

## **Finding My Place Among The Resistors**

At first I buoyantly took up the role of shepherd. Always in a group of 2-3. So willing to aide in this vital way. Then I got lost, stuck in a ravine and my body ached going up hill after hill. After returning to my home shepherding became less and less a priority.

Oh, they took the ax from me while I was chopping wood telling me to “go away”. Even though I grew up in a rural neighbourhood with livestock, being as supporter on Dinetah was the closest I have ever been with the land and I was failing. I thought maybe Big Mountain is not for me. My heart continued to pulse with feelings, memories and emotions to fight with the resistance. I started to notice how other folks showed up to support, archiving stories, making documentaries, sheering sheep, lambing, training camps, caravans, water testing and planting orchards.

The saying “come as you are” filled me.

Now I always show up in a group of 5 or more. That way the basics are covered by folks with skills. This allows me to offer my skills in the form of an herbal clinic

and Seed distribution. I clean and tend to the grandkids. When I am not on the land I send families Sustainable Care Packages and Little Colorado River Watershed Chapter Association Seeds for their lending library. More recently I developed a relationship with the current staff at Rocky Road General Store and support their new Apothecary.

From a direct ask from Glenna Begay, I curated my first zine on this topic and support the distribution of the Shepherders Almanak zine series. She also got me involved with weavers and their touring art show that showcases their rugs and jewelry while raising money and spreading awareness.

This may seem like a lot. Since all of these are already aspects of my life and community they easily become high priorities in my solidarity work. So much so that I founded, Authentic Creations Publishing Apothecary based on that very work.

I will be honest with you I have attended training camps, caravans, clinics, curated zines, fundraising concerts and sent care packages while a supporter. I will say that the supporter network as a unit needs more relationship building. There is

some anti-oppression work going on but mostly towards the Elders and less for marginalized supporters.

My support work is waning and shifting as I move off Turtle Island to find my original lands.