

Hermitage Program Report CCA Meeting 04/13/2024

Sojourner Reflection: March 2024

"I've been reading a bit of Martin Prechtel's book, "The Smell of Rain on Dust: Grief & Praise," while here. I arrived to sit with a dear friend and also sit with some griefs that have happened over the past several years. While I did sit with those, I leave praising. Praise to grandmother saguaro whose shadow feels like her own mini-ecosystem. Praise to the desert willow offering her seeds to the wind. Praise to the poppies and yellow blanket covering the soil like the sun. Praise to the raven's wings breaking the air. Praise to the tiny seed of the palo verde and the baby saguaro under her nurse plant. Praise to the flicker's ecstatic song and to the woodpecker's drum on cactus. Praise to the black-tailed gnatcatcher carrying grass for nests. Praise to the saguaro sentry constant to the spinning world. Praise to the stars. Praise to the rain. Praise the desert and all her life."

"Praise to you all for stewarding this place and offering generous hospitality to all in need of stillness and a silence outside of time. I cannot thank you enough. I hope to be back ... and I'll be carrying you all in my heart."

Sojourner Report: (Susan)

Since our last meeting in January, we have had wonderful sojourners:

Cottage Hermitage at the Corbett Center: 8 people / Total of 36 days

Corbett Center Campground: Proctor Academy Group / 12 people for 6 days

We hosted a breakfast for them at the Community Center on their last day. It was very well attended by community members interested in meeting them and hearing them share about their solo experience.

Caravan Hermitage: 6 people/ Total of 40 days

Sabbatical Gatherings: (Susan)

We have decided to hold the Sabbatical Gathering twice a year, April and October, with the hope that more people would be able to plan and join us. We held the April gathering this morning, hiking on SJ land to a cholla forest where birds are nesting. The next one will be held on Saturday, October 12, location to be decided.

Sojourning News Publication: (Susan)

We have decided to send out the Sojourning News three times a year: March, September, December.

Hermitage Program Bookmarks: (Karen)

The Hermitage Committee developed and printed 250 simple, informational bookmarks to be distributed to interested individuals and groups. If you would like to distribute some, please contact Susan Tollefson (smtollefson51@mail.com)

Hermitage Committee Meeting:

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday, April 19, from 1:00-2:30 pm Arizona time. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Susan (smtollefson51@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.