

Connecting

I've always taught and written about the things I need to learn. It's been one way to deepen my own understanding of the questions that have been my companions throughout my life. And yet, I continue to be surprised at how this works for me—most recently by launching a weekly blog and becoming active on Facebook. Articulating small insights, personal struggles and questions that intrigue me and reading the often honest and insightful responses has opened up something within that had been closed for awhile. It has renewed my faith in our ability to find sustainable ways to engage in and learn from community. Being an introvert I enjoy doing this primarily through writing. And sometimes I learn the most about what I know or don't know from responses that do not align with my values or experience.



I have to admit, I did not expect to be engaged so deeply. I did not expect the commitment to writing the weekly blog and the threads of exchange on FB (which I knew nothing about) to really contribute to my understanding of what works for me or where I go next. Realizing that extensive traveling and teaching were no longer viable options for me (largely because of health concerns) I set up both forums at the suggestion of my literary agent who urged me to increase my "on-line presence." Reluctantly I complied. What an unexpected gift it has been. Recently, writing a blog about my resistance to working on the novel that was stalled after the initial two hundred pages. On impulse I included a small piece of a fiction that did not appear to be related to the novel (see blog post for January 6.) As I sat with the responses to both the story fragment and the idea of resistance, I got it: the novel I thought I was going to write is not the story that wants to be told at this time. The story fragment is the seed of the novel that wants to be written. Of course this blessing has all the attendant challenges: vast uncertainties about how to do this, where it will go, or if it will be "good enough" etc. But mostly, I am just overwhelmed with gratitude for this bit of clarity that brings with it renewed enthusiasm and energy for writing.

So, thank you to those who have participated by reading, mulling and/or responding. And if you have not connected on either the blog or Facebook, I hope you will (and if a luddite like me can do it, truly, anyone can!) My hope is that the pieces posted on both sites offer to others what they offer to me— a way to connect with the inner world and outer community where questions and stories about meaning and faith and living from the centre of who we are can be explored. It's a way to stir the inner pot.

With the temperatures dipping well below zero it is a great time to light a fire in the wood stove and work on the laptop. The snowy scene below was captured at sunset from the porch of our home by my husband Jeff. Many blessings, Oriah

Ways to Connect

Blog and Facebook: You can find direct links to Oriah's blog or facebook posts on the home page of her website at www.oriah.org or:

Oriah's blog, *The Green Bough* is at www.oriahsinvitation.blogspot.com Oriah posts every Wednesday and you can subscribe by clicking on "Subscribe" and setting up an account on one of the options offered. (Simpler than it sounds.) Or you can just bookmark it and check in on Wednesdays. Past blogs are archived.

Oriah has two Facebook sites. You can become a "friend" at Oriah House at <http://www.facebook.com/people/Oriah-House/518852392> and/or a "fan" on the Oriah Mountain Dreamer Fan page (set up years ago by a lovely man in South Africa who has now made Oriah the administrator.) You don't have to have a Facebook account to see the fan page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oriah-Mountain-Dreamer/23576314116>

Newsletter: Oriah's newsletters are sent out three to four times a year via email. To go on the list simply send your email address to mail@oriah.org

Books/CD's: All of Oriah's books (print and audio) and her Sounds True audio programme are available on-line and can be ordered by clicking on the pictures of the book covers on her homepage at www.oriah.org

Interviews: You can listen to interviews with Oriah at the following links:

For CBC Radio's Tapestry with Mary Hynes go to <http://www.cbc.ca/tapestry/archives/2005/110605.html>

For New Dimensions Radio interviews with Michael Toms go to

<http://www.newdimensions.org/search.php?q=Oriah+Mountain+Dreamer&Submit=Search>

For an interview with Penny Calcina on the radio show Your Inner Journey go to

<http://www.newdimensions.org/search.php?q=Oriah+Mountain+Dreamer&Submit=Search>

"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."

~~ Annie Dillard ~



The view from our home in the winter at sunset (black thing sticking out of snow is the well head.) Photo taken by my wonderful husband, Jeff.