

# Living Spring

- Christa -

2014-10 Letter

Good things come to those who wait – right? Well – here I am finally again, greet you sincerely and let you know how things are here.

The days are filled with so much work that sometimes I start my mornings with making a list. The lists – as I soon found out – are not useful for anything other than keeping my head clear of all the things that have to be done but they help me to see the first steps towards doing them.

There, is of course, the routine that the animals bring into my life. First the cats as they'd like their food very early in the morning, hopefully before Erna, the hen, who always has cat food on her mind, leaves her box on the shelf in the wood shed behind the house. I can hear her, when she gets ready to come and the cats better be ready with eating, for this hen chases two cats away from their bowls. To stay with Erna a bit more: She made it necessary to keep a baby gate at the front door all summer long. For if you forgot and left the door open she was immediately at the compost bucket or cat food container. Nevertheless is Erna the best hen of 12 and lays an egg every day and the biggest one at that. With all the hens we have a lot of fresh eggs that we pass on to anyone who comes by and wants some. That also holds true for the vegetables from the garden, leaving us still enough to eat.

Only the flower garden is pretty much ruined by the chickens looking for earth worms. I had to decide whether I wanted to save or give up and let the grass taken over, I decided to save it and collected (a lot with the help of Iris) big stones from the newly built road that had rolled to the sides. With those I totally covered all the flower beds around the plants and bushes. Some day I will take some pictures and put them on the website that is soon done. Sara and Angelika made a great effort to get it in shape and soon you will have access to it.

Now the first nights of frost have passed and ruined the cucumbers, zucchinis, tomatoes, beans, and basil. But we still have Swiss chard, lettuce, parsley, and carrots. The day before our new neighbors came for lunch. I had harvested potatoes which I fried in olive oil with rosemary and feta cheese. Delicious!

Yes, the new neighbors who moved to the ranch that borders our east fence. The Swiss could, Walter and Susi, - courageous, courageous I can only say! Even before they had a visa they sold their house and business in Switzerland, founded a company and bought the ranch..... and then got a visa only for four years with the possibility for an extension contingent on their business success. What brought them here? They say Cowboy-Life! Walter is a serious roper and already participated successfully in American competitions before coming here. Last week they auctioned four horses at the Billings Yard and preparing them for the next competition in California a few weeks from now. I am impressed! But I am also glad that they are here as we have things in common about neighboring, ecology and the treatment of animals. I also won't have to worry anymore about broken fences between us.

So, on the land and all around us everything is order. All the animals are well, construction on the house continues, though we still don't have electricity or running water; and without that also no heating. But everything is well insulated and the temperature after the frost nights was still at 61 degrees F. in the house. We have also closed the ceiling to the roof upstairs and have

blown in 14 inches of insulation. Two rooms can be lived in but don't have floor tiles yet. However, Iris, who came for four weeks this year, lived in one of them already...

What we have on our list to do this fall is adding three more posts to the front of the house, install rain gutters (will be done in two weeks) and have the exterior doors painted at the paint shop (car). Whether we will have enough money left for the siding to the lower part of the house, I don't know, especially since we have to have a two-foot wainscot of stone.

On October 21, Andrea is coming for three weeks from Germany. We have decided to travel for eight days to Santa Barbara, CA – from 10/31 to 11/03. Gabriele has given us airline miles for the tickets and we can stay at Dawa's (my son's) place at no cost. We are looking forward to this joint adventure, the warm and sunny state of California, and to one day at the *Alternative Film Festival Retreat*. Andrea, who has never been here nor met me, took everything in stride. Michelle and Gabriele will take care of my cabin and the animals during my absence. I very much look forward.

What have been issues on the spiritual paths can hardly fit onto a page. However, some cues can be given: pride and the breaking of pride as well as the failure to reconstruct it; the consequences of not knowing where to go with the shards of the broken illusions; the absurdity to believe we are without the Creator and It's Force; the painful awakening into the knowingness that we have no control over life no matter how much we desire it or how much we effort. And finally: how many knockdowns does one need before one gives up.

Well, all of these issues are steady path companions, aren't they? You probably know them all. But here they belonged to real time experiences to write about them in detail would be too much. They do not make a story.

That's Life on Living Spring. In its spirit and with the Latin words *Laborare est orare* (work is prayer) **AND** *omnia vincit amor* (love conquers all) I greet you once again. May your path be a good one.

Christa



Soweit ist das Haus: Drei weitere Pfosten sind noch eingesetzt worden zum Dach und alle Türen sind gestrichen. Oben ist alles fertig bis auf die Regipswände. Strom und Wasser vielleicht im nächsten Jahr 😊