

CHRISTIANSON'S Nursery & Greenhouse

An Enticing Selection of Common and Uncommon Plants . . . Friendly Service . . . Expert Advice

The Musings of a College Student During the 1960's

Toni Mhyre

Engl. 271

11-17-66

Essay #3: Write a short essay about the following two lines written by William Butler Yeats 1865:

*'Come away fair human child with the fairies
hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping than
you can understand.'*

As a child I loved life, but with a simple affection. I accepted life without reservation but also without an understanding of its complexity. I walked with my uncle in the woods, always running on ahead of him. I experienced an earthquake but thought it was the grass talking to me. I stopped often with my parents to watch a sunset but did not understand their need to sit quietly and gaze at the horizon. I knew the smell of chewing tobacco that came to be a part of my Grandpa, and I recognized my Mother's gentle touch and yet I understood nothing of the beauty and complexity of love.

Gradually I have begun to see the relatedness of things of the earth and things of the mind, and I am filled with an enthusiasm for living that I never knew as a child. The age of wonder comes after childhood, for the child questions in a matter-of-fact way but the adult questions in a way that searches for relationships, causes and effects. The adult sees life all as a part of an intricate network that challenges

the routine in life. I now take time on a walk in the woods to notice what is around me, not run on ahead. I marvel at the reproductive system of a wildflower and notice the design in the riverbank mud cracked by the sun. I developed a terror for earthquakes. I watch the sunset, feel its splendor, and sense some meaning even in its scientific existence. My Grandpa became a cherished memory and I wept for him as I would not have as a child. My Mother's love went way beyond a touch and became layers of nurturing, understanding, and teaching. I have begun giving love instead of just receiving it. Slowly I have found myself engulfed in life. I have made a meaningful exchange; the bounds of a child's life for the ever-expanding scope of an adult's life. No one should ever be saved from this. The world may be 'more full of weeping than we can understand', but if we can see the relationships that operate in this world, we are at least in a position to understand our weeping and make changes.

Footnote: This was at a time when turmoil in the world was causing many of my college friends to question having children. They didn't want to bring babies into our 'messed up' world of war and political upheaval. My only reply was that I would rather sometimes weep than never to have been given the chance to live. And now, sadly, we may once again find ourselves in the same network of upheaval and I have wept. But we do, most of us anyway, understand the outcome of power and greed in politics. When will we ever learn.

Toni Christianson



Tulip Festival Highlights

10th Annual Stanwood-Camano Arts Guild in the Schoolhouse

April 1 – 30, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Tulip fields provide a dramatic backdrop for April's Art in the Schoolhouse at Christianson's Nursery! Spend an afternoon discovering new artists and their current work while talking with them about their process. Conveniently located on the scenic tour of the picturesque country roads through Skagit Valley, you can enjoy a respite from the traffic by stopping at the Nursery.

It's Time to Start Your Giant Pumpkins!



April is the time to start germinating your giant pumpkin seeds. And to celebrate your growing success, enter your giants into Christianson's Giant Pumpkin Festival! Register at www.christiansonnursery.com. This year the festivities begin on Saturday, September 30, 2017. We'll have great prizes for the pumpkin weigh-off, including \$1,000 for the largest pumpkin, plus games, food, music, pony rides and face painting.

Come and Celebrate Mother's Day With Us



Christianson's is a beautiful place to spend time with Mom and loved ones on Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day. Enjoy complimentary homemade cookies and coffee while touring the Nursery to find a plant or tree of her liking; maybe a Magnolia or Dogwood tree (both bloom in May) or maybe a spectacular hanging basket, tabletop centerpiece, or a beautifully planted container to enjoy throughout the summer and into autumn. A walk through our Primrose gift shop would also be a treat and a sure-fire hit with Mom. Primrose offers a wide selection of new gift and home items as well as vintage and antique goods from America and Europe.

Suggestions from Our Seasoned Staff

Rhododendrons are the thoroughbreds of perennial plants. Recently our staff unloaded a 48-foot trailer, making it our biggest single order of hybrid rhodies ever! On the truck were varieties with names like, 'Starlight Champagne' (pale yellow blooms, dark center with a distinctively lily-esque flower shape) and 'Mango Tango' (sultry orange-yellow blooms) both of which you would surely bet on if you were at the race track.

When buying rhododendrons, our Assistant Nursery Buyer at Christianson's, **Heidi Klepper**, considers several factors for April's high season, such as early bloomers, uncommon species (known for their radiance in foliage) and hybrids (bred and better known for their flowers). Here is what Heidi had to say:

Q: What is an exceptional rhododendron and why?

A: 'Nancy Evans': One of our best performing yellow varieties. A round, compact shrub with dark-orange buds that open in May to beautiful clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers. This hardy hybrid can be planted in beds, borders, or on slopes, and looks great in cottage and informal gardens. 'Grace Seabrook' is another good choice. It is one of the first to bloom in Mid-April with vivid red, frilly-edged flowers against large dark green leaves. She's a looker!



Q: What is the difference between species rhododendrons and hybrid rhododendrons?

A: Species rhododendrons are the original rhododendrons and the plants used to breed hybrids. They are grown mostly for their compelling foliage color and texture. When you are at the Nursery, make sure to check out our selection from Chimacum Woods. This grower propagates some of our favorite large-leafed, species rhododendrons. Most plants we carry are hybrid rhododendrons. They are developed by plant breeders and vary in color, size, shape, and winter hardiness as a result of their complex genetic background. We love these plants because we are constantly getting new varieties with different flowers and foliage to offer our customers.

Primrose - Antiques & Gifts

"The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also."

- Harriet Ann Jacobs

Every spring at Primrose, we roll up our sleeves and give our little shop a good old-fashioned 'fluffing up.' We dust and scrub every nook and cranny, re-arrange displays, and replace our winter-themed vintage pieces with newfound treasures for spring and summer. In a finishing flourish, we sprinkle in a fresh selection of brand new gift and home items. We are positively twitterpated as we bid farewell to winter, throw open the windows, and welcome the arrival of spring.



If you're a regular visitor to our shop, you probably know we have a special place in our hearts for Easter, Mother's Day and anything to do with roses. This year Easter is on April 16th, Mother's Day is May 14th, and our 14th Annual Rose Festival is on Saturday, June 17th – a perfect trifecta of wonderfulness! As always, we have a delightful selection of Easter and spring-themed items for home decorating and entertaining, plus a wide selection of one-of-a-kind Mother's Day gifts.

Starting this spring we will be hosting a variety of short yet informative 'how to' demonstrations in the shop. Since these one-hour events will be held in the late afternoon or early evenings, we're calling this our 'Happy Home Hour' series. We would love to hear what YOU would like to see in this series. To receive our 'Happy Home Hour' schedule or news of upcoming sales events, just send me a note at eve.christiansons@gmail.com and simply say 'Sign me up!'. Better yet, please swing by the shop one day soon to see the results of our spring fluffing, sign our Guest Book, and join us as we celebrate the arrival of this glorious new season. Welcome Spring!

~ Eve Boe, Primrose Manager ~

Elegant Garden Weddings and Special Events at Christianson's Nursery

When we look to 2017 wedding trends, we keep coming back to neutrals. Elegant shades of grey, broad backdrops of ivory and white with accents of color will dominate weddings this year. With a bit of sage greenery to suggest a garden design, your guests will enjoy and admire your choice of venues. Each wedding and special event at Christianson's Nursery is unique to each couple and the Schoolhouse accommodates most every vision. With rustic hand-hewn wood floors and white horizontally planed paneling, our Schoolhouse sets a perfect backdrop for transforming your ideas into an elegant event. This nostalgic one room Schoolhouse accommodates fifty guests for a ceremony while the Rose Garden accommodates one-hundred guests. Our venue also includes a small kitchen for food preparation.



Our greatest number of inquiries about renting our Schoolhouse have come from soon-to-be married couples and families wanting a timeless backdrop for family or senior portraits. A vintage Teacher's Cottage is nestled behind the Schoolhouse and provides a dressing room for the bridal party or for models before their photoshoot. To save your date, please call: (360) 466-3821 or email: stephanie.christiansons@gmail.com

Skagit Wedding Society Tour

Join us for the 4th Annual Skagit Wedding Tour! Spend the day exploring eight beautiful wedding venues in Skagit County, including Christianson's Nursery, on Sunday, May 21, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. We will be showcasing our elegant Schoolhouse and Rose Garden for weddings and special events. With us will be the following five wedding vendors: Photographers www.Mistry&Scott.com; Wedding Planner www.ChampagneandStardust.com; Officiant, Celebrations of Life; Antique and Vintage Wedding Apparel, Primrose www.christiansonsnursery.com. We will also have representatives from The Country Inn and Channel Lodge to discuss local accommodations and overnight reservations. VIP: \$30 per person includes transportation to all 8 venues, a boxed lunch (provided by one of our amazing caterers) and special VIP gifts throughout the day. Self-guided: \$5 per person. Venues are both indoor and outdoor so please dress for the weather! We look forward to making your wedding dreams come true. For more information, visit: www.christiansonsnursery.com.

A Rosy Day Out: 14th Annual Rose Festival

See the day through rose-colored glasses on Saturday, June 17! Starting at 11 a.m., Guest Speaker and Author, **Nita Jo Roundtree**, will ‘show and tell’ her new book “Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest: 90 Best Varieties for Successful Rose Gardening”. Copies of her book will be available for sale before and after her presentation. At 1 p.m., **Rebecca Bull Reed**, from David Austin Roses, will discuss what makes these roses so desirable. Her descriptions and knowledge of these fragrant and very romantic roses will help you decide which roses are perfect for your garden. At 2 p.m., enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social featuring Mallard’s Rose Ice Cream (made from real roses!). The day peaks with Key Note Speakers (AKA “The Rosebuds”), **Ciscoe Morris** and **John Christianson** at 3 p.m. Listen to these experts talk about roses in such an entertaining yet informative way that you will be inspired to create or expand your own rose garden.



In addition, the Tri-Valley Rose Society will be here from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. to answer all your rose questions. They will share their many years of combined rose growing knowledge and help identify established roses whose names have been lost through the years. Their first-hand knowledge and experience is invaluable for those who would love helpful advice about growing healthy roses. From 9 – 10:30 a.m., all are welcome to submit as many blossoms as they would like to display in our Schoolhouse. The roses will be judged in the following categories: Best in Show, Best Fragrance and Best Floral Display (an arrangement using perennials with roses). You are also welcome to explore our Schoolhouse Rose Garden to see some of our favorite varieties and the ways we have combined roses with perennials. Bring a picnic lunch and dine on the Schoolhouse lawn or at one of our tables. This is always a relaxed and fun event and an opportunity to make new rose loving friends.

Schedule of Events:

- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** Tri-Valley Rose Society members available to offer rose growing advice
- 9 – 10:30 a.m.** Rose display entry submission
- 11 a.m. – noon** Author **Nita Jo Roundtree** discusses Growing Roses in the Pacific Northwest
- 1 – 2 p.m.** Speaker **Rebecca Bull Reed**, discusses David Austin Roses
- 2 – 3 p.m.** Old-Fashioned Rose Petal Ice Cream Social
- 3 – 4 p.m.** **Ciscoe Morris** and **John Christianson** entertain with rose garden lore while teaching about best rose companions and practices

2017 Antique Fair Moves to August!

The 2017 Antique Fair at the Schoolhouse has been moved from June to Friday and Saturday, August 11-12. Priority will be given to vendors’ registrations received by Monday, May 1, 2017. Registration forms for this summer event may be found at our website: www.christiansonnursery.com. To inquire: (360) 466-3821 or visit the Nursery.

“Ask John!”

John loves hearing from customers and do they love to ask him questions! That’s why we started the Ask John! column. Ask John! is a brand new WEEKLY interview. Each conversation features an actual question submitted from someone like you! Here’s a question from our one of our newsletter readers:

Q: John, what should I do with my roses that are 25+ years old? The bases are very woody and probably 2-3” in diameter or larger. I understand that roses are “caning” and that I should trim them down each year. It’s easy to see how to do that with my younger roses that still have green stems, but what do I do with these big old woody ones???? -In appreciation, Terra, Whidbey Island, WA

A: Be fearless. Old wood becomes less productive over time. It takes a lot of energy to support an old cane, which won’t produce as many flowers. Canes over five years old should be hard-pruned between 12-24” from the ground in late winter or early spring. This will stimulate new canes to emerge from the base, producing loads of flowers in the summer. Adding organic rose fertilizer and Epson salts in April will also help stimulate fresh, new canes. You can find our Spring Rose Tonic Recipe on our plant page at www.christiansonnursery.com. So, don’t be shy - prune them back. They can take it!

You can read more questions on our website: www.christiansonnursery.com. Have a garden related question for John? Email us: PR.christiansons@gmail.com

Christianson's Spring Calendar

Pat's Philly Steak Sandwiches & Crepes

April 1 – 30, 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

You've waited all year for their return! Revisit the classic Philly Steak Sandwich (thin-sliced beef, grilled onions and green peppers, blanketed under a three-cheese medley), or try a spin off the classic with chicken or polish sausage. Proprietress, **Judy Fenton**, suggests if you're going light, try their most popular crepe; strawberry with fresh whipped cream... Yum!

New! Very Important Parties Espresso Catering

April Weekends (Saturdays and Sundays)
from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Let V.I.P. Espresso Catering create a custom espresso (hot or cold, flavored or bold) for you to sip while strolling the Nursery to find the perfect plants. Enjoy consistently splendid cups of rich, earthy coffee along with a smile from delightful proprietors, **Joseph and Marjorie Plewinski**.

Create a May Day Basket!

Saturday, April 29 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$34

Have you ever been surprised on May 1st with a May basket hung on the door? This year, bring back the forgotten tradition and make a May basket at Christianson's Nursery with artist **Laura Campbell**. Spread the love and learn to fashion baskets into an 8" (screen-covered moss) cone and handle with tools brought from home: gloves, pruners and pliers. Fill your basket with plants (available for purchase at the Nursery), small, thoughtful gifts and candies or hide a jar inside to hold fresh cuts from your spring garden! Materials for construction will be provided.

Random Acts of Food

May Weekends (Saturdays and Sundays)
from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

These 5-Star reviews of **Tessa Mcleod's** Random Acts of Food Truck will wet your whistle: "Best grilled cheese sandwich with caramelized onions and the roasted Brussel sprouts are to die for!", "Amazing food, fresh and mouth-watering!! I'm still dreaming about the Brussel sprouts!!!"

Jewels in the Garden

Saturday, June 3 11 a.m. – noon
reservations required class fee: \$8

Darting through our gardens, hummingbirds never cease to amaze us. These little stunt fliers can fly forward, backward, hover and even fly upside-down as they seek nectar, their favorite food. What do hummingbirds eat that provides energy for all their aerobatics in our gardens? Learn from **Sheila Pera**, Education Chair at Skagit Audubon Society, about the mysteries and wonders of hummingbirds and what plants will attract them to your garden.



Vegetable Gardening for Beginners

Saturday, June 3 1 – 2 p.m.

reservations required class fee: \$8

Learn everything you need to know about getting started on the path to growing your own food with Speaker and Author, **Cyndi Stuart**, from The Roost at Roddy Creek! Cyndi's book, "Real Food from a Real Farm: Eating Through the Seasons" will be available for purchase before and after class. She will discuss how to start seeds, buy plants and how to get your ground or raised beds ready (without biting off more than you can chew) in the first season. Start small, enjoy the process, savor the harvest and be excited to do it all again next year.



Slime No More!

Saturday, June 10 11 a.m. – noon

reservations required class fee: \$8

Managing and reducing slug and snail populations is no small feat. Just ask Master Gardener, **Diana Wisen**, from WSU Research and Extension Center. Learn multiple approaches (biological, cultural, mechanical and chemical) to rid your garden of these gastropods and the best methods to reduce the damage done by non-native slugs and snails.

Rose Petal Jelly & Sorbet

Saturday, June 24 11 a.m. – noon

reservations required class fee: \$15

Culinary expert and Cooking Instructor, **Suzanne Butler**, is back by popular demand. She will be using organic Rugosa rose petals from the Nursery's own Rose Garden to make a beautiful, fragrant rose petal jelly and sorbet!! Attendees receive an adorable mini (1.5 ounce) hexagon glass jar of rose petal jelly tied with a bow to take home. This class has never been offered before and will be sure to please. Class size limit is 24.



Nordic Museum Open House

Sunday, June 25 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

complimentary

Nordic Heritage Museum is building a new home. The modern 57,000 square foot museum and cultural center will be located in the heart of Ballard (on Market Street), and will include a refined layout and expanded exhibition and educational spaces. To celebrate this event, community advocate, **Sunnie Empie**, will host an informational open house in our Schoolhouse to help celebrate Ballard's new Nordic Museum.

To make your reservations for classes and events, please visit the Nursery or call us at 360-466-3821 or 1-800-585-8200.

April - June Specials

April 1 - 16

Magnolias

hundreds of beautiful blooming trees with white, pink, purple or yellow flowers, including evergreen varieties 20% off

May 1 - 7

Basket Stuffers

premium annuals for baskets or gardens growing in 2" pots 20% off (regularly \$2.98 ea)

May 13 - 14

Mother's Day Weekend Special

Eastern and Asiatic dogwood trees in bloom (approximately 6' to 8' tall) 20% off

May 22 - 31

Fuchsias

hardy, upright and trailing fuchsias in baskets and 2, 4 and 6-inch pots 20% off impatiens in 4" pots 20% off

June 16 - 29

Perennials

our best selection of perennials 4-inch, quarts and 1-gallon 20% off

April 17 - 30

Rhododendrons and Azaleas

thousands from which to choose 20% off

May 8 - 14

Geraniums

zonal, ivy, scented and fancy leaf Growing in 4" pots 20% off

May 15 - 21

Shady Days

shade-loving tuberous begonias, fancy double impatiens and New Guinea

June 1 - 15

Vines

clematis, honeysuckle, jasmine, wisteria, akebia and more 1-gallon to 5-gallon sizes 20% off

June 30 - July 5

"Lemon" Sale

ugly plants with beautiful futures: Nursery seconds at greatly reduced prices

50% to 70%

Tomato Sale

You're not too late! 40% off 4" and 6" pots

Weekly Radio Broadcast

The Garden Show

Sunday Mornings with John & Mike AM 660 KAPS • 10:30 a.m. FM 102.1 KAPS • 10:30 a.m.

CLASSES & EVENTS

Classes are 1 hour unless otherwise noted

April 1 - 30

Art at the Schoolhouse 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Pat's Philly Steak Sandwiches and Crepes
April 1-30 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

April Weekends

VIP Espresso 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 29

Create a May Day Basket! 11 a.m. - noon

May Weekends

Random Acts of Food Truck 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 13 - 14

Mother's Day Weekend

Sunday, May 21

Skagit Wedding Society Tour 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

Jewels in the Garden 11 a.m. - noon
Vegetable Gardening for Beginners 1 - 2 p.m.

Monday, June 5

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rent Mason Bees

Saturday, June 10

Slime No More! 11 a.m. - noon

Saturday, June 17

14th Annual Rose Festival 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Author Nita Jo Roundtree 11 a.m. - noon
David Austin Rep, Rebecca Bull Reed 1 - 2 p.m.
Ciscoe & John Talk Roses 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 24

Rose Petal Jelly & Sorbet 11 a.m. - noon

Sunday, June 25

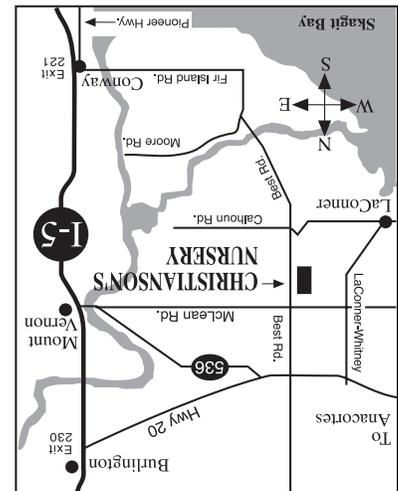
Nordic Museum Open House 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Stay in Touch

www.christiansonnursery.com
Garden Notes: Our monthly electronic newsletter:
christiansonnursery.com/whats-happening/newsletters/
facebook.com/christiansonnursery
pinterest.com/christiansonnursery
instagram.com/christiansonnursery

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
(Open Fridays in May until 7 p.m.)

From Bellingham: Take Exit 230. Go 5 miles west on Hwy 20 to Best Road. Turn south, go 2 miles on Best Road, we're just past the round-about.
From Everett: Take Exit 221. Go 8.5 miles west on Fir Island Road to Best Road. Continue north on Best Road. Nursery is 1 mile north of the intersection with Chilberg/Calhoun Road.



CHRISTIANSON'S
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