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Events 2017 Winter Camp Jan 10-16th

www.newculturehawaii.org



Connections

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

-John Muir

Aloha!

Sitting here, on the side of the cinder cone, feeling the cool breeze and watching the clouds scuttle across the brilliant blue sky I am filled with so much gratitude. Twelve years ago, in March of 2005, seven of us began inhabiting La'akea. "A diamond in the rough", Judy Dolmatch called it. I'd say we are really starting to sparkle. We've planted seeds and so much more. This newsletter is a special shout out of appreciation to each

and every one of you who have touched this land, whether for a day or months on end. The land hums with a special frequency, a special healing light, thanks to all the life experiences that have been shared here.

Mahalo, Mahalo, Mahalo,

Tracy, Biko, Ruben, Randy, Aniko, Prasad, Ananda (Donya), Dona, Amara, Susan, Kai, Heidi, Ai'ala & Kai'ea



Nine Years Old – Waldorf Education an Amazing Part of Their Lives

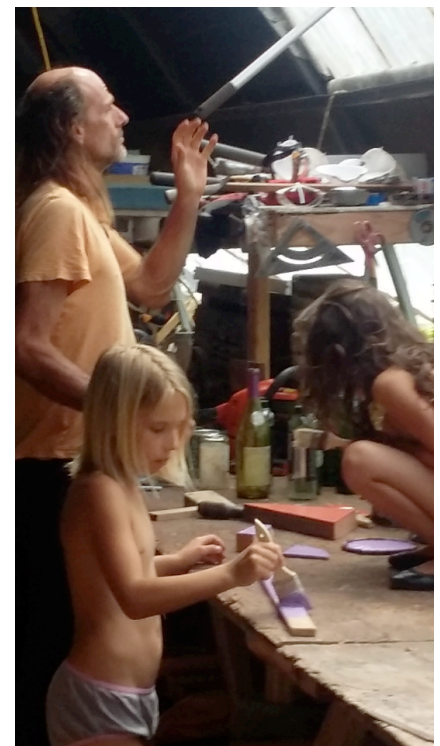
Ai'ala and Kai'ea turned nine this year! What a year it has been. Both the kids are thriving in the Waldorf school. We are very grateful to have this form of holistic education as a daily experience in their lives. The Waldorf education system has been around for 100 years. Check out this video which celebrates its birthday. www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfec6eF4l_4

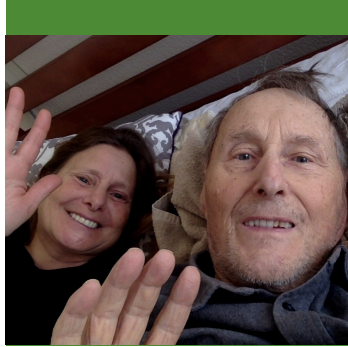
Turning nine can be a challenging time. During this portion of a child's development they dive into the separation of self from the whole. Often this manifests in the desire to spend more quiet time alone or in choosing to stay beside their caregivers for every aspect of daily life. During this time Kai'ea got into legos and would spend hours up at the Octagon working on his latest creations. Ai'ala spent more time on the farm with Tracy and Biko, requesting promises like "Pinky swear you will be on the front porch when I get back?!"

Physically the two continue to pursue their individual interests. Kai'ea's surfing skills have taken a giant leap forward this year. Many a weekend he is out there catching waves with Dave and Aniko. He even participated in a local surf competition. On land he has been inspired by a book series he's been reading to spend more time on his bicycle. Ai'ala continues working with her unicycle, tumbling and her silk (which hangs in the meadow space.)

Other interests have been karaoke for both of them, marimba for Kai'ea and handwork for Ai'ala. While playing with her cat, Clover, Ai'ala has been creating felting projects with wool. One of the highlights of her summer vacation was participating in a natural plant dyes kids camp.

At the beginning of summer both kids participated in circus camps – Kai'ea was in Colorado visiting his grandmother Dona and Ai'ala was driven down to S.P.A.C.E. in Seaview. **Continued on Page 5**





Bernard Reichelman

An honoring, a tribute

Our unique, enigmatic, energetic, German, engineer died November 1st, 2016. He took the opportunity to step through the veil at the time of year when it is the thinnest to complete his journey to freedom. He had a rare cancer and decided he wanted to be here, at La'akea, with his community, for his dying process. Those of you who knew Berni know he sourced a fortitude beyond what most humans are capable of. Berni truly was one of a kind, and we feel lucky that he chose to live with us. We have Dona Willoughby to thank for bringing him to La'akea.

Dona first met Bernie at a Network for New Culture Summer Camp in Oregon in 2002. That year he turned 75 during camp and celebrated his birthday by performing a strip tease in front of 100 folks, dancing around with joy and ease. He endeared himself to Dona by creatively fixing her broken tent pole. He wanted to be of benefit and had the talent to do so in very creative ways. Berni was very good at keeping up with friends and he loved to travel. When he heard we were starting a community in Hawaii he wanted to come and visit. We believe he found La'akea appealing because of our focus on self growth, because he could be of benefit and

because he enjoyed living on a farm and close to nature.

Berni joined La'akea in 2008 and moved into the triplex. Berni contributed to every aspect of farm and community life. His thriftiness combined with his engineering talents. Broken equipment was repaired, electrical systems were streamlined and new efficiency designs created. Our compost buckets received easy to grip handles. Our kitchen sockets were grounded and when we found Berni scrunched up crawling around in the kitchen cabinets he said "This is my yoga practice!".

Berni also loved Esalon and Tassajara, where he would spend several months of each year. He told Dona that Esalon saved his life. He arrived there quite depressed and was helped through Gestalt Therapy and the friendships he formed. He loved to hike like a mountain goat and became indispensable to both centers for his charms and talents as The Fix It Man.

He had an ear for listening and wisdom to share. He used to say, "When I have learned everything there is to learn, then it is time to

(continued)

Berni and Kids: Berni was a man of extraordinary honesty and integrity. When the children, Kai'ea and Ai'ala, were born into the community about a year apart, this changed the shared dining table experience from one of adult only exchanges to one where the needs of children, often loudly and messily expressed, became part of the milieu.

Berni, having been raised in a formal German family where children were expected to behave like little adults, found this seeming chaos challenging (as did some of the other members, including me!). There were times that Berni couldn't contain his frustration at being interrupted by a little kid's whining, and when the high-pitch volume of their voices made it difficult for him to hear others. The little boy who lived inside him, who had likely been chastised, or even punished, for outbursts of need and emotion, lashed out verbally at the kids to "shut up."

From all the personal growth work he did, Berni knew that his reaction was being fueled from his past and brought into the present. He worked on his reaction by offering compassion to his little boy self, receiving understanding and support from the rest of the community, and this resulted in his ability to show more patience and kindness to the kids. It also led to us experimenting with other forms of community meals, where the families sat at a separate table, so the other adults could have more easeful conversation when sharing food, and by having an adult play with the kids in a separate area during our morning check-in circle, so all could speak and be heard without interruption.

My hunch is that by the time Berni died, he had found peace, and even joy, being around Kai'ea and Ai'ala. His own little boy had been seen AND heard by a community that wanted to offer him compassion for his early life experience.

That the kids were able to be part of Berni's dying process and burial at La'akea is a unique parting gift he gave to them. They witnessed that it is possible to care for and honor someone at the end of their days, as when they were birthed into the community, being held in safety and love.

Aloha from Judy

die." Berni was never too old for new tricks.

In his last month of life Bernie and Tracy were talking about his choice to die at La'akea. In this conversation Berni acknowledged the births that have occurred at La'akea and said he was glad to be the first human death we would share. As the entire cycle would then be experienced by the community, the community would be more whole. Contributing in this way he said was an honor.

Randy and Valerie (Hummingbird) were with him during his last breaths. He was able to connect with his son and Anna, his niece in Germany, in the evening of his death. The rest of the community learned of his passing the next morning as we arrived at the main house to begin our day.

As a group we discussed how to meet our needs to say goodbye. What sort of ceremony we needed for his soul's passage. Berni had told us it didn't matter to him what we did.

We decided to gather around dinner for our regular community meal as well as the following morning for the burial. Ananda, "Donya Fischer", performed miracles in getting all the bureaucratic paper work done for a home burial. So we were prepared. Steven Jacquier, our neighbor from across the street, had used his back hoe to dig out a grave a couple of months in advance. The site is on the side of the cone between the Ohia house and Prasad's hexagon.

His burial site will be marked at the end of September with a granite headstone, courtesy of the US

Government for his military service and by two trees. The trees are fir as these grow well in Hawaii's climate and are the closest we could come up with to meet his request for a "Pine tree". Berni told us he did not want any fruit trees planted on top of him. "I don't want to be eaten" he said.

I Was Filled with Appreciation

For all we have done and continue to be together. I thank each of you for your contributions to this amazing non-physical entity, La'akea. The laughter, the tears, the angry words, the joy, the sweat, the meeting times, the *SUPPORT* and the *LOVE*. I am honored to live here and to know all of you. Thank you for being a part of my life.

- Tracy Matfin

May Berni's memory be a blessing to all who knew him. He has fed us all from the table of what nurtures us through a conscious death. Thank you, dear Berni.

Since there is always room for more love in the world, I suggest you take every opportunity to tell the people around you how grateful you are for their presence in your life. I thank each and every one of you reading this for how you've touched us and hope the best for you as you move on your own paths with integrity and care.



Kids

At the end of summer we went to Kohanaiki. A campground with excellent surfing opportunities. Ai'ala and Kai'ea were joined by many adults: Tracy, Aniko, Biko, Ruben, Dave and Stephanie, and a few kids: Xavier, Zach and Aliya. We were a large group enjoying the surf, the tidepools, sand and sun. The kids were more independent than ever forming a pack that freely roamed the grounds, swam in the tidepools and hung out in our hammocks listening to their music. Of course there were organic hot dogs and we even ate s'mores. A smaller group continued on to Ho'okena for even more fun in the sun where we were joined for a day by Kai, our new trial member!

The 2017/2018, 4th/5th grade is off to a great start. Both kids were not excited to go back to school, but they also haven't complained once about the change in their schedule. We have gotten back into routine. Alarms go off, lunches get packed and homework gets done. It's different from being in their own flow on the farm but they both say, "It's fun to be back with our friends and teacher Ms. Jenkins."



We want to thank Ross, Amara, Dona, Ken, Linda, Ruthie, Heidi and Judy for their generous support over the past years to help pay for the Waldorf tuition. We are requesting support for this year's education. If you'd like to contribute any amount of \$ please send it through PayPal to

laakea@permaculture-hawaii.com or by check to La'akea Community PO Box 1071 Paho, HI 96778. Mahalo!

