

Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary*

May 2018 Newsletter

**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

In our ongoing commitment to the care of Mother Earth, Reversing Falls Sanctuary folks gathered on John Muir's birthday, April 21, for a morning clean up and an afternoon ceremony. Thankyous are owed to Daksha and her crew for Spring clean-up of the grounds and to planners and participants in the ceremony. Eileen Mielenhausen brought drums and musical instruments and led us in a time of drumming. In the accompanying photos one can see the drums and the ceremonial center built by Elaine Hewes and Daksha Baumann.



More than a few members of the RFS community are reading or have read *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change* by Sherri Mitchell. Some preordered books have yet to be picked up or delivered and are on the table to the left of the entrance at RFS. If you pick up your book, be sure to cross your name off the list there beside the books. Two reviews of the book are posted here. More reviews are welcome for the June or even July newsletters as we continue to participate in events leading up to the second weekend of *Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island* ceremonies at Nibezun July 13-15.

SACRED INSTRUCTIONS Reviews

“We are part of a uni-verse, a collection of individual notes in one continuous song; the song that sang all life into being.”

It is clear from reading this extraordinary work that Sherri Mitchell understands deeply her unique song, springing forth from her honoring of her ancestors, her dreams, her visions, her learning and her calling as a proclaimer of the prophecies. Lucky are we who get to listen to the complex, yet simple, symphony she has created for us so that we might hear the wisdom embedded in the indigenous world view.

“Demanding rights without taking responsibility for creating and maintaining those rights for others creates a warped sense of entitlement that often leads to violence, injustice, and chaos.”

These sacred instructions come from the ancestors, but they are clearly relevant to the challenges of our day. Sherri encourages us to tap into the indigenous wisdom present in the depths of our souls, so that we might work tirelessly to create systems in our culture that are life-enhancing for all beings, systems that lead to harmony and unity instead of violence, injustice and chaos. This book is a map laying out the pathways for living spirit-based change. Let us hope that Sherri’s song will soon be on the lips of people everywhere, a song honoring the Source of this sacred Universe.

Anne Ferrara



Sherri Mitchell is a prophet, and this is a book of prophecy. Rooted in the indigenous wisdom of America’s first people, Mitchell addresses almost all the crises that American society faces today. She knows, however, what many prophets have not understood: That healing society and healing the earth is also and necessarily about healing individuals and healing relationships. And so, in a moment of discernment she sees her own face in the faces of all the people around her, people she does not even know. This speaks to a unity with all people, a solidarity that requires suspension of all judgmentalism. Christianity urges its adherents to see the face of Jesus in every face. Buddhism teaches compassion for all. Judaism holds up the command to receive every stranger, every sojourner, every refugee with hospitality. These are challenging teachings, and I find them especially so in these times. But Sherri Mitchell, a member of a community that has experienced physical, cultural and spiritual genocide at the hands of those who occupy their lands, in a gift of remarkable generosity, sees her own face in all our faces and chooses to regard all persons with the same love and respect which she seeks for herself.

But even more generous is the offer of this prophecy to the reigning population of this country. We live in a time of promising inter-faith dialogue among the world's so-called "great religions." But the indigenous religions are usually excluded from that conversation. And if a habitable earth that can sustain life for all living beings, an economic system that can support human happiness, and a culture that preserves the wisdom of the ages, is to have a future, then all people of good will, whatever their faith commitment, need to sit down at the feet of indigenous teachers. And we need

to sit there and to listen as diligently as we can for as long as it takes to change the way we relate to each other and to Mother Earth. For our children and our grandchildren, we must do this.

To the ancient prophecies of Native American Nations Sherri Mitchell has joined her own prophecy. And to prophecy she has added her vision of "Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island" as a ceremonial response to which all the world's peoples are called. At Reversing Falls Sanctuary, we are fortunate to be recipients of her call and to be among those entrusted with the work of helping build the site where that healing begins. And we are blessed to have experienced Sherri's healing presence among us.

Gary Vencill



Bagaduce Theatre announces *Theater Education Courses* free and open to the public this coming summer theater season. These high-quality theater classes are geared to all experience levels and are taught by acting professionals. Weekly classes in Voice, Shakespeare, Improvisation and more will be held at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. Watch for dates and more details in the June newsletter. More information is available at:

<http://www.bagaducetheatre.com/free-and-open-theatre-classes/>

Coming Events

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

Wed. 5/9, **3:30 p.m.** Program team at RFS

Sat. 5/12, **10 a.m.** Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island, the *Lighting of the Second Fire* at Nibezun in Passadumkeag

5:30 p.m. Rob Shetterly unveils his portrait of Rob McCall in the *Americans Who Tell the Truth* portrait series, Blue Hill Public Library.

Sun. 5/20, **3 p.m.** Alice Hildebrand and Allen Myers installed as pastors of the West Brooksville United Church of Christ. The community is invited to attend.

Sun. 5/20, **4:30 p.m.** Peter Neill, the Director of World Ocean Observatory and author of *The Once and Future Ocean* presents a program on Climate Change at RFS entitled: "Fire to Water to Fire: In Search of Solutions in Changing Times" Neill offers this description of the program: "How do we find solutions in this changing time? How do we resolve to act against regression and toward new values, structures, and behaviors in the 21st century?"

How do we shape the context of our resolve, what method will best serve, what language will describe and persuade us toward what to do next? Peter Neill will explore a personal voyage of exploration to this end, an analysis of where we are, a suggestion for a new paradigm for living, and a method and language to use that might bring us new motivation and skill for engaging with each other, community, and governance.”

Wed. 5/23, **4 p.m.** Board of Directors meets at RFS

Thu. 5/24, **7 p.m.** Law Panel at RFS on the Children’s Trust Ecological Lawsuit featuring Kathleen Caldwell, recently retired from service with Pine Tree Legal, Ken Cline, Professor of Environmental Law at COA, and Peter Neill, Director of World Ocean Observatory.

The lawsuit is filed against the U.S. government and raises this challenge: “Does the government have the right to disregard science and fact in its allocation or withholding of resources necessary to the well-being of its citizens?”

Thu. 5/31 and Fri. 6/1, RFS Board of Directors, Building and Program Team retreat

Sat. 6/2, **6 p.m.** Crosby Center, Belfast - View silent auction items for *Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island*.

7 p.m. Benefit dance to the music of the Soul Benders to benefit *Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island*. Items for the silent auction are needed. Information in that regard will be forthcoming.

6/3, **7 p.m.** Kelsey Juliana, one of the students in Our Children’s Trust Ecological Lawsuit, will join Rob Shetterly for a presentation at the Bagaduce Music Lending Library’s Performance Hall in Blue Hill. The event will include poetry by GSA students, music and discussion.

4.p.m. Women’s Circle

A hearty thankyou to Tony Amon and Tom Adamo for taking down the huge spruce from which Pileated woodpeckers were tearing large chunks. The weakened tree might well have fallen on the Sanctuary, or worse, on our neighbor’s house.



We’ve kept the stump pictured here for a sculpture garden.

Photo Credits: Elaine Hewes,
Amy Thompson, Karen Galella,
Amy Thompson, Daksha Baumann



Information: www.reversingfalls.org or visit us on Facebook.