

GLENORA GAZETTE

SPRING 2021

MOVING INTO THE FARMHOUSE

by Dominica Dorazio

Well it is official, our families and the Companions moved into the new Farmhouse in time for Christmas 2020, it was our own little Christmas miracle on the farm. Three months later, after all the unpacking is done and everyone has had a chance to settle in, I took a walk over to the new Farmhouse to catch up with Katrin in Suite A to find out how the actual move went for "The Ladies." Many of our readers know who Katrin and The Ladies are, for those who are newer to Glenora Farm, here's a quick recap: Katrin and The Ladies officially became a trio in 2001 and, up until December have called the Big House home, Katrin has resided in the Big House for 23 years. I was curious how the move went and how The Ladies have adjusted to their new surroundings.

When I stepped into the living room and dining area the first thing that struck me, having been there in various stages of the building process, is that it no longer felt like a beautiful house built to help support the needs of our Companions with all the updated accessories and equipment, but rather a beautiful home, warm and bright. The moving-in process started a few months before the actual move in date; our administration team worked on licenses, permits, so many phone calls, plenty of emails, more permits, and few more grey hairs. Our facility maintenance team was working full tilt to fill in the gaps where we could, their work and dedication helped to speed up the process and save money. Katrin had 23 years of Big House living to sort

through, although her personal belongings always fit into her Big House bedroom, her room in the new home her room is significantly smaller, but really, does one need to drag paperwork from 1999 to a new home?

There was also the delicate dance of preparing The Ladies for the move, but not telling them until it was going happen, as time can be an elusive concept for them. In the weeks leading up to the move in day, The Ladies participated in the cleaning and helped to prepare the rooms in the farmhouse for moving day.

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SCENES
FROM
THE
FARM



WINTER FESTIVALS by Marie-Reine Adams

For the festival Candlemas, (or GroundHog Day, February 2nd), we had a small group performing the story of Persephone. Persephone, daughter of the goddess of nature Demeter is taken away by Hades, lord of the underworld. Her mother is distraught and as a result all nature dies. When Persephone finally comes back to earth, her mother rejoices and Spring comes. However, since Persephone ate 4 pomegranate seeds, she needs to spend 4 months in the underworld, which means, winter for us. At Candlemas, half way through winter, she starts her journey back. It was lovely to be able to be together in Trillium, and hear and watch the despair and joy of Demeter and Persephone as the story unfolded. Afterwards we went outside where some earth candles were lit, and we heard an other story about what mother earth does when she sleeps. These festivals are so important for us to feel and experience ourselves as a community.



FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

April - Easter (2nd), Virtual Farm House Finish Line (30th)

May - Ascension (13th), Whitsunday (23rd)

June - St. John's (24th)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

with Lisa Whitehead



Simon Matt
lived in Helios
in 2018-19

I live in Black Forest, close to the highest mountain of the region, called Feldburg. I'm studying Science of Education in Freiburg in Germany. I have been enjoying the snow. When you do cross-country skiing down a steep hill it feels so wobbly and you often just fall in the snow face first (which looks really funny).

What do you miss about Glenora Farm?

I miss spending time with all the lovely people on the farm, and having fun in the garden, going for walks and other small things.

What do you do in your freetime?

Right now there is lots of snow in Black Forest, so I spend most of my free time, (cross country) skiing and snowboarding.

BEESWAX WRAPS by Katherine and the Candle Workshop Team

This project has been percolating for a long time, and was suddenly spurred into action as our busy team needed more activities. Support for this project came in the form of donations of fabric. Our main supplier, Wicks and Wax, were super helpful in setting us up with recipes and supplies, including pine resin and jojoba oil, which had been missing from our first dabble in this project a couple of years ago.

You will find hundreds of how-to videos, and many different approaches online. In the end we chose one that fitted best with what we have. As we don't have an oven in the workshop we opted for the iron method; as we get our wax in large chunks rather than handy beads, we opted for the melt-then-brush method.

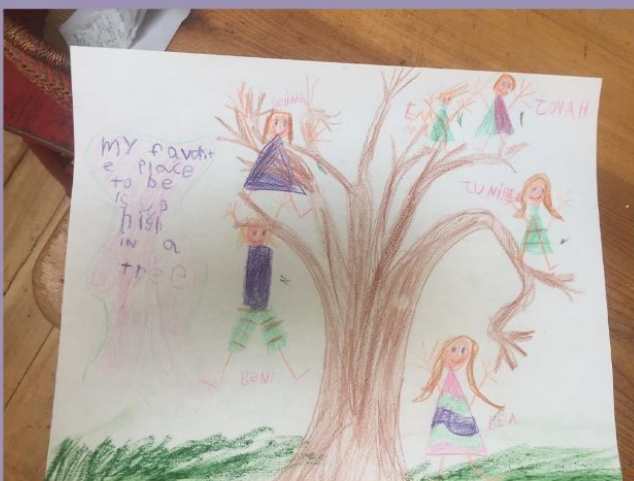
I brought my shiny new pinking shears from home, and a sturdy mortar and pestle to crush the resin - Alicia and Kristi were eager crushers. We found some lids of various sizes to use as circle templates. It was then a matter of laying down parchment paper, painting the fabric squares and circles with the mixture, another piece of parchment and ironing in the wax. Usually the fabric was oversaturated and we would put an uncoated piece of fabric on top to absorb the excess. Most satisfying was peeling the hot waxy pieces apart and hanging them up to cool. The other favourite bit was accosting our friends in the parking lot with custom-chosen wraps.

We are looking forward to the candle workshop relocation later in the season (watch this space for more on that!) so that we can get properly set up.

To date we have already produced a couple dozen of these lovely items and distributed them amongst our Glenora friends for trial and feedback. So far so good! They're flexible, sticky and have been keeping my daughter's apple pieces snug and fresh in her lunch kit. Once we've ironed out any kinks (pun somewhat intentional) they will be appearing in our favourite Glenora Farm Store.



FROM THE KIDS



While parents have meetings or choir practice, the kids can be found in the horse chestnut tree outside Bo's workshop. - Selina

BIRTHDAYS



April 7 - Emma H.
 April 11 - Erika R.
 April 18 - Cory M.
 April 20 - Joy H.
 April 26 - Bea R.
 April 29 - Jonah H.
 May 4 - Kelly C.
 May 9 - Faith S.
 May 21 - Korinna M.
 May 22 - Marie-Reine A.
 May 23 - Doug Hay
 May 29 - Anja M.
 June 10 - Olivia J.
 June 16 - Matthew C.
 June 16 - Sylvia B.
 June 26 - Mary N.



MOVING INTO THE FARMHOUSE



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Preparing the Companions for change and ensuring they felt familiar with their new home started the day we broke ground; Katrin, the co-workers, and The Ladies were front and center when the shovels hit the ground. It was important to Katrin that The Ladies were not just familiar with the house, they walked the pathways to and from the Farmhouse that led them to their regular day workshops.

The move from the Big House to the Farmhouse was a short distance and one of the benefits of living within a community is there are many hands ready to help. So the actual physical move went very smooth between being organized and ready to go and all the helping hands ready to make it happen.

The day we got the green light that Katrin and The Ladies could move in, there was some concern about how much of an adjustment it would be for them all, especially the first few nights in new surroundings. We are happy to report as per usual Katrin was right, they were all indeed ready for the move, physically, mentally, and emotionally they were ready to say good-bye to their Big House.

One of the reasons that the transition was smooth, with no sleepless nights, or Companions being confused about new surroundings was because they were all together; with each person holding a special role within the group. One of The Ladies always seems to be 'in charge, keeping a watchful eye on the "party girl" of the group, if Katrin had to step out of the room for a moment, an alarm bell of giggling would alert her to in-coming mischief making. Another one of The Ladies lights up the room with her smile and occasional witty word that sometimes seems to come out of nowhere, her presence is calming for the other two. One of The Ladies takes great joy in watching children play and eating chocolate; now that her neighbors have small children she is in her element, all she needs is a chocolate cupboard. The 'life of the party' Lady has grown into a proficient helper, assisting Katrin with daily household chores, she brings a special flair and sense of merriment to even the most mundane tasks, like looking for "James" the robot vacuumed cleaner that occasionally gets lost under her bed.

Before the move The Ladies were bonded together, or as Katrin says "it is like they are soul mates", they lived in a big, busy, and energetic house; there were always other Companions and Coworkers around to add to the energy to a bustling day. Now that Katrin and The Ladies have moved, they are experiencing a much quieter home and have very quickly begun a natural rhythm of quieter daily life.





FROM THE LAND with Markus Heinz

With spring approaching fast, our outside crews have been busy as bees. In the garden, everybody is looking forward to seeing a much needed, brand new perimeter fence being raised within the next weeks and to re-skinning our both of our greenhouses. Both of these projects have been made possible by generous donations - Sarah and Owen Fairbank (perimeter fence) and The Cobble Hill Womens Institute (greenhouse covers). Andrew is also working hard towards achieving organic and biodynamic certification this year, as well as doing all the regular preparation for a growing season.

The farm crew has built over a dozen birdhouses over the winter and put them up all over the estate in time for spring. Some birds we hope to see nesting are violet green swallows,

house wrens, chickadees and flickers. We are also putting up new livestock fences along the new farmhouse driveway and around the barnyard. Many of the holes on the slope had to be dug by hand, with a lot of hard work and enthusiasm to get out great big rocks. We are going to start stirring and spraying our biodynamic preparation 500 in the green houses, the garden, the pastures and hayfields. And finally, lambing will be starting in early April which will be a first time experience for Aiden, our new farm crew member.

The forest crew is busy making firewood for next winter and re-opening the paths around the

property after this last winter's damage. We will also take down a number of trees along the garden fence line to protect the new fence. And hopefully we will see delicious mushrooms growing on our mushroom logs again this spring!



Spring Has Arrived!

WELCOME AIDEN! with Marie-Reine Adams

After the exodus of 4 members of the Big House to the Farm House this winter, there was a lot of activity in the Big House of painting, decorating and refreshing the rooms making them ready for new occupants. Aiden was the first one arriving on January 9. Aiden had been waiting a long time for this moment, he had had a couple of trial visits over the last 2 years and even before that he was a friend of the community as he was a participant of the program at our sister community in Vancouver "Cascadia". Aiden was at Cascadia for many years and before that attended the Vancouver Waldorf School. He joins Andrew in the Big House, for instance, whom he has known since childhood. Aiden has been looking forward very much for his "new life" as he calls it. In his last few years in Vancouver he already had expressed the wish to leave the family home and be more independent and had tried a couple of home shares which did not work out. Since joining Glenora Farm, Aiden has been a strong participant of the farm/forestry team. In his free time he has started again to do his art work, and his guitar and singing. He regaled with some of it recently in our "Glenora's got Talent show, singing "Twinkle Twinkle little stars" He also took part in our Persephone story at Candlemas, sharing with us his precious performing gifts which he so beautifully developed at Cascadia. We are so pleased to welcome you Aiden!

