

With the founding of the Barn, a whole new world opened up to me in relation to the broader world community. Most especially, many of the Jewish community became my closest friends, supporters, and patrons. Their rich traditions lent themselves so well to art images, especially woodcuts: "Heed the Call of the Shofar," "Streets of Mea Shearim," "Bar Mitzvah Boy," "Jewish Wedding Feast," and many more. This mysterious and wonderful segment of my ministry took me into homes and the Temple to celebrate the High Holy days and family festivities. Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor, author and lecturer, provided another link in this Jewish connection. When he was invited to be a guest speaker at Temple Israel, I received a commission to do his portrait in woodcut. He was pleased with the image, and I was deeply honored.

In the summer of 1968, with the help of several like-minded Sisters, the Children's Summer Barn Program was born. For fifteen summers thereafter, the beautiful old building and the spacious woods surrounding it became magical. For two or three weeks at a time, forty children aged seven to thirteen divided into groups of ten, each with two teachers, spent all day together, making music, painting, potting, writing poetry, dancing, and becoming familiar with all the neighborhood plant and bird life. These children, like little sponges, absorbed the connectedness between the beauty all around and within themselves. They experienced what Sara Teasdale meant in her poem

"Stars": "Look for a lovely thing, and you will find it. It is not far. It never will be far."
This became our theme.



Music session at the Barn

This work with children fed my spirit, resulting in countless woodcut images, ceramic sculptured walls, and watercolors which seemed to touch many adults. A phone call one day from a woman I barely knew convinced me of this: "Sister, I'm calling to tell you how your pictures bring me joy. I am sitting here looking at a woodcut on my wall and decided to tell you. It brightens my life. Thank you." Many such responses from art patrons began to help me realize that, indeed, the works of my hands were ministering to the hearts of people in ways that I had never dreamed. I had always admired Dostoevsky's saying in *The Brothers Karamazov*, "The world will be saved by beauty," but hadn't applied this to myself as "ministry."