Today we are highlighting Jill and Konrad Sechley, part of the wonderful network of "Friends of the Farm" who support the incredible life taking place at Glenora Farm every day. Jill and Konrad moved with their daughters to Vancouver Island in 2006 from Ottawa.

Jill is an educator, having studied zoology and teachers' education. She taught for six years in the Ottawa School Board and the Ottawa Waldorf School. Jill is a whirlwind of energy and it is not surprising that during her time at the Waldorf School she also taught woodworking, ran the school store and helped with administrative duties. The Glenora Farm community, coworkers and staff appreciate Jill’s administrative skills and incredible energy; she holds a seat on our Board of Directors and has taken a lead on our Fundraising Committee. She and Konrad are both known to take projects from initial ideas to completion.

The Sechley family have always enjoyed the outdoors. Konrad studied molecular biology and after years of research became a Patent Agent in life sciences, he spends his spare time cycling, hiking, camping and kayaking. He is now enjoying semi-retirement and appreciates the ability to spend time creating things in his woodworking shop and keeping up on science news. The family has spent many summers camping in Ontario and Quebec and enjoy immersing themselves in the experience of other cultures and landscapes.

The Sechleys' first learned about Waldorf schools when they were living in Guelph and searching for a kindergarten for their daughter Faith. They visited an open house at the Halton Waldorf School and were hooked. The family's experience on first stepping into the Halton kindergarten was a "true awakening!" They had first read about Steiner and the Waldorf School approach in The Utne Reader magazine and this experience with Halton School confirmed their feelings on how their children should be educated.

During their time at the school, Jill and Konrad joined anthroposophical discussion groups and read much of Steiner's work, a cornerstone of the philosophy that both Waldorf schools (continued on page 4)
CATCHING UP WITH ANDREW MARTIN

Andrew moved back to the Big House this past summer, after eight years living in other houses on the Farm. Andrew has been adjusting to COVID life, as all Special Olympics were canceled, the movie theater closed down and the hockey season was canceled this year. Also due to COVID, he plans to stick around Glenora Farm for the holidays for the first time, which he is "mostly looking forward to". Some highlights Andrew shared are working on the farm three times per week with Kate, Matthew, Kelly and others, and working in the Weavery three times per week as well. He's been going for long walks to keep busy and fit in the absence of Special Olympics!

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 06</td>
<td>Epiphany - End of the Holy Nights</td>
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<td>February 02</td>
<td>Candlemas</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Carnival</td>
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<td>April 04</td>
<td>Easter</td>
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

I am working as a Speech Language Pathologist with people who have brain injuries. I live in Louisville, Kentucky in a small apartment with a cat, Nora. I like to be outside hiking, biking, running and gardening. I also like to play music and dance (not so much since COVID-19 hit though).

What do you miss about Glenora Farm?
I miss the community celebrations and meals, working in the weavery and on the farm, and singing together.

When did you live at the farm?
I lived at Glenora Farm from March 2012 until June 2013. I lived in Corwyn House.

Susan Callendar
CANDLE WORKSHOP - BEESWAX WRAPS
by Dominica Dorazio

When you step into the Glenora Farm candle workshop on a brisk Autumn or Winter day, you will be greeted instantly by the warmth and sweet scent of beeswax candles - this is one of our favourite Winter experiences here at Glenora Farm.

Our talented and dedicated candle workshop team hand-dip candles in various lengths and colours; natural, red, and the ever popular rainbow, each candle is unique and made with care. Lately the candle workshop has really created a buzz, we are expanding the workshop product line to include beeswax food wraps. We have received a very generous donation of wonderful, colourful cotton material from local seamstress, Bev Shillito. The donation will keep our workshop busy and well stocked for seasons to come. The candle team can hardly wait to get started on this new adventure. Beeswax food wraps are a reusable and sustainable alternative to plastic wrap and single-use plastic products. Beeswax wraps have the ability to provide an alternative to pressing environmental issues such as plastic pollution and food waste. As an added bonus, beeswax wraps support food preservation, they are breathable and allow food to stay fresh for longer, reducing domestic food waste.

We would like to thank The Glenora Store and Café for their support with this new project and their continued commitment to promoting our candle workshop products, as well as our other workshop items from the weavery and herb garden. The Café uses our farm fresh produce to create delicious lunch specials and snacks, stop by to say hi and enjoy a yummy treat.

ADVENT VIDEOS

In absence of the Christmas Fair this year, we filmed a series of short videos each week for Advent. From a hayride with Bo to decorating a Christmas tree, share Advent with us!

You can find the videos on our website or Facebook page!

Andrew M. - Jan. 7
Layla A. - Feb. 6
Zoja L - Jan. 6
David A. - Jan. 7
Sofia L - Jan. 10
Ann L - Jan. 13
Andrew R - Jan. 20
Veronika H. - Jan. 29
Katrin B - Feb. 9
Lucinde M. - Feb. 18
Lisa W - Feb. 19
Brigitte H - Mar. 3
Geraldine M - Mar. 7
Allura D - Mar. 24
Kaska W - Mar. 26
Nina M. - Mar. 27
Kristine M. - Jan 13
FROM THE GARDEN and FARM
with Kate Sowiak

There are a few new faces on the farm. The most notable is our single black sheep. He is a black East Friesan and Lacaune cross named Romeo. He stands out amongst our flock of white sheep, and will be the sire of the lambs next spring.

The pasture has little left to graze, but the gardeners continue to pull out leeks, beets and carrots of which the tops can be fed, cabbage leaves and brussel sprout stalks - a real winter treat!

We have also acquired some muscovy ducks. As Matthew put it, with ducks the farm feels complete. He also remarks how great the weather is when it is pouring down and making puddles (for the ducks).

We’ve built a new chicken coop big enough to accommodate more chickens. Every morning we hear a concert, as the cows and sheep call out to the farmers for their hay.

And it is a great recycling system. We are directly a part of it when we muck out and make more compost piles.

And when all of our muscles ache and we are drenched we come inside the barn along with the animals, and work on wood projects. The farm and its inhabitants are so lucky to have one another, everyone is contributing to the good feeling at the farm. Thanks all and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FRIENDS OF THE FARM (cont. from page 1)

and Camphill Communities are built on. Konrad joined the Waldorf School Board of Directors and at this time Jill became a Waldorf teacher. It was through their involvement with the Ottawa Waldorf School that Jill and Konrad came to know about Camphill Communities. Faith had the opportunity to visit the Camphill Community in Barrie as part of a Grade 9 farm exchange week.

When Jill and Konrad realized that Faith was unlikely to thrive in the public high school system, the family began to explore other options and felt that a Camphill Community would be an ideal place for Faith to call home. They had already thought of moving back to the west coast (they’d both been here during university, and their youngest daughter was born in Vancouver), in 2006 Glenora Farm became Faith’s new home. Glenora Farm has welcomed Faith as part of our program and community, and in that process we have gained a whole family, a family that understands and supports the holistic philosophy of a deep respect for nature, social responsibility and seeing the beauty and intrinsic value in everyone.
As we are drawing close to the shortest day of the year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past year and look ahead to new adventures with excitement. 2020 brought with it some very challenging times, here on the Glenora Farm we also experienced many moments of purpose, connection and celebration.

The Farmhouse was completed in time for Christmas, with permitting and inspections happening mid-December. We look forward to everyone being settled and cozy in their new home for Christmas. This project could not have been completed without the hard work and dedication of many people, the David Coulson Design team deftly led us through the process, building a licensed care facility certainly takes a lot of coordination! We were grateful for the skill, dedication, experience and the sense of humour the DCD team brought to the table every day; their expertise, creativity and commitment to the project is so evident when you look at our beautiful Farmhouse, sitting comfortably on a sunny, south facing hill that overlooks our winter-wrapped vegetable garden. Equally dedicated are Glenora Farm community members, Coworkers and Companions have pitched in to stain siding, paint walls and trim, sand and finish doors, build paths, pick up supplies and bring good cheer to the building site. Our office administration team has been busy and couldn’t have pulled this all together without the dedication of parents (near and far), board members and the consistent, reliable and jovial Glenora Farm maintenance team.

A special thanks to Sylvia Berryman who stuck with the project to see it to completion after her resignation in July.

It was disappointing to have to cancel our annual Christmas Fair, but that didn’t stop us from celebrating and spreading holiday joy in the form of a virtual weekly advent calendar. In November we got together to pretend it was Christmas for an afternoon of filming and photos, there was much laughter, one of Bo’s famous hayrides, tree decorating and a very cozy story by the fire. After much work and a crash course in editing (thanks Dominica and Darin!) our team produced 4 beautiful videos that were posted weekly on our Facebook page, YouTube channel and on our website. If you missed them, they are on our website under “Blog Post” - tuning in will surely make you smile and brighten your day.

The weather cooperated as we responded to the Covid19 crisis, one of the measures put in place to keep everyone safe was increasing the capacity of our outdoor workshops. Our garden, farm and herb workshops have never been busier! We had a bumper crop of vegetables this year, Companions and Coworkers were consistently busy with planting, weeding, harvesting and processing. Garden sales are at a record high and we were able to continue our weekly donations to various local organizations that are working to increase food security in the Cowichan Valley.

We are not particularly sad to say goodbye to 2020, it was a very tough year. It was also a year that held many positive, connected and impactful moments. These moments were shared together, we are grateful that our community has stayed safe and well, through the ups and downs we have found our footing, stayed positive and had a few laughs along the way.
For Immediate Release

Duncan, Vancouver Island, BC

January 6, 2021

Glenora Farm Store and Café Under New Management

A long-standing landmark of the Glenora community, The Glenora Farm Store and Café, is now open under new management.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Glenora Farm Store and Café was owned and operated by the Ita Wegman Association of BC for Curative Education and Social Therapy, the charity that runs “Glenora Farm” – a residential community and day program provider for adults with developmental disabilities (“Companions”). The hardships of the pandemic made the continued operation of the Glenora Farm Store and Café unviable for the organization and the decision was made to lease out the business.

While the property at the intersection of Glenora, Indian, and Marshall Roads remains under the ownership of the Ita Wegman Association of BC for Curative and Social Therapy, the store is now independently operated by a sole proprietor. Under this new arrangement, the store will continue to carry agricultural products (fresh vegetables, and meat) and handmade goods (weaving, candles, dried herbs/teas, salts, pre-made meals, etc.) grown and made on Glenora Farm. The sales of these items will help offset the costs of providing empowering recreational activities for Glenora Farm’s Companions. The establishment will continue to sell gas/diesel, household staples, and convenience items while also offering a café menu for dine-in and take-out.

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