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Spring

The Newsletter of Camphill Village 

Village View

Spring 2014

A Tribute to Carla de Jong

July 7, 1964 - March 19, 2014

by Chris Fish-Acker



Rosa, Carla, Kerst and Emil de Jong.

Dear Families and Friends,

This Easter season has been blessed with gorgeous sunny skies, after the ice and snow disappeared, and daily celebrations by the neighborhoods. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were complete with a play and dinners, the usual Holy Week traditions. This week it was also clear that our dear friend, Carla de Jong, was passing away and she did that on Saturday March 19th at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Carla, along with her husband Kerst and children Rosa and Emil, lived in Camphill Village since 1998, coming from Great Britain where they had extensive experience in Camphill life. Let's just say that Carla epitomized the caring, knowledgeable house leader that we love and respect.

She and Kerst took on some of the most challenging situations and lived "social therapy" in their home. Carla also facilitated the Care Group Coordinators for a dozen years, working closely with her colleagues and friends. The Youth Seminar came out of her initiatives and three years of lively work took place on most Fridays. The seminar was fruitful for our young friends in many aspects of their lives.

So many accomplishments were achieved in her life, many unnoticed by most, as Carla went about counseling, befriending, and soothing the souls of those she loved so much. For Carla, Camphill was "my home" and she knew that as soon as she became a part of something much larger than herself. Her force was great and her influence will be felt for years to come in the lives that she affected so profoundly.

We say a sad farewell to Carla, but also recognize that her life was well spent, dedicated to the ideals of Rudolf Steiner and Camphill; and dedicated to the people she was surrounded with. The loving light in her eyes will be part of our collective memory. Adieu, dear Carla

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Her Gift

There is a subject we
do not brag about,
not before, not during, not after...
Our dying.

As she always put the person in need
at the center of her attention,
using her sense for the other
to do the right deed,
forgetting herself, probably...

When death came, she put it
at the center of her attention,
practicing openness to the unknown
to do the right deed,
forgetting herself, not easy...

And it was with uprightness, gracefulness,
that she walked the path of offering
standing in the now
to feel the future possibilities,
blessing all of us through her
devotion to what was to be.
The way she lived, the way she died.

- Nadja Jiquet

Camphill Village

Camphill Village USA, Inc.
84 Camphill Road
Copake, NY 12516

The Village View is a quarterly magazine of news and feature stories about the people and mission of Camphill Village USA. Located on 615 acres of verdant hills, pastures and farmland gardens in Copake, NY, our goal is to create a loving home life, meaningful work and vibrant spiritual, cultural and social activities for adults with special needs and the volunteers who live and work alongside them. For more information, please visit our website at www.camphillvillage.org, or call 518-329-4851.

ON THE COVER

A taste of spring.

Onion seedlings take root in Turtle Tree Seed's Birchtree greenhouse. They will be harvested as onions this year and stored over the winter. Next year, the best ones will be replanted in the gardens to flower and set seed.

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A Tribute to Doris Bruun

August 7, 1947 - March 21, 2014

by Ben Matlock



Our dear friend, Doris Bruun of Kaspar house at Camphill Village, died on March 21 at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, New York.

Doris was born in Brooklyn, New York, on August 7, 1947, making her 66 at her death. She arrived in the Village on May 1, 1969 from Ithaca, New York. Her many years here were marked by her special attachment to Regula Stolz, Louisa van der Meulen, and Rosemary Edwards, all co-workers. She seemed to thrive

in the Doll Shop and was most

disappointed when it closed. She and Stevie Hackley (who recently passed) had particular devotion to each other.

Doris brought such sweetness to the world in general and to Camphill Village in particular. She was also noted for the firm conviction in which she held her ideas and her need for order around her, which she helped to provide. Doris often carried an attitude of surprise, sometimes even suspicion, but this caused her to be genuinely pleased when she encountered friends, old and new. One often felt like a visiting statesman after being greeted by Doris. And then, she could break out in a boogie-woogie at the drop of a hat, with or without music! Doris is loved and will be remembered by countless friends who lived with her throughout her time here.

The last few years were not easy for Doris. Even though we will miss her terribly, we trust that she is on her way to a more congenial place.

Brey and Martinez close out the 2013-2014 Anne Ratner Concerts

The 2013-14 Season of the Anne Ratner Concert Series concluded on April 8, 2014 with a sold-out performance by world-renowned cellist Carter Brey and pianist Gabriela Martinez at the home of the event's generous hosts, Nancy Wolf and Chuck Sims. Thanks to the support of our sponsors and guests, nearly \$20,000 was raised in support of the Annual Fund at Camphill Village.

We are pleased to announce that the 40th Anniversary Season of the Anne Ratner Concert Series will begin on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 with a special concert by longtime friend of Camphill Village, pianist Richard Goode. Stay tuned for more details!

We are You

We are You is a multi-media exhibit conceived as a positive response to societal prejudice about people with developmental disabilities. The exhibit will consist of 40 professional, museum-quality portraits of people with special needs and co-workers who live and work in the four Camphill communities in Columbia County, N.Y.

Emily Wallach



Each portrait will measure two feet square. Adjacent to each photo will be a typographic panel with excerpts from interviews that an oral historian will conduct with each subject. In addition, an audio guide will enable visitors to hear the actual voices of the people in the photographs.

The combination of large format photographs, printed interviews and recorded voices will create an experience that will engage visitors' senses at several levels, and help establish a real bond between viewer and subject. Thus the exhibit title, *We are You*.

The exhibit is the idea of Kam Bellamy, Executive Director of Camphill Hudson; Roy Volkmann, renowned fashion, dance, and portrait photographer; and Erika Laurion, who serves on the Camphill Hudson board and whose daughter Mishka lives at Camphill Village. They enlisted the support of Larry Chernicoff, award-winning graphic designer; Howard Van Lenten, Manager of Communications and Community Relations at Camphill Village; and Karen Shakerdge, a professional oral historian.

To move the project forward, the group will be seeking support from area foundations, businesses, arts organizations and interested individuals. For more information about the project, please email Howard Van Lenten at hvanlenten@camphillvillage.org

EMILY // I moved to Camphill Village on July 7, 2012.
This place really made me grow up more
than some of the other places.

This is where I'm most happy. This is the best place for me.
I would describe this place as one big community where
we all live together – live in different houses but we see
each other like a big community and we are a family.
This is my second family.

I think once you come to Camphill and you get the sense
of how people are here, what we learn, what we do here
and how people are around here
you will have more of a sense of how great this place is.
You will just need to experience the people here,
they are wonderful here. //

I guess it felt like
I was a little kid in the past,
now I'm finally turning into an adult.

ARTS

@ Camphill Village

Q: Nico, tell me your full name and where you live.

Nico: *My name is Nico Dobbs, but my name is really Nicolas, spelled N I C O L A S.*

Q: And how old are you?

Nico: *I'm now 52 years old. I just had my birthday, March 21st. I have lived in Camphill Village for 30 years and live in Aspen house. My mom lives in New York. But my father died in 2011.*

Q: What do you do in the Village? Where do you work?

Nico: *In the morning I work at Arbutus [house] and help cook lunch. In the afternoon I work in the Bakery.*

Q: If you were in this room with your paints, would you paint a scene like that [pointing out the window] or do you paint from ideas in your head?

Nico: *I paint from my head.*



Nico Dobbs: "I paint from my head."



THE VILLAGE POETS

by Kristina Labaty

Every morning in Brookledge House, we begin the meal with a short blessing:

"The bread alone is not our food.

What feeds us in the bread is God's eternal word,
His spirit and his life."

When speaking these words, I try to experience them in a genuine manner. What nourishes us?

Here in Camphill Village we are so fortunate; I can provide a multitude of responses to this query. Our work life nourishes us. Our festival life nourishes us. Being embedded in this beautiful wooded valley I find very satisfying. Beyond all this, almost every evening in the Village, there are activities that people may attend if it suits their interests.

For example, on Tuesday evenings, those who feel connected to poetry are welcome to come to Brookledge house and enjoy an evening celebrating the word. It does feel like a celebration, as much laughter fills the room at these gatherings. Currently, the group is comprised of the following individuals: Kelly McCaughan, Danny Morse, Rukin Shivdasani, Ellen Hunt, Anne Gordon, Linda Jespersen, Frances Gordon, Andrea Baring, Paul Marcuse, Ben Berry, Tammy Berman and Gwendoline Labaty.

We begin by reading poems that people have brought, written either by themselves or by someone else. There are people who are quite skilled at standing up and improvising a poem which captures the essence of the moment. There are those who turn up faithfully with a book of poems and ask someone else to read one. Then we also have someone who comes to experience the mood and simply listen. Every person brings something to the evening, whether by quietly listening or through active participation.

After an open sharing of poems people have prepared, we attempt to create a group poem. This is accomplished by choosing a theme, taking a quiet moment to reflect on that theme, and then, in a contemplative manner, sounding our line when we feel it fits. In this way, a poem is built. Whether it gets published in *The Village Echo* or not is to mind slightly inconsequential (though most of us love to see our creation appear in print!). What I find more important is the process, as we inevitably enjoy ourselves and manage to allow everyone to enter into the exercise. The evening usually rounds off with a few more poems read by those able and people return home.

The Village Poets came into being around seven years ago, when I still lived in Capella. We also met in the living room and followed basically the same format. For a while the group met in our coffee shop; at that time, Stephen

Steen and then Andrew Hoy accompanied everyone. Eventually, somehow, The Village Poets found their way back to my living room, for which I am so very grateful.

I hope this gives just an image of one of the myriad activities that happen in our Village on any given evening of the week.



Anne Gordon



Kristina Labaty



Rukin Shivdasani

THE BAKERY AT CAMPHILL VILLAGE



Our Bakery is built around the image of the complete process: from grain grown to loaf offered.



Begun more than 50 years ago in the fledgling Camphill community near Copake, New York, the Camphill Bakery is a dynamic attempt to bring a kind of social interdependence into the craft of baking and into the role of a bakery within a local food economy. The Bakery has always been home to the loyal and passionate efforts of many bakers, inspired again and again by the sacred quality of the bread offered to the table of another. Generations have passed through this shop. Our youngest and newest member of the crew joined us just days ago, while our most experienced baker has been practicing her craft for more than 38 years.

Each Individual Contributes

Our work with and for people with special needs is based upon the active affirmation of the dignity, spiritual integrity and valued contribution of each individual. As many as 20 bakers work throughout the day – some rising early, some coming in late – to make bread, rolls, cookies, biscotti, granola and pasta for delivery within the community and also to stores, farmer's markets and CSAs in the region. A number of local partner businesses take our cookies and granola as far south as New York.

Towards a Sustainable Grain Economy

We take an active interest in collaborating regionally with growers and producers towards a sustainable and diverse grain economy. As part of this effort, we have sourced more than half of our total grain from local organic or Biodynamic sources. It is the work of these dedicated local growers that infuses all of our fresh and dried pasta and the 20 different kinds of naturally leavened bread baked every week.

A Complete Process

In our striving to work holistically with each individual, as a complete and integral being regardless of any outer manifestation of disability, we have found it essential to have access to work which is, in itself, a complete process – not broken or abstracted into small assembly-line tasks which have no contact with the process of creating as a whole. Our Bakery is built around this image of the complete process: from grain grown to loaf offered.



FINALLY, SPRING!



Spring rains turn ordinary soil into the makings of a splendid mud pie, proudly displayed by Chef Selma Gerhard outside Russet house.



Okay, not quite spring – Elijah Kent, who lives in Argo house, is shown during a downhill-ski-race in Massachusetts on March 10, just days before the official start of spring. Since he was 7 years old, Elijah has been skiing for the Special Olympics with lots of motivation and engagement. [Thanks to Jakob Lewin, Village co-worker, for the photo and write-up]

The sun glints off Jeff Pascale's saw as he prunes one of the Village's many apple trees.





At many houses in the Village, decorating Easter eggs has become an artform.



Sumin Dai, a co-worker at Triform Camphill community, performs in the Village's annual Good Friday play in Fountain Hall. Written by Dr. Karl Koenig, the founder of Camphill, the play relates the story of a group of people with various limitations whom Roman soldiers are trying to capture and deport. Not only do they find each other, they find great strength within themselves. Directed by Marc Blachere, with lighting by Tavius Sims, the cast also included Jacob Andersen, Bianca Boettcher, Aaron Buchweitz, Thomas Alexander De Leon, Ruben Goetz, Margarita Hernandez, Nick Hilbourn, Brenna Horn, Patrick Ilker, Jeff Pascale, Rena Mae Porras, Gemma Sanchez, Magdalena Szewczykowska, Roy Tau and Axel Wikstrom.



This Dutch broad fork is a traditional tool for surface cultivation, being used here to turn the soil in Brookledge Garden.

Below left: sample bottles of different grades of maple syrup.

Below right: Stephen Boothroyd stokes the fire that boils the sap that makes Camphill Village's delicious maple syrup.





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Village View

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The Village View is a quarterly magazine of news and feature stories about the people who live and work at Camphill Village USA.



A big crowd always comes out to watch as the Village's herd of dairy cows go to pasture for the first time after the long winter. Some of the new calves need a bit of coaxing.

