

## What to Plant Instead of Dogwood

Fanny Brett de Bary

This headline appeared in the New York Times Garden Section in 1983.

What to drink instead of water?  
What to breathe instead of air?  
Now will the Gardening Editor suggest  
to Mother Earth what is her next best suit?  
Shall the fourth estate,  
which has already created a third world, proclaim now what will come  
forth on the edge of the woods to delight us in the Spring with blossoms  
like large snowflakes floating in the sun-pierced shade?  
Shall Madison Avenue find sponsors  
for a Garden of Paradise it could invent for us?  
And then promote it?  
Tell the birds there is a bigger, better, redder berry?  
No.  
The new ways of the New Age  
will not be begotten like the GNP.  
But on the first day of Spring  
they will be borne as a gift to friends  
Who gather to celebrate  
new life  
in the Center of ancient dreams.

(The above lines came to mind when Thomas Berry presented the first freshly-printed copies of his essay, "The Hudson River Basin as a Bio-Region," to the members of the Women's Seminar at the Riverdale Center on March 20, 1984.)

Fanny Brett de Bary, ardent advocate for ecological awareness and loving friend to many in the Teilhard Association community, died on May 13, 2009 at her home in Tappan, New York. Her early support of the publication of Thomas Berry's books was instrumental in the exposure of his ecological ideas to a larger public. Fanny lived his credo that "the universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects." Fanny and her husband, Ted de Bary were Thomas's friends for sixty-seven years.



Fanny de Bary and Children, 1949