

Summer Adventure - Lavaland 2018:

Aloha!

It's time for our annual newsletter.

This year has been filled with excitement and adventure as well as love and connection. There is so much to share and yet I will pick and choose a few highlights. To learn more come visit us! We love seeing familiar faces, welcoming our extended Ohana back on the land. I will take a chronological approach to the highlights...

Main House Remodel:

In October we began a wonderful remodel of the main house front porch, yoga room and upstairs. This endeavor created a beautiful extension of our front porch along the entire front of the house with a large overhang, constructed from bamboo and Ohia harvested from the land. We moved the front doors of the yoga room to the front of the house to decrease the kitchen noise issue and this radically improved energy flow to and from the kitchen. I'm including an image of Richard and Prasad sitting on the new railing at the edge of the house. These two masterminds created the masterpiece they are sitting on. The porch extension is truly a sight to behold. The improved yoga/class room has a ceiling! and it is well lit. Remember the strange little room upstairs that was mostly storage as well as a charging station? Well, if you remember it - it's finally gone! Ruben found inspiration in knocking those walls down so the upstairs is now two great rooms - the older existing room where we frequently have heart shares and the lanai side - used for our business meetings and the occasional projector movie. All these upgrades were well received in last year's New Culture Winter Camp.

Winter Camp 2018:

Last January we hosted the largest network for new culture Hawaii winter camp yet, 75 participants! The land was humming with connection, personal growth and opening hearts and minds. The community created an amazing container for individual self-exploration and expansion. The energy was high and La'akea held the vibe for many months afterwards. We are excited and grateful to be able to host the event again this year. For those of you new to New Culture... this event is about fostering joy, communication, self-growth, authenticity, transparency and aloha. It is a place to explore finding your tribe. We create a supportive container for individuals to dive deep into exploring their relationships with others and with themselves. In Permaculture we talk about the Edge Effect - the place where there is the greatest diversity and tremendous wealth. It is the place where many species thrive. So I invite you to come explore your edges. Let community help you thrive!

Winter Camp 2019:

This year's theme is **"Social Permaculture- Riding the Changes"**. Camp will be held **6 day Winter Camp: Jan 8th- 14th 2019 and 3 Day Afterglow Jan 14-17th**. Early Bird discount ends November 1st, so register soon at www.newculturehawaii.org/hawaiiwintercamp.htm . Yes, some people focus on the sexual possibilities this camp allows AND it is so much more. Every flavor of personal choice is welcome and honored - monogamy, polyamory, bisexuality,

queer and asexual. This camp creates a space for co-creating a safe, nurturing, inspiring community, with a focus on how we can be deeply connected with each other, with nature and the world. We are dedicated to examining every aspect of our existing cultures and experimenting to find out how to create a world based on love and freedom, rather than fear and violence. Come celebrate, be challenged, and enjoy yourself on the land as we share our talents, knowledge and hearts with each other. I hope to see you here!

Peter:

This note comes from my heart. It is my (Tracy's) understanding.

Peter Monteleone, a man with a beautiful soul, spiced with life and a deep desire for connection. A man who many of our La'akea extended Ohana met, knew and grew to love chose to take his life Sunday April 22nd at Rainbow Falls. We all have hopes and dreams. Peter's was to be free of his stories. He worked diligently on this goal. I have met few who spend the time and committed effort on their personal growth like Peter did. We all experience overwhelm. We all have times when we get tired. Peter got tired, again. His choice was to end his mental/heart disconnection, end his own anguish, by committing suicide. I choose to love him, through all of his choices. Peter will always be a member of our chosen family. He lived with us off and on for many years. His heart, physical labor and soul may always be felt on the land. He had a passion for community. He loved meetings! He was drawn to authentic communication and heartfelt transparency. There was a lovely memorial for Peter on June 17th at Rainbow Falls. A beautiful place to gather. A place inviting for visitors who wish to connect with a loved one. Peter's sister flew to the Big Island and joined the gathering. Stories, tears and love was shared by all there. A beautiful garland of leaves that was tied on the banyan tree near where he died. I have attached a picture. Thanks to all who came and all who wished they could attend.

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On the heels of losing Peter, only one week later, Puna was shaken by Pele's movement. It began with frequent tremors. Road blocks were put in place on May 3rd with the appearance of cracks in the roads down in Leilani. On May 4th a large 6.9 quake stirred up our emotions. Many of us were on the La'akea front porch as the ground pitched and rolled. A few ran away from the house, feeling more secure on the land. I held onto the post in the middle. Ai'ala, Aniko and Kai'ea were at the Pahoia Island Naturals as glass bottles and many other things began falling off the shelves. They hurried home. So far travel around the crack zone in Leilani was possible if you had a good story. As the days progressed cracks began spewing lava and evacuations began.

On day four... air quality at La'akea was still excellent. Sunshine glorious. The land was abundant with food, especially with rolinias filling our food safe and refrigerator. The lava was staying ~ 5 miles away and civil defense was kindly - especially once presented with leis Ai'ala made and homemade cookies! It took Biko 45 minutes to get to Maku'u market through the circuitous ocean route as Hwy 130 was closed at Leilani unless you lived there. There were no highway noises. The helicopters were extensive but the peace was relaxing and very welcome as we were in this chaotic mind state of "what's going to happen next." I had a 4am realization that though I consciously bought a property on the rift zone with six others in 2005, I had never fully grokked (embodied the understanding) of what that meant. Major lava interruptions had occurred 4 years ago, 30 years ago and 50 years ago. The likely hood of

more was very, very high (and still is....) I thought I was in for the ride...

I quickly found out I wasn't. Ai'ala and I got in the car early May 7th to drive down to the bottom of Kamaili Rd. to meet her teacher for school. When I went back up the hill the road block guards would not let me back in. New cracks had shown up. I knew that, Ai'ala and I had driven over them only minutes before. The order had come through - no one allowed in the zone. I was not to be let back up Ala'ili Rd. I went on an emotional roller coaster. I tried NVC, I tried radical honesty, I tried crying, yelling, reasoning, nothing worked. My peeps were behind the lines, my home, my community, my life. I felt completely alone. This emotional chaos was happening all over Puna as people negotiated with their own indecision of how much to take, how much to leave, was the evacuation mandatory or chosen, what was the likelihood that they would personally be affected? Overwhelm vibes were high. For me, on this day, I knew Ai'ala was on the same side of the line as I was. A steadying knowledge I held close to my heart.

That same day Biko, Ruben, Aniko and Kai left the land. We fled in different directions. Some of us went back to the land only to be evacuated with a siren escort by the end of the week. I've never lived in such uncertainty. The stress levels were extremely high. During one day in Pahoa I saw two physical fights break out - something I hadn't seen over more than a decade of living here. It became clear to me that it was time to leave the area. So Ai'ala and I left. We were gone two months. During this time Prasad, Ananda and Tamara mostly stayed on the land. Biko and JJ came and went at various times.

Here's a quote from Ananda expressing herself during the time of the flow as she inhabited the land. "If you follow the rift where fissures keep breaking out, the upper end runs just below us, so even if she does begin spouting lava higher up the rift, chances are it'll just miss us. In the meantime, air and water is good here. The VOG is terrible on other sides of the Island, but winds and rain are keeping us in pretty good shape. We live in the moment, with a respirator on hand and all necessities packed in the car so can leave at a moment's notice. Madame Pele is the best teacher of living in the moment that I've ever had! (Note to self.....Be Still and Breathe....) What a privilege to be holding space, dancing next to and witnessing Tutu Pele cleaning house and setting things right again. I have compassion for all the folks that have lost homes, and hope that she won't decide we, too, are in the way. All are in awe of her power and majesty."

The lava was in full swing through August. At La'akea the Pele's hair was everywhere and got in everyone's feet multiple times a day if not other places as well. There was an ominous black cloud that hung above La'akea and extended beyond Black Sands and frequently to Pahoa. The sky was dark, the generator ran everyday and it rained and rained below the black cloud. The eastern skyline was red as the lava light reflected off the clouds and I'm told the sounds were ominous. Mordore existed outside of Hollywood studios. More lava spewed out of those fissures in Leilani than all of the lava that came out of Pu'u O'o, the main eruptive spot on Kilauea, in 35 years! It inundated huge areas of farmland and local communities, covering 700+ homes including Pi'i Lani Farms and Pole Star, Green lake, the warm ponds, Champagne pond and the tide pools. All gone except in memories, buried under rock. There's some amazing posts on Facebook and the Wikipedia sight on the lava flow 2018 is fairly extensive.

Kai, Ai'ala and I returned to La'akea at the end of July. Just over two weeks later the lava stopped, August 5th. The plume that had been visible from the vent as a constant landmark disappeared. Spirits soared. I am humbled by those who have lost so much and still dance in love and gratitude. This shows me yet again what a special place Puna is. The people are amazing. Ohana and Aloha shine through again and again. Most of Pohoiki was saved. Extending now in an extensive black sand beach.

This experience has given all of us an opportunity to look at what's been working and what hasn't been. We are in a great period of energized reorganization and change! La'akea is lush with possibilities. Vegetation is green and flourishing. We ponder our future here - stay on the rift zone? Take steps towards a new home in several years time? The important piece - We survived the volcanic eruption.

The Kids:

The lava experience was stressful for both kids. They found themselves traveling with their moms in different directions for most of the summer. Kai'ea flew to Colorado - his first solo flight! There he spent time with Grandma Dona while Aniko stayed in Oregon and participated in Summer Camp West. Ai'ala traveled to Florida and met her cousins. She spent one month living in a more traditional lifestyle - air conditioning, big screen TVs, computer games, swimming pool and bathrooms! What she at first enjoyed she later decided wasn't for her. She missed being outside more and connecting with the land.

Back at home now Ai'ala is thriving in the Waldorf school. After trying something different for the last two months Kai'ea will be returning to Malamalama next week. Ai'ala is glad to have him back in school with her. Their education continues through Waldorf with the generous support of our extended network. We want to thank Ross, Amara, Ruthie, Heidi, Judy, Richard and Paolo for their generous support last year. We are requesting support for this year's education. The next payment is due at the end of November. If you'd like to contribute any amount of \$ please send it through PayPal to tracy@permaculture-hawaii.com or by check addressed to Tracy Matfin or Malamalama Waldorf School PO Box 1071 Pahoa, HI 96778. Mahalo!

In closing, Ai'ala has a request. She wants more kids living in community with her and Kai'ea at La'akea! I am putting energy into recruiting families with children - know any?

Neighbor's Land for Sale:

After thirteen years as neighbors, Carley and Emily have moved to Europe. If you or someone you know are interested in living next door to an amazing intentional community please send them this information! We would love to have people we know and love living next door, possibly even collectively collaborating!

That's all for now!

Aloha,
Tracy







