

JUNE 21ST 2014 SUMMER SOLSTICE

*I will rise in the morning, 'tho the night has been so long
I will rise in the morning, on the breath of a song
I will rise, I will rise, I will rise, I will rise*

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this on a beautiful Solstice Saturday in Holden Village. Scott and I were up at 4AM, joining others in the Village for a walk to Ten Mile Falls and a sharing of stories. We'll end our day with a Solstice bonfire. It's good to be in community at times like these. And it is good to be in this beautiful valley these days. Outside my window, in the aspen tree that always seems to be laughing, I've been seeing a stunning red-headed yellow bird. On my walk yesterday, I saw my first fawn of the season. Despite the dust and chaos of construction, it is good to be here.

A few months ago, Scott and I found a home in Bellingham, where we intend to move when we leave Holden next summer. We will now be working part-time from our Bellingham home, and we're excited to be re-connecting with our community and friends.

Three years is a long time to be gone! Meanwhile, I continue my work here in the Village as Postmistress and Program Resource. I'll be helping out with workshops and sing-a-longs at Holden on the Road events outside the Village at various Northwest locations. Soon I'll be at the Fellowship of Reconciliation conference at Seabeck....one of my very favorite events...where I'll be sharing the Holden Village story, and music with David Rovics and Tom Rawson. Over the past year I've shared that workshop at a conference in Wisconsin, and helped do a training for a regional Threshold Choir gathering in Pittsburg. So I do get out now and then! In the Fall I'll begin making plans for the two Winter events here in the Village: the Compassionate Voices Retreat and the Holden Village Folk Festival....likely to be held in March. Check here for details of all these events:

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

Two of my out-of-print CDs will soon be available online: My very first CD, *Mama Wanted to Be A Rainbow Dancer* is out of print, but now is available as a download only through CDBaby, I-Tunes, and other download sites. *Washington Notebook* is also out of print, and I'm hoping to make it available as an online download soon. Internet connectivity is quite limited here, so these things do take time!

I'd like to leave you with a lovely Solstice poem I received today, via my friends Nancy Kaye and Rebecca Treat: *Earth Blessing* from "The Earth Path" by Starhawk. It seems a perfect blessing for our Village right now.

We give thanks for all those who are moved, in their lives, to heal and protect the earth, in small ways and in large. Blessings on the composters, the gardeners, the breeders of worms and mushrooms, the soil builders, those who cleanse the waters and purify the air, all those who clean up the messes others have made. Blessings on those who defend trees and who plant trees, who guard the forests and who renew the forests. Blessings on those who learn to heal the grasslands and renew the streams, on those who prevent erosion, who restore the salmon and the fisheries, who guard the healing herbs and who know the lore of the wild plants. Blessings on those who heal the cities and bring them alive again with excitement and creativity and love. Gratitude and blessings to all who stand against greed, who risk themselves, to those who have bled and been wounded, and to those who have given their lives in service of the earth.....May they bring alive a great awakening, open a listening ear to hear the earth's voice, transform imbalance to balance, hate and greed to love. Blessed be the healers of the earth.

Blessings of the generous sun to you this day –
Linda Allen
Holden Village