

Ebb and Flow

Reversing Falls Sanctuary

January, 2017



Photo from Drone Quilt Exhibition taken By Pat Wheeler

2016 at Reversing Falls Sanctuary

Like the evolutionary Universe in which we dwell, Reversing Falls Sanctuary continues to change and grow and learn with each passing year. We serve many members of our community in a wide variety of programs, activities and rituals. What has remained unchanged is our goal to encourage community members to identify their gifts and use them for the common good and to unleash the creativity present in our community for the uplift of all.

Our website, www.reversingfalls.org, continues to be a wonderful tool for keeping the community informed about our mission and our programs. We are deeply indebted to Kathleen Caldwell for her commitment to this ministry. The monthly calendar lets the community know what is going on, and the program notes give folks full descriptions of our offerings.

Ebb and Flow, our community newsletter, is another communications tool that serves to highlight the good works of our community members, provide photos of our various programs, and announce our upcoming events. Gary Vencill is our editor-in-chief; how fortunate we are to have his incredible gifts shared with us in this way.

Our beautiful sacred space continues to inspire all who step within. And now, thanks to Daksha Baumann, we have a new and creative walkway leading up to the Sanctuary. This was done as Daksha's art project for the Acadia Centennial Exhibit of which we were a co-sponsor. A talented cadre of artists and writers spent time at Acadia National Park during the year and then created a painting, a poem, a sculpture, or a walkway in response! The August exhibit was a joy to behold and a good fundraiser for the Sanctuary and the artists. Many thanks go to Galen Davis and Zuzonna Huot for co-directing this project, with the expert help of Pat Wheeler and Daksha Baumann.

We are fortunate to have committed volunteers (special thanks to Tony Amon, arborist) who trimmed the trees, moved the wood, created and care for the memorial garden, and built an outdoor labyrinth. We are blessed by the goodness of Jamie Gross who donated gravel for our parking area. And thanks to the work of Daksha Baumann, we received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation Steeple Grant program to have our building assessed for its strengths and its weaknesses. Ames and Associates have done a thorough and inspiring job examining every inch of the building and

the grounds. A copy of their report can be found in a second attachment. The information provided by this study raises many questions about the future of this historic and sacred building. We are beginning the task of exploring how we wish to proceed.

Our Women's Circle continues to meet on the first Sunday afternoon of every month. This year we are exploring the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She beautifully combines scientific knowing with indigenous ways of knowing. Our shared leadership model is still working well, and we continue to welcome 20 – 30 women each month.

We offer a weekly Yoga class and a weekly labyrinth walk on Thursday mornings. The community sing has been active most of the year, inviting singers and musicians to raise the roof on Friday afternoons.

Rituals to honor the solstice and equinox, the season of Advent, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Lent (this year's theme was *Climate Change: Caring for our Common Home*) brought many folks together to reflect, celebrate and grow. We have had several exceptional concerts, theater performances, movie screenings, a memorial service, Shaker worship, a first-person account of the plight of Syrian refugees on the Greek island of Simi, and a Restorative Justice/Peacemaking Circle. In November, we exhibited the portraits of Rob Shetterly from his Americans Who Tell the Truth series. We were fortunate to have Sherri Mitchell (one of Rob's subjects) share her wisdom with us as part of this exhibit. She and Rob spoke on 11/13 to 125 people who came to hear their wisdom at this uncertain time in our history. And in December, we exhibited quilts from the Drones Quilt Project which gave us the opportunity to remember all the innocent victims of drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As we constantly listen to the needs of our neighbors, a focus on healthy aging is becoming an important topic for our community. We plan to network with other community groups to explore this compelling subject, despite the culture's aversion to aging, dying and death discussions.

In October, we sponsored a Windowdresser Community build here in Brooksville. Under the direction of Tom Adamo, Ray Yardy, Bill Mulliken, Tony Ferrara and Karen Adamo (our stalwart treasurer), we brought together over 80 volunteers who gave of their time over the course of one week to build insulated window inserts for members of the community trying to stay

warm in the frigid months. A good time was had by all!!

There are many in our community who give so much of their time, talent and treasure. It would be impossible to name them all, but we are deeply grateful for each and every one.

This is a glimpse of our life at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. We work hard at being good listeners – to the Spirit, to the community and to each other. Our mission statement describes us as a welcoming community whose goals are to encourage spirituality, build community, support the arts, and raise ecological consciousness. This is the measure we use in determining our programs.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Ferrara

Anne Ferrara, Carolyn Coe and Judy Robbins at work making drone quilt squares for the drone quilt project. Photo by Pat Wheeler.



Reversing Falls Sanctuary was privileged to collaborate with Judy and Peter Robbins of Peninsula Peace and Justice to host an exhibition of quilts from the Drone Quilt Project which is traveling the nation.

The drone quilt art below is the work of Pat Wheeler, as is the photo credit.



It was a special blessing during Advent to host the Drone Quilt Exhibit. It created a strong connection with the suffering children of the world, and with their parents as well. The quilts seemed designed for the exhibition space at “The Gallery Within,” and “The Gallery Within” seemed, repurposed as it is, designed for the quilts.

Coming Events

Sun. 1/8, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Tue. 1/10, 10 a.m. Priceless Yoga
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk

Wed. 1/13, 4 p.m. Program Team meets at Beverly Kelley's

Fri. 1/13, 4 p.m. Community Sing

Sat. 1/14, 4 p.m. "Sacred Sound as Spiritual Practice" led by Todd Glacy

Sun. 1/15, 4 p.m. *Writers Resist*, a program at Blue Hill Public Library to honor Martin Luther King, co-sponsored by Reversing Falls

Mon. 1/16, 4 p.m. Martin Luther King Birthday Commemoration, film: *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*

Tue. 1/17, 10 a.m. Priceless Yoga
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk

Wed. 1/18, 4:30 p.m. Leadership Team meets at RFS

Fri. 1/20, 4 p.m. Community Sing

Sun. 1/22, 4 p.m. Book incubation party for Sherri Mitchell

Tue. 1/24, 10 a.m. Priceless Yoga
11 a.m. Labyrinth Walk

Fri. 1/27, 4 p.m. Community Sing

Information: www.reversingfalls.org