

Hermitage Report - CCA Winter Meeting January 7, 2023

Sojourner Reflection - 2010

“This is a place of great courage. I think of what it took to make a vision a reality and that journey was steeped in courage. For the people that come here equal courage is required. Solitude and the depths of soul exploration go hand in hand and require great courage.

This is a place that is safe. You can sit in silence awash with thoughts of the past and fear or wonder for the future and find yourself crying then laughing. The coyote and the cactus do not mind your caterwauling.

This is a place of curiosity. A lizard will catch your eye and you wonder what his day is like. For an hour you do your best to follow. A praying mantis will perch upside on the side of a saguaro his hands folding in front. He does not move for half a day. You wonder why and wish you could be made small enough to crawl in between those spines and play along.

This is a place of light. Physical light in all its forms. The blazing sun baking the earth coaxing the clothes from your body. The silver of moon light scatters across the desert floor. The little flame of a candle drawing you close. The spiritual light is here too and shines and ebbs and illuminates those things too sacred for words.

Thank you for this wonderful place. Thank you for having the faith to follow that dream and move into action. Thank you for showing a passionate advocate how to be still. My heart is very full of this place. Thank you for that gift.”

Sojourner Report:

It was a quiet sojourner fall since our last meeting in September. We had 2 sojourners at the Corbett Center hermitage and a day visit from a group of U of A students. However, requests have come in to be put on a list for the new Caravan hermitage, and reservations for the Corbett Center hermitage are beginning to come in. So, it looks like it will be a busy spring. The administrative goal for this year is to meet with various organizations who might have an interest in bringing small groups to spend time at the Corbett Center be that day use or camping overnight. If you know of anyone or any group who might be interested, please let me know.

Sabbatical Gatherings:

We continue to host Sabbatical Gatherings the 2nd Saturday of each month. During the cold season, we generally we gather around 10:00 and finish by noon. In November, the Open House & Legacy Site Dedication was the gathering, December we took a hike to the Strawbale Legacy Site, and next week we will hike up Hot Springs Canyon.

The Open House-Legacy Site Dedication in November:

Karen McKelvey did a wonderful job of organizing that event and enlisting many people to help. It was very well attended, with about 35 people. Marylou Gonzalez and Daniel Baker gave very interesting and inspiring commemoration talks. Refreshments were served, there was a tour of the hermitage and grounds, and later, most of the group visited the new Caravan hermitage. It was a wonderful event.

Caravan Progress:

The new Caravan hermitage should be ready for sojourners by the first of February. We are putting the finishing touches on the composting toilet system, gathering a few more supplies, putting up fencing for the Saguaro-Juniper cows, and updating the website.

The one-page monthly newsletter, **Sojourning News**, continues to be well received. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be, please contact Susan Tollefson.

Projected 2023 Operating Budget:

We have allotted \$2500 for our 2023 operating budget, which includes expenses for road maintenance, workshop expenses, maintenance and supplies for both the Corbett Center Hermitage and the Caravan Hermitage, and emergencies. We only spent several hundred dollars on these expenses in 2022 and hope that next year will be the same, but we never know what life in this desert will bring us, so want to be prepared.