

A QUIET TIME

The world is white and frozen. There is no exit from my home, no driving possible, no walking without the possibility of a sliding fall.

The world is so quiet. Winter snowfall! Winter freeze. Winter quiet.

I see that my retirement is an opportunity to enter that winter quiet. Joseph Campbell used these words to describe his own later years:

Achievement can be an addiction. I must wean myself from it without punishment, but with a movement

My own education, formal through a doctorate, and informal through family and life experience, celebrated achievement. Now I must celebrate my Self for not achieving but for enjoying, for appreciating, for relaxing. This may be the biggest challenge I have faced in my life.

When I play piano—can I do it for the joy of it? When I read and see great films, can I relax into the appreciation of another's good work? When I cook a good meal, can I take time to enjoy it with candles on the table, and good linen, china and sparkling glassware?

I am a guest in my own winter quiet home: can I treat as warmly and graciously as I treat others who come here?

How can we educators prepare our students for the inevitable quiet winter?

A challenge indeed!