

"Liturgy, celebration, festivals, the making of the beautiful: these flow out of a participation in the grandeur and pathos of the earth, of this place. Genesis Farm has its own history of struggle and pain, failure and frustration. Our memories are received into the memories of the farm. The tired soil, the decaying trees, the wounded deer, the weathered stones, the forgotten Minsi, the exiled wolves, the builders of this house, the family who bequeathed it: we are all links in the ongoing mystery of a creation that is incomplete, finite and even now struggling to give new birth." - Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis, founder of Genesis Farm

A Case for Conservation



Alene N. Case

Note from A. Case: This is the second in a two-part discussion of life at Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey. Two weeks ago Sister Constance shared with us the magic of the community-supported garden there as well as a brief history of the farm and her involvement in it over the past 12 years. Constance Kozel belongs to the Dallas Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy and has taught at College Misericordia. She now resides in Wilkes-Barre.

By SISTER CONSTANCE KOZEL
Guest Writer

As a learning center for re-inhabiting the earth, Genesis Farm has as one of its goals: "to shape a transforming vision of a more sustainable future for the earth and its communities of life forms." It does this through workshops, classes, festivals and rituals which emphasize the connection between the scientific study of the evolution of the universe and its spiritual dimension. This includes a study of Native American spirituality, especially the Leni-Lenape, and all earth's spiritual traditions. There is special attention given to the Celtic form of Christianity which is rooted in the earth.

A favorite ritual of mine is the cosmic walk. In this ritual, one walks from the center of a great spiral to the outer rim. At the center is a candle representing

The philosophy behind the Genesis Farm community

the first flaring forth of the universe. All along the way, one experiences the gradual unfolding through eons to the present. One gets the sense of the deep mystery of the universe story and the responsibility we humans have to care for our unique planet. The story is still unfolding and our decisions regarding its direction are crucial.

Another favorite of mine is the morning prayer to the four directions, a gift from the indigenous peoples. They have a deep connectedness to all that is. The prayer helps one begin the day with a sense of one's relationship to earth and the mystery within.

On a more practical/local level, another goal of the farm's educational component concerns itself with a sense of place. This refers to what is known as bioregionalism: understanding the unique characteristics of your region in order to live more sustainably within it. To this end, there are workshops and classes in natural food cooking, wholistic health, permaculture and gardening, simple life style, earth literacy, alternate and appropriate technology. Two straw bale houses, three compost toilets, a solar panel which provides part of the heating for the farm house, an extensive library and bookstore, five tipis and a kitchen designed for teaching are a few of the tools for this work.

Following the seasons of the year, if you visit the farm in spring, you might participate in such events as maple sugaring, the spring equinox celebration, memorial garden planting, a weekend for persons connecting their religious commitment to earth spirituality, the beginning of an 11-week earth literacy pro-

gram, or you might notice high school classes learning about the joys of outdoor activities and college classes seeing their book knowledge becoming a reality.

In the summer, the busiest season, there is an earth day camp for children, earth literacy workshops, a work program for an international group - Volunteers for Peace - and a Summer Solstice celebration.

The fall is the time for the Fall Festival and Autumn Equinox ritual, cooking classes using the abundance from the gardens, the simple lifestyle weekend.

Winter brings more cooking classes, the Winter Solstice celebration and a coffee house. Throughout the year there are numerous visitors and volunteers, on-going sessions of Women Who Run With the Wolves and board meetings of such groups as Food and Water, Food First and Global Education Associates.

As is the universe, Genesis Farm is still evolving. There are hopes of developing another nearby farm as a dairy farm. Currently there are four full-time staff members, a number of part-time persons and volunteers working in the educational division. One dog, Kushla; two cats, Joshua and Mia; four chickens and one peacock, Thor, are also a part of the farm family.

Visitors are welcome (except on Mondays.) Maps are available for self-guided tours. Registration is required for overnight stays and participation in programs. For information about the educational programs write Genesis Farm, 41 A Silverlake Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825. The address for the Community Supported Garden is the same except for the number, which is 41 B.

Christmas greetings from BMT library staff, board

McCullough is the story of Gaius Julius Casar's rise to prominence in his world, beginning with his return to Rome in 68 B.C. as he prepares to dominate a new battlefield - the Roman Forum. The wars he fights within it are waged with words, plots, schemes and metaphorical assassination. Today's ally may be tomorrow's foe; everything shifts and changes within this political arena.

"Hide and Seek" by James Patterson is a frightening and breathtaking novel of terror and suspense. Maggie Bradford is on trial for murder and this is the celebrity trial of the decade. Maggie is one of the most beloved singer/songwriters anywhere. She's also the devoted mother of two children. She seems to have it all. And so, the whole world wants to know, how could she have murdered not just one, but two of her husbands?

"Looking For Gatsby" by Faye Dunaway is an outspoken, uncompromising and unapologetic autobiography by one of Hollywood's most glamorous and talented actresses, the Academy Award-winning star of many milestone movies. She looks back at Dorothy Faye, the little girl from the South who wanted more than anything else to be an actress. She probes relentlessly for the truth about herself and fearlessly confronts her demons, trying to set the record straight.

"The Road Ahead" by Bill Gates is an optimistic and refreshingly realistic book, in which the author looks ahead to show how the emerging technologies of the digital age will transform all our lives. As he says, we are on the brink of a new revolution and crossing a new technology threshold that will forever change the way we buy, work, learn and communi-

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

Curmudgeon time again. First in the barrel, a competitor, sort of, recently wrote after a snowfall about a joyous frolic with her kids. She said, and I quote, they built a "Snowperson!" A SNOWPERSON??? Did I read right? Good, merciful heavens, what hath our society wrought? This has to be the silliest and worst language perversion yet invented, if invent is the right word.

Who dreams this up? Probably the same one who started "cleaning person" for cleaning lady, "watch person" for watchman (I can hear it now: "Watchperson, what of the night?") and that king of the mountain, "chairperson" for chairman.

This massive silliness reminds me of the "Ms." craze some years ago, remember? I was on the phone with a sharp lady purchasing agent and I asked if she preferred Ms. to Mrs. "No way!" she howled. "I worked too long and hard for that title to give it up for something as stupid as Ms.!"

You probably missed an obituary recently. A noteworthy person died at 79, Ian Ballentine. In 1939 he and wife Betty founded Penguin, U.S.A., then Bantam, and then Ballantine. This man was responsible for pocket books, and when I look at the price of today's hard covers I am thankful he was in the book business. The billions of books that survive him are unaccountable.

I've read in several places that the Elvis Presley stamp sold more than any commemorative stamp in U.S. history. Now it seems that statement was wrong, and a Washington Bicentennial stamp in 1932 sold a whopping 4,222,198,300 copies. The Elvis original print order was doubled to 500 million, which is three times the normal commemorative printing, but was not a record.

I got a kick out of the letter writer who sent this item in, saying, "Give the devil his due. Elvis

More growls of indignation from resident curmudgeon

didn't exactly live an exemplary life but he was a good soldier and was kind to his mother." But he sure didn't outpull George.

Speaking of stamps, major errors, like having an airplane upside down, can make existing copies rare and worth fortunes. I doubt however, that an error on the Little Orphan Annie stamp will cause much of a splash. On the back descriptive text the word "indispensable" reads "indispensible." Because the misspelling appears on every stamp it can't add any value as it could if only some were unique.

Besides, the front correctly quotes Sandy as saying "Arf!" and the eyes of both he and Annie are without pupils, just empty white ovals. Weird, huh?

Speaking of the slang expression "Huh?" it suddenly shows up

on certain news (?) items in a local Wilkes-Barre paper. Recently it was used with a story about a man who saw fit to saw off his personal appendage. Didn't finish the story so I can't tell you why. Nor do I care. Now I am all for the development of new words and expressions...it makes our language more robust and lively. And "Huh?" certainly rears its head in many current conversations, but to have it used in a newspaper layout to call my attention to something that should have been buried inside, not on the front page, is, forgive me, a bit much. Please Mr. Layout Person (or Madame as the case may be) a little good taste is called for here, wouldn't you say?

The curmudgeon rests his case, or cases, until next time.

Moran honored at Ithaca

Megan Moran of Dallas was chosen for the College Field Hockey Coaches Ass'n All-Star team. A senior halfback at Ithaca College, she was co-captain of the Ithaca team, and earned all-academic honors from CHFCA. She also was named the team's defensive most valuable player.



Just Specials

See What's Cooking
Eat In • Take Out

Offering 6 Daily Specials 3 Lunch • 3 Dinner
(All dinners under \$5.00)

Fresh Baked Goods (Pies - Muffins - Cookies - Cakes)
287-9923 487 Bennett Street, Luzerne
(Formerly Davenport's Drug)

The Knit N^{xx} Needle

"Attention Aunt Mary's Customers"

- x Yarn
- x Cross Stitch
- x Needle Point
- x Plastic Canvas

Mon. - Tues. - Thurs. - Fri. 10-8
Wed. & Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 12-5

230 Wyoming Ave., Kingston
283-5377

Right hand side after exiting
Cross Valley Expressway from Bk Mt.

LIBRARY NEWS



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

At this Christmas season, the Board of Directors and staff members of the Back Mountain Memorial Library wish to thank all the many friends, supporters and volunteers that make the library thrive in so many ways. Our friends support the library in many financial endeavors and the volunteers help to make the work load on special projects and general library collection care so much easier for the staff. Truly, they are our special blessings. The members of the Board of Directors and staff members wish a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season to all of our friends!

New books at the library: "Casar's Women" by Colleen



Rave's

SKI LOFT

Complete Ski Packages \$299 and Up

* Includes Skis, Boots, Bindings and Poles

Junior Package \$149

* Excludes Boots

Cross Country Packages
\$139 and up

20% Off Columbia • CB • BoulderGear
Jackets and Pants

20% Off Kids' Columbia
Jackets, Bibs, Pants

Featuring Equipment by
Atomic • Volkl • Tecnica • Salomon and Olin*

* (Sold Exclusively in Clarks Summit)

Open Daily - Rt. 309, Shavertown • 696-1126
Rt. 6 & 11S, Clarks Summit • 586-7750

GRAND OPENING!

It's the newest Wireless One Network location on Memorial Highway in Trucksville!

Now Available! Cellular Service As Low As..

\$15.95

Only Wireless One Network Offers:

- 12¢ Mobile-to-Mobile Discount Calling
- SuperSystem covering over 100,000 square miles in seven states
- Unlimited Long Distance
- Local customer service
- Convenient locations
- Expanded home coverage in Pennsylvania

CELLULAR PHONE SPECIALS AS LOW AS \$29
HANDHELD PHONES STARTING AT JUST \$39

WIRELESS ONE NETWORK

NOW OPEN!

Trucksville
163 S. Memorial Hwy.
696-3700

Wilkes-Barre
Wyoming Valley Mall
829-2710

Avoca
adjacent to Airport
654-7587

Scranton
Mall at Steamtown
341-3357

Hazleton
Airport Beltway
455-7420

Hazleton
Laurel Mall
454-1171

Stroudsburg
Stroud Mall
424-9405

Stroudsburg
944 N. 9th St.
476-7500

Bloomsburg
3081-A Rt. 11
784-2355