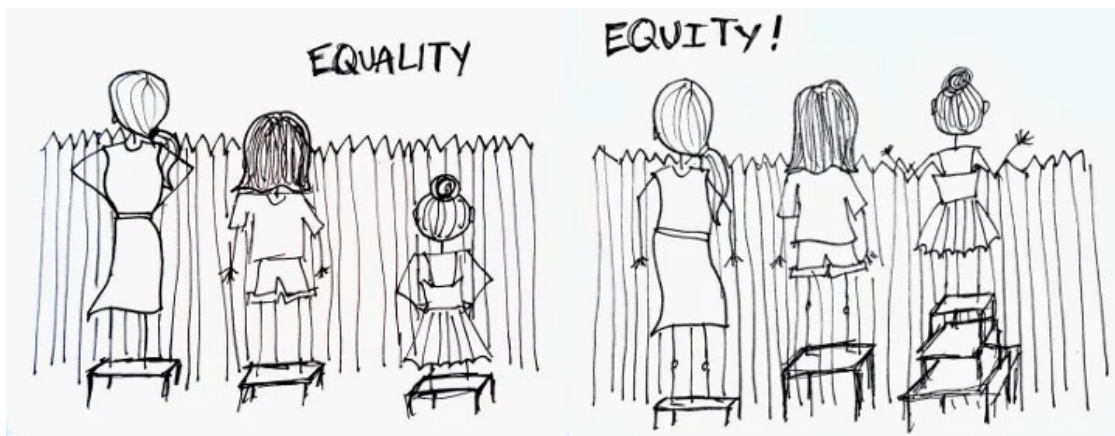### It's About Equity

When my boys were young, every so often one of them would complain, "How come *he* got more than I did?" followed by "It's not fair!" I would explain that if they each got the same thing every time, *that* wouldn't be fair. Today, such a statement might trigger a riot! Yet I stand firm by my words: Equality is not necessarily fair. Equity is the objective.
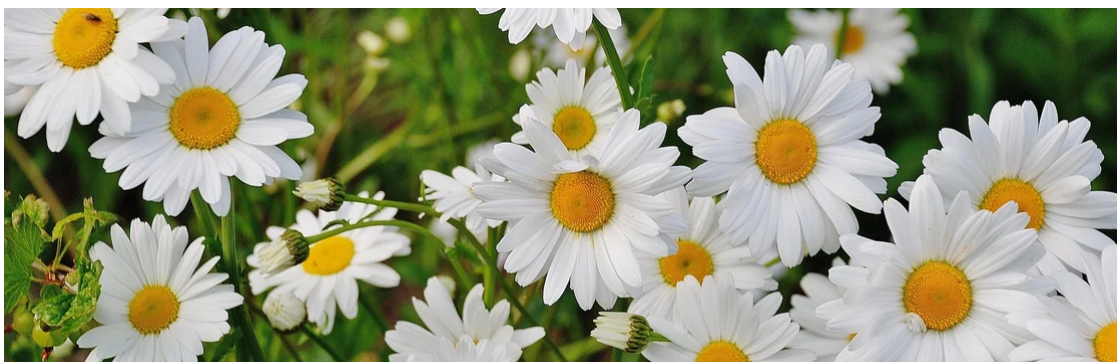
Imagine that you are standing with two of your siblings before an eight foot privacy fence. Beyond the fence is a beautiful view of the sun setting over the ocean. You are 5', your brother is 6' and your little sister is only 4'. None of you are tall enough to see over the fence. Along comes the EQUALITY fairy who gives each of you a box that is 3' high to stand on. Your brother can now watch the sunset but you and your sister cannot. A few minutes later, the FAIRNESS genie comes along with boxes that are 1' high. He gives two boxes to your sister, one box to you and none to your brother. While your younger sister has more boxes than you and your brother, you all have the same opportunity to view the sunset. An equitable solution to an unfair set of circumstances.

As we tackle the challenges of social inequity, we must think the same way. Equality will not necessarily address the needs of those whose "views" are blocked by seemingly insurmountable "fences". We must recognize that people are indeed different and we must be willing to meet individuals WHERE THEY ARE. Make no mistake, there will always be obstacles. But without recognizing the inherent imbalance in our society and addressing it with policies that are fair and programs that are equitable with a people willing to change, we will never free ourselves from social injustice. It will take patience, sacrifice, and the willingness of every one of us to open our minds and our hearts to a different point of view.

MASQUE OF HONOR
Update: We have a COVER!

Stay tuned for the big reveal coming soon! The manuscript is in production and the galley will be ready for review in the coming week or so. I can hardly wait!!

This Month in History: Juneteenth

The celebration known as Juneteenth has grown into a popular event to commemorate emancipation from slavery and celebrate African American culture. Juneteenth refers to June 19, the date in 1865 when the US Army arrived in Galveston, TX

and announced that the Civil War was over and that the enslaved were free. African Americans in Loudoun County, the town of Warrenton, and other communities celebrated emancipation on September 22, the date in 1862 when Lincoln signed the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Follow the link to learn more about Juneteenth celebrations in Virginia.
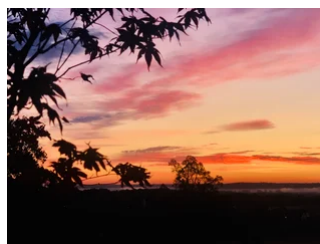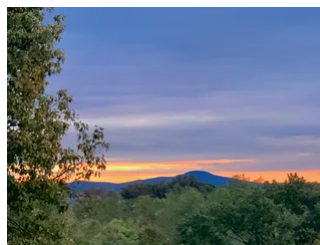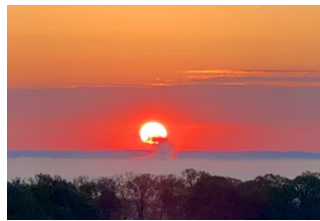
From My Kitchen to Yours:

June is strawberry season! In my opinion, there is nothing better than homemade strawberry ice cream. But, thanks to Chef Thomas at [Tuscarora Mill](#), I have learned that strawberries are good for more than just dessert. I made this incredible [Strawberry Camembert Flatbread](#) for lunch last week. It was to die for! To inspire you further, here is a [collection of 50 fabulous low-carb, keto-friendly recipes](#) for your fresh picked strawberries!
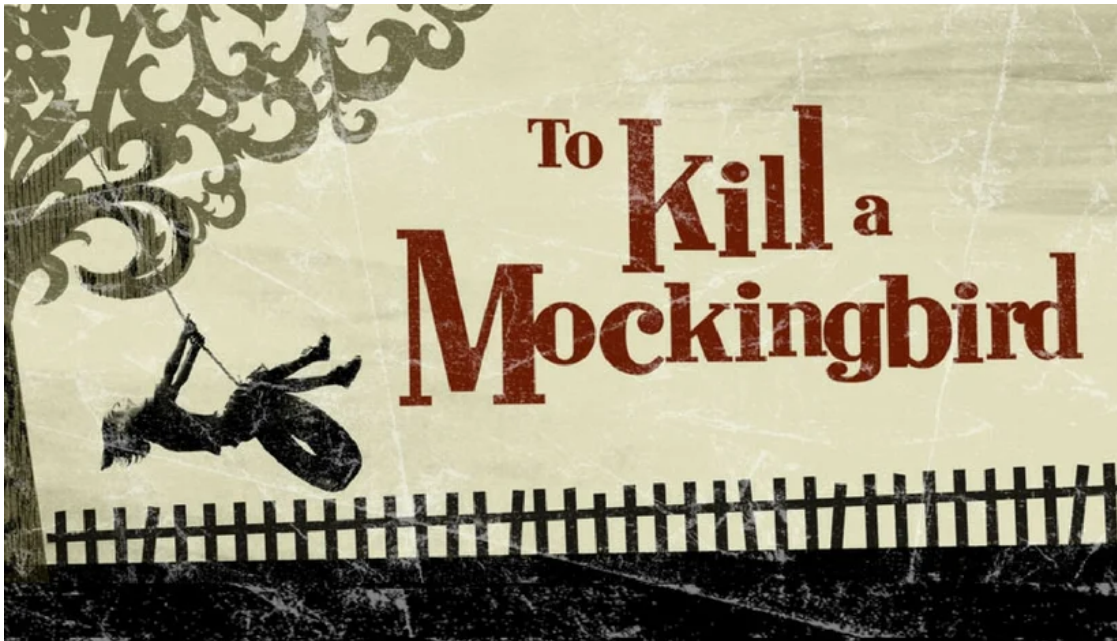

"There's always a story. It's all stories, really. The sun coming up every day is a story. Everything's got a story in it. Change the story, change the world."

— Terry Pratchett

Two things I love are writing stories of our past and watching the sunrise. The sunrises at Selma have been spectacular this month . [Follow the link here](#) to my online photo gallery to see some of the best ones yet!

The Mysterious, Reclusive Harper Lee

I have found myself thinking about the work of Harper Lee a great deal these past few weeks. Her debut novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, about racial injustice in a small Alabama town, sold more than 40 million copies and became one of the most beloved and most taught works of fiction ever written by an American. Published in 1960, it won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction the next year, turning "Nelle" Lee into a literary celebrity, a role she found oppressive and never learned to accept.

"I never expected any sort of success with 'Mockingbird,' " she told a radio interviewer in 1964. "I was hoping for a quick and merciful death at the hands of the reviewers, but, at the same time I sort of hoped someone would like it well enough to give me encouragement." She was a close friend of Truman Capote and edited his most famous work *In Cold Blood*. Her last years were tumultuous, fraught with legal battles and disappointment. But her work and the creation of Atticus Finch has been an inspiration to me. Pick up a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to re-read. And for other classics to enjoy this summer, you'll want to check out this list from Southern Living.

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view."

— **Harper Lee**

Celebrating Dad's Everywhere!

Sunday is Father's Day! Although I am out of town this weekend, I will be celebrating him and all the other great dads out there, including my husband, Scott, and my son, Luke!

Sharon's Book Club: Simon the Fiddler

Nearing the end of the Civil War, fiddle-playing Simon Boudlin avoids conscription for most of the Civil War, but inevitably finds himself in the Confederate Army. During his brief service, he becomes enamored with an indentured girl from Ireland. After the war Simon travels around Texas, earning a reputation as a talented fiddler —but he cannot forget the fair Irish maiden.

Be part of the CLUB! Join me via ZOOM this month for our discussion of *Simon the Fiddler.* Email me for an invitation to the meeting. And don't forget to pick up a bottle of Chardonnay from Doukenie Winery to enjoy during the discussion. Video will air on June 27.

Don't forget to check my <u>FaceBook</u> or <u>Instagram</u> page for details on our July Book Club selection.

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