



Around the Place

Fall 2020

In many ways our summer days this year are like any other year. The days begin early with the sun rising north of Notch Peak in the east, and end with spectacular sunsets that cast long shadows across Snake Valley and fade into night skies with the Milky Way arching dramatically overhead.

Orioles and swallows are busily building nests and raising their young. The owl parents keep a close eye on their single offspring. The quail mothers shepherd their flocks of chicks across the road and into the cover of the meadows. Hummingbirds zip from feeder to feeder, defending whatever perch they happen to find themselves sipping from.

Our perennial landscaping has flowered in its natural colorful succession—lilies-of-the-valley, lilacs, viburnum, yellow roses, columbine, daisies, and hollyhocks. In the upper orchard, yellow lupines bloom along the ditches, and small pears and apples mature on the trees.

The garden is flourishing, thanks to careful tending by a crew of dedicated gardeners from our Snake Valley community, who gather once or twice a week to plant, weed, harvest, and visit—socially distanced, of course.

And now we begin to realize some of the ways these summer days are unlike summer days in seasons past, changes brought about by the arrival of COVID-19. The two elementary school children who live here do not invite their friends over for play dates or swimming in the pond. Our Sunday suppers at the Main House ceased in mid-March, leaving a hole in the fabric of our community. Our Sunday classes these days occur over ZOOM, as do residence meetings and board meetings.

Like just about everywhere else in the country, we Home Farm residents have tried to figure out how to keep ourselves and others safe while also being welcoming and functioning from a position of cautious wisdom rather than fear. We re-visit our decisions as the science and the state guidelines adapt to the changing COVID-19 landscape.

We are fortunate to live in eastern Nevada where the coronavirus infection rate is low, but we are aware that we are surrounded by areas where the infection rates are high—California, Utah, and the urban areas of Nevada—so we try to be mindful of best practices and common sense. Nonetheless, we miss human contact, casual interactions that we used to take for granted, and sharing real-time visits together.

Our closing benediction has even more meaning at this time: May the peace and power of the Infinite Spirit, which passes all understanding, hold us and keep us in the love of the Christed-consciousness, while we are seemingly separated one from another.

Susan Wetmore
June, 2020