The Seed Keepers

I am sending this at the request of Mary-Ellen Morgenstern, moderator of the CNWE Energy Circle, Women in Creation. For our second Zoom meeting last week she wanted me to open with the poem I wrote in 2004, Seed Keepers, along with a short background to it. I did. Meanwhile, Jocelyn and a couple of others wrote fine reflections for our consideration as a circle. Someone wondered aloud if all these pieces could be considered for The Seed Keepers and the whole issue focused on issues relating to care and healing of Earth and, as part of that, how will we go forward from this time of being shaken to our core. How is Earth calling us?

Rita Patenaude

Lockdown, Covid-19, the loss of more than one friend (one to Covid), and by June’s end, just two pieces for publication! For me: Desperation City. And then came the inspiration to try again. As part of Rita Patenaude’s email describes, one spark led to another and, in the end, to a plethora of submissions for our first summer edition in memory. Inside you will find several absolutely beautiful reflections — all from members of Women and the Environment Energy Circle, as well as a long lovely story about Alexina Murphy, and your thoughtful letters.

Some of you will note that your submissions do not appear in this edition. Don’t worry — we have stored them. They will appear in the next edition, planned for publication in September.

Thank you for your submissions! Please keep them coming. Let’s hear more from other Energy Circles and also from your experience in reaching out/caring. My own efforts to that end were wonderfully satisfying — so much so that I intend to reach out again.

As usual, you’ll also find a membership form. It’s never to late to join or re-join CNWE!

Happy summer! Happy reading! Stay safe and healthy! And, don’t forget! Pass this edition on!

TABLE OF CONTENTS
2. Patenaude: On naming TSK
3. Dunne: A Time of Reflection
5. Rait: Lockdown at Nicholsmead
6. Morgenstern: Creation during Covid
7. Walther: Discovering the Best
8. Morgenstern: A Life Well Lived
10. Have you heard?
11. Your Letters
13. Membership Form

Virginia Lafond
Editor
virginialafond@gmail.com
In my experience, friendships between women are generally mutually supportive, each seeking the full flourishing of the other. In 2004, reading Maude Barlow’s, *The Fight of My Life: Reflections of an Unrepentant Canadian*, I learned of the dear and close friendship between Maude and Vandana Shiva. For CNWE, 2004 was the year our newsletter took on a new format and a new name, *The Seed Keepers*. Now, 16 years later, in a world changed beyond our imagining, it is steadying to remember that Vandana Shiva, beloved ecofeminist from India, and our own Maude Barlow provided the inspiration for the naming of our newsletter and for a poem.

It is told that once when the two friends were visiting, Vandana was retelling a favourite story about how multinational corporations were stealing seeds from the farmers of India, depriving them of their heritage. Vandana enlisted a band of young people, including lawyers, who helped the farmers patent their own seeds, thus protecting the seed heritage of the people. As a gift to her friend, Vandana presented a little book of photos of proud farmers holding out their seeds, and said to Maude, “From one seed keeper to another”.

It is 2020 and Earth needs “seed keepers” now!

*Rita Patenaude recollects:

“The Seed Keepers” — Its Genesis

You are like these seeds resting gently in my palm. Neither can you be owned, modified, sold to the highest bidder. Like these seeds you belong to yourself, to the community, to the whole world really, being beauty, laughter and food for the people. Let us be seed keepers, you and I, wise-fingered, clear eyed, treasuring what is true, kneading all into bread for the life of the world.

Rita Patenaude
2004
Veronica Dunne shares her reflection:

This time, a Time of Revelation

In January and February of 2020, I was in Hua Hin, Thailand, attending the 28th General Chapter of the religious Congregation to which I belong. There were rumblings of a new virus afoot in the world, and I took in the information available with remote interest, knowing it was a matter of import, but would probably not significantly impact my life. There were only 11 cases in Thailand. And if the virus ever did reach Canada, I had lived in Toronto during SARS, and had learned to wash my hands often!!

As they say, denial is not only a river in Egypt. Returning to Canada on February 17, life picked up its busy pace. There was the inevitable backlog of tasks to attend to, having been away for over five weeks. The first two weeks of March I travelled to Edmonton and Regina, returning to Winnipeg on Friday March 13. And then the whole world shut down.

I was amazed that the “impossible” (stop everything) was in fact happening! Was now “possible” in a whole new way. Everywhere. In this instant, the whole world was living “a shared moment in time” that was both scary and full of possibility.

This shared moment, initiated by a health crisis, (then spinning into a political, economic, racial, social, etc. crisis) is still in process. Let me describe something of what I have come to learn so far, and invite you to reflect on what you are learning.

For me, this time has been revelatory –

~ Revelatory of how persons deemed to be providing “essential services” (doctors, nurses, health care workers, clerks at grocery stores, hardware stores, liquor stores, pharmacies, etc.) are not paid nearly enough for the dangers they face on our behalf (and which allow us to “physically distance”);
~ Revelatory of flawed economic systems (disclosing how many persons and small businesses are only one or two month’s pay away from financial ruin);
~ Revelatory of human goodness and creativity in finding ways to connect even when we can’t be physically present with one another. Humans can have meaningful contact through Zoom!
~ Revelatory of what governments actually can do to support citizens in a time of crisis. We created those systems, and now as they become more visible, and we know more clearly that this way of structuring ourselves is not inevitable, our chances for changing them, of bending them more towards justice, are heightened.
~ Revelatory of links between the rise of pandemics and climate change.
~ Revelatory of how ill-equipped many persons in North America are in face of uncertainly and isolation.
~ Revelatory of the multiple cracks in our Canadian systems of caring for aged and infirm persons, sick persons, homeless persons.
~ Revelatory of so much death, and so few venues for grieving well. How do we communally grieve? How do we help each other not go numb?
~ Revelatory of rapidly unfolding current events, merging and shifting – e.g., the new (July) rise of Covid in the U.S, the rising numbers in South America, in India.
~ Revelatory of the extent of systemic racism in Canada. Everywhere in Canada. Throughout the world.
Revelatory of how Covid-19 is impacting persons and societies throughout the world – in ways similar to our country, and in ways different. Our sense of the world has been enlarged as we all face a common threat.
Revelatory of how much I/we need one another.
Revelatory of police brutality – brutal killing of George Floyd awakening a world.
Revelatory of how press and citizen dissent is routinely silenced, with so many harsh examples near and far.
Revelatory of how tired and heart-sick I am of petty partisan politics.
Revelatory of the interconnected structures of oppression in which “we live and breathe and are unaware of” – racism and sexism, and homophobia and able-ism, and ageism, etc. Recognizing these all as “sins against creation” – that our work for racial justice/gender justice/sexual, ability and age justice is not only a matter of social justice, or law, or theology, or ethics – it is also an ecological issue.
Revelatory of what the “toppling of statues” teaches us about the histories we tell ourselves? What is worthy of remembering? What efforts are currently underway to retrieve unknown histories/herstories?
Revelatory of aspects of a more just future, more just systems, the essential nature of the care economy (child-care, early childhood education, care of elderly in long-term care, etc.)

I will continue to be attentive to the revelations of daily life, and all that this unprecedented pandemic has taught and is teaching me/us. I believe we have an unparalleled opportunity to re-imagine and re-shape our institutions, our social structures and our lives. What will I/we take with us when all restrictions are lifted? What will I/we leave behind?

(1) That congregation is the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM). Our General Chapters are usually held every 6 years, at which time we assess our life and work, and make plans for the future. In our case, delegates from over 20 countries gather.

* Veronica Dunne, a long-serving member of CNWE, resides in Winnipeg.

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Want to know more about CNWE?

Go to: www.cnwe.ca
Visit us and ‘like’ us on Facebook: Catholic Network for Women’s Equality - Canada
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeFlJpA7axo
Yahoo e-list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cnwe

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CNWE Energy Circles: Where is Your Energy?

An ‘energy circle’ is a circle of CNWE members who share a passion for a particular aspect of CNWE’s mission.

Women in CNWE
If your heart seeks connection with other CNWE members, and new members, this circle is for you!

Women in Church and Community
If you seek further inclusion for women in the Catholic Church and would like to pursue this, this group is for you!

Women in the World
If you think it’s vital that CNWE connect with international Catholic reform groups, this energy circle is for you!

Women in Creation
If you are passionate about the earth and the environment, this Energy Circle is for you!
I shed a few tears of relief when the ospreys returned to their nest on top of a tall platform close to the nearby lockstation at the beginning of April, and again when my neighbour’s cedar hedge was filled with male red-winged blackbirds, all of them singing their heads off. They come back two weeks before the females and I guess are supposed to be finding a nice place to build a nest, but I think they just sit about carousing. My third emotional moment was when our old crabapple tree burst into more blossom than we have seen for years and when I stood underneath its branches there was the marvellous sound of hundreds of bees humming contentedly while they collected nectar and pollen – again something we have not heard for several years. I felt all these moments were Nature’s way of emphasizing that, in spite of all the strange and terrible things that were happening, creation was still unfolding as it should.

It even seemed that we were being treated to these little moments of pure joy to make up for some of the anxiety we were undergoing. Everyone’s life was turned upside-down by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for a long time it seemed that we struggled somewhat blindly – nobody really knew how the disease worked or what its effects might be, so some anxiety was only natural. However, there have also been advantages, one of them being that we have had time to stop and observe the natural world around us, and I was certainly more aware than usual of all the tiny changes that kept happening to herald the end of winter and the coming of spring. My husband, Alec, and I have had more than enough of each other’s company, but on the other hand we have been profoundly grateful that we have had to spend the lockdown in such a beautiful place (our 2.2 acres on the Rideau River), and because we had not spent any money on trips, we were even able to get dead trees and brush cleared away – we had still had reminders of the ice storm of twenty-two years ago lying about so it was very satisfying to finally say goodbye to them.

We face an uncertain future but we can rest assured that it will not be all bad. There are always silver linings! For now, we are happy to be gradually opening up our lives a little and having a few more contacts with family and friends, swimming in the river and lazing on the dock. No doubt there will be new challenges come September and we will hope to face them cheerfully and with fortitude. We will be eternally grateful to all the frontline workers who have had such a tough time and we pray for those who have lost loved ones or employment. Let’s just hope it all ends fairly soon and that we can embrace the “new normal” that our lives will become, never forgetting that we must walk lightly on the earth and try our hardest to leave it in better shape than we found it for future generations.

*Jocelyn Rait is a long-serving member of Ottawa CNWE.
Inspired by Jocelyn, I decided to put some of my experiences in writing.

I am fortunate to be living through this period on a piece of land in the Escarpment — not far from Toronto, near Terra Cotta. My partner Chuck and I have taken this time of isolation as a time to garden. I have noticed the world as if I have new eyes. It seems to be buzzing with so much life. The Garden of Eden comes to mind. I am feeling healthy and joyous as I spend hours daily planting, creating, watering. Chuck has cleared out a lot of dead brush to expose beautiful rock and so many ferns and wildflowers never before seen. I have waited anxiously for plants to return from last year. I have always delighted in the fragrance and beauty of lilacs. This year I found myself absorbed in watching the beauty of the buds slowly open!

Everyday I awake to birdsong. Joyous. We have recorded over 30 different species of birds that come to the feeder alone! We have had 4 different woodpeckers to the feeder and I spotted a pileated woodpecker in the bush. At almost 2 feet long, stunning! I have long appreciated cardinals. The brilliant red male is so gorgeous as are their songs. What I am noticing this year are the females of all the species! More subtle but sometimes even more beautiful! It seems there is a loving community of birds. Multiple species feed at the same time: several at the feeder, some perched and waiting, others on the ground feeding. Some expressly knock seed onto the ground. What incredible interaction. For one week, we were visited daily by a wild turkey. He would strut up the driveway to feast on the seeds on the ground, taking his time until he was full, and then he would strut back down the driveway.

The following week we were visited by what so reminds me of a prehistoric creature: an enormous turtle. His claws seemed to be the size of my fingers. Despite moving slowly, he managed to circumnavigate the acre. I saw the largest garter snake of my life and I also surprised a deer by the garage. There are chipmunks by the dozen, black, brown and grey squirrels, fish in the creek, frogs, toads and a salamander local to this area only. This spring, the Peepers made a loud and joyous sound.

There is an abundance this year: from large numbers of trillium in the forest, to many bees and butterflies, a zillion gypsy moth caterpillars and a magical number of fireflies. Each night for the last two weeks, I delight in this light show of hundreds of flashing lights. It is a memory of my childhood.

I just read about biophilia, a love of living things. The research indicates that our brains, cardiovascular and immune systems are rejuvenated when we are in natural environments. There is a reduction in cortisol, stress levels, and blood pressure. I am experiencing such health and joy in being in and with creation. All around the world there are reports of fish returning to waters, animals coming back in numbers, earth healing. My hopes are that we may emerge from this time with a greater appreciation of all creation and with the determination to do all that we can to heal our beautiful planet.

Mary-Ellen Morgenstern is a long-serving member of Toronto CNWE. Affirming that she is ‘busy’, she says, “Being on a CNWE team and a circle, … is invigorating…as is my garden.”
Watching my old black oak trees and the ground plants below from the observation deck of my 5th floor condo has been my spiritual salvation during this Covid time. Their slow mysterious return from winter hibernation to full bloom helped me with my forced slow-down almost like a spiritual companion — calming, assuring, dependable and positive. The birds, especially the cardinals, also sang more clearly and joyously, seeming to say "We’re here for you, It’s all going to be OK." They have always been my friends but this year, when I was feeling worried and upset they were there, steadfastly marking spring and liberation.

My first walk in High Park, masked and with hand sanitizer in my pocket, was another major help for me during this time. Touching the trees, the grasses and the stones on my path was like waking up from a long sleep. Walking beside the river and watching the ducks and the swans swimming lazily along made me realize that things would one day be back to ‘normal’, and that I just needed patience.

My two neighbours on either side of my condo unit, the only people I saw for the first month, have been my faithful companions, sharing the daily woes of teaching on-line with one, and the family concerns with the other, as we regularly come out to bang and clang our thanks to the medical community and essential workers. Whether we see each other at our best or occasionally in housecoats and bed-hair, we’re there for each other — another source of assurance and calm.

Since the merging of our bubbles, my daughter Amanda and her husband Jerome have been sources of long awaited hugs. But the best comforter of all was my 6 year-old grandson, Ender, as he ran towards me with his hands outstretched crying "Grandma" and gave me the biggest hug in the world, as he described it. I had never realized how much human touch was such an essential thing for one’s well-being.

I had never realized how much human touch was such an essential thing for one’s well-being.

* Catherine Walther is a long-serving member of Toronto CNWE.
"We are Church!" I love Alexina’s enthusiasm and passion for our Church, sustained over decades. Speaking with Alexina is a delight not only for her wit, intellect and insights, but I could listen to her English accent all day. Over this last year it has been a privilege to get to know Alexina better on the CNWE Transition Team and then, in some private conversations initiated by the CNWE Care Circle. Alexina has led an extraordinary life in so many ways: an amazing family, multiple studies, committed activism, a founder of CNWE!

Alexina is deeply spiritual. This passion for her faith began in her Catholic family and continued at boarding school where the Holy Child nuns provided a good Catholic formation — regular prayers and hymns in Chapel, daily mass, celebrations of feast days. They taught the beginnings of bible study as well as apologetics which later counted as a qualification to teach religion in Catholic schools. She remembers heated discussions around the role of women Church and whether there was a lay vocation to match the calling to religious life. The sisters themselves were in the process of examining their faith which gave their classes an extra relevance. There was a sense of being called, of the opportunity to be more fully alive within the Church.

The excitement continued at university. Though Vatican II was still in the future, students felt the stirrings of change — a longing for openness and renewal. Growing up Catholic in the U.K. was a minority experience, as the Church of England was the established Church with seats for bishops in the House of Lords. The experience prompted ecumenical thinking and a desire for reconciliation of historical separation. Encouraged by the Catholic Chaplaincy, students were involved in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There were other opportunities. For example, Catholic students gathered for Holy Week at Spode House where young Dominicans pursued their studies.

Alexina met her husband in 1958 at the Union of Catholic Students of Great Britain Summer School. The following year, Alexina assisted Marcus who had been elected secretary of The Union of Catholic Students in Britain. They were married in 1962. Alexina refers to meeting Marcus as a miracle, a personal intervention from on high that from the beginning they should risk a life-time’s partnership in each other, hardly knowing that they were suited.

In 1976 Marcus came to Toronto with his company. Understanding his wife so well, in advance of her arrival, he enrolled her in theology courses at St Mike’s. Alexina managed to juggle married life and four children as well as an increasing course load.

Alexina was in her element studying theology. Previously she had been teaching religion to primary grades and was increasingly uncertain as to how best to answer seven year olds’ penetrating questions about God. Ellen Leonard was one of her teachers. Alexina remembers particularly loving Ellen’s course on Sacraments. Ellen wanted to bring personal experience into her teaching and for each sacrament invited someone different to testify to that sacrament’s significance in their life. Alexina and Marcus came together to share with the class how their faith influenced their marriage relationship.

Alexina discovered a new ferment at work on campus, namely feminism as a politics and a theology. The UN had inaugurated the Decade for Women (1975 - 1985). At a meeting of religious superiors in Detroit, the Women’s Ordination Conference came into existence. In Toronto the Women’s Inter-Church Council set
up a Women’s Committee to think ahead and plan for the presence of women at the World Council of Churches next General Assembly which was to be held in Vancouver in 1983. Women students, especially those interested in feminist theology, were drawn into these activities. Some of these women were candidates hoping to be ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Alexina attended a conference sponsored by the United Church called “Women in Ministry: Agents of Social Change.” The conference was designed to be an immersive and transformative experience, starting with a critique of evident sexism in our churches, the multiple ways in which women feel invisible. For example, God is addressed God the Father, faith is formulated in such phrases as “Jesus Christ became a man like us,” and always the lack of women in leadership and decision-making roles, were complaints common to all the churches. From critique, the conference then considered how to re-envision church as a community inclusive of both women and men. Finally, how could women bring about change in the churches? In grappling with this question, Catholic women began to plan for their own conference, the one at which CNWE came into being.

Once settled back in London, Alexina got together with friends from student days and held another conference at which Rosemary Ruether was the key speaker and resource person. “Called to Full Humanity” was the title of the conference and Catholic Women’s Network (CWN) the name of the group that emerged. Alexina began to identify her ministry and vocation as bringing theological reflection as a resource to church-related women’s groups, working locally with Women’s World Day of Prayer, supporting the Movement for the Ordination of Women in the Anglican Church. CWN had a full program for Catholic women who wanted to deepen their faith and express their feminism in women’s liturgies, explore women’s spiritual experience and be active in support of women’s ordination in the Catholic Church.
I connected with Alexina at last year’s CNWE conference in Toronto. This last year we have had monthly meetings for the Transition Team. Alexina is facilitating the first meeting of The Women in Church/Community Circle. Alexina is living in Victoria, British Columbia where she is active in several small groups but misses a specifically CNWE group. The ongoing lack of equality for women is still, for her, a primary injustice in church and society and should never be ranked as of less importance than, for example, climate catastrophe or the poverty gap or racism. To her, these interlinked systems cannot be Individually rectified, one without the others.

Alexina continues to enjoy meeting with like-minded women. Sharing lived experience is the most revealing and rewarding human encounter. She loves that CNWE is so diverse and yet united in our desire for justice and equality. “We can listen to each other. We can accept and respect our differences and still be united in the One Spirit.”

*Mary-Ellen Morgenstern, a long-serving member of Toronto CNWE, was in dialogue with Alexina Murphy for this article.

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**Have you heard?**

From *THINK*: Opinion, Analysis, Essays (retrieved from nbcnews.com July 21/20)

**Pope Francis put a woman in a top Vatican role. It shows how little power Catholic women hold.**

By Celia Viggo Wexler. Jan 21, 2020

Recently, the Catholic Church took two small steps for womankind: This month, Pope Francis named the first woman to a managerial position in the Vatican’s most important office, the Secretariat of State. And in October, the world’s bishops suggested that Francis reconvene a commission he had created, at the urging of nuns, to study the ordination of women as permanent deacons — church ministers who are able to perform some of the duties of priests, but not to say Mass or hear confessions.

Yet these reforms only make clear how little power women hold in the church, where they constitute about half of Catholicism’s 1.2 billion adherents. Not only are women barred from ordination to the priesthood, they are not even allowed to vote at Vatican synods, convened to advise the pope about challenges facing the church.

In his New Year’s sermon, Francis declared that women “should be fully included in decision-making processes” in the church. Many popes have spoken highly of Catholic women, but by repeatedly speaking warmly of women’s gifts and the church’s need for them, Francis raised our expectations that women would actually be given power. Six years into his reign, however, he hasn’t lived up to our hopes. …

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From *America* (retrieved from americamagazine.org July 21/20)

**Pope Francis has set up a new commission to study women deacons.**

By Gerard O’Connell and Colleen Dulle. April 8, 2020

Pope Francis has set up a new commission to study the diaconate for women, the Vatican announced today, April 8. He had promised he would do so last October as he concluded the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region at which the question was also discussed.

The commission has 10 members, including five women, who are all European, and five men, two of whom are deacons from the United States. Its president will be Cardinal Giuseppe Petrocchi, archbishop of L’Aquila, and its secretary will be the Rev. Denis Dupont-Fauville, an official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. …
Your letters …

Thanks for another wonderful issue of The Seed Keepers.
I would like to recommend two movies I saw recently and perhaps you might want to put in the next issue, Pope Francis; A Man of his Word and The Two Popes.
The one about Pope Francis is a documentary about the latter part of his life, showing how he is a pastoral person, not consumed by rules and dogmas. It gives us an opportunity to see how he interprets Jesus’ message on issues such as homosexuality, priest sexual abuse, women, and clericalism. Though his attitude towards women seems very incomplete I was left with understanding more of how Jesus must have been. The Two Popes is a fictional piece about conversations Francis and Benedict have. In their conversations they expose their strengths and vulnerabilities in a very sensitive way. I was left with a deeper appreciation of what true leadership demands.
Thanks again, Catherine Walther, Toronto
Received Jan. 16/20

What a wonderful edition of the The Seed Keepers. I have read part of it and I’ll definitely read all of it and certainly re-read some articles.
I’m struggling with the renewal of my membership in CNWE after their refusal to fund Susan’s participation at the WOW meeting. If I do decide to renew my membership, and at the moment, it’s a big IF, I will not add a donation as I have sometimes done in the past.
I understand that CNWE is in a period of study and transition. I also know that certain members of CNWE do not approve of women’s ordinations. However, I wonder if CNWE, as an organization, supports women’s ordinations. It is called Catholic Network for Women’s Equality and if there is one major flaw, imperfection, weakness, inadequacy, shortcoming (whatever we want to call it) in the Catholic Church, it is the lack of equality for women.
I’m including a powerful poem from Kaitlyn Hardy Shetler. It says it all. (See below.)
Love,
Danielle Whissell, Sudbury
Received mid-January 2020

sometimes I wonder
if Mary breastfed Jesus.
if she cried out when he bit her
or if she sobbed when he would not latch.
and sometimes I wonder
if this is all too vulgar
to ask in a church
full of men
without milk stains on their shirts
or coconut oil on their breasts
preaching from pulpits off limits to the
Mother of God.
but then i think of feeding Jesus,
 birthing Jesus,
 the expulsion of blood
 and smell of sweat,
 the salt of a mother’s tears
 onto the soft head of the Salt of the Earth,
 feeling lonely
 and tired

hungry
 annoyed
 overwhelmed
 loving
 and i think,
 if the vulgarity of birth is not
 honestly preached
 by men who carry power but not burden,
 who carry privilege but not labor,
 who carry authority but not submission,
 then it should not be preached at all.
because the real scandal of the Birth of God
 lies in the cracked nipples of a
 14 year old
 and not in the sermons of ministers
 who say women
 are too delicate
 to lead.
~ @Kaitlyn Hardy Shetler
#poemsfortheresistance

11
I have just finished reading this enlightening, encouraging, thoughtful, bang-on edition with respect to the need for us all to try to live as truly as possible to Jesus’ message and to raise our voices against the clericalism which continues to persist going into the 2020’s.

With thanks,
Mary Ellen Lawless, Toronto

Greetings all.

May this find you in good spirits, health and satisfying relationships.

I have been a member of CNWE for approximately twenty-five years. So many good memories! From "The Purple Stole" action, to special rituals and topics of educational and meaningful, relevant discussion, involvement in a prayer shawl circle, freezing at the corner of Bay and Bloor to hand out pamphlets against human trafficking, retreats at Maryholme, my favourite gathering of all - annual Advent at a member’s home, respectful disagreements, warm and provocative sharing, and intimate friendships...

I have met some of the best people around in CNWE. People this world needs.

I often queried where Jesus fit in CNWE, and have often felt He was dismissed, minimally recognized/acknowledged, and not used as the foundational base.

Years ago I retreated from action-oriented and "cause" efforts. For various reasons, I didn't have the interest or energy. I was tired of fighting and lending credence to the "coneheads" of Rome. My spirituality moved away from the Roman Catholic Church to the Messianic Congregations where I explored the affinity I always had with Judaism. Jesus was a Jew, and a Torah-observant Jew. Christianity kinda forgot about that. Messianics merge His Messiahship with His Jewishness, hence my attraction to this group.

CNWE has become, for me, a shared history, connections, and a social network of lovely, intelligent, bold and honest women who truly occupy a special place in my heart.

Keep up the great work. Thank you for being a part of my life.
Blessings and Love ~ Liza

Liza Kocsondy, Toronto

Received June 20, 2020,

Shauna Gravelines, Sault Ste. Marie (July 2020): A family WhatsApp text message arrived yesterday from our elder son John-Paul (working overseas in the field of international security and development with Sayara International).

From https://sayarainternational.com/ “Hey. Over the weekend the sister of one of my business partners was killed in a targeted assassination in Kabul. We set up a gofundme page for her memory. Please share: https://www.gofundme.com/f/natasha-fatima-memorial-fund

If any so inclined, this explains the charity where Fatima’s memorial fund has been designated: https://enabledchildren.org/

Some of you may have seen the NYT article: Another Young Leader Taken. Afghans Ask: How Many More? https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/29/world/asia/afghanistan-women-human-rights.html?referringSource=articleShare

A shining bright 24 year-old feminine light snuffed out.
To facilitate networking, CNWE sends out the membership list once a year, only to members. (We do not otherwise release membership information). If you would prefer not to have your name on the membership list, please check below:

☐ DO NOT include my name and contact information on the membership list.

I, (Print Name) ____________________________________, consent to waiving an audit of the books of the Catholic Network for Women’s Equality for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Date: ___________________ Signature:________________________________________

Waiver Form – April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 (as per the Corporation Act)

PLEASE CHECK THAT ALL 5 OF THE ABOVE BOXES HAVE BEEN FILLED OUT

April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021
CNWE’S VISION:
Justice and equality for all persons manifested in word and action in the Catholic church and throughout the world.

CNWE’S MISSION:
As a Canadian organization, we connect, support and represent people who seek justice for all the baptized within the Catholic church, for women throughout the world and for all of creation.

CNWE’S CORE VALUES:
- Inclusivity
- Creativity
- Celebration
- Compassion
- Solidarity
- Collaboration
- Dialogue