Poole, RFS Logo
Anne Ferrara photo of art by Nancy Earle
Anne Ferrara photos from Kelsey Juliana events and Poliquin office protest
The photo that accompanies the Van Liew Peace Circle retreat is actually taken of the group that attended the healing workshop that Sherri Mitchell offered last fall.
Pat Wheeler photo of art by Pat Wheeler
Presentation of shopping bag photo by Sue Davenport. Pictured are Kathleen Caldwell, Mark Sullivan, Gail Vencill and Joyce Slater.
Lynnsey Carroll for a gracious and more inclusive addition to our welcome statement
Information: [www.reversingfalls.org](http://www.reversingfalls.org) or visit us on Facebook