

We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays & 2pm to 4pm Sundays | Open holidays & other times by appointment

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends of Raven Hill
From: Cheri and staff
Date: January 6, 2023
Re: Peace and Joy on the Epiphany

Epiphany, means “appearance” or “revelation”. The holiday falls on January 6 every year. It is an ancient celebration with many traditions, legends, and other strange events. For some, it ends the Christmas season. For others, it is the Twelfth Day of Christmas. It is also known as “Three Kings Day”. At our house, it is the day to take the Christmas trees and decorations down.

It seems especially appropriate to acknowledge the Twelfth Night of Christmas, which is the very magical night before the Epiphany. In Calabria, Italy, people once believed that animals could speak on

Epiphany Eve. In Poland and other countries, animals could talk at midnight on Christmas Eve. Either way, people traditionally gave their animals some extra attention and a special meal or treat on those nights, so the animals would say great things about their caretakers! Even the animals in the forest are said to be able to talk on these holidays. At Raven Hill Discovery Center, the animals are a popular and memorable part of the visitor experience. Whether it is anthropomorphizing or humanizing animals to think that they can actually talk, it is fun, maybe even an epiphany of sorts, to imagine that we know what our animal friends at the Center might say!

Writer Josie Ortega urges us to “celebrate Epiphany by looking forward”. An epiphany is more than a

holiday. The word can be defined as “an illuminating realization or discovery, often resulting in a personal feeling of elation, awe or wonder”. **Checkers**, **Spike** and **Sheldon** join me in wishing all of you many positive epiphanies in 2023 and beyond.

See you here soon and often!

Cheri



Checkers: How did I get tangled up in these drawer handles? I almost tied myself in a knot!



Spike: Can you see me? Get me down from here NOW!



Sheldon: Feed me! Feed me! I can eat fruit salad at lightning speed...for a tortoise!