

North American Council for Anthroposophic Curative Education and Social Therapy

NACOUNCIL

www.nacouncil.org

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

North American
Council for
Anthroposophic
Curative
Education and
Social Therapy
by Charles Kyd

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A UNIQUE UMBRELLA STORY

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Spring
2017

The Annual Conferences of the North American Council for Anthroposophic Curative Education and Social Therapy.

This year, 2017, Camphill Communities Ontario is looking forward to hosting the Annual NAC Conference. We have chosen as a theme; The Importance of Art as a Vital Part of the Healthy Social Life. Last year we gathered at Camphill village Kimberton Hills around the theme of; Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Relationships. In 2015 we met at Triform Camphill Community around the theme; Spatial Frontiers: Gifts To Us All and in 2014 we came together at Plowshare Farm and the theme; Why Cleaning Has Meaning: Bringing Well Being Home.

That's as far back as my memory goes as I did not manage to attend any of the 13 previous conferences. I did try to get to Community Homestead in 2013 for the conference around; Exploring Biography. My problem was that life intervened and changed my plans.

I can't begin to express my feelings about these events. Just off the top, there is the great experience of meeting all kinds of new people. The topics provide for a lot of new ideas and deeper understanding of the subject, the food is fantastic, a time for quality socializing. There is also the celebratory Saturday evening dance where the mood, as expected, is party, party.

On Friday afternoon, there is a mood

of anticipation and excitement as we all crowd around the registration table, meeting new and familiar faces. I always get a surge of joy when I see the friends from Community Homestead in Wisconsin milling around. They always come with the most people, often driving more than 1,000 miles in two vans packed with more enthusiasm than a full crowd at the Super Bowl. There's lots of hugs and greetings, introductions and reunions among the folks.

Each year's themes have a special quality and last year at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills we had an opening lecture given by Sherry Wildfeuer titled, "What is sustainable". Sherry introduced the term; "Anthropocene" in regards to the influence of mankind on the planet. She kept us fully attentive with her weaving together the need for balance and fertility and the recent innovations of chemistry to push growth of agriculture into a toxic phase where soils become depleted. This direction can be countered by integrating better methods of agriculture which depend on diversity and balance growth and decay through caring attitudes and practices. These practices then depend on human interactions based on clear social agreements and morality. We need to be reliable and accountable to each other and

the care of the earth and her processes. She finished with the idea that soil fertility is analogous to soul fertility and that the heart is the organ which contains the key to sustainability.

On the Saturday morning, a collaborative presentation by CVKH gardener Todd Newlin and Bill Shick from the Chester County Food Bank, picked up on Sherry's talk from the Friday evening. They described the relationship between the garden at CVKH and the food bank. Besides providing food for for 280 families, the CSA also allows for the cultivation of several acres allotted to the food bank. The food bank in turn has 130 garden plots around the county in local towns and using public spaces. Thus, they can supply a wide range of food to the less fortunate. They also have developed a food processing facility where they produce meals which are delivered to those who are needing that level of support and they have a bus which can deliver good wholesome food to poorer neighborhoods where there are no outlets for healthy, organic food, at reasonable cost. The kitchen also offers cooking classes to help people learn to prepare a variety of foods. Sustainable agriculture and sustainable relationships are so well demonstrated by these initiatives. (Continued on page 8)



Hillary Schauls
demonstrates
Tai chi at the
conference in Kimberton.

A Unique Umbrella Story for Lokelani Ohana

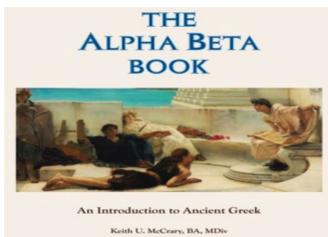


Aloha, my name is Keith U. McCrary. I have been appointed to be the “educational director” for Lokelani ‘Ohana, the Camphill inspired initiative serving the needs of adults on Maui who have “special abilities.” In this introduction I am exploring with you what that entails, educating three groups of people that come to mind. The primary group, of course, is the people with special abilities. A second group of people that need particular educational guidance are the board of trustees. The third group is the house parents, “co-workers and staff that support the daily life sharing work.”

I recommend to everyone reading and discussing Rudolf Steiner’s twelve lectures titled Curative Education and many of the writings of Karl Koenig.

I will soon be leading a weekly Bible Study with discussions involving friends and co-workers. I feel relatively well qualified for designing a curriculum for this focus due to five years of serious theological studies that led to a Masters of Divinity and to becoming an ordained United Methodist clergyman for six years. As a layman in an Episcopal church in recent years I have led adults in intensive and personal study of biblical and other spiritual scriptures.

I have been an active Waldorf educator since 1973. The majority of that time was spent as a Class Teacher working with elementary school age children. On numerous occasions I have also introduced fifth and sixth grade students to a two to three week course in Ancient Greek and Latin.



The Association of Waldorf Schools in North America published a book I wrote and illustrated called The Alpha Beta Book. It also contains an interactive compact disc. (It’s available through AWSNA Publications and through Amazon.com.)

In 1995 I helped to found Adult Waldorf Education (AWE) on Maui. This has focused on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and the pedagogy of Waldorf education. Since that time I have been formally teaching adults about the philosophy and pedagogy of Rudolf Steiner.

Now we visit an educational journey that relates to the primary purpose of Lokelani ‘Ohana: the adults with special abilities. I call this “A Unique Umbrella Story.” Lokelani ‘Ohana has received an initial grant from a major funding source dedicated to my work to develop the unfolding of this story. The essential Main Lesson curriculum of grades one through eight is shared and experienced under this Unique Umbrella Story.

Let’s set the stage with a little “back story”: toward the end of my career as a class teacher, I was teaching first grade for the fourth time. (It was my curious destiny to do that five times in four different schools.) The fourth and fifth time I did that I was here on Maui. My muse, who has been very active here, whispered in my ear that all the characters and tales could actually become part of one interrelated story. (Imagine a little fanfare music here.)

So the Littlest Princess, on the first day of “school,” learns from her tutor, Mr. Pedagogue, about the two basic and archetypal lines: the straight line and the curved line (and how the two can be combined).

And then she is informed that these two lines will be in everything she will ever write while writing numbers or the letters of the alphabet, and even in everything she will ever draw. What is her response to that? Paraphrased here are her words: “Wow! And OMG! That’s something to think about!”

Then, in a different century and location along come Bubba and the Balloon Man. “Who?”

“A Boy Called Bubba” is bouncing his basketball on the bricks in his backyard when a big buzzing bumblebee buzzes around his head three times and then makes a beeline behind a big brown barn behind his backyard. Bubba makes a similar beeline behind the big brown barn to see where the bee has gone. But though he can’t see the bee, he can certainly hear him buzzing away in a nearby blue barrel that has a big brown board on it. It does have just enough room for the bee to enter into the blue barrel, but it seems that it can’t find its way out.

So Bubba tiptoes over and bends over below the rim of the barrel. He takes hold of the edge of the board and flips it off of the barrel. Then he beheld the big bumblebee buzzing straight up out of the barrel. Later he would draw that bumblebee and learn that its shape was very much like the letter “B.” Hmmm.



As you can imagine, this is just the beginning of Bubba’s adventure into the land of letters. He is accompanied by the Balloon Man, who is actually Bubba’s father in an obvious disguise. He invites his son to join him in his magical cool-air balloon. Below the balloon is a brown basket attached to the balloon by brown rope. By the way, the Buzzing Bee has made another beeline to the top of the balloon and he joins in the journey that follows.

In the months and years that ensued the entire alphabet is learned along with the basics of arithmetic. Other characters join in as time passes: Prince Divider, Lady Times and the Knights and Ladies of the Times Table, Sir Plus, his sister Lady Minus, Maxie and Minnie Measurement, Freddie Fraction, and his English cousin, Dottie Decimal, The Balloon Man updates his transportation with a dirigible, then to a private jet, and ultimately he operates a space/time machine.

This is, of course, only a glimpse of the tale, yet hopefully will suggest to you the possibility of presenting mental pictures that can cultivate the imaginations of all, including those special people in our lives. Some of the images can be acted out with puppets, drawings, songs, etc. Such imaginations as indicated above could help to create experiences of wonder and awe, which in turn, can enhance the self-image of anyone taking part.

Keith McCrary
Secretary and Educational Director for
Lokelani ‘Ohana
Maui, Hawaii Spring 2017

One of the opportunities offered by the NAC is that of connecting through exchanges.

Hillary Schauls and Tony Bodelson traveled from Community Homestead in WI to Plowshare Farm in NH for and Exchange



| My Trip to Wisconsin |

My name is Ashley and I am from Plowshare Farm. A group of us went to Kimberton Hills for a conference on sustainable agriculture. I was getting ready to go on an exchange to Community Homestead in Osceola, Wisconsin where I would stay for a whole month. The workshops they have there are weaving, land, farm, bakery, pottery, garden and home arts. They have six houses and a community building and a really big barn with about thirty milking cows but they rotate around them. Some calves were born while I was there and we had the Easter celebration over my time there. I had a chance to try each workshop and I learned a lot of new things that I will incorporate into my life here. I hope that other people will get the chance to go on an exchange and have the experiences that I had. I am grateful to have done that. (Ashley)

In 2016 two Community Homesteaders from Wisconsin went to Plowshare. Tony Bodelson, a first year Americorps member, went to deepen his experience of community and find out what another, “same but different” community was all about. Hillary went to adventure! Almost a year later, Tony is still here, has joined the carrying group, and has just become an NAC deegate. Hillary talks about wanting to do an exchange again. Success all the way around! (Christine Elmquist)

| My Trip to New Hampshire |

Tony and I went to the NAC conference in Kimberton Hills, Pennsylvania. I hung out there with a bunch of people I know. Elizabeth Bright was there from Copake. I saw Donut, Emily, Violet, Berry and Ashley from Plowshare. I saw my exchange at the conference: Ashley. After the NAC Conference, me and Tony went to New Hampshire to Plowshare which is a small farm. Ashley. Me and Nina shared that exchange. I went first for 2 weeks before Easter and then I came back. Nina went for two weeks after Easter. Ashley stayed at Morning Glory and then she went to Orion at Community Homestead. I did the bakery. I had to make a big batch of cookies. I made macarons. I went to a church dinner and did eurythmy and the cows barn. I lived in haska with Ikenna and Violet and Violet is my new best friend. I sent her a birthday card in the mail for her birthday. I sent a hat I made to Ashley for thank you. They have a store and sell cookies. I got a bag that says Plowshare on the front and a t-shirt and goodies to share with everyone in my house. (Hillary Schauls)

2016 International Council Report

The International Council for Anthroposophic Curative Education and Social Therapy's Annual Delegate's Meeting was special this year. Ruediger Grimm, who has so ably carried the leadership role for the Council these last 21 years stepped down and the team, led by Jan Goeschel, who will take his place stepped up.

The meeting was preceded by the Biannual International Conference, which was attended by several hundred people from around the world. The conference was number five in a series of twelve focusing on R. Steiner's Curative Course and took as its starting point the rooting of the I in existence (for more information on the conference please see Molly Park's article). Once the conference ended and good-byes had been said, 70 or so people, the delegates from each region, gathered, along with others who had worked with Ruediger over the course of his prolific career to celebrate Ruediger's milestone and his illustrious career.

This was a touching tribute with many heart-felt contributions from people from regions and initiatives that Ruediger had inspired, supported, helped form, and lovingly held and from colleagues with whom Ruediger had collaboratively worked who shared history and context for Ruediger's many achievements. Ruediger, ever gentle and unobtrusive, graciously and humbly received an outpouring of kind and deep-rooted words and many gifts, though being so in the spotlight is probably not his favorite position. It was a joyous and gratitude-filled afternoon. Without letting us know in advance, Ruediger chose that to be his last moment leading our group. When we returned later that day to begin our work together the leadership circle had made its switch.

The council is now lead by a group of three. The new group has many exciting new colors. First of all 'our own' Jan Goeschel, from Beaver Run and Camphill Academy, will be spearheading this group. His team-mates are Bart Vanmechelen from Belgium and Sonja Zausch from Berlin, Germany. Officially Jan now carries 50% of the work of the Secretariat, Bart and Sonja each carry 20% and 10% is left unfilled though parts of it may get taken up by Pascale Hoffman, the very able administrator who will continue to man the Dornach office. When Ruediger was looking toward a replacement he looked toward Jan. Jan's own life responsibilities limited Jan from taking on Ruediger's position but also perhaps prepared the ground so a new thought could enter in. Jan conceived the idea of bringing forth a vibrant group of people who are all still deeply immersed in their own work so unable to move to Dornach but able to devote a significant amount of time to the work of the Council.

Bart, the oldest of the group at 50, is part of De Speelhove, which serves severely disabled children and is the General Secretary of the Belgian Anthroposophic Society. Sonja, a eurythmist, baker and dancer, devotes most of her time to Emil Molt Akademie in Berlin, a vocational college offering anthroposophically oriented professional training in social care and special needs education, where she teaches and coordinates professional education for Anthropoi, the German association for anthroposophic social services.

Witnessing this new group form and begin to work was a joy that felt like being present for a real event. I am under the impression that, though the group knew they would be carrying the delegate's meeting, they did not know that Ruediger would not be there. I believe the impromptu aspect of this led the rest of us to an experience of the three of them, their commitment to listening, feeling for each other, co-creating. This was inspiring. The group makes no claim to have found the latest and greatest way of doing things. Their approach is more cautiously but openly feeling forward. From my perspective I saw a future-oriented way of working which is fresh, collaborative and questioning. I look forward to supporting this group of three in its becoming and to witnessing the further evolution of the Council with their leadership.

Our meeting already showed a new leaning. We were asked to carry questions such as, What are we taking along into our council meeting? and more directed questions such as, Which impulses do I personally bring to the Council? What are the current themes/issues for the movement in my region?. What are the tasks that I see for the Council and the international network in the coming years? and How does the council need to develop in order to met these tasks?

I would like to ask you, dear reader, to carry these questions along with me this year. The Council belongs to all of us, worldwide. Sometimes Dornach can seem so far away but, with Jan in leadership, it has become closer. What do we want to share with those carrying our work in diverse parts of the world? What is unique and similar with our work here? I encourage you to please send on what you ponder, your thoughts, and emerging themes to me (kimberly@plowsharefarm.org). This will bring your voice to these meetings, will make me a better delegate and will strengthen our bonds around the globe.

Through a variety of group formations the delegates worked with the above stated questions and formed them into key themes. An outline of the themes, ideas and questions that form each key

theme are included on the next page. Interesting enough the medical section is also under new leadership. The change, with Michaela Gloeckler stepping down, has also brought about a team: Dr. Matthias Girke and his deputy, Georg Soldner. Georg Soldner joined our meeting and presented key issues from the Medical Section. A primary topic, and quite relevant to our work, was revisiting the language we use: Is it comprehensible both within and without our movement?, Is it communicable toward the next generation, our young colleagues? and What is its effectiveness in society today? The shared values in education and medicine of complementing natural science with spiritual science as a foundation for medical and educational action was discussed. Georg shared that the role of the doctor within the working groups needs to become more collaborative, more a piece to the puzzle. I found this a refreshing perspective.

As with every year the delegates took some time to look at the finances of the Council. The budget is not fat and heavily relies on the dues sent by each region. Since the North American Council's forming North America has begun to carry a share of the weight of this obligation. The bulk of our dues as members of the North American Council go directly to Dornach (Goetheanum, Medical Section, International Council). Our contribution is about \$6000.00 per year. Ideally dues are sent in early in the year. We still have not sent ours because our treasurer, Richard Elmquist, is still waiting for the contribution from many communities. I myself through Plowshare Farm experience the challenge of having both Camphill Association dues and North American Council dues. If you carry this same challenge I ask you to bear in mind that Camphill Association dues do not support the work of the Society or the School of Spiritual Science, or the School's sections - like the medical section and the international council under it. Unless a community makes a contribution on its own (as Beaver Run and Copake did for many years) our communities only formal path for contributing to the School is through our dues. So, if you haven't sent your check to Richard already, please do so!

A last project that Ruediger carried forward for us all was driving forward the creation of a Seelenpflege special edition - a small book really - called International Perspectives. In it are reports from 40 different regions or countries, interviews with young people joining our work out of a variety of trainings and several theme-driven articles. It is a wonderful little book. The North American Council will have a copy for each member community which will be distributed at our spring conference in Ontario.

Kimberly Dorn, International Council Delegate

Key Themes from the International Delegate's Meeting

| Strengthening the Inner Core |

1. Find a way to show the impact of how anthroposophical curative education and social therapy is visible in practice. What measures of outcomes can be developed?
2. Develop training: path of self-transformation
3. Awaken awareness of the responsibility of being a role model and being visible and open to questions that come
4. Continue to develop class work for the profession » open up exclusiveness and create available pathways in

| (Next) Inter-Generation |

1. Anthroposophically orientated management + leadership training
2. Conference for young professionals and those in training
3. Asking → Delegating
4. Creating team power + space
5. Form + Content; Tradition + Future
6. Making structures transparent and open

| Resources and Publications |

1. "door openers": abstracts of lectures (before!), anthroposophical TED talks/ video, introductory booklets in modern language
2. translations: 1924→2016, platforms with texts (WORD not PDF) , translation group
3. information: new books, rights/laws of translations [copyright issues]
5. sharing: good practice, collected experience, family/parents'/caretakers' experiences
6. training resources on the internet

| Networking |

1. Training: include competencies of other fields: Teachers/parents/ therapists/physicians/educators/social therapists etc.
2. Reactivate intranet: Commitment of representatives to report & update annually
3. Competence pool: Training & counseling [consulting]: What is needed (themes), What can be offered, In which language(s), Money involved and including public realm
4. Create a better connection: centre-periphery
5. Shall we travel as KHS/Council 2/2 years? Over countries/continents? (Money involved)
6. Money – networking

| Training |

1. How can we get a pool of local trainers in CE and ST? How to train them?
2. How to support the students to be aware of their spiritual being so that they recognize it in the handicapped persons?
3. Agriculture and Waldorf education and anthroposophic medicine in CE and ST training

| Public Impact |

| New Fields + Forms |

1. Migration, refugees, Inclusion, integration
3. Collaboration with parents and families also training for coworkers
4. Own Section for Curative Education + Social Therapy?!
5. Developing WARM organizations
6. Reflect on Form + Content

| Research & Development |

1. Network individuals engaged in research (internal + general academic),
 2. Infrastructure to connect practice + research centers
- Cycle:
Action → Reflection → Support → Action
3. Fund/support research projects/ fellowship/grants,
 4. Identify research priorities,
 5. Build culture of questioning and wonder/discovery,
 6. Present at IASSID conference,
 7. Raise awareness of Kassel symposium (training circle),
 8. New topics: e.g. digital addiction
 9. Interdisciplinarity – cultivate it!



Camphill California Completes its First Moon Node Cycle as a Community

Did you know that as the moon orbits around the earth it crosses the solar ecliptic twice every month, once going up and once going down? And, because the moon does not do so at the same points every month, these crossing points complete one revolution around the solar ecliptic in the course of roughly 18 years seven months. These crossing points are known as lunar nodes and the time they take to complete one revolution is called a lunar period. Imaginatively you can think of this as a cosmic circle dance in which moon and sun rhythmically meet and part over a 18+ year period at which point they return from where they start.

Although we do not realize it, this cosmic dance has biographic significance for individual human beings as well as communities of individuals. The position of the lunar nodes at birth express what a being brings from out of the past as gifts to meet the developmental challenges of the future. Think of it as a destiny summary. And with every lunar period one is back at that point where sun and moon, as it were, drafted their summary. Hence every lunar period is an opportunity to re-experience what was there at the beginning as a kind of grace from the past that allows one to meet the adversity and challenges of the future.

Now Camphill Communities California is completing its first lunar period. All that miraculously unfolded 18-19 years ago as the community found its way to Santa Cruz and in nine short months acquired, licensed, vendored and opened its first home, the house of Ishi, is vividly present. It was a miracle involving the dedication of countless selfless individuals. The quality of this miracle has quietly accompanied the community over 18 years. The magic of Camphill Communities California that one meets today is rooted in that miracle. And with the completion of our first lunar period, that miracle can be experienced by each and everyone, whether they were here 18-19 years ago or only arrived yesterday.

It is on the wave of this common experience that we can move into our second lunar period, and what better way to start than to feel that one is involved with the miraculous!

By Coleman Lyles, Camphill Communities California



Michaelmas Celebration and Kaspar Hauser Conference

Camphill Communities California celebrated Michaelmas by not only honoring our land in this harvest season and turning to the Archangel of Courage and Strength, Michael, but also as the birthday of Kaspar Hauser, followed by a three-day conference in his name. The subtitle of this conference was A Touchstone for Humanity.

Kaspar Hauser is well known as the youth who appeared out of nowhere at the age of 16 in a town square of Nuremberg in Germany on May 26, 1828; a youth who could barely walk or speak but who radiated pure goodness. For five years he was educated and eventually was able to describe the conditions of a twelve-year incarceration in a dark underground cell, deprived of any human contact. In 1833 he was murdered. Since then thousands of articles and books, even films, songs and poems have been written about him, his 'unknown birth and mysterious death'.

Our guest speaker, Eckart Boehmer from Germany, gave three lectures on Kaspar Hauser, his historical importance and his contemporary significance as a teacher of humanity. He conveyed a message of love, of childlike wonder, of empathy and forgiveness.

To support these talks we had two dramatic performances. Glen Williamson performed his one-man play, *The Foundling Prince*, and Coleman Lyles produced a reading of Carlo Pietzner'sand from the night Kaspar with a cast of Camphill Communities California coworkers and friends.

About sixty people attended from other Camphill places in North America and also from the wider California area.

-- Penelope Baring, Camphill Communities California

The Camphill Store in Barrie, ON

In December, Camphill Hudson held its first Advent celebration at Solaris, Center for The Social Art on Warren St. Our Sunday gatherings were led by Maria McLaughlin, who read passages each week from the book *A Little Folks Winter Tale* by Carlo Pietzner. There were roughly fifteen people each week as we sat in a circle with an advent table in the center and candles alit. The first week had stones on the table; the second week branches of fir and bark; the third paper birds and the fourth had additional candles, signifying the light of each human individual. We also sang Advent songs to open and close our gatherings.

Our Advent spiral happened during the first week in the Solaris dining room, which has adjustable lighting to set the mood. Some in our community experienced the spiral for the first time (both children and adults), while for our elders it was their 50th. Yet the mood resonated with fresh renewal. The youngsters faces as they walked with their candle had various expressions from a cadenced reverence, to a wide smile and a look of quiet peace.

In the final week, the Camphill Hudson Players presented a vignette entitled 'My Heart', the title of which comes the song *In The Bleak Mid-Winter*. The opening image was an ode to the 'Evolution of Consciousness' through a song called *Peace, Prayer, Mandala*. This song and other Advent-Christmas songs were sung. The entire piece was inspired from Karl Konig seeing children of all abilities walking an advent spiral in London during WW2, giving him the impetus to start the Camphill Movement.

Within this vignette, part of the Foundation Stone meditation was recited, specifically the verse mentioning the Shepherds and Kings. With this piece and the Advent gatherings, there was a sense of rein-livening the Christmas festival. Our hearts and creativity had entered into a sacred space that allowed the essence of the little child to come alive within all of us. The vignette was reprised during the Holy Nights and the sense of giving the ultimate gift, that of Our Hearts came across clearly. It is the most valuable of gifts to receive at Christmas and is perhaps the most important aspect that enables community living to thrive. A line from *In The Bleak Mid-Winter* says it all: "Yet what i can, i give him, give my heart".

-- Michael Hoy, Camphill Hudson, NY



On December 1st 2015, Camphill Communities Ontario ventured into new territory: RETAIL!

The Camphill Store located at 111 Dunlop Street east in Barrie displays and sells a wide range of crafts and art created in our studios and craft shops in Barrie and at the rural site in Essa Township. We also feature many fine products from local artists and crafts people. L'Arche in Richmond Hill is a contributor and we sell a lot of their candles and ceramics. The range of items is impressive and even if a person doesn't make a purchase, the experience of being in the store is that of having toured a fine art gallery. One feels uplifted by the mood and ambiance of the setting.

Another feature of the store is hosting performances; in December, we were mesmerized by Julian Mulock giving a rendition of Dylan Thomas'; *A Child's Christmas in Wales* backed up with the beautiful piano of Robin Rich who wove carols throughout. Local poet Bruce Meyer delighted us with readings of his poems and stories recently and then we hosted a jazz trio during the Barrie Jazz Festival. All of them were Sunday afternoon presentations free to the public thanks to the Camphill Foundation Canada and the Ita Wegman Foundation.

The Store has passed its first year and we have found so many benefits to being part of the downtown retail community in the city of Barrie. One of the most obvious is exposure. Camphill was a well-kept secret around here and even after 30 years, we were still not close to being a household name. A lot of that has changed. We are also making many friends in the arts world which is quite a large community in our county of which we were unaware until we opened. It's also helped us to be part of the downtown business community and to experience how much mutual support there is among this group. And for some, the crowning benefit is that we are located next door to a micro brewery. Life is good!

Look for the store on the Camphill Communities website: camphill.on.ca or by phone at 705 739 1833 or email us at: thestore@camphill.on.ca

-- Chuck Kyd, Camphill Communities Ontario, ON



Saori Weaving, A Unique Inclusive Approach to Weaving

Lokelani 'Ohana is the 16th Saori Weaving Center in the United States and presently the only one in the State of Hawaii. Ten years ago Dana Allen brought Saori Weaving to Lokelani 'Ohana, offering his expertise in weaving and his experience in working with friends with disabilities. Mihoko Wakabayashi, from the First Saori studio in the US in Worcester Massachusetts, inspired Dana to study the Saori weaving method and share it through Lokelani 'Ohana.



SAORI Weaving is an art of weaving by hand that is dedicated to free expression and self-development for everyone, regardless of physical or mental ability, age, or artistic aptitude. Saori Weaving is pure improvisation from the heart, with no premeditated pattern in mind. Colors unfold, designs emerge, and beauty blooms directly from the genius of each unique individual working in harmony with loom, thread, and the spark of the moment. Saori Weaving is a profound inner journey, yet we can enjoy it socially, working alongside others.

Actually, "SAORI" is a trademark of Sakaiseikisangyou Co. in Osaka, Japan for the method and the teaching. This is the company that manufactures the SAORI loom and operates a weaving studio. Originally when the founder Misao Jo was asked to name her work for its originality, she created the word "SAORI" which comes from "Misao's ori". ("ori" means "weaving" in Japanese.) Later, SAORI weavers realized the "sa" could mean "differences from each other". So, because of these spiritual roots, as experienced and expressed by founder Misao Jo, SAORI is more than just a technique. It is also:

- A philosophy that all people are artists: each of us has a latent intuitive power that SAORI can awaken
- An aesthetic that embraces the natural beauty of unintended "mistakes" and encourages exploring the unknown.
- A social movement towards bringing diverse people together to learn from one another. It is especially a movement to include within a larger community people who may be isolated or marginalized because of disability, age, income, occupation, ethnicity, or other reasons.
- An artistic yet practical path of meditation, therapy, rehabilitation, trauma recovery, stress reduction, identity building, community building, economic self-reliance, and holistic human development.

Four Slogans of Saori weaving from Miaso Jo:

1. Consider the differences between a machine and a human being
2. Be bold and adventurous
3. Look out through eyes that shine
4. Inspire one another, and everyone in the group

Lokelani 'Ohana recently received a grant from the Karin Frost Family Foundation for \$10,000.00 to buy looms for our expanding Saori Weaving program. We are excited to be offering Integrated classes in our soon to be completed Na No'eau O Lokelani, "The Arts of Lokelani," our 1600 square foot building supporting programs in Saori Weaving, Arts/Crafts and food processing for the farm.

--Christina Chang, Lokelani 'Ohana President/ED, Wailuku, Hawaii

The rest of the morning was divided up into various workshop activities for small groups; clay modelling, felting, painting, tours and making teas. These workshops were repeated in the afternoon which provided the opportunity to experience more than one activity. We also had a panel discussion on Lifesharing Forms around the region.

After lunch the board of the NAC and its delegates met in the library of the main house and conducted its Annual General Meeting. This was a unique experience, being able to meet face to face. Usually we meet on a conference phone in medium. People not wanting to be part of the AGM had the possibility to go to nearby Beaver Farm or get some folk dancing lessons with Ben and Martha Cownap. I ended up dancing after the AGM and had a delightful time as Ben and Martha took the opportunity to teach dances from many different national perspectives.

After a satisfying supper, we had the Saturday Night dance party. This was music provided by the "Beaver Boys" (though not all were boys) and rather than the usual folk dancing, they played contemporary music, Beatles etc. The band was a group formed around Beaver Farm co-workers and played with a lot of polish and professional decorum. Who Knew!

Sunday morning started with singing led by Herta Hoy which helped prepare us for the Offering Service which followed. Afterwards we have a break in Kimberton's wonderful café which had been the source of all our meals this weekend. All the food was made on site including a lot of the baked goods. It goes without saying that much of our food was sourced right there too.

So, we gathered at 10:00 am for our final session. Rose Hall had been set up with a large circle of chairs where we all sat pretty much in our groups representing the places.

Over the course of the next two hours we shared stories, experiences and acted out short sketches describing life in each of our communities. It was warm and often humorous and almost everyone in the circle made a contribution.

We live in a widely diverse arrangement of communities, spread over 5 time zones from Massachusetts to Hawaii. Some are on farmland, on small rural estates, in the suburbs, in towns and cities. Though we have unique characters and settings, each has a common and unifying theme: Love; for the people, for the work we do and for the land. Our annual conferences are special in that they bring us together, year after year, in a new place where we meet and make new friends and receive a lot of great new ideas and experiences. These conferences are a source of renewal for our region, places and people.

--Chuck Kyd