



the bloomin' news
spring 2023

enigma

it is said
that the stars we behold with our eyes
are myriad givers of light
it is said that those stars have ceased to shine long ago

it is said that the bowl we hold in our hands
is made from the entirety of this earth
it is said that all bowls are already broken the moment
they are given form

it is said that this life is a gift
it is said that this life is a gift
each of us
a bowl full of stars

shout outs to Catherine, Dan, Frances, Glenn, Jen, Jim, Judy,
Julia, Karen, Kari, KJ, Marianne, Mia, and Sinjin. thanks a lot!



Spring

As the trees wake, they shyly send out bright buds, awakening and slowly starting to feed from the still weak sun. The flowers unfurl boldly, announcing the end of the long dark and rejoicing at the warmer days, greeting the newly awakened insect friends.

Humans too emerge and reconnect with the sun, earth, life and each other.

Soon, the frogs begin to sing, defrosted and keen to affirm life after the cold rest. Birds flutter about, investigating changes, refamiliarizing themselves with old friends and feeders. Some mammals emerge with new family following, toddling along, wide eyed in wonder, playful, learning.

To sit and listen, watch, and wonder at the life bursting all around us.

To remove ourselves from our bright screens, artificial lights, and canned sounds.

To reconnect in nature with our place, our neighbours, and ourselves

To sigh and relax and answer the sweet whispers of Spring, calling on all to wake up from our sleep.

Awake and join in the celebration of life anew.

thanks to Julia



A resident of our property - Anna's Hummingbird. These beautiful creatures don't migrate but rather, spend their winters on the island.(the northern-most end of their natural habitat). We had a nest at the Duck Pond last year (5 babies!) and we are hoping for another one this year. They eat insects including mosquitoes. They are not endangered as a species, but one of the biggest threats is cats. If you want to see them regularly, put out a feeder.

thanks to Jim




五福临门
wǔ fú lín mén

五福 five blessings

长寿	cháng shòu	longevity
富贵	fù guì	prosperity
康宁	kāng níng	health and peace
好德	hǎo dé	kind and generous
善终	shàn zhōng	die in peace and dignity

临门 at the door

learnmandarinin5minutes.com

What Is Essential for Living in Cohousing?

There are two essential requirements you need for living in cohousing: the humility to know that you don't have all the answers, and acceptance that you may not always get what you want.

Those are hard lessons to learn in our individualistic society. We're brought up to believe that being right matters more than anything, and that you should always get what you want, when you want it.

But cohousing is all about personal growth and learning, and without humility and acceptance, you can't do either.

thanks to K.J.

For me, living well in community has meant finding ways for getting my needs for autonomy met that don't affect the rest of my community.

Find ways to get involved that you enjoy.

I don't have to like everybody but I can respect everybody.

Don't sweat the small stuff; Like a dirty dish left in the kitchen .

Whenever the grass starts looking greener elsewhere I remember how many people envy my lifestyle.



thanks to Kari

It's important to set up a process for changes in the community.
That way there are no surprises to startle or upset members. Living
in harmony takes a bit of work and time, be patient.

thanks to Judy



Even if you are an introvert, make some time to get to know your neighbours. They are all talented and interesting when you peak beneath the surface. Watch for awhile and see how things go.

In Cohousing we move from a situation of just being able to do what we want to one where changes take time and many want a say. We all have different styles and priorities. And we find out there is no one right way. Lots of different approaches can work. The trick is to figure out what you can control and what you can't.

thanks to Frances



Invitation by Mary Oliver

Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy
and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles
for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest,
or the most expressive of mirth,
or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
drink the air
as they strive
melodiously
not for your sake
and not for mine

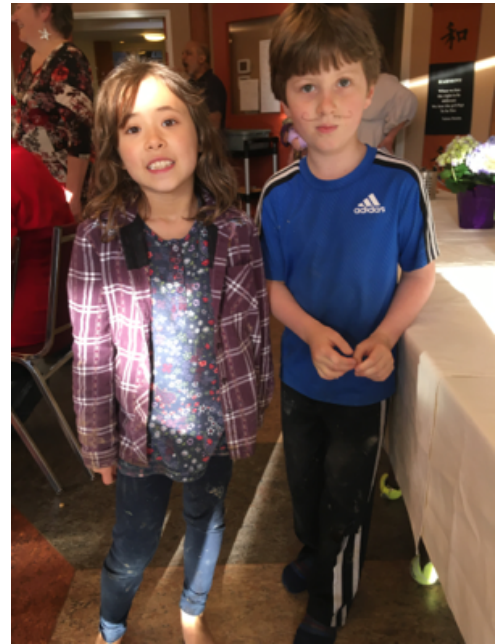


and not for the sake of winning
but for sheer delight and gratitude –
believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing
just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world.
I beg of you,
do not walk by
without pausing
to attend to this
rather ridiculous performance.
It could mean something.
It could mean everything.
It could be what Rilke meant, when he
wrote:
You must change your life.

thanks to Glenn

Bill Merilees (of Buttertubs Marsh) visited our property with Jim recently to look at the natural portion of our property. Urban development eradicates wildlife habitat and he agreed with our efforts to preserve some of it. A couple of his suggestions included making a turtle home of the ephemeral pond and to introduce salamanders that eat mosquito larvae. The area along the ephemeral stream is prime habitat for Western Chorus Frogs among other critters and there are measures we can take to care for this area. Bill liked our Blackberry patch as a compromise to control the invasive plant while still being able to enjoy the berries. Creating a canopy (shade) will minimize the spread of this plant elsewhere on our property. The general approach he recommended is to be realistic and 'let nature take it's course'. I've heard this before and it makes a lot of sense. We have documented over 40 different species of birds in this area and helping it to flourish provides us with the opportunity to enjoy their presence, not to mention doing a small part in slowing down the destruction of wildlife habitat on our planet. Bill has written a few books on the subject of gardening for wildlife and we'll be getting a copy to share with the community.

thanks to Jim



When moving into and while living in cohousing, prepare yourself to witness, receive, and perhaps even offer wonderful acts of loving-kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and gratitude.