



## Ebb and Flow

Reversing Falls Sanctuary

December, 2016

November has featured a remarkable exhibition of Rob Shetterly's *Americans Who Tell the Truth* portrait series. Fifty-four people were there for the opening reception on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> to view the paintings and to listen to Rob respond to questions from the audience. We were treated to an hour of wide-ranging reflections on the relationship of art to culture, society, and politics by one of Brooksville and America's most prophetic public intellectuals.

On Sunday, the 13<sup>th</sup> more than 90 people gathered to hear Rob tell the stories of the truth-tellers in the portraits. A master storyteller, Rob enthralled the crowd. These introductory words from Chinua Achebe describe Rob as well as the truth-tellers. "Storytellers are a threat. They threaten all champions of control, they frighten usurpers of the right-to-freedom of the human spirit — in state, in church or mosque, in party congress, in the university or wherever." See the portraits and read the stories of Rob's many subjects at [www.americanswhotellthetruth.org](http://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org).



Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot Nation advocate and activist, arrived to speak at 4 p.m. Thirty-five people added to an already full house. The teen-agers and others moved to sit in the center on the floor. In the wake of the election, Sherri's words were a new spring of water in a desolate land, or in the rallying cry of the Standing Rock protectors, "Water is Life." In her remarks, her response to questions by Rob and by members of the audience, she emphasized the importance of honoring the sacred feminine: the grandmothers are the decision makers and the warriors take the decisions out into the world. Sherri's words challenged the community at Reversing Falls Sanctuary to think even more deeply about how we engage the world. The Standing Rock protectors exemplify the approach she commends. As she said, Standing Rock is a test case. Will we at last hear the cry of our mother earth and know that all our lives are at stake in defending her?







## Standing Rock Solidarity Rally & Reflection

If you are keeping up with events of the RFS Community, you know that the call of our First Nation brothers and sisters is being heard. Rob Shetterly's art exhibit and story-telling about *Americans Who Tell the Truth*, coupled with Sherri Mitchell's inspiring and challenging talk (with about 125 of our community present) have helped to galvanize us into action. Two days later, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 40 or so of our community car-pooled to Bangor to join several hundred others to stand in solidarity with the Penobscot Nation to support the Standing Rock resistance in North Dakota.

A common refrain at the gathering was the perception that recent political events have created at least one positive outcome, the desire to build stronger community. People are going beyond their primary organizational affiliation and entering the world of cross-pollination. Community is proving to be an effective antidote to despair, as well as a medium for change.

Sherri, in her Sunday talk, described the path forward as requiring several elements: love and the opening of the heart, a spiritual appreciation of the sacredness of the earth, an owning of the personal power that is available to each of us, and a commitment to use our power for the common good.

A second urging of the evening was, that while we all have our special concerns, be they poverty, justice, war, climate change, education, etc., circumstances have conspired to make DAPL the test case or the epicenter of the struggle between two competing worldviews: one in which profit trumps the well-being of an indigenous people and our earth, the other in which the interdependency of all life and the sacredness of earth is acknowledged.

The confluence of recent political and ecological events fulfills Naomi Klein's book title assertion, *This Changes Everything*. The formation of diverse action-communities in support of Native-American causes confirms her prophetic judgment that the way forward is through this alliance. Let RFS become such an ally for our indigenous sisters and brothers who are putting their lives in jeopardy and, with them, help end the ecocide.

We at RFS hope to keep this energy and momentum going by continuing to offer gatherings involving spirituality, the arts, ecological awareness, and authentic and respectful communication. Out of these community seed-beds, we trust meaningful action will continue.

Tony & Anne Ferrara



WE  
ARE  
ALL  
①

WATER IS LIFE  
Respect the treaties

WE SUPPORT  
STANDING  
ROCK



## Coming Events

Fri. 12/2. 4 p.m. Community Sing

Sat. 12/3, 2-4 p.m. *Opening of Drones Quilt Exhibit, The Gallery Within*

3 p.m. Dud Hendrick will speak on drone warfare and its consequences.



Here is Dud in front of the portrait of Bruce Gagnon, like Dud, a Veteran for Peace, a Mainer, and among the nations' foremost disarmament activists.



- Sun. 12/4, 1-3 p.m. Drone Quilt Exhibit open to public, The Gallery Within  
4 p.m. Women's Circle
- Tue. 12/6, 10-11 a.m. Priceless Yoga [*Note change of day and time*]  
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk [*Note change of day and time*]
- Thu. 12/8, 12-4 p.m. Drone Quilt Exhibit open to public
- Fri. 12/9, 12-4 p.m. Drone Quilt Exhibit open to public  
4 p.m. Community Sing
- Sat. 12/10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Making Quilt Squares as our contribution to the Drone  
Quilt Project  
7 p.m. Soulbender's dance to benefit Sherri Mitchell at Blue Hill Town Hall
- Sun. 12/11, 2-4 p.m. Closing Ceremony: Drone Quilt Exhibit
- Tue. 12/13, 10-11 a.m. Priceless Yoga  
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk
- Wed. 12/14, 4 p.m. Program Team meets at Beverly Kelley's
- Fri. 12/16, 4 p.m. Community Sing
- Sat. 12/17, 10 a.m. Advent Spiral set-up
- Sun. 12/18, 4 p.m. Advent Spiral
- Mon. 12/19, 3 p.m. Monique Fowler performs "*One Atlantic: Bishop and Lowell*"  
at Blue Hill Library Howard Room, Reservations required.
- Tue. 12/20, 10-11 a.m. Priceless Yoga  
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk
- Wed. 12/21, 4 p.m. Winter Solstice Bon Fire & Potluck with special performance by  
Monique Fowler at Wasson-Tapley Farm, 173 S. Wharf Rd., Brooksville
- Fri. 12/23, 6 p.m. Community Sing Group goes Christmas Caroling
- Sat. 12/24, 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Service at Brooksville United Methodist Church

Photos by Pat Wheeler. Photo of crowd listening to Rob taken by Karen Galella.

Information: [www.reversingfalls.org](http://www.reversingfalls.org)