

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2013 FOR ALL THE SAINTS

*Sometimes we were angels, sometimes we were not
Sometimes we knew we were living in glory,
Sometimes, we forgot
But we were always cherished, like the morning loves the dove
Like the ocean loves the thirsty river, we were always loved
“Sometimes We Were Angels” from Carry Us Through This Night*

Dear Friends,

This week, our community here at Holden Village has been talking a lot about saints...and sinners. November 2nd was the day we celebrated the saints in our lives, with traditional Mexican “sugar skulls”, hand-made altars, and remembrances of those who’ve gone before. It was also the second anniversary of my own mother’s death. And truly she was a saint in my life.

Living in a small community like Holden, with a winter community averaging around 70 people, we have an opportunity to see the saints and sinners we each can be with each other. Mostly, I see the saints: the ones who keep the fires going, roads cleared, sidewalks shoveled, meals prepared and programs and worship planned. I am in awe of the folks who do all this, and then have the energy to create music and dance, celebrations and hilarity. These volunteers are the reason this village, one of the most remote full-time communities in the lower 48 states, continues to thrive.

It’s really cold today. We’ve had a few inches of snow already and volunteers have been busy preparing for the winter: putting up snow shutters, piling in firewood, finding the snow shoes and skis. The snow will be five to eight feet deep in the winter. We’ll have lots of guests here, and many activities through the season. I’m looking forward to it all, as I keep learning about the saint and sinner within myself.

It's been a busy time. I've produced a DVD, *Mountain Voices*, about Holden Village during this time of remediation...telling the Village story through art, photos, and music I've composed. It was a fun project, involving many staff and visitors who passed this way. I've created a program, now, that incorporates the DVD, more songs, poems and narrative that is a call for compassionate activism as our fragile planet faces so many challenges. I recently went to Wisconsin to present the program, and will be offering it again this Sunday in Bellingham. Details can be found below.

Last winter I also organized the first *Compassionate Voices* retreat here in the Village, and I'll be doing it again in March of 2014. I'll also be putting together a *Holden Village Folk Festival*...also in March.

Holden is a place where I can continue to create and experiment, and that is a joy to me. Now as the days grow colder, I’m spending more time in the craft cave, learning to weave, and beginning to plan a musical for the winter. It’s a good life here. And it’s a good time for Scott. He’s learning to play fiddle this year.

I hope to see many of you this winter. Please scroll down to see the details of the upcoming Bellingham presentation and winter retreats.

This week, remember the angels and saints in your life. And remember that you are, indeed, someone's beloved saint!

Many blessings,
Linda Allen

SUNDAY, November 10th

BELLINGHAM

Mountain Voices: A Story of Holden Village

First Congregational Church of Bellingham 7:00 PM FREE

I'll be coming down from the mountains of the North Cascades to tell a story of Holden Village, where I am temporarily making my home. The presentation uses songs, poems, and images to tell a story of the work being done to remediate the destruction caused by decades of mining in the Railroad Creek Valley. It's a call for compassionate activism as we face the challenges of our planet at risk.

FRIDAY, March 7 - 10, 2014 Holden Village

Healing the Heart and Lifting the Spirit



You are invited to come for a weekend of singing at a beautiful wilderness retreat center high in the North Cascade Mountains.

Come for the singing. Come for the trainings and conversations with Villagers and Hospice professionals about grief and dying. Come for the dancing, the healing art, the snow shoe walks, and a taste of Holden hilarity. Come share in the rhythms of this remote Village that has been a Lutheran retreat center for over fifty years. All are welcome!

FRIDAY, March 28 – 31 2014

Holden Village

Throughout history, folk song and dance have been used to gather the community, to express its joys and sorrows, to share history, to fight for justice, to educate, to worship together, and to bring laughter. Join Holden Village as we sing, dance, relax and join this unique community in its daily rhythms of worship, work, shared meals and hospitality.

For more information about these retreats, please email program@holdenvillage.org.



For more information about Holden Village, and to register, please visit:
www.holdenvillage.org, click on "Visit Holden", then "Reservations."

There is no additional charge for these retreats. Simply register for the dates. Be sure to check the Lady of the Lake boat schedule. Boats travel Monday, Wednesday and Friday at this time of year.

INFORMATION ABOUT HOLDEN VILLAGE

Holden Village is located ten miles above Lake Chelan in North Central Washington. Surrounded by the Glacier Peak Wilderness, it occupies the town facilities of a former copper mining operation, which was active from 1937-57. It is sustained primarily by volunteer staff and welcomes people of all faiths, ages, nationalities and lifestyles.

For more information about my work, please visit: www.lindasongs.com. You'll find songs, lyrics, ordering information, archive photos and much more.

If you would rather not receive this rather sporadic newsletter, please simply hit "reply" and put "remove" in the subject line.

Thank you!