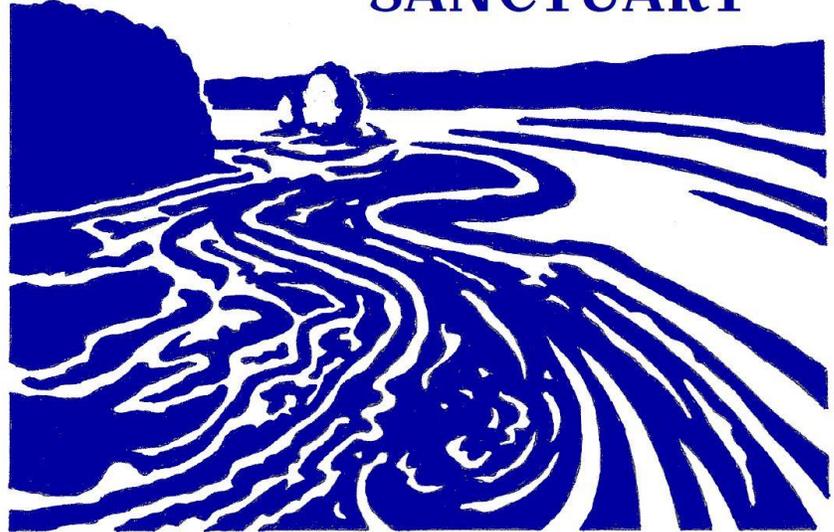


Ebb and Flow

*Reversing Falls
Sanctuary*

April 2019

REVERSING FALLS SANCTUARY



Celebrating Water

On Sunday, March 10, Anne Ferrara welcomed those in attendance with this rehearsal of the history of Reversing Falls Sanctuary and an introduction to an emphasis on water in our programming this Spring and throughout the year:

On behalf of Reversing Falls Sanctuary and our beloved Mother Earth, welcome to our late Winter/early Spring series celebrating WATER. H₂O — such a humble formula for such an essential element. About 18 or 19 years ago, after the North Brooksville Church merged with the South Brooksville Church, a small group of visionary folk were dreaming about how to keep this sacred and historic building vibrant and accessible for the community. Lots of meetings were held — what would it be, who would it be, what would it be for, whom would it be for and what would nurture and mold it as it birthed forth. There was a clear consensus that it should be an inclusive, welcoming space, a place that would encourage community resilience, a place that would honor those seeking meaning and authentic conversation, a space that would support local artists and musicians and writers, and a place that would make care for our common home a real priority. And it soon emerged from our dreaming and listening, that the Reversing Falls of the Bagaduce River would be a symbol of what we were hoping to be — a place teeming with diverse life and a place ready and willing to change course when needed. The River has informed our evolution from the start.



What has been missing from this wonderful story of RFS is WATER available in this cherished building. But thanks to the diligence and commitment of our buildings and grounds team, as well as the generous donors who support the work that goes on here, a well has been drilled and a septic system has been installed. Plans have been drawn up to construct a

bathroom and a small galley kitchen in the back of the building. We are delirious because these additions will allow us to offer more and different kinds of programs in the future.

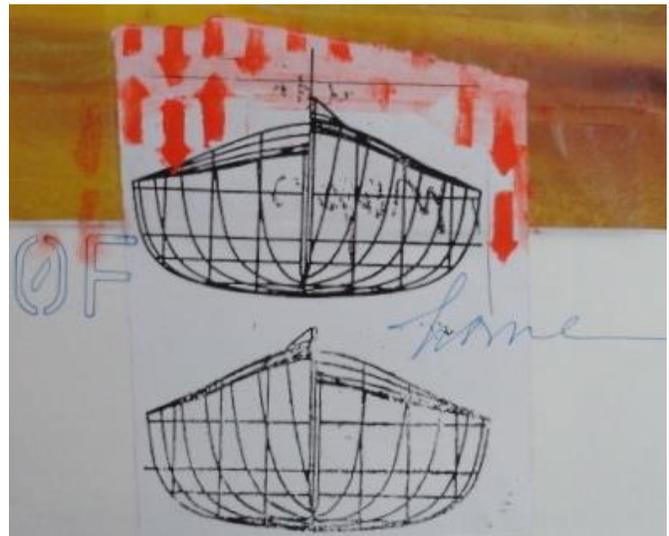
And so as our indigenous brothers and sisters at Standing Rock made “Water is Life” a compelling chant, and as we prepare to bring this sacred element into our building, and as the Bagaduce River is our muse in all we do, we have decided to spend this year celebrating Water in as many ways as we can. From the Onondaga Thanksgiving Address:

“We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst, for providing strength and nurturing life for all beings. We know its power in many forms — waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans, snow and ice. We are grateful that the waters are still here and meeting their responsibility for the rest of Creation. Can we agree that water is important to our lives and bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to the Water? Now our minds are one.”

Anne Ferrara

Water: Flow and Form

The April art exhibition at the *Gallery Within*, according to Daksha Baumann, will “explore, expand, explain our human connections to water . . . a basic element of life.” Exhibiting artists include: Margaret Baldwin, Daksha Baumann, Ann Boudreaux, Jane Crosen, Kristy Cunnane, Peter Diemond, Susan Hudson, Rebecca Haley McCall, Susan Merrill, Connie Myrick, and Patricia Wheeler.



The opening reception is on April 7 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The exhibition will be available for public viewing on Sundays from April 7 – April 28 from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment, [326-0631].

On March 10 we celebrated water with music and poetry. This issue and the next will feature poetry from *Water: Music and Poetry*:

Me and James

Alice Aldrich Hildebrand

At high tide, we row to the island, looking for seals.
Engulfed by your life jacket, you sit in the prow,
at your feet the bag of lunch, sweatshirts, dry sneakers,
and crackers, always crackers-- "to feed the fish," you say.

Patiently I explain; "These fish live *deep*,
they won't come up for crackers like the carp in Grandpa's pond."

"Well maybe a seal will eat the crackers then,
or a whale. . . what do whales eat?"

We glide over boulders pale with barnacles
glowing like sunken moons through the green water.
On the sly, you dispense crackers over the side.
The fish never appear.

Boat beached on the leeward side,
we have the island to ourselves.
Fat fur armfuls of seal bask on the outer rocks,
sea lavender hugs the shore. Limbs splayed in the luxury
of sea light and wind, I doze
while you collect scallop shells, and the tide goes out.

After lunch, I shove the boat back into the water
and we push off for home. We don't discuss fish and their ways
this time. Empty-handed, you are content
that *something's* been fed
as we gloriously thread the cracker-free sea.

"The Tanka form," poet Emily Blair Stribling explains, consists of "verses with 5 lines each, and rather than literally going from one thought to the other, the lines are supposed to be in conversation with each other."

The Shore: Six Tankas

Emily Blair Stribling

1.

The stone
the tide gave up to me
has a song
it sings to my hand
in its nub a cold humming.

2.

The crab
whose bleached shell lies
belly up
on the hot sand
now swims in a sea of stars.

3.

Driftwood
the water washes and whittles
shapes,
eyes, nose, mouth
ghosting among the debris.

4.

A sanderling
needling for food
sees
his shadow sucked into
the wave and turned blue.

5.

Seaweed
is a playground,
sand fleas
slip down wet slides
straddle rubbery green tendrils.

6.

The shore
is an unframed painting
hanging
in the museum of sea and sky,
visitors are welcome.

Finance Report

Current balance: \$29,453.24. \$24,453 available for the projects contracted below and for those presently scheduled including painting the exterior of the building.

Building and Grounds Report

- Rough carpentry in the kitchen and bathroom begin in April.
- John Gray Electric has been contracted to install electric and plumbing.
- Mark Taplan will install a pressure tank to complete well work.
- Builders Installed Products Co. will insulate (\$2825).
- Butch Leclerc will install a heat pump later this Spring (\$3236.89).
- A work day will be scheduled for late April or early May.
- A clean-up/organize the back room to make way for construction has been completed thanks to Daksha Baumann, Lisa Mazzealli, and Anna Emery.

Volunteer Opportunities

GARDENER: When water comes to RFS this spring it will make a gardening effort much more enjoyable. Is anyone wanting to support the work of RFS by utilizing their gardening skills? The small beds on the buildings south side, open to the sun, need care and attention. Some of the seedlings from the January Winter Sowing in Jugs workshop may be a good fit for the beds. The ultimate plan depends on the proposed time commitment of any volunteer(s).

GALLERIST: The Gallery Within is actively seeking to mount exhibits throughout the year on a regular basis. There is opportunity to become involved in all aspects of pulling a show together; planning and artist contact, press releases, opening events, hanging & display, gallery furniture/props construction are some of the many areas.

Also, there is an ongoing need for gallery sitters. These people are in the gallery during open hours, talk with visitors about the work/artists, handle sales, and open and close the building. Many sitters enjoy their time with some handwork or writing and some even play the piano when not involved with visitors.

FMI contact Daksha 326-0631
janetlynn821@gmail.com



Coming Events

Sat. 3/30, 7 p.m. Bree Newsome and Maulian Dana will join Rob Shetterly for a conversation about race, gender and social justice at the Bay School's Emlen Hall. Shetterly has painted Newsome in his Americans Who Tell the Truth series. Reversing Falls Sanctuary is among cosponsors for the event.

Sun. 4/7, 1-3:30 p.m. Opening Reception for the art exhibition, **Water: Flow and Form**, at the *Gallery Within*. The exhibit will be open Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. through April 28.

Sun. 4/7, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Thu. 4/11, 4:30 p.m. Program Team meeting

Thu. 4/11, 6:00 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Sun. 4/14, 1-4 p.m. **Water: Flow and Form** exhibition open at the *Gallery Within*

Sun. 4/14, 4 p.m. **Slides and Talk: Water** by Pat Wheeler and other exhibiting artists. Pat, a mixed media artist, will present a slide show from her 2012 residency at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology on the coast and in the rain forest in Otis, OR, where she made several of the paintings being exhibited in **Water: Flow and Form**.

Thu. 4/18, 6:00 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Fri. 4/19, 12 noon – 3:00 p.m. **Passion of the Earth**. Come and walk the labyrinth on Good Friday and as a way to deeply contemplate the agonies of the earth in this time of Climate Change and to honor Earth Day.

Sat. 4/20, 3 :00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Thu. 4/25, 6:00 p.m. Tibetan Buddhist Meditation

Sat. 5/4, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Opening Exhibit Julie Cleveland Photos – *Maine: This Must Be the Place*
4 p.m. Bobby Cleveland Gala Bach Concert

Sun. 5/5, 4 p.m. Women's Circle

Credits: Photos and art work by Pat Wheeler; photo by Anne Ferrara.



Information: www.reversingfalls.org