

North American Council for Anthropospheric Curative Education and Social Therapy Winter Newsletter 2012

www.nacouncil.org

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This newsletter comes to you with its own brief fanfare, perhaps on a small trumpet. It has been a year since our last newsletter. Putting a newsletter together challenges all the communities' abilities to reach out and stretch across North America. It seems like a very long way suddenly, from Hawaii to New Hampshire, from Missouri to Quebec and everyone, in every community, is very aware that they barely keep up their immediate neighbors up with the news, let alone the long-distance community neighbor, far across the continent!

Any organization is only as active and energetic as its members. On this occasion, the newsletter owes its appearance to the energetic determination of Takeshi Suesada from Camphill community, Triform, who organized it and to the contributors who responded so positively. We are fortunate to have delegates who, though often pulled by their own tasks and community lives, carry an energy for the whole movement. They light a candle for all of us. Knowing the news in Camphill Copake, feeling the challenges and excitement of a younger community in Hawaii, discovering the emergence of an expansion for Triform, is renewing for us all. Thank you to all who currently participate, reach out, and connect with this large family of community members and an encouragement to those considering their part in the North American Council: a little effort and a joyful, fulfilling, and important experience awaits you-*editor*.

Lokelani 'Ohana -Christina Chang

We are a Camphill inspired initiative and 501[c] [3] non-profit, serving the Maui community with programs in housing, organic farming and Saori weaving/creative arts for people with special needs since 2007.

Lokelani 'Ohana manages two life sharing homes serving people with special needs in Makawao and Waihe'e. We serve an average of 30 clients a week with the organic gardening program at the Waihe'e farm held on Tuesdays and at the Saori weaving/creative arts program at Easter Seals and Ka Lima 'O Maui on Thursdays.

Lokelana 'Ohana has been busy improving their farm and garden projects with a new greenhouse, new intake filter at the awai (ditch), water tank and aquaponic facility. A concrete roadway also enables gardeners to carry on gardening in the rainy season. Kris Kristofferson and Kumu Hokulani Holt with Pa'u O Hi'iaka blessed us with a concert at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center to kick off our capital campaign for expanding our housing project. Our own Lokelani 'Ohana hula dances performed with La Wai Lani, a tender performance that touched many hearts that night.

We had a stellar year with the help of our ohana and friends tripling our income and projects. Our plans for 2012 are to receive our Medicaid Waiver, improve the farm site with new vocational programs and move towards the purchase of land/housing to expand our housing program. Mahalo to all and we look forward to the blessings of 2012 and continuing our inspirational programs.



Growth and Life at Maison Emmanuel, Quebec-

Mary Small

Photos: Maison Emmanuel

Our community has grown from its original impulse as a children's village into a village for adults, between the ages of 19 and 65, and as we look forward to our 30th birthday next year we are striving to build a clearer vision of the community in to the future.

Our current workshop program (bakery, pottery, weavery, work on the land, farm and garden, woodwork and candle workshop) needs to evolve to continue to provide meaningful work for all our residents as the last of them leave school. Some of the workshops are carried by employees who live outside the community (pottery and weavery), while the estate, farm and woodwork shop are run by community members.

At the moment we have only two of our five houses run by carrying members of the community, with another house being carried by a volunteer who committed to stay for three years, and the two others being run on a day to day basis by volunteers with the support of another carrying member of the community. We need to actively recruit more experienced coworkers, and to find house parents for our "satellite" house in town which, while very connected to the community, is 9 km away from the other houses.

We also are facing the reality that our larger houses were built for children at a time when it was accepted that there would be shared rooms. Now that our population is older, we experience the need to have smaller house communities as the constellations of people in the 3 larger houses are far from ideal. We are exploring ways to finance a new house, with the goal of relieving the pressure on the larger houses and creating more liveable spaces.

We are very happy that Inge Sell, the founder of Maison Emmanuel, is this year able to spend more time in the community, and to support the orientation year for new volunteers. This has gone some way to addressing our concerns about a lack of continuing education. Over the past few years we have been very fortunate to be able to involve some people in the seminar program run at Beaver Run and Copake, and the development of training is something we see as fundamentally important: not only is it a source of inspiration for the participants, but their participation also nourishes the community as a whole.

We are fortunate in having a music therapist who now joins us for three days a week, and as well as individual therapy sessions carries a community choir and the bell choir. She has also instigated a monthly concert at which we have



discovered many hidden musical talents in our midst. We also have a new eurythmy program, with one of our carrying members having just completed her training in Spring Valley. Another carrying member of the community is currently undergoing an anthroposophic nursing training.

A new Waldorf school initiative in the local village is also a source of encouragement – this has been a hope of the community for many years, and we are anxious to support

this project in whatever ways we can, in terms of pooling resources and sharing space.

And so Maison Emmanuel continues to evolve, grateful that each year we meet young volunteers who are able take on responsibilities and challenges, fortunate that those who live in the community are so well supported by our administrative staff, encouraged by the potential for improved communications and working relationships with our board, and very appreciative of our many friends and supporters. Despite the challenges, there is a flexibility and openness to change that confirms our hope that we can find creative ways to grow and develop.

Conference Adventurers from the Mid-West- Christine Elmquist

Every year, starting in about November, people at Community Homestead, Wisconsin, start talking about the conference. The North American Council's conference is a pivotal, annual adventure that almost everyone wants to be in on.

It involves a 15 passenger van, packing your personal things into something "the size of a bread bag", eating sandwiches passed back along the bus and leaping out for the occasional rest stop in the 24 hour ride to the east coast. It is only the new Americorps members that pale at the thought. In contrast, it is amazing how the person who has to have routine in the community, sheds the need entirely for the conference. The person who normally guards their personal bubble with the porcupine prickles, lets their neighbor snooze snuffily on their shoulder the entire way. Perhaps this is because, at the end of the journey, there is always breakfast at Denny's to look forward to! And as exciting as that is, it is not the highlight.

One highlight is the joy of seeing old friends from all over North America and catching up with news over delicious snacks and the many tea breaks provided by the generous hosting community. Singing, movement, whether it be spacial dynamic or eurythmy, and painting are also real treasures for Community Homesteaders who don't get as much chance to do this as community members on the east coast. And when it comes to a gardening, farming or bakery group we are all right at home and have something to share from our own experience!

Seeing another community, so much like, and yet different from our own is really valuable. Everyone notes and stocks up on good ideas that are shared back home, "you know what we should do?" And there is a rekindled appreciation of community life here that distance offers-a new view!

On the way home all the talk is of the conference and often, where it might be next time, somewhere new the old hands hope! Even the long road home is not so long because there is always a "spontaneous" adventure planned and the trick is to guess what might be a joke and what might actually happen? Pizza in New York City at midnight? Stopping off

at Niagara Falls? Dropping in on Chicago? Visiting the president on the way home? Who knows!

If you have never been to a conference before, or a delegates meeting, and especially if your life is packed too tightly to consider it, we encourage you to take flight, and just go! Like a good family reunion, it renews us and reminds us all of the multi-faceted, glittering, spirit of community life.

Thoughts About The NAC Conference-Amy Williams

It is a great opportunity for me to go to the North American Council conference every year. I learn some new things that

I didn't know before and meet new friends, and I feel really impressed to see the way the people work all together in other communities. Some things are really different, and some things are very familiar.

In 2010 we went to Tri-form, and the theme of the conference was Spacial Dynamics with Jeiman McMillan. It was my first time at the conference. We did lots of movement

together in a big group and there were smaller workshops too. In one of the small groups I did a kind of clowning workshop. I had a huge elastic robe that covered my whole body and we showed everybody what we learned. It was really funny, jumping around with a stretchy body suit. It was a really great experience. We also saw pictures and heard about a community in Hawaii.

2011, which was last year, we met in Copake. I met friends that I had met the year before. The theme was Social Renewal, how to be together as a community. I did a singing workshop and juggling, and some more Spacial Dynamics. Then we had a big gathering in the hall, with dancing and a band from the village who played music for us. We heard about a community in Vietnam.

It is really great to meet up, and to hear the news from all the different communities, to meet old friends and make new ones, and to feel connected. We hope that someday we can have the space to host the conference in Maison Emmanuel too.



Photo: Camphill Copake and 2011 NAC attendees

News From Triform -Maggie Paholak



Triform has recently purchased a new property 1.3 miles down the road from our main “campus”. It is a 230 acre property that began its development as a housing development with 49 lots. This proposal became a loss to its promoters and was put up for sale. With the acquisition of several generous donations, Triform was able to purchase what was then and is now still called the “STEWARDSHIP PROPERTY”. For a full year and a half now the two “model houses” already on the property and fully furnished, have been lived in and slightly renovated to accommodate a Triform residential house community. This year there are six young adults, three coworkers and two families living on the property.

A third house is now being built on the property. We are on our way to creating a neighborhood. This house will be one level only and fully accessible for wheelchair use. All the houses are surrounded by beautiful nature. There are forests of cedars, wetlands and open fields. Red tail hawk can be seen perched high in the branches and I have heard that Sally the farm dog saw a bear in the field behind Farmview. Also, around the fields are stretches of brand new fencing. This fall a \$56,000, three-year grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Services in Ghent, N.Y. made it possible to put up this fencing. This has made it possible for the steer herd and calves to move to the Stewardship Farm. It will also make it possible for Triform to increase the herd this coming spring, furthering our plans for the farm.

This fall an experienced farmer joined us in Triform with his family. His work and collegiality on the farms has made it possible to expand and create our future vision of these 2 beautiful farm initiatives. Also, our resident forestry crew work leader has cleared many of the cedars and made beautiful cedar posts for fencing and other projects. Many branches have been cleared and thinned giving the fence line a clean and prepared look. Currently, our three, second year Americorps coworkers are all doing the biodynamic agriculture course in Spring Valley. Two of them are working full time on the farm and one is full time in our garden. All in all, we are very much moving towards the future and the development of our biodynamic land work.

Also on the Stewardship we have celebrated several festivals and have had our first wedding reception party at the pavilion. Surrounded by big golden sunflowers and delicate mauves and whites of the cosmos, the wedding couple delighted all the guests with fine food, music, dancing, and a lovely layered cake from Triform’s own bakery!

There are many dreams and ideas of what may happen on this land. For now, we will create our third house community which will make for a cozy neighborhood in the fall of 2012.

Photo: Plowshare Community, NH



The NAC Delegates Meeting in Plowshare Farm -Takeshi Suesada

The NAC annual delegates meeting took place in Plowshare Farm, NH, from November 4-6, 2011. It was wonderful to get together with the delegates from different communities and with the board members to discuss about the matters of the NAC. Those who attended were: Richard and Christine Elmquist from Community Homestead, Donat and Kimberly Bay from Plowshare Farm, Anitra Sorensen from Maple Hill, Mary Small from Maison Emmanuel, Roswitha Imegwu from Camphill Village Copake, John and Carrie Schuchardt from the House of Peace, Maggie Paholak and Takeshi Suesada from Triform Camphill Community, and Juliane Weeks as a guest.

Much enthusiasm could be felt by those who attended the meetings. Many of us wondered how we could enliven the NAC and lead the NAC into the future. Many of us wanted more people’s participation. At the end of the meetings, some new things were put in place so that we could work toward creating a vibrant NAC.

The meetings were wonderfully hosted by Plowshare Farm in New Hampshire (Thank you!). The delegates joined in a few of the community’s activities. On the night we arrived, many delegates joined into the community’s folk dancing. We

also ate lunch together with the members of the community at the beautiful main hall of Plowshare Farm. The tea breaks and other meals were also wonderfully prepared by the members of the community.

The delegates not only spoke about the businesses of the NAC, but also had chance to do eurythmy together, and sing songs together. Since many of us have gotten to know each other well over the years, it was really wonderful that we could see each other. We even tried to reach Christina Chang in Lokilani Ohana, Hawaii, by phone so she could be part of our delegate's discussions.

At the end of the meetings, I felt good about the weekend as we were able to put a few new things in place. It was really great to work with delegates from the communities who also had much enthusiasm to the work of the NAC. Creating a vibrant NAC depends on what each one of us brings to the organization.

Celebrations and Events in a Busy Year in Camphill Copake- Roswitha Imegwu

50th Anniversary of Camphill Village, Copake.

A whole week of **circus games** and activities, culminating in a grand circus under a big tent.

A birthday dinner, with Triform invited.

A celebration on Family Day (Oct. 9th), with slides old and new, and a big birthday cake.

Camphill Ghent.

Camphill Village spent twenty years planning for growth and it has finally happened. Our **Elder Care project, Camphill Ghent**, began with one mission: to care for, celebrate, embrace and honor the special strengths and needs of those in their elder years. Camphill Ghent broke ground in August 2010 after receiving a \$9.6 million HEAL grant that allowed us to undertake such an ambitious project. After nearly non-stop construction since breaking ground, construction is nearly complete with the first residents arriving in January 2012.

People from Camphill Village, Triform, as well as friends from the Christian Community and local Branch of the Anthroposophical Society, were invited to a wonderful Michaelmas gathering at Camphill Ghent on Oct 15th. We walked and sang songs around the beautiful new buildings to welcome them into the "Camphill Family". We planted bulbs and flew kites and enjoyed refreshments together.

We anticipate that a sizable group from Copake will be able to move to Ghent, creating space for a new group of (probably 7) new young villagers and, we hope, some new coworkers. This will **result** in some demographic changes, and we will be **challenged** to provide good training opportunities and activities for these new arrivals in our community.

Photo: Camphill Ghent



Camphill Hudson is now an independent entity and fully funded by the State of New York for its daily operations – licensed as an IRA.

Our Training Course in Social Therapy is in full swing. Every year we have approximately 40 young volunteers join us and in the month of September and October they all participate in a variety of trainings, including all the State mandated trainings. Usually by the end of September we have a good sense of who really wishes to participate in the first year of the Training Course in Social Therapy. Those who work in one of our 3 Care houses, plus a few others, join our 1-year Care Course, and the rest of the volunteers join our Orientation Course.

Changes in Leadership. –Richard Neal, who has served for years as our Executive Director, has stepped down from this role, and we now have a new leadership team or "Focus Group", ccfour individuals who will carry different areas of responsibility. Richard will be part of this team.

A 10-year Master Plan has been drawn up – this includes installation of fiber-optic cables (already done), irrigation for the seed garden, one new house, renovations and/or modifications of existing houses and other buildings, a new Administration building, additional workshop space, and adult education building, etc.

We have recently been granted a new **5-year contract** with the State of New York – for better funding!

Deaths of several old and not so old friends – Aase Righter, Ted Collins, Carl Wilson, Susie Hirsch.

Our Turtle Tree hoop house collapsed under the weight of snow during a severe winter storm in January. Fortunately, we have been able to replace this, thanks to a generous donation from the Ceres Trust. The new hoop house should be more resistant to snow damage.

February Fire in Garden Shed – generous support from friends and family helped us rebuild.

And we look to the future with particular opportunities to collaborate with Camphill Ghent and Hudson and to open the community to co workers wishing to strengthen the work life in the village.

Introducing the Host of the NAC Conference

-Andreas Schäd

The 2012 NAC annual conference is taking place at Beaver Farm, Kimberton, PA. This is a small community of 35 people who are accompanying students ages eighteen to twenty one in their journey from school to adult life.

Set in amidst beautiful rural countryside on a biodynamic farm bordering French Creek. It is ten miles from Camphill Special School's main campus and so enjoys a close relationship, growing much of the beef, pork, chicken, and eggs the school needs as well as socializing with friends there.

It is here that young people learn life skills and have new pre-vocational experiences (such as farming and gardening, pottery, catering and fabric workshop). Where appropriate, some of the students at Beaver Farm continue with academic support in functional math, language arts and current events for example and are able to continue with limited therapies such as speech.

In recent years the students have gone on adult placements, visiting other communities and settings in North America in small groups, meeting new friends and making connections. Through this and their community experiences here all our students acquire more independence and maturity as they strive for a meaningful adult life. Since the pilot program was started in 2002, 95% of our students have achieved appropriate adult placement.



Photos: Beaver Farm



Educational Opportunities

May 2012-March 2014

Transform and Empower learning path:

Diversity, care and innovation

A six-module professional development program for social practitioners

Transform and Empower is a practice-based learning path that combines personal and professional development for people active in organizations and communities that support people with complex needs.

Julia Wolfson – Program director, facilitator and mentor, Dr Beth Barol, faculty.
<http://www.camphill.on.ca/PDF/Transform%20&%20Empower%20Program.pdf>