

My Dear Friends,

Slowly we're moving into Fall here. But today is beautiful. Outside my door I've been pulling out the Morning Glory. I think about how difficult it is to live when you're pulled up by the roots. And many people are being violently uprooted these days. And some are holding on as best they can. These are strange and dangerous times. We're in need of new heroes and prophets.

Here in Bellingham, my young friend Dan Lunde is a hero of mine. I've heard that hero is another word for prophet...one who "interferes" with business as usual. A week ago he hit the streets with a small group of friends, holding signs, drumming, letting their voices be heard. He feels the biggest need in organizing opposition to the present policies is to bridge the gap between the generations. So next time, I need to be out there with him.

I'd like to invite you to join me in some of the concerts, classes and workshops coming up over the next few months. Details can be found on my ITINERARY page at:

<http://www.lindasongs.com/pages/itinerary.htm>.

It includes a SEPTEMBER 11th concert in SPOKANE called "In Remembrance: Of Heroes, Prophets, and the Rest of Us". Saturday, SEPTEMBER 14th, I'll be in PORTLAND for a house concert, a vocal workshop, and a sermon. Then back in BELLINGHAM I'll be participating in the Bellingham Day of Peace on Monday, SEPTEMBER 16th. Also in BELLINGHAM, I'll be giving a free family concert at the local library on SEPTEMBER 26th. Then back to SPOKANE for a Phil Ochs tribute concert on OCTOBER 10th. Then on NOVEMBER 18TH, my teacher and guide, prophet, and founder of the University of Creation Spirituality (where I am doing my doctoral work) will be in Bellingham! Please join me in welcoming MATTHEW FOX. I'm honored to be doing some songs at the event, and I'm delighted to be able to share the wisdom of this courageous man.

I'm starting a class called the SPIRITUALITY OF VOICE. Sufis say that the voice is the barometer of the soul. To work with voice is to work with the soul. So for eight weeks we'll be exploring that connection, beginning OCTOBER 2nd.

So now it's late summer, and I'm sitting here in my beautiful little office that I just remodelled. This office is such a joy to me, and is part of my intention to work privately with people to help them find their physical and creative voices. I'm also continuing that work with various groups, most recently Angeline's Day Shelter for Homeless Women in Seattle. I worked with three women -- two of whom seemed to be mentally ill. All were artists. One may well have been a mystic. My agenda went out the window, and I became aware of the power and privilege of being there with them.

All six of my RECORDINGS, including Mama Wanted To Be A Rainbow Dancer, October Roses, Women's Work, Washington Notebook, Lay It Down: Images of the Sacred, and The Long Way Home, are all now available on CD. For more information and to order online, please go to:
<http://www.lindasongs.com/pages/ordering1.htm> Thanks to all of you who have made these recordings possible...and for all of you who have taken the songs to heart.

I just received this email from my friend Judith in Canada. It seems most appropriate these days:

From WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:

"Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war
in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor,
for patriotism is indeed a double-edged sword.
It both emboldens the blood, just as it narrows the mind...
And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood
boils with hate and the mind has closed, the leader will have no
need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry,
infused with fear and blinded with patriotism, will offer up all of
their rights unto the leader, and gladly so.
How do I know?
For this is what I have done.

And I am Caesar."

BOOK REPORT: Two books I've read for my work at UCS that have had a huge impact on my thinking: Democracy for the Few, by Michael Parente, and The Divine Right of Capitol by Margery Kelly. Highly recommended.

An elderly friend said to me yesterday that a saying she grew up with is that if you can see a patch of blue in the sky in the morning, large enough to make a shirt out of, then it will be a nice day. Guess we're all looking for that patch of blue.

As our leaders move us towards the insanity of war, I've discovered a few web sites that are allowing me to hear different voices. One is the Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People: conscience@afsc.org. They've been actively involved in opposing sanctions, and offer information and ways to become involved. The other is MoveOn.Org. I've appreciated the simplicity of their "petitions" - which really are your comments sent to your representatives. I've already heard from Rep. Ric Larsen, and I liked what he had to say. Speaking of politics, I heard a man here in

Bellingham who is running for office. When I asked him what his spending priorities are, he spoke eloquently of being a voice for those who have no voice, the poor, disabled, homeless, aged and children in our communities. Jim Boyle is getting my vote.

I've heard from friends from around the country who have been pepper-sprayed or arrested. Seven cities have now passed legislation refusing to comply with the USA Patriot Act which has given the government sweeping powers and has resulted in the loss of our most fundamental rights as citizens. Here's a link about that: <http://abcnews.go.com/sections/us/DailyNews/usapatriot020701.html>.

History is repeating itself. In the Northwest, our Japanese-American citizens were put into internment camps for the way they looked. As we hear about the detention camps now, and the secret trials, are we that far away from those times? Here are the lyrics to a song I wrote about the internment camps. A note: When I went to Philadelphia in the Spring to sing for the General Assembly of United Methodist women (the largest women's organization in the world), I visited the Liberty Bell. It seems that the crack that silenced the bell is not the obvious one, but a small crack that you can barely see. That's the crack we need to watch out for.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 cLinda Allen 1989 (from Washington Notebook)

With thanks to Jerry Elfindahl of Bainbridge Island for the inspiration!

The order came down in the middle of March
These are our friends and our neighbors
All Japanese persons from Bainbridge must part
Let justice flow like a river

The Woodwards spoke out in the Bainbridge Review
These are our friends and our neighbors
If they're comin' for them, they'll be coming for you
Let justice flow like a river

This Island's been home since eighteen eighty-three
To Japanese families now called enemy

They had ten days to pack or to sell all they owned
To leave strawberry farms, small businesses, homes

Over two hundred citizens crowded the docks
As soldiers with bayonets guarded their flock

They were herded like sheep on the ferry that day
And the tears and the shame left us few words to say

To Manzanar Camp they were taken at last
Ten thousand people in a square mile of dust

From the Camp they wrote letters to the Bainbridge Review
"Sam and Kay just got married - how goes it with you?"

The letters flowed back and forth over the miles
Just friends gone away who'd be back in awhile

Young men from the Camp joined the Army, and fought
While their families were left in the desert to rot

After thirty long months they were told to go home
There were businesses ruined and farms overgrown

But many an Islander helped out a friend
And cried as they welcomed them back home again

So here's to the Woodwards, and others who dared
Here's to the Island with the courage to care

For the sake of the children the story we tell
We must watch out for cracks in the Liberty Bell

Blessings,
Linda

PS: As always, if you would like to be removed from my email list to receive this very occasional newsletter, please let me know. No guilt! Thanks.