



A Year of Celebration and A Year of Big Plans

by **ARY KING**

*In the midst of celebration,
we look toward the
next decade*

We kicked off our 10th anniversary year in a celebratory mood amidst warm congratulations from all our friends and supporters. Our spirits have been high as we plan the various events and publications that will mark this auspicious time for Camphill California.

Special gatherings

Two particular gatherings will be highlights for us. One is a celebration on June 7 here at the community that will mark the actual day, 10 years ago, when we held our house opening festivities for the House of Ishi. We are inviting our friends and supporters who have given so much of their resources and energy to carry us forward over these first 10 years.

The second, smaller event will be in the fall at Frantoio's Ristorante in Mill Valley and will honor the original group of family members and supporters ("California Friends of Camphill" was their official title) who worked so hard during the 90's to bring Camphill to California. They held innumerable gatherings in their homes to generate interest and support for our work and prepared the ground by extensive meetings with

the state authorities to promote Camphill on our behalf. They spent many days searching for potential properties throughout Central California, finally leading to our successful purchase in Soquel. They experienced disappointments along the way, but held strongly to their vision of establishing a Camphill community on the sunny shores of California. To this dedicated founding group we owe much.

Two sides to every coin...

But like all things in life, there are two sides to every coin. Along with success and celebration comes responsibility. The fact that we have achieved what we have over these last 10 years means we must insure that this success continues. That means

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Community members practice for their festive circus performance organized by co-worker Insa.

◆ Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary! ◆

ongoing attention to the sound organizational practices that will secure the future for Camphill California.

And so our annual board retreat in February focused on that look into the future to survey the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Following is a taste of some of the important issues we explored:

- Expansion of our residential program.
- Unfolding of the Camphill Supported Living Services model.
- Creation of a Camphill Land Trust to hold title to our properties.
- Creation of more day program activities.
- Expansion of the number of committed, senior co-workers in our community.
- Planning for leadership succession.

The financial picture

With plans for property expansion, the inevitable question of finances comes into play. We are gradually raising the necessary funds for our long-awaited community activities center and plans for this building have been refined by Camphill Architect Joan Allen to add the extra touches of grace and beauty found in Camphill-inspired design. We have now established a capital fund which will support this and other projects slated for the future. Plans are also under way to establish an endowment fund to support our community in the years ahead. Opportunities for honor or memorial gifts, bequests and planned gifts will all be available to those who lend us their support.

We are fortunate to have firmly in place our new development director, Elizabeth Lee Barber (her last name has recently changed from Brown). Betsy is laying out a carefully crafted development plan to explore new avenues of fundraising while

continuing to cultivate and develop our present donor base. She brings intelligence, enthusiasm, a rich appreciation of the Camphill ethos, and an excellent skill set to take us where we need to go over this next decade.



Frans, a member of the gardening team, delivers some greens to Ishi.



Anne Lamborn and Laura Rider are the new co-managers of the weavery program.

“A new spirit floats over the land”

Turning to the land projects, David Schwartz and Steve Zipperlen, our two land managers, report that “a new spirit floats over the land” as they begin to combine efforts between their respective land projects.

David’s team has been centered around the Ishi property, with extensive landscaping, plant propagation, herb growing and processing, soft fruit growing and the fledgling Ecumenical Peace Garden at the back of the property. Steve’s team has been focused at Marimi on the extensive vegetable gardens, some soft fruit growing and the orchard. In the coming year, the two teams will begin to combine efforts as particular harvesting or other needs arise. Also, the soft fruit planting will be expanded at Marimi and the herb processing will be moved to that property.

New managers take on weavery program

In April the weaving studio will have two new co-managers working with general oversight from Katherine Lyles from the community. Anne Lamborn, a well experienced and highly regarded artisan from Los Gatos, joined the program in March. Sharing the work is Laura Rider, a local weaver who has taught weaving for a number of years to grade school students and has demonstrated weaving and spinning for 15 years at the Santa Cruz County Fair. We express our thanks to Susan Bischof, who so ably managed this program over the last 10 years, as she transitions to her new home near Mt. Shasta.

The end of a decade, the beginning of the next, new people, new projects, hello’s and good-bye’s, all a part of the web of life that we celebrate together and that enriches our spirit at this place we call Camphill.

Bonny Doon Partners with Camphill to Create Boutique Vineyard

Small, traditional green vineyard to be planted on Marimi property

Camphill Communities California will be the site of a small, traditional green vineyard planted with the assistance of Bonny Doon Vineyard, the Santa Cruz winery that receives critical raves for its strikingly original biodynamic wines.

Traditional practices to be employed

This boutique vineyard in Soquel will be cultivated in a simple, traditional way. The time-honored growing practices to be applied will echo those used throughout Europe in generations past, employing no stakes or wires and no machinery to plant or harvest the grapes. Instead, the vines will grow on poles, similar to small trees, and will be head pruned. Biodynamic methods will be used exclusively.

Five different pinot noir clones, for a total of 270 vines, are being planted this winter to create a Camphill Soquel Pinot Noir. Clones are being used because it is difficult to find the original pinot noir that came from Europe long ago. Using several clones enhances diversity of flavor and adds complexity to the final product. It is estimated that the wine will be ready for consumption by approximately 2011 or 2012.

Mysterious paths of destiny

To locate our Bonny Doon connection, like all mysterious paths of destiny, we travel a circuitous route over countries and oceans, back over two decades to its source. Raise the curtain: Scene 1 takes place in 1987 at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, in Pennsylvania, where one of the early teaching programs in the U.S. in biodynamic farming is offered. And Steve Zipperlen, who currently manages the farming of our vegetable gardens and orchard on the Marimi property, is one of the program trainers at this Camphill place.

Enter, a young Frenchman

In Scene 2, a young Frenchman arrives at Kimberton Hills named Philippe Coderey, who had spent years in France and Switzerland selling pesticides and other chemicals to vine growers and found he was getting ill from somehow ingesting these chemicals through his skin. He was looking for an alternative to conventional agriculture for a healthier way of producing wine.

He enrolls in the Kimberton training, and once he “pushes my scientific mind away,” he finds truly amazing things about the biodynamic methods. By using planetary, cosmological and seasonal movements to optimize the timing of the agricultural

activities he sees that it maximizes the strength and quality of the resulting plants and crop. He also notes that by using composting, manuring, biodynamic preps, sprays and teas instead of chemical products, a healthy level of soil and crop fertility is achieved in the growing environment. Philippe stays at Kimberton Hills for eight years, overseeing the vineyard and the orchard, then goes back to France to work at the biodynamic Chapoutier winery in the Rhone.

Enter Randall Grahm, in search of terroir

Flash forward to Scene 3: It is 2004 at Camphill Communities in Soquel, California, where Steve is now a senior co-worker in charge of the gardens and orchard on the Marimi property. And also in Santa Cruz is Randall Grahm, the internationally known, iconoclastic President-for-Life of Bonny Doon Vineyard. Randall has been on a soulful and much publicized quest to produce wines that express true terroir, that quality found in certain special wines that expresses the distinctive and unique fingerprint of a particular vineyard site. He has heard about biodynamics and feels this might be the technique he has been searching for.

Randall learns of Philippe and his biodynamic work at Chapoutier and recruits him to become Bonny Doon’s Director of Viticulture. Philippe accepts, and through mutual old Camphill acquaintances, Philippe is aware that Steve is at Camphill California, very close to Bonny Doon. So he asks him to write a recommendation for his visa application. The visa is granted, Philippe is installed in his new position at Bonny Doon, and he brings Randall to Camphill for a visit. The rest is history.

So the curtain closes—that’s the story, and we are excited by this new collaboration and all the special distinction it will

bring to our community. Stay tuned for more news—we look forward to a grand event a few years down the road where you will all be invited to celebrate the launching of our own Camphill Soquel Pinot Noir label!



Philippe Coderey (left), Director of Viticulture for Bonny Doon Vineyard, poses with Steve as he delivers new vines for planting.

Healing and Learning through the Celebration of Life

by DAVID ANDREW SCHWARTZ

The Motto of the Social Ethic

*The healthy social life is found
When in the mirror of each human soul
The whole community finds its reflection,
And when in the community
The virtue of each one is living.*

Every Tuesday afternoon we open and close our Community Life Meeting by reciting this verse, “The Motto of the Social Ethic.” All the co-workers who carry long-term commitments attend this meeting. We say this verse in order to remind ourselves that we are a licensed facility for adults with disabilities in the form of an intentional community. Friends (client-residents), live together with co-workers (caregivers), in house communities. There are no shifts. These house communities are the essential social organisms that together form Camphill Communities California.

The importance of community

The social and spiritual philosophy that undergirds Camphill Communities California produces a unique and extraordinary living environment where adults with disabilities can flourish. In many human service systems across the country, adults in need of special care, especially those who do not live at home with family, have difficulty developing a meaningful identity through their daily life. They can feel unsafe, lonely, isolated, useless, ugly, stupid or weak. Sometimes their disabilities are ignored or misunderstood. Receiving insufficient validation and support, they come to believe that they are not, in fact, full citizens of the community.

Cultivating an individual identity that is connected and nurtured through a group identity is the primary goal of Camphill Communities California and all organizations connected to the Camphill movement. Each community member develops an understanding of who they are through their daily interactions with one another and through their collective commitment to the community. They experience a form of citizenship that comes from being a valued, contributing community member.

Why is this important for adults with disabilities? Individualization is essential for healthy emotional

growth and learning. For a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities, individualization and learning require understanding, empathy and community support. Camphill has demonstrated for decades that an intentional community can provide a fertile environment for human development.

Healthy community life

Community life provides many essential ingredients for healthy human development while also preventing many of the challenges that careworkers face in the service industry. Wolf Wolfensberger, a professor at Syracuse University who has published widely in the field of developmental disabilities, argues that over time people who provide social and psychological support to others may become frustrated, disinterested, impatient, and insensitive. Dr. Wolfensberger suggests that a disciplined devotion to spiritual practice can transform this tendency.

The Camphill movement is an extraordinary example of how ethical behavior prevails when communities adopt spiritual practices and disciplines as part of their ethical foundation. The virtue in each individual is released through his or her commitment to the community. As co-workers cultivate their capacity to respond to the needs of the friends, they recognize the full humanity of each friend. All community members experience growth and development through the mutually shared light of community life.



The Ishi home community enjoying a meal together.

Daily rhythms

How is Camphill Communities California formed and fostered so that friends and co-workers can experience this social and spiritual growth? One important element is the celebration of life. The Social Ethic verse reveals that a dynamic between each individual member and the entire community is a social force that strengthens each member. This dynamic is set into motion when the rhythms of daily human activity, nature and the seasonal festivals create a social structure.

The rhythm of breathing in and out is the most important for human life. As a matter of fact, all life and learning are dependent on some form of the breathing process. Sleeping and waking are part of this process. In Russian fairytales we hear: The morning is wiser than the evening. When the individuals emerge from the unconsciousness of sleep they feel rested and can be inwardly renewed, even changed.

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities may have difficulty establishing a healthy breathing rhythm between themselves and the world. Also, there may be difficulties establishing a normal sleeping-waking rhythm that corresponds to nature (night/day) and social patterns (work during the day/rest at night). Having a day and week marked by regularity provides a basis for establishing a good sleeping-waking rhythm and consequently good health.

Repetition is an essential characteristic of rhythm and the key to its practice. Celebrating the rhythms of each day by adopting set meal times and menus, scheduled work periods, regular community gatherings that preview the day or week's events, weekend spiritual gatherings to join in fellowship and forgiveness, house cleaning schedules, and recreational and cultural opportunities build community. Repetition also makes the rhythms of this schedule accessible to the friends. Learning and healing for both co-workers and friends derive from the repetition of the same experiences.*

Seasonal rhythms

The earth breathes in and out as the seasons unfold. We know from studies on global warming that the breathing of the earth is not just a figure of speech but a reality. The carbon dioxide cycle of the earth demonstrates that as a living organism the earth is actually breathing. When the members of a community deepen their relation to nature, especially to the changing of the seasons in the course of a year, then the whole community is enlivened. By working on the land, the community strives to be in harmony with the earth. Camphill Communities worldwide have agriculture as one of their main areas of work. This is also true at Camphill Communities California. Camphill

Communities worldwide also follow the Christian festivals to mark the seasons: Christmas/Winter, Easter/Spring, St. Johnstide/Summer, and Michaelmas/Autumn. Our work on the land leads us to direct experiences of nature that enrich our understanding and celebration of these seasonal festivals. Stewardship of the land integrates with stewardship of the individual and the community.

Karl König has suggested that each community member's soul is like sealing wax that warms and softens to the touch in the mood of festive celebration. This warm softness is receptive to the imprint of the higher being of the community. This imprint expresses itself in the soul as a strengthening of ego. Warming is also important to the inbreathing of the world through the senses. People need to warm up to the world around them in order to integrate and individualize their experience. For this reason the good warming effect of the celebration of festivals is so crucial to making available to all community members the beneficial forces of the community.**

Celebrating community

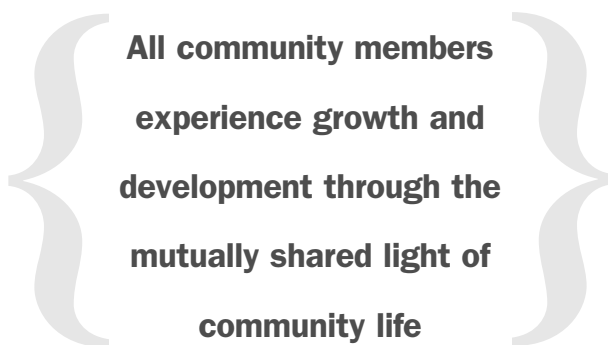
As Camphill Communities California celebrates its 10th anniversary year, we can be aware that wherever in the world an intentional community with a spiritual foundation establishes itself for social health, not only the community members are benefited but also the wider social context. Local, national and international communities benefit from Camphill's influence and impact upon family members, friends, volunteers, donors, schools, other service organizations, businesses...the list

goes on and on. This means that a Camphill community like Camphill Communities California is not only a supportive and vibrant environment for a small group of people, but also radiates like a star its light and warmth into the world.

In our tenth anniversary year, Camphill Communities California is so thankful to all of its supporters who invest their time, energy and money. It is through the efforts and commitment of all community members and supporters that we will shine brightly into our next decade.

* I highly recommend a book by Judith Bluestone called *The Fabric of Autism*, published by the HANDLE Institute in Seattle. This book explains why our way of life can be conducive for some people identified as having autistic spectrum disorders. If any readers are interested in following up the reading of this book by creating a contact between the HANDLE Institute and Camphill Communities California, please contact me at david@camphillca.org.

**I recommend reading Dan McKanan's wonderful new book, *Touching the World*, about Christian communities that are transforming the world, where in chapter four, "Keeping the Faith," he writes about Camphill and the role that festive celebration plays in our communities.



**All community members
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mutually shared light of
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Practical Idealism and Money

by **COLEMAN LYLES, PRESIDENT**

As many of our readers are California residents, you are probably wondering how the governor's proposed 10% across the board budget cuts impact Camphill Communities California.

Good question. At this writing we are not sure. What we do know is that we have had only one rate increase in the past seven years (it was 3%) and that these so-called temporary rate freezes have just been made permanent. What we suspect is that the lack of revenue to adequately fund the state's social services is a chronic problem and that vulnerable populations, children and developmentally disabled individuals are at risk. And what we hope and believe is that the community substance and reality that we have built up with countless friends, supporters and family members over 10 years will sustain us in the hard times to come.

In Anthroposophical parlance money functions in the social body as does blood in the physical—it circulates. And as it is in the physical body when money does not circulate properly or sufficiently, vital organs (institutions) and functions (activities) are impaired and social paralysis emerges. Those who work in social services are very familiar with this phenomenon.

The role of money in social life

The role of money in social life is important to understand. I have written in the past about what money can't buy—the added value of the human connection and natural networks of support that form a real community, and have explained how Camphill is organized to promote all this through practical idealism. But this same practical idealism is equally attentive and aware of the part money can and should play in forming the material and psychological security necessary to function as a healthy, balanced human being on the physical plane.

The operative word here is balance, the balance between too much and too little. Somewhere in between extremes one has to negotiate both a spiritual and a material reality in which the encounter with money is unavoidable. This encounter asks us to become conscious of money, what it does, what it represents, how it works. Much is revealed in this consciousness, and when the state's balance sheet is in the red and the budget is balanced on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens there has been a failure to encounter reality. It is this failure that breeds material psychological insecurity.



Camphill is structured in a way that supports practical idealism. Here, volunteer Insa Fuerst from Germany (right) works with Jessica in the weavery.

Meeting the problem of consciousness

So where does this leave us? With the recognition that what appears as a quantitative material problem, a problem of not enough is actually a qualitative spiritual problem, a problem of consciousness. Meeting this problem of consciousness leads to an unavoidable encounter with a reality that demands that we find the right balance between too much and too little, the right balance between our spiritual existence and our material existence. If we do find the balance we experience a firm foundation for our earthly life, and if we don't, we experience material and psychological insecurity.

Imagining new possibilities

Meeting this problem is difficult enough for an individual, even more so for an organization, and for a whole state daunting indeed. Some will even say it is impossible. But our universal financial and economic woes will not improve until more and more people do imagine that it is possible to think like this and act accordingly.

Although by no means perfect, Camphill Communities California makes it a point to try and understand this essential human challenge to find the balance in financial life between the material and spiritual. Perhaps because of our social predisposition, we and all our supporters are in a better position to both understand and manage this balance. Such understanding and management is essential because apart from sustaining our community we know that as we enter into our second decade of existence we need to expand it. What is at stake is our long-term viability. To be realistic, we will have to increase our revenues despite permanent rate freezes. But I know we have the creativity and resources to do this and we will succeed together in the next 10 years because we have succeeded together in the first.

Cultural Hour Offers Eclectic Stew of Ideas and Activities

Do you know that vanilla comes from Madagascar, Tahiti and Mexico and that the plants all have to be individually hand-pollinated? Do you know how to do the rumba? Are you familiar with the depiction of St. Paul in art?

These are some tidbits from the eclectic stew of programs presented for the community from Monday through Thursday each week for our cultural hour. Right after lunch you will find our community members gathering in the Blue Room in Ishi, where the cultural hour is held. A variety of co-workers conducts the program.



Community members participate in playback theater.

Current themes and events

Often, the focus will be on a current holiday theme or on special religious times of year or other important events. For Martin Luther King Day Daphne gave a review of this famous leader's life, his oratory and his impact on our nation. For the Lenten season, Daphne shared photographs of Carnival and Lent in art. For St. Paul's Day, she presented depictions of this revered saint by various famous artists.

In Coleman's recent offerings the presidential election has captured the spotlight. We have sessions after each primary to understand how the election process works and we even held our own test election (We found we reflected the mood of the nation: Obama won narrowly over Hillary, and on the Republican side, it was McCain, then Romney, then Huckabee).

Bryan Zecca has brought to the cultural hour a drama therapy technique that he learned from his time at Soltane called playback theater. Someone expresses a story from one's experience and then the group will act it out, in this way helping to "see and feel" the experience from a different point of view.

Get ready for the circus!

Insa, who has trained as a circus performer, conducted a two-month workshop where people learned simple circus skills, such as working with hoops and waving flags. This all culminated in a circus performance for the community at the end of March.

Ray McCarthy, who works with Evan Folger, joins our cultural hour with Evan each afternoon. To keep the body moving, Ray has presented folk dance classes: African, Latin American, belly dance movements and Israeli dance. And Daphne and Ray did a workshop about evocative scents from nature and the kitchen. Ray shared the story of vanilla and how it is grown. Then samples of exotic spices were passed around on little plates so everyone could take a sniff.

Stimulating stuff—and we never know what next will spring from the imaginations of our talented Camphill family!

SAVE THE DATE!

HONORING OUR PAST: BUILDING OUR FUTURE

**Camphill Communities California
10th Anniversary Celebration**

Saturday June 7, 2008 • 2–4 pm

(Speakers begin at 2:15)

Camphill California
10
1998/2008
Tenth Anniversary

Two hours of celebration with

Inspiring speakers

Thrilling performances

Home-grown refreshments

An opportunity to tour the grounds

*Bring your family and friends and be a part of our
10th anniversary festivities!*

Information: (831)-476-7194 or elizabethb@camphillca.org

Community Events

First community birth!

As a herald of our 10th anniversary, we welcomed the birth of Kaleb Christopher Reyneke. Born Thursday, November 8, to Becky Reeves and Alwyn Reyneke, Kaleb is the newest member of our community and the first child born to Camphill California co-workers.

Kaleb is still small but growing every day. We all enjoy watching him develop from a tiny newborn into an alert little being who is curiously aware of his surroundings. Last week the weavery presented him with one of their beautiful blankets that is

specially decorated with hand-stitched satin edges. Now he'll stay warm during the chilly California nights!



Kaleb Christopher Reyneke enjoying some "tummy time."

New Year's Celebration

At Camphill California, we welcomed the very first day of 2008 with a party, potluck and singing at Siiwini. Everyone got two chances to draw a fortune and learn what the new year would bring. Fortunes predicted new perspectives, new relationships and even new careers! Delicious food prepared by the houses and Christmastime singing accompanied this exciting and foretelling event!



During the Mardi Gras celebration, community members at Siiwini perform "Greased Lightning."

Mardi Gras Party

This year the theme for our costume party and dinner celebration was "Grease" and everyone dressed according to the theme. Several musical performances were the center of the fun-filled evening including a rendition of "Summer Nights" with special Camphill California 10th anniversary lyrics, and two performances of "Greased Lightning" featuring residents and co-workers. The climax of the evening was a very special performance of "Stop in the Name of Love" by the Camphill Supremes.

Fragile X Film

The first exciting public event of our anniversary year was the screening of the new Fragile X documentary, directed, written

and produced by local Santa Cruz filmmakers Kathy Elder and Greg Mishey. The film, which featured interviews from parents of children with Fragile X as well as experts on the disorder, premiered at the Rio Theatre in Santa Cruz. Daniel LeCover and his mother Deborah represented Camphill Communities California in the film and almost everyone from the community attended the event. The one hour-film was followed by a 30 minute Q&A session featuring our own Coleman Lyles as one of the panelists. Coleman answered questions pertaining to



Daniel LeCover and Kate Rycroft mingle with other filmgoers after the screening of the Fragile X documentary.

adult care for people with disabilities.

Responses to the film were positive. Camphill California residents Bryan Zecca and Claudia Beck both really enjoyed the film. Bryan, who lived in a Camphill community in Scotland when he was young explained that people know all about Fragile X in Europe and he's glad that people are finally learning about it here.

The film was a labor of love for filmmakers Elder and Mishey who spent six years gathering interviews, writing, editing and producing the documentary. Elder and Mishey funded a significant portion of the film and also received generous donations from the Fragile X Association of Southern California and individual donors.

If you are interested in more information about the film, please contact elizabethb@camphillca.org.

Drama in the Community

“We practice art-full life of day”

*(from Carlo Pietzner’s Thought and Art, November 8, 1970
Fountain Hall opening, Camphill Village Copake)*

by **DAPHNE LISON**

Drama at Camphill Communities California

One soon becomes aware of the inescapably dramatic nature of Camphill Communities California; its very location, perched to the west of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada, edgily close to the San Andreas Fault, within sight of the Pacific Ocean, towering redwoods mere minutes away, arouses feelings of the great drama of nature informing our daily lives.

Clearly, then, this is a community which excels in drama in all its forms including that of actually producing plays, mostly for home consumption, just for the sheer fun of it (witness spontaneous charades at a birthday celebration and the odd (!) “talent show”)! Not to gainsay the universal need for culture and art in our lives, Peter Brook (*The Conference of the Birds*) notes the efficacy of theater in the “...search for an expression that is directly concerned with the quality of living and, in that search, one can find great purpose.”

Celebrating the Spiritual in Life

Betty Staley’s *Between Form and Freedom* sees drama as a “celebration of the spiritual in life.” A formative “Camphill” experience was a collaborative coworker adaptation of Goethe’s *Green Snake and Beautiful Lily*—a deeply spiritual tale of the struggle to bridge the temporal and eternal. This adaptation—repeated and reworked and perfected until the time eventually came for the third and final, most lavish production—was performed in the Blue Room at Ishi. Actors entered and exited the “stage” through a greenery-festooned arched and curtained entry.

Who will ever forget Eric Conroe’s dark Giant hand reaching out to grab the unfortunate Old Woman’s vegetables and his ominous burp after he had devoured them? We all remember Ferryman Bryan Zecca heaving off in his oversize tie-on boat amidst stormy weather of vibrating metal sheets and rain sticks shaking in the wings.

Coworkers are always performing in plays. The 2006 group inaugurated the new “studio” at Aulinta with a stunning and memorable Good Friday play dealing with reincarnation. The following group performed *Don’t I Know You?* on the patio outside Aulinta’s living room. New coworkers will soon declaim before the community as a witch from *Macbeth* or a medieval troubadour (who also must sing).

Festivals are honored with plays: Koenig’s Easter *Saturday Play* read in Ishi’s Blue Room; Novalis’ *Hyacinth and Rosebud* performed on Michaelmas at the new swimming pool area with improvised and spontaneous performances depicting rambling roses, house cats, and berries; and *Rock Spring Water* from

Coleman Schott plays the parrot and Daphne is Hoopoe in “Conference of the Birds.”



Steiner’s second mystery play, also performed outdoors. Advent and we’re acting out biography; Epiphany is a reading of Steiner’s *Three Kings Play*; and every summer the lawn at Marimi is marked with the *St John’s Play* spiral and performers dressed in colored t-shirts and scarves surround a threatened St. John and process around the property led by a flag-waving Libra.

Creating a Sense of Purpose

Donning masks has an immense therapeutic value. This past summer, everyone responded enthusiastically to the opportunity Karl Koenig describes (*In Need of Special Understanding*) “as ordinary people...(to) put on different masks at different times...” when we produced Peter Brook’s adaptation of the Sufi poem *The Conference of the Birds*.

Working first with the 12th century text, a mystical allegory redolent with sensuous imagery and homiletic parables and the different personifications, residents embraced the virtues and vices exposed in the bird characters and then tackled the more prosaic task of constructing bird masks. Tearing newspaper into strips, dipping them in flour and water “glue,” pasting the gooey mess onto the masks, letting them dry, painting over the papier-mache, and finally pasting on colorful feathers, we all struggled to keep the masks on our faces without upsetting the whole elaborate superstructure.

The sense of achievement and purpose in working (and play-ing) together, produces something for the rest of the community as well as enjoyment and a bolstered sense of self-worth. These are bonuses as we see beyond daily life through a play’s eternal message of the search for meaning and purpose, the search for the divine in ourselves.

Development and Financial News

Meeting our Neighbors



Mountain Elementary School
in Soquel, California

Each year, Mountain Elementary School holds a holiday bazaar and donates all of the proceeds to four local non-profit organizations. This past December, Mountain Elementary honored Camphill California by donating some of the proceeds from their holiday event

to the community. We really appreciate the support and dedication of these students, teachers, staff and parents and look forward to deepening our relationship with them in the future.

Thank You to Our Many Donors!

A very warm thank you to all our board members! Due to their generosity and commitment to Camphill Communities California, our fiscal goal of 100% giving from board members was accomplished in December!!!

An ardent thanks to all of our donors who have given so generously during the last year. Our current fiscal year ends in July 2008 and we forecast a record-breaking year. In addition, the response to our 2007–2008 appeal is currently over \$40,000—a significant increase over past years. Thanks to all of you for your support and commitment to Camphill Communities California. Your gifts enrich the lives of all the individuals we serve.

A new schedule for our annual appeal means that your next letter will arrive in the fall! We are changing the schedule so that our development calendar coincides with the fiscal year. This means that you will receive your first annual appeal letter for the 2008–2009 fiscal year in September.

Board adopts socially responsible investing

During this past year, the Board of Camphill California adopted a policy that all of its investments “should be made in socially responsible vehicles and made in concert with the stated goals of Camphill Communities California.”

Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) has come to the forefront in recent years as investors show increasing concern about the environmental and social impact of their investment portfolios. They want to steer their investments

toward companies or funds that match their mission of social responsibility, mitigating climate change and supporting projects that focus on clean energy and other green practices.

This type of investing is a natural extension of the philosophy of the International Camphill Movement. Camphill places have been involved in environmentally responsible farming practices since Camphill’s inception in Scotland almost 75 years ago. In addition, many of the Camphill places are incorporating green principles into their building projects. Our newest home, Aulinta House, uses solar panels for water heating and passive solar throughout the house.

Last spring the Camphill Foundation sponsored an SRI workshop in New York for the North American region. It was well attended and generated much interest. Other such workshops are in the works, both regionally and in California.

New Website!

We are excited to announce that we will be hiring someone to build a new website for us that will be completed in the spring. New pictures, current news and information, new donation capabilities and an exciting and energetic new look are just some of the features of the new site. We’ll be sending out an announcement as soon as it is up and running!

Join our Email List!

Our new website will offer everyone the opportunity to sign up for our email list where you’ll receive information about the latest news and events at Camphill California as well as stay abreast of issues that are important to you such as issues relating to developmental disabilities, biodynamic gardening, weaving and much more!!!

In addition we plan to launch an annual email appeal in the fall. This will give you the opportunity to inform and interest your friends, family and colleagues in Camphill California and the wonderful activities and services that we provide.

10th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars so that you don’t miss Camphill Communities California’s 10th Anniversary Celebration. On Saturday, June 7th Camphill Communities California will honor its past, celebrate its present, and unveil plans for the future during an afternoon celebration full of fabulous food, inspiring speakers and rousing entertainment. Bring your friends and family and join us as we commemorate this important milestone.

Thank You!

Camphill Communities California wishes to thank the following individuals, foundations and corporations whose donations were received between October 1, 2006 and January 31, 2008.

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from Kathleen McKenna and Rona Weintraub
Estella Weber
from Bob Lee
Wiley West
from Lynn E. Barr

2008 Calendar of Events

(Following are selected events taking place throughout the Camphill places in the North American region)

- April 8–12 **International Dialogue Conference**
Orion Camphill Community, Rotterdam, Holland
- April 30 **Camphill California Annual Board of Directors Meeting**
San Francisco, California
- May 9–10 **Camphill Assoc. of North America Annual Meeting**
Camphill Village Minnesota, Sauk Centre, Minnesota
- May 9–10 **Camphill Special School ProAm Tennis Tournament**
Glenmoore, Pennsylvania
- May 16 **Camphill Foundation Board Meeting**
New York City
- June 7 **10th Anniversary Celebration**
Camphill Communities California, Soquel, California

Camphill Communities

are dedicated to social renewal through community building with children, youth and adults who have developmental disabilities. The international Camphill Movement includes over 100 communities in 21 countries across the world, and 10 are in North America.

For More Information

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Community Voices

Issue 32 • April 2008

**A Newsletter for Friends of Camphill
Communities California**

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Designer **Kathleen Roberts Design**

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Camphill Communities California

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◆ *Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary!* ◆