



RNDM Earth Community

“We are One, We are Love”

April, 2012

“Let ours be a time remembered for awakening a new respect for our earth and all her inhabitants, for one another, for ourselves and for our common destiny.” (RNDM Congregational Chapter, 2008)

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This issue of our Newsletter, *RNDM Earth Community*, will be our final one. The focus of the newsletter has shifted since its inception in 2009, when it was part of the movement towards our proposed eco-project. Over the two and a half years of its publication, *RNDM Earth Community* contributed much by way of brief thought-provoking articles, pithy quotes, relevant website addresses, and helpful statistics. Our faithful editor, Wendy MacLean, was able to solicit guest contributors as well as RNDM contributors, and this made the newsletter a rich resource for information and reflection.

There is sadness in endings, and I feel sad as I write this. At the same time, as I regularly remind myself, endings are part of the cycle of life. As T.S. Eliot so wisely observed in “Little Gidding”:

“... to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.”

This “ending where we start from” sees RNDMs and friends having become increasingly involved in a variety of ecological groups and projects. Our application for institutional membership with the Manitoba Eco-Network was accepted, and along with many other benefits to us, the Eco-Network has a regular newsletter which has very good information and to which we can contribute. See: http://mbeconetwork.org/eco_journal In addition, three RNDMs share a Board position with *Save Our Seine* – a Winnipeg group that works “to enable citizens to protect, preserve, enhance and enjoy the Seine River Greenway”. *Save Our Seine* also has a newsletter in which our contributions would be welcome. See: <http://www.saveourseine.com>

So the ending of this RNDM newsletter becomes an opportunity to become more involved with other newsletters – both as readers and contributors.

The first edition of *RNDM Earth Community* in November 2009 explained why there was a tree in the Newsletter’s masthead, saying:

“...to make an end is
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where we start from.”

A tree is a powerful symbol of life: it is deeply rooted in the earth and grows out to embrace all who seek shelter in it; it takes in carbon and gives out oxygen which nurtures much life on earth; it bears fruit and shares this with the larger world around it; the many branches of a tree suggest that all life is interconnected; these branches also symbolize a wider vision of life as we grow; the tree is a well-known symbol in our Judaeo-Christian tradition—in the Garden of Eden, in the events of the Paschal Mystery; it reminds us of the cycle of life each year as it journeys through the seasons. . .

This final edition is being published in the season of Easter, so our tree becomes significant for our ending as well. May the small tree that was *RNDM Earth Community* serve as a “nurse tree” that nourishes new life even through its ending. This is our hope, this is our paschal promise.

So we walk on in hope, faith and love grateful to be alive on this wonderful planet we inhabit, and for which we habitually care through all our beginnings and endings.

Veronica Dunne, RNDM

NOTE: Past issues of this Newsletter can be found at: <http://www.rndmcanada.org/focusNewsletter.html>



SOME THOUGHTS ON SEEDS

So many seeds have been planted in me during this time as editor of this newsletter—seeds of wonder, of new understanding and gratitude. Through the insights many of you have communicated in your articles, I now see how I am a strand in a larger web of life and how critical it is to be conscious of this; I understand the importance of speaking truthfully about climate change, and how trees give us the breath of life; Permaculture principles now guide many of my life decisions.

I have observed that plants produce an abundance of seeds and spread them far and wide, where they take root and grow. This seems to be the way of Mother Earth. Am I to follow her example? Can I play a role in moving our world towards a healthy sustainability by sharing the seeds of wonder, gratitude and new understanding that are growing in me?

It was our hope, as a Communications Committee, that this newsletter would communicate wonder at the beauty and goodness of creation, call attention to issues of concern, and explore responses that enhance vital and respectful relationships with all life. I believe we have stayed close to these intentions. Perhaps some seeds have taken root in you too. Maybe, like those generous plants in the garden, you also will share these seeds far and wide. Together, we can create a future that is life-enhancing for all. -- Wendy MacLean

"We transmit the presence of everyone we have ever known, as though by being in each other's presence we exchange our cells, pass on some of our life force, and then we go on carrying that other person in our body-- not unlike springtime, when certain plants in fields we walk through attach their seeds in the form of small burrs to our socks, our pants, our caps, as if to say, 'Go on, take us with you, carry us to root in another place.'" -- Natalie Goldberg (Retrieved 03-25-12 from <http://blog.gaiam.com/quotes/topics/seeds>)

DID YOU KNOW?

In Canada, a volunteer, non-profit organization called **Seeds of Diversity** works to conserve biodiversity of food crops and garden plants. It is a reliable source of information about heritage (heirloom) seeds and seed saving. An annual membership is only \$25 per year. Members receive *Seeds of Diversity* magazine twice a year and access to their Membership Seed Directory with over 2900 varieties of seeds and plants. To read about their projects and to obtain more information about this organization visit their website at www.seeds.ca



Some Prairie Sources of Heritage seeds:

Heritage Harvest Seed, Carman, Manitoba
<http://www.heritageharvestseed.com/>

Prairie Garden Seeds Humboldt, Saskatchewan
www.prseeds.ca

Mandy's Greenhouses, Tyndall, Manitoba
<http://www.mandysgreenhouse.com/>

Spring Sensations

Yards and yards of colour tingle the senses.
Magenta lilacs, with their sweet, syrupy smell,
bring memories of Grandpa's purply pungent blooms.

Apple blossoms in reds, whites and all shades
in between,
so full on the tree that branches and leaves
slide to insignificance
entranced by the beauty above.

-- Dorothy Orebanjo, Winnipeg

(Editor's note: this is an excerpt of a longer piece)

If any of these articles have stirred a response in you, please share your insight at GreenSistersTalk@yahoo.com