

LifeWays North America

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

Theme: Winter Games~ Thriving and Striving

Greetings from Cynthia!



Dear Friend,

While for many of you, winter is still ever present and COLD, for others (like myself in Sacramento) blossoming is already happening and garden beds are being prepared! And, of course, for our dear friends in the southern hemisphere you are leaving summer and headed into autumn!

Thank you all for your patience in anticipating our Winter Newsletter. As with so many loved ones we know, our dear Michaelleen, LifeWays newsletter editor, and her family have been going through the winter illness of our times. Thus, the delay. We are cheering her on

and invite all of you to send out love and well wishes.

Although, this is a much shorter newsletter than usual, the articles, photos and videos are so lovely and inspiring. [...READ MORE OF CYNTHIA's LETTER](#)



Contributions from the LifeWays Community

The Winter Garden, A Story

by Suzanne Down



Imagine this little tale as a puppet play... I like creating surprise in my puppet shows. Here, the snow cave can be revealed from under a white snowy landscape silk, already set up with little twinkle lights hidden with white silk gauze veiling, that can be turned on with a dimmer light. How magical it will be for your children!...[READ MORE](#)

Little House Reflections ~ Winter 2022

by Veronica Oliva-Clour

The winter seasons are long periods that



can last six months at Little House, located in central Minnesota. Snow can gently begin falling in October, which excites us all, and usually covers the garden in a gentle soft blanket. Then it may melt away and seem like a bit of a tease. But eventually we all know that the big snow will come, supported by King Winter and his team of merry folk....[READ MORE](#)

Little Mice in the Snow, A Movement Game

by Lynn St. Pierre



This delightful Ellersiek large movement play is designed for mixed age kindergarten. The body of work created by Wilma Ellersiek offers the young child all that is needed for healthy development of the lower four senses. Later, after snack you could invite the little mice under the table to clean up all the crumbs. Enjoy this wonderful play with your children!...[READ MORE](#)

Even the Youngest Children Thrive in Indoor/Outdoor Nursery Settings

by Catherine Falknor



After a year's hiatus at the Whidbey Island Waldorf School (WIWS) because of COVID, children have resumed their classes and had a full autumn's worth of subjects, increased outdoor time, and festival life. The nursery program, blending outdoors and indoors time, was among the only segments of the school to continue operating last year, together with the outdoors classes for the mixed-age kindergarteners. This year, the Little Woods Nursery is providing a safe environment for

children, many affected by isolation during COVID, to grow and flourish with their peers....[READ MORE](#)



We invite you to view these delightful winter circle time videos of Jaimmie Stugard, Director and KinderHouse Teacher at LifeWays Early Childhood Center in Milwaukee, WI. LifeWays Milwaukee celebrates its 20 year anniversary this year!



Are you enjoying this newsletter? If so, please share it with a colleague, friend or your school community!

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Featured LifeWays Representative

***Thriving and Striving at
Paradise Farm
in West Bend, WI***



"Here as well as anywhere I can look out my window and see the world. There are lights that arrive here from deep in the universe." -Wendell Berry

Paradise Farm is the site of an historic homestead in southeastern Wisconsin, amid the rolling hills and fertile land of the Kettle Moraine. The Potawatomi people lived lightly on this land for centuries, a staggering feat in a region where the weather can be harsh and cruel for five months out of the year. In 1850 or so, German settlers felled giant oak trees with simple hand tools and fashioned them into the strong beams that provide structure to the buildings that have housed every farm animal and human being on this patch of land for 170+ years. The thriving and the striving, and the living and the dying, of those who came before us for hundreds of years have shaped this little patch of land, and they have shaped us, too.

Thoreau, who went to Walden Pond to learn about the natural world, was convinced that if you study any one place carefully enough, you can learn everything you need to know about the world. Paradise Farm is a place where the invitation to observe and listen is strong and clear, like a bell ringing in the countryside calling us to gather at the table and discover the foundations of our heritage. This invitation is what drew me and my family in, and what

formed the farm education program at Paradise Farm.

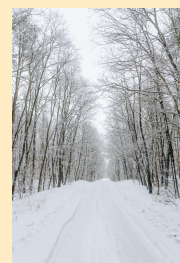
The Paradise Farm education program began 11 years ago, and like the land on which the program lives, it has morphed and changed over those years, adapting to changing circumstances and the needs of the community. We first started by partnering with schools, hoping to go beyond the usual "field trip to a farm" experience that is a standard component of modern American children's schooling. The vision was to develop a relationship between children and the farm, giving the children enough time and exposure to life on the farm that they could gather up the goodness of the land and its ancestors. Relationships take time, however, and most schools don't have the resources or the inclination to cultivate a long-lasting relationship between the children and the farm. When responding to teachers' inquiries, it was difficult to get beyond the question, "Can the children come out to your farm and get a pumpkin?" It's still a dream to partner with a school that will invest in supporting a class of children to develop a long-term relationship with the farm. Maybe someday. In the meantime, ...[READ MORE](#)

Want to know more? Follow [Paradise Farm](#) on Facebook!



Mary O'Connell opened LifeWays Early Childhood Center in Milwaukee in 2002, where she served as director for 13 years. Mary is an alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a traveling teacher and Training Coordinator for LifeWays North America. She has taught parents and childcare teachers all over the U.S. and internationally. In 2010, Mary co-authored *Home Away From Home: LifeWays Care of Children and*

Families with Cynthia Aldinger, and in 2018 she authored *Observing Young Children: A Tool for Meaningful Assessment*. Most recently, Mary started a non-profit farm education program at **Paradise Farm** in West Bend, where she and her colleagues provide outdoor, farm-based education to children and adults.



News from the LifeWays Community

FREE Online Course from LifeWays!



To introduce you to our innovative approach to care for young children, we invite you to jump into our **FREE** online course.

"Welcome to LifeWays" includes videos and resources to help you deepen your home life and transform your work with children!

Enjoy it on your own time, and at your own pace! (Directors, teachers and professional caregivers: This is a great introductory course to share with parents in your early childhood programs!)

[Click here to enroll in the free course!](#)



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opportunities with the new **LIFEWAYS PLANNER**,

published every two months. Catch up on the latest issue, [January/February 2022](#). By signing up on our website [HERE](#) you'll get the bi-monthly Planner, our weekly Blog and more!

Questions? Ideas? Comments?

Share them with your editor:

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LifeWays graduate, Class of 2000



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